

Massachusetts Butterflies



Fall 2014, No. 43

Massachusetts Butterflies is the semiannual publication of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, a chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. Membership in NABA-MBC brings you *American Butterflies* and *Butterfly Gardener*. If you live in the state of Massachusetts, you also receive *Massachusetts Butterflies*, and our spring mailing of field trips, meetings, and NABA Counts in Massachusetts. Out-of-state members of NABA-MBC who wish to receive *Massachusetts Butterflies* may order it from our secretary for \$6 per issue, including postage. Regular NABA dues are \$35 for an individual, \$45 for a family, and \$70 outside the United States. Send a check made out to NABA to: NABA, 4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960.

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Some Unique New Brunswick and Maine Butterflies – July, 2014

By Steve Moore

The origins of this trip were in an article in the American Birding Association's *Birder's Guide to Travel* by Jim Edsall entitled "Birding New Brunswick", which included pictures of three butterflies—Short-tailed Swallowtail (*Papilio brevicauda*), the 'Salt Marsh' form of the Dorcas Copper (*Lycaena dorcas dospassosi*), and 'Salt Marsh' form of the Common Ringlet (*Coenonympha tullia nipisiquit*)—that can only be found in Atlantic Canada and Quebec. Jim generously provided advice and great directions to places where they have been found.

Ten people joined in a trip to New Brunswick in late July, 2014, including eight members of the NABA-MBC.

On July 25 our first stop was at Gott Brook in Lee, Maine, where we walked in Gott Brook Road, through the forest to the flowage. There, Mark Salvato instantly found his life 'Maine' Dorcas Copper (*Lycaena dorcas claytoni*), locally known as Clayton's Copper. 10+ Coppers were resting and nectaring on their host plant Shrubby Cinquefoil, which grows about 20+ feet in from the water's edge. The Copper is out between late July and the end of August. While in the area we also saw 1 Gray Comma, 2 Mustard Whites, 2 Northern Pearly-eyes, 3 Northern Crescents, 3 Pink-edged Sulphurs and 2 Acadian Hairstreaks, along with more common species and a Ruffed Grouse.

On July 26 we drove north to Fort Fairfield, Maine and crossed over the border into New Brunswick at Perth Andover. We continued to Plaster Rock where we picked up Route 108 on which we headed east toward Miramichi. Along Route 108 (a paved road with many dirt logging roads on each side) we stopped many times and searched for butterflies. Along Route 108 and on some of the logging roads which we picked out randomly we saw 1 Pink-edged Sulphur, 1 Mustard White, 22 Atlantis Fritillaries, 4 Northern Cres-

cents, 1 Green Comma, 1 Gray Comma, 2 White Admirals and 1 Common Ringlet, along with other common species.

Given the relatively slow pace of the butterflying along Route 108, we decided about 3pm to head directly to Bathurst, NB and Carron Point. It turned out to be a good decision. Along Route 8 north of Miramichi, Tom Gagnon and Elise Barry saw a Moose. Our only Moose!

We arrived at Carron Point Road (aka Carron Drive) off of Bridge Street in Bathurst at 5pm and found about 12 posts along the left side of Bayshore Drive where Jim had indicated we could find some of our target butterflies. We could see the small Sea Lavender plants in the marsh and walked out a short distance to the Lavender where we saw 12+ Dorcas Coppers known locally as the 'Salt Marsh' Copper and 4 Common Ringlets known locally as the 'Salt Marsh' Ringlet. Both forms are endemic to this area of Atlantic Canada. The Copper exists only in Atlantic Canada and is out between mid-July and mid-August. Its hostplant is Egede's Silverweed, which only grows in the salt marshes. The Ringlet is found only here and in three isolated locations in Quebec. Its hostplant is cordgrass and it favors Sea Lavender for nectaring. It is out from late July to late August.

On July 27, we returned to Carron Point at 9am and in sunny, bright 70 degree F weather. At the corner of Bayshore Drive, where it turns left and where the Ducks Unlimited monument is located commemorating the preservation of this 125 acre marsh for the Ringlets, we saw on small yellow flowers right along Bayshore Drive 200+ Coppers and 30+ Ringlets. It was a truly wonderful sight.

After lunch we drove south toward Miramichi and explored Blueberry Road on the west side of Route 8. Along this road we saw 31 Pink-edged Sulphurs, 1 White Admiral, 1 Gray Comma, 2 Viceroyes and 3 Atlantis Fritillaries.

Having seen 2 of the 3 target butterflies in this part of Canada, we tried the east coast of NB by the Northumberland Strait for the Short-tailed Swallowtail, stopping at Escuminac Point where we were met with clouds and some rain. A highlight occurred when Tom Gagnon spotted a dark swallowtail which we chased around for 10 minutes until it lit in the grass. Alas, it was a Black Swallowtail. Here we also saw 1 Painted Lady and 44 Common Wood Nymphs.

We left the Point before noon and drove through the Kouchibouguac National Park to the Boutouche Dunes at the Irving Eco Center at 1932 Route 495 just north of Boutouche, NB center. We walked a long (2 kilometers) boardwalk over the beach grass and marsh and down the beach a short way. Excitement mounted when Barbara Volkle spotted a dark swallowtail but when it finally landed it was just another Black Swallowtail. We also saw several dark swallowtails about 100 yards away on a bush in the dunes. Elise's pictures are amazing but do not allow a firm identification. Jim Edsall looked at one of the pictures and thought it might be a Short-tailed Swallowtail, but... At the Boutouche Dunes we also saw another Copper.

