

Delmarva Tip Butterfly Count 2024

By Brian Taber



Juniper Hairstreak from the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge during the Delmarva Tip count. Photo by Nancy Barnhart.

This was year 26 for our annual butterfly count on the lower Eastern Shore. The weather cooperated with sunshine and seasonally hot temperatures, though our total of 37 species was on the low side. We often find 40-45 species, with our all-time high being 47. Thanks to our dedicated participants: Lisa Nickel, Ginny Broome, Adrienne Frank, Gary Driscoll, Andee Nacarrato, Shirley Devan, Babs Giffin, Portia Belden, Nancy Barnhart, Tom and Sue Crockett, Edie Bradbury, Ken Lorenzen, Grace Hanners, Paul Anderson, compiler Brian Taber and Lydia Hansen, of the Eastern Shore of VA National Wildlife Refuge.

Highlights included two Giant Swallowtails, very rare on any east coast counts and found yearly here since 2013, with the exception of 2023; 250 Spicebush Swallowtails; two Juniper Hairstreaks;



Volunteers from the Delmarva Tip Butterfly Count.



Teta Kain pictured with Susan Crockett

49 American Snouts; four Viceroy's; 68 Tawny Emperors; an amazing 511 Silver-spotted Skippers and 17 Saltmarsh Skippers. There were 1538 total butterflies. Often found, but not this year were Painted Lady, Common Wood-Nymph and Swarthy Skipper.

Sector C's count on Sunday was probably the first count in a very long time that Teta Kain did not participate in. She was sadly missed by our group, but we were very glad to have spent the last couple of years surveying the sector with her so that we could write down the survey sites that she was remembering from memory. ~ Susan Crockett