



## Butterflies of San Diego County

Some of the species in this list are rare or are limited in their distribution. Those that are rare and are likely to be seen in limited capacity are marked with an asterisk (\*). Species indigenous to San Diego County are **bolded**. Species with state or federal protection are bolded **orange**.

[Swallowtails](#) | [Whites and Sulphurs](#) | [Gossamer-wing](#) | [Metalmarks](#) | [Brushfoots](#) | [The Skippers](#)

### SUPERFAMILY PAPILIONOIDEA The True Butterflies

#### FAMILY PAPILIONIDAE: Swallowtails

##### Subfamily Papilioninae: True Swallowtails

- Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)
- Desert Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes coloro*)
- Anise Swallowtail (*Papilio zelicaon*)
- Pergamus (Indra) Swallowtail (*Papilio indra pergamus*)
- Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)
- Western Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus*)
- Pale Swallowtail (*Papilio eurymedon*)
- \*Two-tailed Swallowtail (*Papilio multicaudata*)

#### FAMILY PIERIDAE: Whites and Sulphurs

##### Subfamily Pierinae: Whites

- Becker's White (*Pontia (Pieris) beckerii*)
- Spring White (*Pontia sisymbrii*)

Checkered White (*Pontia protodice*)  
Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)

### **Subfamily Anthocharinae: Marbles & Orangetips**

Desert Pearly Marble (*Euchloe hyantis lotta*)  
Desert Orangetip (*Anthocharis cethura*)  
Pacific Sara Orangetip (*Anthocharis sara sara*)  
Stella Orangetip (*Anthocharis stella*)  
\*Grinnell's Marble (*Anthocharis lanceolata australis*)

### **Subfamily Coliadinae: Sulphurs**

Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*)  
Harford's Sulphur (*Colias harfordii*)  
California Dogface (*Zerene eurydice*)  
\*Southern Dogface (*Zerene cesonia*)  
Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebus sennae marcellina*)  
\*Mexican Yellow (*Eurema mexicanum*)  
Sleepy Orange (*Eurema nicippe*)  
Dainty Sulphur (*Nathalis iole*)

## **FAMILY LYCAENIDAE: Gossamer-wing**

### **Subfamily Lycaeninae: Coppers**

Tailed Copper (*Lycaena arota*)  
Great Copper (*Lycaena xanthoides*)  
Gorgon Copper (*Lycaena gorgon*)  
Purplish Copper (*Lycaena helloides*)  
**Hermes Copper** (*Lycaena hermes*)

### **Subfamily Theclinae: Hairstreaks**

Golden Hairstreak (*Habrodais grunus*)  
Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus corcorani*)  
\*Sarita Hairstreak (*Chlorostrymon simaethis sarita*)  
California Hairstreak (*Satyrium californica*)  
Sylvan Hairstreak (*Satyrium sylvinus sylvinus*)  
Gold-hunter's Hairstreak (*Satyrium auretteorum spadix*)  
Mountain Mahogany Hairstreak (*Satyrium tetra*)  
Hedgerow Hairstreak (*Satyrium saepium*)  
Immaculate Bramble Hairstreak (*Callophrys dumetorum affinis*)

Brown Elfin (*Callophrys augustinus*)  
 \*Western Pine Elfin (*Callophrys eryphon*)  
 Thicket Hairstreak (*Callophrys spinetorum*)  
 Juniper Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus*)  
 Nelson's Juniper Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus nelsoni*)  
 Loki Juniper Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus loki*)  
 \***Thorne's Hairstreak** (*Callophrys gryneus thornei*)  
 Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus pudica*)  
 Mallow Scrub Hairstreak (*Strymon istapa*)  
 Leda Ministreak (*Ministrymon leda*)