On our last day in NB we stopped at the Hopewell Rocks on the shore of the Bay of Fundy. Here you can walk on the beach for only three hours before and after low tide as the high tide covers the beach with over 40 feet of water. A not to be missed spectacle.

Short-tailed Swallowtails are uncommon in NB, but much more common in Newfoundland. A trip up there is in the works for late June, 2015!! It is out from mid-June through the end of July with a second brood at some locations that extends into August. Its host-plants are in the parsley family, including Cow-parsnip, Angelica and Scotch Lovage.



2014 NABA Butterfly Counts

Compiled by Tom Gagnon

Looking over the charts for the 2014 4th of July Counts, the figures look like it was a very good year here in Massachusetts for butterflies. 76 species were totaled for the 13 counts that were reported in. Missing from the count board were Zabulon Skippers. After so many in 2013 across the state, I thought that maybe some would have found their way on to the later counts in July. The Giant Swallowtail explosion was just between broods and just missed getting into the count records.

There were 15 species that were reported from only ONE count each. When I wrote them down as to which count they were recorded on, I found that the Central Berkshire count recorded FIVE species recorded on no other count. They were: Mustard White, Acadian Hairstreak, Oak Hairstreak (photo), Dion Skipper and Two-spotted Skipper. (I believe might be the only Two-spotted Skipper recorded in the state this year.) The North Worcester County count was held on June 28th, and able to catch 3 species that fly a lot earlier in the season, thus they were able to record: Canadian Swallowtail, Harris' Checkerspot, and Juvenal's Dusky-wing. South Berkshire County recorded the only Hackberry Emperors, Common Buckeye and Atlantis Fritillary. The Brewster count checked in with the only Sachem and Juniper Hairstreak. And the Blackstone Corridor checked in with the only Havesters. Finally, the only White-M Hairstreak was found on the Barnstable count.

There were two species that appeared on only two counts. Tawny Emperor was found on the Northampton and South Berkshire counts. Meadow Fritillary appeared only on the North and South Berkshire counts.

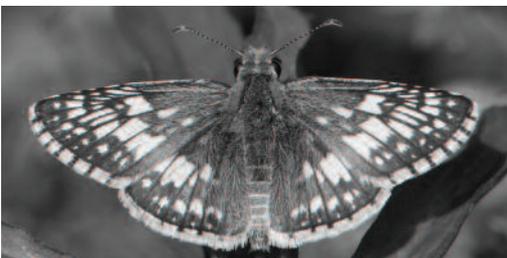
It was very interesting to see that Gray Commas appeared on THREE counts this year. Usually this species is only found in the

Berkshires but, this year it was recorded on the North Essex count and Central Franklin count as well as the South Berkshire count. This species seem to have had a mini-explosion year, being re-recorded in several new areas this year in the state. Monarchs were found in VERY LOW numbers with the high being found on the Brewster count. NO Compton Tortoiseshells were found. I fear this species is in serious trouble, not being reported in the state the last few years. It was nice to see that Bog Coppers were found in good numbers (over 1,000) in Franklin County.

The Concord count, Dick Walton compiler, lead the way with the most participants (16) taking part on the count. Several of the counts had very low numbers of participants. The Martha's Vineyard count was not held this year because of the lack of participants. Matt Pelikan would love to have help on the Vineyard. We need to convince more people how important it is to help out on these counts. Several of us do a number of counts already. I personally try each year to help out on 5 counts. It is not like the Christmas Bird Counts were you have to get up around 5 in the morning and go out into sub zero degrees. Maybe we need to recruit some of our birding friends to help us on these counts.

Tom Gagnon Vice-president West

Editor's Note: The Butterfly Count Program is administered by the North American Butterfly Association, 4 Delaware Rd, Morristown, NJ 07960. Official reports for all counts held in the U.S., Canada and Mexico are available from NABA for \$11.00 for members, \$16.00 for non-members, plus \$2 S/H; request from naba@naba.org. The unofficial tallies for Massachusetts counts are reported here.



Common
Checkered-Skipper
(*Pyrgus communis*),
7/17/14, Gardner,
MA, Garry Kessler

4th of July Count 2014												
Northern Berkshire				2			56	14	1			
Central Berkshire		7		2		3	58	40	10			
Southern Berkshire		12		24		3	93	161	79			
Central Franklin		6		16		9	267	42	10			
Northampton		30		13		5	249	193	29			
Northern Worcester		1		18	1	3	799	12	4			
Concord		5		3		2	96	41	4			
Northern Essex		3		15		3	337	37	1			
Blackstone Corridor		2		16		8	53	74	12			3
Bristol												
Falmouth		13				6	2	13				
Brewster		1		2		7	182	2	3			
Barnstable		14		4		2	129	16	49			
Truro				11		8	21					
Martha's Vineyard												
	Pipevine Swallowtail											
	Black Swallowtail											
	Giant Swallowtail											
	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail											
	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail											
	Spicebush Swallowtail											
	Mustard White											
	Cabbage White											
	Clouded Sulphur											
	Orange Sulphur											
	Cloudless Sulphur											
	Harvester											

