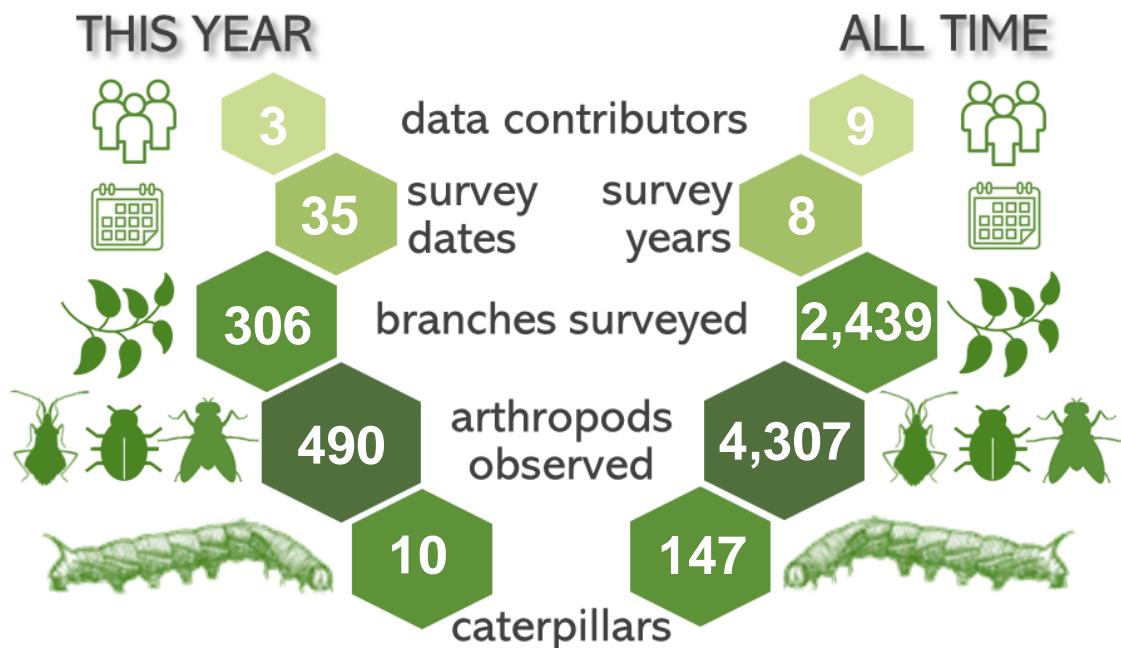


Caterpillars Count!



Walker Nature Center, 2025 Summary



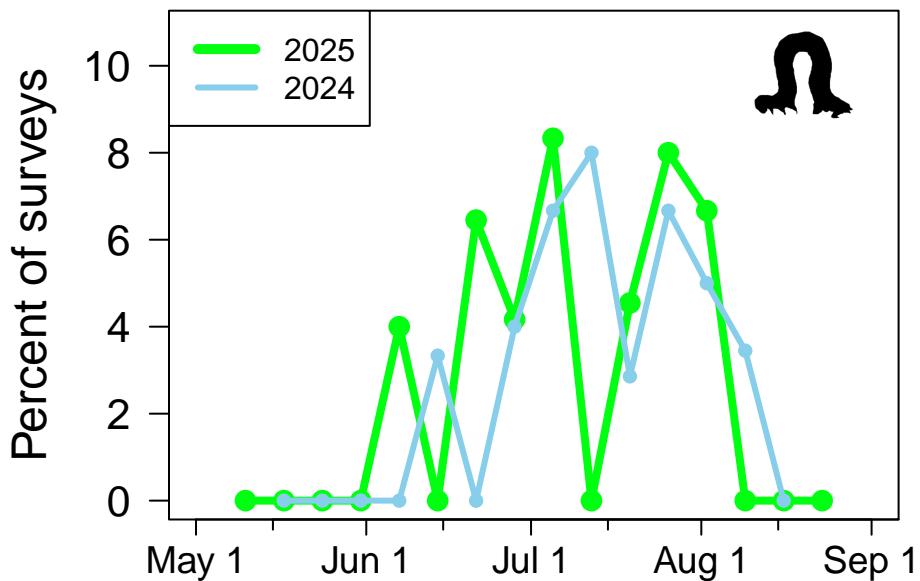
The **306** total surveys conducted at **Walker Nature Center** this year ranks **16th** out of the **68** sites that participated in 2025.

