



THE COMPLETE  
BUTTERFLY  
FIELD GUIDE

of the Santa Monica Mountains

Santa Monica Mountains  
National Recreation Area



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

How To Use This Field Guide		2
Basic Lepidoptera Structures		5
Terms and Definitions		6
Family Common Name	Family Scientific Name	
Swallowtails	Papilionidae	7
Whites and Sulphurs	Pieridae	13
Coppers, Hairstreaks, and Blues	Lycaenidae	25
Metalmarks	Riodinidae	49
Brushfoots	Nymphalidae	53
Skippers	Hesperiidae	75
Index		91
Acknowledgments		94

## HOW TO USE THIS FIELD GUIDE

The chapters in this guide are divided into scientific families. The beginning of each chapter lists the different subfamilies those butterflies can be divided into, if any. Some of these names are self-explanatory - Blues, Whites, etc. - and others - Admirals, Fritillaries, etc. - are less intuitive.

Each butterfly has the following information: common and scientific name, size, flight time, caterpillar food plant(s), identification information, and a photo. The flight time is a range when you will see the butterflies locally in their adult form. In this guide, butterflies are listed in each chapter from most to least common. Each subfamily should be read as a chapter within a chapter. For example, in Lycaenidae, Coppers will be listed most to least common, then Hairstreaks, then Blues.

The symbols below may be found at the upper, inside corner of each page. They indicate the rarity of the species, both in the Santa Monica Mountains and throughout its entire expanse.

- Uncommon in the Santa Monica Mountains
- ◐ Rare in the Santa Monica Mountains
- ◑ Threatened throughout its range
- Endangered throughout its range

Although some butterflies in the Santa Monica Mountains are on the verge of extinction, none of them are currently protected by the Endangered Species Act.

Butterflies are a vital indicator species due to their sensitivity to environmental changes. Because butterflies have been captured by enthusiasts for centuries, scientists are able to study long-term shifts in populations, ranges, and biodiversity. First, areas that are

getting warmer have flowers blooming earlier than previous years. Butterflies in these areas are pressured to adjust to these changes in asynchronization and are, consequently, emerging earlier. Second, butterfly ranges are changing. Recent studies have shown that butterfly ranges are shifting over time - primarily North - due to changes in microclimates. Third, butterfly diversity is decreasing. This is contributed to a variety of factors, including: habitat destruction and/or fragmentation, pollution, and the spread of invasive species that do not support butterfly diversity. Although some species are growing at a rapid pace, other, more specialized ones are declining.

Remember, the mission of the National Park Service is to preserve unimpaired the natural resources of the park system, so we ask that you please do not catch or hurt the butterflies.

Thank you!

## Basic Lepidoptera Structures

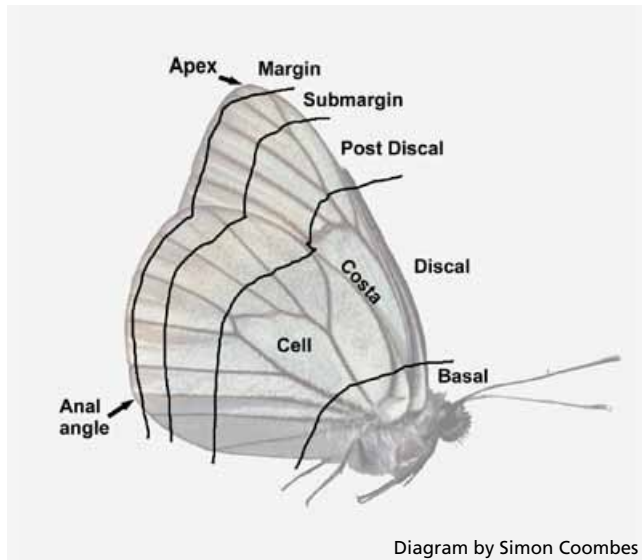


Diagram by Simon Coombes

## Terms and Definitions

**Eyespot** - a pattern on the wings that resembles an eye. May intimidate or distract predators.

**False Head** - tails and eyespots that mimic the antennae and head of a butterfly. Patterns on wings often draw the eye to the false head.

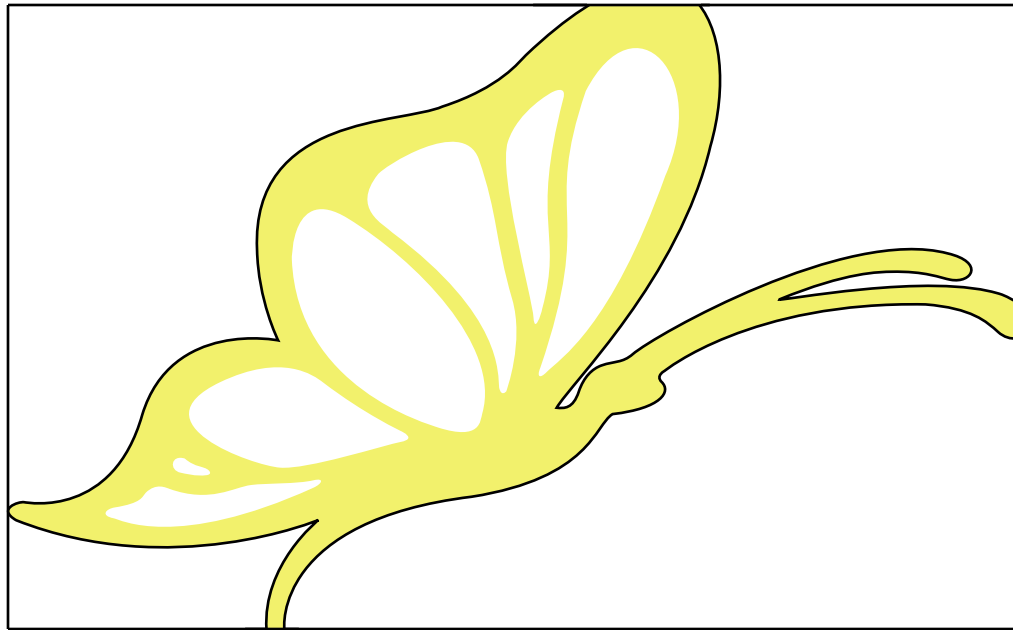
**Lepidoptera** - the order of insects that includes butterflies and moths. Means "scale wing."

