

# Massachusetts Butterflies



Fall 2016, No. 47

NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club  
25th Anniversary  
1991 - 2016

*Massachusetts Butterflies* is the semiannual publication of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, a chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. Membership in NABA-MBC brings you *American Butterflies* and *Butterfly Gardener*. If you live in the state of Massachusetts, you also receive *Massachusetts Butterflies*, and our mailings of field trips, meetings, and NABA Counts in Massachusetts. Out-of-state members of NABA-MBC and others who wish to receive *Massachusetts Butterflies* may order it from our secretary for \$7 per issue, including postage. Regular NABA dues are \$35 for an individual, \$45 for a family, and \$70 outside the U.S, Canada, or Mexico. Send a check made out to “NABA” to: NABA, 4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960.

## **NABA-MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLY CLUB**

### **Officers**

*President:* Howard Hoople, 10 Torr Street, Andover, MA, 01810-4022.

(978) 475-7719 [howard@massbutterflies.org](mailto:howard@massbutterflies.org)

*Vice President-East:* Dawn Puliafico, 18 Irene Circle, Ashland, MA, 01721.

(508) 881-0936 [dawn@massbutterflies.org](mailto:dawn@massbutterflies.org)

*Vice President-West:* Tom Gagnon, 175 Ryan Road, Florence, MA, 01062.

(413) 584-6353 [tombwhawk@aol.com](mailto:tombwhawk@aol.com)

*Treasurer:* Elise Barry, 45 Keep Avenue, Paxton, MA, 01612-1037.

(508) 795-1147 [elise@massbutterflies.org](mailto:elise@massbutterflies.org)

*Secretary:* Barbara Volkle, 400 Hudson Street, Northboro, MA, 01532.

(508) 393-9251 [barb620@theworld.com](mailto:barb620@theworld.com)

### **Staff**

*Editor, Massachusetts Butterflies:* Bill Benner, 53 Webber Road, West Whately,

MA, 01039. (413) 320-4422 [bill@massbutterflies.org](mailto:bill@massbutterflies.org)

*Records Compiler:* Mark Fairbrother, 129 Meadow Road, Montague, MA,

01351-9512. [mark@massbutterflies.org](mailto:mark@massbutterflies.org)

*Webmaster:* Karl Barry, 45 Keep Avenue, Paxton, MA, 01612-1037.

(508) 795-1147 [karl@massbutterflies.org](mailto:karl@massbutterflies.org)

**[www.massbutterflies.org](http://www.massbutterflies.org)**

*Massachusetts Butterflies* No. 47, Fall 2016

© Copyright 2016 NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

## Contents

2	2016 NABA Butterfly Counts	Tom Gagnon
10	Reflections on the 25th Anniversary of NABA- Massachusetts Butterfly Club	Club Members
24	Baltimore Checkerspot Airport Bonanza	Tor Hansen
28	Last Sightings 2015—Some Corrections	Sharon Stichter

---



Henry's Elfins (*Calliphrys henrici*), 4/24/16,  
Milton, MA, Garry Kessler

---

Cover photo: Tawny Emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*),  
7/30/16, Sheffield, MA, Bill Callahan

## 2016 NABA Butterfly Counts

The 2016 butterfly count season came at the start of a very long, dry, hot summer that has extended into mid September as of this writing. Most of the early counts had very low numbers of species and their numbers. NO Harvesters, Gray Comma or tortoiseshells were found but, shortly after the counts were over, a fair number of Milbert's Tortoiseshells started to show-up. The Northampton count found the most species at 42, while the participants on the Central Franklin count found the most individuals with 2,047, with 1,696 being Bog Coppers. With the exception of Coral Hairstreaks, all other hairstreaks were hard to find. Species such as Common Wood-Nymph that usually are found in the 100's on the South Berkshire Count, could only be found in SINGLE digits this year.

There were 9 species found on only ONE count each. Three of them come on the Central Franklin count—Hoary Edge, Southern and Northern Cloudywing—followed by Tawny Emperor and Variegated Fritillary on the Northampton count. Acadian Hairstreak and Mustard Whites were found only on the Central Berkshire count, Juniper Hairstreak only on the Brewster count, and the only Painted Lady showed up on the Concord count

Most of the numbers of our butterflies were way down from other years with the exception of Spicebush Swallowtails, American Coppers and Northern Broken Dash. Sixty six Common Sootywing found on the Northampton Count was an exceptional number.

A big THANK YOU to all the count compilers, especially to Tom Tying, Mark Fairbrother and Joe Dwelly for compiling TWO EACH. It looks like the actual numbers of participants was down this year. Please consider helping out on as many counts as you can in 2017.

