

Massachusetts Butterflies



Fall 2021, No. 57

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NABA-MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLY CLUB

Officers:

President: Martha Gach, 16 Rockwell Drive, Shrewsbury, MA, 01545.
(508) 981-8833 martha@massbutterflies.org

Vice President-East: Rosemary Mosco, rosemary@massbutterflies.org

Vice President-West: Carol Ann Duke, Flower Hill Farm Retreat, P O Box 454,
Williamsburg, MA, 01096, carol@caroldukeflowers.com

Treasurer: Elise Barry, 363 South Gulf Road, Belchertown, MA, 01007.
(413) 461-1205 elise@massbutterflies.org

Secretary: Barbara Volkle, 400 Hudson Street, Northboro, MA, 01532.
(508) 393-9251 barb620@theworld.com

Staff

Editor, Massachusetts Butterflies: Bill Benner, 53 Webber Road, West Whately,
MA, 01039. (413) 320-4422 bill@massbutterflies.org

Records Compiler: Mark Fairbrother, 129 Meadow Road, Montague, MA,
01351-9512. mark@massbutterflies.org

Webmaster: Karl Barry, 363 South Gulf Road, Belchertown, MA, 01007.
(413) 461-1205 karl@massbutterflies.org

www.massbutterflies.org

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2021 4TH OF JULY COUNTS

by Karl Barry and Bill Benner

Well, it wasn't the best count season for butterflies. In this, the second year of the Covid pandemic, many of us hoped for a return to a more normal season of butterfly trips and field work. To some extent, this happened, and the camaraderie and excitement of field trips and counts were like water in the desert after the gloom of 2020. But things still aren't really back to normal, and sadly, butterfly count numbers and diversity also lagged somewhat behind hopes and enthusiasm this year.

Compared to 2020, Count numbers were down quite a bit overall. There were 9941 individuals of 74 species of butterflies seen in 2020, compared to only 7923 individuals of 63 species in 2021. Only one species, Juniper Hairstreak – one individual, on the Brewster count – appeared in 2021 but not in 2020. Contrast this with the twelve species that were seen in 2020 but not in 2021: Mustard White (28 individuals in 2020), Harvester (1), Acadian Hairstreak (2), Gray Comma (5), Milbert's Tortoiseshell (2), Red-spotted Admiral (10), Tawny Emperor (4), Southern Cloudywing (2), Indian Skipper (4), Hobomok Skipper (21), Zabulon Skipper (1), and Two-spotted Skipper (2).

Compared to 2020, 25 species appeared in greater numbers on the 2021 counts, while 50 were decreased in numbers (or didn't appear at all.) Some of the notable increases occurred for Bog Coppers (1802 in 2021 vs. 922 in 2020, almost double the number), Baltimore Checkerspots (104 in 2021 vs. 62 in 2020), Red Admirals (29 in 2021 and 18 in 2020), Mourning Cloak (19 in 2021 vs. only 5 in 2020), and Monarch (450 in 2021 vs. only 261 in 2020, an encouraging 72% increase.)

On the other hand, there were quite a few more significant decreases. Some examples: Tiger Swallowtails (Eastern and Tiger combined); in 2020, there were 495 seen; in 2021, there were only 50, a ten-fold decrease. Both Banded (118 in 2020, 24 in 2021) and Gray (77 in 2020, 17 in 2021) Hairstreaks decreased by about 80%. Fritillaries occurred in smaller numbers across the board, with Great Spangled (228 in 2020, 146 in 2021), Atlantis (55 in 2020, 4 in 2021) and Meadow (183 in 2020, 11 in 2021) exhibiting the most significant declines. There were 70 total Red-spotted Admirals in their various forms in 2020, and only 5 in 2021. Silver-spotted Skippers went from 753 in 2020 to 153 in 2021, a 77% decline. Multiple other examples could be given.

Granted, there was one less count this year (Bristol didn't happen in 2021). Also, the weather was not ideal for a number of counts. Your editor participated in five counts this year, and only one of them happened on a mostly sunny day. The Southern Berkshire count was pretty much a washout – only 89 individuals of 17 species, and we were lucky to see those! Rene Wendell manages to keep us enthusiastic, despite the raindrops. It was raining, too, when we were scouring our Mustard White site, and so we turned up none of those this year. Other similar stories could likely be told.

On the brighter side, though, there were some species in addition to Juniper Hairstreak that were seen on only one count this year by some skilled and lucky individuals. One Bronze Copper appeared on the Northern Essex count. Those four Atlantis Fritillaries and eleven Meadow Fritillaries were found only on the Northern Berkshire count. Ladies were scarce this summer, with Painted Ladies especially absent, but one successful butterfly saw one on the Blackstone Corridor count. The Central Franklin count, under Mark Fairbrother's expert leadership, blew everyone else out of the water for species count (47) and number of individuals (2525), and also contributed the only Aphrodite Fritillaries (5), White Admiral (1), Hoary Edges (4) and Northern Cloudywing (1).

Many thanks to Karl Barry for compiling the tables of counts and species, and for tabulating totals. His expertise with this is invaluable. Thanks also go to ALL of the compilers: Tom Tynning, Rene Wendell, Mark Fairbrother, Wendy Howes, Dick Walton, Jay Shatterly, Mark Rosenstein, Tom Dodd, Joe Dwelly, and Mark Faherty. Each of them works hard to make the counts happen and to make sure the data are submitted to the club and to NABA. Thanks to each and every participant as well—the information gathered every year about butterfly distribution and population dynamics is interesting to us butterflyers and invaluable to future researchers. If you've been considering joining a count, please check our website, massbutterflies.org, for the schedule of counts in 2022, and contact the compilers. You don't need to be an expert to participate. The counts are fun times with good people, and they also give you the added satisfaction of knowing that you've contributed something to butterfly science. Enjoy!