**Overscaling** - a heavy patch of scales.

**Scale** - butterfly wings are composed of microscopic scales.

**Stigma** - a patch of scent scales found on males that are used during courtship. Common characteristic of hairstreaks and skippers.

**Tail** - part of the wings that sticks out around the anal angle.



## Swallowtails Papilionidae

The Swallowtails are the largest butterflies in the Santa Monica Mountains. They are easily identifiable by their long tails which mimic antennae. There are only four species of Swallowtails found in the Santa Monica Mountains, and their bright colors and size allow for easy identification.

Note: The Family Papilionidae also includes Parnassions; however, none have been found in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Western Tiger Swallowtail  
*Papilio rutulus*



Size: 2 3/4 - 4 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: sycamore,  
cottonwood, willow,  
alder

Yellow with four  
vertical, black stripes on  
upperside. Underside  
has two orange spots  
near the end of the  
inner margin.

Anise Swallowtail  
*Papilio zelicaon*



Size: 2 3/4 - 3 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: fennel or  
other carrot family

Wings have yellow  
rectangles outlined by a  
wide, black border. Has  
an orange eyespot near  
the tail with a round,  
black center.

Pale Swallowtail  
*Papilio eurymedon*



Photo by Randy Philips

Size: 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Oct  
Food Plants: *Ceanothus*,  
other buckhorn family

Similar to Western Tiger  
Swallowtail, but cream  
colored instead of  
yellow. Narrow, pointed  
forewing.

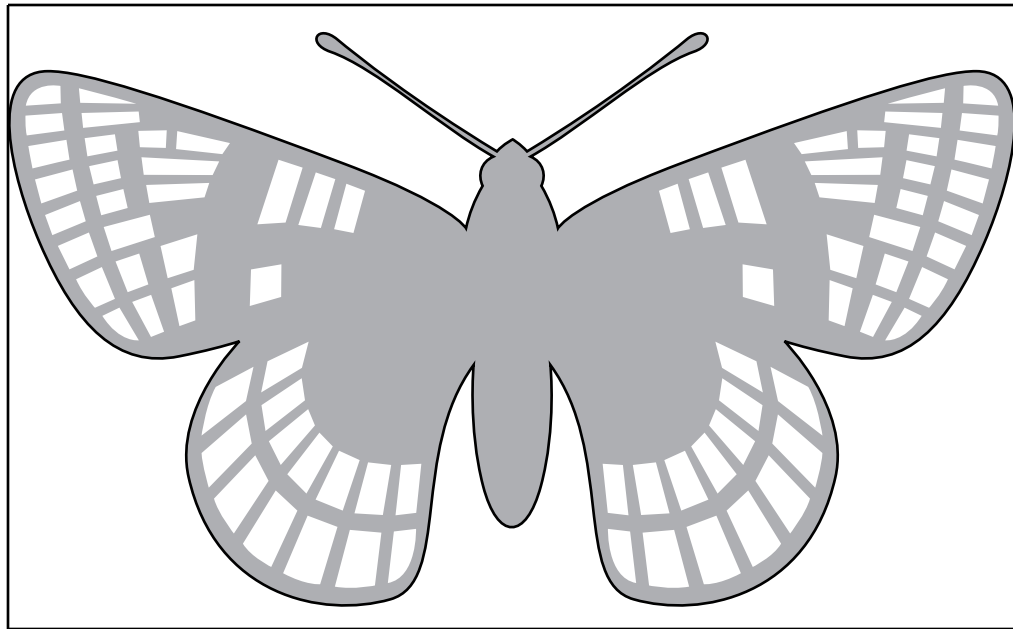
Giant Swallowtail  
*Papilio cresphontes*



Photo by Robert Behrstock

Size: 4 - 6 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Oct  
Food Plants: citrus

Black with yellow spots  
spanning wing to wing.  
Each tail has a yellow  
spot outlined in black.



## Whites and Sulphurs Pieridae

Subfamily	Common Name	Subfamily	Scientific Name	
Whites		Pierinae		15
Sulphurs/Yellows		Coliadinae		19

The Whites and Sulphurs are medium to small in size. They are white, yellow, or orange in color and may have black or red markings. Most of the caterpillars feed on plants from the Mustard family. All adults from this family are nectar feeders.



Cabbage White  
*Pieris rapae*



Size: 1 3/4 - 2 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: black mustard, wild radish, nasturtium

Upperside white with gray tips on forewings. Males have one dark, submarginal spot; females have two.

Checkered White  
*Pontia protodice*



Size: 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: native and non-native mustards

White with brown or black checkered pattern on the front of the pointed wing tip.

Photo by Jeffrey Phippen

Sara Orangetip  
*Anthocharis sara*



Size: 1 1/16 - 1 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-June  
Food Plants: native  
mustards

Upperside white with  
orange tips on the  
forewing. Underside has  
green marbling on the  
hindwing.

Becker's White  
*Pontia beckerii*



Size: 1 5/8 - 2 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Aug  
Food Plants: bladderpod

Upperside white  
with black spots near  
forewing tip. Underside  
has green edging along  
hindwing veins.

Photo by Ron Wolf

Orange Sulphur (Alfalfa Sulphur)  
*Colias eurytheme*



Photo by Crystal Anderson

Size: 1 3/8 - 2 3/4 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: pea family,  
lotus, clover, vetch,  
alfalfa

Varies white to yellow  
to orange with black  
border on upperside.  
Underside has a silver  
spot on the hindwing.

● Harford's Sulphur  
*Colias harfordii*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 1 3/4 - 2 inches  
Flight Time: Apr-Sept  
Food Plants: *Astragalus*  
(locoweed or  
rattleweed)

Males are vibrant yellow  
with a black cell spot  
on the forewing. They  
have a dark forewing  
border and a thinner  
hindwing border of the  
same color. The borders  
on females are reduced  
or missing.

