

# Massachusetts Butterflies



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Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*), 7/14/18,  
Northborough, MA, Bruce deGraaf

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Cover photo: Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*),  
9/1/18, Northampton, MA, Michael Newton

## **The Butterfly Seeker: Hike Expectations versus Reality by Danielle Desmarais**

Going into my third year searching for the rare and elusive Hessel's Hairstreak (*Callophrys hesseli*), and being the budding leoperdopterist leopidoppterist leoperdostist butterfly enthusiast, I wanted to know when and where the butterfly was spotted last in Wilbraham so I could optimize my chances at glory. By glory, I mean being mentioned in a scientific report for the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and having private life-long bragging rights if I found one. When I joined the Massachusetts Butterfly Club a few years ago to fuel my lifelong butterfly obsession, I didn't know Wilbraham had a prime habitat so close to where I live. Hushed whispers of a sighting in the 1980's at butterfly club meetings gave me hope, and after digging through older, digital copies of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club journals, and online published reports, I found the date to be 1972 and/or possibly 1982. Bottom line, it has been a long time since anyone has even seen the butterfly in Wilbraham, and I was determined to make history.

Over the last few years, I spent many hours wading through the Atlantic White Cedar swamp seeking the half-inch green and copper butterfly. The swamp was always beautiful to me, and I am so grateful this conserved area. I imagined spotting a Hessel's Hairstreak sitting on a branch, posing for a photo, surrounded by magical sparkles and the sound of a heavenly choir in the background, as seen in photo 1 (p. 13). I used various techniques on solo hikes to find prime butterfly habitats. These were not limited to hopping from sphagnum moss mound to mound to traverse deeper into the swamp, hanging from overhead branches with both arms to build momentum to swing and drop onto a drier area, and climbing up fallen trees with binoculars to gain a higher vantage point to the treetops. Photo 2 shows the amount of water I had to circumnavigate to find dryer land on one trip. On days where the fog rolled in, I expected Yoda to pop out of the swamp and give me advice. I had done all the research on the optimal conditions, such as weather in the high 70's or 80's, sunny, and near the Atlan-



Photo 2

tic White Cedar host tree and a nectar source. Historically, they are spotted flying in the afternoon, from mid-May to mid-June.

My 2018 search efforts were going to be full of new adventures, and I attempted many

solo treks through the swamp, where I was met with peril. Thorns cut my hands and arms; I had welts on my neck from Stinging Nettle; I sank through a decomposing log into knee high water (photo 3), and then walked out of the forest feeling my socks squish in my hiking boots. I really became determined to document this butterfly. I realized I needed reinforcements to traverse this large swamp safely.

I needed to get a group to hike this area and have more than the three people total that showed up for the 2017 hike I hosted. I decided the reason for the low turnout was the lack of advertising, so for the 2018 group hike I decided to take it to the next level.



Photo 3

I prepared months in advance for the 2018 group hike. The trip was advertised on the Facebook group Butterflies of the Eastern United States, the MassLep Google

Group, and the New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society Google Group. I made colorful flyers complete with directions to the parking area and the length and difficulty of the hike, and placed them at popular locations in Wilbraham. I created a Facebook event page. I knew people would eventually show more interest online closer to the hike date and maybe join the Massachusetts Butterfly Club. I really wanted to be an awesome hike leader.

I bought a sparkly, jeweled box in the shape of a butterfly and stuffed it full of goodies for participants including: hand die-cut butterflies attached to jeweled butterfly charms, butterfly stickers, wood butterflies to paint, glittery butterflies and mini guidebooks. I was anticipating many kids coming with their parents. Kids love butterflies, right? Who wouldn't want to look for a cute little butterfly? I just hoped it didn't pour, because I would have to move the event to the next day and put up different flyers, change the social media, and worry that rain date would be rained out too.

The weather was a huge concern in the days leading into the hike. Three days before the hike, the weather prediction was at 50% rain, and then two days before the rain prediction went up to 80%, with the day of event early morning showing a 20% rain forecast. I took my chances. I prepared for overflow parking in case a herd of people showed up. I printed out 20 color information sheets on the butterfly showing the tree habitat and markings to hand out to attendees. I checked the Facebook event page expecting to see floods of questions, but there were literally no comments, and only one person checked the attending box—my friend who lives California, who wanted to come in spirit. Maybe tons people saw the flyers in popular places around town? Maybe they shared the information with friends?

