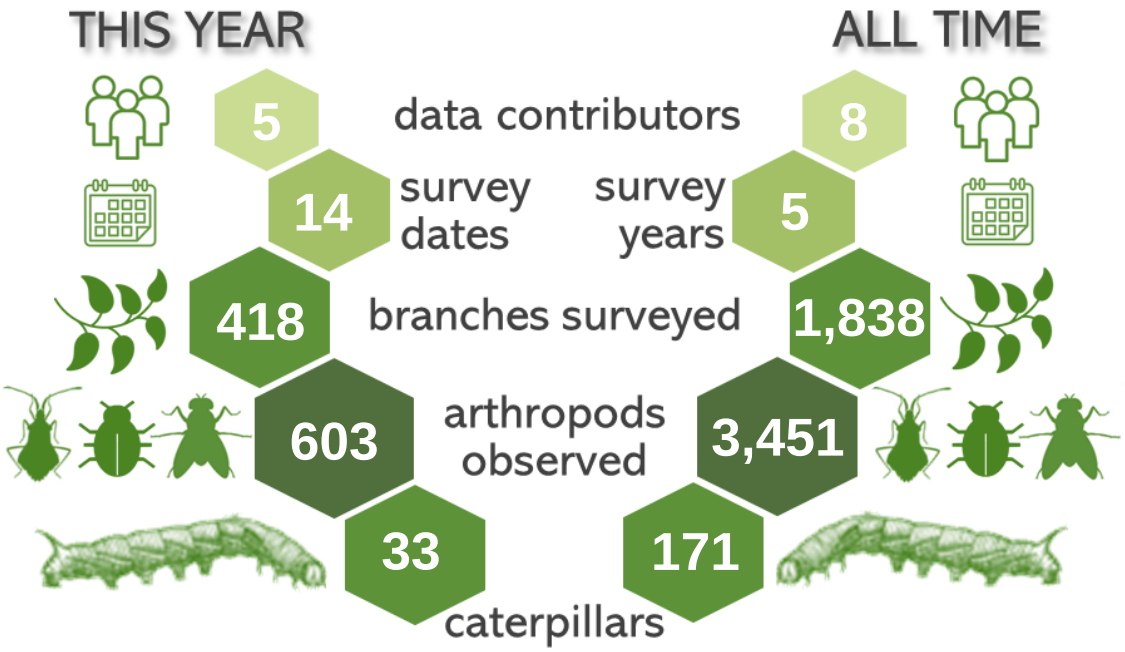

## Belle Isle State Park, Lancaster, VA, 2025 Summary



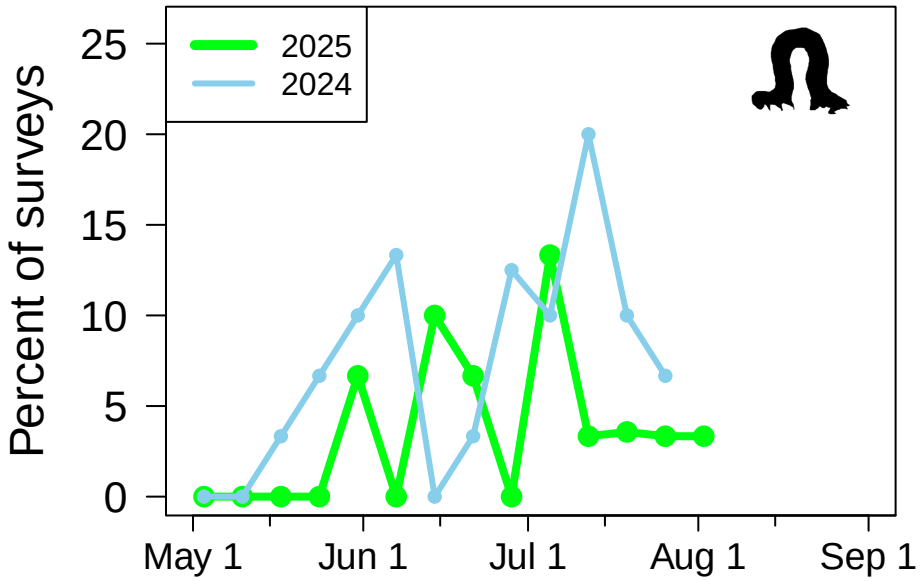

The **418** total surveys conducted at **Belle Isle State Park, Lancaster, VA** this year ranks **8th** out of the **68** sites that participated in 2025.