## Sleepy Orange *Abaeis nicippe*



Photo by Jonathan Wright

Size: 1 3/8 - 2 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Oct  
Food Plants: cassia

Upperside orange with a small, black cell spot on the forewing. Underside can be a variety of colors, depending on what form it is. Summer forms are orange-yellow. Winter can be shades or red or brown.



## Dainty Sulphur (Dwarf Yellow Sulphur) *Nathalis iole*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 3/4 - 1 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Nov  
Food Plants: sunflower family

This butterfly has elongated forewings. Underside forewing has black spots on the edge of the outer wing and a yellow to orange patch near the wing base. Upperside has yellow and black markings.



## Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae*



Photo by Jeffrey Phippen

Size: 2 1/4 - 3 1/8 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Oct  
Food Plants: cassia

Upper surface of males is yellow. Females have uneven black borders on the the edges of the wings. Underside of hindwing has two pink spots with silver centers.



## California Dogface *Zerene eurydice*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

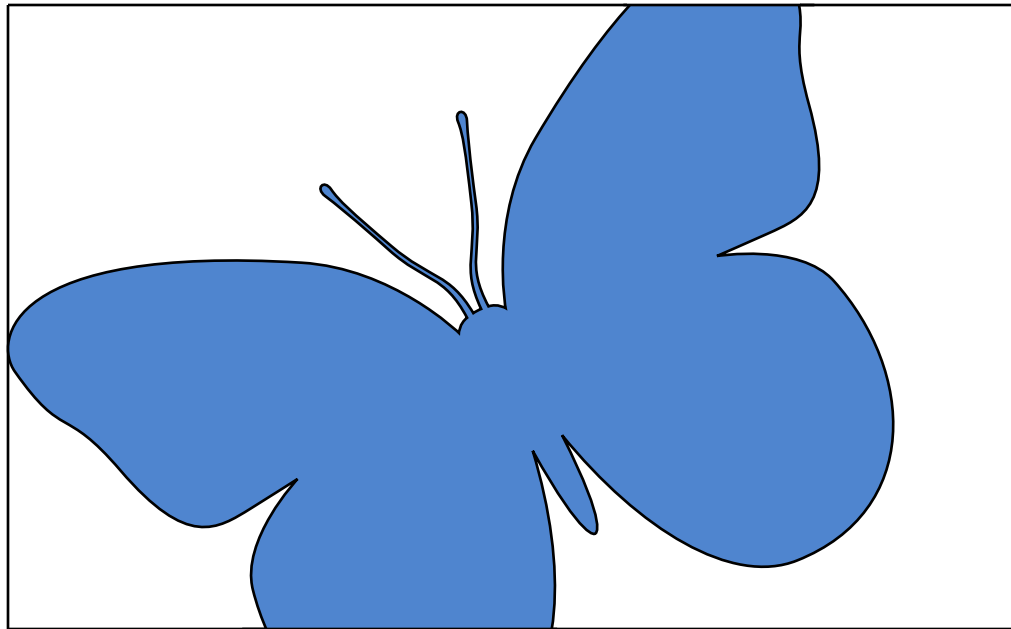
Size: 2 - 2 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Sept  
Food Plants: *Amorpha californica* (false indigo)

This is the California State Butterfly.

Vibrant yellow-orange with a purple iridescence. Pattern on male forewings resembles the face of a dog. Females are yellow with a black cell spot on the upper forewing.







## Coppers, Hairstreaks, and Blues Lycaenidae

Subfamily	Common Name	Subfamily	Scientific Name	
Coppers		Lycaeninae		27
Hairstreaks		Coliadinae		29
Blues		Polyommatainae		39

There are 21 species of Lycaenids in the Santa Monicas - more than any other family. These butterflies typically have vibrant, iridescent blues, reds, and oranges in their coloring. Adults are usually small to very small. Lycaenid caterpillars are commonly slug shaped and many species produce sugary secretions in exchange for protection by ants.

## Gorgon Copper

*Lycaena gorgon*



Photo by Randy Wight

Size: 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 inches  
 Flight Time: Apr-July  
 Food Plants: *Eriogonum elongatum* (wand buckwheat)

Upperside copper with purple tint on males and dark brown with beige and black spots on females. Both are gray with black spots on underside with a submarginal row of red-orange spots.

## Tailed Copper

*Lycaena arota*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 1 1/8 - 1 3/8 inches  
 Flight Time: May-July  
 Food Plants: wild currant or *Ribes* (gooseberry)

Small tail on hindwing. Upperside of males is copper with a purple tint. Females are orange with brown wing bases and wide, brown borders on the forewing. Underside gray with black spots and submarginal crescents on hindwing.

## Gray Hairstreak

*Strymon melinus*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 7/8 - 1 3/8 inches  
 Flight Time: Feb-Nov  
 Food Plants: mallow,  
 buckwheat, coffeeberry,  
 pea

Thin tail on hindwing.  
 Underside ranges  
 from pale to dark  
 gray. Irregular, white  
 postmedian line  
 bordered by orange.  
 Upperside is slate with  
 red-orange eyespots.

## Sylvan Hairstreak

*Satyrium sylvinus*



Photo by Randy Emmitt

Size: 1 - 1 3/8 inches  
 Flight Time: May-July  
 Food Plants: willow

Not all have tails.  
 Upperside gray-brown or  
 red-brown with an orange  
 mark on the hindwing  
 near the lower edge.  
 Males have a blue tint;  
 females have a yellow  
 one. Underside ranges  
 from gray to white with  
 a postmarginal series of  
 black dots. Red to yellow  
 spot near the tail.



## Hedgerow Hairstreak *Satyrium saepium*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 1 - 1 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: May-July  
Food Plants: *Ceanothus*  
(wild lilac)

Upperside copper with metallic tint. Underside beige to brown with a slate to blue spot near the tail.

