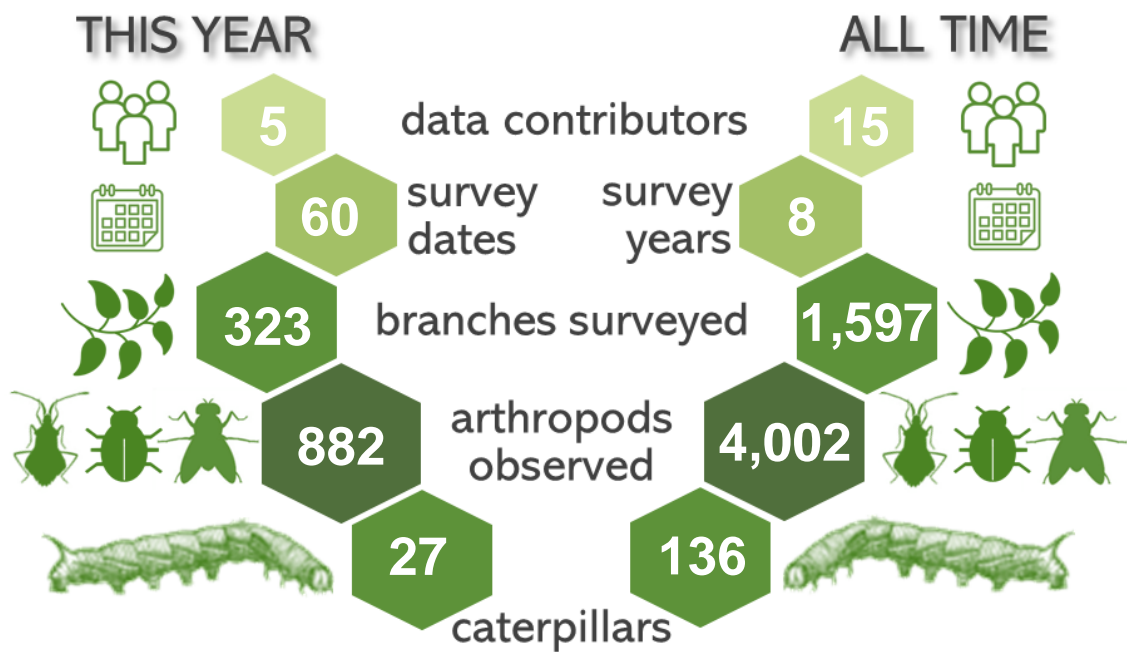




Ijams Nature Center, 2025 Summary



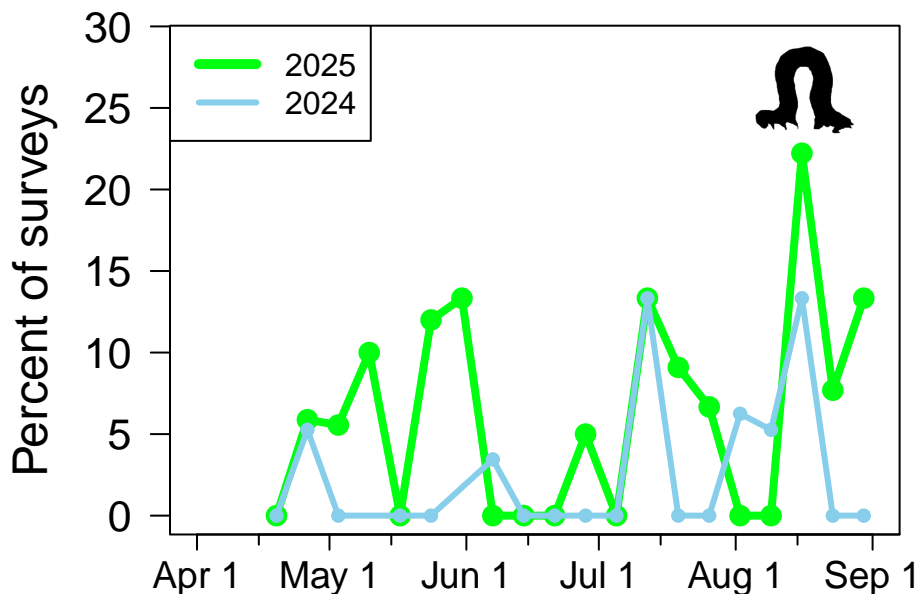
The **323** total surveys conducted at **Ijams Nature Center** this year ranks **13rd** out of the **68** sites that participated in 2025.