### Subfamily Polyommatainae: Blues

Western Pygmy-Blue (*Brephidium exila*)  
 Marine Blue (*Leptotes marina*)  
 Edward's Blue (*Hemiargus ceraunus gyas*)  
 Reakirt's Blue (*Hemiargus isola alce*)  
 Western Tailed-Blue (*Everes amyntula*)  
 Echo Blue (*Celistrina ladon [argiolus] echo*)  
 Sonoran Blue (*Philotes sonorensis*)  
 Bernardino Blue (*Euphilotes bernardino*)  
 Dammer's Blue (*Euphilotes enoptes dammersi*)  
 Small Blue (*Philotiella [Philotes] speciosa*)  
 Arrowhead Blue (*Glaucopsyche piasus*)  
 Southern Blue (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus australis*)  
 Melissa Blue (*Lycaeides melissa paradoxa*)  
 \*Hilda Greenish Blue (*Plebejus saepiolus hilda*)  
 Evius Blue (*Icaricia icaroides evius*)  
 Acmon Blue (*Icaricia acmon acmon*)  
 Lupine Blue (*Icaricia lupini monticola*)

### FAMILY RIODINIDAE: Metalmarks

#### Subfamily Riodinidae: Metalmarks

Fatal Metalmark (*Calephelis nemesis californica*)  
 Wright's Metalmark (*Calephelis wrighti*)  
 Mormon Metalmark (*Apodemia mormo*)  
     Behr's Metalmark (*A. mormo virgulti*)  
     Desert Metalmark (*A. mormo deserti*)  
     **Peninsular Metalmark** (*A. mormo penisularis*)

Sonoran Metalmark (*A. mormo mejicanus*)  
 \*Palmer's Metalmark (*Apodemia palmeri*)

### **FAMILY LIBYTHEIDAE: Snouts**

#### **Subfamily Libytheinae: Snouts**

American Snout (*Libytheana carinenta*)

### **FAMILY NYMPHALIDAE: Brushfoots**

#### **Subfamily Heliconiinae: Heliconians**

Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae incarnata*)

Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charitonius tuckeri*)

#### **Subfamily Argynniinae: Argynnis**

\*Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*)

Semiramis Fritillary (*Speyeria coronis semiramis*)

Comstock's Fritillary (*Speyeria callippe comstocki*)

#### **Subfamily Melitaeinae: Crescents and Checkerspots**

Wright's Checkerspot (*Thessalia leanira wrighti*)

California Patch (*Chlosyne californica*)

\*Bordered Patch (*Chlosyne lacinia crocale*)

Gabb's Checkerspot (*Chlosyne gabbii*)

Imperial Checkerspot (*Dymasia dymas imperialis*)

\*Texan Crescent (*Anthanassa texana*)

Phaon Crescent (*Phyciodes phaon*)

\*Field Crescent (*Phycoides pulchellus (campestris)*)

Mylitta Crescent (*Phyciodes mylitta*)

Variable Checkerspot (*Euphydryas chalcedona*)

Chalcedon Checkerspot (*E. chalcedona chalcedona*)

Henne's Checkerspot (*E. chalcedona hennei*)

\***Quino Checkerspot** (*Euphydryas editha quino*)

#### **Subfamily Nymphalinae: True Brushfoots**

Satyr Comma (*Polygonia satyrus*)

Zephyr Hoary Comma (*Polygonia zephyrus*)

California Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis californica*)

Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

\*Milbert's Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis milberti subpallida*)

American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*)  
 Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)  
 West Coast Lady (*Vanessa annabella*)  
 Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta rubria*)  
 Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia grisea*)

#### **Subfamily Limenitidinae: Admirals and Relatives**

Lorquin's Admiral (*Limenitis lorquini*)  
 California Sister (*Adelpha bredowii californica*)

#### **Subfamily Satyrinae: Satyrs**

Common California Ringlet (*Coenonympha californica californica*)  
 Sylvan Great Basin Wood-Nymph (*Cercyonis sthenele silvestris*)

#### **Subfamily Danainae: Milkweed Butterflies**

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)  
 Queen (*Danaus gilippus thersippus*)

