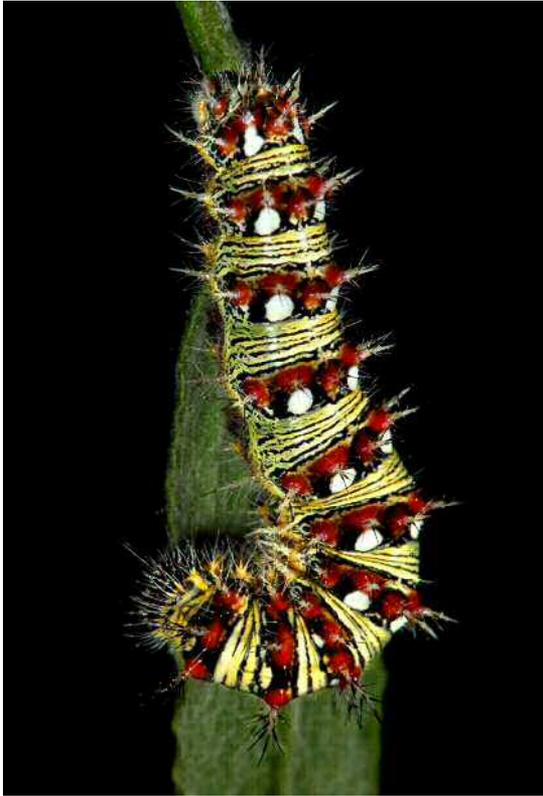


# Massachusetts Butterflies



Fall 2009, No. 33

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*Front Cover: American Lady caterpillar (Vanessa virginiensis), by Sam Jaffe,  
Canton, Massachusetts June 5, 2009*



Monarch, Concord, Mass.

*Herbert Gleason, 1906*

## Thoreau's Butterflies

Sharon Stichter

The journals of Henry David Thoreau are an interesting and little-known source of information about butterflies in Massachusetts in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Thoreau was a contemporary of Thaddeus W. Harris, the first entomologist at Harvard, whose 1841 *Report on the Insects of Massachusetts Injurious to Vegetation* is our earliest published source on the state's butterflies. Thoreau knew Harris, and consulted him for identification of moths and butterflies. The monumental work of Samuel Hubbard Scudder, *The Butterflies of the Eastern United States and Canada*, published in 1889, draws together the work of Harris and virtually all other scientists and collectors of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and remains unsurpassed in many respects today. By contrast, Thoreau is known as a philosopher and poet; only recently have the more scientific aspects of his work been appreciated.

Henry Thoreau was firmly rooted in his home town of Concord. After graduating from Harvard in 1837 he was uncertain what profession to pursue. According to one story, when his mother suggested he should "buckle on his knapsack and roam abroad to seek his fortune," tears came to his eyes. His older sister Helen reassured him: "No, Henry, you shall not go: you shall stay at home and live with us." (Bode, p 684-5; McGregor p 7-8). After finding that he did not like either teaching or tutoring, he made his fateful decision to live in a cabin on land owned by his mentor, Ralph Waldo Emerson, in order to write as a poet and philosopher. He looked to Nature to help him grow spiritually; he deplored the unheeding and relentlessly practical approach of the Concord farmers to Nature's beauty. Still, from Walden Pond he could easily walk the few miles down the road to the center of Concord,

to visit his family and a few friends. Over his lifetime, he made some memorable trips – to Mount Katadin in Maine, to Cape Cod – but he always returned happily to his native soil.

During the 1850's Thoreau almost daily threaded his way along his neighbors' fields and through their rough pastures and woodlots, along swamp edges, and over the ponds and rivers by boat. In his journals he made copious reports of wild plants, including bloom and fruiting times, birds, small animals, fish, and yes, butterflies. In July, particularly, Thoreau was entranced by large clusters of butterflies: "Here is the Canada thistle in bloom, visited by butterflies and bees. The butterflies have swarmed within these few days, especially about the milkweeds...." (July 19, 1851) By the end of August, "Now that flowers are rarer, almost every one of whatever species has bees or butterflies upon it." (August 30, 1859)

