

MASSACHUSETTS

BUTTERFLIES

Fall 2000 No. 15



MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES is the semi-annual publication of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, a chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. Membership in NABA - MBC brings you *American Butterflies*, *Butterfly Garden News*, *Massachusetts Butterflies*, MBC newsletter with count and field trip schedules for the year, and all of the benefits of the association and club, including field trips and meetings. Regular annual dues are \$25.00. Those joining NABA - MBC for the first time should make their checks payable to NABA and send it to our treasurer, Lyn Lovell, at the address listed below. Membership renewals are handled through the national office: NABA, 4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960; telephone 973-285-0907.

Officers of NABA - Massachusetts Butterfly Club

President - Tom Gagnon
175 Ryan Rd., Florence 01060 (413-584-6353)

Vice-president East - Madeline Champagne
7 Pond Ave., Foxboro 02035 (508-543-3380)

Vice-president West - Carl Kamp
P.O. Box 111, Royalston 01368 (978-249-9675)

Secretary - Barbara Walker
33 Woodland Rd., Auburn 01501-2149 (508-754-8819)

Treasurer - Lyn Lovell
198 Purchase St., Milford 01757-1120 (508-473-7327)

MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES Staff

Records Compiler - Tom Dodd
33 Mechanic St., Upton 01568 (508-529-3392) tdodd@gis.net

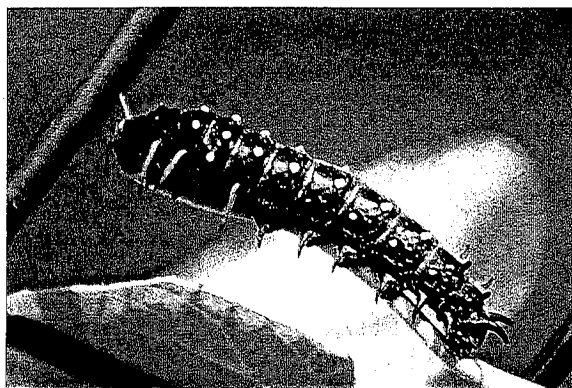
Editor - Alison Robb
Box 186, Woods Hole 02543 (508-540-2408) alisonr@capecod.net

Submission of Articles, Illustrations and Season Records Deadlines

We encourage all members to contribute to *Massachusetts Butterflies*. Articles, illustrations, sightings, out-of-state sightings, adventures, book reviews are welcome. Please send 4th of July counts to Tom Dodd by August 1 for the Fall issue and your season sightings and records to Tom by December 1 for the Spring issue. Sending your records periodically during the season will make data entry an easier task for Tom. He will turn all our records into a summary and inclusive tabulated record, as has been done in the past. Send all other material to Alison Robb by August 30, and January 15.

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Robin Gross

Pipevine Swallowtail
caterpillar

2000 Fourth of July Butterfly Counts

Count Name	Abbrev	Compiler	Count Date	No. of Participants	Party Hours	Total Counted	Total Species	
Northern Berkshire County	NBerk	M Fairbrother	7/12/00	7	28.75	759	41	
Central Berkshire County	CBerk	T Tynning	7/23/00	11	42.25	1324	42	
Southern Berkshire County	SBerk	R Laubach	7/20/00	7	34.75	1491	41	
Central Franklin County	CFran	M Fairbrother	7/08/00	14	51.75	1450	54	
Northern Worcester County	NWorc	G Howe	7/09/00	22	48.5	4157	50	
Concord	Conco	R Walton note1	7/15/00	6+	7.0	196	28	
Foxboro	Foxbo	B Cassie	7/01/00	27	54.5	4730	53	
North Essex	NEssx	B Speare	7/23/00	11		611	36	
Bristol County	Brist	M Mello	7/23/00	3	7.0	356	32	
Falmouth	Falmo	A Robb	7/16/00	14	20.5	349	29	
Outer Cape Cod	OCape	J Sones						
Martha's Vineyard	MVine	M Pellikan	7/15/00	7	21.5	714	31	
				Cancelled due to bad weather				