July Count 2021	Black Swallowtail	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	Spicebush Swallowtail	Cabbage White	Clouded Sulphur	Orange Sulphur	American Copper	Bronze Copper	Bog Copper	Coral Hairstreak
Total count	38	46	4	42	893	385	102	369	1	1802	47
Northern Berkshire	4	9	1	3	63	20	2	2			21
Central Berkshire	3	2			5	45	1	8			5
Southern Berkshire		3			1			1			
Central Franklin	3	9	3	5	65	126	2	113		1793	3
Northampton	13	3		2	177	25	11	7			
Northern Worcester	1	5		2	332	82	6	111			
Concord	6	3		3	34	45	15	29			
Northern Essex	4	2			82	9	2	4	1		
Blackstone Corridor	4			5	11	27	10	22			3
Falmouth				6		6	41	15			1
Brewster		4		6	108		9	4			6
Truro		6		10	15		3	53		9	8

July Count 2021	Edwards' Hairstreak	Banded Hairstreak	Hickory Hairstreak	Striped Hairstreak	Juniper Hairstreak	Gray Hairstreak	Eastern Tailed-Blue	'Summer' Spring Azure	Great Spangled Fritillary	Aphrodite Fritillary	Atlantis Fritillary
Total count	13	24	3	9	1	17	191	45	146	5	4
Northern Berkshire		7	2	6			16	9	43		
Central Berkshire							16	3	6		4
Southern Berkshire			1				5		1		
Central Franklin		8		1		2	13	4	48	5	
Northampton		2					11	7	5		
Northern Worcester		1					31	6	10		
Concord						6	34	6	4		
Northern Essex						1	4	2	5		
Blackstone Corridor		2				2	25	4	24		
Falmouth	12	4				5	29				
Brewster					1			1			
Truro	1			2		1	7	3			

July Count 2021	Silver-bordered Fritillary	Meadow Fritillary	Pearl Crescent	Baltimore Checkerspot	Question Mark	Eastern Comma	Mourning Cloak	American Lady	Painted Lady	Red Admiral	Common Buckeye
Total count	10	11	715	104	10	5	19	15	1	29	2
Northern Berkshire		11	1	23			3				
Central Berkshire			44	25			3	1			
Southern Berkshire			1	2							
Central Franklin	6			27		2	5	1		3	1
Northampton	4		316	4	2		1	1		3	
Northern Worcester			2	3		1	4	1		3	
Concord			98		1	1		1		7	
Northern Essex			1	10						1	
Blackstone Corridor			57	10	3	1			1	5	
Falmouth			34					6			
Brewster			155		3			1		2	1
Truro			6		1		3	3		5	

July Count 2021	White Admiral	Red-spotted Purple	Viceroy	Northern Pearly-Eye	Eyed Brown	Appalachian Brown	Little Wood-Satyr	Common Ringlet	Common Wood-Nymph	Monarch	Silver-spotted Skipper
Total count	1	4	16	14	32	76	216	37	562	450	173
Northern Berkshire			2	2	19		1	18	112	15	3
Central Berkshire		1	1	6	1	7		1	107	32	
Southern Berkshire						13	24		28	2	
Central Franklin	1		3	1	8	12	67	3	3	12	53
Northampton			7			7	2	7	122	156	13
Northern Worcester				5		1	39		3	30	23
Concord		1				8	14	2	13	52	15
Northern Essex			1			1	4	6		3	2
Blackstone Corridor			2		4	2	54		86	47	38
Falmouth									32	21	3
Brewster		1							18	64	9
Truro		1				25	11		38	16	14

July Count 2021	Hoary Edge	Northern Cloudywing	Horace's Duskywing	Wild Indigo Duskywing	Common Sootywing	Least Skipper	European Skipper	Peck's Skipper	Tawny-edged Skipper	Crossline Skipper	Long Dash
Total count	3	1	12	30	4	29	298	105	9	30	32
Northern Berkshire							241	69	4	1	30
Central Berkshire						1	40	25	1	9	1
Southern Berkshire						2	1				
Central Franklin	3	1			1	1	3	2	3		1
Northampton				20	1					5	
Northern Worcester					2	1	1			2	
Concord				3		3				7	
Northern Essex						13	6	9			
Blackstone Corridor				1		4	5		1	6	
Falmouth			5	6							
Brewster			5			3					
Truro			2			1	1				

July Count 2021	Northern Broken-Dash	Little Glassywing	Delaware Skipper	Mulberry Wing	Broad-winged Skipper	Dion Skipper	Black Dash	Dun Skipper
Total count	156	108	57	59	17	3	11	270
Northern Berkshire	8	10	2			1		15
Central Berkshire	6	2	2					25
Southern Berkshire					1	2		1
Central Franklin	10	28	24	5				32
Northampton	35		9	19			4	59
Northern Worcester	4	8	7				1	4
Concord	7	1		22			2	12
Northern Essex		37						
Blackstone Corridor	10	21	8	13			4	58
Falmouth	9	1	4					12
Brewster	48				16			21
Truro	19		1					31

July Counts 2021 Summary	No. of Individuals	No. of Species	No. of Participants	Party Hours	Date	Compiler
Northern Berkshire	799	37	15	29.5	July 4	Tom Tynning
Central Berkshire	439	33	8	19.5	July 11	Tom Tynning
Southern Berkshire	89	17	9	16	July 2	Rene Wendell
Central Franklin	2525	47	9	37.5	July 5	Mark Fairbrother
Northampton	1062	34	6	19.5	July 18	Mark Fairbrother
Northern Worcester	735	32	7	29	July 5	Wendy Howes
Concord	455	31	20	30.5	July 11	Dick Walton, Jay Shetterly
Northern Essex	210	24	8	11	June 26	Mark Rosenstein
Blackstone Corridor	580	36	9	28	July 11	Tom Dodd
Falmouth	252	20	5	6	July 17	Joe Dwelly
Brewster	486	22	5	12	July 26	Joe Dwelly
Truro	296	29	4	13	July 11	Mark Faherty
Bristol	No count held in 2021					



Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*), 6/29/21,
Williamstown, MA, Pam Weatherbee

Remembering Bill Callahan

by Nancy Callahan and the Callahan Family



Bill Callahan, former Vice President West, passed away on August 23rd after a two-year battle with cancer. A self-described “butterfly nut,” my husband spent much of the last decade of his life chasing, photographing, and logging a variety of species. I remember the butterfly that started this later in life passion for him. In the fall of 2012, we visited Rutland Brook Audubon Sanctuary and spotted an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail. I took a picture of this butterfly with my camera so that we could look it up later and do some research. Bill was instantly hooked and the rest, as they say, is history.