The butterfly Thoreau saw most frequently and in greatest numbers was the Clouded Sulphur, and he often remarked on its beauty. On July 16, 1851, the "yellow butterflies" were "gathered in fleets in the road, and on the flowers of the milkweed (*Asclepias pulchra*) by the roadside...." And on July 26, 1854, in various parts of town, the yellow butterflies were again "in fleets in the road, on bare damp sand (not dung), twenty or more collected within a diameter of five or six inches in many places . They are a greenish golden, sitting still near together, and apparently headed one way if the wind blows. At first, perhaps, you do not notice them, but, as you pass along, you disturb them, and the air is suddenly all alive with them fluttering over the road, and, when you are past, they soon settle down in a new place. How pretty these little greenish-golden spangles! Some are a very pale greenish yellow. The farmer is not aware how much beauty flutters about his wagon."

In the fields, dirt lanes, and busy paved roads of Concord today, we would not find anywhere near the numbers of Clouded Sulphurs which Thoreau saw. On July 14, 1852, there were “fleets of yellow butterflies dispersing before us, [as] we rode along berrying on the Walden road.” On July 18, 1853, there were “thousands of yellow butterflies on the pontederia flowers [pickerel weed], and of various colors on the buttonbush.”

One of Thoreau’s greatest insights was the interdependence of all aspects of nature, what today we would call an ecological perspective. He saw that butterflies needed certain nectar plants, and that plants needed butterflies for pollination. He found this interdependence illustrated in a common, small reddish butterfly, nectaring on aster: “Butterflies of various colors are now more abundant than I have seen them before, especially the small reddish or coppery ones. I counted ten yesterday on a single *Sericocarpus conyzoides*. They were in singular harmony with the plant, as if they made a part of it. The insect that comes after the honey or pollen of a plant is necessary to it and in one sense makes a part of it. Being constantly in motion and, as they moved, opening and closing their wings to preserve their balance, they presented a very lifesome scene.” (July 29, 1853). The butterflies were using an aster which inhabits only dry areas, and were most likely American Coppers.

Spring Azures also caught Thoreau’s attention, and on the warm afternoon of April 30, 1858, he wrote: “That interesting small blue butterfly (size of small red) is apparently just out, fluttering over the warm dry oak leaves within the wood in the sun. Channing also first sees them to-day. The moment it rests and closes its wings, it looks merely whitish-slate, and you think at first that the deeper blue was produced by the motion of its wings, but the fact is you

now see only their under sides which thus [sic] whitish spotted with black, with a dark waved line next the edge.”

The species which most attracted Thoreau were those found in his favorite haunts in the woods, particularly the Mourning Cloak, which he called the buff-edged butterfly, and referred to often. On March 20, 1853, on a south-facing cliff overlooking Beaver Pond he found a “large butterfly, black with buff-edged wings.” And on April 9 that same year he found an anglewing: “A middling-sized orange-copper butterfly on the mill road, at the clearing, with deeply scalloped leaves [sic]. You see the buff-edged and this, etc., in warm, sunny southern exposures on the edge of woods or sides of rocky hills and cliffs...”

So on April 10 he journeyed to Cambridge to consult with Dr. Thaddeus W. Harris. Harris confirmed that the “buff-edged” was indeed *Vanessa antiopa*, and that the “orange-brown one with scalloped wings” was *Vanessa progne* --- a Gray Comma! It is not clear whether Thoreau brought specimens to Dr. Harris, or just a sketch or verbal description; however, a specimen was usually expected in those days, and Harris’ identification of the *progne* could probably not have been made without a specimen. Harris’ identification fits with other sources, which suggest that the Gray Comma was more common in Massachusetts in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century than it is today.

On April 2, 1857, on Lee’s Cliff across Fairhaven Pond, Thoreau found another Mourning Cloak, and earlier that year, March 28, he had found half a dozen at this spot. Returning again to the area by boat on July 5, Thoreau reports that “For some days I have seen great numbers of blackish, spiny Caterpillars stripping the black willows, some full-grown on June 30th and some now not more than three quarters of an inch long. When looking at a blackbird’s

nest I pricked my hand smartly on them several times; in fact the nest was pretty well protected by this *chevaux-de-frise*. Are they the caterpillars of the *Vanessa Antiopa* ?” In a later note he writes “Yes: according to Harris's description, they are.”