Top Participants of 2025

User	Surveys	Arthropods	Caterpillars	% Caterpillars
I Peete	78	456	12	10.26
C Haubein	62	235	7	9.68
S Macfarlane	73	130	8	9.59
I Nature Center	16	25	0	0.00
J Rowan	94	36	0	0.00

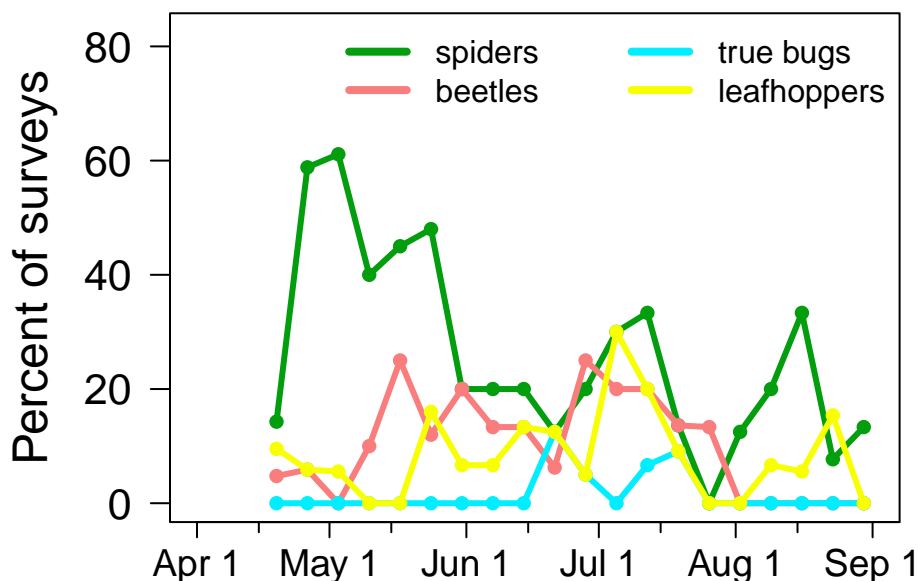
Caterpillar Phenology

As a major source of food for nestlings of migratory birds, we are especially interested in the timing of caterpillar availability. At **Ijams Nature Center** in **2025**, caterpillar occurrence peaked at **22.2%** of surveys on **16 August**. Do you see other peaks as well? How does the pattern compare to the previous year?



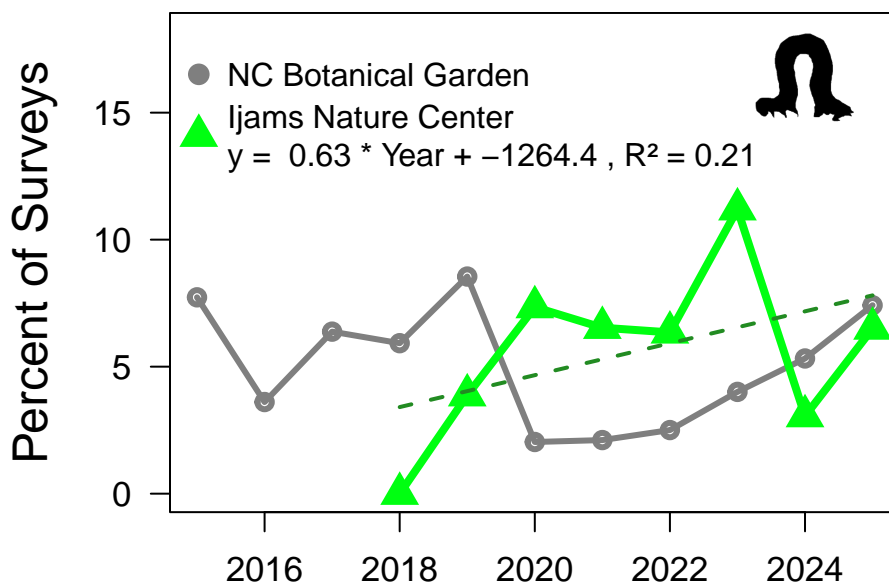
Other Arthropod Phenology

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.



