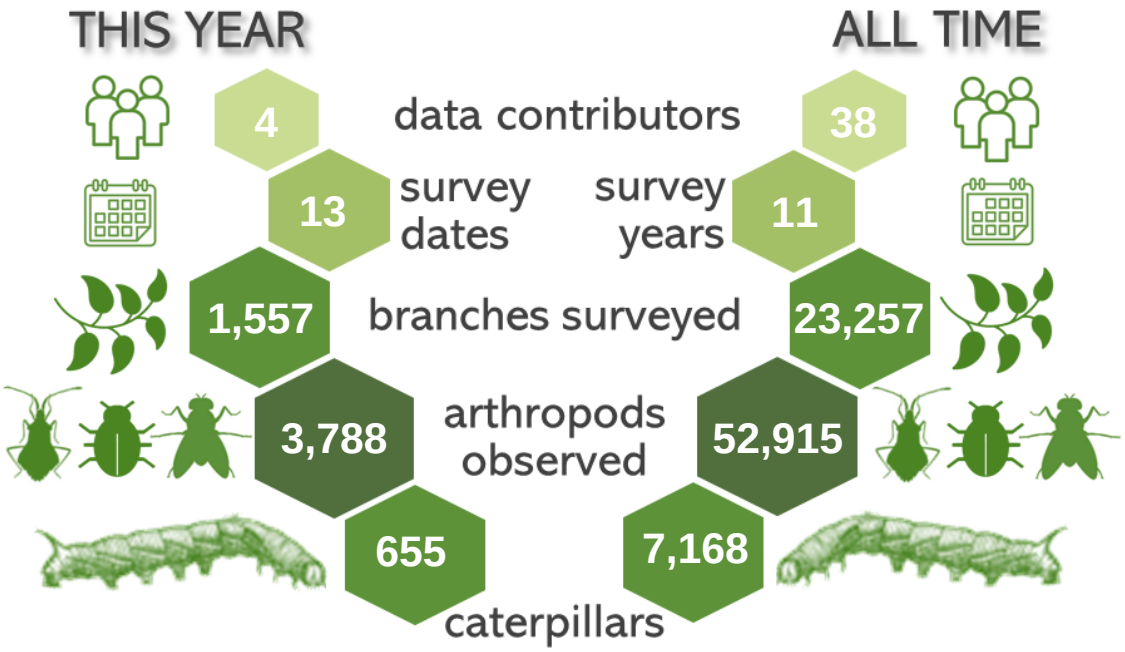
Prairie Ridge Ecostation, 2025 Summary



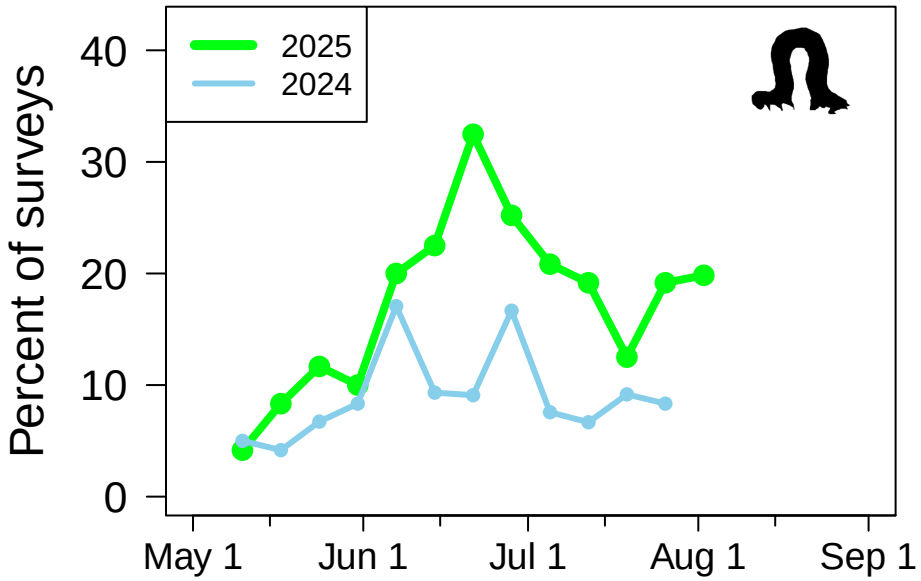
The **1,557** total surveys conducted at **Prairie Ridge Ecostation** this year ranks **1st** out of the **68** sites that participated in 2025.

