

Allegan State Game Area Butterfly Count

Spring equinox to summer solstice brought the 5th coldest, cloudiest, and wettest spring in 120 years of weather record keeping according to the local Grand Rapids TV 8 meteorologist.

On 29 June 2019 we began surveying at 9 a.m. and visited various habitats sites until 5 p.m. Temperature ranged from 71 to 86° F under a 70% sunny sky both morning and afternoon. Air movement was 6 mph or less throughout the day. We traveled 3.5 miles on foot.

Four participants found 24 species. This was among the lowest species seen during the 16 years of the Allegan count. A few other years had similar species counts. The high-count year was 40 species in 2004. We saw 345 individuals compared to our lowest number of 106 in 2001 and a high number of 894 in 2015. Despite a lower species count and moderate individuals numbers, four species were seen in higher numbers than during other count years. They are Red Admiral, Red-spotted Purple, Little Wood Satyr, and Least Skippers.

Several expected species were not seen. It is thought the cold wet spring delayed emergence of adults. Each year has unique findings.

See the Allegan count table for species and numbers sighted.

Species not seen on count day but seen during count week were Bog Copper and Coral Hairstreak. Count week is identified as the three days prior to count day and the three days following count day.

One immature species was observed. Three Silver-spotted Skipper caterpillars were feeding on Black Locust leaves.

Consider joining the 2020 Allegan count. Other WMBA counts you might enjoy are the Rogue River, Newaygo/Manistee National Forest, and the Muskegon State Game Area. Dates have not been selected for 2020. As spring approaches, check the WMBA web site for count dates.

Year	2019
Species Count Year	16
29-Jun-19	
Papilionidae	
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	4
Spicebush Swallowtail	3
Pieridae	
Cabbage White	45
Clouded Sulphur	1
Lycaenidae	
Edward's Hairstreak	1
Banded Hairstreak	2
Summer Azure	2
Melissa "Karner" Blue	1
Nymphalidae	
Great Spangled Fritillary	2
Pearl Crescent	3
Eastern Comma	1
American Lady	1
Red Admiral	91
Red-spotted Purple	15
Appalachian Brown	1
Little Wood Satyr	51
Monarch	6
Hesperiidae	
Silver-spotted Skipper	8
Southern Cloudywing	2
Northern Cloudywing	2
Least Skipper	15
European Skipper	83
Indian Skipper	1
Hobomok Skipper	4
Total individuals	345
# of Species Sighted	24
Immature Stages	
Silver-spotted Skipper lar	3
Species Total	24
Individual Total	345
Count Week sightings	
Bog Copper	
Coral Hairstreak	