## Bramble Hairstreak (Coastal Green/Perplexing Hairstreak) *Callophrys dumetorum*



Photo by Sally King

Size: 1 - 1 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Apr  
Food Plants: buckwheat,  
*Ceanothus*, deerweed

No tail. Underside turquoise, sometimes with noticeable postmedian line of white spots on the hindwing. Upperside is gray and females have some yellow in the center of both wings.

Brown Elfin (Western Elfin)  
*Callophrys augustinus*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 7/8 - 1 1/8 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-July  
Food Plants: Mostly  
dodder, but also  
*Ceanothus*

No tails, but hindwing  
is turned downward.  
Upperside ranges from  
gray-brown to red-  
brown. Underside is  
chesnut brown with  
iridescence and a  
dark, postmedian line.  
Hindwing is visibly  
darker at the wing base.

Great Purple Hairstreak  
*Atlides halesus*



Photo by Sally King

Size: 1 1/4 - 2 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Oct  
Food Plants: mistletoe  
in sycamores or  
cottonwood

One short and one  
long tail on hindwing.  
Upperside is black with  
vibrant blue iridescence.  
Underside is black with  
metallic gold markings  
near the tail. Abdomen  
is blue on top and red-  
orange underneath.

## California Hairstreak *Satyrium californica*



Size: 1 - 1 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: May-Aug  
Food Plants: *Ceanothus*  
and oak

One long and one short tail on each hindwing. Upperside is brown with an orange spot on the hindwing near the tails. Underside is gray-brown with orange crescents and a blue patch near the tail. It also has a postmedian curve of black spots.

Photo by Christopher Christie

## Mountain Mahogany Hairstreak *Satyrium tetra*



Size: 1 - 1 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: May-July  
Food Plants: mountain  
mahogany

Males have short tail; females have a long tail (although it may be missing). Upperside is gray-brown. Underside is a mossy gray color with an ash overtone. There is an irregular, postmedian white line and a slate colored spot near the tail.

Photo by James Hogue

## Gold-Hunter's Hairstreak

*Satyrium auretorum auretorum*



Photo by Harmut Wisch

Size: 1 - 1 1/4 inches  
 Flight Time: May-July  
 Food Plants: scrub oak

Short tail on hindwing.  
 Upperside is red-brown  
 with a yellow tint on  
 females. Underside has  
 an orange spot near the  
 tail with a black center.

## Santa Monica Mountains Hairstreak

*Satyrium auretorum fumosum*



This species is endemic to the Santa Monica Mountains. It is highly localized and threatened by urbanization.



Photo by Kim Davis, Mike Stangeland, and Andrew Warren

Size: 1/2 - 5/8 inch  
 Flight Time: Apr-June  
 Food Plants: scrub oak

Looks nearly identical  
 to the Gold-Hunter's  
 Hairstreak. The only  
 noticeable difference is  
 a darker ground color  
 on both sides and a  
 more prominent series  
 of postmedian spots.



## Western Pygmy Blue

*Brephidium exilis*



Photo by Sally King

Size: 1/2 - 3/4 inch  
 Flight Time: year-round  
 Food Plants: *Atriplex*  
 (saltbush) and goosefoot

Very small. Upperside copper with slate blue wing bases and white fringe. Underside copper with white wing bases and markings. Edge of hindwing has a row of black circles. Three small black dots are near the base of the hindwing.

## Marine Blue

*Leptotes marina*



Photo by Sally King

Size: 7/8 - 1 1/8 inches  
 Flight Time: year-round  
 Food Plants: *Plumbago*  
 and various pea family

The underside of the forewing has rows of light brown bands that can be seen from the costa to the margin. Upperside is blue with a purple tint on males and no white on females.

"Bernardino" Dotted Blue  
*Euphiltoes bernardino*



(c) 2007 Ron Hemberger

Size: 11/16 - 13/16 inch  
Flight Time: Apr-Aug  
Food Plants: California buckwheat

Males have blue upperside with a thin, black border on the outer margin. Females are brown and have an orange, submarginal band on the upper hindwing. Both are off-white on the underside and have black spots and an orange postmedian band on the hindwing.

Acmon Blue  
*Plebejus acmon*



Size: 3/4 - 1 1/8 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Nov  
Food Plants: deerweed, buckwheat

Upperside of males blue, females brown. Both sides have an orange-pink submarginal band. Underside white with black spots.

Silvery Blue  
*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*



Size: 7/8 - 1 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-May  
Food Plants: *Lotus scoparius* (deerweed)

Upperside of males is silvery blue with thin, black borders and white fringe. Female is darker blue with wide, black borders and white fringe. Underside is gray-brown and hindwing has a crooked row of black dots outlined in white.

Western Tailed Blue  
*Cupido amyntula*



Size: 7/8 - 1 1/8 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Sept  
Food Plants: *Astragalus* (locoweed or rattleweed)

Tiny, thin tail. Upperside blue to brown-blue. Upper wings have black edging. Underside white with black markings and an orange spot near the tail.

Spring Azure  
*Celastrina ladon*



Size: 7/8 - 1 3/8 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-July  
Food Plants: *Ceanothus*  
(wild lilac)

Upperside silvery blue with black outer edge on forewing of females. Underside varies from pale gray with faint dots to darker gray with larger, black spots.

Ceraunus Blue  
*Hemiargus ceraunus*



Photo by Edith Smith

Size: 3/4 - 1 1/8 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Oct  
Food Plants: pea family

Underside is gray with a row of postmedian dashes on each wing. For Southwest species, the hindwing has two submarginal eyespots. Upperside of males is blue; females is dark brown, usually with blue wing bases.