—Tom Gagnon, Florence, Massachusetts, Vice-President-West

Common Buckeye  
(*Junonia coenia*), 7/17/16,  
Northampton, MA,  
Bill Callahan



<b>July Count 2016</b>	<b>Black Swallowtail</b>	<b>Eastern Tiger Swallowtail</b>	<b>Canadian Tiger Swallowtail</b>	<b>Spicebush Swallowtail</b>	<b>Mustard White</b>	<b>Cabbage White</b>	<b>Clouded Sulphur</b>	<b>Orange Sulphur</b>	<b>American Copper</b>	<b>Bog Copper</b>	<b>Coral Hairstreak</b>
Northern Berkshire	3		10	2		52	54	4	1		2
Central Berkshire	11		3		5	52	77	5	61		15
Southern Berkshire	1	9	1			72	38	8			1
Central Franklin	3	9		6		35	52	8	24	1696	2
Northampton	20	17		14		250	182	33	68		
Northern Worcester	8	45		15		25	65	17	372		
Concord	5	5		3		12	6	9	23	15	1
Northern Essex		12		1		40	26	4	32		
Blackstone Corridor	1	6		6		8	19		44		
Bristol	1			1		48	14	3	6		
Falmouth	13			10			12	5	39		
Brewster	31	2		8		194		25	77	1	42
Truro	1	6		7		20	3	1	295	93	8

<b>July Count 2016</b>	<b>Acadian Hairstreak</b>	<b>Edwards' Hairstreak</b>	<b>Banded Hairstreak</b>	<b>Hickory Hairstreak</b>	<b>Striped Hairstreak</b>	<b>Juniper Hairstreak</b>	<b>Gray Hairstreak</b>	<b>Eastern Tailed-Blue</b>	<b>'Summer' Spring Azure</b>	<b>Variegated Fritillary</b>	<b>Great Spangled Fritillary</b>	<b>Aphrodite Fritillary</b>
Northern Berkshire				1				8	20		81	4
Central Berkshire	11							17	8		60	1
Southern Berkshire			1	1				8	3		82	4
Central Franklin			4				2	8	10		55	2
Northampton			3				1	3	7	3	27	1
Northern Worcester			2				5	11			62	18
Concord							6		2		8	
Northern Essex							1	12	10		69	
Blackstone Corridor			12		3		6	25	4		81	1
Bristol											2	
Falmouth			1				17	1				
Brewster		5	2		1	2	7	2				
Truro		5	1		3			4	1			

<b>July Count 2016</b>	<b>Atlantis Fritillary</b>	<b>Silver-bordered Fritillary</b>	<b>Meadow Fritillary</b>	<b>Pearl Crescent</b>	<b>Baltimore Checkerspot</b>	<b>Question Mark</b>	<b>Eastern Comma</b>	<b>Mourning Cloak</b>	<b>American Lady</b>	<b>Painted Lady</b>	<b>Red Admiral</b>	<b>Common Buckeye</b>
Northern Berkshire	15		10	15	13	1	9				9	
Central Berkshire	3			96	20	1	4	1	1		5	
Southern Berkshire		3		1		1	8	1			6	
Central Franklin		3	3	1	22		4	1			3	
Northampton		32		464	49		5	2	2		17	1
Northern Worcester		2		14	1			3	3			
Concord		4		60		1			3	1	9	1
Northern Essex		2					3		1		8	
Blackstone Corridor					138	1		1	8		11	
Bristol				5	1				2		3	
Falmouth				7					3		1	
Brewster				217		2			6		7	
Truro				30				3	5		6	

<b>July Count 2016</b>	<b>Red-spotted Admiral</b>	<b>White Admiral</b>	<b>Red-spotted Purple</b>	<b>Viceroy</b>	<b>Tawny Emperor</b>	<b>Northern Pearly-Eye</b>	<b>Eyed Brown</b>	<b>Appalachian Brown</b>	<b>Little Wood-Satyr</b>	<b>Common Ringlet</b>	<b>Common Wood-Nymph</b>	<b>Monarch</b>
Northern Berkshire	2	7				8				2	129	5
Central Berkshire	2					2	1	19	1		178	
Southern Berkshire				1		1		3	11	16	6	
Central Franklin	2			1				2	15			1
Northampton		2	2	9	3		1	9	16	4	54	17
Northern Worcester	2	2		1		1		1	56		30	4
Concord			2	1				10	3		9	
Northern Essex			1					4	134	3	3	
Blackstone Corridor	1			1		1	1	6	43		12	
Bristol			2									3
Falmouth											17	3
Brewster								1	1		30	12
Truro								6	31		16	

<b>July Count 2016</b>	<b>Silver-spotted Skipper</b>	<b>Hoary Edge</b>	<b>Southern Cloudywing</b>	<b>Northern Cloudywing</b>	<b>Horace's Duskywing</b>	<b>Wild Indigo Duskywing</b>	<b>Common Sootywing</b>	<b>Least Skipper</b>	<b>European Skipper</b>	<b>Peck's Skipper</b>	<b>Tawny-edged Skipper</b>
Northern Berkshire	5							2	11	9	2
Central Berkshire	51					6			3	14	10
Southern Berkshire	3							4	232	4	
Central Franklin	27	2	1	7				5	14	1	
Northampton	47				3	11	66				2
Northern Worcester	97					2	1		16		1
Concord	8					8					
Northern Essex	12							3	187		
Blackstone Corridor	18							1	371		
Bristol	1							3	2	2	
Falmouth						2			2		
Brewster	5				2	1				1	
Truro	15					1		6	3		

<b>July Count 2016</b>	<b>Crossline Skipper</b>	<b>Long Dash</b>	<b>Northern Broken-Dash</b>	<b>Little Glassywing</b>	<b>Delaware Skipper</b>	<b>Mulberry Wing</b>	<b>Hobomok Skipper</b>	<b>Broad-winged Skipper</b>	<b>Dion Skipper</b>	<b>Black Dash</b>	<b>Dun Skipper</b>
Northern Berkshire	3		16	10	1		2				4
Central Berkshire	2	1	67	4	10	8		1			47
Southern Berkshire		3	3	16					1		2
Central Franklin			5	5	3		1		2		
Northampton			56	4		2				6	12
Northern Worcester	2		11	4	16	6				4	8
Concord			4	1		13		7			1
Northern Essex			3	15	1						3
Blackstone Corridor		2	2	23	17	6				2	2
Bristol											
Falmouth	1		4								1
Brewster			64		4			4			16
Truro	2		28		7			1			27