Top Participants of 2025

User	Surveys	Arthropods	Caterpillars	% Caterpillars
A Stocking	28	89	2	7.14
D CSB	268	385	8	2.99
D Coram	10	16	0	0.00

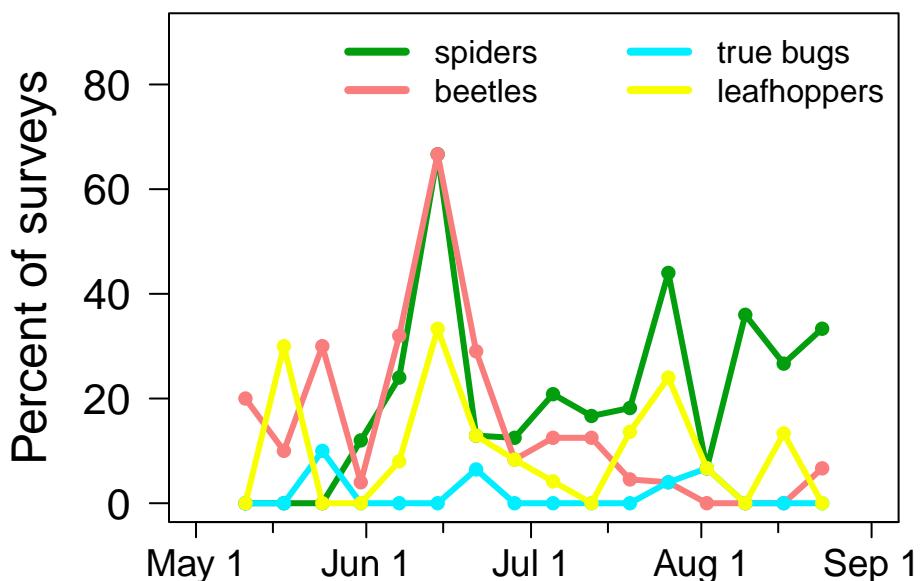
Caterpillar Phenology

As a major source of food for nestlings of migratory birds, we are especially interested in the timing of caterpillar availability. At **Walker Nature Center** in **2025**, caterpillar occurrence peaked at **8.3%** of surveys on **5 July**. Do you see other peaks as well? How does the pattern compare to the previous year?



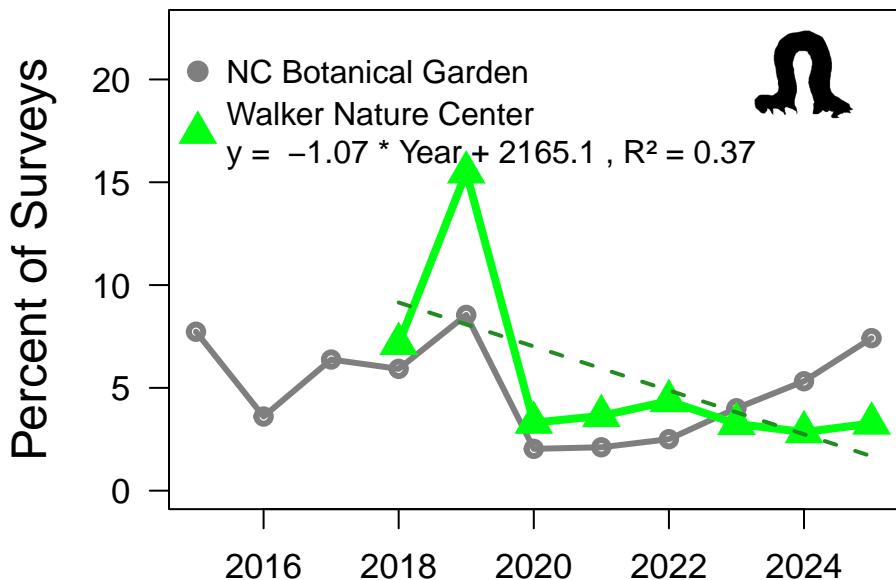
Other Arthropod Phenology

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](#).