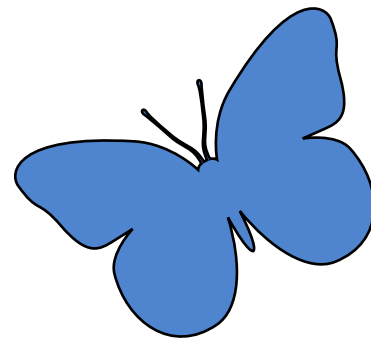
Sonoran Blue  
*Philotes sonorensis*

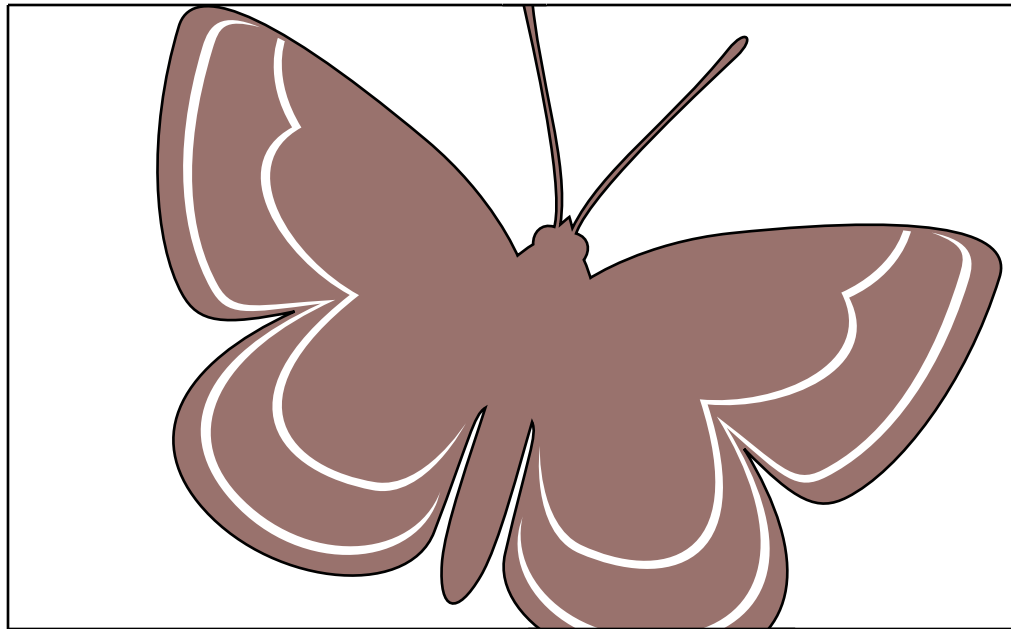


Photo by Jonathan Wright

Size: 7/8 - 1 inch  
Flight Time: Mar-Apr  
Food Plants: lance-leaved dudleya

The only Blue in North America with red spots on the forewing. Hindwing of female also has red spots. Upperside is silvery blue.





## Metalmarks Riodinidae

Metalmarks range from small to medium in size. Species have lots of variation of patterns, posture, and behavior. It is easy to identify sex on Metalmarks because females will have three pairs of walking legs, but males will only have two. Their front legs are reduced.

Note: Unlike the other families, Metalmarks do not have subfamilies. Instead, the Metalmarks are divided into "Tribes." Both of the Santa Monica Mountains species are from the Riodinini Tribe.

Fatal/Dusky Metalmark  
*Calephelis nemesis*



Photo by Stephen Holloway

Size: 3/4 - 1 inch  
Flight Time: Feb-Oct  
Food Plants: mule fat,  
bush sunflower

Forewings on males  
are pointed. Upperside  
is brown with dark,  
irregular median bands  
on both wings.

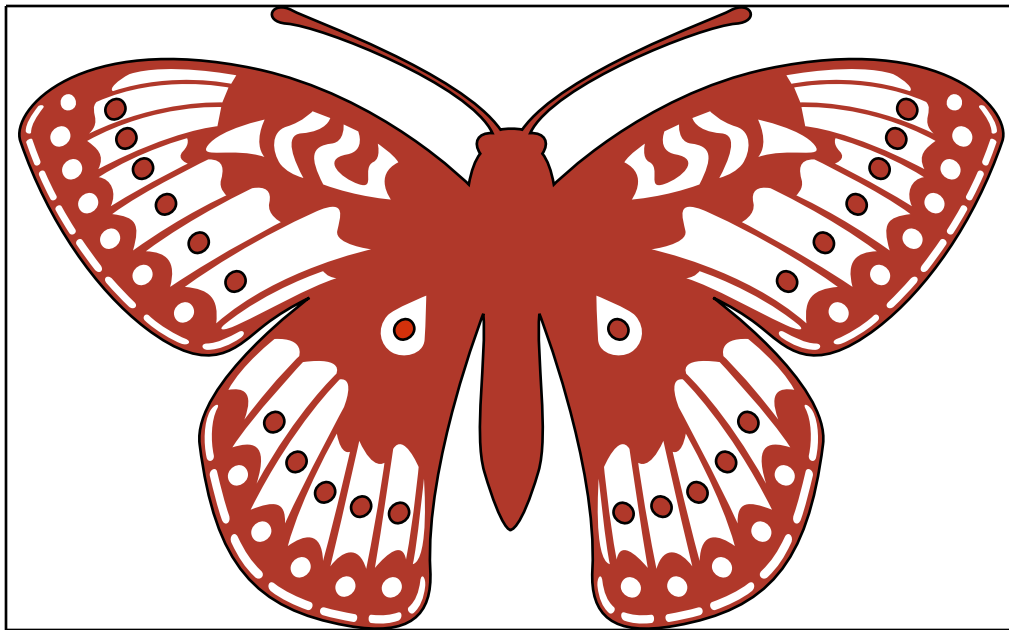
Mormon Metalmark  
*Apodemia mormo*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 7/8 - 1 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Nov  
Food Plants: California  
buckwheat

Upperside ranges in  
color from orange-  
brown to black and  
has white and black  
spots. There is a patch  
on the upperside and  
underside forewings  
that ranges from tan to  
red. Underside is gray  
and orange with white  
spots.



