

MASSACHUSETTS
BUTTERFLIES NO. 2
AUG. 1993

"Massachusetts Butterflies" is published by the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, Post Office Box 211, Foxboro, MA 02035. Membership dues are: Regular - \$6.00; Supporting - \$15.00. Through field trips, lectures, gardening events, and our publications, we are developing a better understanding and appreciation of our region's butterflies. Please support the Massachusetts Butterfly Club.

Welcome to new members of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club

Harry Pavulaan
Kathryn Bowers
David Small
Susan Shapiro
Guy Tudor
James Baird
Michael Thomas
Chris Phillips
Orland Blanchard
Robert Robbins

Amy Musante
David Gregg
Robert Busby
The New England Wildflower Society
Sarah Jennings
Patricia Sutton
Madeline Champagne
Pamela Weatherbee
Elizabeth Porter
Phil Zaleski

A request for butterfly records is being made for the February newsletter. The records should include the date and location where the species were seen and the counts of each species. Also, speaking of butterfly records, MBC member Carroll Arbogast has asked if other members will share their note-keeping schemes. This is an excellent topic for a future article, but we will need your help. If you keep notes on butterflies and you want to share your "system", please send your thoughts (and formats) along. Thank you.

Special Thanks

- * To Rick Cech and Jeff Glassberg, of the NYC Butterfly Club, for donations of butterfly slides.
- * To Lyn Lovell, for slide donations and refreshments on our field trips.
- * To David Furth, of Harvard University, for slide loans.
- * To Guy Tudor, for notes on Nantucket butterflies.
- * To Richard Forster, Claudia Tibbetts, Doug Savich, Lyn Lovell, and Carroll Arbogast for sending along their 1993 sight records. These will be incorporated into next issue's season summary.

Brian Cassie, Tom Dodd
Editors

1993 Massachusetts Butterfly Club Trips

May 16 Trip to Tannery Falls, Savoy
 10:30- 12:30; mostly sunny ; Temp. 65-70 ; breezy
 Attending: Brian Cassie, Edna Dunbar, Lyn Lovell

West Virginia White 8-10 (a few nectaring at Common Dandelion and Dwarf Raspberry)
 Spring Azure 12-15 (all three forms of the spring brood were seen - form "violacea" was most common)

The trip was set up to look for Falcate Orangetip, which was observed here in May 1992. No Orangetips were found.

May 22 Trip to Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth
 10:20- 14:20; overcast, gradually changing to sunny; Temp. approx. 60-75 degrees
 Attending: Brian Cassie, Alice Cestari, Patty Higgins, Kyle Jones, and Lyn Lovell

Tiger Swallowtail	2	
Cabbage White	2	
American Copper	1	
Brown Elfin	4	(One nectaring on Lowbush Blueberry - only nectaring record)
Hoary Elfin	1	(Late date - caught by Alice)
Eastern Tailed Blue	1	
Spring Azure	5	
Pearl Crescent	6	
Sleepy Duskywing	3	
Juvenal's Duskywing	15+	(One ovipositing on Scrub Oak sapling at 11:40)
Wild Indigo Duskywing	2	
Cobweb Skipper	20	(All seen under powerline, along dirt road)

Other Lepidoptera: Several Promethea Moth cocoons

May 27 Trip to Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Worcester
 1:30 - 5:30;
 Attending Tom Dodd, Chris Phillips, Donna Wysokenski

Spicebush Swallowtail	-	(1 larva on Spicebush)
Cabbage White	10	
Clouded Sulphur	2	
Orange Sulphur	2	
Edwards' Hairstreak	1	
Striped Hairstreak	1	
Spring Azure	1	
Harris' Checkerspot	5	(numerous larvae and eggs on Flat-topped White Aster)
Red Admiral	1	
American Lady	-	(2 larvae on Everlasting sp.)

Viceroy	1	(15 larvae, 2 eggs on Willow sp. and Aspen sp.)
Little Wood Satyr	2	
Silver-spotted Skipper	5	
Hoary Edge	1	
Northern Cloudywing	1	
Dreamy Duskywing	-	(3 larvae on Willow sp.)
Juvenal's Duskywing	-	(2 larvae on Oak sp.)
Wild Indigo Duskywing	-	(3 larvae on Wild Indigo)
European Skipper	5	
Long Dash	3	
Hobomok Skipper	3	

June 11-14 Trip to Mount Greylock, MA and Errol NH / Wilsons Mills, ME

June 11: Members of the New York City Butterfly Club met Edna Dunbar to look for the Early Hairstreak at Mount Greylock State Reservation. The temperature was 48 degrees and TERRIBLE for butterflies. No luck. They drove to New Hampshire.

