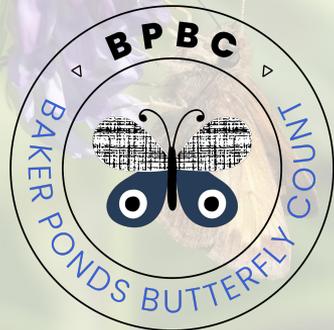


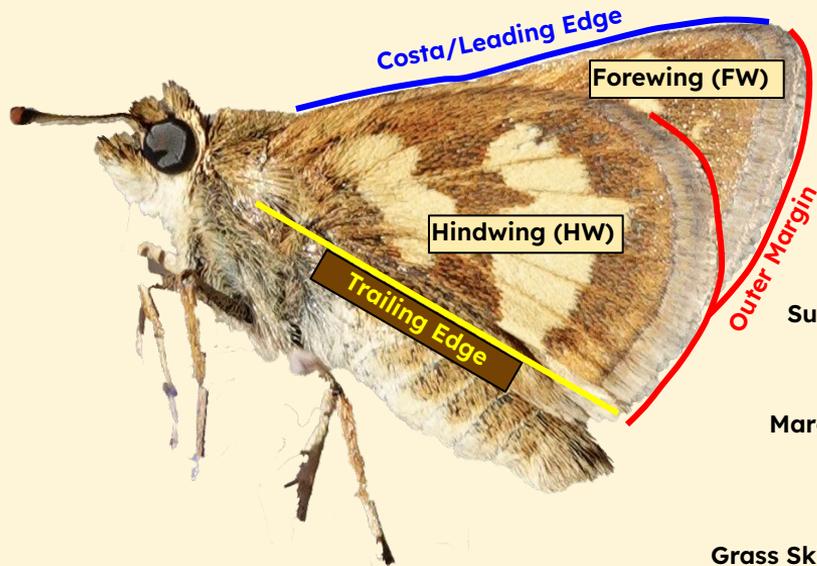
The Confusing Skippers of New Hampshire



Presented by George DeWolf,
Baker Ponds Butterfly Count Coordinator

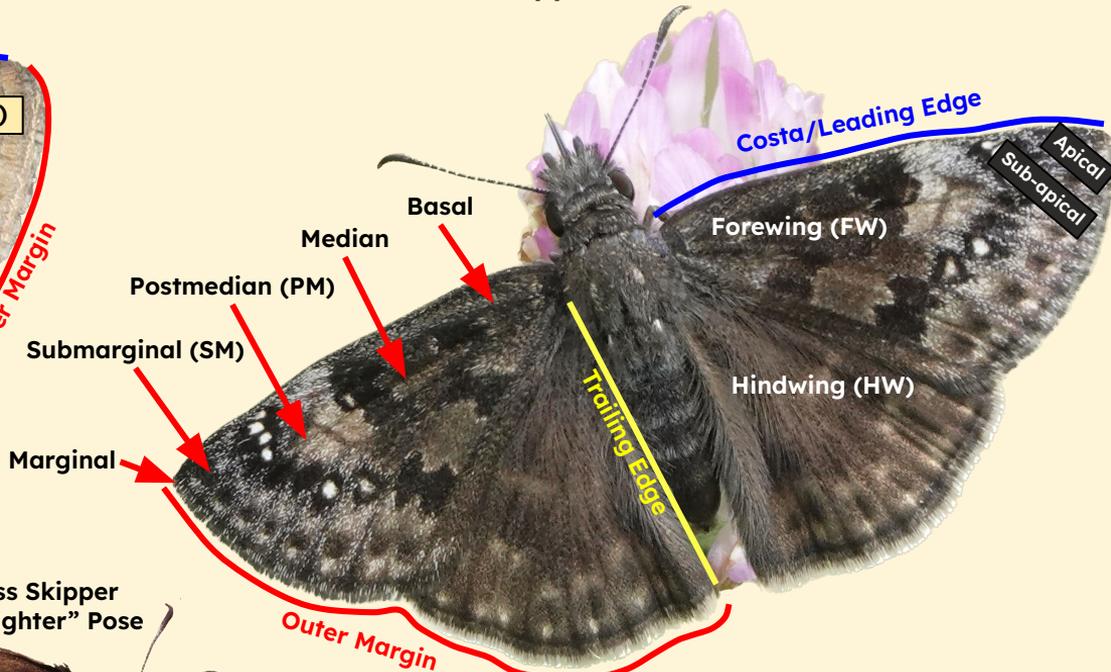
Butterfly Terminology

Underside/Ventral



Grass Skipper
(Subfamily Hesperinae)