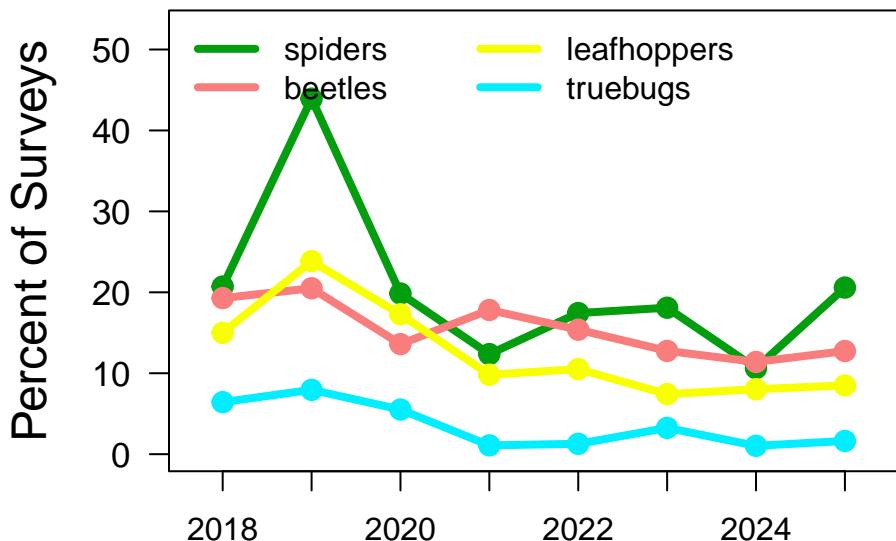
Arthropod Trends

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?