4th of July Count 2014												
Northern Berkshire				28			1		3			
Central Berkshire	6			16	20		4		7	1		
Southern Berkshire	4	3		1			32					
Central Franklin	3		1041	3			172	3	9			
Northampton	59						12		1			
Northern Worcester	1		4				2					
Concord	27	2	2				2		2			
Northern Essex		2				2	21	1	4			
Blackstone Corridor	44						18	2	6			
Bristol												
Falmouth	10			5		20						
Brewster	115			27			2		3		1	
Barnstable	42								1			1
Truro	20		16	27		22			2			
Martha's Vineyard												
	American Copper	Bronze Copper	Bog Copper	Coral Hairstreak	Acadian Hairstreak	Edward's Hairstreak	Banded Hairstreak	Hickory Hairstreak	Striped Hairstreak	Oak Hairstreak	Juniper Hairstreak	White M Hairstreak

4th of July Count 2014												
Northern Berkshire			27		22	1		1	10		1	12
Central Berkshire		13	23		41						29	34
Southern Berkshire		18	12		85	2	16	1	3		13	55
Central Franklin		26	21		120	4					1	39
Northampton		29	28		39			27			285	32
Northern Worcester			5		51	15		4		2	11	
Concord	7	23	20		32						3	
Northern Essex		1	50		102							40
Blackstone Corridor	13	299	13		70			2			37	35
Bristol												
Falmouth	7	2	1								5	2
Brewster	10	5									105	
Barnstable	5	26	4								206	
Truro	3										11	
Martha's Vineyard												
	Gray Hainstreak											
	Eastern Tailed-Blue											
	'Spring' Spring Azure											
	'Summer' Spring Azure											
	Variegated Fritillary											
	Great Spangled Fritillary											
	Aphrodite Fritillary											
	Atlantis Fritillary											
	Silver-bordered Fritillary											
	Meadow Fritillary											
	Harris' Checkerspot											
	Pearl Crescent											
	Baltimore Checkerspot											

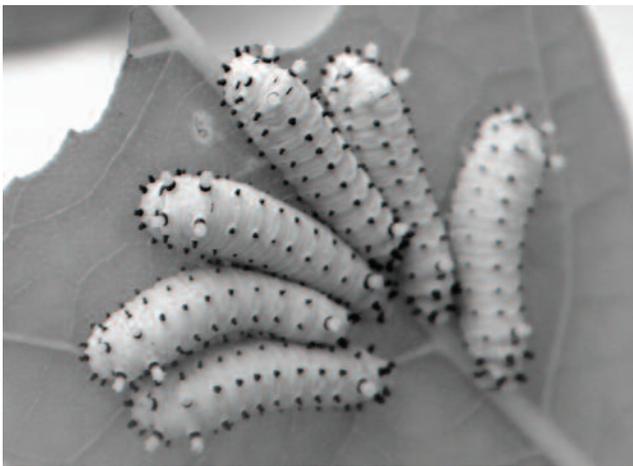
4th of July Count 2014														
Northern Berkshire	1	6					2		3			1	1	
Central Berkshire	1	7			5		1	1	1				1	
Southern Berkshire	1	10	2		23		2		16	1	1		2	
Central Franklin	5	32	2		23		2		16			2	10	
Northampton		2			4		3	1	9		4		14	
Northern Worcester		7			1		2		8			1	9	
Concord		3			2		2		6				4	
Northern Essex	2	13	1				3		6				2	
Blackstone Corridor		3					5		8				6	
Bristol														
Falmouth														
Brewster	1				1		4	1	4					
Barnstable					1		1		2					
Truro					2		4					1		
Martha's Vineyard														
	Question Mark	Eastern Comma	Gray Comma	Compton Tortoiseshell	Mourning Cloak	Milbert's Tortoiseshell	American Lady	Painted Lady	Red Admiral	Common Buckeye	Red-spotted Admiral	White Admiral	Red-spotted Purple	Viceroy

4th of July Count 2014													
Northern Berkshire			15		11	1	4	530	2				
Central Berkshire			13	2	11	1		554	6	45			
Southern Berkshire	4	1	4	9	22	65	3	769	3	30			
Central Franklin					22	44		2		115	5	3	2
Northampton		9	2	4	26	41	7	210	10	57	4		
Northern Worcester				1		12	68		1	50			4
Concord					5	25		22		29		1	1
Northern Essex					5	119	2			48			
Blackstone Corridor			4	6	12	135	1	381	1	63	2	1	
Bristol													
Falmouth								100	3	2			
Brewster					3	4		24	21	24			
Barnstable						1	3	26	18	6			
Truro					3	11		15	1	35			
Martha's Vineyard													
	Hackberry Emperor	Tawny Emperor	Northern Pearly-Eye	Eyed Brown	Appalachian Brown	Little Wood-Satyr	Common Ringlet	Common Wood-Nymph	Monarch	Silver-spotted Skipper	Hoary Edge	Southern Cloudywing	Northern Cloudywing