Top Participants of 2025

User	Surveys	Arthropods	Caterpillars	% Caterpillars
I Goulden	364	1277	393	20.60
S Carter	475	947	134	18.32
B Acosta	398	1003	76	16.33
A Hurlbert	320	561	52	13.44

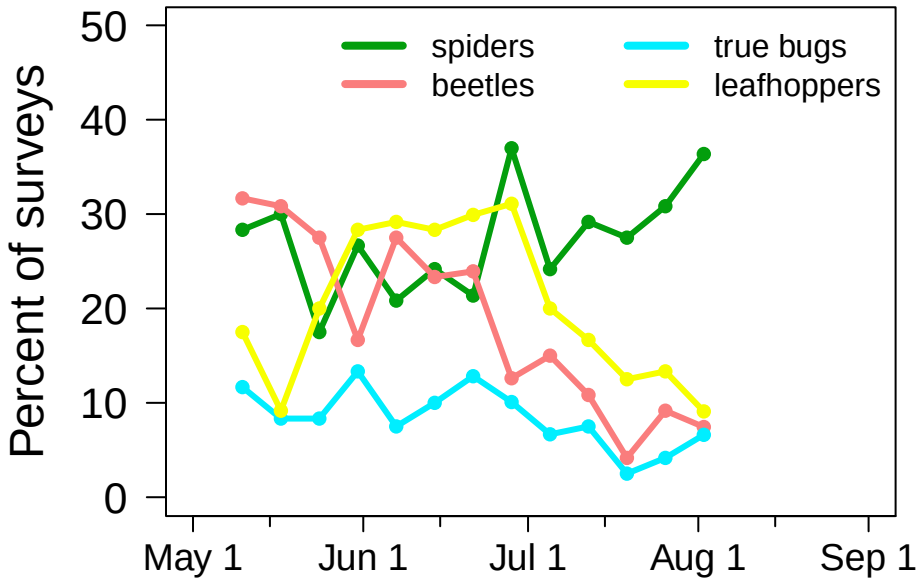
Caterpillar Phenology

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 **2025**, caterpillar occurrence peaked at **32.5%** of surveys on **21 June**. Do you see other peaks as well? How does the pattern compare to the previous year?



