

COMMON BUTTERFLIES OF MIDLAND COUNTY

(AT LEAST THE 30 OR SO MOST COMMON)

SWALLOWTAILS

Pipevine Swallowtail



Host Plant – pipevines

Underside – note large orange spot band



SWALLOWTAILS

Black Swallowtail

Host Plant – parsley family and rue



Underside – note row of small orange cells and eye.



Giant Swallowtail

Host plant – Rue family



WHITES AND YELLOWS

- **CHECKERED WHITE**
- Host plant – Mustards
- Very common, likes open areas, seems to be one of the earliest risers in the morning and when the weather is cool
- Most of the time when you see a white butterfly in town it will be a Cabbage White, but outside of town, most are Checkered Whites



WHITES AND YELLOWS

- Orange Sulphur
- Host Plant – Alfalfa and legumes
- Black rimmed on the top side
- Most are orange; some females are off white



WHITES AND YELLOWS



- Sleepy Orange
- Host Plant – Sennas
- Normally perches with wings closed and the hind wing has a slash reminiscent of a eye of a sleeping child
- Flies low to the ground and very erratically unlike its name

WHITES AND YELLOWS

- Sleepy Oranges and Orange Sulphur puddling (butterflies get salts and minerals from mud puddles).
- The Orange Sulphur is larger and has two cells on the forewing
- Although these Sleepy Oranges are all about the same size, there can be a lot of size variation



WHITES AND YELLOWS

Dainty Sulphur



BL

GOSSAMER WINGS

- Gray Hairstreak
- Host plant – many and varied in many plant species
- Sits with wings closed but moves them back and forth
- Large eye cell is a deterrent from predators
- There are many Hairstreaks but this is the most common one in Midland County



BLUES

Reikerts Blue

Host plant – legumes

About the size of a dime



Marine Blue

Host plant – legumes and other plants



BLUES

Western Pygmy Blue



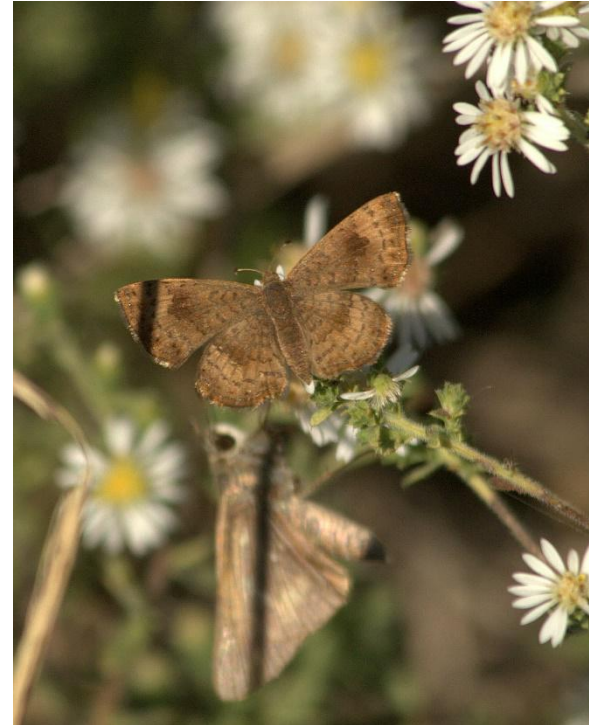
- Host plant – Salt brush, Tumbleweed
- The smallest North American butterfly – length of the forewing, 1.4”
- Often suns with open wings, copper colored above