Uppside/Dorsal



Spreadwing Skipper
(Subfamily Pyrginae)



Covered next Wednesday @ 6:30 PM in
Demystifying Those Confoundingly Confusing Duskywings

Butterfly Families

Order: Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

Superfamily: Papilionoidea (Butterflies)

Papilionidae (Swallowtails)

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail
Black Swallowtail
Spicebush Swallowtail
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Eastern Giant Swallowtail
Pipevine Swallowtail

Kaufman: pages 20-45
Swift: pages 16-35

Pieridae (Whites & Sulphurs)

Cabbage White
Clouded Sulphur
Orange Sulphur
Mustard White
Pink-edged Sulphur

Kaufman: pages 46-77
Swift: pages 36-73

Lycaenidae (Gossamer-winged)

American Copper
Eastern-tailed Blue
Eastern Pine Elfin
Gray Hairstreak
Silvery Blue
Banded Hairstreak
Karner Blue
Edwards' Hairstreak
Summer Azure
Northern Azure
Coral Hairstreak
Frosted Elfin
Striped Hairstreak
Harvester
Brown Elfin
Bog Copper
Henry's Elfin
White M Hairstreak
Acadian Hairstreak
Bronze Copper
Early Hairstreak
(26 total species obs on iNat)

Kaufman: pages 78-141
Swift: pages 74-145

Nymphalidae (Brushfoots)

Monarch
Red-spotted Admiral
Great Spangled Fritillary
Common Ringlet
American Lady
Atlantis Fritillary
Mourning Cloak
Common Wood Nymph
Pearl Crescent
Viceroy
Red Admiral
Northern Pearly-eye
Silver-bordered Fritillary
Little Wood Satyr
Northern Crescent
Green Comma
Aphrodite Fritillary
Painted Lady
Harris's Checkerspot
Eastern Comma
White Mountain Fritillary
(38 total species obs on iNat)

Kaufman: pages 152-253
Swift: pages 158-279

Hesperiidae (Skippers)

Silver-spotted Skipper
Dun Skipper
Long Dash
Hobomok Skipper
Peck's Skipper
Wild Indigo Duskywing
Northern Broken-dash
Tawny-edged Skipper
Least Skipper
European Skipper
Juvenal's Duskywing
Little Glassywing
Zabulon Skipper
Delaware Skipper
Arctic Skipper
Broad-winged Skipper
Pepper and Salt Skipper
Dreamy Duskywing
Indian Skipper
Northern Cloudywing
Horace's Duskywing
(38 total species obs on iNat)

Kaufman: pages 254-363
Swift: pages 280-399

Species listed here listed in order by number of iNaturalist observations in NH as of 4/30/2024 (most observed at top)

Family: Hesperidae

Subfamily: Eudaminae
(Dicot Skippers)

Family: Hesperidae

Subfamily:
Heteropterinae
(Skipperlings)

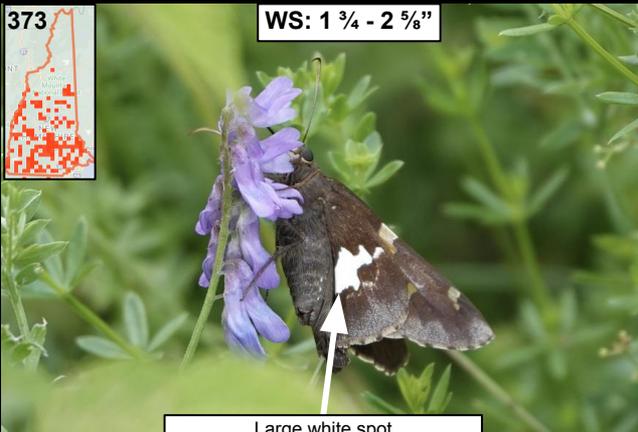
Unmistakable Skippers

Silver-spotted Skipper

Arctic Skipper



WS: 1 3/4 - 2 5/8"

