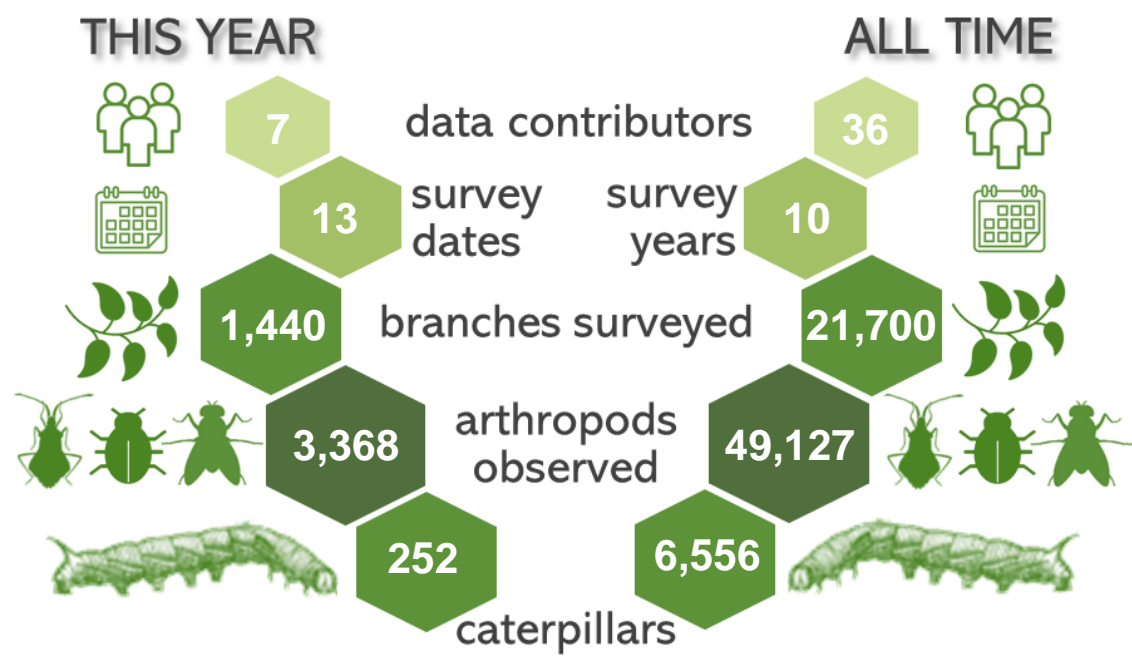




Prairie Ridge Ecostation, 2024 Summary



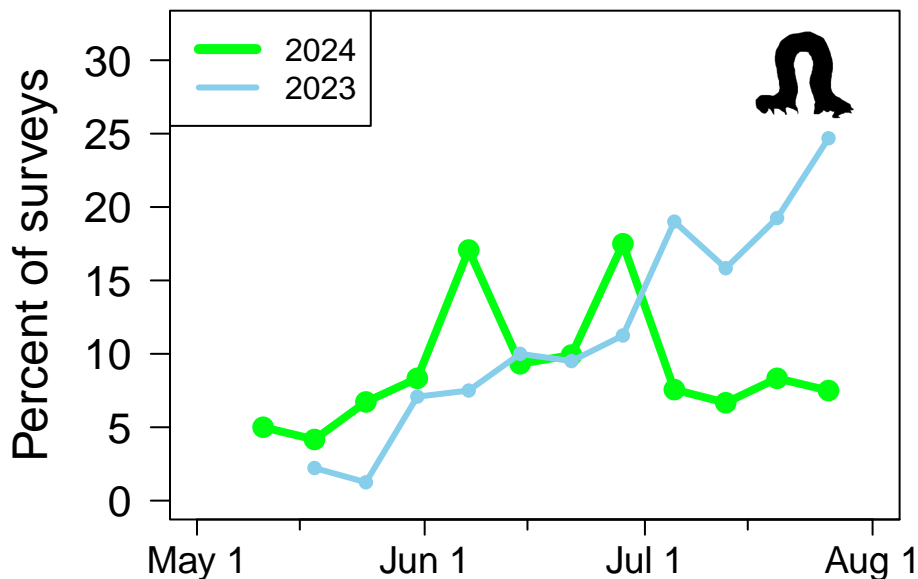
The **1,440** total surveys conducted at **Prairie Ridge Ecostation** this year ranks **1st** out of the **78** sites that participated in 2024.