4th of July Count 2014												
Northern Berkshire						1	35		10	5		9
Central Berkshire				1		1	2		11	8	6	
Southern Berkshire						3	24		16	1	3	
Central Franklin						17	7		1	5	3	2
Northampton			2	1	150						3	
Northern Worcester		2			2	5	747		62	4		8
Concord			3	4	1					1	3	
Northern Essex						6	78		12	1		
Blackstone Corridor			5	6	7	1	8				13	
Bristol												
Falmouth			1	3						3		
Brewster									2	1	1	
Barnstable				4					8		1	
Truro				3		6				9	3	
Martha's Vineyard												
	Dreamy Duskywing	Juvenal's Duskywing	Horace's Duskywing	Wild Indigo Duskywing	Common Sootywing	Least Skipper	European Skipper	Indian Skipper	Peck's Skipper	Tawny-edged Skipper	Crossline Skipper	Long Dash

4th of July Count 2014												
Northern Berkshire	16	11		10		2						37
Central Berkshire	43	15		12	10	3		1	4		1	71
Southern Berkshire	11	7		1	6			23		2		42
Central Franklin	15	39		16		2				2		22
Northampton	31	15		4	22			2		6		48
Northern Worcester	1	14		226		10						1
Concord	10	7		6	16					10		7
Northern Essex	17	40		1		1						
Blackstone Corridor	7	53		67	41			1		10		18
Bristol												
Falmouth	9	2		2								8
Brewster	44		2					4				82
Barnstable	9	2						15				12
Truro	45			4								35
Martha's Vineyard												
	Northern Broken Dash	Little Glassywing	Sachem	Delaware Skippeer	Mulberry Wing	Hobomok Skipper	Zabulon Skipper	Broad-winged Skipper	Dion Skipper	Black Dash	Two-spotted Skipper	Dun Skipper

Summary	No. of Individuals	No. of Species	No. of Participants	Party Hours	Date	Compiler
Northern Berkshire	892	35	8	22.5	7-13	Tom Tynning
Central Berkshire	1152	46	14	31.5	7-19	Tom Tynning
Southern Berkshire	1725	50	13	34.5	7-11	Rene Laubach
Central Franklin	2228	48	11	52.75	7-5	Mark Fairbrother
Northampton	1720	43	9	36.5	7-20	Mark Fairbrother
Northern Worcester	2184	42	10	n/a	6-28	Carl Kamp
Concord	439	38	16	12	7-12	Dick Walton
Northern Essex	983	35	7	16	7-5	Howard Hoople
Blackstone Corridor	1572	45	8	33.83	7-12	Tom Dodd
Bristol	results	not	available			Mark Mello
Falmouth	219	22	5	7	7-19	Alison Robb
Brewster	688	31	n/a	n/a	7-26	Joe Dwelly
Barnstable	608	28	11	6	7-26	Ian Ives
Truro	318	25	4	10	7-12	Alison Robb
Martha's Vineyard	No count	this	year			Matt Pelikan



Promethea caterpillars (*Callosamia promethea*), 7/7/14,
Project Native, Great Barrington, MA, Dylan Cleary



There were always great butterfly watchers on hand for the nine years of the Foxboro Fourth of July Butterfly Count. Here is the 1999 gang, seated on Brian Cassie's front porch in Foxboro, MA, on 7/3/99. From left to right: Mike Polana, Cathy Dodd, Tom Dodd, Lyn Lovell, Madeline Champagne, Gail Howe (now Gail Howe Trenholm), Dick Hildreth, Doug Savitch, Claudia Tibbetts (front), Leslie Stillwell, Bob Bowker, Elise Barry (front), Susan Shapiro, Brian Cassie, Eleanor Solberg, and Barbara Walker.



Bog Coppers, (*Lycaena epixanthe*),
7/25/14, Tully Dam, Royalston, MA, Sue Cloutier



Baltimore
Checkerspot
(*Euphydryas
phaeton*),
7/18/14, Wood-
som Farm,
Amesbury,
MA, Marjorie
Watson

Silvery Blue
(*Glaucopsyche
lydamus*), 5/26/14,
Breakneck Hill,
Southboro, MA,
Dawn Puliafco



Bronze Copper
(*Lycaena
hyllus*),
9/23/14,
Wayland, MA,
Greg Dysart



‘Salt Marsh’ Dorcas
Coppers (*Lycaena dorcas
dospassosi*), 7/27/14,
Carron Point, Bathurst,
NB, Holly Salvato.
Males to the left and
below left photos; below
right photo shows male
on the left and female
on the right



‘Salt Marsh’ Common Ringlet
(*Coenonympha tullia nipisiquit*),
7/27/14, Carron Point, Bathurst, NB,
Holly Salvato

Pink-edged Sulphur (*Colias
interior*), 7/26/14, Plaster
Rock, NB, per Holly Salvato





Giant Swallowtails
(*Papilio cresphontes*):
above photo in West Whately, MA,
8/3/14, by Sue Cloutier;
photos to the left taken in
Williamsburg, MA, 8/12/14,
by Carol Duke



Great Spangled Fritillaries (*Speyeria cybele*), 7/5/14, Newburyport, MA, Bo Zaremba

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*),
7/20/14, Project Native, Housatonic, Great
Barrington, MA, Dylan Cleary. Project
Native is an excellent spot to buy butterfly
plants, and to see the live butterfly house,





Hessel's Hairstreak (*Callophrys hesseli*),
6/2/14, Ponkapoag Bog, Canton, MA, Bruce deGraaf



Sachem female (*Atalopedes campestris*), 9/13/14, Allens Pond, Dartmouth, MA, Ron Hamburger



Pepper and Salt Skipper (*Amblyscirtes hegon*), 6/23/14,
Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester, MA, Bruce deGraaf