A very interesting butterfly find by Thoreau was a Compton Tortoiseshell. On the first of April, 1858, as he walked along Hemlock Brook, he startled “under the hemlocks there, a butterfly (call it the tawny-orange single-white-spotted) about the size of *Vanessa Antiopa*, tawny-orange, with black spots or eyes, and pale-brown about them, a white spot near the corner of each front wing, a dark line near the edge behind, a small sharp projecting angle to the hind wings, a green-yellow back to body.” This very precise description enabled the first editor of Thoreau’s journals, Bradford Torrey, to deduce in 1906 that the reference was to “*Vanessa j-album*, to judge by the date and the general description.”

Thoreau’s most frequent moth encounters were the cocoons of the Promethea Moth, and from his insect studies, or perhaps from his own observation, he was quite familiar with their ingenious design: “I noticed a bush covered with cocoons which were artfully concealed by two leaves wrapped round them, one still hanging by its stem, so that they looked like a few withered leaves left dangling. The worm, having first encased itself in another leaf for greater protection, folded more loosely around itself one of the leaves of the plant, taking care, however, to encase the leaf-stalk and the twig with a thick and strong web of silk, so far from depending on the strength of the stalk, which is now quite brittle . The strongest fingers cannot break it, and the cocoon can only be got off by slipping it up and off the twig. There they hang themselves secure for the winter, proof against cold and the birds....” (December 16, 1850)

He was much awed by his discovery of a Luna Moth on July 8, 1852: “ I found a remarkable moth lying flat on the still water as if asleep (they appear to sleep during the day), as large as the smaller birds.... The sight affected me as tropical...” Dr. Harris later confirmed that the moth was indeed *Attacus luna*, and said that the species was “rarely seen,” being very likely to be snapped up by birds. Harris related that he himself had once found a pair of wings—only---fluttering down into Harvard Yard, the moth presumably having been eaten by a bird.

It is surprising that there are not more references to butterflies in Thoreau’s journals. Many species are conspicuously absent. For example, Thoreau never mentions the Monarch, although he writes much about milkweeds and other plants of open, disturbed areas, like dogbane, nettles, and chenopodium. He does not mention either the Spicebush or the Black Swallowtail, only the Tiger Swallowtail. Nor does he mention the American Lady, although one plant that interested him greatly was *Gnaphalium*, two species of which were clearly abundant and no doubt hosted American Ladies, although Thoreau never mentions any caterpillars on the plant. Nor does he mention the Red Admiral, nor any fritillaries, although he comments frequently on Lance-Leaved Violet (Angelo lists 16 references). And of course Thoreau did not see any Cabbage Whites, which were introduced in Quebec about 1860, and first seen in Boston in 1869, nor any Orange Sulphurs, which arrived from the west and were not abundant here until the 1930s.

Thoreau matured as a naturalist over the years, and was elected to membership in the Boston Society of Natural History. But in his earlier writings, his nature observations are often mainly a foil, a jumping-off point for his critiques of contemporary society and his musings on transcendentalist philosophy. In one such passage in *Walden* (Bode, 461), the butterfly serves, interestingly, as a symbol of mature self-restraint. Thoreau describes how for a while

he gave up eating animal flesh, in fact did not eat much food at all, believing that this was necessary to “preserve his higher or poetic faculties in the best condition.” As an example from nature, he cites the butterfly, quoting entomologists to the effect that “some insects in their perfect state, though furnished with organs of feeding, make no use of them.” In Thoreau’s fanciful simile, it is only the young – “the voracious caterpillars and the gluttonous maggots” -- that Nature allows to over-eat. A mature adult, he says, ought to be content with just a few drops of the sweet honey of life.