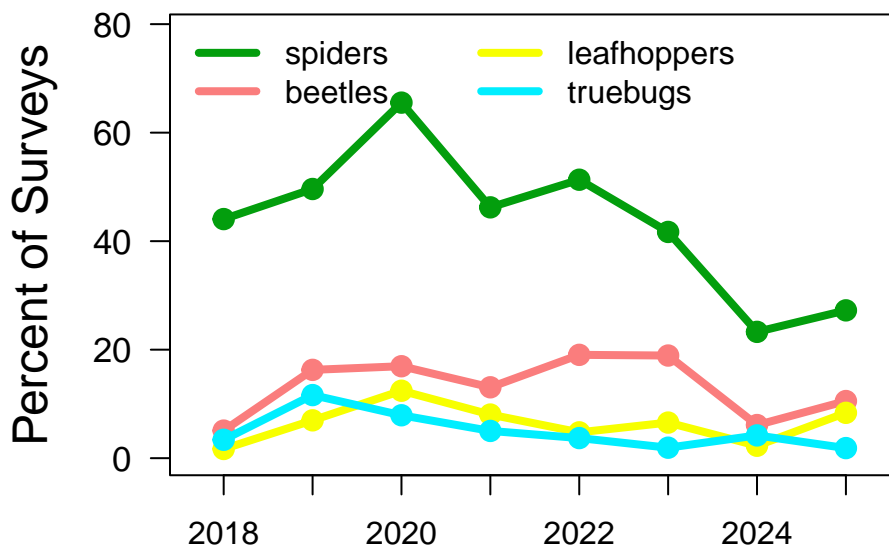
Arthropod Trends

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?