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*),
9/26/14, Whately, MA, Bill Benner



Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), 8/16/14,
West Newbury, MA, Bo Zaremba



Zabulon Skipper female
(*Poanes zabulon*),
8/22/14, Allens Pond,
Dartmouth, MA,
Erik Nielsen

Dion Skipper
(*Euphyes dion*),
7/19/14,
Canoe Meadows,
Pittsfield, MA,
Bill Benner





Photos from the very successful exhibition *Butterflies*, a summer-long festival of butterfly natural history, art, and culture, as well lectures, programs, and children’s games, at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, MA. The displays included a live Butterfly Pavilion holding tropical exotic as well as native New England butterflies. The exhibit has been on view at the museum (39 South Street, Pittsfield, MA) through October 26, 2014. Photos courtesy of Maria Mingalone, Leslie Ann Beck, and the Berkshire Museum.





Bronze Copper
(*Lycaena hyllus*),
6/8/10, Appleton
Farms, Ipswich,
MA, Howard
Hoople

Bronze Copper
(*Lycaena hyllus*),
ventral view, 6/8/10,
Appleton Farms,
Ipswich, MA,
Howard Hoople



American Copper
(*Lycaena phlaeas*),
5/11/14,
Ward Reservation,
Andover, MA,
Howard Hoople

Stalking the Wild American Copper
Take Your Best Shot
Butterfly Imagery in the Digital Age
by Howard Hoople

I've taken over 40,000 pictures of butterflies in the past eleven years. How is that even remotely possible? It might be because I want that perfect picture, the one that captures the soul of the butterfly in the image. One of the first butterflies that I found and identified on my own was an American Copper. When I see one now, it often reminds me of the magical moment when I first saw one in our neighbor's back yard in the fall of 1960. But I'm still trying to take a perfect picture of one!

What have I learned so far about how to take pictures of butterflies? Most butterflies are small. They move fast. Sometimes they're shy, sometimes not. Lighting is often a problem, as is getting the whole image in focus. Usually they're not very interested in cooperating with my picture-taking enterprise. There's a lot to keep track of. Most of what I've learned is to be patient and keep trying!

Why take pictures of butterflies? It turns out I have a lot of reasons...

Identification. Pictures help me figure out what I've seen. I'm not particularly adept at getting a quick look at a butterfly through binoculars and being able to deliver a decisive ID. Often, if I'm taking photos of something I'm unsure about, I try to get pictures of both the upper and lower wing surfaces, since sometimes field marks on one side or the other can be definitive. Then I can puzzle over field marks and get help from friends out of the heat and confusion of the field.

I had no idea what the butterfly on the opposite page was when I took these pictures. But I did know that I didn't know what it was! So I worked hard to get photos of both the upper and lower wing

surfaces. I also took a photo of the place where I found it. Later in the day, with the help of field guides and friends, I realized that it was a female Bronze Copper!

Documentation. Photos are an easy way to document what you saw, and where and when you saw it. I find it helpful to know, for instance, when I saw my first American Copper of the year in each of the last five years, because it informs my search for the first one of the new season.

Photography usually doesn't harm butterflies. I'm now amazed that my 12 year old self, armed with a net and a potassium cyanide killing jar, hunted for butterflies in woods and fields. I'm still a collector at heart, and pictures are a wonderful non-destructive collection. But remember to be careful, nonetheless. Try not to stress butterflies by chasing them or trampling vegetation.

Learning about butterfly behavior. Pictures also provide important information about how butterflies behave (*e.g.* How do they normally hold their wings when at rest?). Pictures of wild, unrestrained butterflies help me understand what they typically do in a way that neither mounted museum specimens nor captive butterflies living in a butterfly enclosure can. And I haven't yet seen a butterfly conservatory that has American Coppers!

Here are two photos I took of a Monarch just a few seconds apart. Until I looked at these, I had no idea that butterflies can move their heads while keeping their bodies in one position!



Sharing. Sometimes – not often, but sometimes – all the elements of a photo come together in one shot. It’s fun to share that special moment with others who are, or maybe can become, intrigued by butterflies.

Understanding the preferences of a particular butterfly will greatly improve your chances of finding it. For instance, American Coppers like open fields, and tend to congregate around stands of sheep sorrel, their caterpillars’ food plant. So when you’re photographing butterflies, consider things that might improve your chances of finding them. Factors that I have found to be important include:

- The weather: sunlight, temperature and wind
- Food sources (nectar, sap, or animal droppings)
- Water
- Caterpillar food plant
- Time of day
- Time of season (when does this butterfly fly?)
- Type of habitat: field, woods or wet meadow

What is the best camera for taking pictures of butterflies? I wish that I could tell you that there is one perfect camera! But I don’t think there is. The best camera for taking a picture of a butterfly that you’re looking at is the one you have in your hands at the time! Many cameras will work just fine. Cell phone cameras can now take very reasonable photos of butterflies, as can high-end SLRs (Single Lens Reflex cameras), and everything in-between. But to optimize results you need to know the strengths and limitations of your camera and what you’re trying to accomplish.