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Dion Skipper, same individual; 7-18-09 Hinsdale, MA. *Betsy Higgins*

## Searching for the Dion Skipper

Sharon Stichter

The elusive Dion Skipper has been leading western Massachusetts butterflyers on a merry chase for years. Shy and flighty, it is found some years in small numbers, then in other years not found at all. In 2009 it has surfaced again, thanks to a serendipitous find by Tom Gagnon and Betsy Higgins in a roadside wetland in Hinsdale (see photos), supplemented by the reports of Sue and Ron Cloutier from that same spot. Then there was Karl Gardner, a visiting butterflyer from Pennsylvania, who very kindly sent us pictures of a couple of Dions from a previously unknown lakeside location in Florence, taken when he came up to visit his daughter. All this excitement has prompted this review of the Club and other records, leading to the conclusion that the Dion is probably more numerous in our state, and present in more locations, than we had previously thought.

*Euphyes dion* (named by W. H. Edwards in 1879) inhabits calcareous, or at least non-acidic wetlands north of New Jersey, -- yet bogs, ditches, and other acidic wetlands from southern New Jersey south (Glassberg 1993, p 91). Throughout its eastern range, Dion is usually found only in small colonies with low population densities. Suitable non-acidic wetland habitat is found almost solely in the western part of our state, and the Dion is at the eastern edge of its range here, being found more commonly across southern New York state and in Ohio (Cech 2005; Iftner *et al* 1992). In his account in the 1985-90 MAS Butterfly Atlas, conservation biologist Dale Schweitzer pointed out that since the Dion was a strong flier, it could be expected to colonize well, at

least over short distances. But since its numbers were never high at any one spot, local extirpations could easily occur.

The great Samuel Scudder did not include this species in his 1889 treatise on New England butterflies, not even in the Appendix; we can take it that the species was not known to be present in New England in the 1880's. In fact, it was found in Massachusetts only fairly recently, the earliest record being from 22 July, 1962 near South Egremont in Berkshire County. This specimen resides in the Yale museum.

Back in the Atlas period, there were only two records: 11 July 1986, Hancock (Berkshire Co.), by R. Wendell, and 17 July 1986, Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.) D. Schweitzer. So the Atlas account categorized this skipper as "rare," and limited to the southern Berkshires. It lamented the 'depauperate' nature of our western calcareous wetlands. But since then, finds by Massachusetts Butterfly Club members and by the state Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, show that the Dion is, or has become, considerably less rare, and that it is no longer limited to the southern Berkshires.

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Note the Field Marks in the accompanying photos:

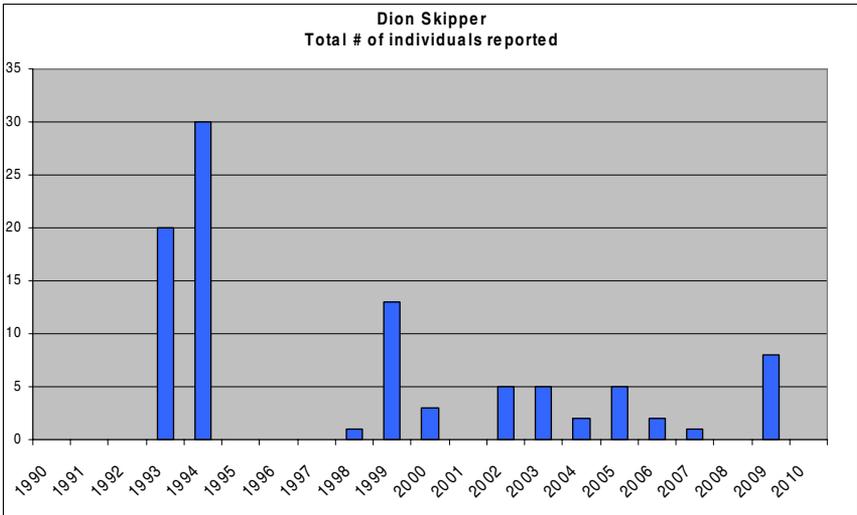
Ventral: two pale rays, one through center of HW, the other along trailing edge (visible in Gardner's photo).

Dorsal: both sexes have a long rectangular stripe on HW (visible in Higgins' photo), mirroring ray on ventral side, which Black Dash does not have. Otherwise, very similar to Black Dash.

Below are the Massachusetts Butterfly Club records of the Dion Skipper. All reports are from Berkshire County, except for Florence in Hampshire County. Chart I shows the numbers by year. (Adjustments for effort, i.e. time spent in the field or number of observers, are not really appropriate with such small numbers.)