## Top Participants of 2025

| User | Surveys | Arthropods | Caterpillars | % Caterpillars |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A Vaughn | 150 | 271 | 28 | 6.67 |
| C Grabb | 28 | 37 | 1 | 3.57 |
| L Fellows | 120 | 208 | 3 | 2.50 |
| K Moffitt | 90 | 54 | 1 | 1.11 |
| A Clewell | 30 | 33 | 0 | 0.00 |

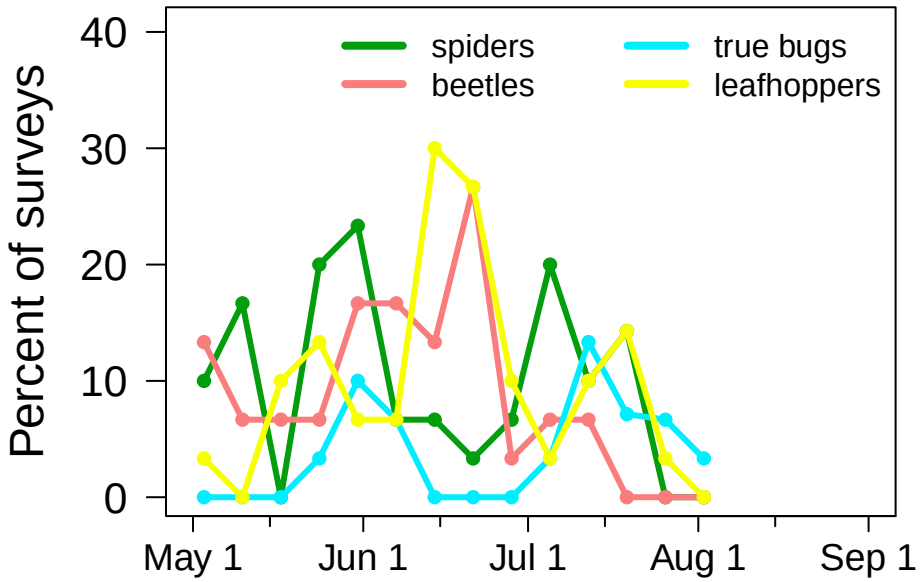
## Caterpillar Phenology

As a major source of food for nestlings of migratory birds, we are especially interested in the timing of caterpillar availability. At **Belle Isle State Park, Lancaster, VA** in **2025**, caterpillar occurrence peaked at **13.3%** of surveys on **5 July**. Do you see other peaks as well? How does the pattern compare to the previous year?



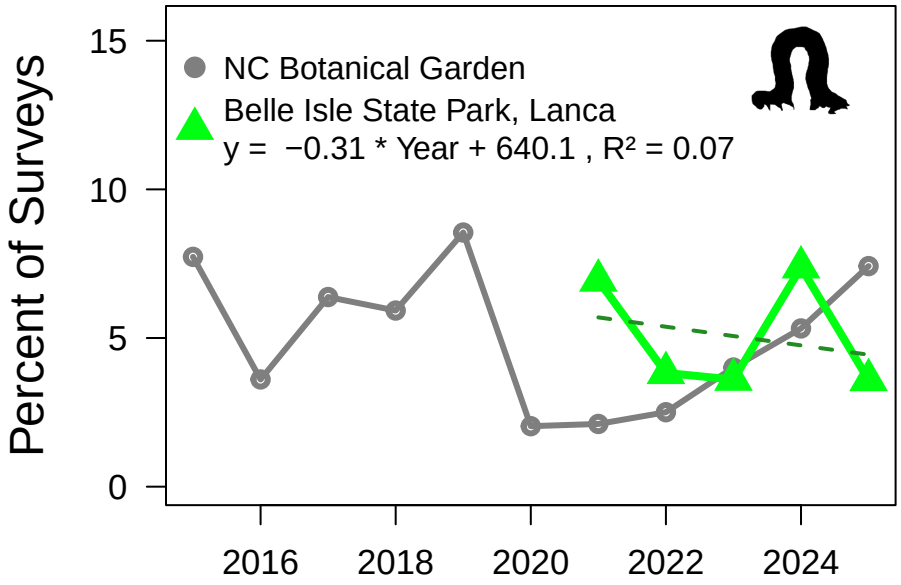

## Other Arthropod Phenology

While caterpillars tend to have pronounced seasonal peaks, other groups are more variable. What patterns do you see below for **2025**? You can explore the phenology of other groups on the ***Caterpillars Count!*** **website**.