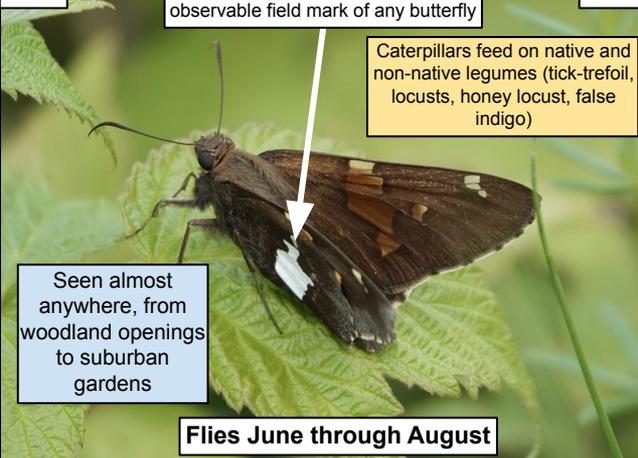


K256

Large white spot
Perhaps the most glaringly
observable field mark of any butterfly

S281

Caterpillars feed on native and
non-native legumes (tick-trefoil,
locusts, honey locust, false
indigo)

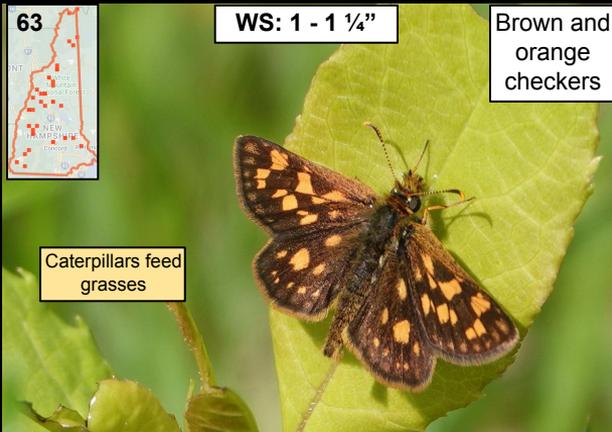


Seen almost
anywhere, from
woodland openings
to suburban
gardens

Flies June through August



WS: 1 - 1 1/4"



Brown and
orange
checkers

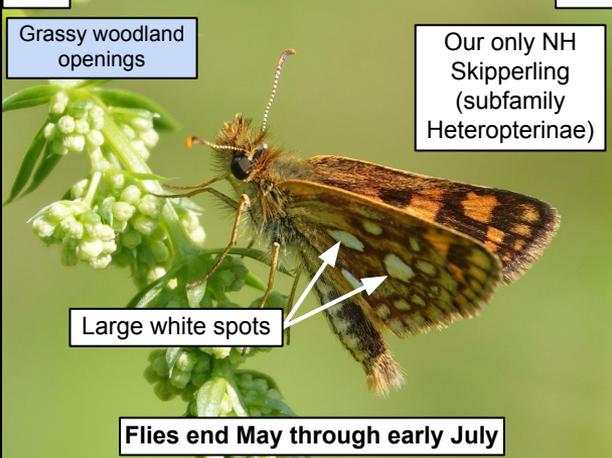
Caterpillars feed
grasses

K300

Grassy woodland
openings

S332

Our only NH
Skipperling
(subfamily
Heteropterinae)