Mass. Butterfly Club members drove straight to New Hampshire and scouted the area. Clouds made viewing conditions less than optimal, but nevertheless, nine species were observed. After dinner, most NYCBC and MBC attendees took a short ride to look for Moose, one of which was seen along the roadside.

June 12: After a foggy start and early morning bird watching, the group set out to explore several areas between Errol and Wilsons Mills. The day turned sunny and very pleasant and our combined efforts yielded twenty-one species of butterflies, a Black Bear, and some interesting birds, such as Black-backed Woodpecker, Palm Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

June 13: Another sunny day. Some of the group returned to a large bog visited the day before and were rewarded by seeing the trip's only Bog Fritillary. By afternoon, everyone was headed for home or back to Mount Greylock, for a second chance for the Early Hairstreak.

June 14: As many as twenty Early Hairstreaks were seen at Mount Greylock, to the delight of those present.

Butterflies seen in Errol/Wilsons Mills area
(with approximate totals of individuals seen on June 12+13)

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	70	
Mustard White	20	
Cabbage White	3	
Clouded Sulphur	5	
Harvester	3	(22 larvae, 1 egg on Alders with Woolly Aphids)
Brown Elfin	10	
Western Pine Elfin		(one tentatively identified)
Spring Azure	25	
Silvery Blue	18	
Bog Fritillary	1	
Silver-bordered Fritillary	4	

Harris' Checkerspot	-	(20+ larvae on Flat-topped White Aster)
Northern Crescent	3	
Green Comma	5	
Compton Tortoiseshell	1	
Red Admiral	2	
Common Ringlet	5	
Jutta Arctic	10	
Dreamy Duskywing	30	
Arctic Skipper	20	
Hobomok Skipper	10	
Pepper-and-salt Skipper	10	

Additional Species observed:

Mount Greylock: Early Hairstreak
Milbert's Tortoiseshell

Other New Hampshire Localities:

American Lady
Common Roadside Skipper

This was the second butterfly trip co-sponsored by the New York City and Massachusetts Butterfly Clubs. Both were deemed highly successful and great fun. No collecting is done on our trips. Please come along on a future club trip and share the camaraderie and excitement.

July 25 Trip to Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Worcester

11:00 - 4:00; mostly sunny and warm

Attending Brian Cassie, Tom Dodd, Gail Howe, Lyn Lovell

Tiger Swallowtail	6	
Spicebush Swallowtail	1	
Cabbage White	4	
Clouded Sulphur	2	
Acadian Hairstreak	1	
Banded Hairstreak	2	
Eastern Tailed Blue	1	
Spring Azure	15	(ovipos. on Groundnut at 1:25, Meadowsweet at 3:20)
Great Spangled Fritillary	6	
Harris' Checkerspot	-	(57 larval webs on Flat-topped White Aster)
Pearl Crescent	1	
Eastern Comma	1	
Viceroy	10	
Northern Pearly Eye	3	
Eyed Brown	11	
Common Wood Nymph	1	
Monarch	1	
Silver-spotted Skipper	6	
Hoary Edge	-	(20 larvae on Hoary Tick-trefoil)
Dreamy Duskywing	-	(4 larvae on Willow sp.)
Peck's Skipper	1	

Northern Broken Dash	6	
Little Glassywing	1	
Delaware Skipper	1	
Broad-winged Skipper	60	(nectaring on Cow Vetch, Joe-PyeWeed, Tansy)
Black Dash	2	
Dun Skipper	5	

An earlier foray was made from 11:00 to 1:00 specifically to look for Black Dash and Mulberry Wing on the sanctuary. Those present were rewarded with these and also Eyed Brown. These new species bring the sanctuary total to 66 over a three year period.

July 31 Trip to Easton Powerlines, Easton

10:30 - 1:25; sunny; Temp. 80's

Attending: Brian Cassie, Tom Dodd, Donna Lang, Lyn Lovell

Good totals for Viceroy and Appalachian Browns.

