

This checklist comprises 74 species of butterflies that have been recorded at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. The preserve's 31,000+ acres contain a wide variety of habitats – Sonoran and Mojave Desert ecosystems, riparian woodlands, a community park, former cultivated lands, stands of Joshua trees and Mojave yuccas, and pinyon, oak, and juniper woodlands. Its proximity to the higher San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains and to northwest Mexico adds potential for rare strays. A Hypotheticals list at the end includes species that have been found close to the preserve as well as those that are likely to be found but whose occurrence at the preserve has not been documented.

Common names of butterflies used in the checklist can be found in most popular field guides currently available. Scientific names generally follow *Butterflies and Moths of North America* (<https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org>). For some butterflies knowing which geographic population, or subspecies, is present can be important in correctly identifying a butterfly. Subspecies are given for many local butterflies.

Species listed here were compiled from data collected by field researchers, through field observations of volunteers and preserve visitors, from reports of butterflies published in the scientific literature, and from a variety of citizen science websites. Visitors are encouraged to submit observations of butterflies and other Big Morongo Canyon Preserve wildlife through websites such as: *iNaturalist*: www.inaturalist.org, *eButterfly*: <http://www.e-butterfly.org>, and the *North American Butterfly Association*: <https://www.nababis.org>. The submission of digital photos for verification is encouraged.

Bob Cullen (2011), Joe Zarki (2019).

Abundance

C– Common. Species observed frequently in proper habitat, sometimes in large numbers.

U– Uncommon. Species may only occur in some of the proper habitat in low to moderate numbers.

R– Rare. Species occurs regularly but in small numbers. Requires careful searching of proper habitat. Typically hard to find.

Cas– Casual. Presence is documented by only a few records.

Irr– Irregular. A stray, or wanderer. May be common in some years but entirely absent in many others.

of Flights/Seasons

The number of annual flights of adult butterflies is given followed by the months in which they can be seen. Months are numbered sequentially; 1 = January, and 12 = December.

Habitat and Butterfly Plant Preferences

Geographic features hosting particular plant associations able to support certain butterfly species. Some butterflies are strongly attracted to hilltops whereas others favor washes or canyon bottoms. Butterflies are dependent on native plants for their survival. During their larval life stage, caterpillars feed on specific host plants as they grow and mature. In the adult phase, butterflies may use many other food plants to obtain nectar. Knowing butterfly plant preferences can help determine good locations where they are likely to be found.

Swallowtails, Family *Papilionidae*

- Pipevine Swallowtail, *Battus philenor*..... R
- Desert' Black Swallowtail, *Papilio polyxenes coloro*..... C
- Western Tiger Swallowtail, *Papilio rutulus*..... C
- Pale Swallowtail, *Papilio eurymedon*..... R

White and Sulphurs, Family *Pieridae*

- Desert Orangetip, *Anthocharis cethura cethura*..... U
- Sara Orangetip, *Anthocharis sara sara*..... C
- Desert Marble, *Euchloe lotta*..... U
- Cabbage White, *Pieris rapae*..... U
- Becker's White, *Pontia beckerii*..... C
- Checkered White, *Pontia protodice*..... C
- Spring White, *Pontia sisymbrii sisymbrii*..... U
- Orange Sulphur, *Colias eurytheme*..... C
- Southern Dogface, *Zerene cesonia*..... U
- California Dogface, *Zerene eurydice*..... R
- Cloudless Sulphur, *Phoebis sennae marcellina*..... U
- Large Orange Sulphur, *Phoebis agarithe agarithe*..... R
- Mexican Yellow, *Eurema mexicana*..... Irr
- Little Yellow, *Pysitia lisa*..... Cas
- Sleepy Orange, *Abaeis nicippe*..... C
- Dainty Sulphur, *Nathalis iole*..... C