Large white spots

Flies end May through early July

The Ventrally Plain Grass Skippers

Dun Skipper

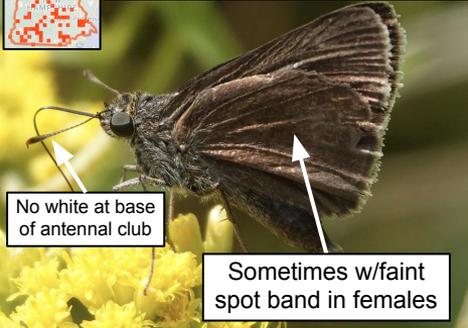
European Skipper

Least Skipper

Delaware Skipper

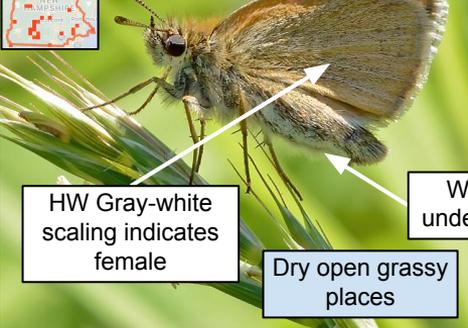
150 WS: 1 1/8 - 1 3/8"

Duns are dark. Be careful not to confuse w/ventral view of Little Glassywing in S NH particularly if there's a faint HW pattern



K326 Flies end June to mid Aug S361

81 WS: 1 - 1 1/8" Mike Thomas



K304 Flies end June to mid July S336

100 WS: 7/8 - 1 1/8" Mike Thomas

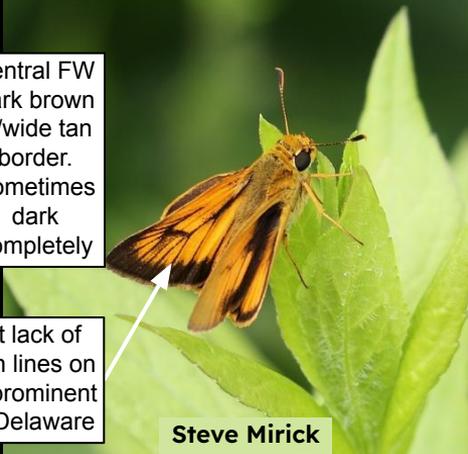
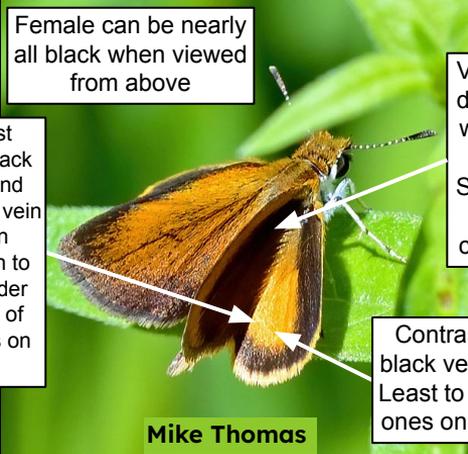
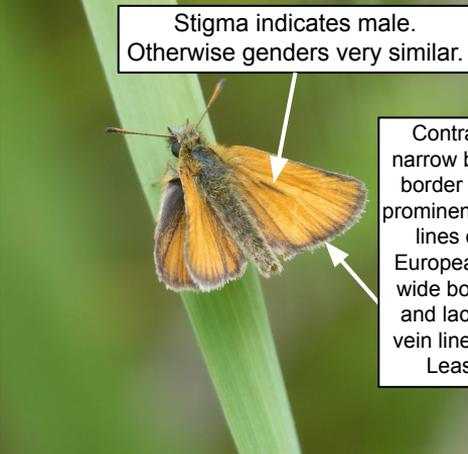
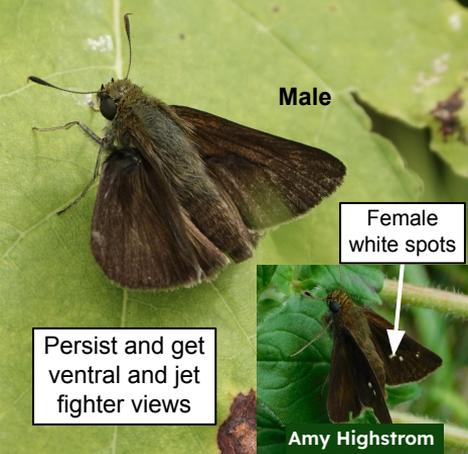


