

Chippokes Butterfly Count 2025

By Joni Carlson



Volunteers from the Jamestown Sector of the 2025 Chippokes Butterfly Count.

or so shy of missing our large summer counts of Eastern Tiger Swallowtails and Cloudless Sulphurs with other “high” counts falling on uncommon species! **The gold-medal winner of the latest “high” count this year was the Silver-spotted Skipper** with 214 individuals counted! The silver medal went to the Zebra Swallowtail with 72 individuals, and our little Pearl Crescent showed an impressive 69 count, rounding out our podium. **Drumroll, please...for our Monarch butterfly friends: we had a high count of 22 butterflies this count!** That is truly something to celebrate.

33 volunteers gathered the 27th year of continuous NABA butterfly count data for the Chippokes State Park circle on Sunday, July 13, 2025. The weather was perfect for the count...hot and humid! Though the count this year did not add to our life-long list of 84 species, we did have solid numbers and some new “high” counts for individual species.

The 2025 count yielded 42 individual species with a total tally of 1,148 butterflies counted. The numbers were down from last year (49 species and 1,496 tallied), yet the numbers still demonstrate the third-highest count of the 27-year history! We seemed to be just a week



Silver-spotted Skipper, the most abundant species from the 2025 Chippokes circle. Photo by Tom Crockett.



Snowberry Clearwing moth with Ailanthus Webworm moth. Photo by Tom Crockett.

Thank you to our 33 volunteers capturing data on both sides of the James River, which included volunteers from **FOUR** Virginia Master Naturalist Chapters (Historic Rivers, Historic Southside, Middle Peninsula and Riverine). We couldn't do it without you! Many kudos to CVWO for paying our NABA volunteer count fees again this year and to Chippokes State Park Staff for covering our vehicle parking fees once again. Your support of this incredible citizen science endeavor is much appreciated