Top Participants of 2024

User	Surveys	Arthropods	Caterpillars	% Caterpillars
D Patel	16	30	3	18.75
I Goulden	230	820	96	12.17
A Smith	317	741	40	10.09
G Layman	300	687	71	9.00
A Hurlbert	220	440	20	8.64
I Nieri	355	646	22	5.92
N Glen	2	4	0	0.00

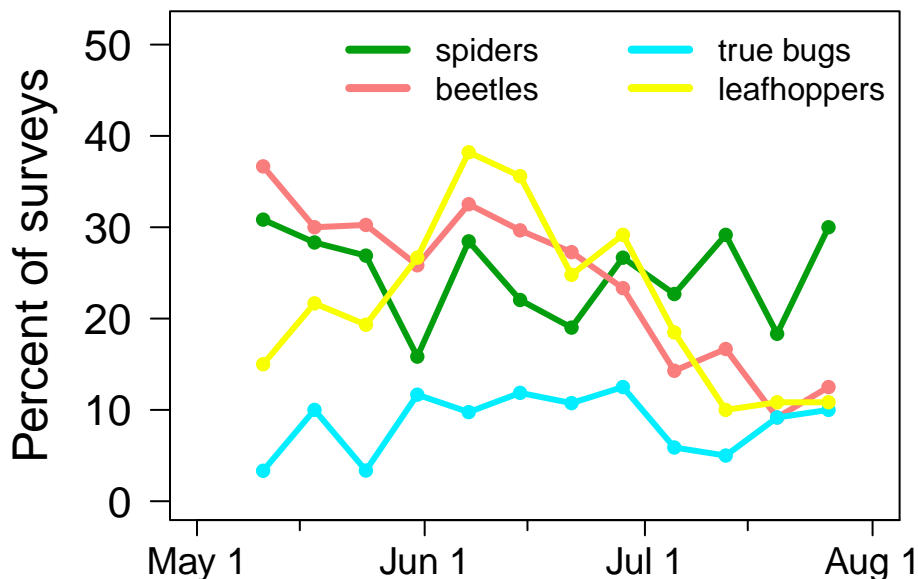
Caterpillar Phenology

As a major source of food for nestlings of migratory birds, we are especially interested in the timing of caterpillar availability. At **Prairie Ridge Ecostation** in **2024**, caterpillar occurrence peaked at **17.5%** of surveys on **27 June**. Do you see other peaks as well? How does the pattern compare to the previous year?



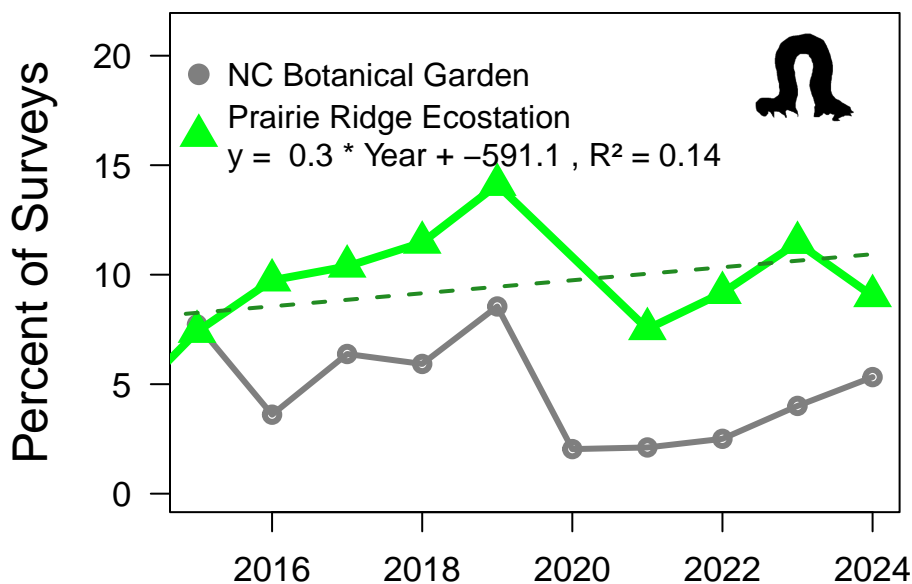
Other Arthropod Phenology

While caterpillars tend to have pronounced seasonal peaks, other groups are more variable. What patterns do you see below for **2024**? You can explore the phenology of other groups on the **Caterpillars Count!** website.