Dion Skipper 1993 7/10/1993	20 SHEFFIELD Dave Wagner
Dion Skipper 1994 7/7/1994	30 SHEFFIELD Dave Wagner
Dion Skipper 1998 7/15/1998	1 SAVOY Diane Potter
Dion Skipper 1999 7/5/1999	8 RICHMOND Tom Gagnon
Dion Skipper 1999 7/10/1999	3 RICHMOND Tom Dodd+Brian Cassie
Dion Skipper 1999 7/14/1999	2 ZNC NOR BERKSHIRE N.Berk Xerces
Dion Skipper 2000 7/23/2000	3 ZNC CEN BERKSHIRE Tom Tyning #
Dion Skipper 2002 7/10/2002	5 ZNC NOR BERKSHIRE Mark Fairbrother#
Dion Skipper 2003 7/12/2003	3 ZNC SOU BERKSHIRE Rene Laubach #
Dion Skipper 2003 7/20/2003	2 ZNC CEN BERKSHIRE Tom Tyning #
Dion Skipper 2004 7/9/2004	2 NORTH ADAMS Ron + Sue Cloutier
Dion Skipper 2005 7/4/2005	5 NORTH ADAMS Cloutier #
Dion Skipper 2006 7/9/2006	1 ZNC NOR BERKSHIRE Tom Tyning #
Dion Skipper 2006 7/11/2006	1 ZNC SOU BERKSHIRE Rene Laubach #
Dion Skipper 2007 7/22/2007	1 NORTH ADAMS Ron Hamburger
Dion Skipper 2009 7/13/2009	4 FLORENCE Karl Gardner
Dion Skipper 2009 7/18/2009	1 HINSDALE Tom Gagnon + Betsy Higgins
Dion Skipper 2009 7/19/2009	3 HINSDALE Ron + Sue Cloutier

Chart I



The Dion Skipper is univoltine, with its annual flight occurring from the first through the third weeks in July (as seen in the new Club checklist flight chart). For this reason it has often been found while Berkshire butterflyers are doing the NABA Counts. Back in 1993 and 1994, when Dave Wagner first reported a large colony in Sheffield, the Counts were just getting started, and his reports were not confirmed for a few years. But since 1998, as Chart I makes clear, at least a few Dions have been found nearly every year, except in 2001 and 2008.

The finding of a colony in North Adams was significant, because it marks the northernmost extension of the Dion Skipper in our state. Our first report from the north was during the Northern Berkshire count in 1999, but the spot behind a school in North Adams (actually part of a large wetland area over a mile in extent) has since been visited by a number of butterfly observers, including Tom Murray in 2004 (see his photos on the MBC website).

In addition to the records mentioned so far (and including some of them), the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has Dion Skipper records from the six towns of Egremont, North Adams, Pittsfield, Richmond, Stockbridge, and Sheffield. In 2008 and 2009, NHESP contracted with Tom Lautzenheiser of MassAudubon to update their Dion records. The skipper's presence was re-confirmed at sites in all of these towns. Tom also searched for the Dion at a few additional potential sites, and found it at a new site in the town of Lee.

Opler and Krizek's 1984 range map, like the 1990 MAS Atlas map, showed the Dion only in southwestern Massachusetts; both these maps are now clearly out of date. Cech's 2005 range map does include all of western Massachusetts, and even shows reports

from Vermont. So it is possible that the skipper has been moving north; certainly it is widespread through the upper Great Lakes regions. It might also be moving east. The report from Karl Gardner (see photo) is the first record for Hampshire County. It has yet to be determined whether that site meets the usual “calcareous habitat” criterion.

Our own MBC website account of the Dion Skipper needs some updating as well! We can no longer say that it is “known in MA only from five calcareous wetland sites.” NHESP already lists sites in seven towns, confirmed within the last two years; adding Hinsdale and Florence from this year makes nine towns. There are at least two known sites within Sheffield in the Southern Berkshire Count area. There are likely more sites yet to be found in the central and northern areas of western Massachusetts.