Common Name	NBerk	CBerk	SBerk	CFran	NWorc	Conco	Foxbo	NEssx	Brist	Falmo	OCape	MVine
Black Swallowtail	2	11	12	4	4		4	6				2
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail		1	6	17	71	2	23	17	4	4		6
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	5											
Spicebush Swallowtail	1	3	2	21	19		15	4	5	8		10
Cabbage White	146	142	114	137	129	5	684	22	8	20		18
Clouded Sulphur	22	134	204	126	42	8	89	30	4	42		56
Orange Sulphur	55	81	128	86	41	24	90	49	89	55		184
Harvester			1		1							

Common Name	NBerk	CBerk	SBerk	CFran	NWorc	Conco	Foxbo	NEssex	Brist	Falmo	OCape	MVine
American Copper	1	8	13	144	2976	5	69	39	12	47		169
Bog Copper				102	61							17
Coral Hairstreak	1	2	7	8		1	3		1	3		2
Acadian Hairstreak		2			2		1					
Edwards' Hairstreak					13		9					39
Banded Hairstreak	1		1	14	7	6	25	1	1	5		2
Hickory Hairstreak				3								
Striped Hairstreak	1	8		7	4	1	6	2	2	1		1
Southern Hairstreak							1					
White M Hairstreak					1							
Gray Hairstreak				3			5	2	5	9		10
Eastern Tailed-Blue	10	15	5	57	129	17	232	29	10	11		19
Summer Azure	12	15	6	26	16	9	8	16	4	1		
Variegated Fritillary				1	13		9		6	1		
Great Spangled Fritillary	25	46	41	70	63	3	63	14	2			
Aphrodite Fritillary	5		2	39	5		5	1				
Atlantis Fritillary	29			1								
Silver-bordered Fritillary				8	1			12	5			
Meadow Fritillary			9	16								
Pearl Crescent	1	1	7	1	24	2	1	67	53	2		1
Baltimore Checkerspot	8	32	7	152	1		2110					
Question Mark	1	1	5	7	3	1	2					1
Eastern Comma	4	2	5	1	2							

2000 Fourth of July Butterfly Counts (continued)

Common Name	NBerk	CBerk	SBerk	CFran	NWorc	Conco	Foxbo	NEssx	Brist	Falmo	OCape	MVine
Compton Tortoiseshell					1							
Mourning Cloak	15	4	6	13	5		4	1		1		
American Lady	1	7	4	9	36		61	5	3			5
Painted Lady												
Red Admiral	15	13	19	21	10	3	10	5	1	3		1
Common Buckeye				3			12	2	2	1		
White Admiral		1			1							
Red-spotted Purple	8	2	1	5	2	1	6	1				
Viceroy			6	12	4		1	7	13			
Tawny Emperor			1 note2									
Northern Pearly-Eye	14	16	2	8	4		3					
Eyed Brown	31	6	16	18		17	7	1				
Appalachian Brown		10	8	5		3	1		22	10		
Little Wood Satyr			1	3	13	8	38	6	5	4		29
Common Ringlet	19		2	1	2			5	1			
Common Wood Nymph	21	603	734	2	29		2	103	41	86		65
Monarch	40	29	18	39	46	3	23	13	4	4		13
Silver-spotted Skipper	15	9	13	146	182	7	25	97	7	10		18
Hoary Edge				7	6							
Southern Cloudywing				1	2		3					
Northern Cloudywing	2	2		2	8		6					

Common Name	NBerk	CBerk	SBerk	CFran	NWorc	Conco	Foxbo	NEssx	Brist	Falmo	OCape	MVine
Horace's Duskywing				1		2			6			
Wild Indigo Duskywing							2	1	14	1		1
Common Sootywing	3	1			3		1	1				1
Least Skipper	195	8	1	18	116		1013	2				1
European Skipper	5	13	1	2			2					1
Peck's Skipper	2	4		8	4		5	4		3		8
Tawny-edged Skipper	3	1	1	13	8		5	5				7
Crossline Skipper	2	5		1	2		10	1				1
Long Dash	19	17	16	17	5	2	2	14	16	9		12
Northern Broken-Dash	2	14		10	10	8	10	7				
Little Glassywing	1	2	3	14	47	9	8	3		4		
Delaware Skipper			13			11	1					
Mulberry Wing	7	4	8	5	2		1		1	1		
Hobomok Skipper		1							5			
Broad-winged Skipper		3										
Dion Skipper			7	1	1	4	3					
Black Dash	9	45	36	14	9	5	1	22	4	2		14
Dun Skipper												

Notes:

- 1) In Richard Walton's absence, data supplied by Erik Nielsen
- 2) Tawny Emperor found in Sheffield, MA

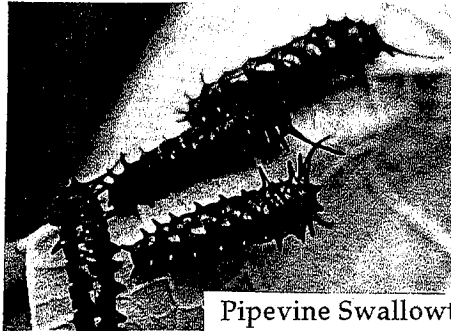
Compiled by Tom Dodd

Right in Our Own Backyard

Robin Gross

It was a rare lazy Sunday in July, 1999, when I snuck into the backyard to do my "rounds" which consist of a pleasurable walk through the garden to check what's happening — new buds, blooms, insects, etc. I may pull an occasional weed or two, but generally it is a task of pure delight. I occasionally treat myself to a break on the bench by the water garden, where I can see the frogs alight upon the lily pads, and our pet peacocks strut gloriously through the yard. My daughter, Sarah, calls it our own little "Garden of Eden," and I think she's right.

I thought I spotted some creepy crawlies when I checked the Dutchman's Pipevine plants, so I braved the Globe Thistles and the bees that surrounded them, and squeezed in to take a closer look. I was rewarded with several spiny reddish-brown caterpillars munching away on the Pipevine plant. I had three plants along the fence, two on one side of the gate, and one on the other. Of course, the caterpillars had chosen the one farthest away; a smart move on their part, and probably the reason I hadn't observed them until now.



Robin Gross

Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars

Excitement immediately registered, as I'd been a butterfly gardener long enough to know that the Pipevine was the host plant to something, although I wasn't quite sure what. I shared my discovery with my ten-year-old son, Seth, and we looked up the caterpillar in our much-used assortment of butterfly identification books. We quickly recognized the Pipevine Swallowtail, but realized it was not often sighted in Massachusetts, so we decided to call our resident expert, Brian Cassie, to confirm our findings.

There was a mix of surprise and disbelief in his voice, but he said he'd be down to check it out the next evening. I can imagine what he was thinking — this is the same person who couldn't identify a crescent from a skipper at the butterfly count! My skill lies more in enthusiasm than in technical knowledge. When Brian came and

assured us that this was the real thing, we counted seventeen caterpillars. He said that, as far as he knew, it was the first time Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars and eggs had been found in Massachusetts in over twenty years! We transferred some of the caterpillars onto the two other plants, which afforded us a better view. The whole family had a great time over the next few weeks, marking the caterpillars' progress.

I credit my sixteen year old daughter Sarah with inspiring our family with her love of butterflies. To support her early interest, I took her to a program at our local Lakeville Library when she was five. Sally Spooner gave a talk on raising Monarchs, and brought in samples of milkweed, eggs, and caterpillars. The very next day found us scouring all the local milkweed patches for eggs and larvae. This was to become a frequent pastime over the next few summers. We successfully raised many Monarchs, and all the kids joined in on cleaning the tanks, feeding the caterpillars, doing educational projects for school, and making a butterfly video. We experimented with planting milkweed in our own garden, and now have sufficient amounts to attract and feed our own Monarchs. It was fascinating to watch the whole process, right from the stage of seeing the female deposit the eggs. Although my husband enjoys the butterflies as much as any of us, he is still awed by the fact that I insist he not chop down the huge unsightly milkweed plants that frame the front entrance to our house.

Over time, our passion grew. We visited several butterfly houses while on family vacations, and became "regulars" at the Butterfly Zoo in Middletown, Rhode Island. We joined all the respective butterfly organizations, and participated in some local field trips. We expanded our food plant sources to include Parsley, Dill, Queen Anne's Lace, Spicebush, Pearly Everlasting, Turtlehead (Chelone), Stinging Nettle, Malva, and Sweet Gum. We naturally have a lot of violets and Sassafras surrounding our yard and still grow Passion Vines every year in the hope of attracting a southern stray. We have put in several Buddleia bushes and pay attention to which nectar plants are on the "most wanted" butterfly list. We've been rewarded with a steady parade of caterpillars and enough butterflies to keep us busy flashing photos.