Before long, our new family activity was trudging through overgrown meadows searching for milkweed and other host plants. We learned butterfly lingo like “lifer” and “first of the year” and “over-winter.” Bill always kept a small notepad and pencil in his pocket in order to keep track of what he saw and where he saw it. He even got his own camera and learned how to crop photos (no small feat for a man who hated computers and would only type with one finger at a time).

We learned about the Northampton Community Garden (this would become one of Bill’s favorite butterfly spots) by watching Tom Gagnon’s interview on NBC Nightly News. After running into Tom and Brian Cassie at the garden, Brian invited us to the fall

meeting of the MBC. The members of the club were so welcoming and willing to share their knowledge. My husband had found his people. Bill was especially grateful for Tom's friendship and guidance in the field over the years.

Bill's passion for butterflies took him to places that he never expected to go including the National Butterfly Center in Texas and various spots in Florida. It was very normal for us to spend the whole weekend traveling the state of Massachusetts and beyond. During one memorable weekend in 2016, we searched for Regal Fritillaries at Fort Indiantown Gap in PA and also made stops at Willowood Arboretum in NJ, Nixon State Park in York, PA, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in NJ, and Audubon Center Bent of the River in CT. Bill also looked for butterflies on our trip to Italy, and he wrote about his experience for the journal.

In 2019, Bill was diagnosed with cancer. This devastating news did not lessen his desire to be in nature. Instead, it spurred him to take advantage of every sunny day and he walked even while receiving regular doses of chemotherapy and radiation. He felt lucky to be able to spend some of this time taking walks with our grandchildren: Maddie, Teddy, and Delia. They were able to soak up some of his knowledge and will now shout out when they see a Cabbage White or Monarch.

In June 2021, Bill had the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica with our daughter Cara (see report p. 13). It truly was the trip of a lifetime. He got to see exotic butterflies, three-toed sloths, and howler monkeys. After returning home, Bill spent what would be his final two months editing and organizing his trip photos. His excitement never waned even as his health declined.

Our family is truly thankful for the outpouring of support we have received from the club. I thank you for sharing your memories of Bill with me, and I hope to see you all when peak butterfly season arrives again.



Costa Rica Butterfly Bonanza June 2021

by Frank Model

Undeterred by the uncertainties of travel during COVID, a small group of avid butterflyers embarked on a trip to Costa Rica from June 14-21 for the National Butterfly Center's Butterfly Bonanza. NABA-MBC was well represented by five participants:

Elise Barry
Karl Barry
Cara Callahan
Bill Callahan
Frank Model

We represented fully half of the paying customers. The author was apprehensive about safety, but the trip was meticulously organized by Holbrook Travel, and I daresay the safety precautions taken were a cut above those normally taken here in the states. The most dangerous aspect was probably the flights to and from Costa Rica, not that appropriate precautions weren't taken. My flights were full.

Accommodations were primarily in eco-lodges, which put us conveniently close to the wildlife, except for the last night, which was at the Bougainvillea Hotel outside San Jose, but it had extensive gardens that were popping with butterflies. I could have spent another day there productively. So, butterflying was ongoing during the daylight hours. Add to that birding just after dawn and black light moth observation after dinner and I came home tired but happy.

Led by our able Costa Rican naturalist Ricardo Murillo, we saw a lot of butterflies. They ranged from exotic species known only from Costa Rica and Panama, to familiar ones we also have in Massachusetts, including Monarch, Eastern Tailed Blue, Zabulon Skipper and Giant Swallowtail. We are, after all, part of the same land mass.

Speaking of Giant Swallowtail, I got a very interesting photo. In Costa Rica, ‘Western’ Giant Swallowtail, *Papilio cresphontes rumiko*, is the species present. ‘Western’ Giant Swallowtail was split off from Giant Swallowtail, *Papilio cresphontes*, a few years ago, but NABA hasn’t yet gotten around to recognizing the new species, *P. rumiko*. The differences between these two are rather subtle, but it’s not an issue because, in most places, only one of the two is present.

There is, however, another look-alike species, Thoas Swallowtail, *Papilio thoas*, which does fly in Costa Rica and it is also very hard to separate from *P. rumiko*. One “field mark” that is invoked is color. The yellow spots on *rumiko* are a darker yellow than those on *thoas*, especially in the males. But unless you get the two side by side, that is kind of hard to judge.

The photo on p. 17 shows two of these swallowtails puddling. We know they are males because only the males engage in this activity. And, if the colors are transcribed accurately, the difference in color is obvious. That’s *thoas* on the left, *rumiko* on the right.

Moving on to more exotic species, we saw nice representatives of all six butterfly groups: swallowtails, pierids, gossamer-wings,



metalmarks, brush-foots, and skippers, and I offer examples of each.

We saw quite a few pierids, but most were familiar, because they also fly in the southern reaches of the U.S. The one whose picture is shown (left)

does not. As you can see, I got a rare dorsal shot. This is Scarce Yellow, *Eurema xanthochlora*. The dorsal photo was instrumental in establishing ID – the configuration of the black borders is diagnostic.