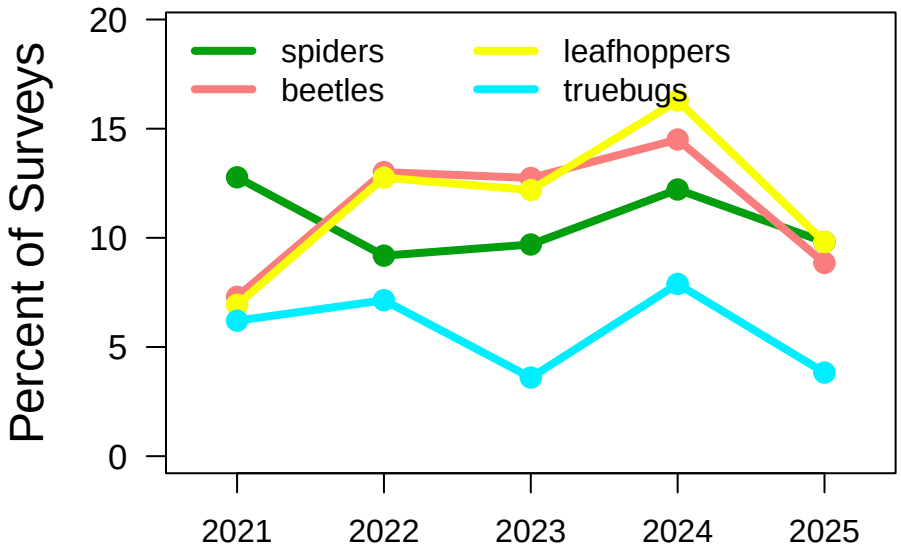
## Arthropod Trends

Annual monitoring is critical for assessing the health of ecosystems and evaluating the impacts of environmental change that may be happening in your area. There have been worrying reports of insect declines around the world but there is much we don't know, so your efforts help to fill in pieces of the puzzle. Keep it up!




Above you can see how the proportion of surveys with caterpillars has varied over time at your site, with the trend for one of our flagship sites, **NC Botanical Garden**, for comparison. If you've surveyed for at least 3 years, then you will also see the average dashed trend line displayed.

Below are trends for some other common arthropod groups. Do the different groups go up and down in sync, or seem to vary independently?