## **SUPERFAMILY HESPERIOIDEA** **The Skippers**

### **FAMILY HESPERIIDAE: The Skippers**

#### **Subfamily Pyrginae: Spread-wing Skippers**

Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus californicus*)  
 Hammock Skipper (*Polygonus leo arizonensis*)  
 Long-tailed Skipper (*Urbanus proteus*)  
 Plain Longtail (*Urbanus simplicius*)  
 Northern Cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*)  
 \*Golden-headed Scallopwing (*Staphylus ceos*)  
 \*Texas Powdered-Skipper (*Systasea pulverulenta*)  
 \*Arizona Powdered Skipper (*Systasea zampa*)  
 Sleepy Duskywing (*Erynnis brizo lacustra*)  
 Propertius Duskywing (*Erynnis propertius*)  
 Mournful Duskywing (*Erynnis tristis*)  
 Pacuvius Duskywing (*Erynnis pacuvius*)  
 Funereal Duskywing (*Erynnis funeralis*)  
 Afranius Duskywing (*Erynnis afranius*)  
 \***Laguna Mt. Skipper** (*P. ruralis lagunae*)

Small Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus scriptura*)  
 White Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus albescens*)  
 \*Erichson's White-Skipper (*Heliopetes domicella*)  
 Northern White-Skipper (*Heliopetes ericetorum*)  
 \*Common Sootywing (*Pholisora catullus*)  
 Mohave Sootywing (*Hesperopsis libya*)

#### **Subfamily Herperiinae: Grass Skippers**

Orange Skipperling (*Copaeodes aurantiacia*)  
 Fiery Skipper (*Hylephila phyleus muertovalle*)  
 Alkali Skipper (*Pseudocopaeodes eunus*)  
 Juba Skipper (*Hesperia juba*)  
 Leussler's Skipper (*Hesperia comma leussleri*)  
 Columbian Skipper (*Hesperia columbia*)  
 Sandhill Skipper (*Polites sabuleti sabuleti*)  
 Sachem (*Atalopedes campestris*)  
 Rural Skipper (*Ochlodes agricola*)  
 Woodland Skipper (*Ochlodes sylvanoides*)  
 Umber Skipper (*Poanes melane*)  
 Harbison Dun Skipper (*Euphyes vestris harbisoni*)  
 Eufala Skipper (*Lerodea eufala*)  
 \*Wandering Skipper (*Panoquina errans*)

#### **Subfamily Megathyminae: Giant Skippers**

California Giant-Skipper (*Agathymus stephensi*)  
 Yucca Giant-Skipper (*Megathymus yuccae*)  
     Martin's Giant Skipper (*M. yuccae martini*)  
     Harbison Giant Skipper (*M. yuccae harbisoni*)

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The following additional species have occurred only accidentally or are not officially documented in the San Diego County.

Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*)  
 Large Orange Sulphur (*Phoebis agarithe*)  
 Boisduval's Yellow (*Eurema boisduvaliana*)  
 Little Yellow (*Eurema lisa*)  
 Mimosa Yellow (*Eurema nise*)  
 Behr's Hairstreak (*Satyrium behrii*)  
 Ares Metalmark (*Emesis ares*)

Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)  
Mexican Cloudywing (*Thorybes mexicana*)  
Lindsey's Skipper (*Hesperia lindseyi*)  
Brazilian Skipper (*Calpododes ethlius*)  
Violet-banded Skipper (*Nyctelius nyctelius*)

Nature Festivals of San Diego County prepared this checklist with professional review by David Faulkner of the San Diego Natural History Museum and Dr. John Brown of the Smithsonian Institute. It lists all species and subspecies, which are known to have bred in the County, or are regular strays. The species' common names are from the *North American Butterfly Association's Checklist of North American Butterflies*, 2nd Edition. The common name of the subspecies are from Emmel and Emmel's book, *Butterflies of Southern California* and James A. Scott's book, *The Butterflies of North America* and Emmel's book, *Systematics of Western North American Butterflies*.

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Additions and amendments to this checklist are welcomed.

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