We took lots of pictures of the Pipevine caterpillars as they grew. They seemed to prefer the leaf stems to crawl on, and they were very social, often swarming together. We also saw them crawling onto the chain-link fence where the Pipevine was growing. We had first spotted the caterpillars on July 18th. By August 2nd there were only a

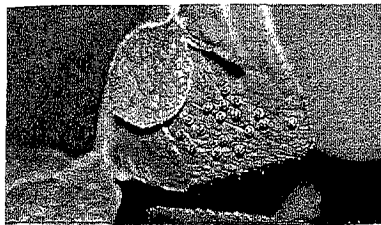
few left, but we couldn't find any chrysalises nearby. I was convinced they had been eaten. Raising the Monarchs indoors, of course, we had always observed the chrysalises. A panicked phone call to Brian revealed that the butterflies are the easiest to spot, then the caterpillars, and then the eggs. However, he assured us, the chrysalises were very difficult to find.



Robin Gross

On August 14th, we left for Maine to go white-water rafting. I had bought a large potted Pipevine plant in order to rear one of the caterpillars indoors, but had not been successful. When we left on vacation I put this pot outside in a sunny spot in the garden.

When we returned on August 20th, we found two clusters of Pipevine Swallowtail eggs on the potted plant's leaves. One cluster had seventeen eggs. Their position didn't give them much protection, and a few days later they were gone.



Robin Gross

Pipevine Swallowtail eggs
on Pipevine leaf

We had closed all the windows in the house before going away, including my daughter Samantha's bedroom window adjacent to the Pipevine plants. When I opened her window on our return, a Pipevine Swallowtail flew out, and we saw the remains of its chrysalis on the inside of the window frame. We tried very hard from then on to photograph the adult Pipevine Swallowtails, but they were just not as cooperative as those laid-back caterpillars. They seemed to have a different flight pattern than the other swallowtails which frequent our yard, which have always been sitting ducks for photo sessions.

This summer we had a great family adventure rafting the class-four rapids in Maine, and we had a great family adventure right in our own back yard! Our "Garden of Eden" revealed another of its secrets, and we expect it holds more to come.

**NABA Members' Meeting
Palm Beach Gardens
May 18 - 21, 2000**

Carl Kamp

Walking across the foyer at the Marriot, I was greeted by a beehive of activity. With speed and efficiency I was checked in, provided with a detailed program, the right sized T-shirt and meal tickets. The only daunting task was choosing which field trip and leaders for the nine daily field trips that were scheduled for the four-day convention. Fortunately, the members of the local NABA Atala club were helpful in making selections.

Next I had to choose only two from six mouthwatering workshops on tap for the first afternoon. My being a little deficient in decision making didn't help matters. I regrettably passed on the opening reception at the Edwards' house after too many hours on the road and not any in the field. However, the vacant lot across from the hotel provided just the right mix of bugs and quietude.

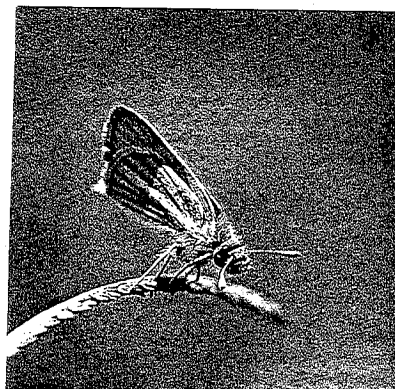
Day 1: The Big and the Small. Port Mayaca along the eastern shores of Lake Okeechobee with leaders Jeff Glassberg and Jane Scott.

Light breezes and mostly sunny; 14 conventioners; 85 degrees. Dragonflies were everywhere and I took many photos of Shining Clubtail and Golden-winged Skimmers. A large mixed swarm of mostly Halloween Pennants darted overhead. New butterflies included the dramatic Ruddy Daggerwing with its bright orange upper wings — not unlike the Gulf Fritillary but a much faster flier. It was mostly seen along the trails flying fast and perching occasionally fairly high in the trees.

Whirlabout and Fiery Skippers, Tawny Crescent, Tropical Checkered Skipper, Question Marks, Dainty Sulphurs, many Great Southern Whites, Viceroy, White Peacocks, Queens, Giant Swallowtail, and Zebra Longwings, all made appearances, while Tawny and Hackberry Emperors enjoyed the stands of Sugarberry trees, relatives of Hackberry trees.