<b>4th of July Count 2016 Summary</b>	No. of Individuals	No. of Species	No. of Partici- pants	Party Hours	Date	Compiler
Northern Berkshire	532	37	9	19.5	July 13	Tom Tynning
Central Berkshire	884	40	7	20.5	July 16	Tom Tynning
Southern Berkshire	555	34	13	27.5	July 1	Rene Wendell
Central Franklin	2047	39	10	39	July 2	Mark Fairbrother
Northampton	1527	42	7	30	July 17	Mark Fairbrother
Northern Worcester	936	37	9	32.5	July 12	Wendy Howes
Concord	241	31	12	12	July 16	Dick Walton
Northern Essex	592	27	4	17	July 2	Howard Hoople
Blackstone Corridor	884	35	6	34.55	July 2	Tom Dodd
Bristol	99	17	1	7	July 23	Mark Mello
Falmouth	139	18	5	2.5	July 16	Joe Dwelly
Brewster	772	30	3	12	July 23	Joe Dwelly
Truro	635	30	6	8.5	July 11	Mark Faherty



Silvery Blue  
(*Glaucopsyche  
lygdamus*), 5/21/16,  
Stow, MA,  
Michael Newton

## Reflections on the 25th Anniversary Of NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club

*In keeping with the 25th Anniversary of the NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club, we asked folks who have been members since the club's beginnings to say a few words about what the club, and butterflying in general, mean to them. Here are the responses we received, in no particular order. We begin with some most excellent verse from our club's founder, Brian Cassie.*

—Editor

### The Rhyming History of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club

By Brian Cassie

There was a time, thirty years ago or so,  
When we were not so sure  
About which butterflies were rare or common  
And all of the literature  
Was old and growing older.  
We read Klots and we read Scudder  
But mostly we found ourselves  
In a boat without a rudder.

Mass. Audubon agreed to a butterfly atlas  
The author of this poem got the chance  
To round up naturalists across the state  
To help get a better glance  
At what was going on with butterflies  
In the there and then  
A hundred volunteers came forth  
Fifty women, fifty men.

We spent five years out in the fields  
From the Berkshires to the Islands  
We looked in yards and bogs and woods  
In the lowlands and the highlands  
We made many friends along the way  
And when the Atlas ended  
We found we wanted to spend more time  
With people we'd befriended.

And so the MBC was born  
Its ranks were quickly filled  
With butterflyers young and old



The newbies and the skilled  
Many veterans of the atlas years  
Carried the new club through  
The trials and tribulations  
Of a nature club so new.

We started up “Mass. Butterflies”  
My wife did all the art  
My son helped with the lay-outs  
And I wrote to do my part  
And others wrote great articles  
Such as where to go to see  
The hairstreaks and the skippers  
And the rest, from A to Z.

There were butterfly symposiums  
There were trips with the New Yorkers  
Down to the Dismal Swamp and up to Maine  
And they were corkers!  
We hosted NABA’s biggest fest  
And though the skies stayed cloudy  
The Arctic Skippers and our good humor  
Kept the folks from getting rowdy.

Our club has great photographers  
We’re very grateful for their work  
Having access to wonderful photos  
Of butterflies is a perk.  
Our website is a teaching tool  
To share with one and all  
An added bonus are the field trips  
Which are offered spring to fall.

So here we are, today,  
Our club is twenty-five years young  
We have so much to look forward to  
Many songs yet to be sung

We will reach in new directions  
Our horizons will be bright  
But first we’ll drink a lot of toasts  
And celebrate this night!





Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*),  
5/11/16, Shrewsbury, MA, Bruce deGraaf

Robin Gross:

When my children were small, we attended an engaging presentation at the Lakeville Library, by Sally Spooner, about the life cycle of the butterfly. She brought in eggs and caterpillars and mentioned she had gotten the eggs from the field behind the high school where there were patches of milkweed. My children Samantha, aged 10, Sarah, 6, Sandra, 4 and Seth, 1, were hooked....

My kids begged me to take them to the high school to search for eggs and caterpillars. That summer we could more often be found in the high school field than in the swimming pool. We started raising monarchs and keeping a log of all the butterflies we saw in our garden.

As their interest grew, I searched for other resources and found the Mass Butterfly Club. We participated in the Bristol County butterfly census every year. Butterflying became a family affair as my son Seth, the youngest, also became interested, and my husband Dick participated when possible. The kids especially loved field trips with Brian Cassie, who was so enthusiastic and always taught them something new. Brian identified Seth as a good spotter then, and he is still is today.

We eventually grew our own milkweed and added many other larval plants to our garden. We had one of the first sightings of Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars in the state.

I still love butterfly gardening and photographing butterflies. Before my husband passed away, we relocated to Plymouth, where I have a small courtyard garden. I was devastated that I would have to leave my beautiful garden, but with the help of the Mass Butterfly Club website I designed a butterfly friendly garden. This is its third summer, and I have attracted lots of butterflies and have had American Lady, Monarch and Black Swallowtail caterpillars in my courtyard.