K304 Flies mid June to early Sept S335

65 WS: 1 - 1 11/16" Mike Thomas



K336 Flies in July S364



One More Ventrally Plain Grass Skipper

Tawny-edged Skipper



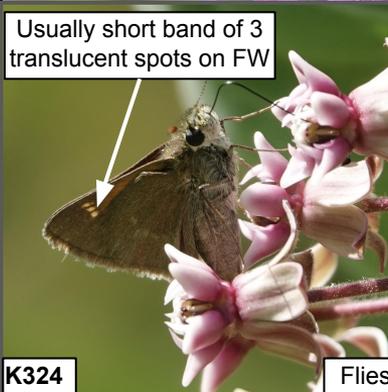
50

Mike Thomas

WS: 7/8 - 1 7/16"

Steve Mirick

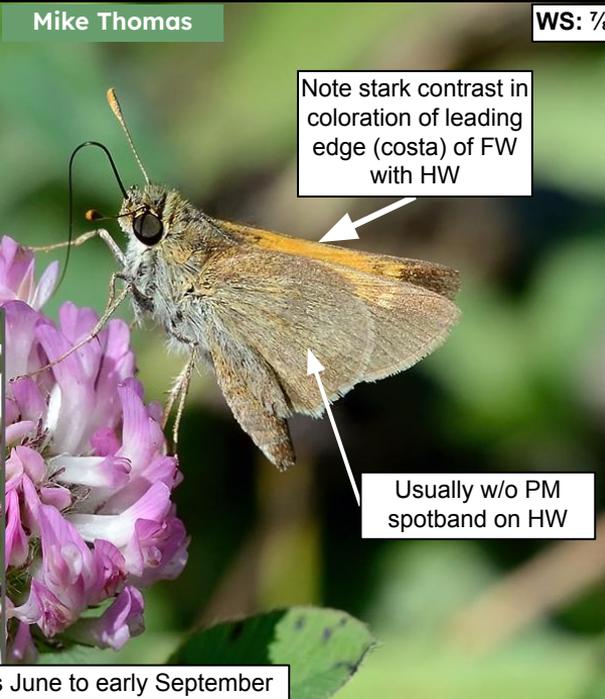
Long Dash



Usually short band of 3 translucent spots on FW

K324

Flies June to early September



Note stark contrast in coloration of leading edge (costa) of FW with HW

Usually w/o PM spotband on HW



Can look strikingly like the Long Dash dorsally, but note the "dash" typically appears segmented on the Tawny-edged

Male

Predominantly dark dorsally. Contrast with other plain skippers. Darker than all 5 of the "plain" skippers presented, except for the Dun.

S357

Hobomok Skipper

220 **WS: 1 - 1 11/16"** **Woodland openings**

No stranded/standalone spots

Tan area spans majority of FW costa

Cells 1-2 aligned

Rectangular spots for cells 3-7 follow straight line

Can be confused w/ male Zabulon in SE NH

Zabulon Skipper

K330 Flies end May to mid July **S368**

Long Dash

208 **WS: 1 1/8 - 1 1/2"** **Steve Mirick**

Rectangular spots 1 & 2 displaced inward

Rectangular spots 3 & 4 aligned and not displaced outwardly

K322 Flies June to August **S355**

Peck's Skipper

197 **WS: 1 - 1 1/4"**

Wide basal and PM bands

Rectangular spot 3 juts outward

K322 Flies end May to early Sep **S356**

Northern Broken-dash

89 **WS: 1 - 1 1/2"**

Broken dash more obvious on darker female

Female

K326 Flies July to early August **S360**

Female dark pocahontas form

Steve Mirick

Be careful not to confuse with Dusted Skipper

Named after Native American chief that assisted Pilgrims in 1620

Long Dash

Long Dash

Male

Female

Occasionally basal and PM bands merge

Occasionally basal and PM bands merge

Named in honor of William Dandridge Peck (1763-1822), Harvard natural history professor and first native-born entomologist in the US¹
¹Missouri Department of Conservation

