

## LIFE STAGES OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY



### EGG

A butterfly lays many eggs on the stems or undersides of the leaves of host plants. The host plant will provide food for the emerging larvae. Eggs can vary in color, shape, texture, and incubation time. A yolk provides nourishment for the developing larva.



### LARVA/CATERPILLAR

A larva voraciously eats the leaves of the host plant upon hatching from its egg. Because it grows rapidly, it molts (or sheds) its skin. Larvae typically molt four or five times. We call these molting stages instars.



### PUPA/CHRYSLIS

Once fully grown, a larva develops into a pupa. The larva finds a safe, hidden area around the host plant. It forms a hardened case around it to protect it from predators and extreme weather conditions. Inside the pupa, the tissue, limbs and organs of the larva transform into an adult. We call this process metamorphosis.



### ADULT/BUTTERFLY

Once the adult is ready to emerge, the pupa splits open. Its wings are wet, soft and wrinkled against its body. As it waits for its wings to dry, the adult pumps hemolymph (similar to blood) through them. It then flies in search of nectar and potential mates.



Monarch butterflies are known for their incredible mass migration. North American Monarchs are the only butterflies that journey up to 3,000 miles. The insects must begin this journey each fall ahead of cold weather.

## Ocean County Board of Commissioners

Robert S. Arace  
Chairman of Parks and Recreation  
Jennifer Bacchione  
Virginia E. Haines  
John P. Kelly  
Frank Sadeghi



## Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation

Administrative Offices  
1198 Bandon Road  
Toms River, NJ 08753  
(732) 506-9090

Fax: 1-732-270-9464

[www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)

<http://www.facebook.com/OceanCountyParks>



Mary Jane Bavais - Director

# Cattus Island County Park's BUTTERFLY GARDEN

1170 Cattus Island Boulevard  
Toms River, NJ 08753  
732-270-6960



Your guide to the butterflies common to our area and the environments that attract them. Learn how to grow your own butterfly friendly garden.



[www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)

# CATTUS ISLAND COUNTY PARK'S BUTTERFLY GARDEN

## BUTTERFLIES COMMON TO OCEAN COUNTY



**SPRING AZURE** *Celastrina ladon*  
Wingspan: 1" Found in woodland edges and openings. Only 1 generation/year. Spring Azure is easily confused with subspecies Summer Azure and Atlantic Azure. Egg stage: 4-8 days. Larval stage: about 30 days. Larvae feed on flowering dogwoods, blueberries, viburnums. Adult life span: 4 days. Pupae overwinter.



**CABBAGE WHITE** *Pieris rapae*  
Wingspan: 1"-2" Non-native species, introduced to North America in 1860s. 3-5 generations/year. Egg stage: 4-6 days. Larval stage: 1-2 weeks. Larvae feed on cabbage, broccoli, and other crucifers. Pupal stage: 20 days. Adult life span: 3 weeks. Pupae overwinter.



**EASTERN BLACK SWALLOWTAIL** *Papilio polyxenes*  
Wingspan: 2"-3" Found in fields, parks, and meadows. 2 generations/year. Egg stage: 4-9 days. Larval stage: 10-30 days. Larvae feed on parsley, dill, carrots and Queen Anne's lace. Pupal stage: 10-20 days. Adult life span: 6-14 days.



**MONARCH** *Danaus plexippus*  
Wingspan: 3 1/2"-5" Found in open fields and meadows. Up to 6 generations/year. Egg stage: 4 days. Larval stage: 8-15 days. Larvae feed on milkweed. Pupal stage: 5-15 days. Adult life span: 4-6 weeks, except generation that arrives in Mexico; this generation lives about 6 months. As adults migrate, they lay eggs and then die along their journey south.



**PAINTED LADY** *Vanessa cardui*  
Wingspan: 2"-3" Found almost anywhere. 2 generations/year. Egg stage: 10-12 days. Larval stage: 7-10 days. Larvae feed on thistles and many other host plants. Pupal stage: 7-10 days. Adult life span: 2-4 weeks. Adults overwinter or migrate.



**RED BANDED HAIRSTREAK** *Calycoptis cecrop*  
Wingspan: 1"-1 1/4" Found in overgrown fields and forest edges. 2-3 generations/year. Egg stage: 4-6 days. Larval stage: 3-4 weeks. Larvae feed on oaks and sumacs. Pupal stage: 10-20 days. Adult life span: 4-10 days. Larvae and pupae overwinter.



**COMMON BUCKEYE** *Junonia coenia*  
Wingspan: 1 1/2"-2" Found almost anywhere. 2 generations/year. Egg stage: 4-14 days. Larval stage: 2-4 weeks. Larvae feed on snapdragons and plantains. Pupal stage: 7-14 days. Adult life span: 6-20 days. Adults migrate.

## HOW TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES

- ✦ Sunny location
- ✦ Shelter from the wind
- ✦ Host plants
- ✦ Moisture and water source
- ✦ Always something blooming
- ✦ Rocks and puddle features
- ✦ Native plants are easy to grow and maintain

## CATTUS ISLAND BUTTERFLY GARDEN NATIVE PLANTS

The plants native to Ocean County are labeled below. See the signs posted in the garden for more information.