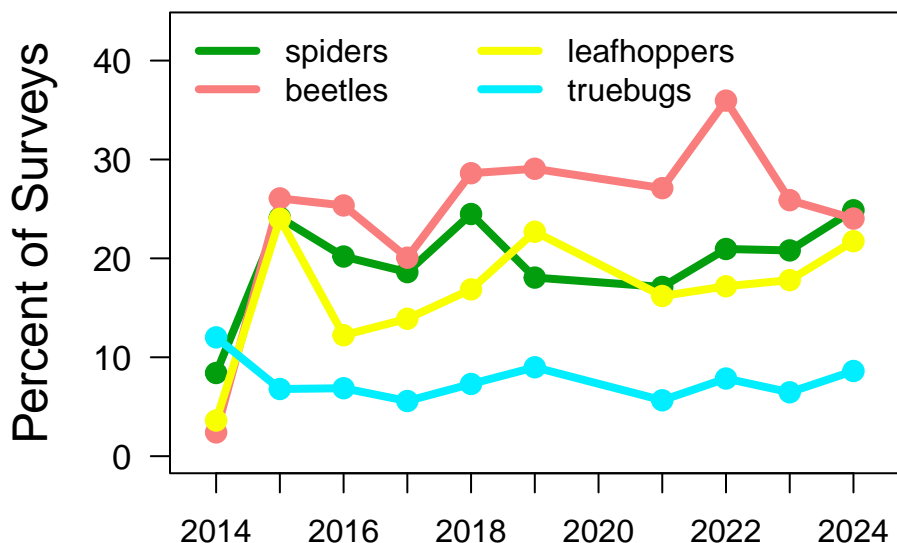
Arthropod Trends

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?