American Copper  
(*Lycaena phlaeas*), 7/16/16,  
Shrewsbury, MA,  
Bruce deGraaf



Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*),  
8/6/16, Shrewsbury, MA, Bruce deGraaf



Pepper and Salt Skipper  
(*Amblyscirtes hegon*), 5/28/16,  
North Adams, MA, Nancy Callahan



Early Hairstreak (*Erora laeta*), 6/2/16,  
Williamstown, MA, Greg Dysart



Sachem (*Atalopedes campestris*),  
9/12/16, Westport, MA, Bo Zaremba



Baltimore Checkerspot  
(*Euphydryas phaeton*), including form  
'superba', Truro, MA, Tor Hansen

## NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club through the years....



Butterfly Institute graduation, 7/1/99. From left to right (back): Roger Corey, Sue Heinricher, Susan Bredesen, John Bowe, Jan McNamara, Tom Gagnon; (front) Dottie Case, Barbara Corey, Dave Small; right two women unknown.



Roger Pease, Wilbraham, MA, Karen Parker



Dottie Case, Dave Small, Barbara Walker, and Tom Gagnon, Longmeadow, MA, Karen Parker



Brian Cassie and friends, Cape Ann, Gloucester, MA, Karen Parker



Gail Howe Trenholm and friends, Laughing Brook, Hampden, MA, Karen Parker



Ron Hamburger and Hackberry Emperor (*Asterocampa celtis*), 8/20/16, Springfield, MA, Bill Callahan

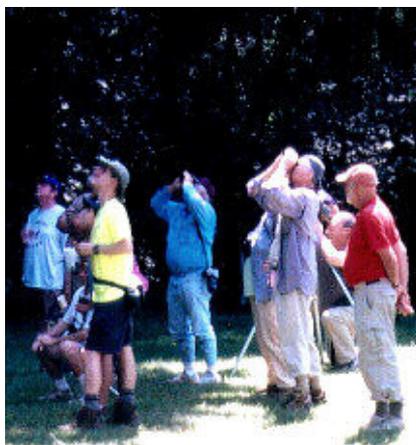


NABA-MBC Club President Howard Hoople with butterfly, 4/12/14, Holyoke, MA, Dawn Puliafico

Tom Gagnon, Moe O'Connor, and friend, Longmeadow, MA, Karen Parker (left)



(left to right) Moe O'Connor, Tom Gagnon (sitting), unknown, Ron Hamburger and Steve Moore (looking up), Bill Benner (at scope), Frank Model, Springfield, MA, Karen Parker (right)



NABA-MBC trip, 6/7/15, Concord, NH, Dawn Puliafico. (left to right): Michael Newton (tall, in hat) and family; Rosemary Mosco; Howard Hoople; Marjorie Watson; Ron Hamburger; others unknown.



Brown Elfin (*Callophrys augustinus*),  
4/17/16, Plymouth, MA, Michael Newton



Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*),  
2016, Plymouth, MA, Robin Gross



European  
Skippers  
(*Thymelicus  
lineola*),  
6/24/16,  
Madeline  
Champagne



Black Swallowtails (*Papilio polyxenes*),  
5/2016, Andover, MA, Ron Hamburger



Acadian Hair-  
streak, (*Saty-  
rium acadica*),  
6/26/16,  
Berkshire Co.,  
MA, Garry  
Kessler



Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*), left, 8/21/16, and E. Tiger Swallow-  
tails (*Papilio glaucus*), right, 9/9/16, pre-chrysalis, Whately, MA, Bill Benner

I was always convinced that one of my children would become a lepidopterist, entomologist or at least a naturalist. My youngest is now 26. Although my children have moved on to other interests, they all share a love of nature. When my three grandchildren from Manhattan come to visit, they are fascinated with the butterflies and hummingbirds in my yard. I am expecting a local grandchild in January—I can take her on butterfly field trips, and perhaps she will become the lepidopterist in the family!

---

Karen Parker:

Trying to condense my 30 years of being both in the Mass Butterfly Club and working on the Mass Butterfly Atlas into just a couple of paragraphs is difficult for me, but I'm going to try. I think my first memories were trying just to learn a few butterflies. I had just taken some classes at UMass Amherst when the Atlas project came along, and I thought that I could at least use some of what I had learned. I also knew a few of the butterflies, as entomology had always been a love of mine, so I had already taught myself some of the bigger butterflies, although when something unusual came along I had trouble putting an ID on it.

I mentioned that to some of my co-workers at Merriam-Webster, where I then worked, and someone told me to go up and see Roger Pease, the Science Editor for the dictionary, so that's just what I did. From that a wonderful friendship and mentor-ship was formed. Under Roger's hand, my abilities began to improve and flourish. To this day I don't understand how we ended up working at the same company, but we did, and it was a good thing. Roger's background was a degree from Yale in Entomology where his special field of study was butterflies!

I'd pack a picnic lunch on one, and sometimes both days of the weekend, and off we'd go. Roger knew many special spots and was very glad to share them with me. He'd search and I'd photograph, and we had so much fun along the way. I think some of most memorable trips with him were to the airport in Saratoga Springs, New York to help count the Karner Blue butterflies found on the Lupine there. A friend at work gave me an article about them in a magazine, and off we went, several years in a row. It also gave me a chance to see and photograph the Mottled Duskywing found there at that time. Under Roger's watchful eye I'd learn

to tell one skipper from the other. Along with our New York trips, we'd go to Hillcrest Cemetery in Springfield to see some of the first spring butterflies, like Mourning Cloaks. We'd go to Cape Ann to see Cloudless Sulphurs, or to Lee or Lenox or October Mountain State Forest to see Mustard Whites and others. I have so many pictures and so many happy memories of our trips together. I know I sound like I'm writing a tribute to Roger, and I actually am, because without his help I would have never reached the level of butterflying I am at today. I figure I was so lucky to learn from one of the best!