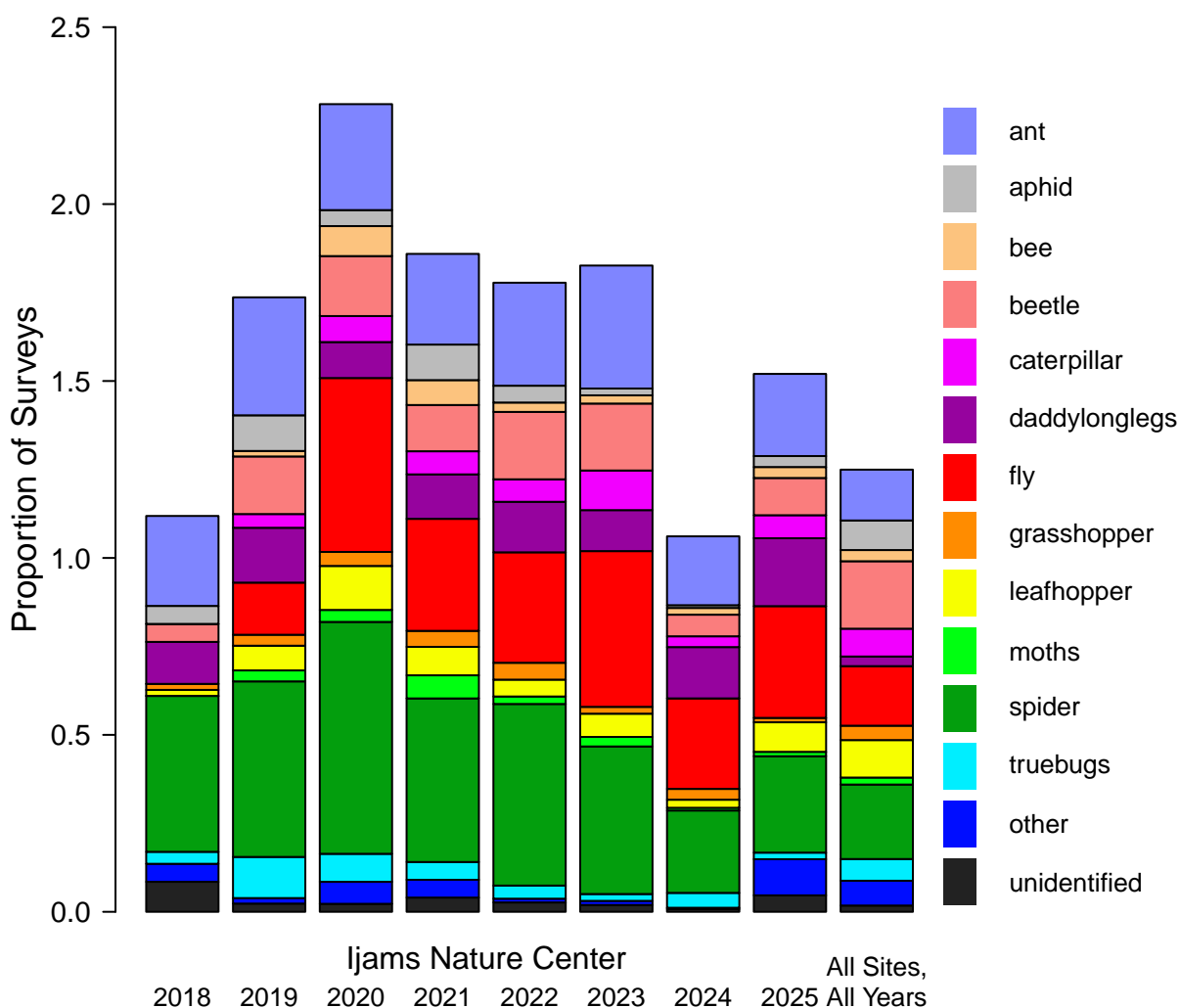


You can explore trends for more arthropod groups, and compare trends at different sites, on your site's **Trends Page**. See also our **November 2021 newsletter** for more on how to interpret these trends.

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*).

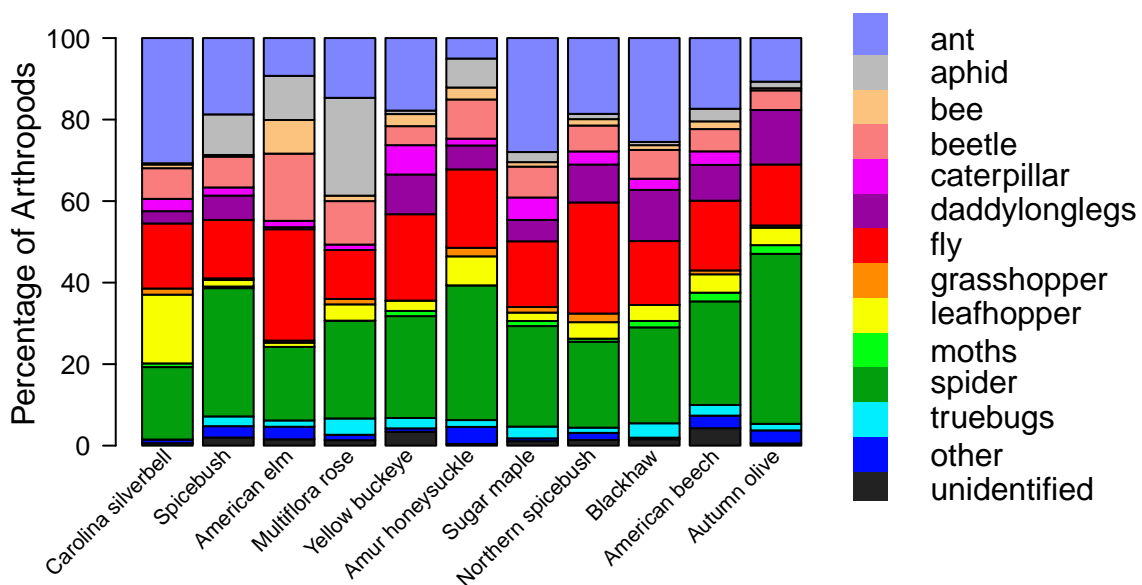
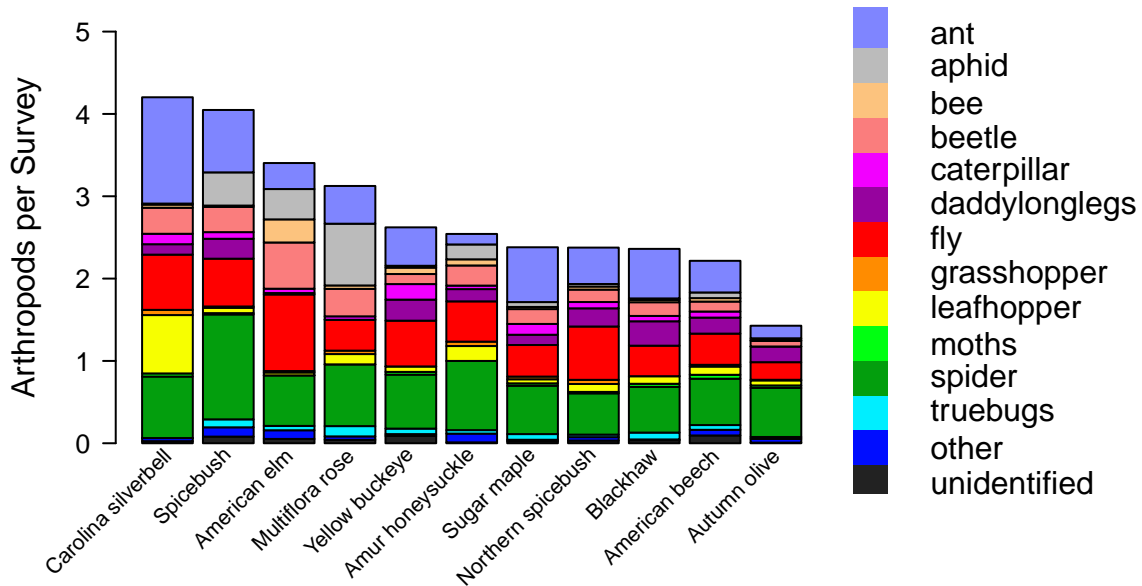
- What are the most common arthropod groups found at your site?
- Has that varied by year?
- Is anything noticeably different about **Ijams Nature Center** compared to all other participating sites?
- If arthropod photos were submitted as part of your site's surveys, check the last section of this report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