METALMARKS

Fatal Metalmark



Host plants – baccharis and clematis



BRUSHFOOTS - FRITILLARIES

Gulf Fritillary

Host plant – Passion vine



Variegated Fritillary

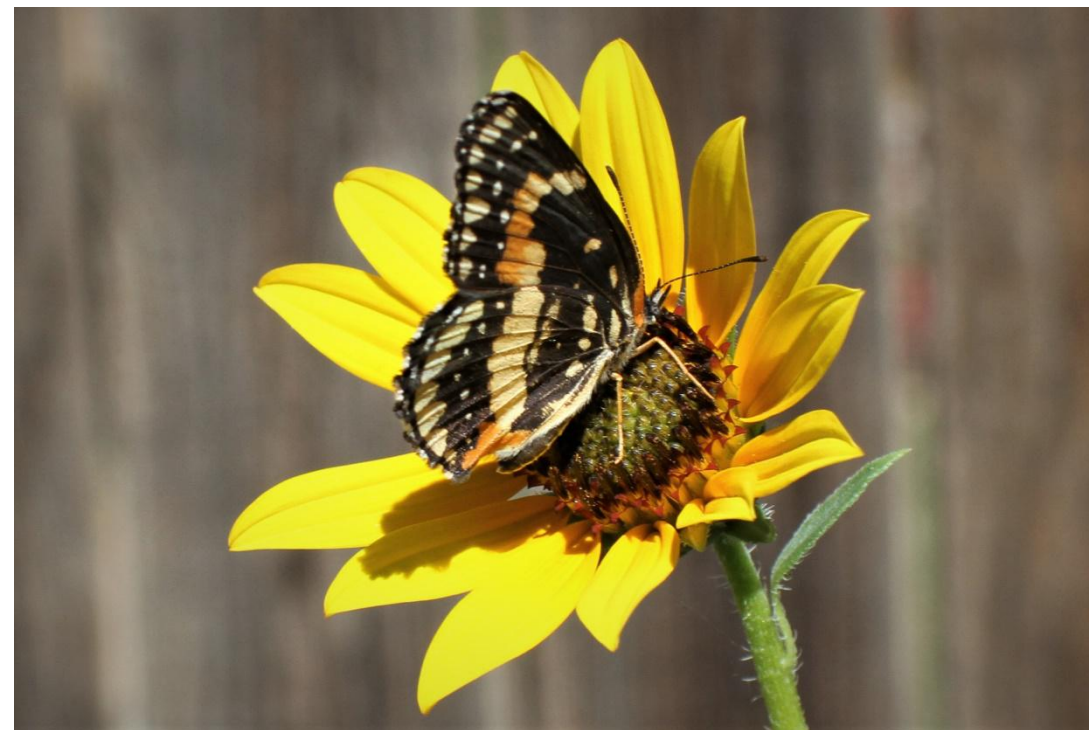
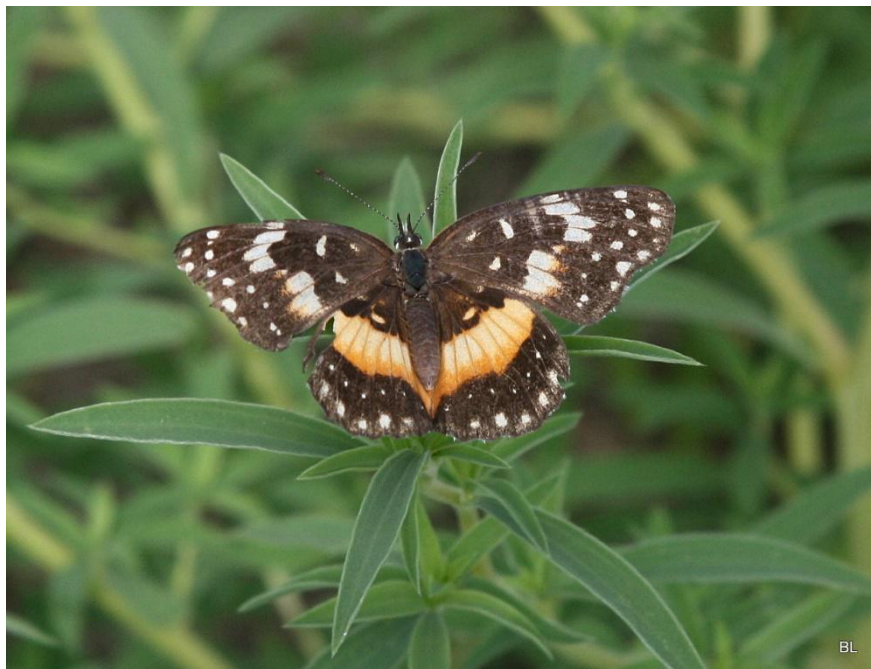
Host plant – passion flowers, violets