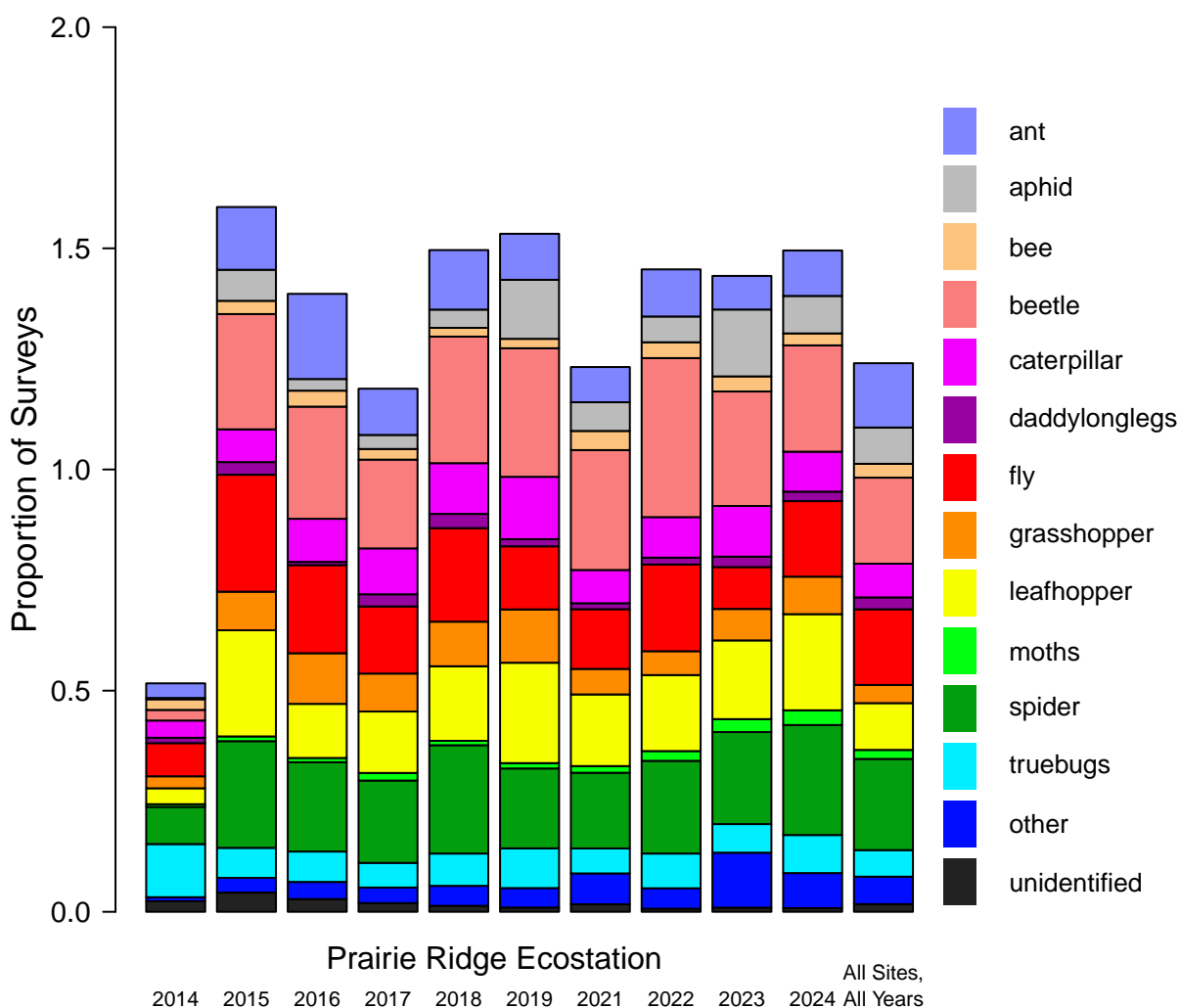


You can explore trends for more arthropod groups, and compare trends at different sites, on your site's **Trends Page**. See also our **November 2021 newsletter** for more on how to interpret these trends.

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*).

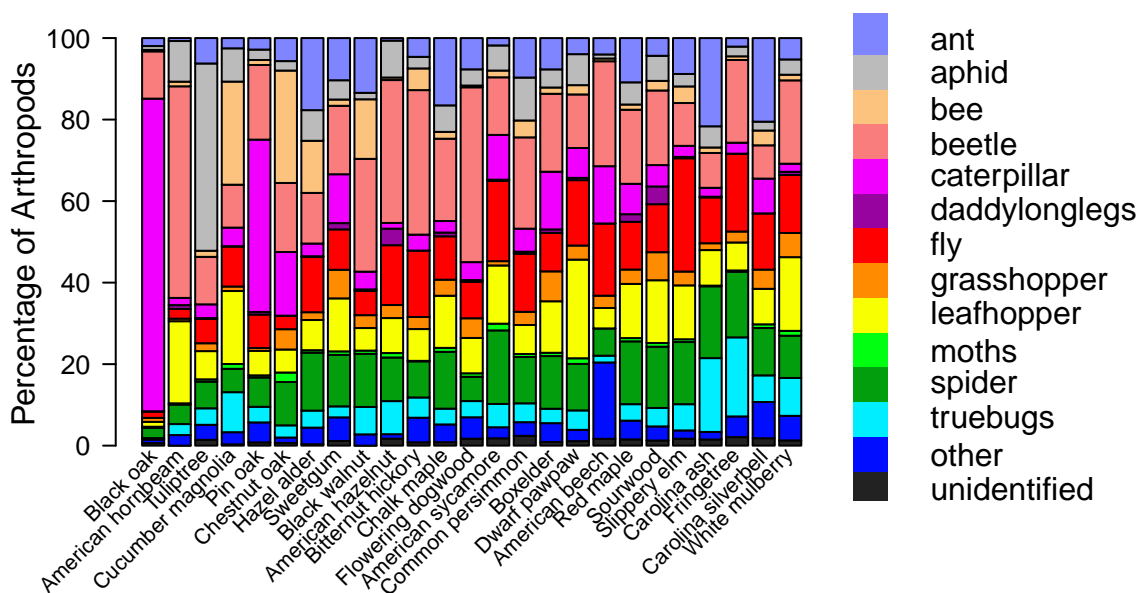
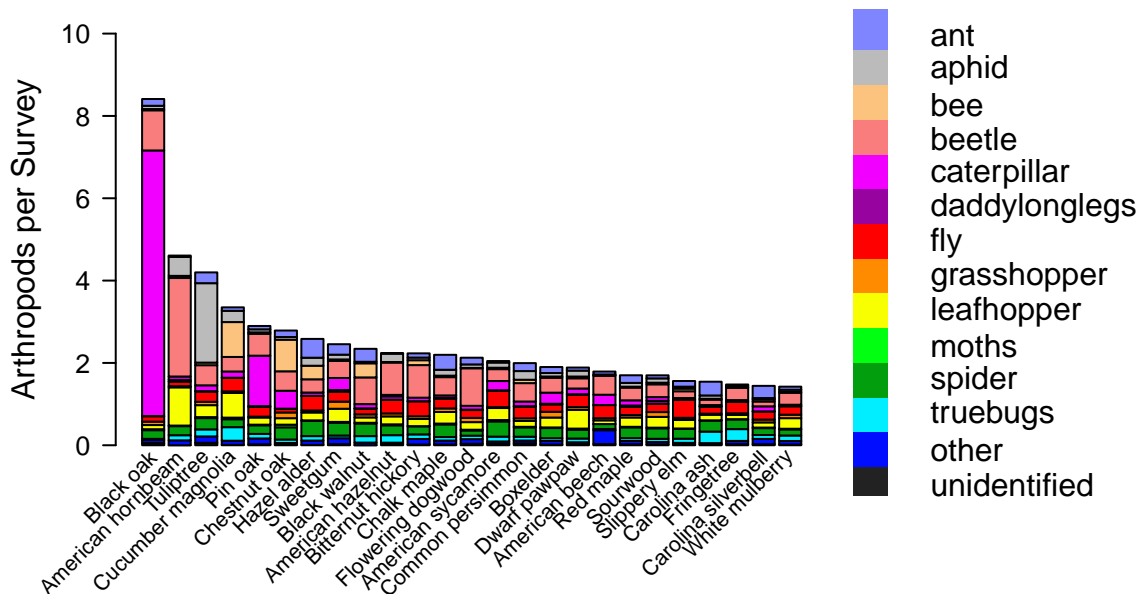
- What are the most common arthropod groups found at your site?
- Has that varied by year?
- Is anything noticeably different about **Prairie Ridge Ecostation** compared to all other participating sites?
- If arthropod photos were submitted as part of your site's surveys, check the last section of this 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.

