

BUTTERFLIES IDENTIFIED IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

Florida is home to about 2600 species of butterflies and moths. Butterflies are members of the insect order Lepidoptera, a name that refers to the scales on their wings. Every butterfly has 4 stages of life: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult. The process of changing from stage to stage is called metamorphosis.

Below is a list of butterflies reported in the Florida Keys. Butterfly watching can be as variable as the weather, and one day you may see 20 different species, the next day only 1. It takes effort to increase your Keys butterfly list but that is part of the attraction of butterfly watching. Good luck!

Blues

Fast, erratic flyers, Blues are usually bright blue on their upper side. They have rounded wings and often display eyespots on their hindwings.

Cassius Blue	<i>Leptotes cassius theonus</i>
Ceraunus Blue	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus antibubastus</i>
Eastern Pygmy-Blue	<i>Brephidium isophthalma pseudofea</i>
Miami Blue	<i>Hemiargus thomasi bethunebakeri</i>

Broad-Winged Skippers

Skipper butterflies have antennae which are usually hooked or bent at the tip. Other characteristics include a robust body and broad head with dark, opaque eyes. These skippers have broader wings than the branded or grass skippers.

Dorantes Skipper	<i>Urbanus dorantes dorantes</i>
Florida Dusky Wing	<i>Ephyriades brunnea floridensis</i>
Hammock Skipper	<i>Polygonus leo savigny</i>
Long Tailed Skipper	<i>Urbanus proteus proteus</i>
Mangrove Skipper	<i>Phocides pigmalion okeechobee</i>
Southern Sooty Wing	<i>Staphylus hayhurstii</i>
Tropical Checkered Skipper	<i>Pyrgus oileus oileus</i>
Variegated Skipper	<i>Gorgythion begga pyralinus</i>
Zarucco Dusky Wing	<i>Erynnis zarucco</i>
Zestos Skipper	<i>Epargyreus zestos zestos</i>

Brush-footed Butterflies

About 29% of the butterflies in the Keys are Brush-footed butterflies. They are named brush-footed because the forelegs are reduced to small brush-like appendages.

American Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>
Black Mangrove Buckeye	<i>Junonia evarete</i>
Caribbean Buckeye	<i>Junonia genoveva</i>
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia coenia</i>
Cuban Crescent	<i>Eresia frisia frisia</i>
Cuban Dagger Wing	<i>Marpesia eleucea eleucea</i>
Cuban Peacock	<i>Anartia chrysopelea</i>
Dingy Purple Wing	<i>Eunica monima</i>
Eighty-Eight Butterfly	<i>Diaethria clymena</i>
Florida Purple Wing	<i>Enica tatila tatilista</i>
Florida Viceroy	<i>Limenitis archippus floridensis</i>
Haitian Cracker	<i>Hamadryas amphichloe diasia</i>
Malachite Butterfly	<i>Siproeta stelenes biplagiata</i>
Many-Banded Dagger Wing	<i>Marpesia chiron</i>
Painted Lady Butterfly	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Pearl Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos tharos</i>
Phaon Crescent	<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta rubria</i>
Ruddy Dagger Wing	<i>Marpesia petreus petreus</i>
Variegated Fritillary	<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>
White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae guantanamo</i>

Grass Skippers

Grass skippers exhibit similar characteristics to the other skippers but their larvae feed on monocots, especially grasses.

Broken Dash	<i>Wallengrenia otho</i>
Canna Skipper	<i>Calpodus ethlius</i>
Clouded Skipper	<i>Lerema accius accius</i>
Eufala Skipper	<i>Lerodea eufala</i>
Field Skipper	<i>Atalopedes campestris huron</i>
Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus phyleus</i>
Monk Skipper	<i>Asbolis capucinus</i>
Neamathla Skipper	<i>Nastra neamathla</i>
Nyctelius Skipper	<i>Nyctelius nyctelius nyctelius</i>
Obscure Skipper	<i>Panoquina panoquinoides panoquinoides</i>
Ocola Skipper	<i>Panoquina ocola ocola</i>
Palmetto Skipper	<i>Euphyes arpa</i>
Rockland Grass Skipper	<i>Hesperia meskei</i>
Salt Marsh Skipper	<i>Panoquina panoquin</i>
Sawgrass Skipper	<i>Euphyes pilatka pilatka</i>
Southern Skipperling	<i>Copaeodes minima</i>
Three Spot Skipper	<i>Cymaenes tripunctus tripunctus</i>
Twin Spot Skipper	<i>Oligoria maculata</i>
Whirlabout	<i>Polites vibex vibex</i>

Hairstreaks

Small butterflies with metallic colors on their upper wings and ringed antennae. Most have tails on their hindwings.