Dion Skipper 7-13-2009 Florence, MA. Karl Gardner

Dione, the Greek goddess for whom the Dion Skipper was named, was a consort of Zeus, the king of gods, and the mother of Aphrodite, the goddess of Love. Dione is a somewhat elusive figure in Greek mythology – and thus the name is quite fitting, from our perspective here in Massachusetts. Though our sightings of this skipper are growing, it is still rare enough, with many potential habitats under threat, to justify its status as a Threatened species under our Endangered Species Act.

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This article has benefited from comments and information from Tom Gagnon, Mike Nelson, Sue and Ron Cloutier, Mark Fairbrother, Karl Gardner, and Rene Laubach. The chart was produced by Lynette Leka.

## 2009 NABA Butterfly Counts

Tom Gagnon

At the start of this write-up I looked out the window to see SNOW FLURRIES blowing by the kitchen window. How I wish instead I was preparing myself to head out to do another butterfly count. I know, I am just dreaming. We again had fifteen Fourth of July Butterfly Counts and one SEASONAL Count (Springfield) this year. Just like 2008, the TOTAL number of butterflies dropped again. This year the total was only 12,030. In 2008 our total was 13,738 and that was a HUGE drop from 2007 when we had 20,965! Was it the wet, cool Spring and Summer? Fewer people out counting? Or are we really starting to lose some of our butterflies? We had 130 people out counting, the SAME as in 2008! Some of these 130 people were counted 3, 4 or 5 times since they participated in more than one count. We need to become better recruiter's and get more help in the field counting.

Seen on all 16 counts this year were: Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur and Monarchs. Missed on only one or two counts were: Orange Sulphur, Silver-spotted Skipper and Dun Skipper. We had a TOTAL SPECIES count of 74. The big misses were: Canadian Tiger Swallowtail, Bronze Copper and Hickory Hairstreak. These three are usually found on our three most Western counts in Berkshire County. Did the huge ice storm in the Berkshires of December 2008 affect the over wintering populations of some of our butterflies?

Here are some comments from the compilers of the counts:

Tom Tying on the Central and Northern Berkshire counts: "Low turn out of participants and poor weather." From Mark

Fairbrother, of the Central Franklin count: "Cold, wet June and TOO much water in the bogs." Matt Pelikan on the Martha's Vineyard count: "low numbers and low species count, only two other [Vineyard] counts were worse." From Alison Robb who compiles FOUR counts on the Cape: "people on the Cape are too busy to become interested in butterflies. Their loss".

The Truro count was done by only one person! Thank you Tor Hansen for helping to keep this count going.

We had NINE species of butterflies with only ONE INDIVIDUAL reported. They were: White M Hairstreak, Oak Hairstreak, Compton Tortoiseshell, Tawny Emperor, Northern Cloudywing, Horace's Duskywing, Dreamy Duskywing, Variegated Fritillary, and Dion Skipper. Species seen on one or two counts with more than one individual seen were the following, with their numbers: Mustard White 3, Harvester 2, Acadian Hairstreak 24, Atlantis Fritillary 20, Harris' Checkerspot 17, Common Buckeye 2, White Admiral (reported as) 5, and finally Hackberry Emperor 6. All fairly LOW numbers indeed.

Looking at the numbers in the tables, not many big numbers jump out at me. The Central Berkshire Count had only 3 Mustard Whites, and the 24 Acadian Hairstreaks (all in one small location) are low. On the Central Franklin count 591 Bog Coppers may seem like a huge number, but some years the number has been over 1500. 17 Harris' Checkerspots on the Northern Worcester count was a nice number. Finding 17 Milbert's Tortoiseshells on the Northampton count was outstanding. Sadly NONE in my territory. 108 Common Wood Nymphs found on the South Berkshire count was only a small percentage of what is usually found there. I thought all the skipper numbers were low with only the Silver-spotted holding their numbers. The Dion Skipper was a

nice surprise on the Central Berkshire count, only the second time found on that count.

Thank you all who participated on these counts. The information gathered is very important and critical in protecting our butterflies. See you in the fields and woods in 2010.