## Brushfoots

### Nymphalidae

Subfamily	Common Name	Subfamily	Scientific Name	
Fritillaries and Heliconians		Heliconiinae		55
Anglewings, Checkerspots, Crescents		Nymphalinae		57
Admirals and Sisters		Limenitidinae		68
Nymphs and Ringlets		Satyrinae		70
Milkweed Butterflies		Danainae		72

There are more species in the Nymphalidae family than any other family. Brushfoots have a lot of variation. Sizes can vary from small to large. All adults have reduced front legs which can not be used for walking. They are commonly orange, yellow, brown, or black. Some adults can live 6-11 months, the most of any butterfly.

Gulf Fritillary  
*Agraulis vanillae*



Copyright Lynette Schimming

Size: 2 1/2 - 3 3/4 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: passionvine

Bright orange with black markings and elongated forewings. Three white spots outlined in black on the edge of the forewing. Underside brown with an orange forewing base and large, iridescent silver spots.

● "Comstock's" Callippe Fritillary  
*Speyeria callippe comstocki*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 2 - 2 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: May-July  
Food Plants: violets

Upperside orange to red-brown with evenly spaced, black markings. Underside has silver spots, including three triangular shaped submarginal ones edged in brown.

Variable/Chalcedon Checkerspot  
*Euphydryas chalcedona*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 1 1/4 - 2 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: Apr-June  
Food Plants: bush  
monkeyflower and  
other figwort family

Highly variable.  
Forewing is narrow.  
Upperside ranges from  
dark orange-brown to  
black and may have  
yellow, red, or white  
spots. There are yellow  
and orange bands  
underneath the wings.

Painted Lady  
*Vanessa cardui*



Photo by Sally King

Size: 2 - 2 7/8 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: thistle, mallow,  
lupine, fiddleneck, among  
others

Upperside orange and brown  
with darker wing bases.  
Forewing tips have a black  
patch with a white bar on the  
leading edge of the wing.  
Hindwing on both sides have  
four submarginal black spots,  
sometimes with blue scaling.  
Underside is a gray, brown,  
and black pattern.



Common Buckeye  
*Junonia coenia*



Photo by Jonathan Wright

Size: 1 5/8 - 2 3/4 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Nov  
Food Plants: plantain,  
snapdragon,  
monkeyflower

Light brown with two  
orange bars on the  
front wings and four  
eyespots on each side.  
The larger hindwing  
eyespot is the upper  
one, and it contains a  
pink-purple crescent.

Mourning Cloak  
*Nymphalis antiopa*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 2 1/4 - 4 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: willow,  
cottonwood

Black with yellow  
border on wings. Row  
of bright blue spots  
above yellow border.  
Short projections  
on hindwings and  
forewings.

West Coast Lady  
*Vanessa annabella*



Photo by Jonathan Wright

Size: 1 1/2 - 2 1/4 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: mallows,  
especially cheeseweed;  
nettle

Upperside orange and  
brown with an orange  
bar on the front edge  
of the forewing. Three  
to four blue spots on  
the hindwing.

Red Admiral  
*Vanessa atalanta*



Picture copyright 2006 J.K. Lindsey

Size: 1 3/4 - 3 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: nettles

Black with white spots  
on the wing tips. Red-  
orange median band  
on forewing and red-  
orange marginal band  
on hindwing.

Note: Despite its name, the Red Admiral is actually considered to be a "True Brushfoot," NOT an "Admiral."



Mylitta/Thistle Crescent  
*Phyciodes mylitta*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 1 1/8 - 1 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Oct  
Food Plants: native and non-native thistles

Upperside is vibrant orange with narrow, dark brown markings. Underside is yellow-orange with blurry red-orange markings.

American Lady  
*Vanessa virginiensis*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 1 3/4 - 2 5/8 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants:  
*Gnaphalium*  
(everlasting)

Upperside orange with a black apical patch on forewing tip. Below the patch is an orange marking with a white spot. Underside of hindwing has two large eyespots.

Satyr Comma/Satyr Anglewing  
*Polygonia satyrus*



Photo copyright Michelle Brodie

Size: 1 3/4 - 2 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Sept  
Food Plants: stinging nettle

Conspicuous wing edges. Golden-orange with black patches and a dark border on the forewing. Underside resembles a dead leaf when wings are closed.

California Tortoiseshell  
*Nymphalis californica*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 1 1/4 - 2 3/4 inches  
Flight Time: Apr-Sept  
Food Plants: *Ceanothus* (wild lilac)

Jagged wing edges. Orange-brown with dark wing borders and large black patches on the edge of the front wing. Underside resembles a dead leaf and has dark wing bases.

## Gabb's Checkerspot

*Chlosyne gabbii*



Size: 1 1/4 - 1 3/4 inches  
 Flight Time: Mar-July  
 Food Plants: wooly aster, telegraph weed, other asters

Upperside has an orange-brown and black checkered pattern. The median band is slightly lighter in color. The underside of the hindwing has pearl-white spots.



## California Sister

*Adelpha bredowii californica*



Size: 2 1/2 - 4 inches  
 Flight Time: Mar-Oct  
 Food Plants: oaks

Upperside is brown-black with large, orange patches near the brown-black wing tips. A white band of spots spans the forewing to the hindwing on either side. Underside has blue bands near the base and the hindwing margin.

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Lorquin's Admiral  
*Limenitis lorquini*



Photo by Jonathan Wright

Size: 2 - 2 5/8 inches  
Flight Time: Apr-Oct  
Food Plants: willows

Upperside is black-brown with white median bands on forewing and hindwing. The most distinguishable characteristic from the California Sister is the orange wing tips.

"California" Common Ringlet  
*Coenonympha tullia californica*



Size: 1 1/3 - 1 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Sept  
Food Plants: bunch grasses

Cream and beige pattern with tiny black dots on the wings. Underside of hindwing is an ashy-moss coloring with a wavy, white median line.



## Great Basin Wood Nymph

*Cercyonis sthenele silvestris*



Size: 1 3/8 - 1 3/4 inch  
 Flight Time: May-Aug  
 Food Plants: bunch grasses

Brown upperside with two eyespots - they are small in males, larger in females. Eyespots are equidistant to the outer edge of the wing. On the underside of the hind wing, an irregular dark line separates the lighter, outer half from the darker, basal half.