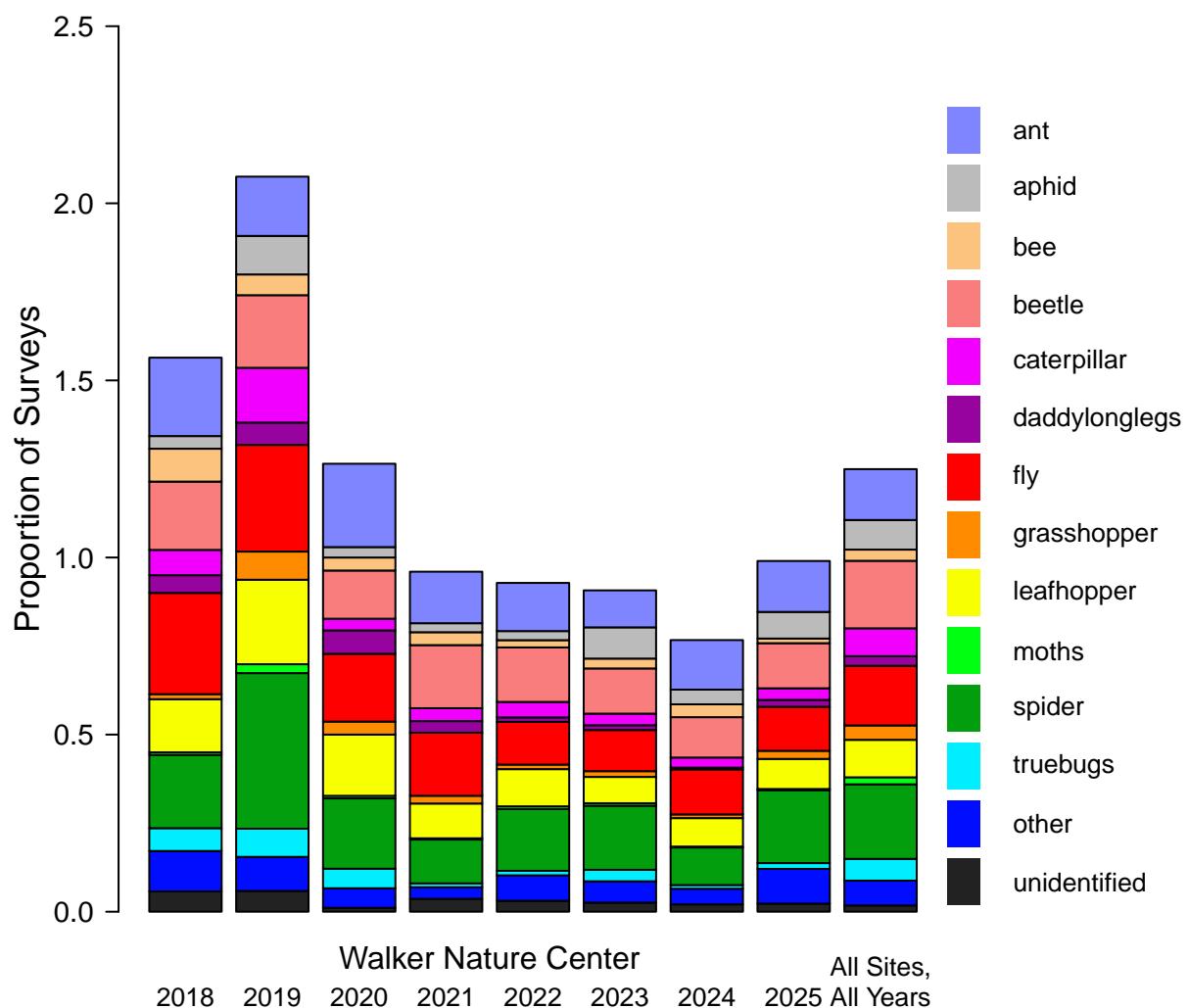


You can explore trends for more arthropod groups, and compare trends at different sites, on your site's [Trends Page](#). See also our [November 2021 newsletter](#) for more on how to interpret these trends.

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*).