TRUE BRUSHFOOTS - PATCHES

Bordered Patch

Host plant – aster family, especially sunflowers



TRUE BRUSHFOOTS – SOUTHERN CRESENTS

Texan Crescent

Host plant – acanthus family

Often seen in yards with flame leaf acanthus

Flies very fast, low to the ground



BRUSHFOOTS – ANGLEWINGS

Question Mark

Named for a comma and dot on the hindwing



Host plant – hackberries, nettles, elms

Prefers sap, rooted fruit, dung,

Found in wooded areas



TRUE BRUSHFOOTS - LADIES

American Lady

Host plant – thistles and many other families

“American Ladies have big eyes” Two eyespots on hind wing



Painted Lady

Host plant – pearly everlastings and other asters

Four or five small eyespots on hindwing



TRUE BRUSHFOOTS -LADIES

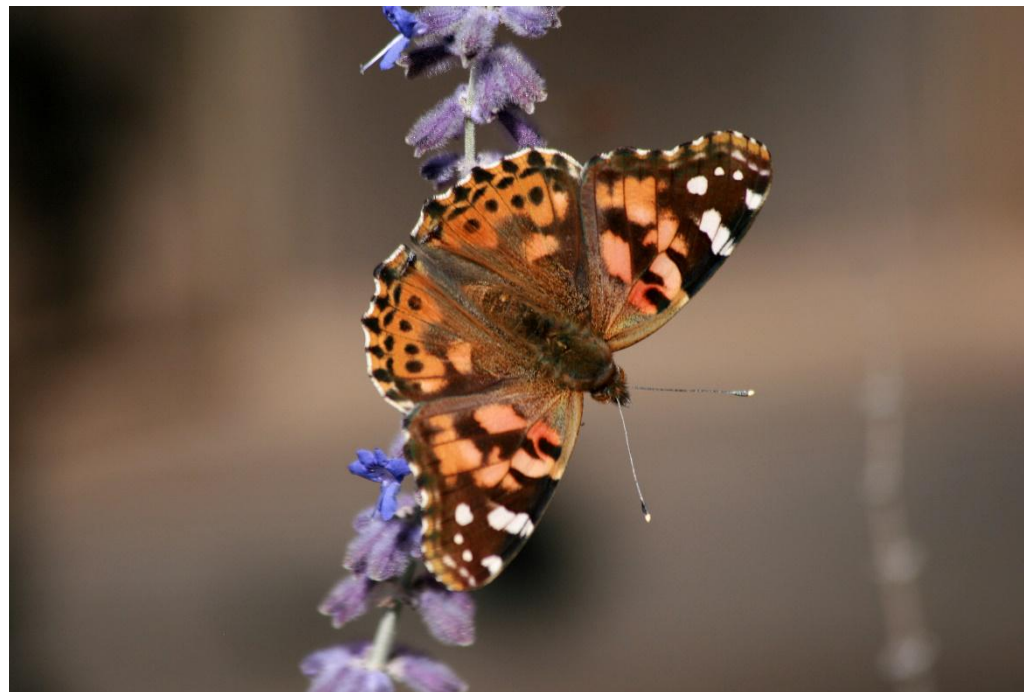
American Lady

Broken or thin black band and white dot in orange



Painted Lady

Heavy black band – thick and closed



BRUSHFOOTS - ADMIRALS

Red Admiral

