

21st Annual Brazos Bend Butterfly Count Results - October 2, 2016

It was a beautiful day for a walk in the park as 53 observers arrived for the count. It was especially gratifying to see five families with children and a total of 34 people who were participating in the Brazos Bend Count for the first time. To assist newcomers with identification, our seven parties included Brazos Bend Volunteers, Master Naturalists and other experienced observers.

About 60 percent of the park was flooded in early spring and again in summer, but plant life recovered well and many wildflowers were available for the nectaring butterflies.

This was the 11th count since we switched the event from June to October. Observations of 6 **Pipevine Swallowtails**, 225 **Little Yellows** and 509 **Pearl Crescents** each set new records for the October counts. We were also excited to see **Zebra Heliconian** and **Large Orange Sulphur**, both for only the 2nd time in the 21 years of our count. One species that may have been affected by two consecutive years of flooding is the **Broad-winged Skipper**. It's host plant is the Southern Wild Rice that grows in the lakes. When present, Broad-winged Skippers are usually widespread. This time, most parties saw none, while the party whose area included Creekfield Lake found them in abundance.

SWALLOWTAILS	BRUSHFOOTS	1 Dorantes Longtail
6 Pipevine Swallowtail	3 American Snout	2 Horace's Duskywing
16 Giant Swallowtail	1 Zebra Heliconian	24 Common Checkered-skipper
1 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	199 Gulf Fritillary	31 Tropical Checkered-skipper
1 <i>swallowtail species</i>	7 Variegated Fritillary	15 <i>Checkered-skipper species</i>
WHITES & SULPHURS	34 Phaon Crescent	1 Turk's-cap White-Skipper
69 Cloudless Sulphur	509 Pearl Crescent	3 Neamathla Skipper
2 Large Orange Sulphur	3 <i>Crescent species</i>	20 Clouded Skipper
225 Little Yellow	4 Red Admiral	5 Least Skipper
3 <i>sulphur species</i>	50 Common Buckeye	1 Fiery Skipper
HAIRSTREAKS	6 Viceroy	1 Little Glassywing
20 Gray Hairstreak	15 Hackberry Emperor	2 Sagem
1 Dusky-blue Groundstreak	55 Tawny Emperor	37 Broad-winged Skipper
1 <i>hairstreak species</i>	5 <i>Emperor species</i>	20 Dun Skipper
BLUES	2 Gemmed Satyr	1 Brazilian Skipper
1 Ceraunus Blue	111 Carolina Satyr	2 Ocola Skipper
1 <i>blue species</i>	10 Monarch	3 <i>Skipper species</i>
	45 Queen	6 <i>unknown butterfly</i>
	SKIPPERS	
	3 White-striped Longtail	
	5 Long-tailed Skipper	

Total 1589 individuals / 41 species

Thanks to observers Wesley Brown, Leah Schlater-Brown, Haley Burns, Chris Carey, Julie d'Ablaing, Chuck Duplant, Jerry Eppner, Sudhaa Gade, Surya Gade, Linda Heinicke, Sandy Henderson, Lucy Herrsen, Madelyn Herrsen, Richard Hlinsky, Nancy Huffman, Sandy Jespersen, Clint Lacy, Julie Morgan Lock, Jacquelyn Marquez, Jim Murphy, Christine Pao, Montana Patin, Frances Pham, Christopher Price, Staci Price, Rowan Price, Warren Pruess, Lynne Ray, John Rickel, Emily Rickel, Roxanna Rickel, Kelly Rhodes, Johnny Rhodes, Taina Rhodes, Gavin Rhodes, Dustin Rhodes, Fred Robinson, Betsy Robinson, Robert Schwartz, Julian Sillero, Maria Sillero, James Smith, Barb Tucker, Debra Walker, Mary Waters, Nathan Whittle, Garrett Zylicz and Fatima (sorry I did not get your last name or the names of your family members).

The next count will be held on October 1, 2017.

Rich Jespersen, Compiler