Tiger Swallowtail	4	
Spicebush Swallowtail	6	
Cabbage White	3	
Clouded Sulphur	8	
Orange Sulphur	12	
American Copper	18	
Striped Hairstreak	5	
White M Hairstreak	1	
Gray Hairstreak	1	
Eastern Tailed Blue	7	
Spring Azure	10	(ovipos on Meadowsweet at 12:45, 1:10, 1:20)
Great Spangled Fritillary	6	
Silver-bordered Fritillary	9	
Harris' Checkerspot	-	(numerous larval webs on Flat-topped White Aster)
Pearl Crescent	168	
Eastern Comma	2	(nectaring at Meadowsweet)
American Lady	2	
Red-spotted Purple	1	
Viceroy	41	
Appalachian Brown	10	
Common Ringlet	9	
Common Wood Nymph	39	
Monarch	18	
Silver-spotted Skipper	1	
Northern Cloudywing	-	(2 larvae on bush clover)
Horace's Duskywing	1	
Wild Indigo Duskywing	4	(1 parasitized larva)
Peck's Skipper	2	
Mulberry Wing	4	
Black Dash	1	
Dun Skipper	2	

Site Guide

by R.W.Hildreth

Charlton, Massachusetts

Route 169 Pipe Line-Power Line Butterfly Site

In south-central Massachusetts, in the Quinebouge River valley of southern Worcester County, there is a region of northeast-southwest trending, steep-sided, linear ridges of foliated metamorphic rocks. The often flat ridge tops are still partly in agricultural use. Most of the settlements are found in the valleys. The steep slopes are still mostly wooded. In Charlton, Massachusetts, just north of Southbridge, Cady Brook flows southwest through a narrow valley between two of these ridges. Route 169 also follows this valley. Two pipe lines and a power line cross route 169 and provide relatively easy access and excellent opportunities for observing butterflies in this generally forested, steep country.

How to get there: (see location map)

There is room to park several vehicles on the east side of route 169 just north of where the pipe lines cross the road. Route 169 has a heavy flow of high speed traffic; use great caution crossing this road. To reach this site from route US 20 drive south 1.9 miles on route 169. From the Southbridge rotary, the site is 3.4 miles north on route 169.

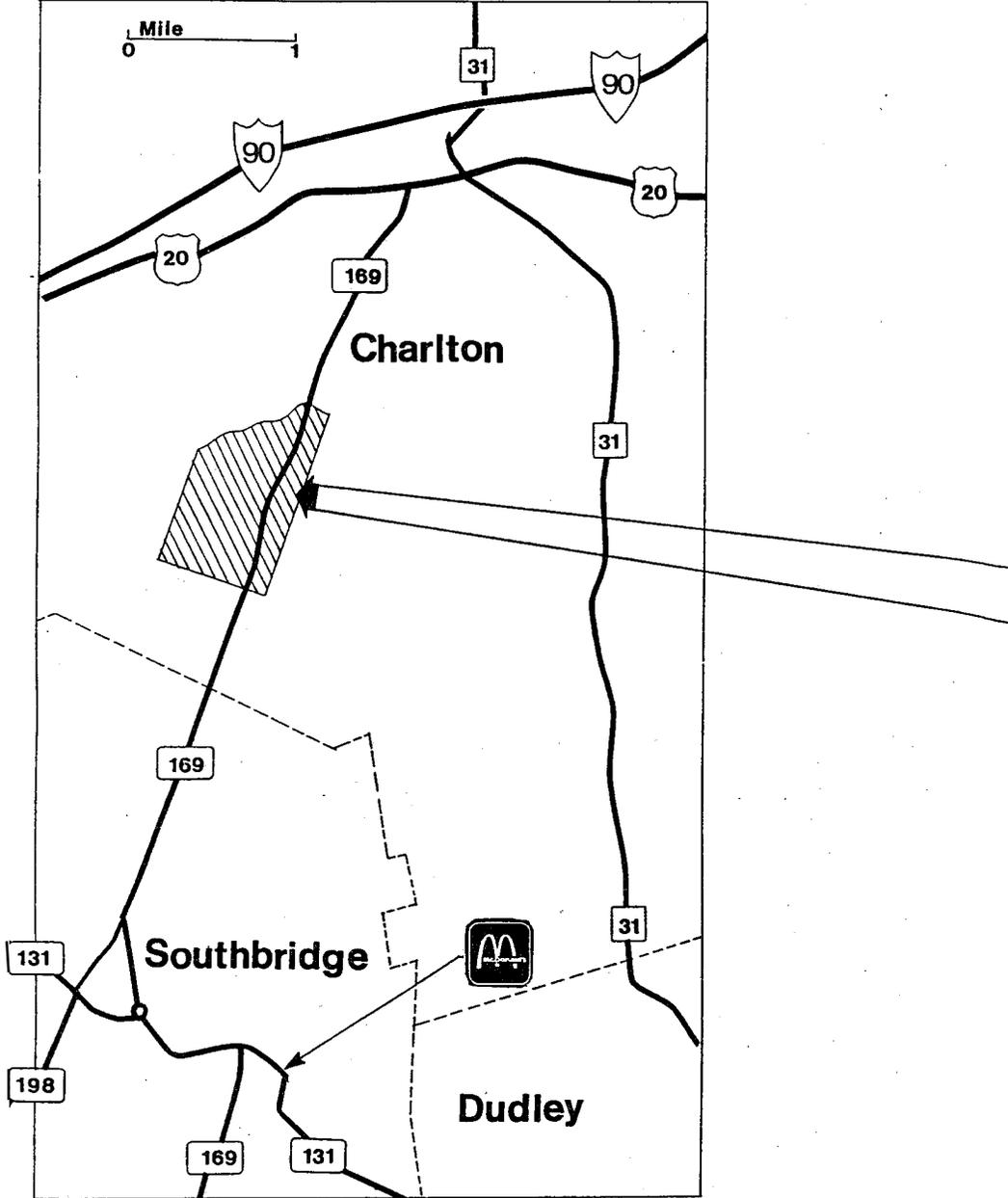
Exploring the site for butterflies: (see detailed site map)