Gossamer-winged Butterflies, Family *Lycaenidae*

- Gorgon Copper, *Lycaena gorgon*..... Cas
- Great Purple Hairstreak, *Atlides halesus*..... C
- Bramble Hairstreak, *Callophrys dumetorum viridis*..... U
- 'Loki' Juniper Hairstreak, *Callophrys gryneus loki*..... U
- Sylvan Hairstreak, *Satyrrium sylvinus desertorum*..... U
- Gray Hairstreak, *Strymon melinus pudica*..... C
- Mallow-Scrub Hairstreak, *Strymon istapa clenchi*..... R
- Leda Ministreak, *Ministrymon leda*..... Irr
- Marine Blue, *Leptotes marina*..... C
- Western Pygmy-Blue, *Brephidium exilis*..... C
- Western Tailed-Blue, *Everes amyntula*..... R
- Silvery Blue, *Glaucopsyche lygdamus australis*..... U
- Bernardino Blue, *Euphilotes bernardino*..... C
- 'Dammer's' Dotted-Blue, *Euphilotes enoptes dammersi*... U
- Mojave Dotted-Blue, *Euphilotes mojave*..... U
- Ceraunus Blue, *Hemiargus ceraunus gyas*..... C
- Reakirt's Blue, *Echinargus isola*..... U
- Acmon Blue, *Plebejus acmon*..... C

Metalmarks, Family *Riodinidae*

- Wright's Metalmark, *Calephelis wrighti*..... U
- Sonoran Metalmark, *Apodemia mejicanus deserti*..... C
- Palmer's Metalmark, *Apodemia palmeri*..... Cas

Brush-footed Butterflies, Family *Nymphalidae*

- American Snout, *Libytheana carinenta*..... Irr
- Monarch, *Danaus plexippus*..... U

Of Flights: Seasons

- multiple: 5-10
- one or two: 2-10
- two to three: 3-10
- two to three: 3-10

- one: 2-5
- one or two: 2-6
- one: 2-6
- multiple: 1-12
- two to three: 1-12
- multiple: 1-12
- one: 2-6
- multiple: 1-12
- two to three: 3-10
- one to three: 2-10
- one or two: 2-10
- migrant: 3-4, 9-11
- migrant: 3-5, 9-11
- one prior record: 3-5?
- multiple: 1-12
- multiple: 1-12

- one: 5-7
- multiple: 2-10
- one: 2-5
- two to three: 2-10
- one: 4-8
- multiple: 2-11
- one or two: 3-10
- two to three: 4-10
- multiple: 1-12
- multiple: 1-12
- two: 3-9
- two: 3-7
- one: 2-6
- one: 8-10
- one: 3-5
- multiple: 3-10
- multiple: 3-11
- multiple: 3-10

- multiple: 3-10
- multiple: 2-11
- two to three: 4-11

- two to three: 4-5(R), 9-11
- multiple: 1-12

Habitats

- open habitats, gardens, hilltops
- open habitats, hilltops
- riparian woodlands, gardens
- chaparral, canyons, hilltops
- open habitats, hilltops
- canyon bottoms, washes
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- parks, gardens, riparian woodlands
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- open desert, hilltops, widespread
- open habitats, hilltops
- open habitats, washes
- open habitats, washes
- mountain habitats, foothills
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- gardens, desert washes
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- open woods, fields, roadsides
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- desert washes, alluvial fans

- canyons, foothills, chaparral
- canyons, washes, hillsides
- canyons, washes, hilltops
- canyons, washes, hillsides
- riparian areas, washes, foothills
- many habitats, widespread
- canyons, washes, hillsides
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- canyon bottoms, riparian areas
- canyons, washes, riparian areas
- canyons, alluvial fans, hillsides
- canyons, alluvial fans, hillsides
- canyons, washes, hillsides
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- canyons, washes, hillsides

- canyons, washes, hillsides
- canyons, washes, hillsides
- canyon bottoms, desert washes

- canyons, pine-oak woods, hillsides
- many habitats, milkweeds

Butterflies



Lorquin's Admiral, *Limenitis lorquini*

Brush-footed Butterflies, Family *Nymphalidae*

- Queen, *Danaus gilippus*.....C
- Gulf Fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae*..... R
- Variegated Fritillary, *Euptoieta claudia*..... R
- Lorquin's Admiral, *Limenitis lorquini*..... C
- California Sister, *Adelpha californica*..... U
- California Patch, *Chlosyne californica*..... C
- Sagebrush Checkerspot, *Chlosyne acastus neumoegeni*... C
- Mylitta Crescent, *Phyciodes mylitta*..... U
- Variable Checkerspot, *Euphydryas chalcedona corralensis* U
- Common Buckeye, *Junonia coenia*..... U
- Satyr Comma, *Polygonia satyrus*..... U
- Mourning Cloak, *Nymphalis antiopa*.....C
- California Tortoiseshell, *Nymphalis californica*.....lrr
- Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*..... U
- Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*.....C
- West Coast Lady, *Vanessa annabella*.....U
- American Lady, *Vanessa virginiensis*..... R

