

2002 Spring Field Surveys of Butterflies in Rock Creek National Park
conducted by Denise Gibbs

SURVEY # 1
Friday, April 26, 10 am – 4 pm

Weather Conditions: 58 degrees F, wind NW at 5-10mph, mostly sunny/few clouds

Area 1: Nature Center (grounds and loop trail)

Host plants available: holly, dogwood, common milkweed, oak spp., white clover, English plantain, redbud, garlic mustard, pawpaw, black locust, common blue violet, spicebush, Canada thistle

Nectar sources (plants in bloom providing nectar): dandelion, Azalea sp., wild blue phlox, sweet Cicely

Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	1
Erynnis horatius	Horace's duskywing	1
Erynnis spp	Duskywing spp.	2

Area 2: Military Field

Host plants available: white clover, lamb's quarters, tulip poplar, wild cherry, grasses

Nectar sources: buttercup sp., dandelion, peppercress, speedwell, blackberry

Butterflies seen:

Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	2
Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	3
Everes comyntas	Eastern tailed blue	1
Hairstreak sp.	Hairstreak sp.	1

Area 3: Horse Stables/community garden plots

Host plants available: tulip poplar, violet spp., spicebush, blueberry (in garden)

Nectar sources: buttercup sp., dandelion, highbush honeysuckle, wild cherry, strawberry (in garden), chives (in garden)

Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	6
Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	2
Colias eurytheme	Orange sulphur	2
Erynnis juvenalis	Juvenal's duskywing	3
Erynnis sp.	Duskywing sp.	1
Skipper sp.	Skipper sp.	1

Area 4: Boundary Bridge

Host plants available: oaks, tulip poplar, wild cherry, violets, spicebush, barren strawberry, willow sp.

Nectar sources: dandelion

Butterflies seen:

Everes comyntas	Eastern tailed blue	3
Phyciodes tharos	Pearl crescent	2
Erynnis horatius	Horace's duskywing	1
Erynnis juvenalis	Juvenal's duskywing	3
Poanes zabulon	Zabulon skipper	3

Area 5: East Beach Drive

Host plants available: tulip poplar, Canada thistle, white clover

Nectar sources: buttercup sp., dandelion, speedwell

Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	9
Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	11
Colias eurytheme	Orange sulphur	5
Everes comyntas	Eastern tailed blue	1
Phyciodes tharos	Pearl crescent	1

Area 6: Sherill Road/Picnic area #9 (conditions now cloudy with a moderate breeze, 62 degrees F)

Host plants available: wingstem, grasses

Nectar sources: spring beauty, buttercup spp.

#1 quadrant, Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	3
Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	1
Everes comyntas	Eastern tailed blue	1
Erynnis juvenalis	Juvenal's duskywing	2

#2 quadrant, Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	2
Erynnis juvenalis	Juvenal's duskywing	1

#3 quadrant, Butterflies seen:

Erynnis juvenalis	Juvenal's duskywing	1
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*Note: On the left side of the trail after the first wooden step are 2 plants of golden ragwort

Area 7: Carton Barron fields

Host plants available: Canada thistle, white clover, red clover

Nectar sources: buttercup sp., dandelion

Butterflies seen:

Papilio glaucus	Eastern tiger swallowtail	1
Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	3
Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	2
Colias eurytheme	Orange sulphur	4
Everes comyntas	Eastern tailed blue	2
Vanessa virginiensis	American lady	1

Area 8: Park Road meadow (grass had been mowed into a lawn-scape)

Host plants available: white clover

Nectar sources: bluets, buttercup sp., dandelion, white clover

Butterflies seen:

Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	1
Erynnis juvenalis	Juvenal's duskywing	1

Area 9: Piney Branch Picnic Area

I spent over 45 minutes trying to find this location and getting lost several times. In order to have time to finish the last area, I skipped this one. Pat Durkin said she would try to go survey this area the next day.

Area 10: Picnic Grove #17

Host plants available: redbud, violet spp., spicebush, white clover, oak spp., tulip poplar, wild cherry

Nectar sources: lyre-leaved sage, dandelion, buttercup sp.

Butterflies seen:

Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	4
Colias eurytheme	Orange sulphur	2
Everes comyntas	Eastern tailed blue	3
Erynnis juvenalis	Juvenal's duskywing	1

Total number of butterfly species: 10

Total number of individuals: 96 (101 minus 5 individuals not identified to species)

2002 Spring Field Surveys of Butterflies in Rock Creek National Park Survey 1

Date 4/26/02
surveyor Denise Gibbs

Sum of #	site desc												
spp c	Boundary Bridge	Carter Barron fields	East Beach Drive	Military Field	Nature Center	Park Road meadow	Picnic Grove #17	Piney Branch Picnic Area	Horse Stables/ garden plots	Picnic area 9 quad 1	Picnic area 9 quad 2	Picnic area 9 quad 3	
American lady		1											1
Cabbage white		3	9	3	1				6	3	2		27
Clouded sulphur		2	11	2		1	4		2	1			23
Duskywing sp.									1				1
Duskywing spp.					2								2
Eastern tailed blue	3	2	1	1			3			1			11
Eastern tiger swallowtail		1											1
Hairstreak sp.				1									1
Horace's duskywing	1				1								2
Juvenal's duskywing	3					1	1		3	2	1	1	12
Orange sulphur		4	5				2		2				13
Pearl crescent	2		1										3
Skipper sp.									1				1
Zabulon skipper	3												3
Grand Total	12	13	27	7	4	2	10		15	7	3	1	101