There is a great diversity of hairstreaks flying in Costa Rica. Many are fairly similar in appearance to species familiar to us, but not the striped ones. See for yourself (below).

This is Smoky Elstreak, *Laothus barajo*.

There are not a ton of metalmarks in the U.S., as it is predominately a tropical group. The nicest one I saw in Costa Rica was the Cherry Bordered Metal-



mark, *Lyopteryx lyra*, and it's a female (photo p. 17). The male doesn't wear lipstick.

The brushfoots are well-represented in Costa Rica. A particularly nice one is the Rusted Phantom-Satyr, *Cithaerias pireta*, one of my targets for the trip (photo p. 17). This spectacular clear-winged satyr is hard to observe. It flits about in the shadows of the tropical jungle. And it is very skittish. But this one landed for us.

I also offer a somewhat less spectacular brushfoot.



This is Tiger Ithomia, *Ithomia heraldica* (left). There are a great many of these orange long-winged butterflies flying in Costa Rica, but this one, although common in its range, flies only in Costa Rica and Panama.

Finally, we have the skippers. Of course, there were lots of these flying in Costa Rica. My favorite was Green Flasher, *Telegonus talus* (photo p. 17) Most flashers “flash” blue, but this one “flashes” green.

It is distributed broadly to our south. There are even records of it in the Lower Grande Valley in South Texas, though it is very rare there. This is the only one we saw on our trip.

I think the National Butterfly Center may repeat this trip in future years. If so, I recommend it highly. It is “user friendly”, even if you are not up to arduous hikes. And it’s always fun to harass butterflies with friends who share the passion.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*),
3/15/21, Naples, FL, Bernie Rubenstein



Cherry-bordered Metalmark (*Lyropteryx lyra*) female, 6/19/21, Sarapiquí, Costa Rica, Frank Model



Costa Rican Crescent (*Eresia sticta*) 6/17/21, Arenal, Costa Rica, Bill Callahan



Rusted Phantom-Satyr, (*Cithaeris pireta*) 6/19/21, Sarapiquí, Costa Rica, Frank Model



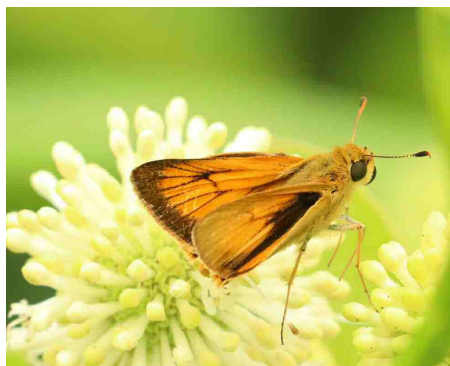
Thoas Swallowtail (*Papilio thoas*) (left) and 'Western' Giant Swallowtail, (*P. cresphontes rumiko*) (right), 6/14/21, Cañas Dulces, Costa Rica, Frank Model



Green Flasher (*Telegonus talus*), 6/18/21, Arenal, Costa Rica, Frank Model



Julia Heliconian (*Dryas iulia*), 6/15/21, Buena Vista, Costa Rica, Bill Callahan

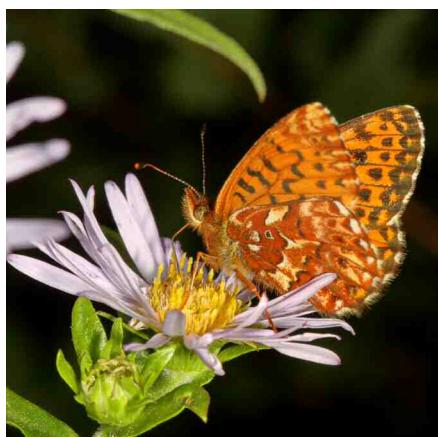


Delaware Skipper (*Anatrytone logan*),
7/9/21, Hardwick, MA, Alan Rawle



Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)
missing hindwing lines, 9/5/21,
Groton, MA, Tom Murray

European Skipper (*Thymelicus
lineola*), 6/17/21, Shrewsbury, MA,
Bruce deGraaf



'White Mountain' Fritillary (*Boloria
chariclea montinus*), 8/16/21, Mt.
Washington, NH, Bo Zaremba



American Coppers
(*Lycaena phlaeas*)
on Tansy, 7/11/21,
Concord, MA,
Linda Graetz



Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*), aberrant male, 6/17/21, West Bridgewater, Don Adams



Yellow-vested Moth (*Rectiostoma xanthobasis*), 7/21/19, Groton, MA, Tom Murray



Appalachian Brown (*Satyroides appalachia*), 7/10/21, Hawley, Jeremy Coleman

Juniper Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus*), 5/6/21, Holyoke, MA, Bill Callahan



Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*), 5/22/21, Shrewsbury, MA, Bruce deGraaf



Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*) with bluish wing tints, 9/11/21, South Dartmouth, MA, Michael Newton



Sam Jaffe with caterpillars and audience, at Broad Meadow Brook Butterfly Festival, 8/14/21, Worcester, MA, Annie Reid



Group deliberating Cloudless vs. Clouded Sulphur, 9/4/21, Allens Pond, Westport, MA, Wendy Miller



Garry Kessler (right) and Howard Hoople (left) with Juniper Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus*), 4/20/21, Middlesex Co., MA, Annie Reid



(left to right): Marvin St. Onge, Zack Weber, Wendy Miller, Michael Newton, Dolores Price and Lauren Griffith, 8/15/21, Nasketucket, Mattapoisett, MA, Andrew Griffith

Blues, Baltimores, and Quaking Bogs

by Bart Jones

Memphis, Tennessee

If you're like me, you look forward to the day when the Count Report comes in the mail. I just love poring through all the tallies from counts across the continent, seeing all the species, especially those that I haven't seen before. These count reports provide a blueprint of places I might travel to and the butterflies I might see. And what's best, it gives contact information for each count's compiler which makes arranging a visit so easy. Over the years, I've kept Massachusetts in mind as a place to visit, and after a year of very little travel I decided I would make the trek northeast and join a few counts around the Independence Day holiday.

