

The Caterpillars of Massachusetts 2009

A summary of my notes and findings

Sam Jaffe

The notes below regarding caterpillar location, hostplant, and season, etc. are based solely on my experiences with these organisms in the field during the spring, summer, and fall of 2009. No information provided here should be taken as exhaustive and Wagner* and others provide much more complete hostplant and general life history information. However, the information below may be especially relevant to those in eastern and central Massachusetts who wish to search for these species, as my experiences may provide clues to local host plant preferences, generational timing, and area hotspots for certain species.

Many species accounts are accompanied by [thumbnail links](#) to larger images hosted on my website. These photographs are the result of an ongoing project of mine to try and capture the unique beauty and strangeness of these organisms, while at the same time trying to convey information about their morphological and behavioral biologies. If you have any trouble with the links, the images are hosted on my pbase website at www.pbase.com/spjaffe in the gallery “The Caterpillars of Massachusetts”. My work will be on display at Audubon’s Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary in Natick during June and July of 2010, and will be on exhibit at the Children’s Museum of Boston in the Spring or Summer of 2011. Information regarding the sales of my prints and notecards is available at http://www.pbase.com/spjaffe/prints_for_sale

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Taxonomic ordering and many identifications thanks to:
***Wagner, David L. Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2005.**

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LIMACODIDAE – SLUG CATERpillARS

- *Tortricidia pallida* (Red-crossed Button Slug)

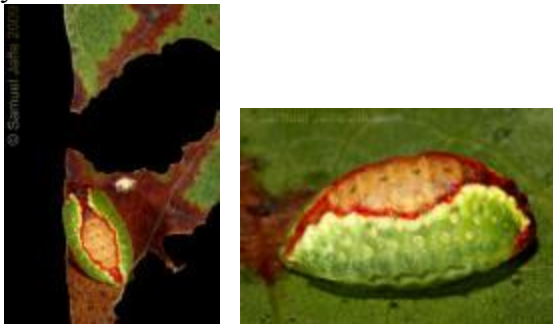
- **Location:** Mostly Great Blue Hill, Buck Hill, and Chickatawbut Hill in Canton and Milton. Also in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway. Present but scarce in other locations.
- **Hostplants:** I only found them on oaks. Especially scarlet oak in the higher areas of the Blue Hills, and red oak in swamplands.
- **Season:** Early instars first appeared in the Blue Hills in mid August and abundance peaked in early September. Numbers declined sharply towards end of September but fifth instars, especially parasitized individuals, were present through October 9th.
- **Notes:** Red-crossed slugs have a flattened appearance compared to other *Tortricidia* I have found and are extremely shield-like. These, and many other slugs, eat leaves straight across, like they have been cut by scissors - if you see this sort of damage it is likely that a slug caterpillar is near by. However, the best way to look for *Tortricidia* slugs is simply to turn over leaves and branches from knee height to eye level in open oak woodlands.



- *Tortricidia flexuosa* (Abbreviated Button Slug)

- **Location:** Prolific in the Blue Hills, especially in the middle to upper elevations. Present, but less abundant, in many other spots in eastern Massachusetts. I also found some in the central part of the state on Mt. Wachusett and Watatic. Also Drumlin Farm Drumlin. etc.
- **Hostplants:** All oaks – Abbreviated slugs seem to show less of a preference for red and scarlet oaks compared to *pallida*, though they are still common on these. I've seen *flexuosa* on scarlet, red, scrub, chestnut, chestnut scrub, and white oaks. These slugs were also common on some other host plant groups, especially beech and black cherry.
- **Season:** I found scattered early instars in early August, abundant middle to late instars from late August through late September, and a few apparently healthy fifth instars into the middle of October.

- **Notes:** *T. flexuosa* proved to be a dominant slug in eastern Massachusetts. Carefully searching scarred, reddened, oak leaves in the Blue Hills always turned up numbers. Of the caterpillars I raised, I expected many early instars to grow into the Red-eyed Button Slug (*Heterogenea*) but all ended up being *T. flexuosa*. Looking online at Bugguide.net and some private pages, many *flexuosa* have been mis-identified as the red-eyed slug, *Heterogenea shurtleffi*. Be careful – Wagner suggests Red-eyes have yellow anterior collar.



- *Packardia elegans* (Elegant Tailed Slug)

- **Location:** Only seen at Broad Meadow Brook Audubon Sanctuary in Worcester. They were common on low growing black cherry saplings at the edge of a recently cut poplar stand.
- **Hostplant:** Seen only on black cherry
- **Season:** Middle instars collected in late August, grew to final instars by early September.
- **Notes:** These really glow from the inside!



- *Packardia geminata* (Jeweled Tailed Slug)

- **Location:** Only found two individuals. One was halfway up Buck Hill in the Blue Hills, and one was within the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield.
- **Hostplant:** Found one caterpillar on chestnut oak and one on a very small Ericaceae shrub, probably young sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*).

- **Season:** Early August in the Blue Hills, end of August in Medfield. It seems this is an earlier slug species.
- **Notes:** All were parasitized. Slugs in general seem to be particularly hard hit by braconid wasp and fly parasitoids - if you raise these species do not be surprised if most or all of your specimens are effected.



- *Lithacodes fasciola* (Yellow-shouldered Slug)

- **Location:** Found throughout eastern and central Massachusetts. Rarely seen in quantity but present at most locations and within most habitats. Specific locations include the Blue Hills, various spots in Medfield, Millis, and Medway, Fowl Meadow, Wompatuck State Park, Harvard Forest in Petersham, Montague Plains, Wachusett Mountain and Meadows, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Many. Especially buckthorn, oak, and black cherry.
- **Season:** Somewhat early for a slug, I was finding this species from the first of August through early and mid September.
- **Notes:** To find these slugs, look for straight cut across leaves, a telltale sign of slug feeding that is especially easy to see on cherry and buckthorn. *L. fasciola* are often on fresher, greener foliage than other slugs. They had the highest parasitism rate of any slug in my collection.



- *Apoda biguttata* (Shagreened Slug)

- **Location:** A broad range of habitats from the upper regions of the Blue Hills to the swampy lowlands of the Great Black Swamp in Millis and Medway.
- **Hostplant:** Shagreened slugs were especially fond of scrub oak and white oak in the Blue Hills, but did show up on red oak a few times in the

swamps of Medway and Millis. The glaucous undersides of scrub oak leaves match this caterpillars appearance closely.

- **Season:** I was surprised to find these slugs already in their final instar by mid August. I found many large *Apoda* before other slug species had developed past tiny unidentifiable spots on leaves. A few final instar shagreened slugs remained into early September.
- **Notes:** Put these under a dissecting microscope – such a fantastic texture.



- *Apoda y-inversum* (Yellow-collard Slug)

- **Location:** A single individual on hickory at Wompatuck State Park
- **Hostplant:** Butternut hickory
- **Season:** Middle instar in mid August.
- **Notes:** Individual was in bad shape, after a single day in captivity clearly dead with parasitoid fly pupa lying nearby.

- *Prolimacodes badia* (Skiff Moth Slug)

- **Location:** From the summit area of Great Blue Hill in Canton to the swamps of Millis and Medway. Widespread. By far most common on Great Blue Hill though.
- **Hostplant:** Mostly oaks – red, scrub, white, and chestnut in the Blue Hills. I also found a few individuals on black cherry.
- **Season:** Middle instars started appearing out of thin air in very early August, and I collected an enormous final instar October 8th.
- **Notes:** To find them, look for classic slug caterpillar leaf damage and turn over many leaves and branches. This species was often parasitized by fly larvae and on most, the parasitoid's breathing tube was easily visible. A very variable species, with some extremely beautiful individuals.



- *Phobetron pithecium* (Monkey Slug / Hag Moth)

- **Location:** Rather common on Great Blue Hill in Canton, especially along the sides of the ski slopes and the summit paths. I also found a good number in Millis, Medway, and Medfield.
- **Hostplant:** Scrub oak, red oak, scarlet oak, black cherry, amelanchier, apple, rose, and buckthorn.
- **Season:** I began finding middle instars in late August, and continued finding caterpillars through October 9th. Abundance peaked in mid September.
- **Notes:** You have to really be looking for these to see them. They eat leaves straight across like other slugs, which helps in any search, but unless you have them in mind it is easy for your eyes to pass right over one. Many times I would see one, not understand it as an animal, move on, and have to go back and retrieve it after my brain had a chance to sort things out.



- *Isa textual* (Crowned Slug)

- **Location:** Common along the upper roadway and pathways of Great Blue Hill in Canton. Seen in other locations aswell but less abundant – Millis and Medway, Walpole, Wachusett area, Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester.
- **Hostplant:** Almost all finds were on oak, but single exceptions included beech, hickory, and elm.
- **Season:** Late season. First individuals were found in early September, healthy final instars into mid October. They were most abundant in late September.
- **Notes:** Very highly parasitized.



- *Adoneta spinuloides* (Purple-crested Slug)

- **Location:** I found two groupings on Great Blue Hill in Canton, mostly middle elevation, a few individuals in the swamps of Millis and Medway, and a cluster at Broad Meadow Brook Audubon in Worcester.
- **Hostplant:** Especially black cherry, but also buckthorn, and red and scarlet oak.
- **Season:** I found these from late August to late September. They seem to have a prolonged final instar, as individuals I kept track of in the wild developed very slowly through this final stage.
- **Notes:** If you find a purple-crested slug, spend some time searching knee-high foliage nearby – I always found this species in clusters. Many slugs seem happy on introduced buckthorns and the plants are easy to search - the simple rounded outline of the leaves cannot hide a slug's straight across eating habits. Purple-crested slugs, along with yellow-shouldered slugs, were heavily parasitized by a braconid wasp.



- *Euclea delphinii* (Spiny Oak-Slug)

- **Location:** Sadly, only one individual this year, crawling across an open parking lot at Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge. Last year I had a few on the slopes of Buck Hill in the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Unknown, last year I found them on scarlet oak.
- **Season:** I found the early final instar caterpillar on September 14th
- **Notes:** I wish I had more experience with this species – maybe next year.



HESPERIIDAE – THE SKIPPER BUTTERFLIES

- *Epargyreus clarus* (Silver Spotted Skipper)

- **Location:** Abundant throughout eastern and central Massachusetts. Specifically, the Blue Hills ski slope in Canton, fields and waste places in Millis and Medway, parking lot edges of Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, Harvard Forest in Petersham, Montague Plains, Great Meadows NWR in Concord, Broad Meadow Brook Audubon Sanctuary in Worcester, Wachusett Meadows, Martin Burns WMA in Newbury, Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Bristly locust (*Robinia hispida*) and black locust in June, mostly black locust in midsummer, and black locust, groundnut, and two individuals on bush clover in the late summer and fall.
- **Season:** June through October. Three generations occurring, at least in some spots, with the fall generation covering the most territory and producing the most caterpillars. Maximum abundance was in late August and early September.
- **Notes:** Quickly became an old friend on my caterpillar hunts. Look for early instars below diagnostic folded over leaf flaps, older instars in multiple leaved tents. If you examine foliage adjacent to a large caterpillar, you can usually find a complete set of different sized shelters used as the skipper grew. One small locust in a Medway field held eight final instar caterpillars.



- *Erynnis icelus* (Dreamy Duskywing)

- **Location:** Two individuals, one in a dry field in Millis and one along the power line cut of Broad Meadow Brook Audubon in Worcester.
- **Hostplant:** One on knee high aspen and one on six foot bigtooth poplar.
- **Season:** An early instar in Millis in July and a final instar at Broad Meadow Brook in mid/late August.
- **Notes:** I think that there were many more of these to be found – I did not focus too much time and energy on searching for their enclosures.

- *Erynnis brizo* (Sleepy Duskywing)

- **Location:** Single find on top of Chickatawbut Hill in the Blue Hills
- **Hostplant:** Scrub Oak
- **Season:** Mid Summer

- *Erynnis juvenalis* (Juvenal's Duskywing)

- **Location:** Higher, dryer, areas of Great Blue Hill, Buck Hill, and Chickatawbut Hill in the Blue Hills. Also one from the Moose Hill powerline cut in Sharon.
- **Hostplant:** Favorite seems to be scrub oak, but also red and scarlet oaks.
- **Season:** At various times throughout the summer I found early instar *Erynnis* on oak – these may have been one of a number of species. Concentrated searches in late September and October have proved very productive for final instar identifiable caterpillars.
- **Notes:** Caterpillars that I felt comfortable identifying as *juvenalis* were yellowish green with broad yellowish subdorsal stripes and six orange spots on the head capsule. Caterpillars with a more bluish hue and narrower white subdorsal strip are likely Horace's Duskywing.