When taking photos of small, fast moving, inconsiderate subjects (e.g. butterflies), you’re probably going to take a lot of bad photos. I do. Taking risks can sometimes be very rewarding. Experiment with camera settings. For instance, here on the next page is a photo taken of a Northern Pearly Eye (*Enodia anthedon*; taken 6/28/13, Ward Reservation, Andover, MA) at ISO 5000, which is a film speed way outside my comfort zone:



In addition, for me, the economics of digital photography are very compelling. I often take 200 or more photos in a single outing, and couldn't afford to do that if I were using film. And out of those 200 photos, sometimes I'm fortunate to get a few good shots. Happily, with digital photos, there's very little incremental cost to taking lots of photos. Except, of course, that you wind up with a lot of photos! It's important to have the courage to delete out of focus, poorly composed and duplicate photos just to keep from drowning in them.

Digital cameras fall into three categories, each of which has significant advantages and limitations:

- **Simple point-and-shoot cameras.** These cameras tend to be inexpensive, and many have a "close focusing" option (sometimes called a "macro" or "micro" setting) in the setup menu. Usually these cameras don't have a viewfinder, but have an LCD screen on the back of the camera. Simple cameras can take excellent photos, but they tend to have less sophisticated features (e.g. for focusing, ISO, and zoom) which can limit your options in taking the picture.

- **Advanced point-and-shoot cameras.** These cameras are very flexible. They often have astonishing zoom capability (allowing you to get an identifiable photo of a butterfly 30' up a tree), and can often produce excellent close-up photos of butterflies only 2" from your camera!

- **Specialized cameras.** SLRs (Single Lens Reflex cameras) and other high-end cameras are usually faster, and have better technical features for focusing etc. You can get lenses that are specially designed for close-up photography that give the best technical image quality. These close-up lenses are very good at what they're designed to do, but they sometimes fall short when you want that photo of a butterfly that is 30' up a tree! A telephoto lens, on the other hand, will allow you to get that long shot, but will be less useful for close-up work.

There are other specialized cameras and lens configurations that may suit your particular style and needs. My own preference is to keep things relatively simple. I want to take photos of wild, unrestrained butterflies. I want a hand-held camera that gives me the best close-up image I can get. I don't want to lug around a monopod or tripod. I've used advanced point-and-shoot cameras extensively, but recently I've been using an SLR with a close-up lens. I find that I'm now willing to exchange the flexibility of the advanced point-and-shoot for the slight improvement in image quality that I can get with a macro lens.

How close can you get to a butterfly when taking its picture? With practice, you can sometimes get very close! Some of my best photos have been taken when the front of my lens is 2 inches from the butterfly.

- Remember the technical limitations of your camera. Some can focus as close as 4mm from the target, others no closer than 4 inches, others 12 inches or more! You can't get a well-focused photo if you exceed what your camera is capable of doing!
- Plan your approach to the butterfly. Where's the

sun? What's the best angle to view the butterfly from? Anticipate how it might move.

- Learn how to approach a butterfly. Move slowly and stay low. Be patient and persistent. When the butterfly moves, follow it but don't chase it! Some butterflies will have nothing to do with you no matter what you do. But some will eventually decide you're not a threat, and will let you approach them. I usually start taking photos from some comfortable distance from the butterfly – from about 4' away, for example. At that distance, I can usually get a photo that documents what butterfly I've found, which is a major objective. That calms me down, so I can move slowly. I move a bit closer, and take another picture, and then move closer. Often I'll take 5-10 photos as I approach a butterfly, until I'm very close.

- When taking your photos, remember to use good photographing technique. Many cameras today have anti-vibration technology built in. This feature helps, but only so much...

- o Create a stable platform to shoot pictures from: pay attention to footwork if you're still on your feet. Don't be afraid to get down on the ground! Knees and elbows can be important parts of your stable platform if you get down to the butterfly's level!

- o Hold the camera steady. Use both hands if you can.

- o Hold your breath when you release the shutter.

- Remember to change basic settings on your camera to fit the situation. Film speed, shutter speed and aperture setting all contribute to the overall result. I try to find the best combination of these settings for a bright, sunny day for the particular camera I'm working with. Then I change settings to accommodate differences from that perfect day that I encounter along the way (for instance clouds, shadows, or forest). Cameras often have a setting that allows film speed, shutter speed and aperture to change in a "programmed" way by the camera. That can be especially useful when you're first learning how these settings work. However, I now find I often get better results by changing settings on my own.

There are, of course, many other settings that can contribute to improved pictures. I usually adopt one of these settings each year, and try to learn how its use can improve my photos.

There are several other things you should consider when taking butterfly photos:

- *Take care of yourself!*

- o Wear comfortable clothing and a hat. Long shirt-sleeves and pants will help protect you from sunburn, bug-bites, and poison ivy! Tuck your pant legs into your socks!

- o Insect repellent does not seem to repel butterflies, but it will repel mosquitoes, ticks and other biting insects.

- o Wear sunscreen.

- o Take plenty of water. Pay attention to the weather. Rest in the shade if it's too hot!

- o Remember that different parts of the country, or even different places close to home, can have very different hazards. Watch out for chiggers in Texas (and maybe on Horn Pond Mountain!), poison oak in California, and poison ivy and ticks in Massachusetts. I know I take better photos in places where I'm familiar with the risks.