## Monarch

*Danaus plexippus*



Size: 3 3/8 - 4 7/8 inches  
 Flight Time: year-round  
 Food Plants: milkweed

Upperside bright orange with black veins and wide, black borders. Upperside of female has blurred black veins and is more orange-brown. White spots are found on the borders and the apex.

Photo by Sally King

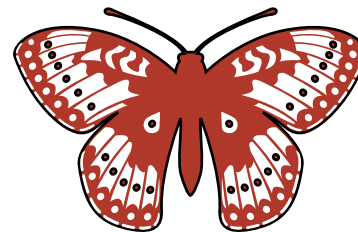
Queen  
*Danaus gilippus*

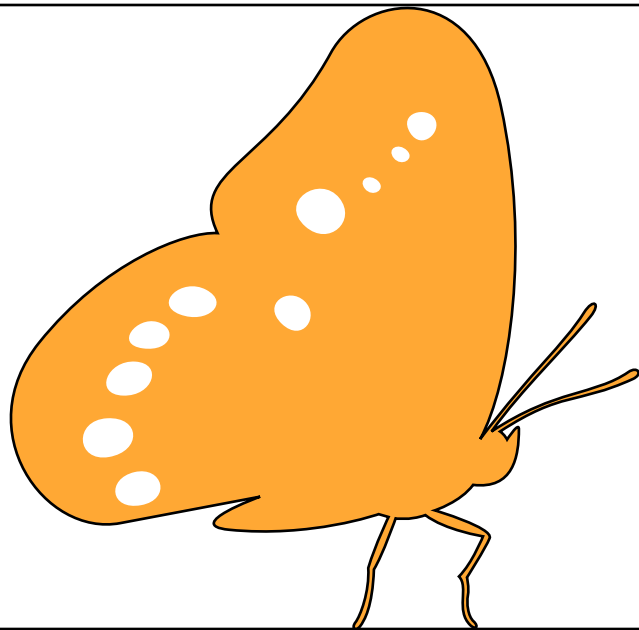


Photo by Sally King

Size: 2 5/8 - 3 7/8 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Nov  
Food Plants: milkweed

Upperside is chesnut brown with black borders. There are two rows of white dots on the forewing borders. Underside of hindwing has black veins. Both wings have black borders with two rows of white dots.





## Skippers Hesperiidae

Subfamily Common Name	Subfamily Scientific Name	
Spread-wing Skippers	Pyrginae	77
Grass Skippers	Hesperiinae	82

Unlike the other families who are all members of the Superfamily Papilionoidea, Skippers are members of the Superfamily Hesperoidea. Skippers are medium to small in size. Though a few have iridescent colors, most are orange, brown, black, white, or gray. Species from this family are easily identifiable by their large eyes, stout bodies, and short antennae that are often shaped like hooked clubs.

Northern White Skipper  
*Heliopetes ericetorum*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Oct  
Food Plants: mallows,  
especially bush mallow

Upperside of males is white with black markings at outer margin. Females are dark at the wing base and have thicker, dark markings. Both have a white underside with beige markings.

Mournful Duskywing  
*Erynnis tristis*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 1 1/4 - 1 15/16 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Sept  
Food Plants: oaks

Upperside dark brown with a lighter brown pattern. Hindwing has white fringe. Underside is dark brown with a line of white spots near the margin.



Funereal Duskywing  
*Erynnis funeralis*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 1 5/16 - 1 3/4 inches  
Flight Time: Feb-Oct  
Food Plants: deerweed  
and other pea family

Narrow, pointed  
forewing and triangular  
hindwing. Upperside is  
black and forewing has  
a dull brown patch at  
the cell.

White Checkered Skipper  
*Pyrgus albescens*



Size: 1 - 1 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-Oct  
Food Plants: mallows

Upperside ranges from  
blue-gray to black  
with large, white spots  
forming a median band  
across both wings.  
Underside is dull white  
with charcoal bands.

Propertius Duskywing  
*Erynnis propertius*



Photo by Barry Breckling

Size: 1 3/8 - 1 3/4 inches  
Flight Time: Mar-June  
Food Plants: coast live oak

Upperside brown with gray overscaling. Hindwing has light spots.

Fiery Skipper  
*Hylephila phyleus*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 inches  
Flight Time: year-round  
Food Plants: grasses, including crab grass

Very short antennae. Underside of males has small black spots; underside of females light brown with pale checks. Males have black stigma. Upperside of females is dark brown and orange.

## Woodland Skipper

*Ochlodes sylvanoides*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 1 - 1 1/4 inches  
 Flight Time: July-Oct  
 Food Plants: grasses,  
 including rye grass

Upperside orange with reddish-brown markings. Males have a large black stigma; females have a black diagonal band. Underside ranges from red to yellow to brown, and hindwing may be completely unmarked or have a band of cream or yellow spots.

## Sandhill Skipper

*Polites sabuleti*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 7/8 - 1 1/4 inches  
 Flight Time: Apr-Sept  
 Food Plants: saltgrasses

Yellow-orange to brown with dark, jagged borders on upperside. Hindwing underside has yellow veins in a cobweb pattern around dark chevrons. Dark spots at outer margin where veins end.

Rural Skipper  
*Ochlodes agricola*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 7/8 - 1 1/8 inches  
Flight Time: Apr-July  
Food Plants: grasses

Upperside is yellow-orange with black borders and a translucent spot near the tip of the upper wing. Underside is rust colored.

Umber Skipper  
*Poanes melane*



Photo by Alan Wight

Size: 1 1/4 - 1 3/8 inches  
Flight Time: Jan-Nov  
Food Plants: grasses

Upperside is brown with pale spots and a golden band on hindwing. Underside is brown with larger, lighter colored spots. Females are lighter in color.



## Orange Skipperling *Copaeodes aurantiaca*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 3/4 - 1 1/8 inches  
Flight Time: Apr-Sept  
Food Plants: grasses

Both sides are orange. Males have a thin, black stigma on the forewing below the cell. Females may have black edging on the forewing.