- *Erynnis horatius* (Horace's Duskywing)

- **Location:** West Bridgewater and Great Blue Hill in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Scrub, black, and red oak.
- **Season:** I collected a final instar larva on August 16th in West Bridgewater. More in late September and early October. There should have been full-grown caterpillars in early Summer from the first flight, but I never came across any.
- **Notes:** See notes for *juvenalis* – *horatius* seems to lack the yellow hue of its close relative.



- *Erynnis baptisiae* (Wild Indigo Duskywing)

- **Location:** Dry fields and waste places in Millis and Medway, the northern ski slopes of Great Blue Hill in Canton, and Myles Standish State Forest.
- **Hostplant:** I only saw them on wild indigo.
- **Season:** Final instar caterpillars, either already having erupted with braconids or a few days from erupting, were found in early July and then again in early October.
- **Notes:** 100% of the two dozen or so caterpillars I hunted down this year were parasitized by braconid wasps. I suspect that, at the time I was searching, healthy individuals had already pupated leaving behind only slower growing parasitized caterpillars for me to find. I hope this is the case at any rate.



- *Pholisora catullus* (Common Sootywing)

- **Location:** I found a single caterpillar along the flowery edge of a crop field at the Blue Hills Brookwood Farm.
- **Hostplant:** A showy species of Amaranth.
- **Season:** Final instar in mid August, this pupated and produced an adult in late August.

PAPILIONIDAE – SWALLOWTAILS

- *Papilio glaucus* (Tiger Swallowtail) & possibly sibling species?
 - **Location:** All over the state, including the Blue Hills in Canton and Milton, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield and Millis, the Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, Wompatuck State Park and Worlds End in Hingham, Plum Island and other spots on the North Shore, Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester, Wachusett Meadows, Mt. Wachusett and Watatic summits, Montague Plains, Harvard Forest in Petersham, and the slopes of Mt. Greylock. Caterpillar distribution mirrors adult tiger swallowtail distribution, i.e. they are present in almost any semi-open to open habitat ranging from sea level waterways to mountain top scrub.
 - **Hostplant:** Surprisingly varied. Aspen, bigtooth poplar, cottonwood, birch, elm, white ash, and black cherry. Most finds were on poplars in the early part of the season and on black cherry late in the season. These apparent preferences aside, I found caterpillars using a broad range of hosts even within a small area (ex. Wachusett Meadow: black cherry, ash, aspen)
 - **Season:** June to October. Abundant in the Wachusett area in July and early August and on the Coastal Plain in September. I gather that tiger swallowtails in Massachusetts are rather poorly understood, and that there may be multiple species in the state with different larval seasons.
 - **Notes:** Looking on a wider range of plants, and focusing searches on saplings and young trees along powerline cuts, fields, and woodland edges, I found more tiger swallowtail caterpillars this past season than in all the rest of my summers combined.



- *Papilio polyxenes* (Black Swallowtail)
 - **Location:** Only a very few caterpillars this year. One fifth instar in late August at Wachusett Meadows Sanctuary, one fifth instar in September at the very top of Great Blue Hill, and a scattering of third and fourth instar cats in October on a farm in Millis.
 - **Hostplant:** Queen anne's lace and carrot.

- **Season:** I did not see a single caterpillar before late August this year. Last year was a different story with caterpillars showing up in all Summer and Fall months.



- *Papilio Troilus* (Spicebush Swallowtail)

- **Location:** Across the Blue Hills in Milton and Canton, Fowl Meadow in Readville, Moose hill in Sharon, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester, Oxbow NWR, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** I found them predominantly sassafras but spicebush was used as well.
- **Season:** There was rather a lot of discussion about spicebush swallowtail seasons on masslep this past year... I saw my first caterpillars in the Blue Hills and in Sharon in late may and early June. This first generation was small and finding caterpillars was a challenge. In mid to late July things changed and a more abundant and broadly ranging generation began feeding. In mid to late August there were two different age groups feeding, one of early instars and one of fourth and fifth instars. The last caterpillars of the year disappeared from sassafras in the final days of September.
- **Notes:** A very easy to find caterpillar when the timing is right. Just look for their upward folding leaf homes on sassafras saplings and smaller trees. If you don't find any larva from the spring flight, be patient and look again in the late summer and fall when they are abundant.



PIERINAE – WHITES

- *Pieris rapae* (Cabbage White)

- **Location:** Organic farms in Millis and Canton, fields and waste places in Readville, Canton, Milton, Medfield, and Millis.
- **Hostplant:** Cabbage, mustard seed, broccoli, wintercress. An introduced wintercress growing in empty lots and disturbed fields produced many caterpillars.
- **Season:** Beginning to end.



- *Colias* Species (Orange / Clouded Sulphur)

- **Location:** Millis in the spring, Bolton Flats in the fall.
- **Hostplant:** Red Clover
- **Season:** Collected a few eggs and second instars in June and swept a few fifth instars in September.
- **Notes:** Not an easy to come by caterpillar given the abundance of the adults. If a concentrated effort is put in, either by searching clover plant by plant, or by sweeping a net through large clover patches, a few caterpillars can be collected.

LYCAENIDAE – HAIRSTREAKS, COPPERS, BLUES

- *Feniseca tarquinius* (Harvester)

- **Location:** I found small populations in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, Fowl Meadow in Readville, the Arnold Arboretum, and at Harvard Forest in Petersham.
- **Hostplant:** Meat! Aphids feeding on alder. I often found the aphid colonies on the lower internal branches of alder trees and bushes that were

growing apart from the main alder stands. Understory alders also proved productive for both aphid and caterpillar.

- **Season:** Late August through October. Earlier generations should have been present in the spring and summer months, but it is easier to see the aphid colonies, and thus track down caterpillars, as they grow larger and as the trees start to lose their leaves in the fall.
- **Notes:** I collected a few smaller fifth instars to photograph. These refused to feed on the rather disrupted aphid colony I had for them and ended up pupating early. I released the smallish resulting butterflies. Probably not a good species to try and rear.
- **Additional Note:** Marj Rines noted that she has had regular success raising harvesters and that my experiences may be atypical. She also sent me a link to her Harvester website: <http://mrines.com/butterflies/harvesters>

- *Lycaena phlaeas* (American Copper)

- **Location:** Roadside fields along rt. 109 in Millis and Medway, the Blue Hills ski slope in Canton, and the dunes of Race Point, Provincetown.
- **Hostplant:** Exclusively sheep sorrel – I never found any on dock.
- **Season:** A long season with many generations and many opportunities to find caterpillars. Unfortunately the caterpillars make up for this by being very secretive.
- **Notes:** I was able to find copper caterpillars by collecting sheep sorrel, roots and all, from areas where adults were flying. I then placed the plants in zip lock bags and waited a day for frass to accumulate under feeding larva. Even tiny first instar larva can be sorted out in this manner. Coppers proved very easy to raise.



- *Satyrrium calanus* (Banded Hairstreak)

- **Location:** Abundant in the Blue Hills. Especially common on the western face and summit of Great Blue Hill but also present on the slopes of Buck Hill and Chickatawbut. Also numbers at Wompatuck S.P. in Hingham.

- **Hostplant:** Scrub and red oaks were the dominant hosts in the Blue Hills. I found a caterpillar on hickory and one eating birch at Wompatuck.
- **Season:** I began finding middle instar *S. calamus* around May 10th and the caterpillars remained active through the very beginning of June.
- **Notes:** A large, pretty, and active Lycaenid. I had good luck in the late evenings, when caterpillars started appearing on the dorsal surfaces of scrub oak leaves. Being patient and turning hundreds of leaves also helps.



- *Satyrium liparops* (Striped Hairstreak)

- **Location:** I found caterpillars at Ponkapoag Bog and Great Blue Hill in Canton, Fowl Meadow in Readville, and the Great Black Swamp in Millis.
- **Hostplant:** Fresh highbush blueberry and black cherry blossoms. Ate young foliage in captivity.
- **Season:** Perhaps a bit earlier than banded hairstreaks. *S. liparops* first appeared in early May and were completely absent by the first of June.
- **Notes:** One single highbush blueberry plant along the dirt road to Ponkapoag Bog contained well over a dozen striped hairstreak caterpillars. Other than this wonderful bush, caterpillars were only found as singles on stray cherry and blueberry plants. Focus on fresh buds to find these cats.



- *Strymon melinus* (Gray Hairstreak)

- **Location:** The ski slopes of Great Blue Hill, roadside fields in Millis and Medway, and along the powerline cuts of Moose hill in Sharon.

- **Hostplant:** This should be fun... the flowers and seeds of round-headed bush clover, red clover, purple loosestrife, queen anne's lace, thistle, and aster. All hostplants on this list, save one, represent single finds. During September and October the round-headed bush clover on the slopes and summit of Great Blue Hill were loaded with gray hairstreak and tailed blue caterpillars. In a focused search I found dozens of *Strymon* and close to a hundred *Everes*.
- **Season:** Despite searching, I found no caterpillars in the spring or early summer and only scattered fifth instar caterpillars in August. In September and October I suddenly began finding dozens of larva, all on round headed bush clover, mostly in the Blue Hills.
- **Notes:** The abundant fall generation was decimated by parasitoids. Small fly eggs were found on many caterpillars and black bruises and breathing tubes were visible on most of the rest. On multiple occasions I witnessed a small fly lay eggs on a caterpillar. By the end of the season I took to traveling with a pin and flicking off parasitoid eggs as I found them. Most interesting was that the more numerous tailed blues, occupying the same heads of clover as the hairstreaks, were left completely untouched!



- *Everes comyntas* (Eastern Tailed-Blue)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill in Canton, Fowl Meadow in Readville, and a roadside field in Millis.
- **Hostplant:** I found tailed blues on legume flowers and seeds - two middle instar caterpillars were on small hop clover (*Trifolium dubium*) in June, one was on red clover in early September, and hundreds were on round headed bush clover (*Lespedeza capitata*) in September and October.
- **Season:** Despite careful searches, I was unable to find more than a few individuals in the spring and summer. However, in late September I came across a large population using the abundant flowering and seeding bush clover on Great Blue Hill's ski slopes. It may be that the fall generation of tailed blues produces more caterpillars than earlier generations, but equally, I may have simply missed caterpillar outbreaks on earlier season legume flowers.
- **Notes:** Tailed blue caterpillars were remarkably free of obvious parasitoid damage. This was especially noticeable because the gray hairstreaks that

they shared flowers with were overridden with parasitoids. *Everes* caterpillars raised from the September and October generation are overwintering as larva, while *Strymon* from the same plants have pupated.

- *Celastrina* species (Azures)

- **Location:** The Blue Hills in Canton and Milton, Fowl Meadow in Readville, Millis and Medway, Moose hill in Sharon, Broad Meadow Brook Audubon in Worcester, and Wachusett Meadows. I always saw many more butterflies than caterpillars – completely missing the larva in some spots where the adults were abundant.
- **Hostplant:** Highbush blueberry, chokecherry, black cherry, cultivated spirea, native spireas, alternate leaved dogwood, red osier dogwood, viburnum, and goldenrod.
- **Season:** I was finding azure caterpillars from early May (blueberry) through August (spirea) and I saw azures laying on goldenrod flowers in late august. The bulk of my azure sightings were in May and June, but this is when I was most on the lookout for them.
- **Notes:** I have tried to break up my caterpillar sightings into the three species that I understand live in eastern Massachusetts: *ladon*, *serotina*, and *neglecta*. Most of what follows is based upon flight times and ID tips given by Harry Pavulaan and David Wright earlier in the year. It would be interesting to focus more energy on the caterpillars of this species group next year.

- *Celastrina ladon* (Spring Azure)

- **Location:** Ponkapoag Bog
- **Hostplant:** Highbush Blueberry
- **Season:** Collected as early instars in early May, all pupated before June first.
- **Notes:** Although I found many azure caterpillars this spring, these are the only ones I feel 100% comfortable ID-ing as *C. ladon*. Other records could have been *C. serotina*.



- *Celastrina serotina* (Cherry Gall Azure) *Probable
 - **Location:** Ponkapoag Bog, Moose Hill Audubon, and my parent's backyard in Newton.
 - **Hostplant:** Black cherry, chokecherry, cultivated spirea.
 - **Season:** I found early and middle instar caterpillars at the very end of May and early June – these were on flowers nearby to where I had observed flights of probable *C. serotina* in late May.

