



Common Butterflies of the Weaverville Area

By Sue Vrooman

104 species of butterflies flit across Buncombe County's green mountains. Some are quite rare and unless you're lucky and observant you may never see them. But of the 104, there are 36 – all listed below – that could very well catch your eye. These 36 species are abundant or common in the Weaverville area and many of them are garden visitors. The first name listed is the butterfly's common name. It's the one most people use. The name in parenthesis that follows is the butterfly's scientific name. To see a picture of each species and to get more information about it, click on its name in the list below.



SWALLOWTAILS [4 species]

-  [Pipevine Swallowtail](#) (*Battus philenor*)
-  [Eastern Tiger Swallowtail](#) (*Papilio glaucus*)
-  [Appalachian Tiger Swallowtail](#) (*Papilio appalachiensis*)
-  [Spicebush Swallowtail](#) (*Papilio troilus*)

WHITES AND SULPHURS [4 species]

-  [West Virginia White](#) (*Pieris virginiensis*)
-  [Cabbage White](#) (*Pieris rapae*)
-  [Clouded Sulphur](#) (*Colias philodice*)
-  [Orange Sulphur](#) (*Colias eurytheme*)

Coppers [1 species]

-  [American Copper](#) (*Lycaena phlaeas*)

Hairstreaks [1 species]

-  [Gray Hairstreak](#) (*Strymon melinus*)

Blues [3 species]

-  [Eastern Tailed-Blue](#) (*Cupido comyntas*)
-  [Spring Azure](#) (*Celastrina "ladon"*)
-  [Summer Azure](#) (*Celastrina neglecta*)

BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES [14 species including the Monarch]

-  [Great Spangled Fritillary](#) (*Speyeria cybele*)
-  [Aphrodite Fritillary](#) (*Speyeria aphrodite*)
-  [Meadow Fritillary](#) (*Boloria bellona*)
-  [Silvery Checkerspot](#) (*Chlosyne nycteis*)
-  [Pearl Crescent](#) (*Phyciodes tharos*)
-  [Question Mark](#) (*Polygonia interrogationis*)

-  **Eastern Comma** (*Polygonia comma*)
-  **Mourning Cloak** (*Nymphalis antiopa*)
-  **American Lady** (*Vanessa virginiensis*)
-  **Red Admiral** (*Vanessa atalanta*)
-  **Common Buckeye** (*Junonia coenia*)
-  **'Astyanax' Red-spotted Purple** (*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)
-  **Little Wood Satyr** (*Megisto cymela*)
-  **Monarch** (*Danaus plexippus*)

SKIPPERS [9 species]

-  **Silver-spotted Skipper** (*Epargyreus clarus*)
-  **Dreamy Duskywing** (*Erynnis icelus*)
-  **Juvenal's Duskywing** (*Erynnis juvenalis*)
-  **Clouded Skipper** (*Lerema accius*)
-  **Least Skipper** (*Ancyloxypha numitor*)
-  **Peck's Skipper** (*Polites peckius*)
-  **Crossline Skipper** (*Polites origenes*)
-  **Little Glassywing** (*Pompeius verna*)
-  **Sachem** (*Atalopedes campestris*)

The wonderful photos and accompanying information come from the following source:

Opler, Paul A., Harry Pavulaan, Ray E. Stanford, Michael Pogue, coordinators. 2006. Butterflies and Moths of North America. Bozeman, MT: Big Sky Institute. <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/> (Version January 2009).



Red Admiral Butterfly