The best strategy is to carefully cross route 169 and follow the pipe lines west, up the steep slope of the ridge. The older pipe line right-of-way (labelled A on the detailed site map) is narrow and overgrown with mostly native herbaceous plants. As it climbs the ridge, it passes through some tall hardwood forest (Oak, Ash, Maple, Basswood and some Hickory). Along this section of the "old" pipe line is a good place to find Spicebush Swallowtail. The other pipe line (labelled B on the detailed site map) was recently built and is wider. The utility company seeded the area with grasses and legumes. Two conspicuous plants resulting from the planting are Birds foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and Everlasting Pea *Lathyrus latifolius*. Both of these plants attract butterflies. European Skipper swarms on the Trefoil. Silver-spotted Skipper and Hoary Edge nectar on the Everlasting Pea. Near the top of the ridge the pipe lines cross the power line.

The power line has many plants flowering in June and July to attract butterflies. Common Milkweed, Smooth Sumac, Dogbane and Meadowsweet are the most significant. Great Spangled Fritillary, Aphrodite Fritillary, Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Silver-spotted Skipper, and Hoary Edge can be expected along the power line. "Dirt bikers" keep the road open along the power line and create small mud "wallows" at the wet spots. At the intersection of the "new" pipe line and the power line there is an area of wet meadow where Silver-bordered Fritillary can be found.

Forty-four species of butterflies have been found at this site during twelve visits 1990-1993. (See butterfly table) Highlights include Hickory Hairstreak, Variegated Fritillary and Common Buckeye.