- *Celastrina neglecta* (Summer Azure)
 - **Location:** Fowl Meadow in Readville, Moose Hill powerline cut in Sharon.
 - **Hostplant:** Dogwood, spirea, goldenrod species.
 - **Season:** Late instar caterpillars in early July and early August on spirea (one cat on dogwood bloom), and eggs in late August laid on Goldenrod.
 - **Notes:** ID based solely on season – I assume caterpillars found in late June and onward should be this species.

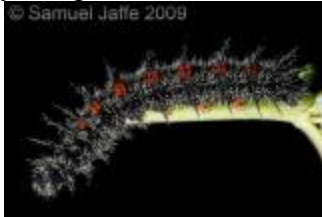
NYMPHALIDAE – BRUSH FOOTED BUTTERFLIES

- *Polygonia interrogationis* (Questionmark)
 - **Location:** Great Meadows NWR in Concord, Wompatuck S.P. in Hingham, Great Blue Hill in Canton, and the Charles River Flood Plain in Medfield.
 - **Hostplant:** All on young american elm
 - **Season:** June and then August.
 - **Notes:** Caterpillars were scarce compared to previous years

- *Roddia vaualbum* (Compton Tortoise Shell)
 - **Location:** Wompatuck S.P. in Hingham, Fowl Meadow in Readville.
 - **Hostplant:** American elm
 - **Season:** Caterpillars found in early June.
 - **Notes:** I've seen this caterpillar a few times in the last couple of years – always on low over hanging elm branches at the edge of substantial wet woodlands. Wompatuck and Fowl Meadow have been the best spots.

- *Nymphalis antiopa* (Mourning Cloak)

- **Location:** Waste area off of rt. 109 in Medway, Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, and Fowl Meadow in Readville.
- **Hostplant:** All caterpillar masses were feeding on pussywillow shrubs.
- **Season:** Late May to early June.
- **Notes:** Another brushfoot that I had less luck finding this year than in years past.



- *Vanessa cardui* (Painted Lady)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill ski slope base.
- **Hostplant:** I believe Pigweed, or a relative.
- **Season:** I discovered six fifth instar caterpillars in early June.



- *Vanessa viginensis* (American Lady)

- **Location:** Abundant on the slopes and summit of Great Blue Hill in Canton, also seen along the Moose Hill powerline cuts in Sharon, and at Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary on Cape Cod.
- **Hostplant:** Pussytoes, cudweed, and pearly everlasting. Sharon Stichter straightened me out regarding american lady hostplant use through masslep this fall... “The american ladies in the fall will be using pearly everlasting, (*Anaphalis* spp.), and not pussytoes (*Antennaria* spp.). Pussytoes blooms only in the spring, with fuzzy white flowers; the ladies use the leaves. Pearly everlasting blooms now. They use cudweed (*Gnaphalium* spp) midseason.” Caterpillars in May and early June had eaten the pussytoe plants down to the ground making the plants and the caterpillars hard to spot without careful searching, while fall generation

caterpillars were much more visible in pillowy flower petal shelters built within the racemes of larger pearly everlasting plants.

- **Season:** All season long – I've been finding these caterpillars in good numbers (at least in the Blue Hills) from May through early October, with only short breaks between broods.



- *Limenitis arthemis astyanax* (Red-spotted Purple)

- **Location:** Many spots in eastern and central Massachusetts, but especially the Blue Hills and the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway.
- **Hostplant:** Predominantly black cherry, but I also found a small group on crab apple.
- **Season:** I found this species feeding from April until mid September when they spun and entered their hybernaculum. I believe there were three full generations this season.
- **Notes:** One of the very first large caterpillars of spring. On April 30th I found a freshly shed fifth instar – a great way to kick off a season.



- *Limenitis archippus* (Viceroy)

- **Location:** Viceroy's showed up in nearly every single open habitat that I searched. The caterpillars were often much more prevalent than the adults.
- **Hostplant:** Willow and poplar saplings and young trees.
- **Season:** Long season, as with *Limenitis arthemis*. Three generations.

- **Notes:** Whenever I came upon a Viceroy caterpillar I could usually count on finding a bunch more nearby – sometimes on the same small plant, but more often spread out over a few dozen neighboring saplings. Red-spotted purple caterpillars were generally spaced farther apart than viceroys. Early instar caterpillars of this and the previous species feed on tissue at the apex of a leaf, leaving the midvein intact to rest upon. Lying completely exposed, they look nothing more than an uninteresting fleck of detritus.



- *Euphydryas phaeton* (Baltimore)

- **Location:** Don Adams' backyard in West Bridgewater and World's End in Hingham.
- **Hostplant:** English Plantain.
- **Season:** I saw hanging prepupal caterpillars at World's End in early June and a group of middle instar caterpillars at Don's in mid August.
- **Notes:** Thanks Don!

- *Danaus plexippus* (Monarch)

- **Location:** A few in the Blue Hills and Fowl Meadow. Good numbers at Wachusett Meadows and up in Gardner MA.
- **Hostplant:** Milkweeds – including swamp milkweed at Fowl Meadow.
- **Season:** Caterpillars were quite scarce until mid August and September.

DREPANIDAE – HOOKTIPS and THYATIRINES

- *Oreta rosea* (Rose Hooktip)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway.
- **Hostplant:** *Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides* – wild raisin. I did not find them on other nearby viburnums such as arrowwood.

- **Season:** Early instar caterpillars began appearing in late June with final instars by late July and very early August. Moths eclosed quickly in captivity, suggesting a possible second generation – though I found no caterpillars in the late summer or fall.
- **Notes:** I often found caterpillars resting exposed on the dorsal surfaces of leaves. Chosen hostplants were always in dark swampy understory areas.



- *Drepana bilineata* (Twin-lined Hooktip)

- **Location:** Boggy lowlands of the Harvard Forest in Petersham.
- **Hostplant:** Birch.
- **Season:** I came across an early final instar on September 19th.
- **Notes:** Fantastic catkin mimic. When disturbed the caterpillars assume a position reminiscent of a middle instar Furcula – head and tail raised, overall position V-shaped.



- *Pseudothyatira/Habrosyne* sp. (Thyatirid)

- **Location:** Caterpillars similar to the tufted thyatirid pictured in Wagner's guide pg. 142 were found in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Mt. Wachusett summit area, and the summit of Mt. Greylock.
- **Hostplant:** *Rosa multiflora*, birch, and beech (Mt. Greylock).
- **Season:** Late August and September.
- **Notes:** Young caterpillars were tan rather than reddish and usually had a pale saddle mark over their thoracic segments. They assume a rather Prominent-like position when resting or disturbed - rear abdominal segments and anal prolegs raised off the substrate, elevated thorax, head curled to one side.

GEOMETRIDAE – INCHWORMS Etc.

- *Alsophila pometaria* (Fall Cankerworm)

- **Location:** Abundant throughout the oak and mixed forests of eastern Massachusetts. They were especially common at Moose Hill in Sharon, where many dark forms were present.
- **Hostplant:** Assorted, seemed especially fond of oaks and cherry.
- **Season:** Identifiable fall cankerworms began appearing towards the end of the wintermoth plague - mostly the end of May and beginning of June.

- *Macaria* sp. (Macaria Pine Angles)

- **Location:** Anywhere with pines, different *Macaria* species from different pine species.
- **Hostplant:** White pine, pitch pine.
- **Season:** Caterpillars most prevalent in September, though I collected individuals in July, August, and October as well.
- **Notes:** I've spent a lot of time sweeping *Macaria* from pine trees to try and get a handle on the groups identification – not a simple task. However, using the information on the website <http://www.forestpests.org/caterpillars/> I was able to identify most individuals to species level (and I confirmed many through rearing last year!).



- *Protoarmia porcelaria* (Dash-lined Looper)

- **Location:** Found at Great Blue Hill in Canton, Fowl Meadow in Readville, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Oak, blueberry, red maple, and I believe a middle instar from eastern red cedar. They seem to prefer buds and flowers to foliage in the spring.

- **Season:** One of the first active caterpillars of spring with a few fifth instars on May 1st. Early to middle instars in September and October. This species over-winters as a caterpillar.



- *Epimecis hortaria* (Tulip-tree Beauty)

- **Location:** Fowl Meadow in Readville, Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, and the Blue Hills in Milton and Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Spicebush and perhaps less commonly, Sassafras.
- **Season:** I saw a good number of early instar caterpillars in mid to late May and a few scattered fourth and fifth instars in June. I've never found any in the late summer or fall, but the species is quick to eclose in captivity.
- **Notes:** Search the underside of spicebush leaves for the amorphous early and middle instar caterpillars - these grow quickly, a large fifth instar beauty is actually rather impressive.

- *Eufidonia notataria* (Powder Moth)

- **Location:** I swept a handful of individuals from pines along the edges of the Moose Hill powerline cut in Sharon.
- **Hostplant:** White pine.
- **Season:** Late instar caterpillars in late July.
- **Notes:** I had witnessed countless powder moths laying eggs along the powerline cut earlier in the season.

- *Biston betularia* (Cleft-headed Looper)

- **Location:** A single large parasitized caterpillar at the top of Mt Watatic.
- **Hostplant:** Birch.
- **Season:** Final instar in mid September.

- *Hypagyrtis esther* or similar (Esther Moth)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill in Canton.

- **Hostplant:** White pine.
- **Season:** Caterpillars were common in May and June along the road up Great Blue Hill.

- *Phigalia strigataria* (Small Phigalia)

- **Location:** Common in the Blue Hills. Also present in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, and various other spots.
- **Hostplant:** Oak, hickory, black cherry, and others.
- **Season:** Caterpillars throughout most of May, with final instars showing up in late May and early June.



- *Phigalia titea* (The Half-Wing)

- **Location:** Especially common in the Blue Hills and surrounding lowlands, but present in most of the locations I visited in the spring.
- **Hostplant:** Cherry, apple, blueberry, maple, oak, hickory, white pine and others.
- **Season:** I was finding caterpillars from mid May through late June.



- *Phaeoura quernaria* (Oak Beauty)

- **Location:** I found one caterpillar along the entrance road to Wompatuck State Park in Hingham.
- **Hostplant:** Black cherry.
- **Season:** Collected as an unidentifiable early instar in early July. It grew surprisingly quickly and pupated before the month was over.

- **Notes:** What a fantastic caterpillar, and definitely one to view under a magnifying glass or through a macro lens. One of our absolute best twig mimics.



- *Caripeta piniata* (Northern Pine Looper)

- **Location:** The summit area of Great Blue Hill in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** White pine.
- **Season:** I found a few final instars in mid October.

- *Besma quercivoraria* (Oak Besma)

- **Location:** Abundant in the Blue Hills, the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, Walpole, and other spots.
- **Hostplant:** Oak, birch, maple.
- **Season:** Very common from mid July through early August.

- *Eutrapela clemataria* (Purplish-Brown Looper)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis.
- **Hostplant:** *Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides* – wild raisin.
- **Season:** Collected as a middle instar on July 12th, pupated in early August.



- *Nemoria* sp. (Emerald Caterpillars)

- **Location:** I found various *Nemoria* throughout the state, with specific records from the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, Walpole, Wompatuck State Park and Worlds End in Hingham, the Blue Hills in Canton and Milton, the Mt. Wachusett summit area, and Wachusett Meadows.
- **Hostplant:** Scrub oak, chestnut scrub oak, red oak, poison ivy, sweetfern, and birch.
- **Season:** I found final instar caterpillars on and off from late July through early October. They were most abundant in late August and early September.
- **Notes:** Given the wide range of hostplants and locations, I would guess that I have been finding a few different species of emerald this season. General morphology has also varied considerably, but these caterpillars are famous for their variability so I'll defer to the experts for species level identification.



- *Synchlora aerata* (Camouflaged Looper)

- **Location:** Massasoit State Park in East Taunton, roadside meadows in Millis and Medway, Great Blue Hill ski slopes and summit.
- **Hostplant:** Goldenrod flowers, goldenrod seed, chrysanthemum
- **Season:** Mature caterpillars on August first and a single caterpillar on October 17th.



- *Hethemia pistasciaria* (Pistachio Emerald)
 - **Location:** Great Blue Hill ski slopes and summit, Wilson Mt. in Dedham, and other spots.
 - **Hostplant:** Daisy and other flowers.
 - **Season:** I see these mostly in the fall – September through mid October.