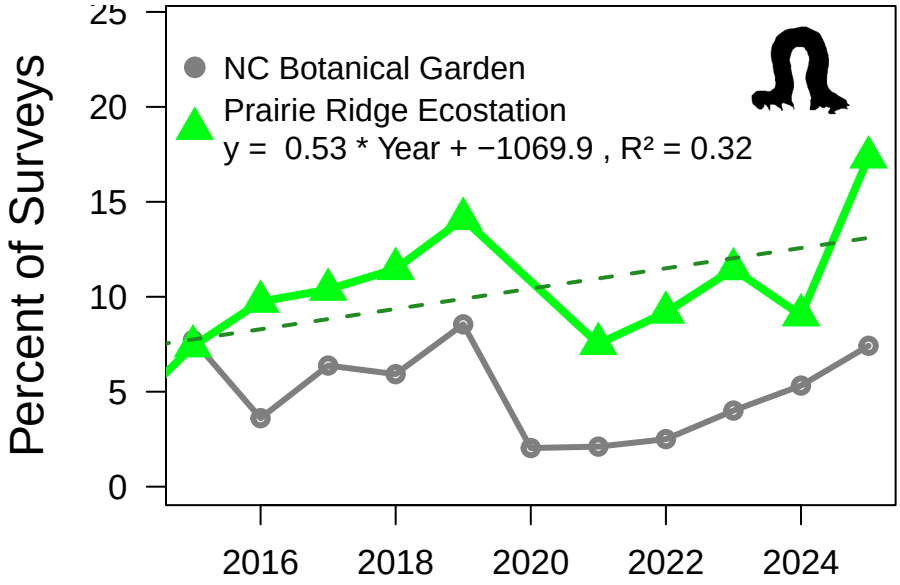
Other Arthropod Phenology

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



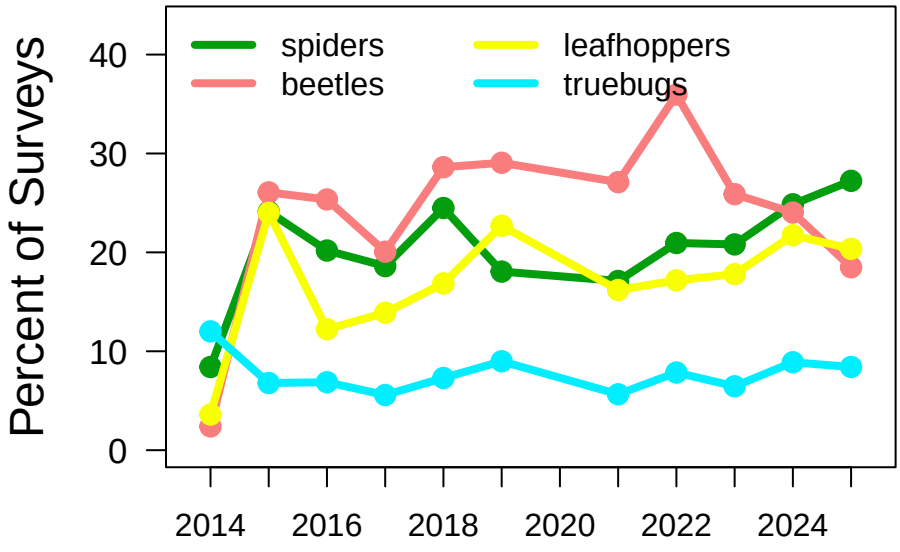
Arthropod Trends

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?