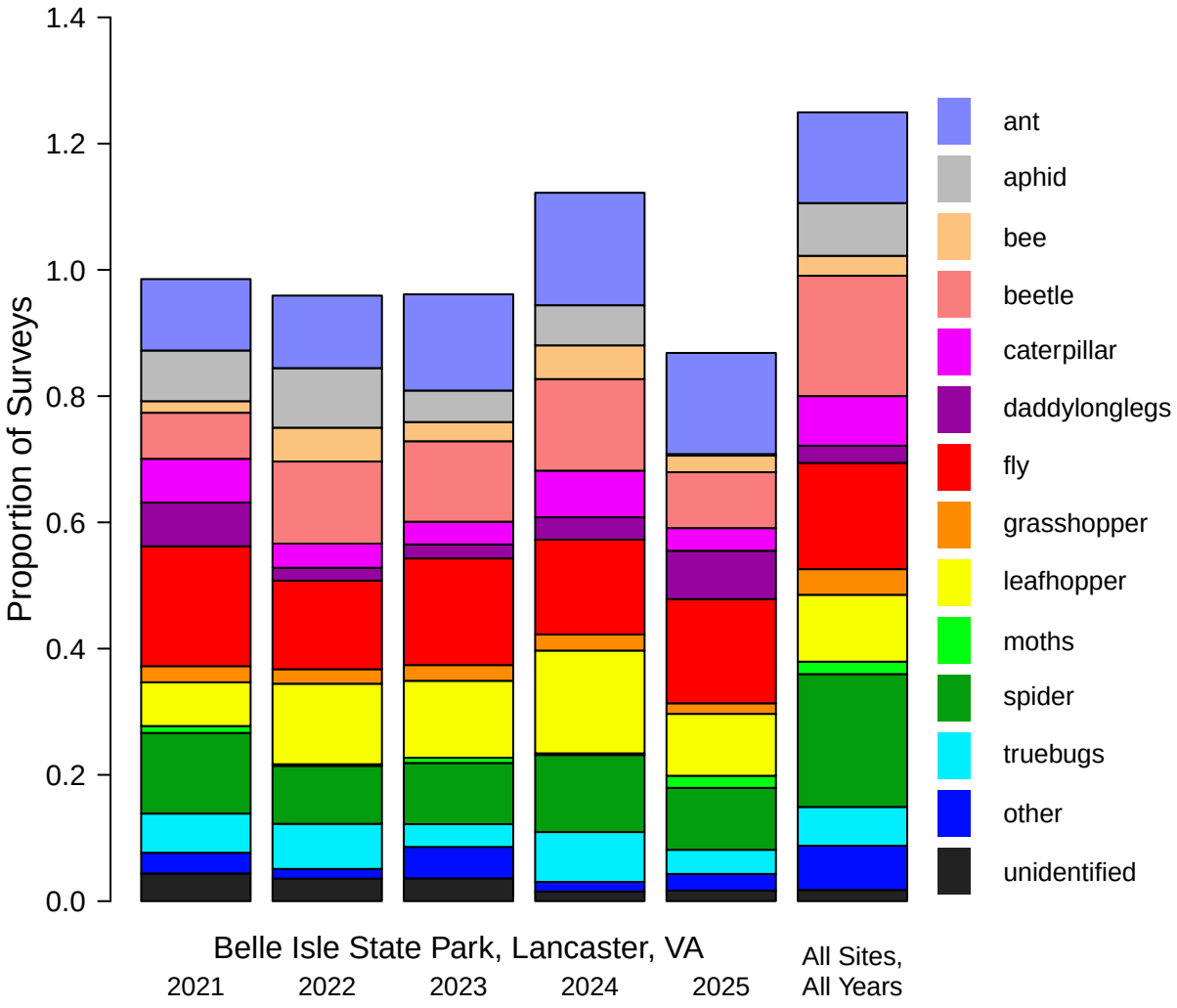



You can explore trends for more arthropod groups, and compare trends at different sites, on your site's **Trends Page**. See also our **November 2021 newsletter** for more on how to interpret these trends.

## Site Arthropod Composition

Some arthropods are more commonly encountered than others. The graph below portrays the occurrence (proportion of surveys where a given group was found) for each arthropod group found at your site. See how what was found varies by year (if the site has been participating for multiple years), and how it compares to what has been found across all sites in the ***Caterpillars Count!*** network (*right bar*).

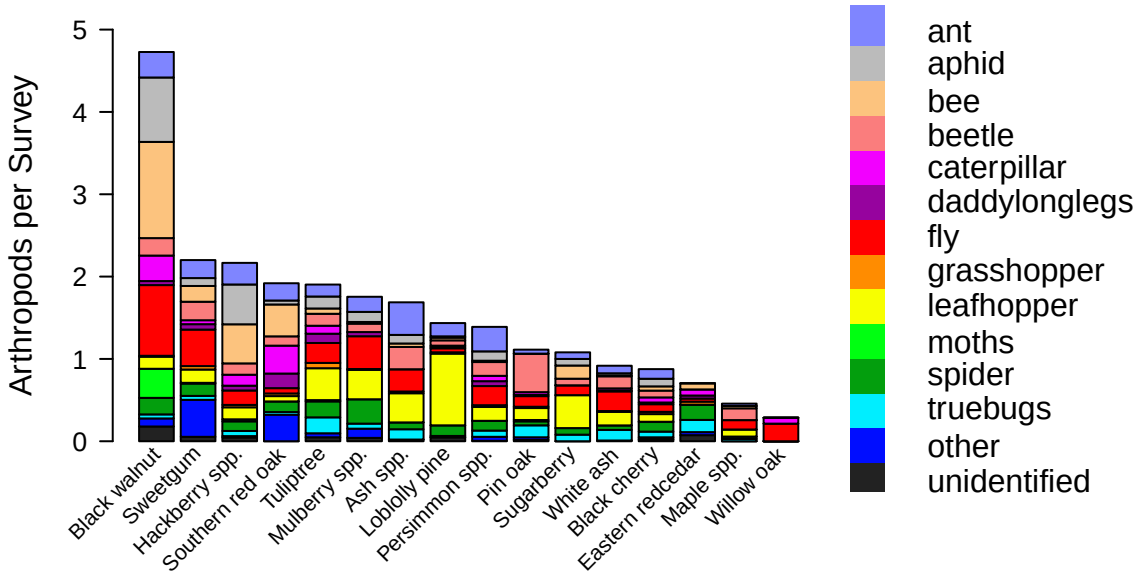
- What are the most common arthropod groups found at your site?
- Has that varied by year?
- Is anything noticeably different about **Belle Isle State Park, Lancaster, VA** compared to all other participating sites?
- If arthropod photos were submitted as part of your site's surveys, check the last section of this report for a summary of any finer taxonomic id's that have been made.