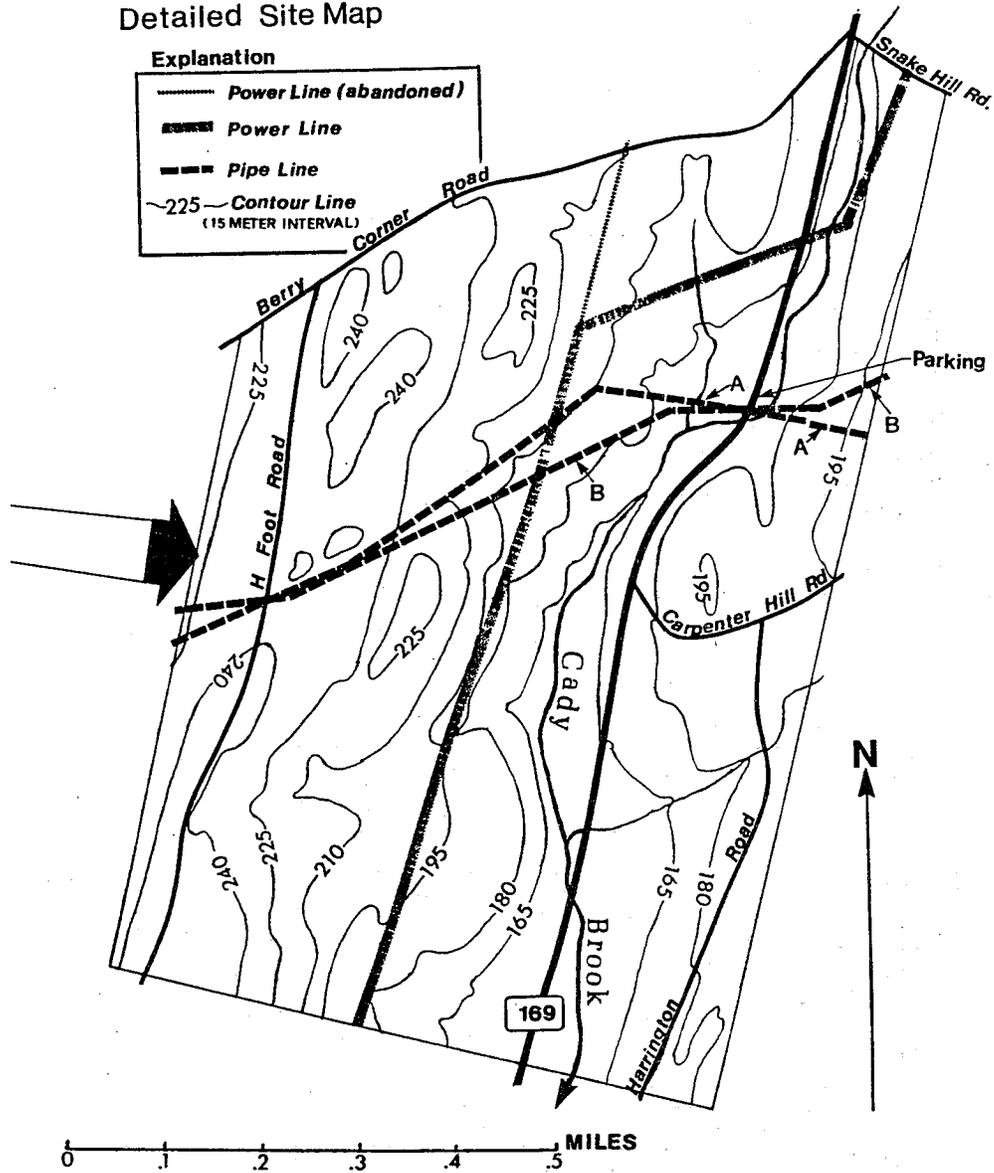
Location Map



RWH1993

Charlton, Massachusetts Route 169 Pipe Line-Power Line Butterfly Site

Detailed Site Map



Charlton, Massachusetts Route 169 Pipe Line Power Line Butterfly Site

Butterfly Table

	1990			1991			1992			1993		
	4 Jul	15 Jul	9 Sep	5 May	29 Jun	21 Sep	7 Jun	3 Jul	12 Jul	20 Jun	1 Jul	17 Jul
E. Tiger Swallowtail		1			4				5		5	1
Spicebush Swallowtail	1	1			1				4	1	2	2
Cabbage white	1		6	21	5	2	1		2		6	1
Clouded Sulphur	4	11	8	2	5	3	4				16	5
Orange Sulphur	3	2	8	2	4	3					16	5
Am. Copper		6	18	6	7	1	6		6		1	5
Coral Hairstreak					3							
Banded Hairstreak		1							1		2	
Hickory Hairstreak		1										
hairstreak sp									1			
E Pine Elfin				1								
elfin sp				1								
Gray Hairstreak									1			
E. Tailed Blue		2	8	2	18	2			14		6	5
Spring Azure				4			1		1		1	8
Varigated Fritillary	1											
Gt. Spangled Fritillary	27	22	10		33	5		2	57		46	15
Aphrodite Fritillary	1	3			6				6		25	17
fritillary sp (large)	2	13			1				10		29	11
Silver-bor. Fritillary			3				2			1		
Pearl Crescent	2	1	1	1	2	3	14	2	9	1	12	4
<i>Nymphalid</i> sp.(orange)									1		1	1
Mourning Cloak											1	
Red Admiral	2								1			
Am. Lady		1	1						1			
Painted Lady									1			
Common Buckeye		2										
Red-spotted Purple									1		1	3
Viceroy			2		1		1			3	2	1
Little Wood Satyr	1	12			11		48		9	2	4	2
Common Ringlet			1		1		7			3		
C. Wood Nymph		3	1									15
Monarch		4	1		4	3					3	6
Silver-spouted Skipper	2	12			4		1		8		19	10
Hoary Edge		3			2				6	2	7	3
N Cloudywing					1		15				2	
Juvenal's Duskywing				4			1					
duskywing sp.				10			5			1		
Least Skipper										1	1	
European Skipper	94	2			11			2	9	84	92	10
Indian Skipper							4					
Peck's Skipper							1			1		
Crossline Skipper		1									6	
Long Dash										2		
N. Broken Dash	3								1			
Little Glassywing					4				1			8
Delaware Skipper					1						3	6
Hobomok Skipper							5			1	1	
Pocahontas form							2					
Dun Skipper		21			1				5		3	18
skipper sp (orange)				2							4	2
skipper sp (dark)												3

