

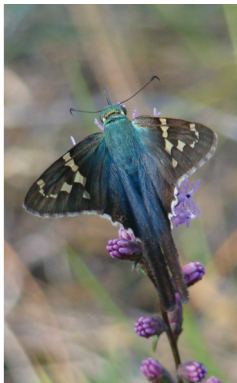
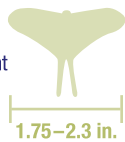
LONG-TAILED SKIPPER

Urbanus proteus

DORSAL ID: Dark, long and straight (may be broken/shorter) tails; iridescent blue-green body and wing bases; wings warm black with arc of white spots on FW.

VENTRAL ID: Wings are brownish-gray; FW with white arc; HW dark bands; tail dark.

Dorantes Skipper, *Urbanus dorentes*, similar but has short tail, rarely seen here.



CLOUDLESS SULPHUR

Phoebis sennae

DORSAL ID: Bright yellow (♂) to very pale (♀); no black shadows (clouds) unlike most sulphurs; female has FW dark central spot.

VENTRAL ID: Bright, lemon yellow or pale green; few if any markings (♂); female (♀) HW with two white central spots and pink-brown markings; FW with large pink-brown cluster.

Other yellow butterflies migrate but are much smaller.



The Atlantic Flyway is a recognized bird migration route. It is also a migration path for butterflies. Coastal WildScapes is working with barrier island resource managers to establish when butterfly species highlighted in this guide migrate along the Georgia coast.

FALL MIGRATION SEASON: August–November

Fall migrating butterflies fly with obvious determination south. Note that Cloudless Sulphurs may migrate north or south.

Beach and dune systems are good locations to observe this phenomenon.

Large open areas on the western edge of islands are also good observation locations.

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Photographs by Christa F. Hayes

COASTAL GEORGIA FALL MIGRATORY BUTTERFLY GUIDE



American Lady



Monarch



AMERICAN LADY

Vanessa virginiensis

DORSAL ID: Orange; FW has dark arabesque marks and wing tips with a white to cream wedge on leading edge; HW edged with row of small blue and black eyes.

VENTRAL ID: Cryptic; soft brown and cream pattern; FW orange-coral may show and white to cream wedge on leading edge; HW with two large eyes.

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*, very similar but rarely seen here.



1.75–2.6 in.



Gulf Fritillary

MONARCH

Danaus plexippus

DORSAL ID: Rich orange cells outlined in black; wide black borders speckled with white dots; black thorax and abdomen.

VENTRAL ID: Creamy, pale orange cells outlined in black; wide black border speckled with white dots; spotted thorax.

The migration period of these three large orange butterflies overlap. Use this ID guide to distinguish between them. Other butterfly species also migrate in the fall but are not similar in color or size.



3.5–4 in.

GULF FRITILLARY

Agraulis vanillae

DORSAL ID: Bright orange (♂) to brownish orange (♀); FW leading edge with a few white spots; HW outer margin black and orange chain; orange thorax and abdomen.

VENTRAL ID: Large silvery-white, oval spots in cells; no border but edged with various sized spots and thin black line; striped thorax.



2.75–3.75 in.