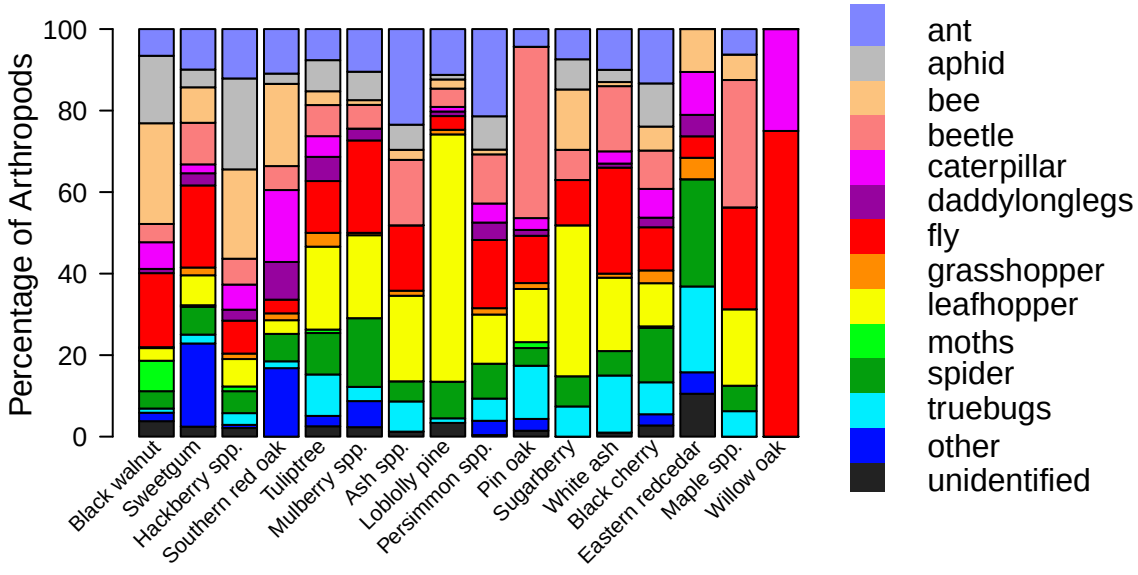


## Arthropod Composition by Plant Species

For some arthropods like spiders, trees and leaves are merely habitat–a place where they live, hide, and hunt. For others like caterpillars, the leaves are not just habitat, but also food.

- Which plant species supports the most arthropods per survey?
- Which plant species supports the most **caterpillars**?
- Are any plant species dominated by just one or two types of arthropods?
- Or do they support a diversity of arthropod types?