1993 NABA-Xerces 4th of July Butterfly Counts

Species	CONCRD	FOXBR	BRISTOL	SOUTH	NORTH	CNTRL
			CNTY	BRKSH	BRKSH	FRNKLN
BLACK SWALLOWTAIL	1	1		2		1
TIGER SWALLOWTAIL	19	21	8	7	37	4
SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL	1	5	17			11
MUSTARD WHITE					2	
WEST VIRGINIA WHITE					1	
CABBAGE WHITE	113	160	3	37	54	85
CLOUDED SULPHUR	442	162	4	122	25	243
ORANGE SULPHUR	61	92	28	21	24	57
AMERICAN COPPER	23	226	14			4
BOG COPPER	8	20				271
CORAL HAIRSTREAK	6	97				11
ACADIAN HAIRSTREAK		12	10			
EDWARDS' HAIRSTREAK		11				
BANDED HAIRSTREAK	10	17		4		
STRIPED HAIRSTREAK		44				
* EARLY HAIRSTREAK					1	
GRAY HAIRSTREAK	3	9	1			
EASTERN TAILED BLUE	20	27	1	1		3
SPRING AZURE	49	32	14	12	11	24
* SILVERY BLUE					1	
GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY	34	198	14	29	14	101
APHRODITE FRITILLARY	1	17	1	1	1	18
ATLANTIS FRITILLARY				33	55	
SILVER-BORDERED FRITILLARY	14	23	3			1
MEADOW FRITILLARY				37	4	18
PEARL CRESCENT	6	63	50			1
BALTIMORE	1	84				8
QUESTION MARK	1					
EASTERN COMMA	4	4		1		4
MOURNING CLOAK	2	5			1	
COMPTON TORTOISESHELL		2				
MILBERT'S TORTOISESHELL					2	
RED ADMIRAL		4	1	3	3	4
AMERICAN LADY	1	7				
RED-SPOTTED PURPLE		5			9	4

Species	CONCRD	FOXBR	BRISTOL CNTY	SOUTH BRKSH	NORTH BRKSH	CNTRL FRNKLN
(WHITE ADMIRAL)					3	
VICEROY	7	13	16	1	3	5
NORTHERN PEARLY EYE	2					
EYED BROWN		4		3	1	
APPALACHIAN BROWN		2	6			2
LITTLE WOOD SATYR	22	8		4	1	
COMMON RINGLET	16		3		133	2
COMMON WOOD NYMPH	89	1364	38	163		2
MONARCH	16	22	11	18	11	12
SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER	24	86	14	5	2	38
HOARY EDGE		3				1
SOUTHERN CLOUDYWING		1				2
NORTHERN CLOUDYWING		1			2	1
HORACE'S DUSKYWING		7	4			
WILD INDIGO DUSKYWING		1				
COMMON SOOTYWING						2
LEAST SKIPPER					9	
EUROPEAN SKIPPER	20	73	2	132	230	15
PECK'S SKIPPER	2			9	6	
TAWNY-EDGED SKIPPER		1				2
CROSSLINE SKIPPER		45				14
LONG DASH					10	1
NORTHERN BROKEN DASH	6	24				8
LITTLE GLASSYWING	22	17				7
DELAWARE SKIPPER	12	60	3			25
MULBERRY WING	11	39		5		4
HOBOMOK SKIPPER				2	5	
BROAD-WINGED SKIPPER			2			
BLACK DASH	3	42				6
* TWO-SPOTTED SKIPPER		1				
DUN SKIPPER	7	41	21	12		21
PEPPER AND SALT SKIPPER					1	
NUMBER OF SPECIES	37	49	26	25	31	40
NUMBER OF BUTTERFLIES	1079	3203	289	664	662	1043
PARTY HOURS	N.A.	40	5	10	20	33
DATE	7-10	7-11	7-18	7-10	6-26	7-10
NUMBER OF OBSERVERS	N.A.	8	7	6	5	10

NABA-Xerces 4th of July Butterfly Count Remarks

Concord Area
Compiler Dick Walton

This was the 5th year for the Concord butterfly count. While the temperature was hot, hot, hot, (76-99°F) our totals were not! Total species (37) was below average (41). Of interest was a Question Mark (new for the count) and 442 Clouded Sulphurs.