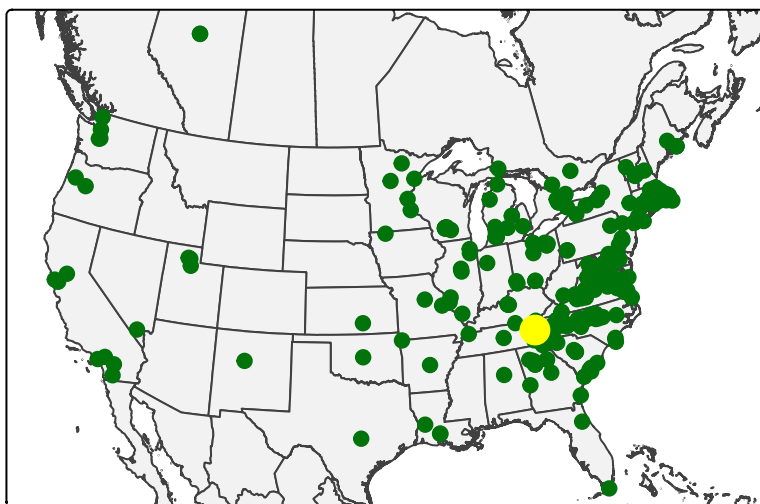
- Which plant species supports the most arthropods per survey?
- Which plant species supports the most **caterpillars**?
- Are any plant species dominated by just one or two types of arthropods?
- Or do they support a diversity of arthropod types?



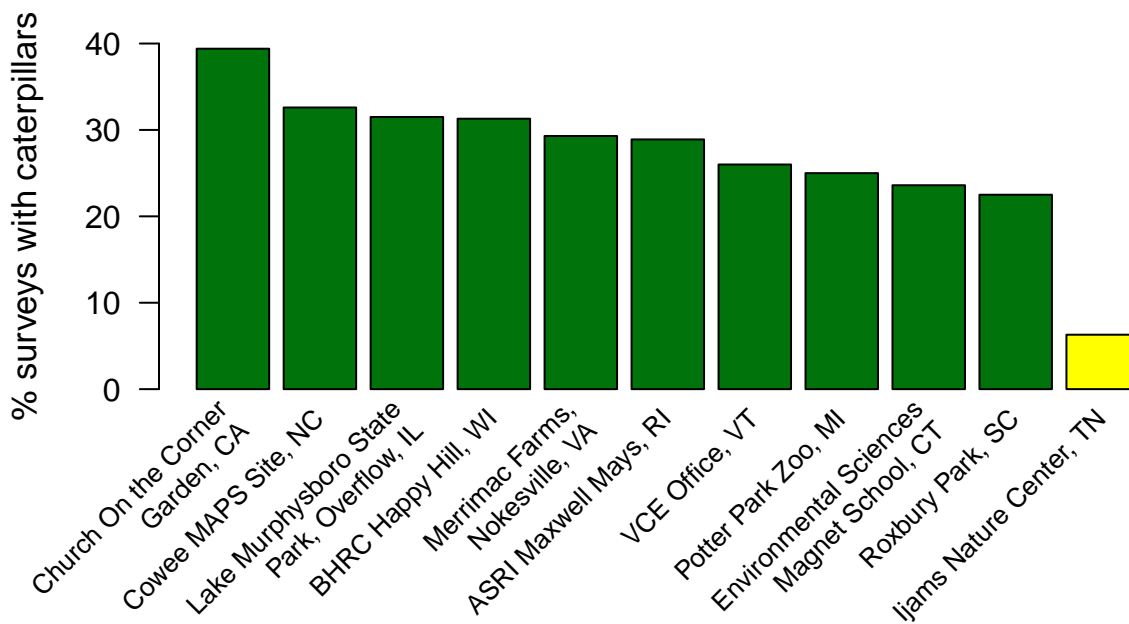
This bottom panel shows, of the arthropods found on a given plant species, what proportion were from each taxonomic group. At most, only the top 25 plant species are shown.

