



Delhi Butterfly Corridors

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As per Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) report, the creation of butterfly corridors in Delhi with close to 100 hotspots is underway.

At present, there are 17 hotspots where butterfly parks or gardens have been created in the last few years.

A variety of host plants will be grown at such parks and gardens in the green corridor to attract more butterflies.

BUTTERFLY COUNT
2017
69 species

2018
75

Third butterfly count in Sept 2019

100 hotspots to come up by September

17 already in place

1. Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Garden of Five Senses
3. Qutub area
4. Hauz Khas deer park
5. Aravalli Biodiversity Park (Gurgaon)
6. Aravalli Biodiversity Park (Vasant Kunj)
7. Najafgarh area
8. Nihal Vihar park
9. Okhla Bird Sanctuary
10. Lodhi Garden
11. National Zoological Park
12. Kamla Nehru Ridge
13. Yamuna flood plain
14. Indraprastha Park
15. Ashoka Garden
16. Yamuna Biodiversity Park
17. Swarn Jayanti Park (Rohini)

Green corridor
Urban cluster

AIM To increase butterfly numbers

HOW Host plants of different butterfly species to attract them from one hotspot to another

SOME RARE BUTTERFLIES SEEN IN DELHI

Psyche | Indian red flash | Red pierrot | Chocolate pansy | African babul blue | Painted lady

SOME SPECIES AND THEIR HOST PLANTS

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| <p>LARGE SALMON ARAB (<i>Colotis fausta</i>) Host plant <i>Cadaba fruticosa</i></p> <p>SMALL SALMON ARAB Host plants <i>Salvadora persica</i>, <i>Salvadora oledoides</i></p> | <p>WHITE ORANGE TIP (<i>Ixias marianne</i>) Host plants <i>Capparis decidua</i>, <i>Capparis sepiaria</i></p> <p>YELLOW ORANGE TIP (<i>Ixias pyrene</i>) Host plants <i>Capparis decidua</i>, <i>Capparis sepiaria</i></p> <p>SMALL ORANGE TIP (<i>Colotis etrida</i>) Host plants <i>Salvadora persica</i>, <i>Salvadora oledoides</i>, <i>Cadaba fruticosa</i></p> |
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- At most locations there are already some native trees and plant species that are hosts to butterflies, but additional plantation is being undertaken to ensure a diversity of species arrive there.
- The closer the green areas, the easier it will be for butterflies to move from one location to another.
- A large butterfly garden exists at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary and Garden of Five Senses.
 - There are many parks in the surrounding of these locations attracting more butterflies.
- In September, 2017, the first butterfly month was observed in Delhi by BNHS and Delhi forest department, culminating in a record species count.
- In 2018, 75 species were recorded in urban and forested locations.
 - Among the rare species recorded were the common redaye, common short silverline, dingy swift, common blue line, Balkan pierrot and spotted pierrot, among others.

- The survey over the past two years has shown that diversity of butterfly species was very low at new parks that have ornamental and exotic plants.
- The diversity is higher at places like the Ridge, which has native species of plants and trees.

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

- The BNHS, a pan-India wildlife research organization, has been promoting the cause of nature conservation since 1883.
- BNHS Mission: Conservation of nature, primarily biological diversity through action based on research, education and public awareness
- BNHS Vision: Premier independent scientific organization with a broad based constituency, excelling in the conservation of threatened species and habitats.