What do I remember of butterfly experiences other than my years of trips with Roger? Well, I remember being next door in the driveway of my grandparents' yard when a White Admiral flew in and circled round and round over me before being able to find it's way out. I remember finding a chrysalis which I knew was either a White Admiral, or a Red Spotted Purple, and watching it until it came out as a beautiful Red Spotted Purple, and then finding another one with Roger in the back, which he actually found, and when it came out it was a beautiful hybrid between the two—one of a kind! I remember taking a quick look at a butterfly in my yard, and it being a Harvester! I'm nowhere near water or Alders! I remember finding holes in the side of Highbush Blueberry blossoms, observing a Bumblebee doing the actual chewing of those holes, and seeing Spring Azures and Eastern Pine Elfins feeding through those holes, and photographing them, eventually seeing my pictures being published in the National Butterfly Magazine, since it hadn't ever been documented before. And how Dr. Glassberg, President of NABA,

remembered it 6 years later when I first met him at a Butterfly Symposium in Orange, MA, and how astonished I was that he remembered. I remember many trips with Tom Gagnon every August to Fannie Stebbins, and how Tom had to help me over the walkway set up over the flooded area due to Beaver dams. I remember my first Giant Swallowtail at Bill Benner's garden a few years ago,



Red-spotted Purple (*Limenitis arthemis*),  
7/17/16, Byfield, MA, Michael Newton



Hoary Edge  
(*Achalarus lyciades*), 6/15/16,  
Bruce deGraaf

right after Tom Gagnon had just said something like "All we need now is a Giant Swallowtail." And one appeared in the garden! And how we all dashed out of the house like madmen in order to see it and photograph it. I remember a field trip at Laughing Brook with Gail Howe, where Tom Murray went into the woods and came out with a Harvester sitting on his finger—my first ever!

I can remember when Brian Cassie was announcing years of membership at a club meeting, and when I found out that I was the oldest, next to Brian of course, and how embarrassed I was when everyone got up and clapped, and I just sat there because I didn't know! I remember Tom Gagnon showing me Zabulon skippers at Fannie Stebbins, and then going home and finding them in my own backyard. I remember submitting the Cloudless Sulphur and Little Yellow pictures to the butterfly website and to see them come up as part of the ID process for someone to learn from. I remember putting slide programs together for meetings to see people you hadn't see all winter, and to share things about sightings and such for the past summer, and to share potluck suppers and speakers at both.

I think of how I think of many of you as friends and extended family, and of how many wonderful surprising finds we've found over the years, and of how nice it is to share it with all of you. I've also given some butterfly presentations to school children over the years, and my best memory of that is how once one youngster actually thought that caterpillars really ate chocolate cake after I read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle! I loved working with the kids, so eager to learn.

Thirty years ago when I started on the Atlas, I never thought I'd be still at it this many years later. I still love it just as much! As sad as I am to see the last butterfly of the season (aren't we all?), I'm just as excited to see that first one in the Spring and to start each season anew.

Mark Mello:

Each summer, I have interns that are trained to census butterflies at two locations (Slocums River Reserve in South Dartmouth and Noquochoke Wildlife Management Area in North Dartmouth) as part of a long-term butterfly inventory for the Lloyd Center for the Environment's Climate Change Project. On the final August inventory date for Matt and Elise during 2012 I decided to accompany them to the Slocums River Reserve. Part of the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust reserve system, this 47-acre former farm containing a mosaic of oak-dominated woodland and old fields in various stages of succession sandwiched between the upper reaches of the Slocums River estuary and alfalfa-dominated farm fields, supports a wealth of butterflies. These include Sachems, Buckeyes, Red-banded Hairstreaks, Monarchs and sometimes a wave of Cloudless Sulphurs.



Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*), 9/10/16,  
Whately, MA, Bill Benner

Shortly after arriving, we entered the first field, ablaze with goldenrod in bloom. Conversing with my interns, in mid-sentence, I suddenly took off across the field. A Giant Swallowtail had just crossed our paths, stopping at a patch of goldenrod! As a first record of this species in Bristol County, I was in a quandary whether to photograph it or to collect (sorry folks) it as a permanent voucher for the Lloyd Center's reference collection. As you might expect, during my deliberations it

took off before I could do either. I'm not sure what I uttered at that moment, but Matt remarked, "I don't know what that was, but it must have been good. I've never heard you use THAT word before!"

After regaining my composure, I suggested that we go down the road to Sylvan Nurseries, a Mecca for southern migrants. "If there's one Giant around, there might be more, and this would be a good first stop-

ping place to refuel.” They rolled their eyes, reflecting wishful thinking on my part. But as we ambled though the tall phlox, not one, but TWO Giant Swallowtails flitting from plant to plant graced us with their presence, showing no desire to avoid our presence. Not wanting to create a scene, we all brought only cameras with us, and we were thus rewarded with many fine photos of our willing subjects.