- *Be considerate of others!* Sometimes it becomes very exciting to take photos of butterflies. Even when you are caught up in the excitement of the moment, please remember to give people with binoculars or other non-photographers the opportunity to get good views! When everyone has had good views, photographers should continue to be considerate! Using a flash or moving in very close may be essential to getting the picture you want, but these techniques may scare butterflies away. Allow others using less intrusive methods – taking pictures at a distance and without a flash, for instance – to take photos before you move in trying to get that perfect shot.

- *Protect the environment.* Try not to trample caterpillar

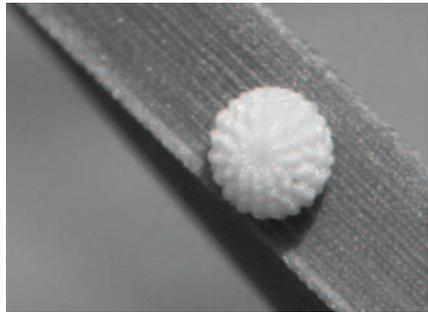
food plants or other sensitive vegetation. Stay on paths or in previously travelled areas to limit habitat destruction.

Butterflying and photography are both complicated disciplines. Bringing the two together is a real challenge, but I think effectively doing that is where the best photographs of butterflies come from. What butterfly is this? Is the plant the butterfly is perched on significant? Is this a typical time for this butterfly or is it unusual that it's flying now? Is it in its normal range, or isn't it? And do my film and shutter speeds and aperture setting fit the situation? You have to embrace both disciplines to get the photos you want.

Finally, there's a close-up photo of an American Copper on page 22 with my Bronze Copper photos, surrounded by flower spikes of Sheep Sorrel, its caterpillar food plant. The left front wing is a little out of focus. So I'll keep trying...



Hobomok Skipper egg
(*Poanes hobomok*),
6/17/14, Broad
Meadow Brook,
Worcester, MA,
Garry Kessler



Giant Swallowtail
caterpillar
(*Papilio cressphontes*)
on Rue,
Williamsburg, MA,
Carol Duke

**Massachusetts Butterflying Destination:
North Quabbin—Tully Dam
and Surrounding Bogs**

Route 32, Royalston

By Sue and Ron Cloutier and Dave Small



This 1,262-acre Tully Lake property encompasses varied habitats and is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dam was built in 1948 as part of a regional flood control project protecting the downstream communities seriously impacted by floods in 1936 and 1938. They partner with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in developing management plans that benefit a rich diversity of plants, animals, and fungi.

There are a number of uncommon butterflies here. You can successfully look for Bog Coppers from mid-July into the first week of August. The Aphrodite Fritillary can be seen in from June to early September. Another fritillary that inhabits this area is the Silver-bordered Fritillary. Its normal flight period is mid-May to mid-September. And come the end of summer, you may have luck finding an early Leonard's Skipper, as other local butterfly watchers have seen them here.

If you plan just one trip to this site, early to mid-July is a great time to visit. And with luck, a second fall trip could complete your chances of seeing each of these target species. Of course, being out in the field here at any time of year is sure to be rewarding for the naturalist, as many other butterfly species fly here as well.

When you arrive at the dam, park near the gatehouse, a small brick building with a circular drive. Take a moment to enjoy the wonderful views of Tully Mountain to the west and the lake with the Royalston Ridge to the North. Walk down the mowed field to the right of the gatehouse, past the Disc Golf hole. You may see Little Wood-Satyr, Northern Pearly-Eyes, and Eastern Pine Elfin along the edge of the woods nectaring on clover or flitting in the

dappled light as you go down to the flat meadow by the lake. Once on the flats next to Tully Lake, look for seasonal wildflower blooms: clover, Joe-Pye Weed, milkweed, and goldenrod. This is where the sun-loving butterflies set up territories and feed. Male Great Spangled Fritillaries will defend their turf from other large butterflies and set up swirling 'dog-fights' in the air above favored spots. And the much smaller Pearl Crescent males may even approach the much larger female Great Spangled Fritillaries and appear to try to seduce them. A chase follows and finally the small Crescent will give up. Taking time to enjoy insect interactions can reveal fascinating behaviors and provide opportunities for you to create photographic records of unusual behavior or butterfly species.

At the far end of this meadow, there is a fenced area protecting the bog that is home to the Bog Coppers. Look from the grassy edges to see these low-flying butterflies. It may take a few minutes for you to notice them flitting around. The males will perch higher than the females that are usually down low among the wild cranberries. Please remember that these bog habitats are fragile and you want to avoid walking into the cranberry plants. View the bog from the edges.

The second bog to explore is away from the lake to the south. This entire open meadow is part of the overflow area of the dam known as the spillway. A large cement weir to the south determines the height of the water when the dam is full. The regular mowing of the area is intended to prevent woody vegetation from interfering with the function of the dam. The secondary benefit is providing enough sunlight to host a plethora of interesting plants and insects.

Again it is adjacent to the Disc Golf course but on the east side of the meadow. This longer bog has more diversity of plants: cotton grass, *Eriophorum angustifolium*; native sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*; pitcher plants, *Sarracenia purpurea*; rose pogonia, *Pogonia ophioglossoides*; and of course, the food plant for Bog Copper

caterpillars, the native wild cranberry, *Vaccinium macrocarpon*. While exploring the area be on the lookout for a rich variety of dragonflies and damselflies with more than thirty species regularly occurring. Of special interest are Eastern Red Damselfly, *Amphigrion saucium*, May to July, as well as Elfin Skimmer, *Nanothemis bella*, and Painted Skimmer, *Libellula semifasciata*, June and July.