Little Glassywing

Colleen Prieto

Often present, spotband is narrower and comprised of distinct spots as compared to wider, more continuous band on Northern Broken-dash

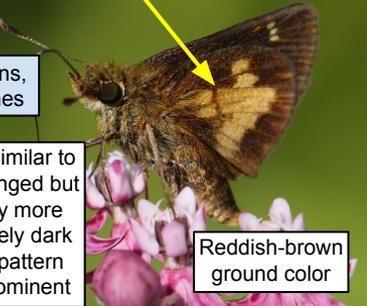
K326 **S361**

Mulberry Wing

37 **WS: 1 1/8 - 1 7/16"** **Steve Mirick**



Airplane w/swept wings or ghost with belt



Bogs, fens, & Marshes

Pattern similar to Broad-winged but ventrally more extensively dark brown, pattern more prominent

Reddish-brown ground color

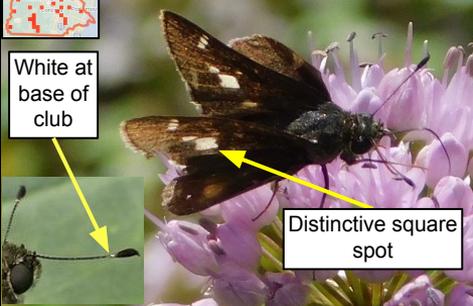
K330 Flies in July **S370**

Little Glassywing

37 **WS: 1 1/16 - 1 1/2"** **Amy Highstrom**



White at base of club



Distinctive square spot

K326 Flies July to early August **S361**

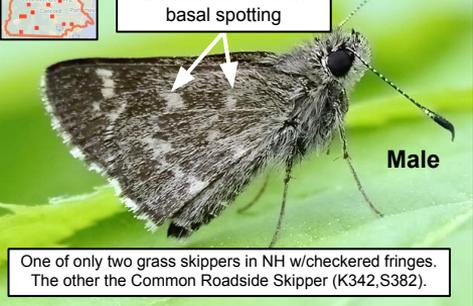
Pepper and Salt Skipper

41 **WS: 1 - 1 3/16"** **Steve Mirick**



Salt and pepper coloring only on males

Variable PM band and basal spotting



Male

One of only two grass skippers in NH w/checkered fringes. The other the Common Roadside Skipper (K342, S382).

K342 Flies end May thru June **S382**

Indian Skipper

29 **WS: 1 1/4 - 1 3/8"** **Mike Thomas**



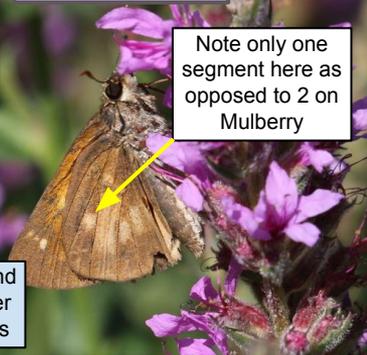

Basal spot

3rd & 4th spots are aligned and displaced outwardly. None of the other spots are aligned

K318 Flies in June **S354**

52 **Steve Mirick**

Broad-winged Skipper

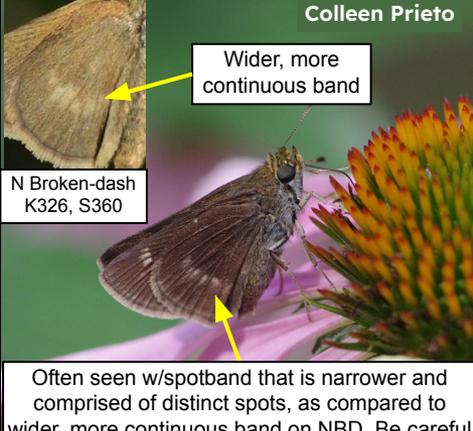
Note only one segment here as opposed to 2 on Mulberry