Several of the diminutive Southern Skipperlings were found. In Jeffrey Glassberg's words, "Our smallest skipper makes up for its lack of size with its snazzy good looks." These made for a dramatic

size contrast to the slow-moving elegant Giant Swallowtails. We walked along both sides of a hammock, with a drainage waterway on the east side. I caught sight of a medium-sized snake that might have been an Indigo but it slithered away too fast for my shutter finger. I lost the chance for a more leisurely photo id from the slide I might have had.



Carl Kamp

Southern Skipperling

Back at the hotel, and after a short rest, there were 6 sessions of workshops to choose from, including subjects like photography, skipper identification, butterfly counts, the Atala Butterfly, gardening and NABA's conservation efforts. I tried to use Rick Cech's photo tips during the rest of the trips, and Jeff Glassberg's insights on NABA conservation efforts gave me a much greater appreciation and understanding of the value of being a NABA member.

In the evening after a Mexican buffet, Florida expert Bill Hutchins gave a somewhat disturbing program: The Bioinvasion and Its Impact on Native Diversity. The next day we could see the huge roadside areas that were completely overrun with Melaluca trees and Australian Pines that Hutchins had described. In some places there were small but encouraging signs that some slow progress was being made. Due to extensive habitat loss and vast stands of invasives around the world as well as in Florida, Hutchins' view is that the world is split up into millions of small islands which are no longer able to support the original biodiversity they once held.

Day 2: The Everglades — Long Pine Key, Anhinga Trail, Gumbo Limbo trail, Mary Krome Nature Sanctuary and Bauer Hammock with leaders Marc Minno and Kathy Malone.

The effects of the ongoing drought were obvious in the Everglades. Mary Krome Nature Sanctuary turned out to be one of the most active spots with many Zebras, Julia Longwings, Fulvous Hairstreaks, Ruddy Daggerwings, Baracoa Skippers, and Southern Black Dashes. Later, Dina Yellows were seen at Bauer Hammock. A high point was a very accommodating Hammock Skipper that seemed to enjoy being the center of attention, returning time after time to a small flower patch among some buildings. This was a big hit with the

throng of binocular-wielding and camera-toting NABA members.

In the Everglades, habitats were discussed, while birds, turtles, flowers and an Indigo Snake added to the trip's tallies. At the evening lecture, noted Florida expert Craig Huegel expounded further on the habitat problems, but also showed some optimism on positive steps everyone could take, including my favorite — removing lawns from the landscape.

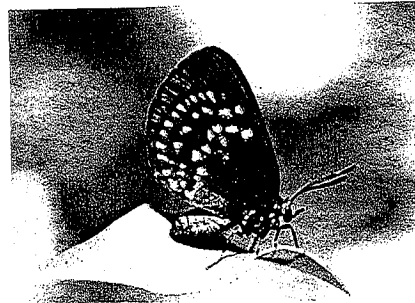
Day 3: Florida Light and Power Company, a shopping center pond, MacArthur State Park, and Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

Looking for different habitats closer to home, we visited the parking lot area outside the Florida Light and Power Company. Coontie had been planted as an ornamental shrub. The dramatic result was the establishment of a huge *Atala* population.

By 1979 as Coontie was disappearing from the landscape, so had gone the *Atala*, which is one of Florida's most stunning butterflies. With a statewide effort to replant the Coontie, the *Atala* population was recovering nicely.

At the FLP plant a short walk provided views of the entire *Atala* life cycle: Adults laying eggs, eggs freshly hatched, various caterpillar instars, and pupae waiting to emerge. Thinking back, I can't remember an occasion when a butterfly's complete cycle could be seen in the same place at the same time.

I was mesmerized by the beauty of this medium-sized butterfly. The wings have a solid black ground color that is splashed with iridescent blue spots on the underside of the hindwing and the abdomen. There is a red spot on the underside of the hind wing, and the abdomen looks as if it had just been dipped in bright red-orange paint!



Carl Kamp

Atala

Next we visited a shopping center where the developer had left some surrounding land in its natural state. (Hopefully that heralds a new twist for future developments.) Winding behind a bank we found a pond lined with canna plants. The leader unrolled the tip of one leaf to reveal the caterpillar of the Brazilian Skipper. The two white spots were the testes, confirming a male caterpillar. Moving

farther along, we saw several adult skippers landing on the giant canna leaves.