Atala Hairstreak	<i>Eumaeus atala florida</i>
Bartram's Hairstreak	<i>Strymon acis bartrami</i>
Cuban Gray Hairstreak	<i>Strymon martialis</i>
Disguised Hairstreak	<i>Strymon limenia</i>
Fulvous Hairstreak	<i>Electrostrymon angelia angelia</i>
Gray Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus melinus</i>
Light Banded Hairstreak	<i>Tmolus azia</i>
Maesites Hairstreak	<i>Chlorostymon maesites</i>
Modest Hairstreak	<i>Strymon columella modestus</i>
Red-banded Hairstreak	<i>Calycopis cecrops</i>
Ruddy Hairstreak	<i>Electrostrymon endymion</i>
St. Christopher's H.	<i>Chlorostymon simaethis simaethis</i>

Leaf Wing Butterflies

Resembles a dead leaf when wings folded. Rarely visits flowers, adults prefer fermenting fruit and fresh droppings, or urine.

Florida Leaf Wing	<i>Anaea troglodyta floridalis</i>
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Metalmarks

Metallic markings are found on the wings of many of these species. This is the only Metalmark in Florida.

Little Metalmark	<i>Calephelis virginiensis</i>
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Milkweed Butterflies

Black margins around the wings and bright colors make Milkweed butterflies easy to spot. They have a distinctive flight pattern of vigorous flapping then a glide.

Caribbean Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus megalippe</i>
Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i>
Queen Butterfly	<i>Danaus gilippus berenice</i>
Soldier Butterfly	<i>Danaus eresimus tethys</i>

Passion Flower Butterflies

This group occurs only in the American tropics. Brightly colored, they have long, narrow forewings.

Banded Orange	<i>Dryadula phaetusa</i>
Gulf Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae nigrior</i>
Julia Butterfly	<i>Dryas iulia largo</i>
Zebra Longwing Butterfly	<i>Heliconius charitonius tuckeri</i>

Satyrs and Wood Nymphs

Rare in the Keys, these butterflies are medium size, dull in color with eyespots on the wings.

Carolina Satyr	<i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>
Georgia Satyr	<i>Neonympha areolata areolata</i>

Sulphurs

Among the most common butterflies and most migratory. Flight style is almost constant flapping.

Barred Sulphur	<i>Eurema दौरा दौरा</i>
Boisduval's Sulphur	<i>Eurema boisduvaliana</i>
Bush Sulphur	<i>Eurema dina helios</i>
Caribbean Barred Sulphur	<i>Eurema दौरा palmira</i>
Caribbean Cloudless Sulphur	<i>Phoebis sennae sennae</i>
Cloudless Sulphur	<i>Phoebis sennae eubule</i>
Dainty Sulphur	<i>Nathalis iole</i>
Giant Brimstone	<i>Anteos maerula</i>
Guayacan Sulphur	<i>Kricogonia lyside</i>
Jamaican Sulphur	<i>Eurema nise nise</i>
Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe maxima</i>
Little Sulphur	<i>Eurema lisa lisa</i>
Orange-barred Sulphur	<i>Phoebis philea philea</i>
Orange Sulphur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>
Orbed Sulphur	<i>Aphrissa orbis orbis</i>
Sleepy Orange	<i>Eurema nicippe</i>
Statira Sulphur	<i>Aphrissa statira floridensis</i>

Swallowtails

Large butterflies, all with distinctive tails on the hindwings except for the Polydamas. Eyes are large and opaque and all six legs are used in perching.

Bahamian Swallowtail	<i>Papilio andraemon bonhotei</i>
Cuban Kite Swallowtail	<i>Eurytides celadon</i>
Eastern Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes asterius</i>
Giant Swallowtail	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>
Palamedes Swallowtail	<i>Papilio palamedes</i>
Polydamas Swallowtail	<i>Battus polydamas lucayus</i>
Schaus' Swallowtail	<i>Papilio aristodemus ponceanus</i>
Zebra Swallowtail	<i>Eurytides marcellus floridensis</i>

Whites

Whites are some of the most plentiful Keys butterflies and the Florida White and the Great Southern White are seen most often.

Cabbage Butterfly	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Caribbean White	<i>Ascia monuste eponima</i>
Checkered White	<i>Pontia protodice</i>
Florida White	<i>Appias drusilla neumoegenii</i>
Great Southern White	<i>Ascia monuste phileta</i>

Florida State Parks are in various stages of accessibility, and are working to improve access to services and facilities. Should you need assistance to enable your full participation, please contact the Park Office as soon as possible.

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www.floridastateparks.org/bahiahonda



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