Of Flights: Seasons

- multiple: 2-11
- multiple: 2-11
- two: 7-10
- two: 4-10
- two: 4-10
- multiple: 2-11
- two: 2-5, 8-11
- multiple: 2-10
- two: 3-5, 8-11
- multiple: 3-11
- two to three: 2-11
- multiple: 2-11
- migrant: 3-11
- two: 2-11
- multiple: 1-12
- multiple: 2-11
- multiple: 2-11

Habitats

- open habitats, washes, milkweeds
- gardens, desert washes, canyons
- desert washes, alluvial fans
- canyons, riparian woodlands
- foothills, canyons, oak woodlands
- canyons, washes, hillsides
- canyons, washes, hillsides
- canyons, foothills, mountains
- canyons, washes, chaparral
- canyons, washes, hillsides
- canyons, foothills, woodlands
- canyons, washes, riparian woods
- canyons, foothills, hilltops
- canyons, riparian areas, woodlands
- many habitats, widespread
- many habitats, mallows
- many habitats, hilltops

Skippers, Family *Hesperiidae*

- Arizona Powdered-Skipper, *Systasea zampa*..... R
- Sleepy Duskywing, *Erynnis brizo lacustra*..... U
- Funereal Duskywing, *Erynnis funeralis*..... C
- Propertius Duskywing, *Erynnis propertius*..... R
- Mournful Duskywing, *Erynnis tristis*..... U
- Small Checkered-Skipper, *Pyrgus scriptura apertorum*.....U
- White Checkered-Skipper, *Pyrgus albescens*.....C
- Northern White Skipper, *Heliopetes ericetorum*..... C
- Orange Skipperling, *Copaeodes aurantiaca*..... U
- Fiery Skipper, *Hylephila phyleus*..... R
- Sandhill Skipper, *Polites sabuleti chusca*..... U
- Umber Skipper, *Poanes melane*.....U
- Eufala Skipper, *Lerodea eufala*.....R
- Yucca Giant-Skipper, *Megathymus yuccae*..... U

- multiple: 3-10
- one: 3-6
- multiple: 2-11
- one: 3-6
- two: 3-10
- multiple: 3-10
- multiple: 3-11
- two: 3-11
- multiple: 3-10
- multiple: 2-11
- multiple: 4-10
- two: 4-9
- multiple: 4-10
- one: 3-5

- canyons, washes, alluvial fans
- canyons, hillsides, hilltops, oaks
- canyons, washes, alluvial fans
- canyons, foothills, mountains
- canyons, foothills, oak woodlands
- alluvial fans, washes, hillsides
- canyons, washes, open habitats
- canyons, washes, often at wet spots
- canyons, washes
- gardens, parks, lawns
- open habitats, alkali flats
- canyons, foothills, riparian woods
- open habitats, washes, alluvial fans
- canyons, alluvial fans, yuccas

Hypotheticals

- Anise Swallowtail, *Papilio zelicaon*
- Indra Swallowtail, *Papilio indra fordi*
- Giant Swallowtail, *Papilio cresphontes*
- Gray Marble, *Anthocharis lanceolata australis*
- Harford's Sulphur, *Colias harfordii*
- Behr's Hairstreak, *Satyrium behrii*
- Gold-hunter's Hairstreak, *Satyrium auretteorum spadix*
- Mountain Mahogany Hairstreak, *Satyrium tetra*
- Hedgerow Hairstreak, *Satyrium saepium chalcis*

Notes

Hypotheticals

- 'Southwestern' Echo Azure, *Celestrina echo cinerea*
- Pallid Dotted-Blue, *Euphilotes pallescens elvirae*
- Lupine Blue, *Plebejus lupini monticola*
- Mormon Metalmark, *Apodemia mormo*
- Behr's Metalmark, *Apodemia virgulti mojavelimbus*
- 'Hennei' Variable Checkerspot, *Euphydryas chalcedona hennei*
- Bordered Patch, *Chlosyne lacinia*
- Silver-spotted Skipper, *Epargyreus clarus*
- Mojave Sootywing, *Hesperopsis libya*

The internationally recognized Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, part of Sand to Snow National Monument, is an important wildlife corridor between San Bernardino National Forest and Joshua Tree National Park. The 31,000-acre preserve encompasses riparian and arid desert ecosystems essential to the survival of a wide variety of rare and unusual birds, wildlife, and plants. Significant cultural resources are also found here.

of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