At MacArthur State Park we walked out on the long wooden boardwalk from which we had good sightings of the Satira Yellow and glimpses of a Mangrove Skipper. The east coast surf was crashing ashore and luring us to a dip into the waves. A side attraction took place above the butterfly garden where a Pileated Woodpecker was force-feeding its young.

At another state park we were thwarted in our attempts to get more than a fleeting glance at a Southern Dogface Sulphur. Its non-stop flight pattern made it unavailable for binocular or camera opportunities. A Zebra Swallowtail passed as we turned back for the day's last scheduled stop. Stopping along a park road, we checked the road shoulders for activity. The Little Metalmark was true to its name by being very small with shining metal-looking spots on the upper wing surfaces.

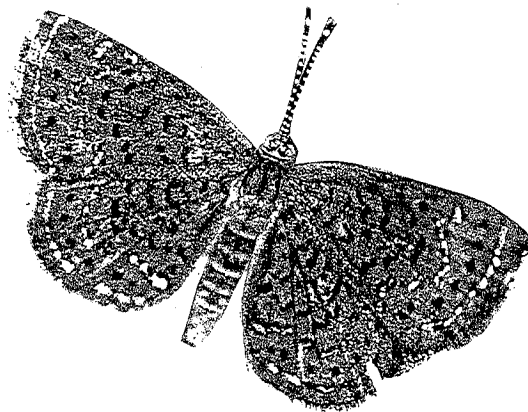
A large snake which Brian Cassie identified as a Coachwhip snake touched off a difference of opinion that continues today. I certainly added it to the species list but that night Brian refused to add it to the tally because we didn't see it alive but rather only in its present road-killed condition. A glimpse of a fresh Gray Hairstreak brought the sweltering day to a gentle close. (Some folks were flying out that night and others were staying for the Monday field trip.)

Meanwhile a nagging thought kept running around my slightly toasted brain — the morning Atalas had also been a little camera shy and I didn't have a good picture. Taking Jeff Glassberg's first night suggestion to meet new people, I borrowed a car, teamed up with a camera-toting lady that I had met on the previous day's bus ride, and headed back to the morning's first stop, looking to see if the red paint on the Atala's abdomen still looked wet.

This afternoon the first Atala we found was laying eggs on a Coontie leaf. A large bush that had had some Atalas on it in the morning was better lit with the sun's sinking rays. We were very happy to get those extra shots and, yes, the paint still looked wet.

Monday May 22, 2000: Bonus trip: Search for the rare Schaus' Swallowtail at the Deering Estate at Cutler located along the edge of Biscayne Bay.

Publishing this journal has become our greatest expense. We want to make it the best in content and appearance. Our income sometimes does not quite cover the printing and postage of Massachusetts Butterflies and our newsletters. We ask that members who are willing donate \$20., \$50., \$100. or whatever they can so that we may publish all the fine articles and illustrations that come in. *Please make a check payable to Massachusetts Butterfly Club, and mail to Alison Robb. [Ed.]*



Little Metalmark

Carl Kamp

President's Message

Tom Gagnon

Now that we have had our first hard frost of the Fall season, our butterflying days are just about over for the year 2000. How I will miss my weekly trips to the Northampton Community Gardens. Probably sometime in February the winter issue of *American Butterflies* will arrive and we will all think Spring and our first Mourning Cloak. 2000 was a good year for the club with many successful field trips, twelve 4th of July Butterfly Counts and three great Butterfly Institutes across the state. We hope to offer at least three again in 2001 and maybe four. The Institutes are a wonderful way to introduce our club to many new people.

In September we had our annual Fall meeting in the Rockport area that was well attended and very informative. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the board Madeline Champagne as Vice-president East and Carl Kamp as Vice-president West. Also a big "thank you" to our out-going Vice-president East Sharon Stichter, Acting Vice-president West Dottie Case and our Associate Editor Mark Fairbrother. I look forward to working with our new officers and to continue working with the rest of our officers and staff: Barbara Walker and Lyn Lovell, compiler Tom Dodd, and editor Alison Robb, who have worked very hard for the club this past year.

Just a reminder to get your 2000 sightings to our record compiler Tom Dodd soon. Hope to see you all at our meeting on November 4th at Massachusetts Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary in Worcester.

Massachusetts Butterfly Club
33 Woodland Road
Auburn, MA 01501-2149