---

Sharon Stichter:

I became interested in butterflies as a way to appreciate the beauty of nature. Back in 1995 I had been teaching sociology at UMass-Boston for some 25 years, and was nearing retirement. Before that I had lived in New York City for ten years. Now, urban life is very interesting, but I needed a change! So my husband Joe and I bought a small cottage and some land in Newbury, and set about creating our rural retreat, which included a butterfly garden. That very first summer I found a Variegated Fritillary in the garden! So I was hooked. I wrote to Brian Cassie for some information, and he very kindly invited me, a total newbie, to the Foxboro 4th of July Count. That day I was paired up with two expert butterflyers, Madeline Champagne and Gail Howe, and I was definitely hooked!

Over the next few years I learned a lot about the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, went on a lot of Club trips, and helped every year with the North Essex NABA Count, started in 1998. I began giving talks to garden clubs, based on what I grew and observed in my garden in Newbury, and leading local walks for MAS Joppa Flats. Eventually Carl Kamp asked me to take on the job of editing the Club’s journal Massachusetts Butterflies. I served as Editor ten years, from Fall 2003 through Fall 2012. I enjoyed this job immensely; among other things, it was an opportunity for me to seek out people who knew a lot about butterflies in our state, and enable them to share their knowledge.

Among the people I met during this period was Richard Primack, biology professor at Boston University, who was looking at the impact of climate change on plants, birds --- and butterflies. Primack’s lab group, and another group of researchers based at Harvard Forest, were able to use our Club’s extensive records, at that time kept by Erik Nielsen, to show statistically how the species composition of butterflies in our state had changed over time, and how flight times had become earlier for

many species. While helping these biologists, I also began volunteering at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, entering data as part of the project to make their butterfly collection available on line.

The result of these approximately ten years of intense involvement in learning about butterflies was the writing of my website *The Butterflies of Massachusetts*, also available in book or cd format. The historical sections of this draw in large part from the complete listing of Massachusetts specimens which I compiled while working at the MCZ. I also began keeping complete records of all sightings posted on line. It was also necessary to acquire or otherwise get access to a lot of books and journal articles, some quite old. I had to purchase a copy of Scudder's classic three-volume book, published in 1899. The Club was indeed privileged to be able to auction off some prints from that book, courtesy of Dick Walton. I know some of you have those prints and will treasure them.

That project is now mainly finished. For me, my butterfly garden remains a joy; I walk it nearly every day in the summer, and I always raise some caterpillars. But if you ask me what I think is most important about what the Club does, I have to say it is the field trips and counts. These are what made the Club so important over the last 25 years as a source of knowledge about the state's butterflies. The trips go to many of the same spots year after year, and they cover most regions of the state. Record-keeping and publishing the results of the trips and counts on masslep is also very important. The Club has grown, matured, and achieved some wonderful things since its formation a quarter century ago. Its big challenge over its next 25 years, as I see it, is to continue to get out there and provide accurate reports about what's going on across all parts of our state.



Peck's Skipper (*Polites peckius*), 8/26/16,  
Southborough, MA, Dawn Puliafico

Madeline Champagne:

Twenty-five years ago, I had just gotten hooked on raising Monarch butterflies, and by chance stopped in at a yard sale at Brian Cassie's home. He had a big jar of Baltimore Checkerspot caterpillars, gave me some, talked about butterflies – and that was the beginning of my lepidoptera love affair, and I began to learn the intricacies of different species and find fellow butterfly lovers. It was a privilege and joy to be part of MBC from the very beginning, as a participant, an officer, and an enthusiast.

This time of year (September) I share the wonder of metamorphosis by bringing Monarch eggs/caterpillars into classrooms. Hands-on exposure and learning is invaluable. I have run into previous students who remember the Monarchs from ten or fifteen years ago. At one school, the most frequently written-about “best experience” from first through fifth grades is the Monarch experience.

Every year I enjoy the familiar and the new. This was the thirteenth year I monitored the Frosted Elfin population in Foxboro. Every year I seem to find new species - this year I raised Plume Moth and Grapevine Epimenis, and Eastern Comma eggs I found in my yard. There's always another special story to learn.

It is a glowing commendation to the dedication of the past and present officers and efforts from many other members, that MBC continues in its original mission to be a purposeful and meaningful organization for many enthusiasts with diverse interests, and is a welcoming and informative resource for the public.



Plume Moth (Family Pterophoridae), 6/17/16  
Foxboro, MA, Madeline Champagne

## Baltimore Checkerspot Airport Bonanza



Article and Photos by Tor Hansen

In places, the Tartarian Honeysuckle and Beach Plum thicket was so thick one had to push aside branches to search for the suspected colony of Baltimore Checkerspots (*Euphydryas phaeton*). Indeed they are colonial, sometimes occurring in open meadows and fields where Lanceolate Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) grows amidst the taller grasses. And then after a few years they have moved on. Where an exception to this transience occurs, the Cape Cod Airfield at Marstons Mills is host to an expansive colony now in its 7th year, worthy of being dubbed a “Baltimore Checkerspot Bonanza”.