Foxboro Area
Compiler Brian Cassie

Coral Hairstreak was conspicuous in several areas. Of course, it was a banner summer for Great Spangled Fritillaries. Aphrodite Fritillaries were certainly flying in above average numbers. The count for Large Wood Nymphs, 1364, probably established a national high for these counts. Eight new count species were seen this year. The Two-spotted Skipper is truly rare in Massachusetts and was the most unusual find. Six species of larvae were found and five species were observed mating. Spring Azure was ovipositing on Meadowsweet.

Bristol County
Compiler Mark Mello

No Remarks were available

Southern Berkshire County
Compiler Rene Laubach

Nearly all areas surveyed are protected by state or private organizations.

Northern Berkshire County
Compiler Mark Fairbrother

Count day was sunny, hot and humid with a gusty wind. Plant life beginning to show effects of a general lack of rain. Early Hairstreak reported from annual colony. Silvery Blue was third state record. Northern Cloudywing ovipositing on white clover at 12:00. Red Admiral ovipositing on nettles at 13:00. European Skipper mating at 11:15. Butterflies somewhat between spring and summer flights. Nectar sources appeared about normal.

Central Franklin County
Compiler Mark Fairbrother

Hot and dry. Milkweed more or less at peak, showing stress from drought. Nectar sources anywhere but in typically wet meadows were burnt out. Spicebush Swallowtail ovipositing on Sassafras.

Butterfly Collections in Massachusetts

PART I

Universities, natural history societies, and other organizations in the Commonwealth house butterfly collections. The lepidoptera collection at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology is, of course, highly acclaimed and is utilized by researchers worldwide. Most of our collections, however, are under-appreciated. In this and subsequent articles, we will present pertinent information on Massachusetts butterfly collections, their locations, and visitation privileges.

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE

The MCZ has one of the world's outstanding collections of lepidoptera, with approximately 400,000 specimens each of butterflies and moths. Coverage is cosmopolitan, with very strong collections for New England and eastern North America, the West Indies, Central America, and the Galapagos Islands.

The MCZ collection may be viewed by appointment only and is usually available to genuine researchers. Contact David Furth (617-495-2464).

LLOYD CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, SOUTH DARTMOUTH

Director (and MBC member) Mark Mello has developed a nice collection of mostly Northeastern species. There are approximately 1500 butterflies of 150 species and 17,000 moths of 1700 species, ninety percent from Massachusetts. The main collection is open by appointment; a synoptic collection is on display. Contact Mark Mello (508-990-0505).

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, LINCOLN

From 1986-1990, the Massachusetts Audubon Society coordinated and funded the Massachusetts Butterfly Atlas Project, a groundbreaking program for mapping the distributions of our state's butterflies. Several thousand voucher specimens, collected for the project, are housed at the Society's headquarters in Lincoln. Person's doing research on local butterflies should contact Christopher Leahy (617-259-9500) for permission to use the collection.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, BOSTON

Dr. James Traniello, at the Boston University Metcalf Science Center, is curator of the university's entomological collection. The collection is historically important as it came to Boston University from the former Boston Society of Natural History. The exact number of butterflies is undocumented. Visitation is by appointment only. Contact Dr. Traniello (617-353-2000).

WELLESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WELLESLEY

The Denton family has a special room at the Wellesley Historical Society devoted to its illustrious family members. Two of the Denton brothers collected, bought, and sold vast numbers of insects around the turn of the century and developed and perfected the "Denton Mount", a method of securing insect specimens in individual glass mounts. The Wellesley Historical Society has the largest existent collection of Denton Mounts, over 1500, and most are of butterflies. Contact Barbara Teller (617-235-6690) for permission to look at the society's collection.

Massachusetts Butterfly Houses

Ever been to a butterfly house? They are great places to get up close and personal with lepidoptera. The butterflies are free-flying and are usually large and colorful species. For photographers, butterfly house visiting is a must.

We are now fortunate to have two butterfly houses in Massachusetts. Both feature primarily North American species and each has up to 500-600 butterflies flying at once. Give one or both a try.