By attending several NABA Members Meetings, I had met many folks from the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, in particular Tom Gagnon and Bruce Callahan. I contacted Tom this spring and told him of my plans. I wanted to participate in the Southern Berkshire, Central Franklin, and Northern Berkshire counts and revisiting any sites that I missed in between. I had also contacted each count's leaders, and they provided some more great information.

As July approached, Tom called me to let me know that he might not be able to show me around as we had planned, but had enlisted Bill Benner and Joe Wicinski to be my butterfly buds for the trip. In the days before I was to leave I kept checking the weather forecast, which looked more grim each day. Was this going to be a repeat of the infamous NABA meeting from several years ago? I hoped there would be a few nice, sunny days, but there were no guarantees.

Arriving in Albany, I was greeted by rain. I made my way to Pittsfield which would be my base for my stay. The forecast for the next day was for clouds in the morning with rain moving in for the afternoon. I decided to start my morning at Pleasant Valley Wildlife Refuge. The air was very heavy and everything was wet from the day before. There wasn't much flying, but there were some nice wildflowers to keep my camera busy. But after a couple

of hours, it started raining. A quick check of the radar showed the rain was coming from the south, so to the north I went. I decided to go to Mountain Meadow Preserve near the Vermont line. As I drove, the clouds got a little higher and a little thinner, and my hopes were raised. As I pulled into the parking lot, I could see fritillaries flying over the tall wildflowers. Yes!!! As I approached the main meadow I could see stands of milkweed and fritillaries soaring everywhere. Looking at the milkweeds I made out the tell-tale dark triangles of hairstreaks, Striped Hairstreaks! I was able to spend a couple of hours traversing the meadow before the weather finally started to move in, but on my last pass I got my first lifer for the trip, an Eyed Brown. For the day I had 13 species, much better than I thought I would get after such a dubious start.

The next day was the South Berkshire count, but it was already raining and the forecast didn't promise any improvement through the day. I met Bill and Joe and we began our survey. We started the day at Myrin Preserve, then moved to Questing, and finished up at the farmstead at Diane's Trail. I've never tried to count butterflies in misty rain and temps in the 60s, but I did this time. Even as poor as the conditions were, we did manage to scare up a respectable 9 species, including a dozen or so Appalachian Browns, a hunkered down Broad-winged Skipper, and a gorgeous American Copper.

My third day gave me more of the same weather with breezy, cool, and misty conditions. Was this ever going to get better? Was this going to be another NABA meeting bust? I still had faith as the weather forecast did call for two good days encompassing the North Berkshire and Central Franklin counts, so I looked forward to the next few days. I did revisit the places we covered the day before on the count, but very few things were out. I did manage to get some nice wildflower photos and decided to go to Canoe Meadows in the afternoon. Although I only saw 7 species, I did get a lifer 'Veined' Mustard White, which was a nice addition to my list.

The morning of the North Berkshire count was greeted with cautious optimism as I met Joe and Bill again. It was cloudy, but the temperatures had warmed to the mid-70s, so things should

be flying. We stopped in a large clover field where there were hundreds of skippers flying slowly amongst the damp flowers. Of course the vast majority of these were European Skippers, but not long after we arrived I got a glimpse of my first lifer for the day, a Long Dash! As the morning progressed and things started to dry out, more and more things started to fly. One of the species I most wanted to see on this trip was Baltimore Checkerspot, and Bill and Joe promised the next place we were going was their “Baltimore spot.” Just as we arrived, the clouds started to part and the sun made an appearance for the first time during my trip. As we made our way to the damp meadow it wasn’t long before I got a glimpse of my quest. Several Baltimores were cavorting about, stopping



Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*),
7/4/21, Berkshire Co., MA, Bart Jones

periodically to perch for photos. Hundreds of caterpillars were devouring turtlehead and Joe even found a chrysalis. In the drier areas I got my second lifer of the day with a very worn Canadian Tiger Swallowtail. The last stop was at Stafford Hill WMA where I got my fourth and last lifer for the day, a beautiful White Admiral. For the day, our group counted 26 species and several hundred individuals, a good day indeed.

As I drove to Turner’s Falls for the Central Franklin count, bright sunshine and clear skies made the scenery pop and gave

my hopes a lift that the day was going to be a great one. My targets for this count were Bog Copper, Mulberry Wing, and Black Dash. This count routinely has hundreds of Bog Coppers so I felt confident about getting this species, but the others were a little iffy as the timing would be at the very start of their flight period. I hitched myself to Mark Fairbrother, who counts the cranberry bogs. A stop at a dry field at the end of the local airstrip was quite productive with a good diversity of species. Then it was on to our first bog. Almost immediately as we entered the open area, we were greeted with dozens of little skittering Coppers. These guys were so cute and quickly became a favorite. After I got my fill of photos, I started counting my section and picked up well over 100 to go with Mark's hundreds. Our next stop was a quite a surprise for me, an actual quaking bog! It is so surreal to walk on a mat of floating moss while literally hundreds of Bog Coppers fly about as you trudge through. This was truly an experience I won't forget! Since we hadn't seen a Mulberry Wing yet, Mark drove to a spot just outside the count circle where he had found a nice colony of



Mulberry Wing (*Poanes massasoit*), 7/5/21, Franklin Co, MA, Bart Jones

these guys. As we waded into the vegetation and clumps of its host grass, I eventually spotted a nice fresh one that happily posed for pics. After another marshy area and a nice hillside of spreading dogbane with lots of skippers, we called it a day. Although I was

wet from the knees down, it was a good kind of wet, the one that was the result of finding two new lifers and 29 species for the day.