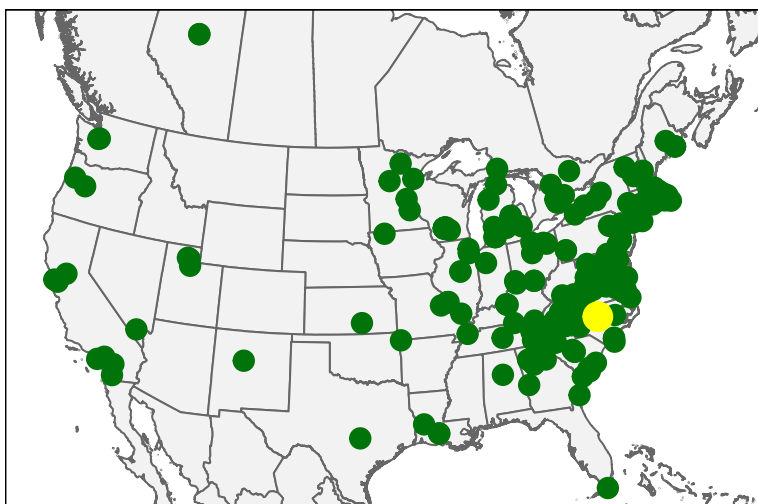
- Which plant species supports the most arthropods per survey?
- Which plant species supports the most **caterpillars**?
- Are any plant species dominated by just one or two types of arthropods?
- Or do they support a diversity of arthropod types?