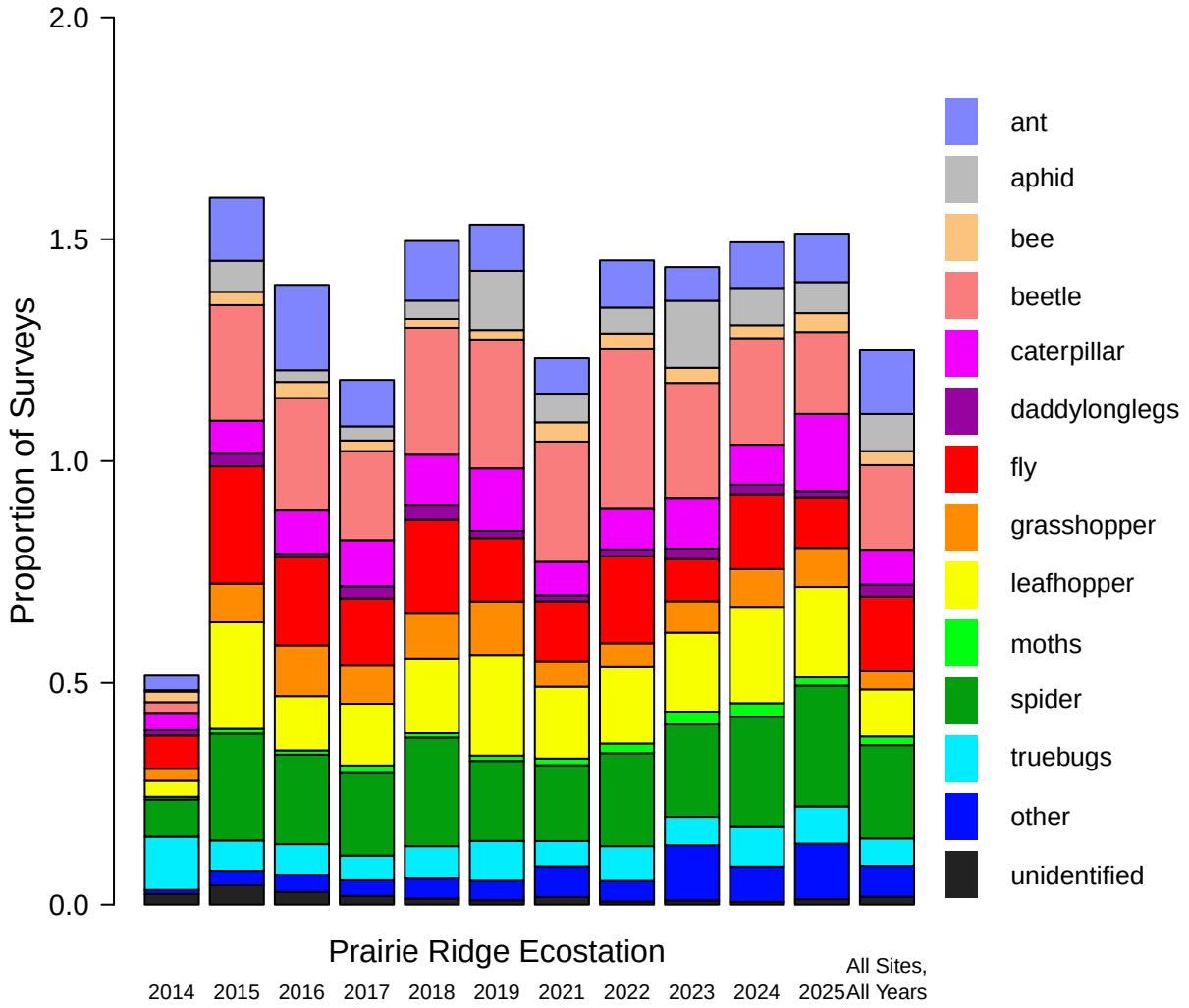


You can explore trends for more arthropod groups, and compare trends at different sites, on your site's **Trends Page**. See also our **November 2021 newsletter** for more on how to interpret these trends.

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*).