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SURVEY #2
Wednesday, May 29, 10 am – 4 pm

Weather Conditions: 73 degrees F, wind east at 5mph, partly cloudy to overcast, periodic sun

Area 1: Nature center and loop trail

Nectar sources: dandelion, buttercup sp., white clover, dogbane, common milkweed just beginning to bloom

Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	19
Celastrina ladon	Spring azure	1
Ancyloxpha numitor	Least skipper	1

Area 2: Military Field

Nectar sources: dandelion, buttercup sp., white clover, Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose, sourgrass, chickweed sp.

Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	23
Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	2
Everes comyntas	Eastern tailed blue	4
Epargyreus clarus	Silver spotted skipper	2
Ancyloxpha numitor	Least skipper	8
Atalopedes campestris	Sachem	1
Megisto cymela	Little wood satyr	1
Celastrina ladon	Spring azure	1

Area 3: Horse stables/community garden plots:

Nectar sources: buttercup sp., marigolds (in gardens), white clover

Butterflies seen:

Papilio glaucus	Eastern tiger swallowtail	3
Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	21
Everes comyntas	Eastern tailed blue	1
Epargyreus clarus	Silver spotted skipper	1

Area 4: Boundary Bridge

Nectar sources: white clover

Butterflies seen:

Papilio glaucus	Eastern tiger swallowtail	1
Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	3
Colias eurytheme	Orange sulphur	1

Area 5: East Beach Drive

Nectar sources: dogbane, common milkweed, Japanese honeysuckle, gill-over-the-ground, buttercup sp., white clover, sourgrass

Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	28
Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	6
Colias eurytheme	Orange sulphur	1
Celastrina ladon	Spring azure	1
Ancyloxypha numitor	Least skipper	4
Atalopedes campestris	Sachem	1
Euphyes vestris	Dun skipper	1

Area 6: Sherill Road

Nectar sources: buttercup sp., white clover, arrowwood viburnum, tulip poplar, red clover, dandelion

Quadrant 1 Butterflies seen:

Papilio glaucus	Eastern tiger swallowtail	2
Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	4
Celastrina ladon	Spring Azure	2
Atalopedes campestris	Sachem	2

Quadrant 2 Butterflies seen:

Papilio glaucus	Eastern tiger swallowtail	1
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Quadrant 3 Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	1
Colias eurytheme	Orange sulphur	1
Polites peckius	Peck's skipper	1

Area 7: Carter Barron fields

Nectar sources: white clover, raspberry, blackberry, dogbane (beginning), buttercup sp., elderberry

Butterflies seen:

Papilio glaucus	Eastern tiger swallowtail	2
Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	15
Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	4
Colias eurytheme	Orange sulphur	1
Atalopedes campestris	Sachem	1

Area 8: Park Road Meadow

Nectar sources: white clover

Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	1
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Area 9: Piney Branch Picnic Area

Host plants available: white clover, black locust, tulip poplar

Nectar sources: dandelion, white clover, elderberry, Japanese honeysuckle

Butterflies seen:

Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	10
Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	2
Colias eurytheme	Orange sulphur	2
Everes comyntas	Eastern tailed blue	2
Celastrina ladon	Spring azure	1
Epargyreus clarus	Silver spotted skipper	1
Polites peckius	Peck's skipper	1

Area 10: Picnic Grove #17

This area was closed and off-limits due to police investigation of Chandra Levy murder.

Total butterfly species: 13

Total number of individuals: 193

2002 Spring Field Surveys of Butterflies in Rock Creek National Park Survey 2

Date 5/29/2002
surveyor Denise Gibbs

Sum of #	spp c	site desc	Carter Barron fields	East Beach Drive	Military Field	Nature Center	Park Road Meadow	Picnic Grove #17	Piney Branch Picnic Area	Horse Stables/ garden plots	Picnic area 9 quad 1	Picnic area 9 quad 2	Picnic area 9 quad 3	Grand Total
	Cabbage white	3	15	28	23	19	1		10	21	4		1	125
	Clouded sulphur		4	6	2				2					14
	Dun skipper			1										1
	Eastern tiger swallowtail	1												1
	Eastern tailed blue				4				2	1				7
	Eastern tiger swallowtail		2							3	2	1		8
	Least skipper			4	8	1								13
	Little wood satyr				1									1
	Orange sulphur	1	1	1					2				1	6
	Peck's skipper								1				1	2
	Sachem		1	1	1						2			5
	Silver spotted skipper				2				1	1				4
	Spring azure			1	1	1			1		2			6
	Grand Total	5	23	42	42	21	1		19	26	10	1	3	193