- *Cyclophora pendulinaria* (Sweetfern Geometer)
 - **Location:** Anywhere that sweetfern grows, Great Blue Hill has a healthy population and so does Moose Hill in Sharon.
 - **Hostplant:** Sweetfern
 - **Season:** Sizable caterpillars beginning in mid June and continuing through mid October. Abundant in September and early October.
 - **Notes:** *Cyclophora* are generally easy to find by sweeping a net through sweetfern patches. They come in nearly every possible color and are very pretty for a smaller geometer.



- *Pleuroprucha insulsaria* (Common Tan Wave)
 - **Location:** Caterpillars common in most meadows and gardens around the state.
 - **Hostplant:** Flowers and fruit. I saw many on sweet clover this year.
 - **Season:** July through October.
 - **Notes:** very variable in color and pattern.



- *Scopula limboundata* (Large Lace-Border)

- **Location:** Buck Hill in the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** I swept a caterpillar from an area containing scrub oak, chestnut oak, black cherry, and bramble. The caterpillar thrived on an oak diet in captivity.
- **Season:** Final instar in mid May
- **Notes:** A very long caterpillar.



- *Eulithis diversilineata* (Lesser Grapevine Looper)

- **Location:** Present on most grapevines, especially on the southeastern coastal plain (Wompatuck State Park, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Fowl Meadow...)
- **Hostplant:** I've only found these on grapes.
- **Season:** Scattered individuals from mid June through August.



- *Operophtera brumata* (Winter Moth)

- **Location:** Plague numbers in Readville, the Blue Hills, Wompatuck State Park, Newton, Moose Hill in Sharon, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Many trees – devastated oaks.
- **Season:** Late April, May, and early June.
- **Notes:** Spring caterpillar hunting can be depressing as you must filter through the thousands of winter moth larva to find even a single more interesting native caterpillar. However, it was interesting to see pinion caterpillars hunting and feeding on wintermoths in areas where they were abundant enough to be captured with little effort.

- *Eupithecia* sp. (Pugs)

- **Location:** Anywhere with flowers.
- **Hostplant:** I've seen *Eupithecia* on goldenrod, daisy, pearly everlasting, aster, joe-pye-weed, viburnum, dogwood, oak, and others.
- **Season:** All season long – into at least late October.
- **Notes:** I'd be interested to know more about the *Eupithecia* caterpillars of Massachusetts – if there are different species utilizing different hostplants and appearing in different seasons. For now though, a pug is a pug is a pug.



- *Lobophora nivigerata* (Two-lined Aspen Looper)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, and Fowl Meadow in Readville.
- **Hostplant:** Bigtooth poplar and aspen.
- **Season:** A few final instars in mid July and one in late August.

- *Cepphis armataria* (Scallop Geometer)

- **Location:** The Charles River Floodplain of Medfield.
- **Hostplant:** Feeding on a foot tall choke cherry that was totally overgrown by a large dense grapevine.
- **Season:** One final instar caterpillar on September first.



MIMALLONIDAE – SACK BEARERS

- *Lacosoma chiridota* (Scalloped Sack-Bearer)
 - **Location:** Great Blue Hill, Buck Hill, and Chickatawbut Hill in the Blue Hills.
 - **Hostplant:** Scrub oak – mostly those plants growing in the open as part of larger scrub oak, pitch pine barrens – rarely on isolated or understory plants.
 - **Season:** Multiple fifth instars in September and October.

BOMBYCIDAE – TRUE SILKWORMS

- *Malacosoma americanum* (Eastern Tent Caterpillar)
 - **Location:** Universal
 - **Hostplant:** Almost exclusively black cherry in early and middle instars when caterpillars were still tied to a tent. Later on, fifth instars were found feeding on many other shrubs and trees.
 - **Season:** Late April through June.



- *Malacosoma disstria* (Forest Tent Caterpillar)
 - **Location:** Universal
 - **Hostplant:** Many trees, but in my area at least, they seemed to favor oaks.
 - **Season:** April through late June.

- *Phyllodesma americana* (Lappet Moth)

- **Location:** Wells State Park and Wachusett Meadows.
- **Hostplant:** White ash, bigtooth poplar.
- **Season:** Fifth instars July 13th and August 2nd.
- **Notes:** Both times I found this caterpillar it was not by sight but by touch. Its quite a surprise to be grabbing for what looks like a smooth, hard, branch and instead come away with one of these muppets!



SATURNIIDAE – GIANT SILKWORMS

- *Dryocampa rubicunda* (Rosy Maple Moth)

- **Location:** Wachusett Mt. summit area, Wachusett Meadows, Gardner, and the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway.
- **Hostplant:** Sugar and red maples.
- **Season:** I found groups of middle to late instar caterpillars beginning in early August and single late instar caterpillars at various locations in late August and early September.
- **Notes:** This species seems to pick up in abundance the farther west and north you go in the state. I've found them to be relatively uncommon on the south coastal plain.

- *Anisota virginiensis* (Pink-striped Oakworm)

- **Location:** Wachusett summit area.
- **Hostplant:** Oak.
- **Season:** I found many fourth instar caterpillars in early August.
- **Notes:** Almost all of the caterpillars I collected were parasitized, becoming nothing more than dry husks, encasing a living wasp pupa

within. These caterpillar mummies turned up on trips to the Wachusett area throughout August.

- *Automeris io* (IO Moth)

- **Location:** Moose Hill powerline cut in Sharon.
- **Hostplant:** I collected them from wild indigo – but fed them black cherry and clover in captivity.
- **Season:** I found eggs and freshly hatched first instars in mid July. The caterpillars matured slowly compared to some other silkmoth species, and fifth instar caterpillars were still feeding in mid to late August.
- **Notes:** *Automeris Io* feed on a wide variety of plants, so it can be hard to know where to search. When dealing with specialist species you can study their habits and come up with a search plan, with uncommon generalists, finding them may be more a matter of stubborn persistence and luck than anything else.



- *Hemileuca lucina* (New England Buck Moth)

- **Location:** Scotland Road in Newbury and Fowl Meadow in Readville.
- **Hostplant:** Meadowsweet.
- **Season:** I found a mass of second instars in early June in Newbury, and a single larger fourth instar in Readville at the very end of June. A captive caterpillar pupated in mid July.
- **Notes:** The only buck moth I've ever found in eastern MA is *H. lucina* – *Hemileuca maia* continues to elude me.



- *Antheraea polyphemus* (Polyphemus Moth)

- **Location:** I've found this species in low numbers across the state. Some of the best spots include the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, roadsides in Gardner, Wachusett Meadows, Oxbow NWR in Harvard, and Harvard Forest in Petersham. I occasionally come across groups of caterpillars feeding together, but more often I find them singly or widely spaced.
- **Hostplant:** I've found them feeding on red oak, swamp white oak, red maple, black cherry, and birch.
- **Season:** Middle instar larva in very late July and early August, late instars from August through the middle of October.
- **Notes:** My captive polyphemus managed two broods this season – with wild caterpillars showing up into the middle of October, I wonder if there is a natural partial second brood as well. This species appears to be more sensitive to pesticides and mosquito sprays than other silk moths, as they experienced much more serious die offs in my collection when mistakenly exposed to recently sprayed vegetation. This may explain their apparent absence from the blue hills region.



- *Callosamia promethea* (Promethea Moth)

- **Location:** Actually quite common this past season, showing up at Myels Standish State Forest, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, woodlands in Walpole, Great Blue Hill in Canton, Fowl Meadow in Readville, roadsides and meadows in Gardner, the Wachusett Mt. summit area, Wachusett Meadows, and a few other spots.
- **Hostplant:** Black cherry, white ash, and sassafras. Black cherry was a clear favorite south and east, ash was used frequently in the Wachusett and Gardner area.
- **Season:** I found a few early instars in mid June, but the heart of promethea season was from early August through to the end of September. Interestingly, while caterpillars in the Wachusett and Gardner areas were entering their fourth and fifth instars in early August, caterpillars in the Blue Hills were only in their first and second instars. This trend held for multiple groups of promethea, spread out across each region.

- **Notes:** At least for the moment, this species seems to be thriving in the Blue Hills – nice to have them so close to Boston.



- *Hyalophora cecropia* (Cecropia Moth)

- **Location:** I found small groups and scattered individuals at Fowl Meadow in Readville, the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, and Drumlin Farm in Lincoln.
- **Hostplant:** Cecropia appeared on a rather strange assortment of hostplants this year, including alder, buttonbush, and black walnut. In seasons past I have found them most often on black cherry.
- **Season:** A scattering of second instars at the end of June and beginning of July and one fourth instar at Drumlin Farm in late July.
- **Notes:** I've never had too much luck finding this caterpillar – after this years experience, I am going to check for them on a broader range of hostplants.



SPHINGIDAE – SPHINX MOTH CATERPILLARS

- *Manduca sexta* (Carolina Sphinx / Tobacco Hornworm)

- **Location:** Throughout eastern and central Massachusetts. Specifically, Great Blue Hill in Canton, Tangerini's Farm in Millis, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, Broad Meadow Brook visitors center in Worcester, and a vegetable patch at Wachusett Meadows.
- **Hostplant:** I found them on cultivated tomato and deadly nightshade. Single caterpillars were found on nightshade at the summit of Great Blue

Hill and on a roadside plant growing in Medfield. At Tangerini's farm in Millis there was a nightshade plant with seven *Manduca* eggs – these were all parasitized.

- **Season:** I found my first tobacco hornworms of the year in mid July, but they remained relatively scarce until mid August. High season was the last half of August and the first half of September, with stragglers into October.
- **Notes:** An absolutely wonderful species with a charismatic caterpillar and a large impressive moth. Madeline Champagne has suggested that you can move them off prized tomato plants and place them on nightshade instead... sounds good to me.



- *Ceratonia amyntor* (Four-horned or Elm Sphinx)

- **Location:** Oxbow NWR in Harvard and along a woodland driveway in Millis.
- **Hostplant:** American elm. I've had good luck finding *C. amyntor* on open understory plants - trees that are 15 to 40ft tall, growing beneath a larger canopy, but with plenty of open air surrounding them..
- **Season:** I've only ever found this species in September and always as fifth instars.
- **Notes:** An extremely cryptic caterpillar when viewed against the leaves of its host, which may explain why I have such poor luck searching for early instars in July and August. I've now collected and raised multiple *C. amyntor* caterpillars that were found covered in hatched fly eggs – usually I would take these eggs as a death sentence, but the caterpillars thrived, pupated, and the moths eclosed with no problems.



- *Ceratomia undulosa* (Waved Sphinx)

- **Location:** Rt. 109 roadside in Millis, Wachusett Meadows Audubon Sanctuary, and roadsides and field edges in Gardner.
- **Hostplant:** Ash – often on branches overhanging parking lots, pathways, and fields, but also occasionally on understory saplings.
- **Season:** A fifth instar caterpillar in early July, many first through third instars in late July and early August, and an enormous fifth instar in early September - it would seem from this that the species is double-brooded and indeed they act that way when raised in captivity – texts disagree.
- **Notes:** Highly variable coloration – background from yellow green to almost blue and diagonal stripes may be simple or highlighted with red and pink. A brown and red form occurs as well. To ID the species, look for the black granular spots on the anal prolegs. 80% of the early and middle instar larva I collected to raise this season had been parasitized.



- *Lapara* sp. (Pine Sphinx)

- **Location:** Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary on Cape Cod, Great Blue Hill and Chickatawbut Hill in Canton and Milton, and a parking lot in Millis.
- **Hostplant:** White pine and pitch pine.
- **Season:** Fifth instar caterpillars found from early August to early Oct.
- **Notes:** Two species, *L. coniferarum* (Pine Sphinx) and *L. bombycoides* (Northern Pine Sphinx) are probably represented here. A specimen from pitch pine on the Cape and a bunch from pitch pine at the top of Chickatawbut hill may well have been *coniferarum* while a pair from white pine in Millis and a single from the base of Great Blue Hill may have been *bombycoides*.



- *Dolba hyloeus* (Pawpaw Sphinx)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway.
- **Hostplant:** *Ilex verticillata* – Winterberry.
- **Season:** Fifth instar caterpillars appeared out of nowhere in the last week of August and the first week of September.
- **Notes:** 100% of the eight or so *Dolba* I found were parasitized by braconid wasps.