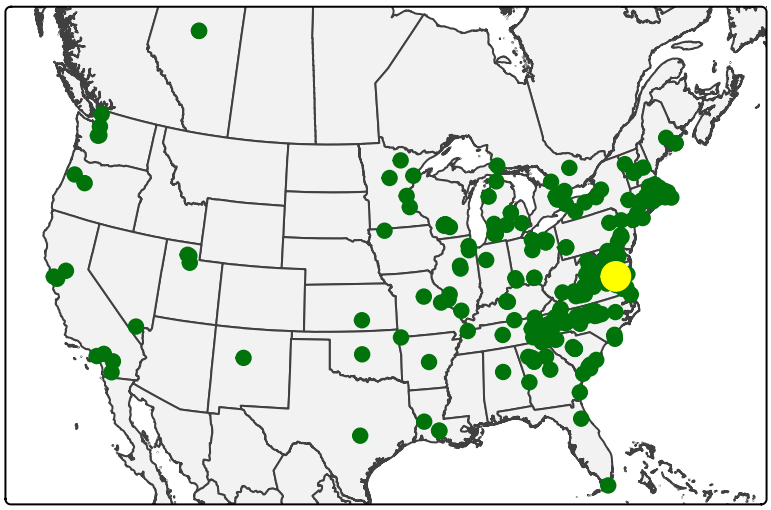


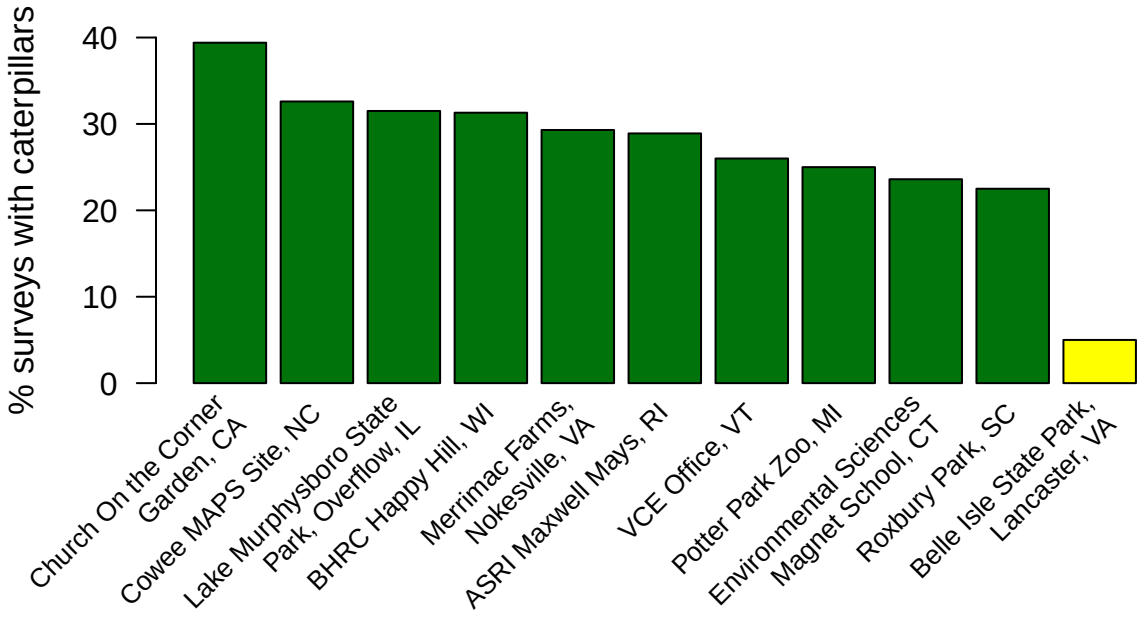

This bottom panel shows, of the arthropods found on a given plant species, what proportion were from each taxonomic group. At most, only the top 25 plant species are shown.

## Broader Patterns

Thanks to participants like yourself, ***Caterpillars Count!*** observers have now submitted a total of **358,184** arthropod observations–including **23,494 caterpillars**–from **274** different sites.



Across all surveys ever done at **Belle Isle State Park, Lancaster, VA**, caterpillars have been found **5%** of the time, which ranks **110th** across the **204** sites with ≥20 surveys. The top 10 sites are shown for comparison.




Caterpillar occurrence and phenology vary as a function of climate, land cover, tree species, and other local factors, and **your data** are helping us understand this variation and what it might mean for birds. Thank you for participating in ***Caterpillars Count!***

## Expert Identifications

Your site has submitted **1,143** ***Caterpillars Count!*** photos which ranks **9th** out of the **191** sites with photos. You can check them all out at the site's **iNaturalist page**. Based on these photos, experts on **iNaturalist** have identified the following taxa, including at least **86** unique species. Taxa seen for the first time this year are marked with a *.

### Caterpillars

Apatelodidae
- Apatelodes torrefacta

Erebidae
- Orgyia leucostigma
- Halysidota tessellaris
- Hyphantria cunea
- Spilosoma latipennis

Geometridae
- Epimecis hortaria

Limacodidae
- Adoneta spinuloides

Noctuidae
- Acronicta afflicta
- Acronicta rubricoma

Notodontidae
- Cecrita guttivitta
- Rifargia subrotata
- Schizura ipomaeae

Nymphalidae
- Asterocampa sp.
- Polygonia interrogationis

Papilionidae
- Papilio glaucus

Saturniidae
- Anisota sp.*
- Actias luna

Sphingidae*

Tortricidae
- Archips cerasivorana

### Moths, Butterflies

Crambidae
- Blepharomastix ranalis*

Erebidae
- Halysidota tessellaris

Noctuidae
- Alypia octomaculata

### Spiders

Anyphaenidae
- Wulfila sp.