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 **Ijams Nature Center**, caterpillars have been found **6.3%** of the time, which ranks **91st** 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 **667 Caterpillars Count!** photos which ranks **14th** 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 **47** unique species. Taxa seen for the first time this year are marked with a *.

Caterpillars

Erebidae

Halysidota tessellaris

Hyphantria cunea

Geometridae

Epimecis hortaria*

Limacodidae

Acharia stimulea*

Noctuidae

Acronicta retardata

Amphipyra pyramidoides

Moths, Butterflies

Geometridae*

Spiders

Anyphaenidae

Anyphaena sp.*

Wulfila albens*

Hibana gracilis

Araneidae

Eustala sp.*

Mangora maculata

Mangora spiculata*

Micrathena gracilis*

Micrathena sagittata*

Neoscona arabesca*

Verrucosa arenata

Dictynidae

Nopalityna sublata*

Pisauridae

Salticidae

Colonus sylvanus*

Lyssomanes viridis

Segestriidae

Ariadna bicolor*

Tetragnathidae

Leucauge venusta

Tetragnatha sp.*

Theridiidae

Theridion sp.

Thomisidae

Misumessus oblongus*

Grasshoppers, Crickets

Gryllacrididae

Camptonotus carolinensis

Oecanthidae

Oecanthus sp.

Neoxabea bipunctata

Trigonidiidae

Phyllopalpus pulchellus

True Bugs

Coreidae

Piezogaster sp.

Cydnidae

Sehirus sp.*

Pentatomidae

Halyomorpha halys

Leafhoppers, Cicadas

Cicadellidae

Jikradia olitoria*

Sibovia occatoria*

Cicadidae

Magicicada sp.

Derbidae

Anotia sp.

Flatidae

Membracidae

Enchenopa binotata*

Mymaridae

Enchenopa sp.

Aphids, Scales

Pseudococcidae*

Beetles

Brentidae*

Cantharidae

Chauliognathus marginatus*

Cerambycidae*

Coccinellidae

Curculionidae

Ceutorhynchus sp.*

Pseudoedophrys hilleri*

Elateridae

Lampyridae

Photinus sp.*

Photuris sp.*

Melandryidae

Dircaea liturata*

Mordellidae

Falsomordellistena hebraica*

Tenebrionidae

Centronopus calcaratus

Bees, Wasps

Andrenidae

Andrena sp.

Ichneumonidae*

Pelecinidae

Pelecinus polyurator

Ants

Formicidae

Camponotus castaneus*

Camponotus pennsylvanicus*

Camponotus subbarbatus*

Formica sp.*

Nylanderia sp.*

Lasius americanus*

Flies

Asilidae

Eudioctria brevis*

Chironomidae

Stenochironomus hilaris*

Dolichopodidae

Condylostylus sp.*
Lauxaniidae
Neogriphoneura sp.*
Pallopteridae
Toxonevra superba*

Other observations

Odonata
Calopteryx maculata*
Argia*
Argia apicalis*
Opiliones
Leiobunum aldrichi
Leiobunum ventricosum
Leiobunum verrucosum
Polydesmida
Oxidus gracilis*
Scytonotus*
Psocodea
Polypsocus corruptus*
Stylommatophora
Philomycidae
Symphypleona
Allacma*

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