- *Smerinthus jamaicensis* (Twin-spotted Sphinx)

- **Location:** Fowl Meadow in Readville, roadside fields in Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, Wachusett Meadows, and Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester.
- **Hostplant:** Aspen and bigtooth poplar.
- **Season:** Common from August through the end of September.
- **Notes:** Caterpillars were often on knee-high saplings and when on larger trees they were rarely above eye level. Look for saplings with multiple leaves cut off at the base of the blade, leaving behind a clean cut petiole.



- *Paonias excaecatus* (Blinded Sphinx)

- **Location:** Fowl Meadow in Readville, Great Blue Hill in Canton, Walpole, Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Birch, oak, and willow. I found dozens of eggs and early instar caterpillars on birch in the Blue Hills, fewer on oak.
- **Season:** Eggs and young caterpillars in early August, fifth instar caterpillars from mid August through to the end of September.

- **Notes:** Early instars often have a red and yellow/green banded horn that I have not observed in any of the blinded's close relatives. Later instars are elegant caterpillars with large heads and evenly cylindrical bodies. When they are defensive or at rest from feeding, they rear up on their hind prolegs and arch their backs in a beautiful smooth curve. These features should reliably separate this species from the chubbier, less elegant, small headed, small-eyed sphinx *Paonias myops*.



- *Paonias myops* (Small-eyed Sphinx)

- **Location:** Fowl Meadow in Readville, Great Blue Hill in Canton, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, the summit of Mt. Wachusett, Wachusett Meadows, Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester, Gardner, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Always on black cherry.
- **Season:** I found a second instar caterpillar at the base of Great Blue Hill in late June and continued finding this species with regularity through early September. A fifth instar at the summit of Great Blue Hills on October 12th seems to be an outlier.
- **Notes:** An abundant, variable, and pretty species. Instantly recognizable by its chubby build and small tucked under head. Two individuals from the Blue Hills this year were bright blue rather than the more common yellowgreen.



- *Hemaris diffinis* (Snowberry Clearwing)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill in Canton, Oxbow NWR in Harvard, slopes and summit of Mt Watatic, and in Foxboro.
- **Hostplant:** Introduced and native tall honeysuckles.

- **Season:** First Generation – Madeline Champagne gave me a gift of some first instar caterpillars in late May which pupated by the end of June. Second Generation – I found fourth and fifth instars in the central part of the state in very early September and fifth instars in the Blue Hills in late September and October. The summer/fall generation seems to be more abundant than the spring generation.
- **Notes:** Despite searching, I found no caterpillars feeding upon bush honeysuckle or dogbane – caterpillars were always on *Lonicera sp.* honeysuckle.



- *Hemaris thysbe* (Hummingbird Clearwing)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway and the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield have produced many of these caterpillars. Scattered individuals have also turned up at Fowl Meadow in Readville, and along Scotland Rd. in Newbury.
- **Hostplant:** Viburnums, especially those growing in open swampy understories. I've seen them on arrowwood, wild raisin, and others.
- **Season:** I found eggs and young caterpillars in early and mid June, and final instar caterpillars in late June and early July. I saw only one fall generation caterpillar, found October 6th.
- **Notes:** A good number of large caterpillars turned up in late June – these were mostly feeding, quite visibly, on the highest leaves of understory viburnums. I'm often surprised how far from suitable adult clearwing habitat these caterpillars turn up.



- *Eumorpha pandorus* (Pandorus Sphinx)

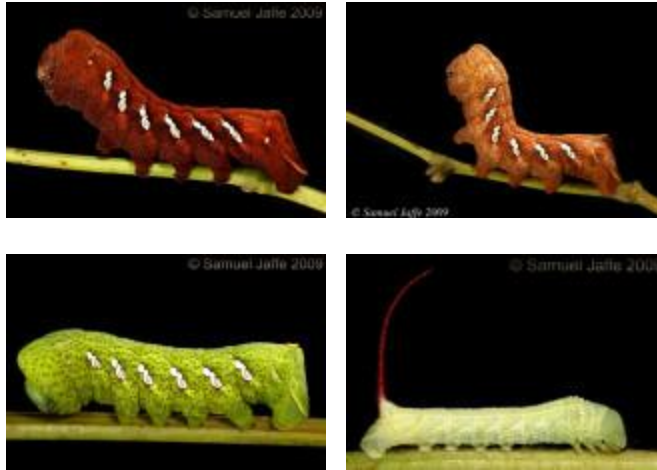
- **Location:** Truro Heights, Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, and Tangerini's Farm in Millis.
- **Hostplant:** Fox and summer grape (*Vitis labrusca* and *aestivalis*) and virginia creeper.
- **Season:** First instars began appearing August 5th and large fifth instar caterpillars were present from the end of the month to mid September.
- **Notes:** As with all grape feeders, *Eumorpha* are easiest to find as tiny first instar caterpillars. Turn leaves with freshly eaten holes, especially those lying close to the ground or other surfaces. As they grow caterpillars move off into the vines and become harder to come by. I had good luck finding fourth instar caterpillars in Medfield by pulling down a virginia creeper vine from a tree – three caterpillars had been feeding about twenty feet up into the canopy. However, this method is rather destructive and should not be used in general.



- *Eumorpha achemon* (Achemon Sphinx)

- **Location:** Truro Heights, Truro Center, Provincetown, Dennis beaches, Sandwich beaches, and Cape Anne.
- **Hostplant:** Grape – I think fox grape. I found them on vines growing along roadsides, in backyards, and on open sand dunes and beaches!
- **Season:** I collected first and second instars from Truro grapevines on July 29th and then first through third instars along the entire length of the Cape in early August. All of the caterpillars I raised had pupated by the end of August. These have a slightly earlier season than their larger relatives *E. pandorus*.
- **Notes:** A stunning and variable caterpillar that can range from vibrant deep red to apple green. The bright white diagonal marks on their flanks resemble braconid cocoons and I suspect may deter parasitoids from laying. Achemon have many of the same habits as pandorus – they tend to

feed on leaves lying close to surfaces and are harder to find as they mature.



- *Sphecodina abbottii* (Abbott's Sphinx)

- **Location:** Present on most larger vines around the state, including those at Fowl Meadow in Readville, Great Blue Hill in Canton, the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, the Great Black Swamp of Medway and Millis, Wompatuck State Park and World's End in Hingham, Scotland Rd. in Newbury, Plum Island, Wells State Park in Sturbridge, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Fox, summer, and occasionally river grape. Also virginia creeper.
- **Season:** Early instar caterpillars began showing up in early and mid June with a good mix of instars remaining through the entire month of July. In August I found only the occasional fifth instar.
- **Notes:** Utterly unique in form and behavior throughout development – no other caterpillar combines so many different forms of mimicry, crypsis, vocalizations, and other defenses as does this monster. Easy to find in its early and middle instars, difficult to uncover fifth instars. A wonderful caterpillar to raise and show off and a species that would give any tropical caterpillar a run for its money.



- *Deidamia inscripta* (Lettered Sphinx)

- **Location:** The Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, a few spots in Foxboro, Fowl Meadow in Readville.
- **Hostplant:** Fox and summer grape, and virginia creeper.
- **Season:** These have earliest season of any grape feeding sphinx. Caterpillars started showing up in the first days of June and were almost completely gone by July first.
- **Notes:** As with other grape species, this caterpillar is easy to find when young by checking the undersides of freshly eaten leaves. Unlike other species though, fifth instar lettered sphinx are also easy targets as they are less secretive than most and usually remain on outer leaves by day.



- *Amphion floridensis* (Nessus Sphinx)

- **Location:** Vines at Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, Fowl Meadow in Readville, Scotland Rd in Newbury, and Wells State Park in Sturbridge.
- **Hostplant:** I've only found them on fox and summer grape.
- **Season:** Early instar caterpillars in late June and second through fourth instar caterpillars through mid July. I have never found a fifth instar caterpillar.
- **Notes:** If you are interested in seeing fifth instar grape feeding sphinx, it is always a good idea to collect them in their early instars and raise them up. This is especially true for the nessus, which spends its days in the leaf litter when in its final instar. Early and middle instars are green with light subdorsal stripes and a short reddish horn.



- *Darapsa myron* (Hog Sphinx)

- **Location:** On most grape vines around the state – Medfield, Millis, and Medway, Fowl Meadow in Readville, Great Blue Hill in Canton, Wompatuck and Worlds End in Hingham, Truro Heights and the rest of Cape Cod, Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester, Wachusett Meadows, Gardner, Wells State Park, Great Meadows NWR in Concord, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** I've found them on pretty much all Vitaceae, but fox grape, summer grape, and virginia creeper appear to be favorites. These preferences seem to be shared across the grape feeding caterpillars of Massachusetts – or perhaps, as Linda suggests, my searches have become biased (I rarely bother with river grape).
- **Season:** I found early instars in late June, a full range of instars throughout July and August, and mostly fourth and fifth instars into late September. It appears that there are two semi-overlapping generations.
- **Notes:** Once summer is underway, the hog sphinx is by far the dominant sphinx on grape. It is bold and easy to find by turning eaten leaves. I have seen many color morphs, from nearly solid light blue to fiery orange with black and white patterns - but green with blue highlights is standard.



- *Darapsa choerilus* (Azalea Sphinx)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway
- **Hostplant:** Collected eggs from a female, resulting caterpillars fed happily on arrowwood viburnum.
- **Season:** Eggs were laid in mid July, and final instar caterpillars lasted through the first weeks of August.



- *Hyles gallii* (Galium Sphinx)
 - **Location:** Mt Misery in Lincoln.
 - **Hostplant:** Unknown – should be bedstraw.
 - **Season:** Prepupal fifth instar caterpillar on October 11th
 - **Notes:** The caterpillar was searching for a place to pupate when it met its unfortunate end at the feet of my sister (She claims it was an accident). We found it between two large fields that were dominated by red clover and alfalfa. Next year I guess...

NOTODONTIDAE – PROMINENTS

- *Clostera albosigma* (Sigmoid Prominent)
 - **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, Fowl Meadow in Readville, and Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester.
 - **Hostplant:** Aspen and bigtooth poplar.
 - **Season:** I found a few final instars in early July and a few more in Sept.
 - **Notes:** I almost never find more than one sigmoid prominent at a location. Perhaps the adults scatter their eggs more broadly than most.

- *Clostera inclusa* (Poplar Tentmaker)
 - **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, Fowl Meadow in Readville.
 - **Hostplant:** Aspen and bigtooth poplar.
 - **Season:** A few clusters of fourth and fifth instars in July, early instars in July and August, a tent of fifth instars in late September.
 - **Notes:** I've found this species many times over the last few years, they seem especially common near my work in Millis. The fourth and fifth instar caterpillars that I have come across in July and August are usually held up in smaller tents housing only two to four individuals, while in the fall I have only found larger tents, packed full of seven to sixteen cats.



- *Cerura scitiscrupta* (Black-etched Prominent)

- **Location:** Roadside field in Medway, near the Great Black Swamp.
- **Hostplant:** Bigtooth poplar.
- **Season:** Fifth instars in early September.
- **Notes:** On approach these caterpillars present a pair of bright red and yellow wiggling tails (actually a modified pair of anal prolegs) and a flushed red prothorax. However, this alarming performance is usually soon abandoned as close contact and repeated stimulation generally cause the caterpillars to tuck in their heads and remain still. The closely related furculas, on the other hand, put on quite a show, even in the face of repeated gentle prodding, displaying flailing prolegs and wide open mandibles with unending enthusiasm.



- *Furcula borealis* (White Furcula)

- **Location:** Reasonably common, showing up in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, Walpole, Cold Spring Park in Newton, Great Blue Hill, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Exclusively black cherry
- **Season:** Two large fifth instars in mid July and then nothing until a whole mess of first through fifth instars started turning up in early September. Fifth instars persisted into October. Common in the Blue Hills this Sept.
- **Notes:** A wonderful species and a charismatic caterpillar, regardless of the instar. If stimulated from a distance they elevate each end of their body and assume a V like position. If approached and directly stimulated, they extend and flail about their striped anal prolegs.



- *Furcula cinerea* (Gray Furcula)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, Fowl Meadow in Readville.
- **Hostplant:** Aspen and bigtooth poplar.
- **Season:** I found middle instars in late July. In previous years I have seen this species in late September as well.
- **Notes:** In my experience, *F. cinerea* is the most eccentric of our tailed prominents. When threatened, fully extended striped anal prolegs are swung repeatedly around in a large arch over the caterpillars body, and a raised head is turned to present the attacker with a pair of wide open mandibles.