Araneidae
- Araneus guttulatus
- Eustala sp.*
- Neoscona arabesca
- Mangora placida

Philodromidae
- Philodromus sp.

Salticidae
- Colonus sp.
- Hentzia mitrata
- Lyssomanes viridis
- Paraphidippus aurantius*

Tetragnathidae
- Leucauge venusta

Theridiidae
- Anelosimus studiosus

Thomisidae
- Mecaphesa sp.
- Misumessus oblongus
- Synema parvulum

Uloboridae
- Uloborus glomosus

### Grasshoppers, Crickets

Oecanthidae
- Oecanthus sp.

Tettigoniidae

Trigonidiidae
- Cyrtoxipha sp.

### True Bugs

Coreidae
- Acanthocephala terminalis
- Leptoglossus oppositus

Pentatomidae
- Brochymena sp.
- Chinavia hilaris
- Euschistus sp.

Reduviidae
- Sinea sp.
- Arilus cristatus
- Zelus luridus*

### Leafhoppers, Cicadas

Acanaloniidae
- Acanalonia conica

Cicadellidae
- Alebra sp.
- Paraphlepsius sp.
- Graphocephala coccinea
- Graphocephala versuta
- Oncometopia orbona
- Sibovia occatoria

Derbidae
- Cedusa sp.*

Flatidae
- Flatormenis proxima
- Metcalfa pruinosa
- Ormenoides venusta

Issidae
- Thionia sp.

Membracidae

### Aphids, Scales

Triozidae
- Baeoalitriozus diospyri

### Beetles

Anobiidae
- Trichodesma sp.

Buprestidae
- Agrilus planipennis
- Anthaxia quercata

Cantharidae
- Chauliognathus marginatus
- Rhagonycha lineola

Cerambycidae
Chrysomelidae
- Cryptocephalus sp.
- Neofidia sp.
- Anomoea laticlavia
- Chrysochus auratus
- Deloyala guttata*
- Demotina modesta

Cleridae
- Enoclerus ichneumoneus*

Coccinellidae
- Coccinella septempunctata
- Harmonia axyridis

Curculionidae
- Cyrtepistomus castaneus
- Ochyromera ligustri
- Odontopus calceatus*
- Pseudoedophrys hilleri

Elateridae
- Monocrepidius sp.
- Conoderus lividus

Lampyridae
- Photinus pyralis
- Photuris sp.
- Pyractomena sp.

Lycidae
- Calopteron sp.

Melyridae
- Attalus scincetus

Mordellidae
- Mordellistena liturata

Ripiphoridae
- Macrosiagon sp.

Scarabaeidae
- Macrodactylus subspinosus
- Euphoria sepulcralis
- Popillia japonica

Tenebrionidae
- Statira sp.

## Bees, Wasps

Apidae
- Nomada sp.
- Bombus impatiens

Crabronidae
- Cerceris sp.

Eulophidae

Eurytomidae

Scelionidae

Tenthredinidae
- Eriocampa juglandis

## Ants

Formicidae
- Temnothorax schaumii
- Camponotus castaneus
- Camponotus chromaiodes
- Camponotus nearcticus
- Camponotus pennsylvanicus
- Camponotus subbarbatus
- Colobopsis sp.
- Prenolepis imparis
- Tapinoma sessile

## Flies

Anthomyiidae

Asilidae
- Diogmites neoternatus*

Bibionidae
- Bibio superfluus
- Dilophus spinipes

Culicidae

Dolichopodidae
- Condylostylus caudatus
- Condylostylus comatus
- Condylostylus patibulatus

Platystomatidae
- Rivellia sp.

Sarcophagidae

Syrphidae
- Toxomerus marginatus
- Toxomerus politus

## Other observations

Blattodea
- Parcoblatta pennsylvanica*

Neuroptera
- Chrysopini
- Leucochrysa insularis*

Opiliones
- Leiobunum

Thank you for participating in ***Caterpillars Count!*** For a more in-depth exploration of the data check out our **Maps & Graphs page**. The raw data from your site, or any site, can be downloaded **here**!

We can't wait to see what you find next year!

Spicebush swallowtail caterpillar, *Papilio troilus*, observed by *tem1691* on August 22, 2025 at **Lake Murphysboro State Park, Overflow**, Illinois.

**Allen Hurlbert**
Director
*Caterpillars Count!*
caterpillarscount@gmail.com