My last day in Massachusetts was another day of dodging thunderstorms. I eventually found myself back at Mountain Meadow. I really wished I'd been able to visit this location on a good weather day because even with the clouds it produced 28 species including an Aphrodite Fritillary, a Northern Pearly-eye, and a Mourning Cloak. This brought my cumulative total of species in Massachusetts to 42 with 8 of those being new for me.

I specifically flew through Albany with hopes of seeing Karner Blues at the Albany Pine Bush. This unique habitat of ancient sand dunes supports a pine and scrub oak woodland community where sundial lupine, the Karner's host plant, grows in the more open areas. The second brood of Karner Blues fly in mid July, so I was worried they may not be flying when I visited on the 7th. But not long after I started walking the trail from the Nature Center, I ran into my first males. Further along, females began to show up on the flower clusters of New Jersey tea. And there were a few Edwards' Hairstreaks perched on the scrub oaks. It was a fantastic finish to my trip. If you haven't been to the Pine Bush, I highly recommend it.

My final tally for the trip was 45 species seen with 9 lifers, which was about the number that I was realistically hoping for. I missed out on a few things that I had hoped for like Acadian Hairstreak, Atlantis Fritillary, Hobomok Skipper, and Black Dash. But hey, that just gives me a reason to come back for another visit! I really want to thank Bill Benner and Joe Wicinski for being great guides and field companions and Mark Fairbrother for giving me the incredible quaking bog experience, not to mention the 1900+ Bog Coppers! Although I only had a couple of days of good weather, those two days were so good that it erased any disappointment I had from the rainy start to my trip. Western Massachusetts is a beautiful area, and I can't wait to return in the future.



Thirty for Thirty

This spring, we announced in the journal and online that 2021 is the NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club's 30th anniversary, and we challenged folks to spend 30 hours doing butterfly volunteer work for the occasion. Here, in no particular order, are some folks' thoughts and reports about how they spent their summer, including brief reports on the ongoing projects for Hessel's (Danielle Desmarais) and Acadian (Garry Kessler) Hairstreaks.

--ed.

I didn't keep track of my hours, but I know I surpassed 30. My main goal for this summer was to create one new garden space full of native plants that I carefully researched to select host options for various lepidoptera as well as nectar-rich sources of food for adult butterflies and pollinators. I ended up creating two new large garden spaces where there was previously lawn in my yard, and planted more natives in existing garden spaces. Along with the great nectar sources, I was able to add 20 new host plants to bring my yard up to a total of 30 unique host plant species. I've already spotted new caterpillars in my yard this year, and I can't wait to see what next year brings when I'll be able to experience the first full season with all these new plants!

I've also been tagging the migrating generation of Monarchs for the first time this year, both Monarchs that I've reared and wild Monarchs that I've caught in my yard. It's been a very rewarding experience knowing that I'm hopefully helping scientists learn more about the migration this year. Fingers crossed one of the Monarchs I've tagged is found in Mexico! I attached a photo (right) showing a Monarch being tagged.



Danielle Vaillancourt

Each season I spend way more than 30 hours outside [and contribute many great photos for the journal! -ed.], but as a generalist I search for all the insects I can find; I generally don't focus on just butterflies. But this summer I was lucky to see a number of butterfly species for the first time, and I might have missed them if it hadn't been for the generosity of time, spirit, and expertise from other NABA-MBC members. THANK YOU!

May 6, 2021 Howard Hoople – Horn Pond Mountain

1. Juniper Hairstreak. I saw this species once before in AZ; this was the first time I've seen it in Massachusetts.

2. Brown Elfin

July 5, 2021 Dolores Price – Hennessey Conservation Land, Grafton, MA

1. Baltimore Checkerspot – adult and larvae

2. Mulberry Wing

July 7, 2021 – Mark Rosenstein – Arlington Great Meadows, Lexington, MA

1. Edward's Hairstreak. (While Mark had also seen Coral Hairstreak there a few days before, I did not. I had to wait until the end of July to see my first one in a field in Chocorua, NH).

August 27, 2021 – Renee LaFontaine – Lower Mystic Lake, Medford, MA

1. Harvester

Linda Graetz

The Lepidoptera highlight of 2021 so far for me was a closeup view of a Luna Moth perched on a rear doorway of Southwick High School in Southwick, Mass. last June. I noticed it around mid-morning, and it was still there when I left at 2:30pm. It was my first closeup view of a Luna Moth. I imagine that they might be somewhat common, but because they're nocturnal, I'd never seen one before. Unfortunately I didn't have a phone with me to take a picture, but it was a beautiful moth.

I also have a couple of turtlehead plants in bloom in my yard right now. I'd collected the seed from a plant that was growing wild alongside a beaver pond in Chicopee about 5 years ago, and the plants reached blooming size last year. If they produce seed, I'll collect some, and try to distribute it around.

Moe O'Connor
Springfield, MA

Last Fall, I watched a video on Facebook about students picking cranberries in a cranberry bog at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (Plum Island). I contacted a staff member to ask if anyone had ever seen a Bog Copper butterfly in the cranberry bogs. Nancy Pau replied that Steve Haydock and Sharon Sticher may have looked, and I saw on the Massachusetts Butterfly Club website that the 1986-90 Butterfly Atlas reported Bog Coppers in Newburyport, but there had been no reports since then.

As the butterfly is listed as a species of conservation concern, I decided to apply for a Special Use Permit and go look for it. My original plan was to look twice a week from the end of June through early August, and I asked Marj Watson and Bo Zaremba to



join me in the project.