When I had parted the thorny branches there in the tall grass of Twinefield North Truro, a rolling glacial sand plain sprawling acre upon acre some sixty miles from Marstons Mills, there were a dozen or more Baltimores flitting lightly over the tall grass where hidden but lush clumps of Plantain have prevailed. Before I could say “Jack Robinson Run the Bases”, I spotted a mating pair of Baltimores with an obvious different phenotype in the female. As I inched forward, they remained coupled, but climbed around a tall grass to avoid capture. Convention to taxonomy will show Strecker (1878, *Butterflies and Moths of North America*, Cornell University Press) first recorded for entomology the aberration known today as *Euphydryas phaeton phaeton* ‘superba’, or what I call the “white margin female”. The shutter of my Minolta film camera

clicked several times as I drew a sharp focus. With intent to raise their fertile progeny, I would have to capture them together, not knowing exactly how long male and female needed to remain coupled to complete fertilizing her eggs already preformed within. To apply genetic inquiry via the classic laws of heredity clarified by Gregor Mendel, I wanted to study their offering and frequency of this rare phenotype. Recent studies reveal this ‘superba’ occurrence may occur as seldom as 1 in 10,000 adults.

Just as I envisioned how to catch the coupled checkerspots, they flew away, thereafter unseen. But I had found the suspected colony at Twinefield, sparked earlier by a nearby ocean beach walk, about 1 ½ miles overland. I had walked two miles along the Truro seashore, a search that yielded some 44 stranded checkerspots, some 5 still feebly alive gathered from the seaweed tide lines, where waves cast them onto the sandy beaches of North Truro. These outward bound adults were victims of a foggy, stormy morning with an unforgiving 2-3 foot wave chop. So I had resolved to hunt inland for the likely colony. Why were they flying out over the open Atlantic Ocean, and was this “formative emigration” gone amiss actually an exploratory exodus in a group or comprised of dispersed individuals? By Darwinian evolutionary theory standards, these Baltimores were not expecting the stormy foggy seas, a serious blow of natural selection. (See my story “Of Mystery and Migration” in “The Cape Naturalist” June 1990, The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History at Brewster.)



\* \* \* \* \*

To find the recreational airfield in Marstons Mills, take route 149 south, from exit 5 off Rt. 6, in late May through June into early July. One can see hundreds of blue, black & orange spiny caterpillars exhausting their food source, Lanceolate Plantain. Locate bright yellow egg masses laid in clusters of 100 or more on the lanceolate leaf blades. The spheroid eggs turn purple before hatching, and as the caterpillars grow they may strip all lush leaves and forage far afield, even crossing Rt. 149 to find more Plantain, or getting caught in the road margin customarily mowed. Some appear stunted from attrition. Several adults will sip minerals from the sandy shoulders of the country road, risking getting run over by parking cars. Those that pupate on the adjacent grasses foretell that thousands will be winging in late June/early July. Evident is that the majority of larvae form chrysalids that outlast the June-July drought, known to last 3 weeks or more, which can cause Milkweed flowers to wither “prematurely”, shortening the nectar imbibing time by critical days. This dormancy time of 10-15 days speaks to natural selection and adaptation to survive environmental stress, a key example of the forces of evolution in action.



Behold 3-4 butterflies altogether imbibing nectar at a single pink blossom where Milkweed thrives in abundance, and then scan the airport rough, gone to benign weedy neglect (only the runways are periodically mowed). The collective effect of so many hundreds of Baltimores feeding and flitting is staggering. And still on going—by mutual agreement with the airfield staff, who are truly conservation minded so to sustain the optimal floral components over these last 7 years. Instigated by myself

plus the strong will of key local environmentalists, we have raised large funds to purchase the airfield so designated to be preserved intact for wildlife and for human recreational needs, such as glider flights, sky-diving, sight seeing, and slogan/banner towed advertising. This mutual pact creates jobs, and drives aviators to practice their skills, and fulfill their ambitions to perfect air travel and commercial enterprise. If you go there to witness this cavalcade of butterflies, you must stop in to the headquarters office to clear your visit with the chief, and you are advised to steer clear of the runways!

Frequent rainfall insures that the many cats can mature and complete the full life-cycle. That requires a full year complete, since the second-instar larvae hatched the same spring will bivouac for overwintering under a homespun web of silk spun to protect the entire clutch from the fangs of old man winter, coming out to warm and bask in the vernal awakening of the next year. So the airport mowers mow the rough only once, in mid autumn, with blade height high enough to spare the larvae hunkered down on Plantain stubble below. No predatory birds or mantids are observed. Some crab spiders take a toll; however, their warning colors of orange, black & white appear to protect larvae, chrysalids and adults alike. Snails and yellow aphids may feed on young larvae.

To see so many mating pairs in June/July is amazing and a tribute to mosaic management. However, larvae will strip the *Plantago* vegetation to mere stubble, which likely results in deformed individual imagos (Latin for adults). One can observe Baltimores with deformed wings, nearly able to fly, but they can climb and mate, most likely producing progeny that by nature and gene pooling are not deformed. Among the most astonishing outcomes of observing the process of metamorphosis is witnessing a larva molting or shedding its skin, and watching the larva molt into a chrysalis—in this species, a true bio-gem like a calico studded jeweled porcelain vase or a lampshade. And then to test one's patience, one has to see the imago butterfly emerging and spreading its crumpled wings, to later take the maiden flight to join the throngs nectaring for life-giving energy to prolong their life experience and produce strong progeny. Sustaining this Baltimore Bonanza is a living testament to preserving biological diversity while insuring the needs of commerce and wise utilization of human resources. May it continue to enlighten the path to revive halcyon grandeur across our holistic ecosystems.