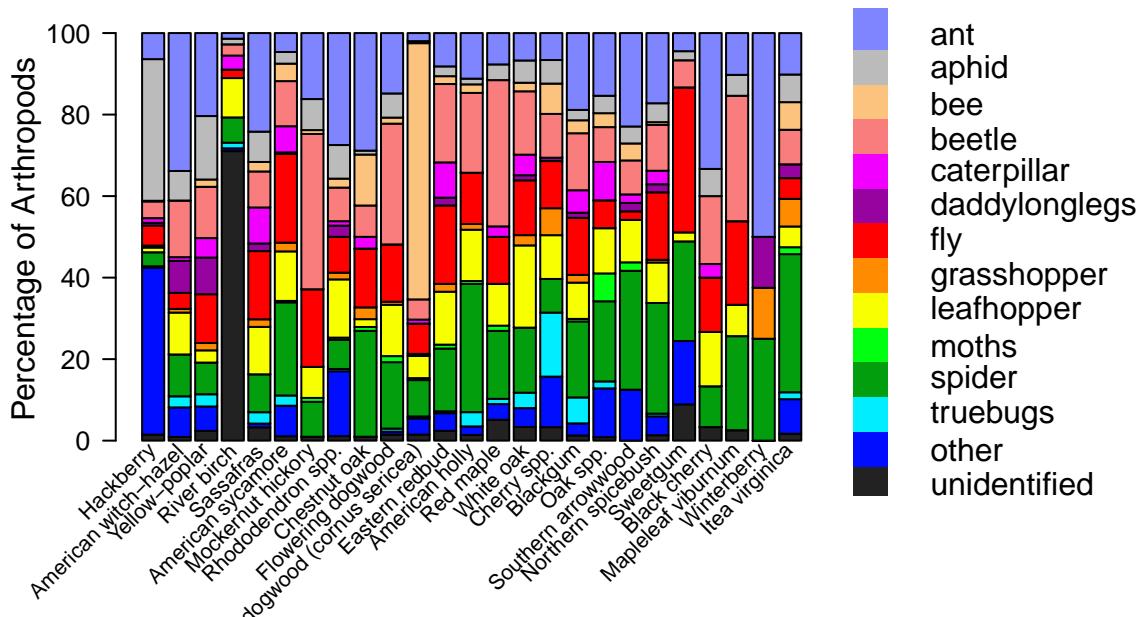
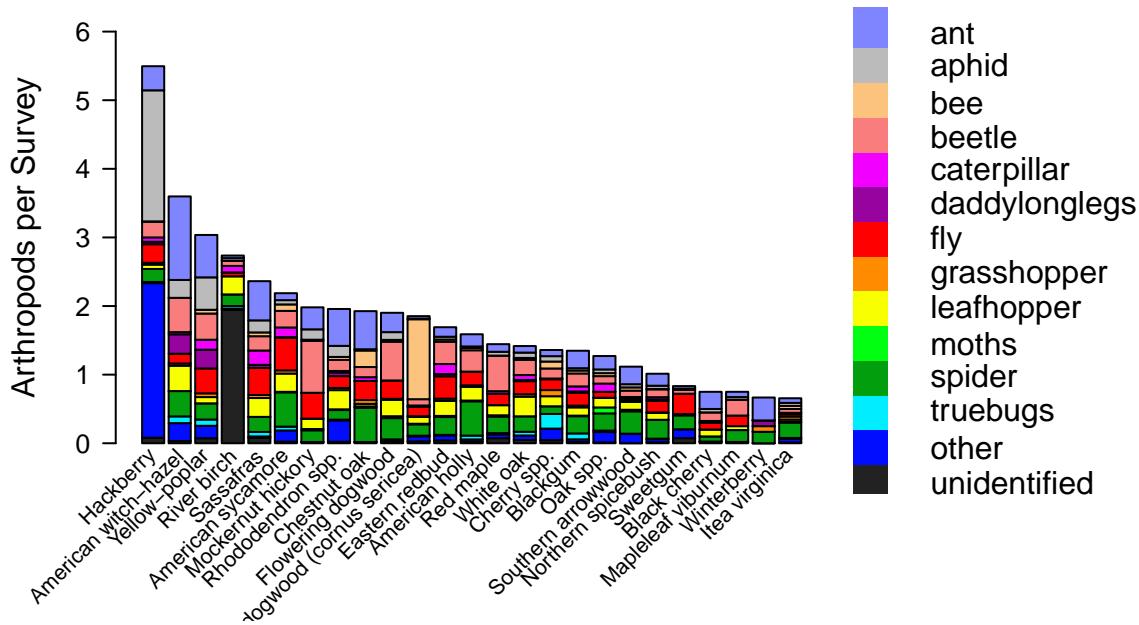
- What are the most common arthropod groups found at your site?
- Has that varied by year?
- Is anything noticeably different about **Walker Nature Center** compared to all other participating sites?
- If arthropod photos were submitted as part of your site's surveys, check the last section of this report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

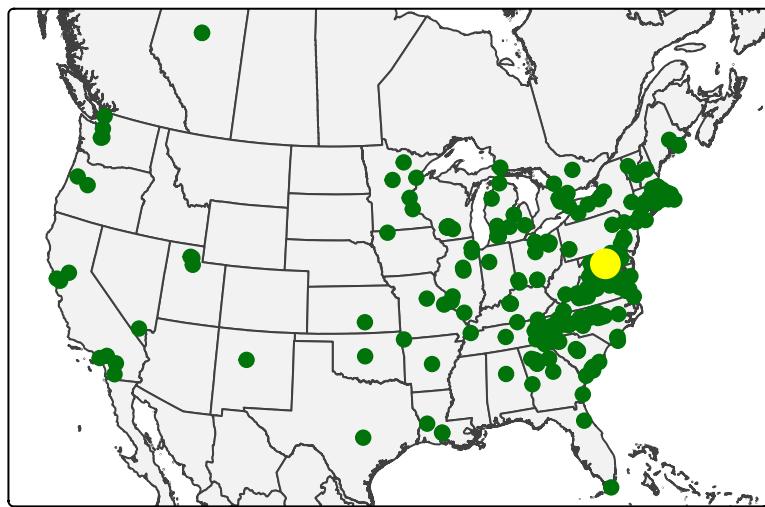
- Which plant species supports the most arthropods per survey?
- Which plant species supports the most **caterpillars**?
- Are any plant species dominated by just one or two types of arthropods?
- Or do they support a diversity of arthropod types?