Host plant - nettles



Prefers sap and rotted fruit but will nectar on flowers



TRUE BRUSHFOOTS - BUCKEYES

Common Buckeye



Host plant – figwort and others

Seems to prefer the draws in Midland



BRUSHFOOTS - LEAFWINGS

Goatweed Leafwing

Looks like a leaf with wings closed on a branch



Hostplant – crotons

Found in woods and thorn-scrub

Prefers saps over nectar

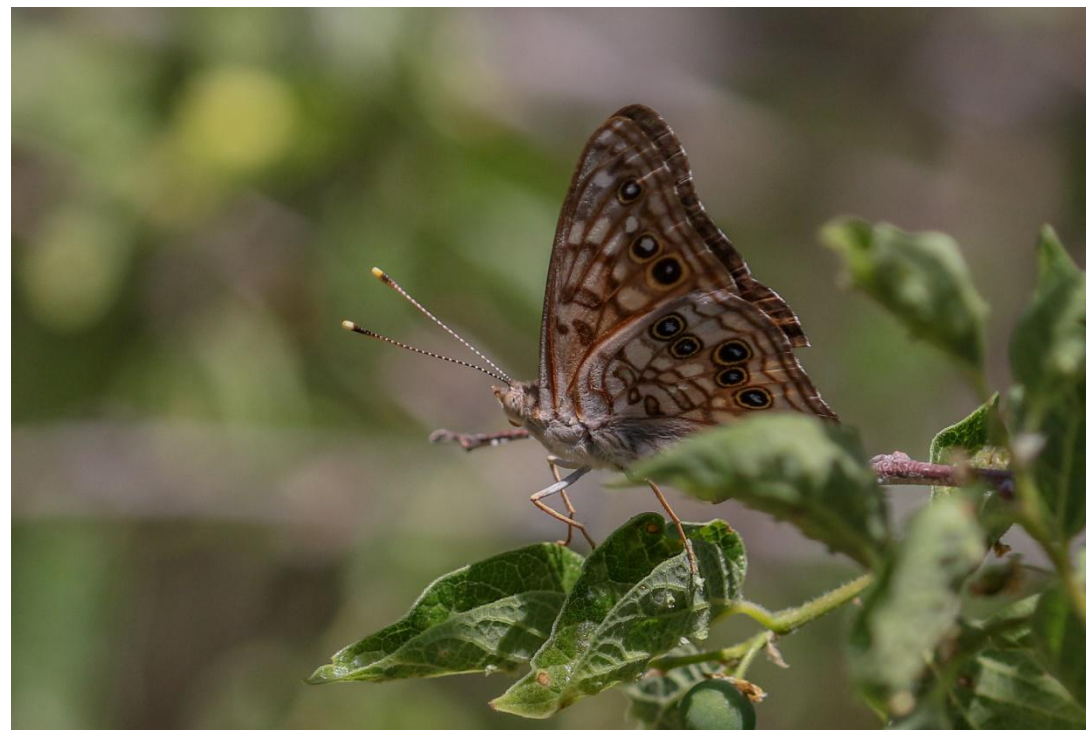


BRUSHFOOTS - EMPERORS

Hackberry Emperor



Host plant – hackberries



BRUSHFOOTS – AMERICAN SNOOUT

American Snout



- In certain years swarms of millions are seen in south Texas
- Has a very long palps (snout)
- Often times seen on tree branches

BRUSHFOOTS –MILKWEED BUTTERFLIES

Monarchs



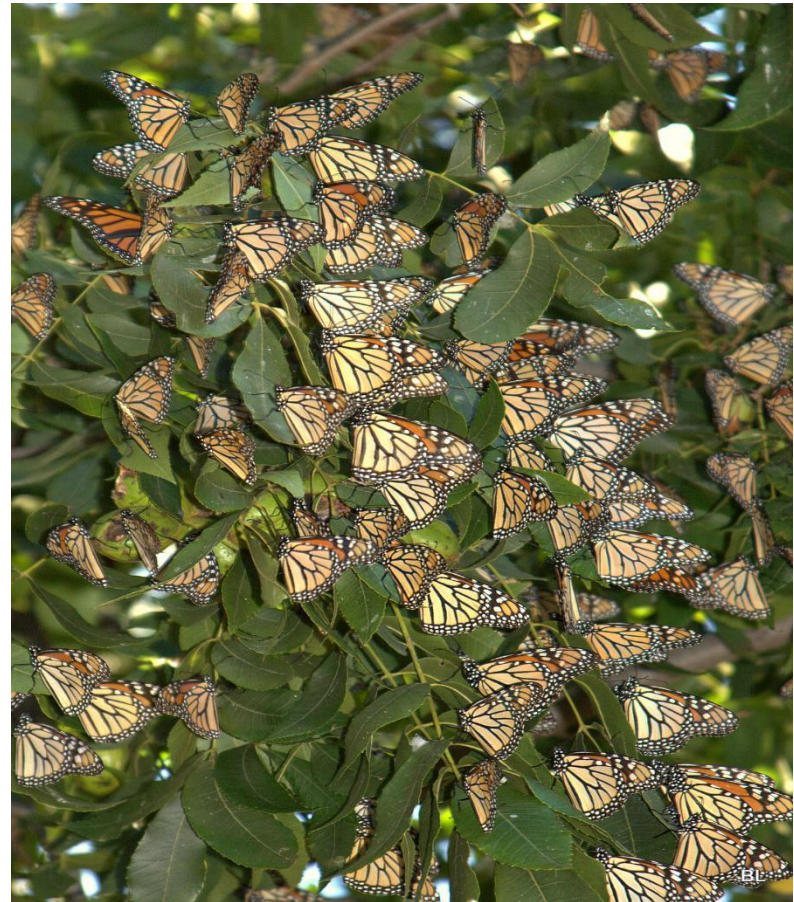
- Hostplant – milkweeds
- One of the most recognizable butterflies in the world and a symbol of conservation efforts
- Migrates 1,000's of miles and winters in the forests of Mexico