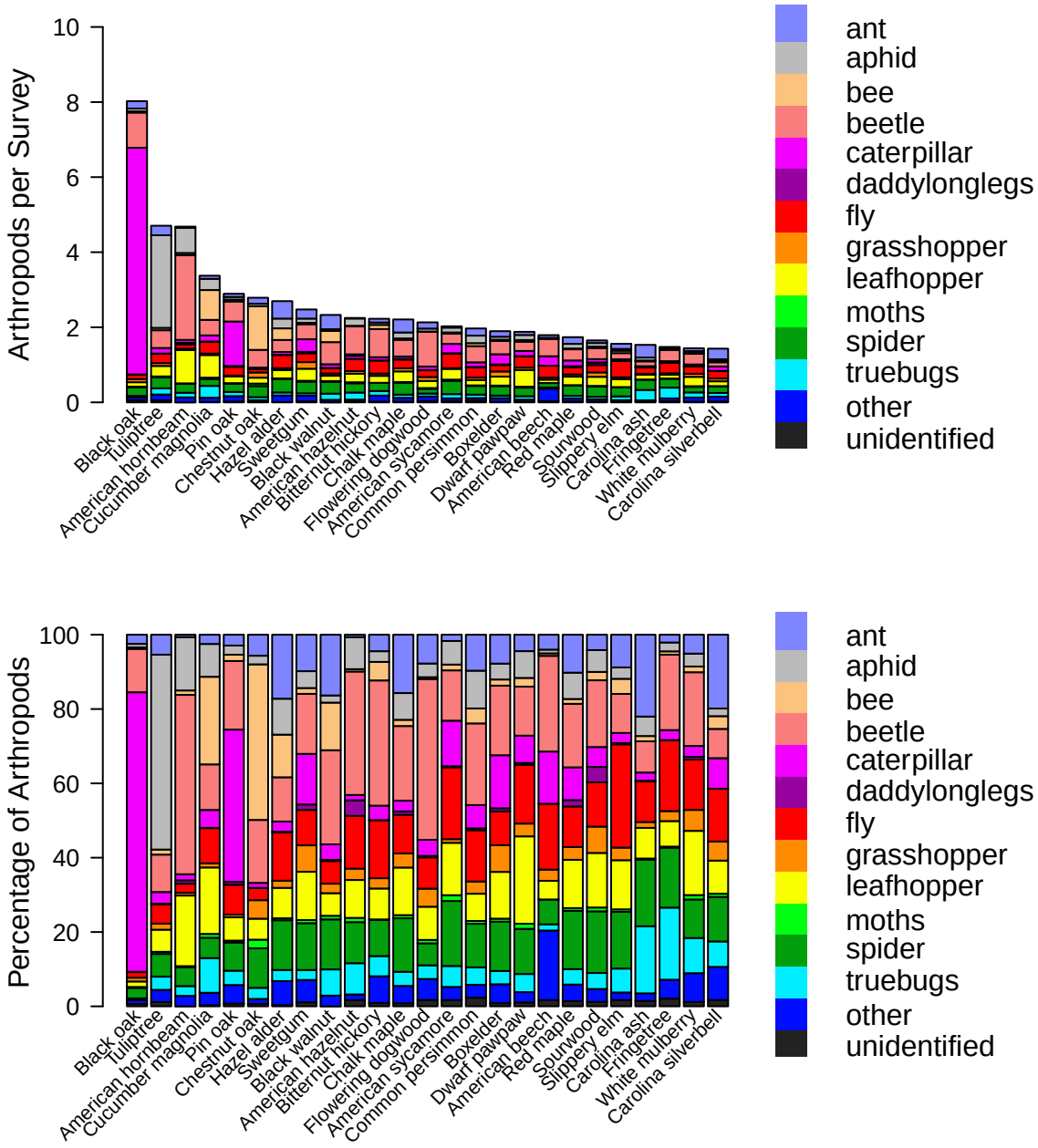
- What are the most common arthropod groups found at your site?
- Has that varied by year?
- Is anything noticeably different about **Prairie Ridge Ecostation** compared to all other participating sites?
- If arthropod photos were submitted as part of your site's surveys, check the last section of this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

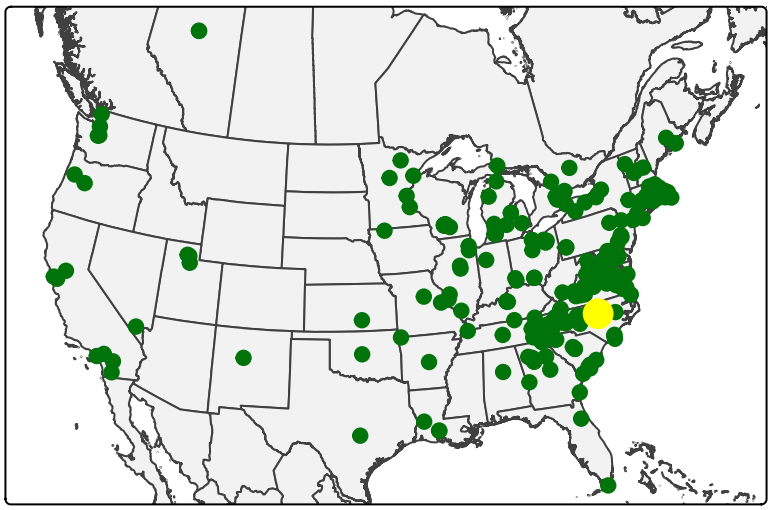
- Which plant species supports the most arthropods per survey?
- Which plant species supports the most **caterpillars**?
- Are any plant species dominated by just one or two types of arthropods?
- Or do they support a diversity of arthropod types?