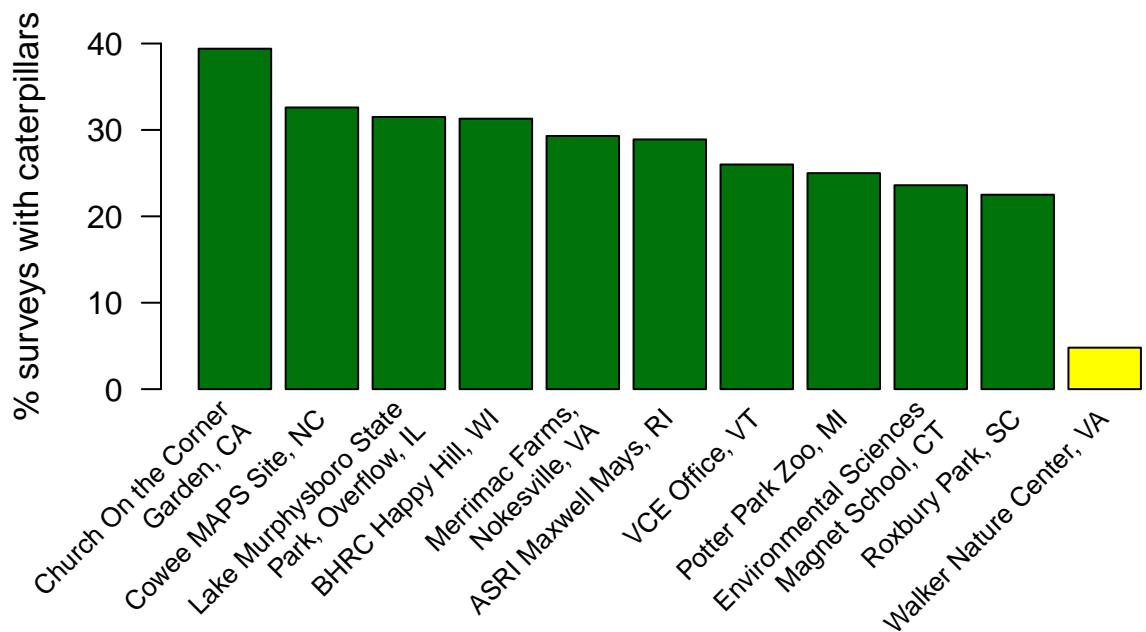
This bottom panel shows, of the arthropods found on a given plant species, what proportion were from each taxonomic group. At most, only the top 25 plant species are shown.

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 **Walker Nature Center**, caterpillars have been found **4.8%** of the time, which ranks **111st** 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 **978 Caterpillars Count!** photos which ranks **11th** 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 **80** unique species. Taxa seen for the first time this year are marked with a *.