## Sachem *Atalopedes campestris*



Photo by Greg Lasley

Size: 1 1/4 - 1 5/8 inches  
Flight Time: Apr-Nov  
Food Plants: grasses

Males are yellow-orange with a large black stigma and brown borders. Females are yellow-brown to dark brown with a square-shaped clear spot at the end of the forewing cell. Underside of females is brown with white spots.

## Eufala Skipper

*Lerodea eufala*



Photo by Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Size: 1 - 1 1/4 inches  
 Flight Time: Jun-Nov  
 Food Plants: grasses

Upperside is gray brown with 3-5 small, clear spots on the forewing. Underside is brown, with heavy, gray overscaling on the hindwing.

## Wandering Skipper

*Panoquina errans*



Photo by Dennis Walker

Size: 1 - 1 1/4 inches  
 Flight Time: July-Sept  
 Food Plants: Saltgrasses

Upperside is mossy-brown with a row of small, transparent spots on the forewing only. The underside of the hindwing is brown with a short curve of 3-5 light spots.



## Index

<i>Abaeis nicippe</i>	21	<i>Celastrina ladon</i>	45
Acmon Blue	42	Ceraunus Blue	46
<i>Adelpha bredowii californica</i>	68	<i>Cercyonis sthenele silvestris</i>	71
<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	55	Chalcedon Checkerspot	57
Alfalfa Sulphur	19	Checkered White	16
American Lady	64	<i>Chlosyne gabii</i>	67
Anise Swallowtail	10	Cloudless Sulphur	23
<i>Anthocharis sara</i>	17	Coastal Green Hairstreak	
<i>Apodemia mormo</i>	52		(see Bramble Hairstreak)
<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	88	<i>Coenonympha tullia californica</i>	70
<i>Atlides halesus</i>	34	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	19
Becker's White	18	<i>Colias harfordii</i>	20
Bramble Hairstreak	32	Common Buckeye	59
Bernardino Dotted Blue	41	"Comstock's" Callippe Fritillary	56
<i>Brephidium exilis</i>	39	<i>Copaeodes aurantiaca</i>	87
Brown Elfin	33	<i>Cupido amyntula</i>	44
Cabbage White	15	Dainty Sulphur	22
<i>Calephelis nemesis</i>	51	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>	73
"California" Common Ringlet	70	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	72
California Dogface	24	Dusky Metalmark	51
California Hairstreak	35	Dwarf Yellow	
California Sister	68		(see Dainty Sulphur)
California Tortoiseshell	66	<i>Erynnis funeralis</i>	79
<i>Callophrys augustinus</i>	33	<i>Erynnis propertius</i>	81
<i>Callophrys dumetorum</i>	32	<i>Erynnis tristis</i>	78

Eufala Skipper	89	<i>Lycaena arota</i>	28
<i>Euphilotes benardino</i>	41	<i>Lycaena gorgon</i>	27
<i>Euphydryas chalcedona</i>	57	Marine Blue	40
Fatal Metalmark	51	Monarch	72
Fiery Skipper	82	Mormon Metalmark	52
Funereal Duskywing	79	Mountain Mahogany Hairstreak	36
Gabb's Checkerspot	67	Mournful Duskywing	78
Giant Swallowtail	12	Mourning Cloak	60
<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>	43	Mylitta Crescent	63
Gold-Hunters Hairstreak	37	<i>Nathalis iole</i>	22
Gorgon Copper	27	Northern White Skipper	77
Gray Hairstreak	29	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	60
Great Basin Wood Nymph	71	<i>Nymphalis californica</i>	66
Great Purple Hairstreak	34	<i>Ochlodes agricola</i>	85
Gulf Fritillary	55	<i>Ochlodes sylvanoides</i>	83
Harford's Sulphur	20	Orange Skipperling	87
Hedgerow Hairstreak	31	Orange Sulphur	19
<i>Heliopetes ericetorum</i>	77	Painted Lady	58
<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>	46	Pale Swallowtail	11
<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	82	<i>Panoquina errans</i>	90
<i>Junonia coenia</i>	59	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	12
<i>Leptotes marina</i>	40	<i>Papilio eurymedon</i>	11
<i>Lerodea eufala</i>	89	<i>Papilio rutulus</i>	9
<i>Limenitis lorquini</i>	69	<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>	10
Lorquin's Admiral	69	Perplexing Hairstreak	
			(see Bramble Hairstreak)

<i>Philotes sonorensis</i>	47	<i>Satyrium tetra</i>	36
<i>Phoebis sennae</i>	23	Silvery Blue	43
<i>Phyciodes mylitta</i>	63	Sleepy Orange	21
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	15	Sonoran Blue	47
<i>Plebejus acmon</i>	42	<i>Speyeria callippe comstocki</i>	56
<i>Poanes melane</i>	86	Spring Azure	45
<i>Polites sabuleti</i>	84	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	29
<i>Polygonia satyrus</i>	65	Sylvan Hairstreak	30
<i>Pontia beckerii</i>	18	Tailed Copper	28
<i>Pontia protodice</i>	16	Thistle Crescent	63
Propertius Duskywing	81	Umber Skipper	86
<i>Pyrgus albescens</i>	80	<i>Vanessa annabella</i>	61
Queen	73	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	62
Red Admiral	62	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	58
Rural Skipper	85	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	64
Sachem	88	Variable Checkerspot	57
Sandhill Skipper	84	Wandering Skipper	90
Santa Monica Mountains Hairstreak	38	West Coast Lady	61
Sara Orangetip	17	Western Elfin	
Satyr Anglewing	65	(see Brown Elfin)	
Satyr Comma	65	Western Pygmy Blue	39
<i>Satyrium auretteum</i>	37	Western Tailed Blue	44
<i>Satyrium auretteum fumosum</i>	38	Western Tiger Swallowtail	9
<i>Satyrium californica</i>	35	White Checkered Skipper	80
<i>Satyrium saepium</i>	31	Woodland Skipper	83
<i>Satyrium sylvinus</i>	30	<i>Zerene eurydice</i>	24

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