



## [Butterflies and Moths of North America](#)

Occurrence maps, species accounts, checklists, and photographs



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### Announcement

We are seeking skilled lepidopterists to serve as state coordinators.  
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## Species Detail

### Baltimore

*Euphydryas phaeton* (Drury, 1773)



Baltimore

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Caterpillar

### Attributes of *Euphydryas phaeton*

**Family:** [Brush-footed Butterflies](#) (*Nymphalidae*)

**Subfamily:** [True Brushfoots](#) (*Nymphalinae*)

**Identification:** Geographically variable. Upperside is black with red-orange crescents on outer margins of both wings and rows of creamy white spots inward.

**Life history:** Males perch near the ground to find females. Eggs are laid in groups of 100-700 under host plant leaves. Newly-hatched caterpillars move to the tip of the plant and feed together in a web which is enlarged downward as the caterpillars consume more of the plant. These caterpillars suffer high mortality from falling off the plant and from parasitism by wasps. Fourth-stage caterpillars hibernate in rolled leaves on the ground.

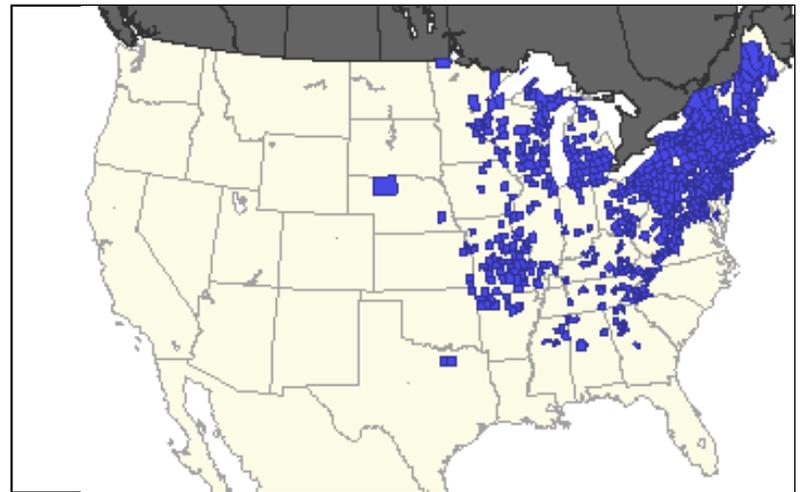
**Flight:** One brood; from May-June in the south, June-August in the north.

**Wing span:** 1 3/4 - 2 3/4 inches (4.5 - 7 cm).

**Caterpillar hosts:** Plants where eggs are laid and that caterpillars eat before hibernating are turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), hairy beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*), English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and false foxglove (*Aureolaria*). After overwintering, caterpillars may continue to use these plants, but may also wander and feed on unrelated plants including arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*), common lousewort (*Pedicularis canadensis*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*).

**Adult food:** Nectar from flowers of milkweed,

### Documented Records for *Euphydryas phaeton*



■ Record  
■ Data Unavailable  
■ No Record

0 260 520 780 1040 1300 mi



Display alternate map range:

viburnum, and wild rose.

**Habitat:** Wet meadows, bogs, and marshes in the northeast part of the range; dry open or wooded hillsides in the southwest.

**Range:** Very local. Nova Scotia west across the Great Lakes region to southeast Manitoba; south through the eastern United States to northern Georgia, northern Mississippi, and northeast Oklahoma. Isolated records in northeast Texas and Nebraska.

**Conservation:** Some regional populations may be declining.

**NatureServe Global Status:** G4 - Apparently secure globally, though it might be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

**Management needs:** None reported.



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