Caterpillars

Depressariidae	Machimia tentoriferella
Erebidae	Zale sp.
	Halysidota harrisii
	Halysidota tessellaris
	Hyphantria cunea
	Orgyia leucostigma
	Rusicada privata*
Geometridae	Ennomos subsignaria
	Melanolophia canadaria*
Limacodidae	Euclea delphinii
Noctuidae	Acronicta americana
	Acronicta retardata
Notodontidae	Misogada unicolor
	Nadata gibbosa
Nymphalidae	Polygonia interrogationis
Saturniidae	Anisota senatoria
Spiders	
Anyphaenidae	Anyphaena sp.
	Wulfila albens
Araneidae	Mangora sp.
	Metepeira labyrinthica
	Araneus niveus
	Micrathena gracilis
	Micrathena mitrata
	Verrucosa arenata
Dictynidae	
Philodromidae	

Philodromus marxi

Pisauridae	Dolomedes sp.
Salticidae	Colonus sp.
	Hentzia sp.
	Lyssomanes viridis
Tetragnathidae	Leucauge venusta
	Tetragnatha sp.
Theridiidae	Theridion sp.
	Spintharus flavidus
Thomisidae	Misumessus oblongus
	Synema parvulum

Grasshoppers, Crickets

Oecanthidae	Oecanthus niveus
	Neoxabea bipunctata
Trigonidiidae	Anaxipha sp.

True Bugs

Coreidae	
Miridae	Hyaliodes harti
Nabidae	Lasiomerus sp.
Reduviidae	Pselliopus barberi
	Zelus luridus
Tingidae	Corythucha sp.

Leafhoppers, Cicadas

Acanaloniidae	
	Acanalonia conica
Cercopidae	

Prosapia bicincta

Cicadellidae	Erythroneura bistrata
Jikradia olitoria	Paraulacizes irrorata
Cicadidae	Magacicada septendecim
Cixiidae	Haplaxius sp.
	Bothriocera cognita*

Clastopteridae

Clastoptera proteus*

Derbidae	Otiocerus wolfii
Flatidae	Flatormenis proxima
	Metcalfa pruinosa
	Ormenoides venusta
Fulgoridae	Lycorma delicatula*

Membracidae

Enchenopa binotata

Platycotis vittata

Mymaridae	Enchenopa sp.

Aphids, Scales

Aphididae	Shivaphis celti

Beetles

Anthicidae	Macratria sp.
Buprestidae	
Cantharidae	Rhagonycha angulata
Coccinellidae	Harmonia axyridis
Cupedidae	

Tenomerga cinerea*		
Curculionidae	Camponotus chromaiodes	Odonata
Anthonomus sp.	Camponotus subbarbatus	Argia*
Cyrtepistomus castaneus	Prenolepis imparis	Opiliones
Lechriops oculatus*	Tapinoma sessile	Leiobunum
Odontopus calceatus*	Temnothorax curvispinosus	Leiobunum vittatum
Elateridae		Polydesmida
Limonius sp.	Flies	Oxidus gracilis
Megapenthes limbalis	Chironomidae	Paradoxosomatidae
Erotylidae	Culicidae	Psocodea
Triplax sp.	Aedes triseriatus	Polypsocus corruptus
Lampyridae	Dolichopodidae	Stylomatophora
Photuris sp.	Condylostylus caudatus	Arion
Photinus pyralis	Lauxaniidae	Trichoptera
Lycidae	Homoneura sp.	Mystacides sepulchralis
Melandryidae	Minettia sp.	
Microtonus sericans	Neogriphoneura sp.	
Mordellidae	Micropezidae	
Mordella marginata	Pallopteridae	
Ptilodactylidae	Toxonevra superba	
Ptinidae*	Rhagionidae	
Tenebrionidae	Chrysopilus thoracicus	
Bees, Wasps	Syrphidae	
Apidae	Eupeodes pomus	
Bombus sp.	Toxomerus geminatus	
Braconidae	Tipulidae	
Halictidae*	Rhaphidophoridae	
Ichneumonidae		
Tenthredinidae		
Caliroa liturata	Other observations	
Caliroa quercuscoccineae	Collembola	
Macremphytus testaceus	Tomoceridae	
Choreutidae	Dermoptera	
Ants	Forficula auricularia*	
Formicidae	Isopoda	
Formica fusca	Philoscia muscorum	
Camponotus castaneus	Neuroptera	
	Chrysopidae	
	Leucochrysa	
	Micromus	

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