There are over fifty cranberry bogs at Plum Island; the three largest bogs surround the boardwalk at Lot #2 (see map opposite; the 3 bogs are central dark patches, faintly circled). At the beginning of the project, Piping Plovers were still nesting on the beach at Lot #2, so that parking area was closed to the public. We parked at Lot #1 and walked to the site, carrying our freshly bleached shoes and any other equipment that would touch the ground, in a backpack, in accordance with national wildlife requirements.

Despite the challenging weather over this summer - many hot, humid days with temperatures over 100 degrees, and many rainy days - one or more of us managed to visit the site on four occasions, investing fourteen hours looking for the butterfly.

Unfortunately, we did not see any Bog Coppers. On the upside, though, Bo found two insects previously unreported in the area: First Essex County record for the velvet-ant *Dasymutilla bioculata*. First Essex County record for the crambine moth *Prionapteryx achatina*, confirmed by Steven Whitebread at MassMoth.

Lucy Merrill-Hills
Roslindale, MA

I am pretty sure I got nowhere near 30 hours of volunteer service but I certainly tried! Lauren and I were the leaders of 2 walks for MBC, one in Noquochoke Wildlife Management Area, Dartmouth MA in July and one at the Nasketucket Bay State Reservation, Mattapoisett MA in August. I also co-led, with Blake Dinius, a butterfly walk at the Great Neck Audubon property in Wareham for the Wareham Land Trust. In early July, I took out 5th and 6th grade children from the summer program of the Wareham Public School system on two occasions to the Myles Standish State Forest Bentley Loop, in search of butterflies on a more educational level. That was a lot of fun! Lauren and I also both volunteered for

the day with other members of the MBC at the Barbara J. Walker Butterfly Festival at Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester. All great events and we had a blast meeting new people and teaching the children about the different butterflies that are probably right in their own neighborhoods.

Andrew Griffith

When I retired in 2004, I decided to monitor the Frosted Elfin population at Lamson Rd. in Foxboro. So almost every year since then, I walk the site through their flight period on every reasonable weather day that I'm available. Once the Frosted Elfins appear, my consistent route takes a minimum of two hours – so my 18 walks in 2021 from my first sighting on 5/9 to 6/10 are my 30+ hours towards this project. My one new experience this year was finding an empty egg case on a wild indigo plant that I had previously noted being visited by a female.

Madeline Champagne

ACADIAN HAIRSTREAK PROJECT

This year, 2021, in over 50 reports from over 30 towns we found Acadian hairstreaks (*Satyrrium acadica*) in only two locations. Over twenty members of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club helped search for the butterfly. Several others provided information identifying historical sites that were included in the search. One of the two sites where Acadian hairstreak was found was in northern Berkshire County on 7/20/21 (Bo Zaremba reported 1). The other was Joint Base Cape Cod between 6/28/21 and 7/10 (Peter Trimble, *et al.*) where a small but robust population was found. Unfortunately, the base is not open to the public.

There remain several sites that we were unable to visit this season. In some cases I have been unable to identify specific locations. In

a few other cases I had been able to learn site locations this year, but too late to search them. And in one case access to the site was blocked by construction. In all these cases the data I have indicates that the last sightings are several years old or older so these sites do not represent known recent populations.

People participating in searches and reporting data:

Bill Callahan	Garry Kessler
Brian Cassie	Jake McCumber
Jeremy Coleman	Rosemary Mosco
Danielle Desmarais	Michael Newton
Cathy Dodd	Dolores Price
Tom Dodd	Anne Reid
Andy Griffith	Mark Rosenstein
Lauren Griffith	Peter Trimble
Erin Haugh	Bo Zarembo
Gael Hurley	

People providing potential sites for the search:

Tom French	Erik Nielson
Tom Gagnon	Mark Mello
Howard Hoople	Dave Small
Mike Nelson	Tom Tynning

We expect to continue our survey again in 2022. Members interested in helping or with potential sites to be investigated can contact me at gkessler001@aol.com

Garry Kessler

MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLY CLUB HESSEL'S
HAIRSTREAK 2021 SEARCH RESULTS SUMMARY

The Massachusetts Butterfly Club (MBC), in conjunction with the Mass Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

(NHESP), attempted to document any observations of the Hessel's Hairstreak butterfly (*Callophrys hesseli*) throughout Massachusetts in 2021. 2021 marks the 5th year of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club coordinating the search. The project started on May 10th, 2021, and concluded on June 31st, 2021, which spans beyond the records for sightings for the species in Massachusetts. No Hessel's Hairstreaks were found in 2021.

Twenty sites were visited, and access was granted to 4 more private properties, including a brand new site to explore in Webster. There were 2 group trips. One group trip was to Sharon with 5 MBC members and a Dragonfly Club guest member. The other group trip was 4 MBC members who went to the closed Foxborough site with the group that found the butterfly there in 1988. The most valuable information gained was where to look within the swamp that sometimes needs to be waded into.

Mass Butterfly Club members who volunteered to search included: Danielle Desmarais, Joe Dwelly, Mark Rosenstein, Lauren Griffith, Andrew Griffith, Brian Cassie, Madeline Champagne, and Rosemary Mosco. Eight other volunteers were from other organizations.

Danielle Desmarais, 2021 Search coordinator.



Compton's
Tortoiseshell
(*Nymphalis
vau-album*),
7/22/21,
Plymouth, MA,
Andrew Griffith



Butterflies of Massachusetts:

Tom Murray

In Praise of a Great Naturalist

by Brian Cassie

Many of the world's most outstanding naturalists have communicated their brilliance with words - Gilbert White, Henry Thoreau, Alexander Skutch, Berndt Heinrich, to name a few. I've been inspired by them all. Skutch alone I got to visit - twice - on his southern Costa Rican farm. Those were memorable days, sharing thoughts with the dean of Central American birds. Alexander Skutch was a modest man in many ways but a person who believed deeply in his work and in sharing his science with the world. I wish I had known him better.