BRUSHFOOTS – MILKWEED BUTTERFLIES

Monarch migration in Midland 2005

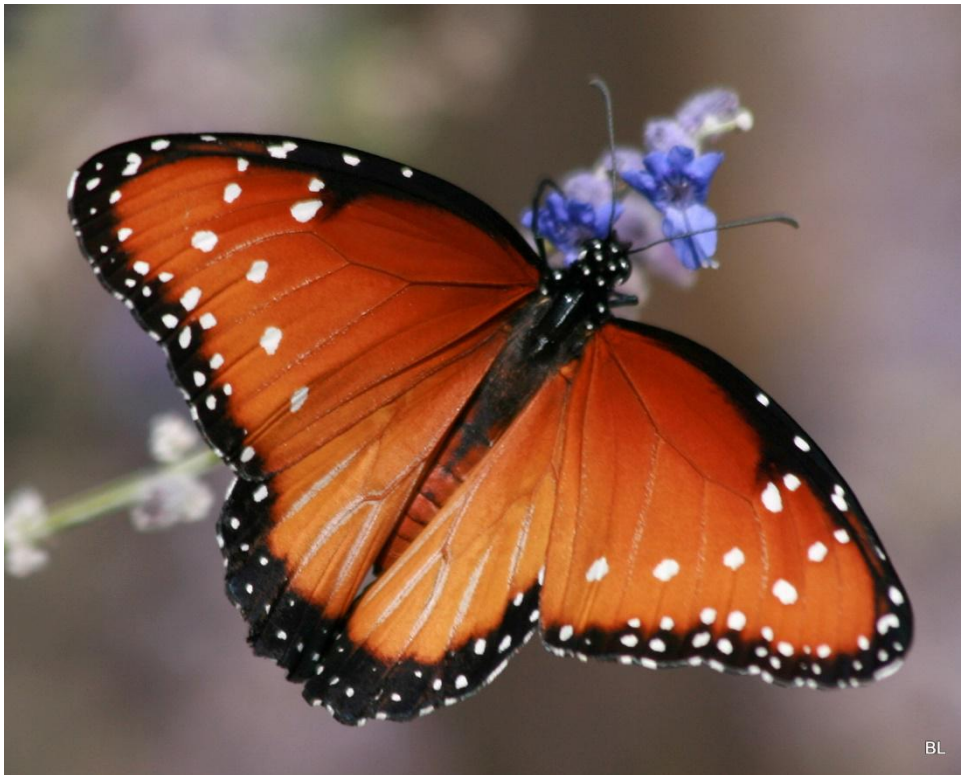


Monarch migration 2007



BRUSHFOOTS – MILKWEED BUTTERFLIES

Queen



Monarch



Queen

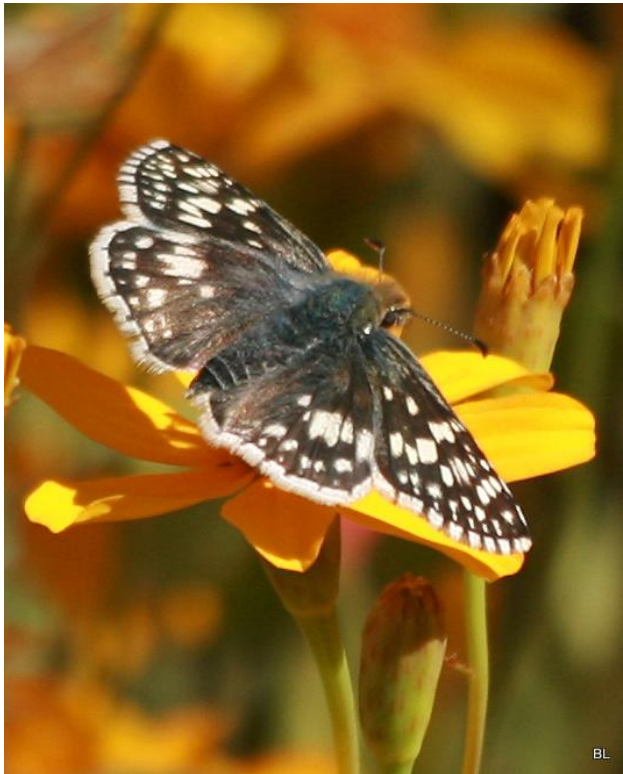


Monarch



SKIPPERS – SPREADWING SKIPPERS

Common Checkered/White-Skipper



Most common spreadwing

Common and White are not distinguishable in the field



GRASS SKIPPERS

Orange Skipperling

About the size of a dime, sits with wings open



Fiery Skipper

Host plant – Bermuda grass



- References
 - A Swift Guide to Butterflies of North America by Jeffery Glassberg
 - Butterflies through Binoculars The West by Jeffery Glassberg
 - Field Guide to Butterflies of North America by Ken Kaufman and Jim P Brock
 - NABA – North American Butterfly Association <https://www.naba.org/>
 - Butterflies and Moths of North America
<https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation <https://www.xerces.org/>