## Last Sightings 2015 --- Some Corrections

Sharon Stichter

Below are a few corrections to the dates listed in “Early and Late Sightings – An Update” which appeared in the Spring 2016 issue of *Massachusetts Butterflies*. New sources of information became available after that article was written. All sources of information which I know of are included here, and the source for each record is listed (see key). If you have comments or further information on late and early sightings, please let me know.

### BOM LAST SIGHTINGS 2015 -- CORRECTIONS

Species	Previous Early Record 1991-2013 (BOM)	2014	2015 CORRECTED
Cabbage White	12/19/2006, Montague, M. Fairbrother; 12/5/2001, Charlton, R. Hildreth	11/4/2014, Wayland, D. Pugliafico	12/24/2015 Danvers, Danvers Plaza, M. Arey [neleps]NEW RECORD
Clouded Sulphur	12/31/2011 (1/1/2012), Oak Bluffs, D. Small	11/12/2014, Dartmouth, M. Lynch/S. Carroll	11/27/2015, Westport, M. Lynch/S. Carroll [MBC]
Brown Elfin	6/20/2002, Sharon, B. Cassie	6/3/2014, Mattapoiset, J. Dwelly	6/3/2015, Winchendon, M. Lynch/S. Carroll [MBC]
Frosted Elfin	6/29/2003, Plymouth, T. Murray	6/7/2014, Foxboro, M. Champagne, and N. Andover, H. Hoople	6/20/2015, Falmouth, Crane WMA, J. Dwelly + MBC [masslep]
Hessel's Hairstreak	6/15/1997, Uxbridge, T. and C. Dodd	6/2/2014, Canton, G. Dysart, B. deGraaf (ph)	5/25/2015 New Bedford, New Plainville Rd. M. Mello [LSSS]
White M Hairstreak	10/28/2007, Tisbury, J. Holland	9/20/2014, Mattapoiset, J. Dwelly	10/7/2015, Dartmouth, Lloyd Center Garden, M. Mello [LSSS]
Silver-bordered Fritillary	10/12/2000, Rockport, D. Savich/C. Tibbitts	10/5/2014, Ipswich, H. Hoople et al. (ph)	10/7/2015, Ipswich, Appleton Farms, H. Hoople (ph) [masslep]
Question Mark	11/11/2006, Dartmouth, E. Nielsen	10/28/2014, Dartmouth, L. Miller-Donnelly	11/1/2015, Westport yard, L. Miller-Donnelly [masslep]
Painted Lady	12/10/2001, Oak Bluffs, M. Pelikan	11/11/2014, Nahant, L. Pivacek	10/21/2015, Dartmouth, Allens Pond, L. Miller-Donnelly [masslep]
Common Buckeye	11/10/2012, Fairhaven, M. Lynch/S. Carroll	10/25/2014, Hadley, D. Small/L. Field	10/21/2015, Dartmouth, Allens Pond, L. Miller-Donnelly [masslep]
Mourning Cloak	12/18/1996, E. Longmeadow, K. Parker	11/4/2014, Groton, J. Lisk	12/25/2015, Boxford, Arey yard, M. Arey [neleps] NEW RECORD
Dusted Skipper	7/6/2002, Williamstown, P. Weatherbee	6/22/2014, Worcester, W. Miller et al.	6/20/2015, Falmouth, J. Dwelly + MBC (masslep)

Key: MBC = personal records submitted to the Massachusetts Butterfly Club; masslep=masslep listserve; LSSS= The Lepidopterists' Society Season Summary; neleps=new england leps listserve

## Submission of Articles, Illustrations, and Season Records

We encourage all members to contribute to *Massachusetts Butterflies*. Articles, illustrations, photographs, butterfly field trip reports, garden reports, and book reviews are all welcome, and should be sent to the Editor by August 31 for the Fall issue, and January 31 for the Spring issue.

Send NABA Fourth of July count results to Tom Gagnon at: [tombwhawk@aol.com](mailto:tombwhawk@aol.com), by **August 15** for inclusion in the Fall issue. Send your season sightings and records to Mark Fairbrother at: [mark@massbutterflies.org](mailto:mark@massbutterflies.org), by **December 15** (or earlier if possible!) for inclusion in the Spring issue. Records may now be submitted via the online checklist and reporting form, which is available for download from our website at: <http://www.massbutterflies.org/club-publications.asp>

## Contributions

As a chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, the Massachusetts Butterfly Club is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts (in excess of dues) to the Massachusetts Butterfly Club are gifts to NABA, and are fully tax deductible.

## *Massachusetts Butterflies* Advisory Board

Brian Cassie, Foxboro, MA  
Madeline Champagne, Foxboro, MA  
Mark Fairbrother, Montague, MA  
Richard Hildreth, Holliston, MA  
Carl Kamp, Royalston, MA  
Matt Pelikan, Oak Bluffs, MA

*Massachusetts Butterflies* has been published continuously since 1993. Previous issues are viewable at <http://www.massbutterflies.org/club-publications.asp> after a one-year time lag. Print copies may be ordered for \$7 each, if still available. Send a check made out to "NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club" to our secretary, Barbara Volke, at the address on the inside front cover.





Annie Kessler with Green Comma (*Polygonia faunus*),  
8/9/16, Pittsburg, NH, Garry Kessler



Melissa Newton with Paper Kite Butterfly (*Idea leuconoe*),  
1/31/16, Magic Wings, South Deerfield, MA, Michael Newton