

## wood nymph july to september fields, woods



COMMON WOOD NYMPH

The **Common Wood Nymph** has an erratic, elusive flight. Sometimes abundant in fields along wooded edges. Larvae feed on grasses. Some individuals lack the bold, creamy forewing patch.

## ringlet may to october fields



INORNATE RINGLET

Often identified by its bouncy, irregular flight close to the ground, the **Inornate Ringlet** can be especially common over lawns and grasslands. Watch for it along the Muskie Trail. The larvae feed on grasses.

## skippers late may to august grasses



DUN SKIPPER

Tiny and quick, skippers can be hard to view. When nectaring they may allow close approach. Subtle markings separate several species. Adult **Dun Skippers** often nectar on milkweed and purple vetch.

Front: Monarch, Mourning Cloak. Back: Bog Copper.  
Brochure inspired by Bob and Rose Marie Gobeil  
Photos by Rose Marie Gobeil, Sue Bickford, and Scott Richardson

Take time to enjoy and study the butterflies of the Wells Reserve. About 50 species have been noted here thanks to the Maine Butterfly Survey and many years of observations shared by citizen scientists and nature lovers.

A complete checklist is available in the Visitor Center or on our website, but this brochure highlights the types you're most likely to see during a day afield.

Want to learn more? Visit these resources on the web:

- Maine Butterfly Survey — [mbs.umf.maine.edu](http://mbs.umf.maine.edu)
- Maine Butterfly Photos — [mainebutterflies.com](http://mainebutterflies.com)
- eButterfly — [e-butterfly.org](http://e-butterfly.org)
- BAMONA — [butterfliesandmoths.org](http://butterfliesandmoths.org)



# wellsreserve

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells ME 04090  
207-646-1555 [wellsreserve.org](http://wellsreserve.org)

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wellsreserve at laudholm

A PLACE TO DISCOVER



## COMMON BUTTERFLIES

of the Wells Reserve at Laudholm



[WELLSRESERVE.ORG/BUTTERFLIES](http://WELLSRESERVE.ORG/BUTTERFLIES)

# Get to know... common butterflies of the wellsreserve

## monarch

June to October  
fields, gardens



Monarchs sometimes are plentiful here, but the world population has been declining. Caterpillars require milkweed. The similar **Viceroy** is smaller and bears an extra black line across its wings.

MONARCH

## admirals

May to October  
fields, woods, beach



The **Red Admiral** can be found in almost any habitat when the species undergoes major migratory flights. The **White Admiral/Red-spotted Purple**, is less common, but showy.

RED ADMIRAL

## swallowtails

Late May to August  
fields, gardens



**Tiger Swallowtails** are hard to tell apart, but most seen here are the **Canadian**, not the **Eastern**. The **Black Swallowtail** often cruises low over lawns near the farmhouse in summer.

CANADIAN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL

## ladies

Late April to October  
fields, trails, gardens



**Painted Lady** and **American Lady** are very similar. Look for the number and size of eyespots on the hindwing and a white pinpoint in one orange forewing cell. Ladies frequent asters and pussytoes.

AMERICAN LADY

## coppers

May to October  
grasses



The **American Copper** flies low over trails that have exposed soil. Its larvae feed on sheep sorrel and curled dock. The **Bog Copper** occurs in the mossy bog (Muskie Trail). It depends on cranberries.

AMERICAN COPPER

## yellows

May to November  
lawns and fields



**Clouded Sulphur** and **Orange Sulphur** (Alfalfa) are common look-alikes. Their close relative, **Cabbage White**, is also sometimes yellowish. This group feeds on plants in the mustard and pea families.

CLOUDED SULPHUR

## fritillaries

June to September  
fields



The large **Great Spangled Fritillary**, most common in July, often nectars on milkweed. Caterpillars feed on violets. Watch also for the similar **Aphrodite Fritillary** and other related species.

GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY

## crescents

May to October  
fields



The **Pearl Crescent** is common along trails adjacent to open fields. Caterpillars feed on asters. The uncommon **Northern Pearl Crescent** requires careful study for identification.

PEARL CRESCENT

## blues

April to October  
fields, trails



This complex group, often found along brushy wet edges, might be labeled **Spring Azure**, **Cherry Gall Azure**, **Northern Azure**, or **Summer Azure**. Look for the distinctive **Eastern Tailed Blue** in mid summer.

AZURE