- *Gluphisia septentrionis* (Common Gluphisia)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, Fowl Meadow in Readville, Gardner, Wachusett Meadows, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Aspen and bigtooth poplar.
- **Season:** From June onwards, they seemed especially common in early July and early September. I've found them as late as mid October.
- **Notes:** All spring and early summer individuals lacked dorsal red markings, while about 50% of those I found in the fall had them.



- *Hyperaeschra georgica* (Georgian Prominent)

- **Location:** Dry oak habitat in Walpole.
- **Hostplant:** Red oak
- **Season:** A single first instar caterpillar was collected in late June. Raised to a fifth instar by July 22nd. I've never seen a later instar caterpillar in the wild.
- **Notes:** Even in their earliest instars many prominents can be recognized as such by their relatively large heads and their proleg arrangement. Most are easy to raise and grow fast revealing their identities in no time.



- *Nadata gibbosa* (White-dotted Prominent)

- **Location:** Present in every significant oak barren and forest across the state, but also turning up in wetlands and other seemingly less appropriate habitats.
- **Hostplant:** Red, black, scarlet, chestnut, chestnut scrub, scrub, and swamp white oaks, also birch (Mt. Watatic Summit).
- **Season:** Mid June through late September.
- **Notes:** Very common on waist high foliage in dry oak forests, especially along roadsides or other sheltered edge habitats.

- *Nerice bidentata* (Double-toothed Prominent)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, Wompatuck State Park and Worlds End in Hingham, Fowl Meadow in Readville, Wachusett Meadows, Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester, Great Meadows in Concord, Lincoln, Oxbow NWR in Harvard, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Elm – usually on small isolated plants with sun-hardened foliage. A few on more classic elm foliage as well, but this were not the norm.
- **Season:** Scattered fourth and fifth instars in mid July and then a deluge of eggs and early instars in early August. Fifth instars until September 10th.
- **Notes:** Early instar *Nerice* feed much like the early instars of viceroys and red spotted purples – they eat away at the outer part of the leaf blade, leaving the mid-vein untouched, and then rest along this exposed vein.

Once you find a small elm containing young caterpillars, it is easy to spot more, fully exposed, resting at the ends of their leaves.



- *Peridea angulosa* (Angulose Prominent)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, Great Blue Hill, Buck Hill, and Chickatawbut Hill of the Blue Hills, spots out west.
- **Hostplant:** Oak – mostly red, pin, and scarlet, but scrub oak as well.
- **Season:** I found a few early instars in early July and a large fifth instar in late July. August and September produced a full range of caterpillars from first to fifth instars. Mostly fifth instars left into October.
- **Notes:** Often feeds exposed from the uneaten mid-vein of otherwise mostly devoured oak leaves – easy for me to see – perhaps birds fair worse.



- *Pheosia rimosa* (False Sphinx)

- **Location:** Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, Fowl Meadow in Readville, Harvard Forest in Petersham.
- **Hostplant:** Aspen and bigtooth poplar
- **Season:** I found a fourth instar in late June and then nothing until a few fourth and fifth instars turned up in late September.
- **Notes:** Almost always parasitized.



- *Datana ministra* (Yellow-necked Caterpillar)

- **Location:** A gift from Don, but originating on Martha's Vineyard.
- **Hostplant:** Oak
- **Season:** Fifth instars in mid September
- **Notes:** The two I raised were strange enough – a group of over a hundred must be quite a sight.



- *Heterocampa biundata* (Wavy-lined Heterocampa)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill summit area, Wompatuck State Park in Hingham.
- **Hostplant:** Sugar Maple, red maple, and shagbark hickory.
- **Season:** Groups of first and second instar caterpillars in mid June, fourth instar caterpillars at the end of June and beginning of July. A fifth instar caterpillar in mid July. *H. biundata* and *H. guttivitta* were present in the Blue Hills and elsewhere well before other *Heterocampa*, but were absent from later season searches, which turned up many *H. oblique* and *H. umbrata*. There may have been a smaller fall generation that I missed – but otherwise I would classify this species and the next as our early season *Heterocampas*.
- **Notes:** *Heterocampas* are wonderful leaf edge mimics. As they feed, they position themselves directly along a leaf margin or along an already eaten and exposed leaf mid-vein. Either way, with cryptic colors and patterns, the bulk of their body acts to create false leaf tissue in space of the blade that they are busy devouring. Many North American prominent are leaf edge specialists, some mimicking the double toothed edges of elm leaves, others the late season necrotic edges of oak, all are among our most bizarre and beautiful caterpillars.



- *Heterocampa guttivitta* (Saddled Prominent)

- **Location:** Halfway up the western face of Great Blue Hill in Canton, Walpole, woodlands in Gardner, Wachusett Meadows.
- **Hostplant:** Beech, shagbark hickory, red oak.
- **Season:** Fourth instars were found at the end of June in the Blue Hills and in early July in Walpole. Fifth instars found in early to mid August.
- **Notes:** Given the dark cool weather of this spring, I wonder if this species and the previous one only managed a single late June to early August generation this year. If they managed a fall generation, it must have been partial or otherwise extremely weak.



- *Heterocampa obliqua* (Oblique Heterocampa)

- **Location:** Slopes and summits of Great Blue Hill, Buck Hill, and Chickatawbut Hill in the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Mostly scrub oak, but red as well.
- **Season:** Two late fourth instars, one green, one brown, on August 22nd, a bunch of fifth instars in early to mid September, a few straggler fifth instars in late September. This was the very last heterocampa species to start showing up on my Blue Hills trips.
- **Notes:** The persistent turning over of scrub oak leaves and branches produced this species.



- *Heterocampa umbrata* (White-blotched Heterocampa)

- **Location:** The Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, Walpole, the southern slopes of Great Blue Hill and Buck Hill in the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Red oak, scarlet oak, and scrub oak.
- **Season:** Middle instars in late June and early July and then a mix of enormous late instars and early to middle instars in late August. A few more giants in late September. The only heterocampa species that was clearly double brooded this year.
- **Notes:** One of my absolute favorite caterpillars. They can be hugely variable in coloration and pattern. Look at body shape, head capsule pattern, and the prothoracic horns to make an ID.



- *Lochmaeus bilineata* (Double-lined Prominent)

- **Location:** Not nearly as abundant or as wide spread as the variable oakleaf caterpillar, but I did manage to find good numbers in spots south and east. I found multiple caterpillars at Tangerini's farm in Millis, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, and Walpole.
- **Hostplant:** I only found *L. bilineata* on Elm.
- **Season:** Early to middle instars in early July, fourth and fifth instars in late July. Apparently this species had a second generation in some parts of the state, I personally did not see any fall individuals though.
- **Notes:** Separation from *L. manteo* can be tricky, but differences in head capsule pattern, general body shape (at least in final instar), and host plant preference are key.

- *Lochmaeus manteo* (Variable Oakleaf Caterpillar)

- **Location:** I found *L. manteo* pretty much everywhere in the state, from east to west, but they were especially common in the Blue Hills in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Predominantly oak, but I also saw them on beech and american chestnut.

- **Season:** First and second instars in late July, a mix of early and middle instars through most of August, late instars in late August and on through mid September.
- **Notes:** One of the staple woodland caterpillars this season.



- *Macrurocampa marthesia* (Mottled Prominent)

- **Location:** Locally abundant in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway and on Great Blue Hill in Canton, especially along the paved summit road. *Macrurocampa* also turned up in Walpole and in the Wachusett summit area.
- **Hostplant:** Oaks, especially white oak in the Blue Hills.
- **Season:** Early instars in early August, a mix of instars through the heart of August, and later instars persisting through to the end of September. High season centered around August 20th.
- **Notes:** Early instars have inflatable anal prolegs similar to those found on the furculas. Late instars rest along larger leaf veins.



- *Oligocentria lignicolor* (Lace-capped Caterpillar)

- **Location:** Abundant in the Blue Hills, with a dozen or more feeding groups turning up on a single stroll around Great Blue. I also found them in Walpole and at Wompatuck State Park in Hingham.
- **Hostplant:** Scarlet, red, and scrub oaks. Scrub oak favored.
- **Season:** Groups of early instars began turning up all over Great Blue Hill in early August and by the end of the month third through fifth instars

were all present. These continued feeding through to the beginning of October when jumbo fifth instars started to wander off to pupate.

- **Notes:** A classic necrotic leaf edge mimic. Usually green based, but red morphs occasionally turned up on my late season searches. Fifth instars were attacked by a parasitic fly, with few caterpillars free of their little white eggs. When picking off these fly eggs, the caterpillars often sprayed my fingers with a clear liquid, spirting from an opening on the top of their thorax, just behind their heads – acetic or formic acid according to Wagner’s descriptions of the closely related *Schizura*.



- *Oligocentria semirufescens* (Red-washed Prominent)

- **Location:** Isolated sightings at the Mt. Wachusett summit area and at Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester.
- **Hostplant:** Black cherry – never on any of the suggested food plants.
- **Season:** I found recently hatched first instars atop Wachusett on August 9th and a large fifth instar at Broad Meadow Brook on August 30th.
- **Notes:** *O. semirufescens* is a smaller caterpillar than *O. lignicolor* but it is noteworthy for its height - when threatened or at rest from feeding, the caterpillar may bunch itself up into a shape almost as tall as it is long.



- *Schizura concinna* (Red-humped Caterpillar)

- **Location:** Linda discovered a large gathering of first instars on the underside of a single blackberry leaf at Martin Burns WMA in Newbury. Single large fifth instars turned up late in the season on sapling poplar in a field near Petersham center.
- **Hostplant:** Blackberry and poplar

- **Season:** First instars on August 8th and scattered fifth instars on September 19th.
- **Notes:** A rather unattractive pale caterpillar through its first four instars, but a unique monster in its fifth. All of the fifth instars I found had fly eggs on them.



- *Schizura leptinoides* (Black Blotched Schizura)

- **Location:** Broad Meadow Brook Audubon Sanctuary in Worcester and various summits in the Blue Hills in Milton and Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Hickory.
- **Season:** A few fifth instars in late August and early September
- **Notes:** 100% of my finds were parasitized.



- *Schizura unicornis* (Unicorn Caterpillar)

- **Location:** Never hugely abundant, but present almost everywhere. Specifically, the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, Walpole, Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, the Blue Hills in Milton and Canton, Fowl Meadow in Readville, Concord and Lincoln, the slopes of Wachusett and Watatic, Wachusett Meadows, Broad Meadow Brook Audubon in Worcester, Harvard Forest in Petersham, Wells State Park in Sturbridge, Oxbow NWR, and elsewhere.
- **Hostplant:** Black cherry, especially early in the season, then oak, birch, hickory, poplar, amelanchier, and others.
- **Season:** I found a few parasitized fifth instars at Wells State Park on July 13th, then almost nothing until the middle of August when *Schizura unicornis* began turning up everywhere in early and middle instars. I found scattered fifth instar caterpillars through the end of September.

- **Notes:** Remarkable that this caterpillar is as common as it is, given the rate of parasitism I witnessed, nearly all of the dozens of individuals I raised ended up erupting with braconid cocoons or squirming fly larva.



- *Schizura ipomoeae* (Morning Glory Prominent)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill, Buck Hill, Chickatawbut Hill, and Brookwood Farm in the Blue Hills, Broad Meadow Brook Audubon in Worcester.
- **Hostplant:** Scarlet oak, red oak, *Rosa multiflora*, and birch.
- **Season:** A sudden abundance of middle and late instars appeared in the later third of August, then not much activity until a single fifth instar turned up in early October.
- **Notes:** Wagner suggests that this is a multiple brooded species, but as with the saddled and wavy-lined heterocampa, it would appear that, if they managed two broods this year, one was extremely weak.



- *Dasylophia anguina* (Black-spotted Prominent)

- **Location:** Myels Standish State Forest.
- **Hostplant:** Wild Indigo – a large rather isolated plant growing in a wide powerline cut.
- **Season:** I found a single fifth instar caterpillar on July 23rd.
- **Notes:** I was surprised to find this large caterpillar so early in the season, and even more surprised to be unable to find additional black-spotted prominents through August and September, despite numerous searches.