You can extend your stay with overnight camping at Tully Lake Campground run by the Trustees of Reservations. Then, do not miss exploring the spectacular series of five falls at Duane's Falls. A number of lakeside trails from the campsite run through the woods and connect to the Tully Trail. And there are the still waters of Tully Lake and Long Pond to view by canoe or kayak. Exploring each portion of this Tully Lake complex of forest, field, pond, wetland and stream will provide ample opportunities to see many of the butterflies of north-central Massachusetts.

Butterflies to look for in the Tully Lake area:

A-abundant (10+/trip in season), C-common (6+/trip in season), U-uncommon (1-5/trip in season), and R-rare (not seen every year)

Swallowtails

- Black Swallowtail (U)
- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (C)
- Canadian Tiger Swallowtail (C) early season

Whites and Sulphurs

- Cabbage White (U)
- Clouded Sulphur (U)
- Orange Sulphur (C)

Gossamer Wings

- Harvester (R)
- American Copper (C)
- Bog Copper (C) rare outside the bog
- Banded Hairstreak (U)
- Eastern Pine Elfin (U)
- Gray Hairstreak (U)
- Eastern Tailed-Blue (C)
- Spring Azure (C)
- Summer Azure (C)
- Silvery Blue (U) range expansion where vetch is found

Brush-foots

Great Spangled Fritillary (C)
Aphrodite Fritillary (U) but seen annually in low numbers
Silver-bordered Fritillary (U) but seen annually in low numbers
Pearl Crescent (C)
Eastern Comma (U)
Mourning Cloak (C)
American Lady (C)
Painted Lady (U)
Red Admiral (C) but variable depending on the year
Common Buckeye (U)
Red-spotted Admiral (Red-spotted Purple and White Admiral hybrids) (C)
Viceroy (U)
Northern Pearly-Eye (U)
Little Wood-Satyr (C)
Common Ringlet (C)
Common Wood-Nymph (U)
Monarch (U) seen annually although recently in low numbers

Skippers

Silver-spotted Skipper (C)
Juvenal's Duskywing (C)
Arctic Skipper (R)
Least Skipper (C)
Leonard's Skipper (U) but seen annually in low numbers
Peck's Skipper (C)
Tawny-edged Skipper (U)
Northern Broken-Dash (U)
Little Glassywing (C)
Hobomok Skipper (U)
Black Dash (C)
Dun Skipper (C)



Ron Cloutier at Tully Dam,
7/20/10,
Royalston, MA,
Sue Cloutier

Wild Cranberry (*Vaccinium mac-
rocarpon*), 6/30/14, Tully Dam,
Royalston, Sue Cloutier



Directions:

From Route 2 take Exit 17 (Rte. 32N) and follow Route 32 signs weaving through uptown Athol and continue for about 6 miles to the small parking area on the south side of the dam on right (“P” on the map below). The parking area is at 10 Athol-Richmond Rd., Royalston, MA on your gps device.

More on the Bog Copper:

<http://www.butterfliesofmassachusetts.net/Bog%20Copper.htm>

More on Tully Dam property:

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/TullyLake.aspx>

More on Tully Campground:

<http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/places-to-stay/tully-lake-campground/>





Butterflies on a NABA-MBC walk at Allens Pond, Dartmouth, MA, 9/13/14, Ron Hamburger



Veterinary intern James Maidhof getting an introduction to butterflies, with a Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*), 5/2/14, Holyoke, MA, Bill Benner



Two Butterflies went out at Noon

—*Emily Dickinson*

Two Butterflies went out at Noon—
And waltzed above a Farm—
Then stepped straight through the Firmament
And rested on a Beam—

And then—together bore away
Upon a shining Sea—
Though never yet, in any Port—
Their coming mentioned—be—

If spoken by the distant Bird—
If met in Ether Sea
By Frigate, or by Merchantman—
No notice—was—to me—



Submission of Articles, Illustrations, and Season Records

We encourage all members to contribute to *Massachusetts Butterflies*. Articles, illustrations, photographs, butterfly field trip reports, garden reports, and book reviews are all welcome, and should be sent to the Editor by August 31 for the Fall issue, and January 15 for the Spring issue.

Send NABA Fourth of July count results to Tom Gagnon tombwhawk@aol.com by **August 15** for inclusion in the Fall issue. Send your season sightings and records to Mark Fairbrother mark@massbutterflies.org by **December 31** for inclusion in the Spring issue. Records may now be submitted via the online checklist and reporting form, which is available for download from our website at: <http://www.massbutterflies.org/club-publications.asp>

Contributions

As a chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, the Massachusetts Butterfly Club is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts (in excess of dues) to the Massachusetts Butterfly Club are gifts to NABA, and are fully tax deductible.

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Massachusetts Butterflies has been published continuously since 1993. Previous issues are viewable at <http://www.massbutterflies.org/club-publications.asp> after a one-year time lag. Print copies may be ordered for \$6 each, if still available. Send a check made out to Massachusetts Butterfly Club to our secretary, Barbara Volkle, at the address on the inside cover.





Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*), 9/7/14.
Amesbury Community Gardens, Amesbury, MA, Marjorie Watson



Long Dash (*Polites mystic*), 6/7/14, Newburyport, MA, Bo Zaremba