



Find the rarest butterfly in Hattah Kulkyne National Park

Butterflies are beautiful This identification guide helps you spot the threatened Arid Bronze Azure butterfly



Two-spotted Line-blue
Nacaduba biocellata

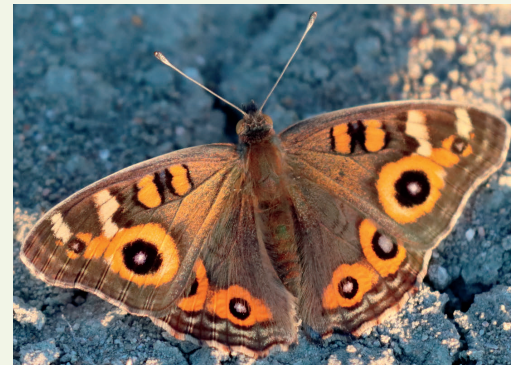


Common Grass-blue
Zizinia otis labradus

Blues



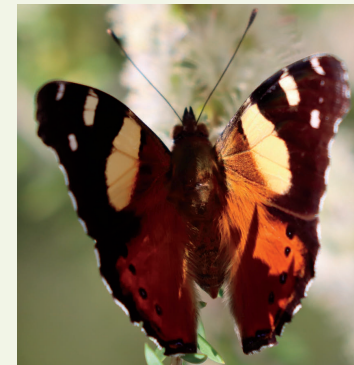
Saltbush Blue
Theclinesthes serpentatus



Meadow Argus
Junonia villida



Painted Lady
Vanessa kershawi



Yellow Admiral
Vanessa itea



Australian Wanderer
Danaus petilia

BROWNS

Small 20mm



Medium 45mm



Large 70mm



Small Grass Yellow
Eurema smilax

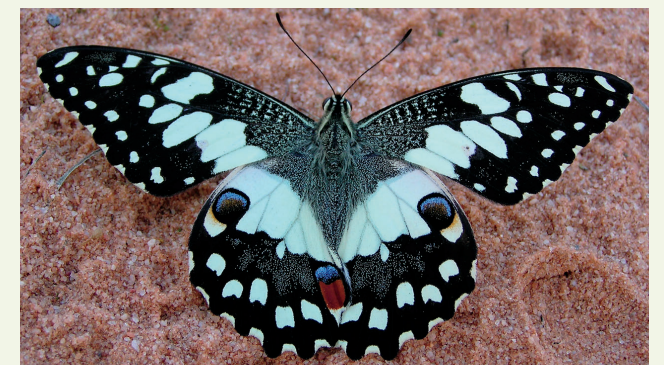


Cabbage White
Pieris rapae



Caper White
Belenois java

Whites & Yellows



Chequered Swallowtail
Papilio demolius sethenelus

Swallowtails



Satin Azure
Ogyris amaryllis meridionalis



Arid Bronze Azure
Ogyris subterrestris subterrestris

AZURES



Dainty Swallowtail
Papilio anactus



Butterflies of Hattah Kulkyne National Park

Blues

Small butterflies, constantly on the move, fluttering over low shrubs. The overall impression is of a blue butterfly, often with flashes of iridescence. On cool mornings they bask with their wings open. The caterpillars are often attended by small black ants.

- **Two-spotted Line-blue:** Larval food plants - wattles. Flight period - Spring-Summer.
- **Common Grass Blue:** Larval food plants - peas like *Daviesia* and *Cullen*. Flight period - Spring-Autumn, common.
- **Saltbush Blue:** Larval food plants - saltbush. Flight period - Spring-Autumn.

Browns

Medium butterflies that appear "brownish" in flight. Rapid, gliding flight, landing often and basking with wings open. Many are also common in urban areas.

- **Meadow Argus:** Larval food plants - several herbs and forbs. Flight period - Spring-Summer. Common.
- **Painted Lady:** Larval food plants - daisies including Everlastings and Capeweed. Flight period - Spring-Summer. Common.
- **Yellow Admiral:** Larval food plant - Nettles. Flight period - Spring.
- **Australian Wanderer:** Larval food plants - Bush Banana and Bush Bean. Flight period - Summer

Whites and Yellows

Small-medium butterflies with a slow, fluttering flight, often over low shrubs or close to the ground.

- **Small Grass Yellow:** Larval food plant - Cassia. Flight periods - Spring and Autumn peaks. Not common.
- **Cabbage White:** Larval food plant - Cabbages and friends. Flight period - Summer-Autumn. Common.
- **Caper White:** Larval food plant - Caper plants. Flight period - Summer. Caper Whites are often blown in from the north in large numbers. At night they cluster together on low shrubs.

Swallowtails

Large butterflies with a low, gliding flight, often looking like they're about to land, but rarely do.

- **Dainty Swallowtail:** Larval food plants - Citrus. Flight period - Summer-Autumn
- **Chequered Swallowtail:** Larval food plants - Scurf-peas including *Cullen*. Flight period - Spring-Autumn. Not common.

Azures

Medium butterflies with a blackish appearance and all are superficially similar. They rely on attendant ants to protect and rear the caterpillars.

Several Azures (*Ogyris amaryllis meridionalis*, *O. genoveva*, *O. olane*) use Mistletoe as a food plant for caterpillars so are seen fluttering high around trees with Mistletoe. Flight period - Summer. Not common.



And the rarest butterfly is ...

Arid Bronze Azure (*Ogyris subterrestris subterrestris*) has a rapid, swirling flight at head height, often chasing one another or dog-fighting. Males gather in bare areas, landing frequently. Both sexes perform a characteristic "closed wing shuffle" whilst at rest. They do not bask with open wings.

No larval food plant; entirely dependent on host Sugar Ant. Flight period Oct-Dec with a second peak in Feb-Apr if the Summer is mild.

Only a few populations are known in Victoria and South Australia, but the butterfly can be locally common on Raakajlim and the north end of Hattah-Kulkyne National Park.