THE BUTTERFLY PLACE AT PAPILLON PARK (120 Tyngsboro Rd., Westford 01886)

Telephone: 508-392-0955

SIZE: 3100 square foot atrium

HOURS: 10:00-5:00 daily - April 15 to Columbus Day

ADMISSION: Adults - \$5.00; Seniors and children under 12 - \$4.00; Children under 3 - free

BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT (P.O. Box 3133 Oak Bluffs 02557)

Telephone: 508-693-4006

SIZE: 1800 square feet

HOURS: 9:00a.m.-10:00p.m. daily - May 1 to Columbus Day

ADMISSION: Adults - \$4.00; Children - \$3.00; Mass. Butterfly Club members get \$1.00 discount

NOTE: Butterflies in Flight will have a plant sale in early October (mostly tropicals). Call for details.

Book Review

BUTTERFLIES THROUGH BINOCULARS; A Field Guide to Butterflies in the Boston- NewYork- Washington Region. by Jeffrey Glassberg. Oxford University Press: New York. 1993. 241 pages, 40 color plates, 322 color photos, 2 figures. Paperback \$19.95

Jeffrey Glassberg's field guide to Northeastern butterflies is an almost perfect butterfly identification guide. The author and his cohorts in the New York City Butterfly Club have studied butterflies and their identification marks in the field, with binoculars, for years and have developed an identification system that is the best yet seen by this reviewer. Similar species are arranged side-by-side on the plates, usually in identical postures. The photographs are mostly in natural position in the field. Believe it or not, this is a practically revolutionary idea in regional field guides, most books utilizing photos of spread specimens. The species accounts include remarks on habitat, range, flight period, abundance, and food plants, but concentrate most heavily on identification. There is simply no getting around it - this is a field identification guide - not a laboratory manual, natural history, or elaborate key. The appendices are excellent, especially the first, a guide to butterflying localities (seven Massachusetts spots are included). A book of this nature was long overdue. I hope the current generations of butterfly enthusiasts will get it and carry it in to the field at every opportunity.

Brian Cassie

Silvery Blue *Glaucopsyche lygdamus*

On May 30, 1993, Claudia Tibbetts and I were watching and identifying butterflies in a large field of lupine next to the Mill Pond in Gloucester. Cabbage Whites and both Clouded and Orange Sulphurs flew up and down the field along with smaller numbers of American Coppers and American Ladies. We were particularly interested in finding an Eastern Tailed Blue. As we walked along a dirt road on the south side of the field, a small blue butterfly fluttered in front of us. Claudia asked me to net it. I made a weak protest, sure that it would turn out to be a Spring Azure, but swung the net anyway. I'm glad I did. It was immediately apparent that our captive was not a Spring Azure or an Eastern Tailed Blue. Its upper wings were a deep shimmering blue with black margins, and its underside was a gray-brown color with a post-median band of black spots circled with white. Several hours later, after consulting half a dozen field guides and all our back issues of "Massachusetts Butterflies", we made our identification—it was a Silvery Blue!

I sent a letter to Brian Cassie, Editor of "Massachusetts Butterflies", informing him that Claudia and I caught what we believed to be a Silvery Blue. Several days later MBC member Chris Leahy called us. Brian Cassie had called him and asked if he would confirm our sighting of the Silvery Blue. I told Chris that we were fairly certain it was a Silvery Blue but had released it after making our identification. Chris asked us to search for another and to call him if we were successful.

To make a long story short, we were successful. On June 7th, we netted another Silvery Blue on the south side of the lupine field. I got on the phone to Chris and Brian. Bingo! Identification confirmed.

Doug Savich, Gloucester

Editors' Note :

Doug Savich and Claudia Tibbetts should be recognized for the special efforts they made both to identify the Silvery Blue and to contact others about its presence on Cape Ann. Brian Cassie, Chris Leahy and Lyn Lovell saw another individual at the above-mentioned site on June 8th. The fields there have extensive growths of vetch, the butterfly's host plant (we noticed on our NH/ME trip that Silvery Blues occurred only in fields with vetch).

The Silvery Blue is spreading southward from northern New England and this year the second (Gloucester: May 30- June 8) and third (northern Berkshire county NABA-Xerces 4th of July count: June 26) records were obtained for Massachusetts. All state records, including Robert Godefroi's first Massachusetts record on June 7, 1992, at Tewksbury, have been from northernmost Massachusetts. The Silvery Blue has a single brood in late spring/ early summer. When you are in the appropriate habitat next year, look twice at those shimmering blue butterflies. You may be seeing a lifer!