- *Symmerista* sp. (Red-humped Oakworm)

- **Location:** A field near Petersham center, the summits of Mt. Wachusett and Mt. Watatic, and the bottomlands of Oxbow NWR in Harvard.
- **Hostplant:** I found groups on red oak and swamp white oak.
- **Season:** Early and middle instars in early September on Mt. Wachusett and Watatic, and fifth instars near Petersham on September 19th and at Oxbow NWR on September 21st
- **Notes:** Our red-humped oakworms can be either *S. canicosta* or *S. albifrons* – I'd be curious, given the differences in habitat and altitude between the central mass mountain tops and the oxbow swamplands, if the caterpillars I found this year were of both species.



NOCTUIDAE: ACRONICTINAE – DAGGERS

- *Acronicta afflicta*, *brumosa*, or similar (Afflicted Dagger)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill and Buck Hill in the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Scrub oak.
- **Season:** One fifth instar on Aug. 4th and another similar one on Sept 25th.
- **Notes:** I have not been able to nail down the ID of these caterpillars. The August individual only had four sets of black paddle-like setae and the September caterpillar, though nearly identical to the August individual, lacked the paddle setae all together. I suspect that the paddles are easily worn off or even deciduous, making them unreliable for identification purposes. It also may be that a better understanding of the different species ranges would clinch an ID here.



- *Acronicta americana* (American Dagger)

- **Location:** Most spots from coastal scrub to the summits of central Massachusetts. Abundant at Oxbow NWR and very common in the Wachusett area.
- **Hostplant:** Many trees and shrubs – birch, maple, and oak stood out.
- **Season:** Early to middle instars in early August, final instars started appearing in late August and continued through late September.
- **Notes:** I found many late instar caterpillars by searching foliage above scattered frass deposits – this is a large dagger and easier to find than most.

- *Acronicta hasta* (Speared Dagger)

- **Location:** Many locations including Wompatuck State Park and World's End in Hingham, the Blue Hills in Canton and Milton, the Wachusett Mt. area, roadsides in Gardner, and Broad Meadow Brook Audubon in Worcester.
- **Hostplant:** Black cherry.
- **Season:** *A. hasta* was the first dagger caterpillar to show up this season with early instars appearing in mid June. I found middle instars throughout July, a full range of instars in August and September, and a few final instar caterpillars into early October. Appears to have completed two generations.
- **Notes:** The first through fourth instar of this caterpillar may be found lying exposed on the dorsal surface of cherry leaves, sometimes on a bed of silk, similar to what tiger swallowtail caterpillars construct. I've only managed to find fifth instar caterpillars a few times in the wild – they rest against dark cherry twigs and branches by day, becoming practically invisible.



- *Acronicta increta, ovata*, and similar (Oak Dagger Complex)

- **Location:** Most locations, but by far most common in the Blue Hills. Also found in good numbers in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway and in the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield.

- **Hostplant:** Red, white, black, pin, scarlet, chestnut, and scrub oaks. Also a few on beech on the slopes of Mt Watatic.
- **Season:** I found caterpillars from July to late October, with a range of instars appearing in most months. Either the species in this group are double brooded or else the various species have staggered larval seasons.
- **Notes:** A confusing group of caterpillars best found by turning leaves. They are extremely variable and from what I gather, it is not known to what extent this variation represents differences between species or simply variation within a species.



- *Acronicta lobeliae* (Greater Oak Dagger)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Scrub oak and white oak.
- **Season:** One middle instar in July and one late instar in October. Apparently double brooded.

- *Acronicta morula* (Ochre Dagger Moth)

- **Location:** The Charles River Floodplain in Medfield and near Tangerini's farm in Millis.
- **Hostplant:** Elm
- **Season:** Middle instar in mid July, fourth instar in late August.
- **Notes:** Like many daggers, when the Ocher Dagger enters into its final instar it is transformed from a bright green leaf dwelling caterpillar into a dark, cryptic, bark dwelling caterpillar.



- *Acronicta obliquata* (Smartweed Caterpillar)

- **Location:** Turned up late in the season at Fowl Meadow in Readville, Ponkapoag Bog in Canton, and the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield.
- **Hostplant:** Smartweed, willow, and purple loosestrife. Purple loosestrife seems to be a preferred hostplant, with multiple individuals from multiple locations feeding upon it.
- **Season:** Middle to late instars throughout September.
- **Notes:** Of the six I raised this season only a single individual was free of parasitoids.



- *Acronicta lithospila* (Streaked Dagger)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill and Buck Hill in the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Scrub oak.
- **Season:** Fifth instars in mid July and then again in late September.
- **Notes:** A single fifth instar found on Buck Hill in late September was a stunning bright Red. I've found this species resting exposed on the dorsal surface of leaves.



- *Acronicta retardata* (Retarded Dagger)

- **Location:** Only a few individuals this year – one in the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield and another in Lincoln.
- **Hostplant:** Maple.
- **Season:** September.
- **Notes:** In 2008 this species was common from late August through September. This year, despite searching, the species was elusive.

- *Acronicta superans* (Splendid Dagger)

- **Location:** A single individual along a roadside in Gardner.
- **Hostplant:** Black cherry.
- **Season:** A larger fifth instar on August 9th.
- **Notes:** A substantial, impressive, and yes, splendid caterpillar. It was found by searching foliage above a scattering of frass on a paved roadway.

- *Acronicta impressa* (Impressive Dagger)

- **Location:** A single individual from a field near Petersham center.
- **Hostplant:** Blueberry.
- **Season:** Fifth instar on September 19th.
- **Notes:** A beautiful caterpillar that quickly erupted with braconid wasp larva.



- *Acronicta vinnula* (Delightful Dagger)

- **Location:** Scotland Road in Newbury.
- **Hostplant:** Elm
- **Season:** A few early instars in the first days of July.
- **Notes:** Failed to thrive in captivity.

- *Raphia frater* (The Brother)

- **Location:** Many locations from the southeast coast to Mt. Wachusett. Especially common in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway and in the Wompatuck State Park area of Hingham.
- **Hostplant:** Aspen and bigtooth poplar.
- **Season:** I found early instars in June, middle to late instars in July, a mix of instars in August and early September, and mostly later instars in September and early October.
-

- **Notes:** A genuinely cute caterpillar. I always enjoy turning over a half eaten poplar leaf and discovering one of these chubby guys.



NOCTUIDAE: CATOCALINAE – UNDERWINGS AND RELATED

- *Panopoda rufimargo* (Red-lined Panopoda)

- **Location:** Especially the Blue Hills, but also Wompatuck S.P. in Hingham, the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, Wachusett Meadows, and Drumlin Farm in Lincoln.
- **Hostplant:** Oaks, most often on red oak.
- **Season:** Middle to late instars found from mid August through late September.
- **Notes:** Well camouflaged, but often resting relatively exposed.



- *Panopoda carneicosta* (Brown Panopoda)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Shagbark hickory.
- **Season:** One caterpillar in late September.

- *Phoberia atomaris* (Common Oak Moth)

- **Location:** Eastern slope of Buck Hill in the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Red oak.

- **Season:** Final instars in late May.
- **Notes:** A group of these were found resting beneath a trail sign nailed to the trunk of a red oak tree.

- *Zale lunifera* (Bold-based Zale)

- **Location:** Blue Hills and other eastern locations.
- **Hostplant:** Black cherry.
- **Season:** Common in mid and late May.
- **Notes:** Especially visible in their middle instars when they rested exposed eating cherry blossoms and buds. Later instars appeared to lose their taste for flowers.



- *Parallelia bistriatus* (Maple Looper)

- **Location:** Wachusett Meadows and the summit areas of Wachusett and Watatic.
- **Hostplant:** Sugar maple.
- **Season:** Fifth instars in early September.

- *Caenurgina* sp. (Clover Looper and similar)

- **Location:** Pretty much any open field habitat. Common on the ski slopes of Great Blue Hill.
- **Hostplant:** Often swept from tall grasses, but observed on clover as well. One found eating tussock sedge.
- **Season:** Middle instars collected at night in May and June, later instars abundant in September and October. Adult moths common throughout the summer, flying low, in open field habitats.

- *Catocala amica* or similar (Girlfriend Underwing)

- **Location:** Buck Hill in the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Swept from an area that contained scrub, chestnut, red, and scarlet oaks.
- **Season:** Middle instar on May 13th.

- **Notes:** Could be any of a number of species – different species within the amica group show preferences for different types of oak, but since I found this caterpillar by sweeping vegetation, hostplant information was lost – a good argument for the value of visual searches.



- *Catocala ilia* (Ilia Underwing)

- **Location:** Cold Spring Park in Newton, Moose Hill powerline cut in Sharon, Wompatuck S.P. in Hingham.
- **Hostplant:** Oaks.
- **Season:** May and June.
- **Notes:** The vast majority of these caterpillars were found dead or dying, hanging loosely from the bark of large oak trees. They were reduced to sagging deflated skins very similar to what we see with Gypsy Moth caterpillars later in the season. I fear that we are responsible for their gruesome fates.

- *Catocala antinympha* (Sweetfern Underwing)

- **Location:** Anywhere with significant patches of sweetfern. Especially productive areas included Moose Hill in Sharon, Wompatuck S.P.'s roadsides, and the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Sweetfern.
- **Season:** I began finding early instars in mid May and continued finding this species through most of June.
- **Notes:** Easily collected by sweeping, but a close inspection of the inner branches of sweetfern plants will yield caterpillars and give you a greater appreciation for their crypsis.



- *Catocala sp. piatrix?* (Penitent Underwing)

- **Location:** Wompatuck State Park and the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Hickory, including shagbark and pignut.
- **Season:** Mid May through early June.
- **Notes:** A rather common smaller underwing caterpillar. I found many early and middle instars on the underside of hickory leaves at about eye level. Later instars preferred to rest on branches during the day.



- *Catocala paleogama* (The Old Wife)

- **Location:** Moose Hill in Sharon.
- **Hostplant:** Shagbark hickory.
- **Season:** Single middle instar on May 24th. Pupated in the first half of June.
- **Notes:** Middle instar was found on the underside of lower foliage, like other underwings, the final instar probably spends most of the day on branches and bark.



- *Catocala sordida* (Sordid Underwing)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill summit area in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Lowbush blueberry.
- **Season:** Single middle instar in early June.
- **Notes:** It is rather difficult to search low growing dense plants like lowbush blueberry, but there are numerous interesting caterpillars that feed

on these plants and it can be worth the patience. Searching dense plants at night with a flashlight often helps as the caterpillars are often more exposed and the light beam helps focus your eyes attention.

- *Catocala herodias gerhardi* (Scrub Oak Underwing)

- **Location:** Relatively exposed scrub oak plants along summit trails on Great Blue Hill in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Scrub oak
- **Season:** middle and late instars found on May 24th.
- **Notes:** A great find! I found three of these state threatened caterpillars near the summit of Great Blue Hill. Not knowing their identities I raised them out - two were parasitized by fly larva, the final one grew, pupated, eclosed, and was released back into the Blue Hills. I hope to find this species thriving in the hills next spring.



- *Catocala innubens* (The Betrothed)

- **Location:** A gift, brought into the fish factory.
- **Hostplant:** These grew and thrived on honey locust.
- **Season:** A mix of instars in late May, all pupated by mid June.



- *Catocala* sp. Hickory Feeders (Underwing species)

- **Location:** Mostly the Blue Hills, Wompatuck, and Moose Hill. Wompatuck was one of the best underwing spots in the state.
- **Hostplant:** Pignut and shagbark hickory.
- **Season:** May and June.

- **Notes:** A variety of difficult to identify species other than those mentioned above were found eating hickories

NOCTUIDAE: OWLETS, LOOPERS, FORESTERS, CUCULIAS,

- *Bomolocha sp. baltimoralis?* (Baltimore bomolocha)
 - **Location:** Two individuals at the summit of Mt. Wachusett and one in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway.
 - **Hostplant:** Sugar and red maple.
 - **Season:** Final instars in early September and early October.
- *Autographa precatationis* (Common Looper)
 - **Location:** Gardens in Lincoln, Concord, Westbridgewater, Worcester, and Millis.
 - **Hostplant:** Cabbage, mint, parsely, and others.
 - **Season:** A few in the early summer, but much more common in August and September.
 - **Notes:** This is one of a number of garden loopers I found this year, but it is the only one I raise out for an ID.
- *Pseudeva purpurigera* (Straight-lined Looper)
 - **Location:** Two different locations within the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield.
 - **Hostplant:** Tall Meadow Rue.
 - **Season:** This year final instar caterpillars were found in late June and early July. Last season I found a single individual in late September. Captive pupa eclose rapidly so perhaps the species is double brooded.
 - **Notes:** A striking caterpillar and a beautiful one when viewed amongst the tall meadow rue flowers it consumes. The moth has highlights of gold, lilac, and purple.