Fresh and saltwater marshes

K336 Flies mid July thru August **S371**

Colleen Prieto

Wider, more continuous band

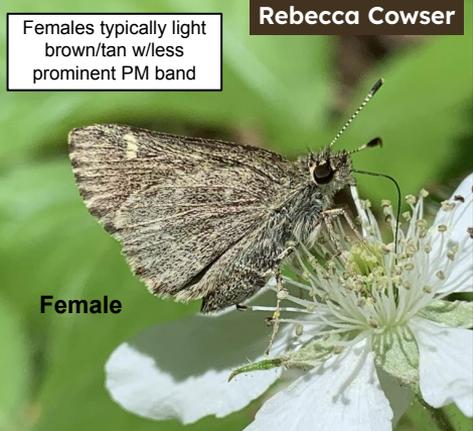


N Broken-dash K326, S360

Often seen w/spotband that is narrower and comprised of distinct spots, as compared to wider, more continuous band on NBD. Be careful not to confuse w/Dun (K326, S361) in S NH

Rebecca Cowser

Females typically light brown/tan w/less prominent PM band



Female

Mike Thomas

Basal spot

Spots can often be faint



The Cloudywings

Northern Cloudywing

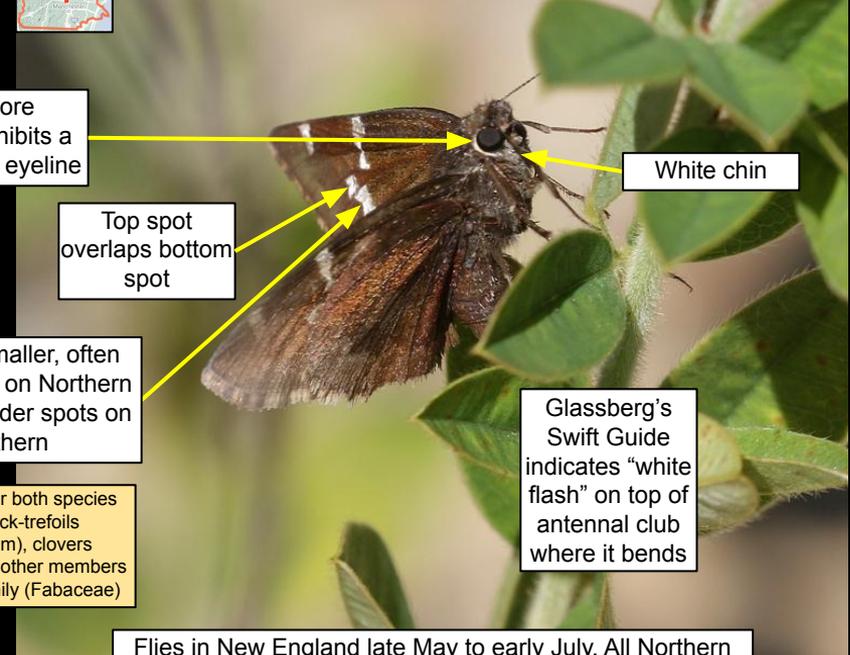
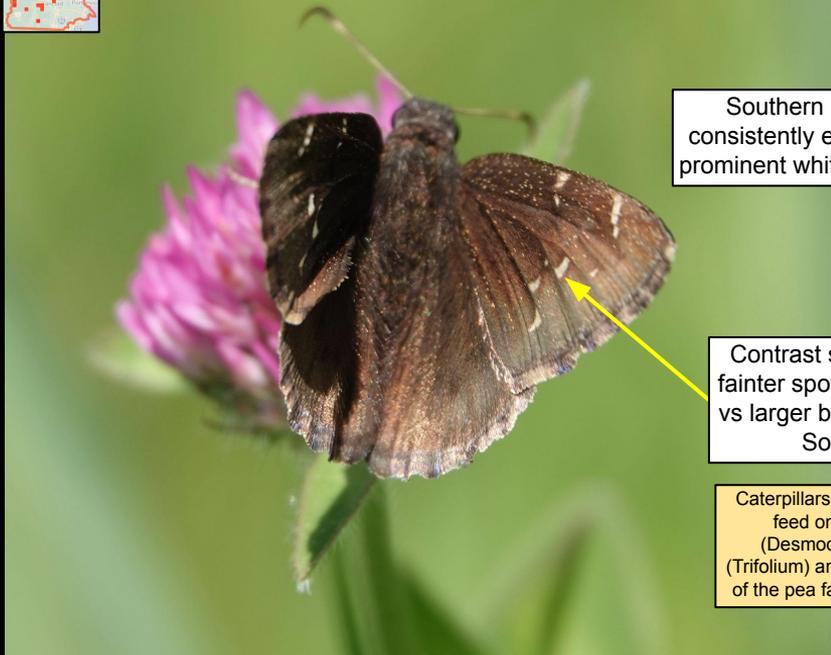
Southern Cloudywing