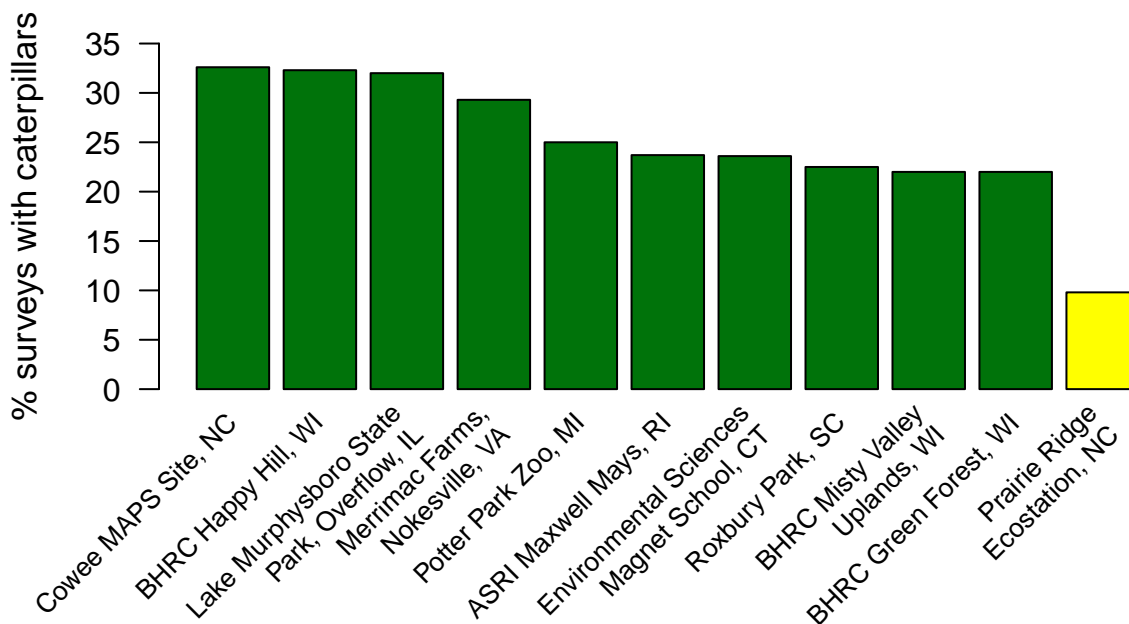
This bottom panel shows, of the arthropods found on a given plant species, what proportion were from each taxonomic group. At most, only the top 25 plant species are shown.

Broader Patterns

Thanks to participants like yourself, **Caterpillars Count!** observers have now submitted a total of **310,306** arthropod observations—including **20,843 caterpillars**—from **257** different sites.



Across all surveys ever done at **Prairie Ridge Ecostation**, caterpillars have been found **9.8%** of the time, which ranks **54th** across the **189** 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

5,155 photo observations from **Caterpillars Count!** surveys have been submitted from your site which ranks **1st** out of the **177** sites with photos. You can check them all out at the site's **iNaturalist page**. Based on these photo observations, experts on **iNaturalist** have identified the following taxa, including at least **188** unique species. Taxa seen for the first time this year are marked with a *.

Caterpillars

Drepanidae*

Erebidae

Orgyia leucostigma

Panopoda sp.

Halysidota harrisii

Halysidota tessellaris

Hypercompe scribonia

Hyphantria cunea

Hypsoropha hormos

Parallelia bistriaris

Pyrrharctia isabella

Spilosoma virginica

Euteliidae

Paectes abrostoloides

Geometridae

Epimecis hortaria

Hypagyrtis unipunctata

Macaria bisignata

Gracillariidae

Limacodidae

Euclea delphinii

Lithacodes fasciola

Natada nasoni

Phobetron pithecium

Noctuidae

Acronicta americana

Acronicta impleta

Acronicta retardata

Harrisimemna trisignata

Morrisonia confusa

Notodontidae

Datana sp.

Schizura ipomaeae

Cecrita biundata

Cecrita guttivitta

Coelodasys unicornis

Macrurocampa marthesia

Misogada unicolor

Nadata gibbosa

Pyalidae

Pococera sp.

Saturniidae

Anisota sp.

Actias luna

Sphingidae

Tortricidae

Ancylis platanana

Moths, Butterflies

Acrolophidae

Acrolophus sp.

Argyresthiidae

Argyresthia oreasella

Blastobasidae

Crambidae

Crambus sp.*

Erebidae

Hyphantria cunea

Hypsoropha hormos

Gelechiidae

Dichomeris punctipennella*

Holophysis emblemella*

Geometridae

Eulithis sp.

Hypagyrtis sp.

Dyspteris abortivaria

Eutrappela clemataria

Ilexia intractata

Hesperiidae

Lon zabulon

Limacodidae

Natada nasoni*

Saturniidae

Anisota sp.

Tortricidae

Ancylis sp.*

Clepsis sp.