*Editor's Note: The Butterfly Count Program is administered by the North American Butterfly Association, 4 Delaware Rd, Morristown, NJ 07960. The official report for all counts held in the U.S., Canada and Mexico is available from NABA for \$7.00. The unofficial tallies for Massachusetts counts are reported here.*

<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2431</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>
Northern Berkshire		5			72	55	7				11				4	
Central Berkshire	2			3	10	25	11		3		21	24			1	
Southern Berkshire	1	2			69	81	11									
Central Franklin	2	19	3		234	34	9		24	591	3		6			
Northampton	26	10	3		241	429	80	1	131		1		9			
Northern Worcester	5	27	5		334	23	2		50	3			1	8		
Concord		5	1		285	53			45	5	2		1			
Northern Essex		16			749	13					2		5			
Springfield		2	1		14	2	4	1								
Blackstone Corridor	2	11	4		34	50	12		42	1	1		2	4		2
Bristol		2	3		1	2	1		10							
Falmouth		1	7		2	25	26		23				1			
Brewster		1	8		105	2	21		136	16	29		9		4	
Barnstable		2	2		32	3	16		17		1					
Truro		3			2	2	6		43	39						
Martha's Vineyard	1	4	2		247	18	98		236		2		19	1		1
Pipeline Swallowtail																
Black Swallowtail																
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail																
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail																
Spicebush Swallowtail																
Mustard White																
Cabbage White																
Clouded Sulphur																
Orange Sulphur																
Cloudless Sulphur																
Harvester																
American Copper																
Bronze Copper																
Bog Copper																
Coral Hairstreak																
Acadian Hairstreak																
Edwards' Hairstreak																
Banded Hairstreak																
Hickory Hairstreak																
Striped Hairstreak																
Oak Hairstreak																





Total	1	19	8	174	1709	38	29	57	41	120	123	148	10	3	4	5	1	4	228	
Northern Berkshire					166				6	8	9			2					4	
Central Berkshire					33	5	4			7	4	2					1		15	
Southern Berkshire				2	83	2			1	4	2	7							20	
Central Franklin			2	26	245	4	4	2	2	5	14	6							6	
Northampton	5	5	3	1	1			4		29	5	12	5					3	26	
Northern Worcester			1	10	722	5	1	4	27	1	22	2		1					5	
Concord					1		1	2		4	21	52	1						2	
Northern Essex					427			1	4		17									
Springfield				118		17	1								4	1				
Blackstone Corridor				1	7				6	1	25	29	4					1	7	
Bristol	1	1								19	4	4							4	
Falmouth		3					4	2		2		19							19	
Brewster					2	1	5	15		23		15				4			34	
Barnstable		10				2				14									8	
Truro				10	4		2												3	
Martha's Vineyard				4	18	1	7	21	1	3									75	
	Horace's Duskywing	Wild Indigo Duskywing	Common Sootywing	Least Skipper	European Skipper	Peck's Skipper	Tawny-edged Skipper	Crossline Skipper	Long Dash	Northern Broken Dash	Little Glassywing	Delaware Skipper	Mulberry Wing	Hobomok Skipper	Zabulon Skipper	Broad-winged Skipper	Dion Skipper	Black Dash	Two-spotted Skipper	Dun Skipper

<b>Summary</b>	<b>No. of Individuals</b>	<b>No. of Species</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>	<b>Party Hours</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Compiler</b>
Northern Berkshire	478	33	6	22.5	7-11	Tom Tynning
Central Berkshire	318	30	5	11.25	7-18	Tom Tynning
Southern Berkshire	557	31	10	na	7-10	Rene Laubach
Central Franklin	1666	46	10	50	7-5	Mark Fairbrother
Northampton	1816	47	10	41.8	7-19	dottie case
Northern Worcester	1475	41	19	na	7-4	Carl Kamp
Concord	734	32	13	12	7-11	Dick Walton
Northern Essex	1419	26	8	21.75	7-5	Sharon Stichter
Springfield	203	19	9	7	8-23	Roger Pease
Blackstone Corridor	645	45	9	30	7-12	Tom Dodd
Bristol	132	24	2	6	7-26	Mark Mello
Falmouth	234	21	2	5	7-23	Alison Robb
Brewster	639	31	10	15	7-25	Alison Robb
Barnstable	498	23	11	7	8-1	Alison Robb
Truro	128	13	1	4	7-6	Alison Robb
Martha's Vineyard	1088	33	5	25	7-19	Matt Pelikan
Total	12030	74	130			