- *Psychomorpha epimenis* (Grapevine epimenis)

- **Location:** Present on most vines. Fowl Meadow in Readville, the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway, the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, Walpole, Wompatuck S.P. and Worlds End in Hingham, Great Meadows in Concord, Wachusett Meadows, Wells State Park.
- **Hostplant:** Mostly fox and summer grape.
- **Season:** Earliest of the forester moth caterpillars – Caterpillars began showing up in May and final instars could be found throughout June. A few stragglers were found in July.
- **Notes:** A startlingly colored caterpillar that stays mostly hidden during the day. However, once you learn to recognize their three dimensional leaf-balloon enclosures it is possible to find numbers of these during a careful vine search. Fifth instars occasionally rest exposed.



- *Alypia octomaculata* (Eight-spotted Forester)

- **Location:** From the tip of cape code to the slopes of Wachusett and Watatic.
- **Hostplant:** Virginia creeper and grape.
- **Season:** All instars present in June, probably most abundant in late June. Many still feeding through July. A smaller second generation was quite visible this year with final instar caterpillars turning up on the Cape, in Millis, and at Wachusett Meadows, in early September.
- **Notes:** Easy to find by turning over grape leaves. Caterpillars often remain nearby older fed upon leaves.



- *Eudryas grata* (Beautiful Wood-nymph)

- **Location:** Truro and Wellfleet on Cape Cod. Adults observed at Wompatuck State Park.
- **Hostplant:** Fox and summer grape.
- **Season:** Middle and late instars found in early and mid August.
- **Notes:** The best way to find them is simply to turn leaves.



- *Cerma cerintha* (Tufted Bird-Dropping Moth)

- **Location:** Wellfleet Sanctuary on Cape Cod, Great Blue Hill in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Black cherry
- **Season:** Final instars found in mid August.



- *Cucullia asteroides* or similar (The Asteroid)

- **Location:** Fowl Meadow in Readville, the ski slopes of Great Blue Hill in Canton, and a field near Petersham center.
- **Hostplant:** Goldenrod heads.
- **Season:** I found middle and late instar caterpillars throughout September.
- **Notes:** The two caterpillars from Petersham were patterned with yellow and red while those from eastern Mass were predominantly green.



- *Cucullia convexipennis* (Brown-Hooded Owlet)

- **Location:** Many locations throughout eastern and central Massachusetts. Particularly common at Harvard Forest in Petersham, Wachusett Meadows, and in the Blue Hills.
- **Hostplant:** Goldenrod – many species including blue-stemmed and silverrod. Often feeding on understory plants or plants associated with shaded field or pathway edges. I did not often find this species feeding out in open fields.
- **Season:** Early instars in August, a mix of instars throughout September, late instars through much of October.
- **Notes:** A relatively common and stunning caterpillar – I have been able to show these to many passer bys in the Blue Hills and elsewhere, where they are often viewed with oos and awws.



- *Amphipyra pyramidoides* (Copper Underwing)

- **Location:** Common in most spots – Abundant at Wompatuck State Park and Fowl Meadow this year.
- **Hostplant:** Varied. I found many on *Smilax*.
- **Season:** Throughout May and June. A few caterpillars in early July.



- *Heliothis virescens* (Tobacco Budworm)

- **Location:** Tangerini's farm in Millis, the Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, Fowl Meadow in Readville, the ski slopes of Great Blue Hill in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Tomato, ragweed, and pearly everlasting among others.
- **Season:** mostly late August and September.

- *Schinia florida* (Primrose Moth)

- **Location:** Oxbow NWR.
- **Hostplant:** Evening primrose.
- **Season:** One larger final instar caterpillar in late September.
- **Notes:** The caterpillar was eating the hearts out of the primrose fruits. As it ate it filled in the resulting hole with its body which matched the fruits color and texture perfectly

NOCTUIDAE: PINIONS, SALLOWS, QUAKERS, ARCHES, PHOSPHILAS, and CUTWORMS

- *Lithophane antennata* (Ashen Pinion)

- **Location:** Many spots, especially areas on the southeast coastal plain that were hit hard by winter moth.
- **Hostplant:** I observed some on oak leaves, but winter moth caterpillars were devoured greedily.
- **Season:** Late may and early June.
- **Notes:** A swarm of winter moth caterpillars and sawfly larva coated wooden barriers and tree trunks in the Fowl Meadow parking area every afternoon in late May and very early June. Sorting through the hoards of pest caterpillars, I could often find a few larger ashen pinion. These would reach out and grab any smaller caterpillar that came too close, devouring them entirely, often in less than thirty seconds.



- *Lithophane querquera* (Shivering Pinion)

- **Location:** Fowl Meadow in Readville.
- **Hostplant:** Found on glossy buckthorn, though it preferred black cherry and other caterpillars in captivity.
- **Season:** Fourth instar caterpillar found on May 31st



- *Melanchra adjuncta* (Hitched Arches)

- **Location:** Wachusett Meadows vegetable patch.
- **Hostplant:** Tomato, though it much preferred daisy in captivity.
- **Season:** Final instar in early September.
- **Notes:** A subtle but beautiful caterpillar.



- *Trichordestra legitima* (Striped Garden Caterpillar)

- **Location:** Fowl Meadow in Readville, the ski slopes of Great Blue Hill in Canton, the Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, roadside fields in Millis and Medway.
- **Hostplant:** I have swept them from grasses and other plants, but visually, I most often find them on goldenrod.
- **Season:** September, October, and even a few final instars in early November.



- *Orthosia rubescens* (Ruby Quaker)
 - **Location:** Most spots around the state – abundant for a time in the Blue Hills, especially around Buck Hill.
 - **Hostplant:** Seem to eat anything, including pines.
 - **Season:** Common in late June

- *Morrisonia confusa* (Confused Woodgrain)
 - **Location:** Many spots around the state – not always abundant, but nearly always present.
 - **Hostplant:** I've seen them on many trees and shrubs, and a few forbes. Black cherry is often used.
 - **Season:** Early and middle instars in June and July, later instars in August and September.
 - **Notes:** If you take to opening up silken leaf enclosures you will see more of this species.

- *Nephelodes minians* (Bronzed Cutworm)
 - **Location:** Rocky woods reservation in Medfield.
 - **Hostplant:** Probably grass.
 - **Season:** Nearly a dozen final instar caterpillars in May
 - **Notes:** The caterpillars were in an open playing field, beneath a large piece of plywood, surrounded by soggy yellowing lawn grass and piles of frass.

- *Phosphila miselioides* (Spotted Phosphila)
 - **Location:** Moose Hill powerline cut in Sharon, Charles River Floodplain in Medfield.
 - **Hostplant:** Smilax.
 - **Season:** Early instars in early July, later instars through early August.
 - **Notes:** Look for these on the underside of recently chewed on fresh smilax leaves.

- *Phosphila turbulenta* (Turbulent Phosphila)
 - **Location:** Charles River Floodplain in Medfield, Causeway Road in Millis, and Moose Hill in Sharon.
 - **Hostplant:** Smilax.

- **Season:** Later than the spotted phosphilia. Early instar groupings of over a hundred caterpillars each started showing up in early August. By late August and early September these groups had spread out somewhat and batches of ten to forty middle instar caterpillars were common. By the later part of September only solitary large caterpillars could be found.
- **Notes:** If disturbed, early instars will launch themselves off of a leaf and hang below it – with hundreds performing this act at the same time, it creates quite a startling effect. Later instars are not as quick to jump and will instead twitch and wave about – again, when performed by a large group, this act delivers a significant impact.



NOCTUIDAE: YELLOWHORNS, TUSSOCKS, TIGERS

- *Colocasia sp.* (Yellowhorn)

- **Location:** Great Blue Hill in Canton.
- **Hostplant:** Scrub oak.
- **Season:** One fifth instar in early October.
- **Notes:** Found in a roomy enclosure constructed from two leaves and silk.

- *Dasychira basiflava* (Yellow-based Tussock Moth)

- **Location:** Wells State Park in Sturbridge.
- **Hostplant:** Red oak.
- **Season:** Fifth instar in mid July.



- *Orgyia antiqua* (Rusty Tussock Moth)
 - **Location:** Inland - Wachusett Meadows, Mt. Wachusett summit area, and the slopes of Mt. Watatic.
 - **Hostplant:** Oak and azalea.
 - **Season:** Middle instars in late August and early September. A final instar caterpillar in late September.

- *Orgyia definita* (Definite Tussock Moth)
 - **Location:** A fifth instar caterpillar at Montague Plains.
 - **Hostplant:** Oak.
 - **Season:** Early September.

- *Orgyia leucostigma* (White-marked Tussock Moth)
 - **Location:** Most spots - especially common in the Millis, Medway, and Medfield area
 - **Hostplant:** Seems to favor oak, but I found them on a wide variety of hosts including birch, elm, blueberry, and sumac.
 - **Season:** Two or more generations. Early instars in late May and June, and late instars in mid June and early July. Then, an explosion of caterpillars in August with late instars all the way through to October.
 - **Notes:** In my experience, the most abundant tussock caterpillar. Definitely worth a look under a dissecting microscope.



- *Meganola sp.* (Meganola)
 - **Location:** The Blue Hills and other spots.
 - **Hostplant:** Oak, especially white oak.
 - **Season:** There seemed to be two broods with caterpillars common for a period in July and in September.

- *Haploa* sp. (Haploa species)

- **Location:** Fowl Meadow in Readville, the Blue Hills in Milton and Canton, Wompatuck S.P. in Hingham.
- **Hostplant:** A spring caterpillar was found eating dogwood (*Cornus* sp.) while early instar fall caterpillars have mostly been feeding on leafy Asteraceae forbes.
- **Season:** Final instar caterpillars in late April and early May, early to middle instar caterpillars in September and early October.



- *Pyrrharctia isabella* (Woolly Bear)

- **Location:** Many spots.
- **Hostplant:** Many low growing plants, especially leafy Asteraceae, like dandelion.
- **Season:** I see them most often in the fall (September and October) but I have encountered large woolly bears at nearly every time of year.



- *Spilosoma virginica* (Yellow Bear)

- **Location:** All over, but especially abundant in the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway.
- **Hostplant:** Many plants – this year, pussy willow in the swamps, and arrow arum, pickerel weed, and water hyacinth in the fish factories aquatic nursery.
- **Season:** I see them most often in September and early October.



- *Hyphantria cunea* (Fall Webworm)
 - **Location:** Abundant westward. The entrance road to Oxbow NWR always has a nice crop. Absent or nearly absent from the Blue Hills area.
 - **Hostplant:** Everything.
 - **Season:** August and September.

- *Hypercompe scribonia* (Giant Leopard Moth)
 - **Location:** The Charles River Floodplain of Medfield, the Great Black Swamp of Millis and Medway.
 - **Hostplant:** I've seen early and middle instars on various plants, including grape, cherry, and aster. It is never clear whether these are being used for food or whether the caterpillar was simply using the plants as cover to pass the day, in captivity sunflower leaves were preferred to grape and cherry. Last year I found a large final instar caterpillar devouring a banana plant of mine.
 - **Season:** Middle instars in July and August, a large caterpillar in October.

- *Platarctia parthenos* (St. Lawrence Tiger Moth)
 - **Location:** Mt Graylock in extreme northwestern MA.
 - **Hostplant:** Crawling over joe-pye weed, beneath cherry and oak.
 - **Season:** Large caterpillar in early September.
 - **Notes:** Looks more like a small shaggy mammal than an insect.

- *Halysidota tessellaris* (Banded Tussock Moth)
 - **Location:** Throughout.
 - **Hostplant:** Common on willow, but also found on oak, hickory, blueberry, birch and others.
 - **Season:** July through the beginning of October.

- *Halysidota harrisii* (Sycamore Tussock Moth)
 - **Location:** Oxbow NWR.
 - **Hostplant:** Sapling sycamore.
 - **Season:** Mid September.

- *Euchaetes egle* (Milkweed Tussock Caterpillar)
 - **Location:** Various milkweed fields, but especially abundant at Wachusett Meadows and other central Massachusetts sites.
 - **Hostplant:** Milkweed
 - **Season:** Final instars beginning in late August and early September. I must have missed the first generation completely.