Coelostathma discopunctana

Yponomeutidae

Yponomeuta sp.*

Spiders

Anyphaenidae

Anyphaena sp.

Wulfilia albens

Araneidae

Araneus alboventris

Araneus marmoreus

Eustala sp.

Metepeira labyrinthea

Neoscona arabesca

Neoscona crucifera

Larinioides cornutus

Mecynogea lemniscata

Micrathena gracilis

Verrucosa arenata

Clubionidae

Castianeira longipalpa

Corinnidae

Trachelas sp.

Dictynidae*

Gnaphosidae

Sergiolus sp.*

Linyphiidae

Mimetidae

Mimetus sp.

Philodromidae

Philodromus sp.

Pisauridae

Pisaurina mira*

Salticidae

Colonus sylvanus

Hentzia sp.

Phidippus putnami*

Lyssomanes viridis

Paraphidippus aurantius
 Synemosyna formica*
 Tetragnathidae
 Tetragnatha sp.
 Leucauge venusta
 Theridiidae
 Theridion sp.
 Theridula sp.
 Phylloneta pictipes
 Rhomphaea fictilium
 Thomisidae
 Mecaphesa sp.
 Tmarus sp.
 Xysticus sp.
 Misumessus oblongus
 Synema parvulum
 Uloboridae
 Uloborus glomosus
 Stenotrachelidae
Grasshoppers, Crickets
 Gryllidae
 Hapithus sp.
 Cyrtoxipha columbiana
 Mogoplistidae
 Cycloptilum sp.
 Oecanthidae
 Oecanthus niveus
 Podoscirtidae
 Orocharis sp.
 Tettigoniidae
 Microcentrum sp.
 Scudderia sp.
 Pterophylla camellifolia
 Trigonidiidae
 Cyrtoxipha sp.
 Phyllopalpus pulchellus

True Bugs

Berytidae
 Jalysus sp.
 Coreidae
 Acanthocephala declivis
 Acanthocephala terminalis
 Leptoglossus oppositus
 Miridae
 Ceratocapsus sp.
 Hyaliodes harti
 Hyaliodes vitripennis
 Lopidea sp.
 Paraxenetus guttulatus
 Texocoris nigrellus
 Nabidae
 Lasiomerus sp.
 Pentatomidae
 Banasa calva*
 Banasa euchlora
 Brochymena quadripustulata
 Euschistus servus
 Euschistus tristigmus*
 Podisus sp.
 Chinavia hilaris
 Halyomorpha halys
 Reduviidae
 Empicoris sp.
 Pselliopus barberi
 Pselliopus cinctus
 Sinea spinipes
 Zelus luridus
 Arilus cristatus
 Rhopalidae
 Boisea trivittata
 Tingidae
 Corythucha ciliata*

Leafhoppers, Cicadas

Acanaloniidae
 Acanalonia bivittata

Acanalonia conica
 Acanalonia servillei
 Aphrophoridae
 Lepyronia quadrangularis
 Cercopidae
 Prosapia bicincta
 Cicadellidae
 Bandara sp.
 Eratoneura sp.*
 Osbornellus sp.
 Paraphlepsius sp.
 Scaphoideus sp.
 Agalliopsis ancistra
 Graphocephala coccinea
 Graphocephala versuta
 Japananus hyalinus
 Jikradia olitoria
 Oncometopia orbona
 Orientus ishidae
 Ponana pectoralis
 Rugosana querci
 Cicadidae
 Magicicada sp.*
 Cixiidae
 Haplaxius sp.
 Bothriocera cognita
 Derbidae
 Cedusa sp.
 Flatidae
 Flatormenis proxima
 Metcalfa pruinosa
 Ormenoides venusta
 Issidae
 Thionia bullata
 Thionia quinquata
 Aplos simplex
 Membracidae
 Enchenopa binotata*

Telamona sp.
 Platycotis vittata
 Stictocephala militaris
 Stictocephala taurina
 Tropiduchidae
 Pelitropis rotulata
 Thraupidae
 Stictocephala sp.