WS: 1 1/4 - 1 7/8"

WS: 1 5/16 - 1 7/8"

Steve Mirick



Southern more consistently exhibits a prominent white eyeline

Top spot overlaps bottom spot

White chin

Contrast smaller, often fainter spots on Northern vs larger bolder spots on Southern

Glassberg's Swift Guide indicates "white flash" on top of antennal club where it bends

Caterpillars for both species feed on tick-trefoils (Desmodium), clovers (Trifolium) and other members of the pea family (Fabaceae)

Flies in New England late May to early July. All Northern New England sightings in Concord and Pembroke, NH

K260

Flies late May to mid July

S298

K260

S299

More Skippers to Study Later

Zabulon Skipper

Steve Mirick

Can be confused with Hobomok

71



Male



K330 Flies end May to mid Sep **S368**

Dusted Skipper

35



K338 Flies mid May to early June **S376**

Fiery Skipper

Mike Thomas



K302 Flies late July thru Sep **S344**

Leonard's Skipper

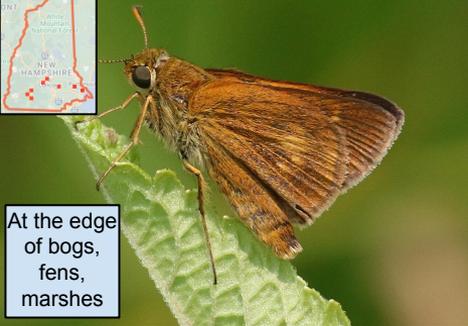
Mike Thomas



K316 Flies mid Aug to mid Sep **S351**

Black Dash

Steve Mirick



At the edge of bogs, fens, marshes

K324 Flies in July **S375**

Crossline Skipper

Mike Thomas



K324 Flies July thru mid August **S356**

Common Sootywing

Steve Mirick



K298 Flies July thru mid August **S306**

Cobweb Skipper

Mike Thomas



Only observed thus far at Concord Pine Barrens

K316 Flies late May to early June **S351**

Observations



Skippers



NH, USA

Go

Filters

2

New Hampshire

1,105

OBSERVATIONS



35

SPECIES

153

IDENTIFIERS

272

OBSERVATIONS



A Quick Demonstration of Researching Skippers (Hesperiidae) on iNaturalist



Helpful place Ids (place_id):

256 observations
 ● Massachusetts - 2

Silver-spotted Skipper
 (Euphyes vestris)
 ● Maine - 17

● New Hampshire - 41

● Vermont - 47

● Quebec - 13336

109 observations

Hobomok Skipper
 (Lambdina amata)

94 observations

Long Dash
 (Polites mystic)

90 observations

Peck's Skipper
 (Polites peckius)

71 observations

Dun Skipper
 (Euphyes vestris)

And that's all folks!

Many thanks to [Mike Thomas \(naturecloseup.com\)](https://naturecloseup.com), [Steve Mirick](#), and others for graciously filling in the gaps of my butterfly photo library and providing so many magnificent photos!

Sources Cited:

NH observation occurrence maps , flight periods:

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Please, please, please: If you find any inaccuracies in these slides or if you have any suggestions for additions or improvements, email bakerpondsbutterflies@gmail.com.

Thanks! George

Background photo taken
by Bob Fleck