I do know quite well an outstanding naturalist that lives not in the tropics but here in Massachusetts. And he, much more often than not, uses his camera to convey his brilliance. My friend is Tom Murray, 15-year resident of Groton, in Middlesex County. Tom and his herpetologist wife, Julie Lisk, spend much of their lives studying local animals and sharing their research with the scientific, educational, and nature-loving communities of the Northeast and beyond.

If I had a nature-related webpage...which I do not...I think that I might be delighted to have a few hundred visitors stop by. Tom Murray has a photographic website which almost immediately passed a hundred, then a thousand, then a hundred thousand visits. And as of September 2021, thirty-nine million visits...from entomologists, nature photographers, birders, moth and butterfly and beetle and treehopper enthusiasts, teachers, authors, kids, and on and on. From every corner of the world (but especially North America, as one might expect) they come to find answers or just to gawk at the photo galleries, which are spectacular, both in their presentation and in their curation.

Is Tom very blessed to have huge corporate backing for all of his work? Do this academy of science and that university lend their financial support and other resources to this endeavor? Is, indeed, Tom Murray's vast inventory of nature photographs a result of his livelihood or is it an avocation, a splendid hobby, that he shares willingly and for no profit with whomever wishes to avail themselves of it? Hint : it's the same answer to each question. Here are Tom Murray's wildlife galleries. Enjoy them...and don't forget to leave a message for the fellow who has worked for decades to enlighten all of us:
<https://pbase.com/tmurray74/root>



(We asked Tom to tell us in his own words a little bit about himself--where he grew up, how he became interested in natural history, and what fascinates him about the natural world. Here is his response. --ed.)

I grew up in Fitchburg, MA, the youngest of five siblings. As far back as I can remember, I was always outdoors, and at 4 years old I started catching snakes in the neighborhood. I even have a vague memory of eating a worm when I was just 3 years old, a story my

sister has told me of many times over. My enthusiasm for snakes and other herps lasted into my teens, when sports and other activities took my attention away. My interest in nature was sparked again in my thirties by watching the birds coming to my feeders, and as time went by my bird watching expanded to the local fields and forest, and eventually to locations in the United States, and New World tropics.

As a birder I like to keep track of how many species I see. In summer, when birds aren't migrating, there isn't much new to see bird-wise, but that's when bug diversity is at its peak. In 2000 I bought my first digital camera and took pictures of butterflies and dragonflies. I'd look through a field guide trying to identify the pictures I took. Then I heard about the Massachusetts Butterfly Club and joined. I went on many of their field trips and learned from the "veteran" butterflies.

As the years passed, my photo equipment has been updated, and through trial and error I started getting better results. That's not to say you need expensive equipment—some cell phone pics can come out pretty good. Personally I like to use an SLR camera with a macro lens and a double light ring flash for my bug photography. I like being able to control the settings to my liking instead of letting the camera do what it thinks is good.

As you may know, I wrote *Insects of New England and New York* and took all but about 5 pictures in the book. Writing isn't one of the things I love to do, but it was a nice learning experience. It took me a year and a half to write, working on it most evenings and on the weekends. I'm proud of myself for persevering through to the end, and I enjoy the compliments I receive on my work. My interest in finding and photographing bugs was inspired in a few ways. Eric Eaton was writing his insect book, *The Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America*, and he was identifying photos on my Pbase site and used some of them in his book. Then Eric got me into BugGuide (bugguide.net), a great resource where I learned more and began posting images as well. I enjoy finding new species,

and like with birds, I keep an ever growing list. There are virtually a limitless number of bugs compared to birds. My ABA (American Birding Association) area bird list is just under 700, and my list of bugs photographed and identified is almost 10,000.

A big part of my local insect list are the moths that come to the light set up in my yard. After 15 years, my yard moth list is about 1,690 species. The nice thing about moths is they come to you, which means no walking through grassy fields with ticks. Also, I never have to get up early to see them, although I frequently stay up late into the night. It seems like the best moths come in late at night and thus I am generally at the lights until 2 a.m. or later. Fortunately, this schedule fits well with my wife's turtle work in June. I assist her with turtle evening nest surveys which entails searching for and protecting nests. The turtles finish nesting at just about the same time moths are at the sheet in large numbers. I then go to work the next day. My favorite moth isn't one of the flashy giant silk moths, but a tiny one called a Yellow-vested Moth. It's a dark brown moth less than a half inch tall with a bright yellow "vest" (see photo p. 19). After a long moth season, winter can be a nice break.

In early spring it's always exciting to see the first butterflies to come out. It usually ends up being a Mourning Cloak or Eastern Comma, but it's the elfins I most look forward to seeing in the spring. As the season transitions to fall, I enjoy getting out into the fields of red clover and milkweed to see the Monarchs.

I've been on a few out of state butterfly trips, usually organized by Steve Moore. They've all been great, seeing lots of new butterflies in places like California, Colorado, Florida and northern New Hampshire. One of the trips I haven't been on that would be nice is the SE US to see the Diana Fritillary and the other species I haven't seen yet. While there I'd look for other insects and hopefully set up a moth light.



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 31 for the Spring issue.

Send NABA Fourth of July count results to Karl Barry at:

karl@massbutterflies.org by **August 15** for inclusion in the Fall issue. Send your season sightings and records to Mark Fairbrother at:

mark@massbutterflies.org, by **December 15** (or earlier if possible!) 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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Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*), Shawnta Carson, Boston Nature Center staff member, and admirer, 7/29/21, Mattapan, MA, Lucy Merrill-Hills



Noquochoke NABA-MBC field trip participants (back row) Andrew Griffith, Lauren Griffith, Marvin St. Onge, Barbara Volkle, Steve Moore, (front row) Wendy Miller, Dolores Price, Blake Dinius, Joe Dwelly. 7/10/21, Westport, MA, Andrew Griffith