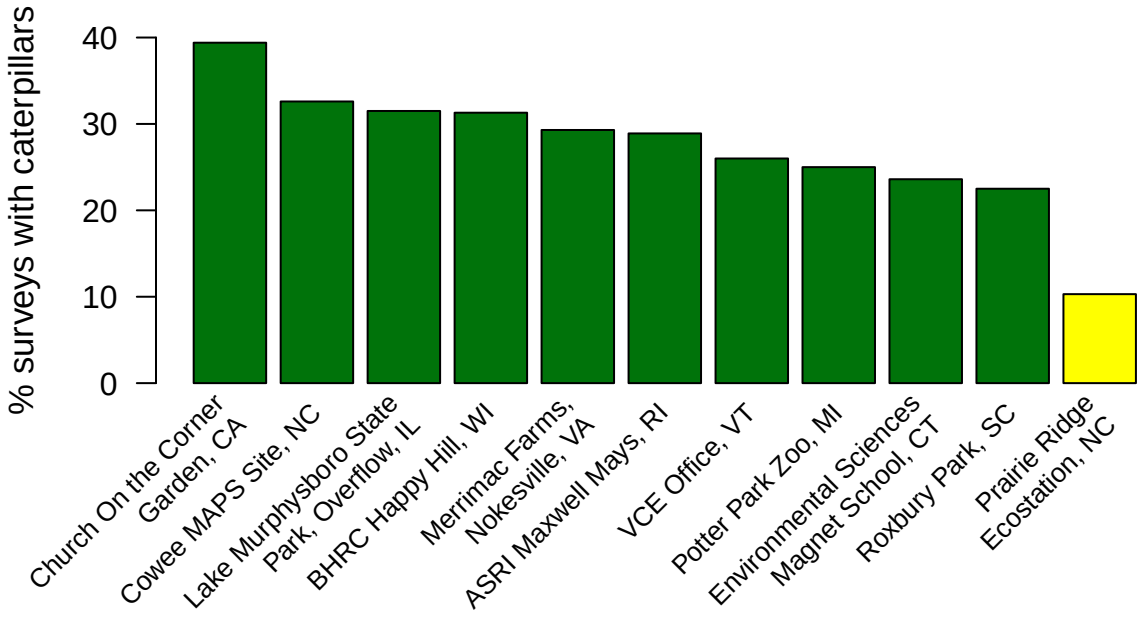
This bottom panel shows, of the arthropods found on a given plant species, what proportion were from each taxonomic group. At most, only the top 25 plant species are shown.

Broader Patterns

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



Across all surveys ever done at **Prairie Ridge Ecostation**, caterpillars have been found **10.3%** of the time, which ranks **57th** 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 **6,973** ***Caterpillars Count!*** photos which ranks **1st** 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 **208** 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
- Hypagyrtis unipunctata
- Epimecis hortaria
- Macaria bisignata

Gracillariidae

Limacodidae
- Euclea delphinii
- Lithacodes fasciola
- Natada nasoni
- Phobetron pithecium

Noctuidae
- Acronicta americana
- Acronicta impleta
- Acronicta retardata
- Hypsoropha sp.*
- Morrisonia confusa
- Harrisimemna trisignata

Notodontidae
- Datana sp.
- Schizura ipomaeae
- Cecrita biundata
- Cecrita guttivitta
- Coelodasys unicornis
- Lochmaeus manteo*
- Macrurocampa marthesia
- Misogada unicolor
- Nadata gibbosa

Pyralidae
- 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
- Eutrapela clemataria
- Ilexia intractata

Hesperiidae
- Lon zabulon

Limacodidae
- Prolimacodes badia*

Notodontidae
- Nadata gibbosa*

Pyralidae*

Saturniidae
- Anisota sp.

Tortricidae
- Ancylis sp.
- Clepsis sp.
- Coelostathma discopunctana

Yponomeutidae
- Yponomeuta sp.

