



Canadian Tiger Swallowtail

Photo: Wayne Brehaut

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Athabasca Butterfly Count 2009

You and your family are invited to participate in the tenth annual Athabasca Butterfly Count. This is a chance to learn more about natural history and help monitor the ecological health of our area. No previous experience is necessary.

The Athabasca Butterfly Count will be held on **Saturday 11 July** between 12 PM and 4 PM. We will meet at the Muskeg Creek Chalet (at 56 Street and 49 Avenue, near Landing Trail Intermediate School, Athabasca). Bring your own bagged lunch at 12 PM and watch a short slide show about butterflies. Participants will be arranged into groups and “experts” will be matched with those who don’t know the difference between a “White Admiral” and a “Cabbage White”. Children are encouraged to attend but an adult must accompany those 12 and under.

The count is done by observing butterflies in the field as well as by catch and release. Some butterfly nets will be available for loan. If you do not wish to go into the field but still participate, you can be a “garden watcher”.

Time	Activity
12:00 PM	Lunch at Muskeg Creek Chalet, Bring your own bagged lunch. Muskeg Creek Chalet is a log building located in Athabasca on 56 Street near Landing Trail Intermediate School.
12:30 PM	Review of what species we are likely to encounter. Formation of groups of 4-8 people. One or two groups will stay around town but others will travel by car to nearby locations.
1:00-4:00 PM	Participants in the field count butterflies in different habitats within a defined 7.5-mile radius of Athabasca.
3:30-4:00 PM	Group leaders drop off count results at Muskeg Creek Chalet.

Cost: Free. Previously we had asked for donations to the North American Butterfly Association but now most Alberta counts compile the data separately.

Organizers: For further information contact: Robert Holmberg (675-6596, robert@athabascau.ca) or Wayne Brehaut (675-4461, wayneb@athabascau.ca).

Come out and have fun!

(Over for more information)

What to bring: Here is a checklist of things you **may** wish to bring:

Item	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer clothing appropriate for the weather	If you or your children are not acclimatized to long periods of sunshine, please think about a hat, long sleeves and long pants. Sunscreen lotions are an alternative but often need repeated applications.
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking shoes	Even though one need not run to observe or catch butterflies, participants often get very enthusiastic and so walking shoes or “runners”, are recommended over most sandals.
<input type="checkbox"/> Water	A bottle of water is recommended for each participant.
<input type="checkbox"/> Insect net (optional)	We will have some nets for loan, but if you have one, please bring it. You can also make butterfly nets easily from materials available locally. Contact one of the organizers for plans.
<input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars (optional)	An alternative to using a net is to view butterflies with binoculars. Binoculars that can focus closer than 3 m are the best. However they can be expensive and heavy to carry around all afternoon. We recommend omitting them if you use a net.
<input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly book (optional)	We will provide various identification materials, but if you have or wish to purchase a good book on local butterflies, we recommend one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acorn, John. 1993. <i>Butterflies of Alberta</i>. Lone Pine Press Available in Athabasca.• Bird, C.D. and others. 1995. <i>Alberta Butterflies</i>. Edmonton: Alberta Provincial Museum. Available from the Provincial Museum.• Glasberg, J. 2001. <i>Butterflies Through Binoculars: The West</i>. Toronto: Oxford University Press. Available from larger bookstores.• Layberry, R.A. and others. 1998. <i>Butterflies of Canada</i>. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Available from larger bookstores.• Opler, P.A. and A.B. Wright. 1999. <i>Western Butterflies</i>, 2nd edition. Peterson Field Guides. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Available from larger bookstores.
	Some of these may also be available from local libraries.
<input type="checkbox"/> Glass jars and small cooler with ice (optional)	If you really get serious about identifications, you may wish to collect some specimens and keep them cool with ice before bringing them to one of the butterfly experts that we will have at the count. Afterward identification, the specimens can be released.