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Barbara J. Walker Butterfly Festival

Held at MAS Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary on August 16, 2009, and sponsored by the sanctuary, the Festival featured many participants from the Massachusetts Butterfly Club. Walk leaders included Bob Bowker, Tom Murray, Dolores Price, Christy Barnes, and Rick and Mike Walker. The rest of the Walker family also attended the festival, including Barbara's parents. Butterfly talks were given by Carl Kamp, Sharon Stichter, and Martha Gach. Barbara Volkle staffed the MBC membership table; Elise Barry helped organise the festival. The live caterpillar exhibits, always the highlight of the day, were put on by Sam Jaffe, Linda Raibert, Don Adams, and Madeline Champagne. Butterfly art was on display, featuring the work of Sam Jaffe with his Caterpillars of Eastern Massachusetts, along with photographs by Bill Benner, Guy Guillemette, Alyce Mayo, Frank Model, Tom Murray and Nan Wilson. Special thanks go to Kristin Steinmetz, Sanctuary Director. Nature photographer Gail Hansche-Godin captured the spirit of the day in the following photos.





Madeline Champagne as Madame Monarch



Madeline and Linda at the Caterpillar Table



Sam Jaffe shows off the Hickory Horned Devil (Regal Moth)



Kris Allen and Sharon Stichter at the Plant Table



Oh my, look at that...



Barbara's Bench at Broad Meadow Brook



### **2010 Butterfly Calendar!**

Howard Hoople of Andover, MA has produced another beautiful full color 11" x 17" wall calendar for 2010 featuring butterflies from the Andover area. You can view and order this attractive calendar on the web at [www.andoverbutterflies.net](http://www.andoverbutterflies.net), or by contacting Howard at [howard.hoople@andoverbutterflies.net](mailto:howard.hoople@andoverbutterflies.net). The price is \$12.95 per calendar, plus shipping and sales tax if applicable. Howard will make a donation to the MBC for every calendar ordered, so make sure you let him know you're a member.

## From the President

Hello Fellow Butterfly Enthusiasts,

I wanted to take a moment to say a few words about our club, and how proud and happy I am to be a part of such a motivated group. I would particularly like to take the opportunity to thank all of those individuals who responded to our appeal for donations by giving generously to our club this past year. Those donations have made the difference in being able to keep our budget balanced, and that includes being able to afford to produce *Massachusetts Butterflies*. From our early beginnings, we have had a commitment to produce a journal that informs and inspires, and our editor, Sharon Stichter, has brought us another excellent issue.

We are continuing to expand our knowledge of Massachusetts butterflies, for example, and the article on Dion Skipper in this issue illustrates the need for a good deal more work in this area, as we clearly have populations of butterflies of which we are not yet aware. Yet this fieldwork is not work at all, but rather our pleasure and our enjoyment, something to make us happy all summer and to anticipate all winter long. We have had a great field season together, and I look forward to many more such seasons to come.

I would also like to point out our newly revised Checklist of the Butterflies of Massachusetts. Each of you received a free copy of this checklist with your journal, and I encourage you to take a good look at it, and use it in the field. It is largely the creation of our database manager, Erik Nielsen, and I thank him very much for all of his work on our behalf, both with the checklist and with maintaining our butterfly records. This is a labor of love, and Erik deserves all of our thanks. The checklist itself has a good amount of data and detail in a small, portable format that is easy to carry. Erik's unique phenograms are very helpful in quickly visualizing flight periods, and there is a good deal of other information packed on to the card as well. You can purchase more of these checklists at \$1.25 each, or 5 for \$5.00, which includes postage, from our Vice-President West, Tom Gagnon, at 175 Ryan Road, Florence, MA, 01062.

Enjoy this latest issue of our journal, and Happy Butterflying,

Bill Benner  
President, MA Butterfly Club



American Snout, Westport, Sept 5, 2009

*Photo: Bo Zaremba*