Aphids, Scales

Aphididae
 Pseudococcidae

Beetles

Anobiidae
 Trichodesma sp.
 Anthribidae
 Ormiscus sp.
 Toxonotus cornutus
 Attelabidae
 Eugnamptus sp.
 Buprestidae
 Dicerca obscura*
 Cantharidae
 Chauliognathus marginatus
 Podabrus rugosulus
 Carabidae
 Lebia fuscata
 Lebia viridis*
 Cerambycidae
 Anelaphus sp.
 Dorcaschema alternatum
 Urgleptes facetus
 Chelonariidae
 Chelonarium lecontei
 Chrysomelidae
 Bassareus detritus
 Bassareus mammifer
 Cryptocephalus badius

Cryptocephalus mutabilis
 Paria sp.
 Chrysochus auratus*
 Demotina modesta
 Coccinellidae
 Cycloneda munda
 Harmonia axyridis
 Psyllobora vigintimaculata
 Cupedidae
 Cupes capitatus
 Tenomerga cinerea
 Curculionidae
 Brachystylus sayi
 Cyrtopistomus castaneus
 Lechriops oculatus
 Ochyromera ligustri
 Pseudocneorhinus bifasciatus
 Pseudoedophrys hilleri
 Dermestidae
 Elateridae
 Glyphonyx sp.
 Melanotus sp.
 Monocrepidius sp.*
 Conoderus lividus
 Lampyridae
 Photinus pyralis
 Photuris sp.
 Lucidota atra
 Melandryidae
 Microtonus sericans
 Mordellidae
 Falsomordellistena bihamata
 Falsomordellistena hebraica
 Paramordellaria triloba
 Mordellistena trifasciata
 Ptilodactylidae*
 Scarabaeidae
 Macroductylus subspinosus

Popillia japonica

Bees, Wasps

Argidae
 Arge pectoralis*
 Braconidae
 Eupelmidae
 Formicidae
 Ichneumonidae
 Tenthredinidae
 Caliroa sp.*
 Vespidae
 Vespa maculifrons
 Choreutidae

Ants

Formicidae
 Formica fusca
 Formica subsericea
 Aphaenogaster sp.
 Camponotus castaneus
 Camponotus pennsylvanicus
 Camponotus snellingi
 Camponotus subbarbatus
 Colobopsis sp.
 Crematogaster sp.
 Monomorium minimum
 Brachyponera chinensis
 Pseudomyrmex ejectus
 Tapinoma sessile

Flies

Asilidae
 Cerotainia sp.
 Bombyliidae
 Anthrax argyropygus
 Chironomidae*
 Chloropidae
 Thaumatomyia sp.*
 Culicidae

Dolichopodidae
 Condyllostylus caudatus
 Condyllostylus comatus
 Condyllostylus siphon
 Condyllostylus patibulatus
 Hybotidae
 Syneches sp.
 Keroplatidae
 Macrocera sp.
 Lauxaniidae
 Homoneura sp.
 Limoniidae
 Lonchaeidae
 Lonchaea sp.
 Pleciidae
 Plecia americana
 Rhagionidae
 Chrysopilus thoracicus
 Sarcophagidae
 Sciomyzidae
 Syrphidae
 Allograpta sp.
 Tipulidae
 Nephrotoma sp.
 Raphidophoridae

Other observations

Anura
 Hyla cinerea
 Blattodea
 Chorisoneura texensis*
 Caribblatta
 Reticulitermes hageni
 Collembola
 Tomocerinae
 Dermaptera
 Forficula auricularia
 Entomobryomorpha

Homidia socia
 Mantodea
 Mantidae
 Tenodera sinensis
 Neuroptera
 Chrysopa nigricornis
 Chrysoperla
 Chrysopidae
 Chrysopini
 Leucochrysa insularis
 Leucochrysa pavidus
 Hemerobiidae
 Hemerobius
 Micromus
 Micromus posticus
 Odonata
 Calopteryx maculata
 Opiliones
 Mitostoma*
 Leiobunum
 Leiobunum vittatum
 Polydesmida
 Oxidus gracilis
 Psocodea
 Polypsocus corruptus*
 Cerastipsocus venosus
 Graphopsocus
 Graphopsocus cruciatus
 Psocoptera
 Aaroniella
 Spirobolida
 Narceus americanus

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!



Maple dagger caterpillar, *Acronicta retardata*, observed by *margiemcchemp* on July 2, 2024 at **ASRI Fort**, Rhode Island.

Allen Hurlbert

Director

Caterpillars Count!

caterpillarscount@gmail.com