Spiders

Agelenidae
- Agelenopsis sp.*

Anyphaenidae
- Anyphaena sp.
- Wulfila albens

Araneidae
- Araneus alboventris
- Araneus marmoreus
- Eustala sp.
- Metepeira labyrinthea
- Neoscona arabesca
- Neoscona crucifera
- Ocrepeira sp.
- 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 mitrata*
- Pelegrina sp.*
- Phidippus putnami
- Lyssomanes viridis
- Paraphidippus aurantius
- Synemosyna formica

Tetragnathidae
- Tetragnatha sp.
- Leucauge venusta

Theridiidae
- Euryopis sp.*
- 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 retinerve*
- 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.
- Scaphytopius sp.*
- Agalliopsis ancistra
- Eutettix pictus*
- Graphocephala coccinea
- Graphocephala versuta
- Japananus hyalinus
- Jikradia olitoria
- Oncometopia orbona
- Orientus ishidae
- Ponana pectoralis
- Rugosana querci

Cicadidae
- Magicicada sp.

Cixiidae
- Haplaxius enotatus*
- Bothriocera cognita

Clastopteridae

- Clastoptera obtusa*
- Derbidae
  - Cedusa sp.
- Flatidae
  - Flatormenis proxima
  - Metcalfa pruinosa
  - Ormenoides venusta
- Issidae
  - Thionia bullata
  - Thionia quinquata
  - Aplos simplex
- Membracidae
  - Enchenopa binotata
  - Telamona excelsa*
  - Platycotis vittata
  - Stictocephala militaris
  - Stictocephala taurina
- Tropiduchidae
  - Pelitropis rotulata
- Thraupidae
  - Stictocephala sp.

Aphids, Scales

- Aleyrodidae*
- Aphididae
  - Drepanaphis sp.*
  - Macrosiphum coryli*
  - Shivaphis celti*
- Pseudococcidae
- Psyllidae
  - Psylla carpinicola
- Triozidae
  - Baeoalitriozus diospyri

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
  - Coccinella septempunctata*
  - Cycloneda munda
  - Harmonia axyridis
  - Psyllobora vigintimaculata
- Cupedidae
  - Cupes capitatus
  - Tenomerga cinerea
- Curculionidae
  - Brachystylus sayi
  - Cyrtepistomus 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
- Ptinidae
  - Trichodesma gibbosa*
- Scarabaeidae
  - Macrodactylus subspinosus
  - Popillia japonica
- Tenebrionidae

Bees, Wasps

- Apidae
  - Nomada sp.*
- Argidae
  - Arge pectoralis
- Braconidae
- Eupelmidae
  - Arachnophaga sp.*
- Formicidae*
- Ichneumonidae
- Mutillidae
  - Pseudomethoca simillima*

Tenthredinidae
Caliroa sp.
Vespidae
Vespula maculifrons
Choreutidae

Ants

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

Flies

Asilidae
Cerotainia sp.
Bombyliidae
Anthrax argyropygus
Chironomidae
Chloropidae
Thaumatomyia sp.
Culicidae*
Dolichopodidae
Condylostylus caudatus
Condylostylus comatus
Condylostylus sipho
Condylostylus 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.
Toxomerus geminatus*
Tabanidae*
Tipulidae
Nephrotoma sp.
Rhaphidophoridae

Other observations

Anura
Hyla chrysoscelis*
Hyla cinerea
Blattodea
Chorisoneura texensis
Cariblatta
Reticulitermes hageni
Collembola
Entomobryidae*
Tomocerinae
Dermaptera
Forficula auricularia
Entomobryomorpha
Homidia socia
Mantodea
Mantidae
Tenodera sinensis
Neuroptera
Chrysopa nigricornis
Chrysoperla
Chrysoperla rufilabris*
Chrysopidae
Chrysopini
Leucochrysa insularis
Leucochrysa pavida
Coniopterygidae*
Hemerobiidae
Hemerobius
Micromus
Micromus posticus
Odonata
Calopteryx maculata
Opiliones
Leiobunum
Leiobunum vittatum
Polydesmida
Oxidus gracilis
Paradoxosomatidae*
Psocodea
Polypsocus corruptus
Valenzuela*
Philotarsus*
Cerastipsocus venosus
Graphopsocus
Graphopsocus cruciatus
Psocoptera
Ectopsocus*
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!

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

Allen Hurlbert
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Caterpillars Count!
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