The day of the hike arrived, and I gathered up all my hiking guides, jeweled box of butterfly goodies and my dad. My dad came along out of support (and curiosity as to where I had been spending all my free time). We pulled into the parking lot 10 minutes before the hike began with anticipation of a crowd being there. One person, Karen Parker from the Mass Butterfly Club, showed up. We waited for about 20 minutes. Surely more people would come? My

official report stated that three people total went on the hike with the weather being 88 degrees, balmy on a sunny, cloudless day. We hauled our water and camera equipment towards the various areas that I thought showed promise.

Along the way, Karen and I found potential in some Mountain Laurel that had yet to fully bloom. Photo 4 shows the mass



Photo 4

of Mountain Laurel we looked through, finding a few blooms where we crouched with tripod mounted cameras, like an undercover stakeout, waiting to snap away at

the first sight of the tiny green butterfly. I also took about 500 photos of the Atlantic White Cedar trees on optimum zoom, which I later zoomed in even more in Photoshop in the hopes I captured a

Photo 5

Hessel's on camera. See Photo 5 of my awesome technique. The butterfly is bright green, same as the host tree. No challenge right? Photo 6 really showcases my photographic skills trying to capture something fluttering. Was that blur in the photo a butterfly of sorts?





We traversed to what I call Butterfly Brook and were chewed on by mosquitoes. I busted out a large piece of paper and fanned them away from Karen as she crossed the brook. I should mention that from past experiences in this swamp forest,

Photo 6

I learned to cover up head to toe and really spray myself with at least three brands of mosquito repellent to maximize effectiveness. I wore what I wear to figure skate in the cold of winter: stretchy winter gloves, a tee shirt under a tight turtleneck, thick leggings, socks rolled over the leggings with my hiking boots, a hooded, thick sports jacket and backpack. I thought maybe we needed a break from skeeters swarming us, so we headed to one of the meadows.

In one of the fields of flowers we found other butterfly species were hanging out, so maybe the Hessel's Hairstreak wanted to socialize? (see photo 7) My

Photo 7



67-year-old dad, Len, was ducking to the ground when what appeared to be two Tiger Swallowtails circling, and then dive bombing him. I thought it was wonderful they were welcoming him to their meadow. He was so confused why they picked him to fly around wildly. I enjoyed looking out on the meadow vista

Photo 8



seen in photo 8, and I say “enjoy” only after I took off my jacket, turtleneck and gloves. Maybe the butterflies swarming my dad was a sign the extreme humidity was getting to us, the butterflies wanted us to leave so not to pass out from the oppressive heat, and so we ventured back into the swamp, drenched in sweat.

I welcomed the coolness of the cedar swamp where we met the invasive cousins of the local butterflies, the Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) caterpillars, which were crawling under the brim of my giant straw hat, towards my face. Gypsy Moth caterpillars were on almost every single oak tree and covered some of the paths like a caterpillar freeway. Gypsy moths were all over my dad’s jacket and hair. I commented on the lovely sound of pine needles falling in the forest. Karen informed me that sound was

frass. I thought she said sassafras at first. No frass, she informed me, as in caterpillar poop. The sound of falling pine needles, a similar sound to a gentle rainfall, was cata-poop, and what I was hearing was the destruction of the upland forest. There was caterpillar frass on my ridiculously large straw hat, in my hair, inside the hood of my jacket, in my socks, and inside every crevice of my backpack. Photo 9 shows the frass building up on a plant. The forest path looked as though someone took a giant pepper grinder to



Photo 9

it. It was a full-blown category four poo-nami. Karen shook frass off her arms and legs. My dad was slightly horrified realizing he was covered in caterpillar poop. This all was his first experience butterfly hiking. He was such a good sport.

I think this was the ultimate sign to pack it in for the day. So after all this preparation we had fun and spent hours looking, but none of us spotted the secretive Hessel's Hairstreak. Maybe the butterfly flew right behind one of us while we were distracted by the excessive frass fall and we just didn't see it? We made a pact to keep trying, just maybe not on an extremely humid and hot day. As left the forest to head towards my car, I imagined the tiny butterfly sitting on the back of my hat, and then flying away.

**About the Author:** *Danielle Lee Desmarais enjoys writing humorous nature stories, brakes for caterpillars crossing the road, is a member of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, has a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Clark University, works as an Environmental Analyst, and keeps her hopes high of one day finding the Hessel's Hairstreak butterfly.*

**About the Project:** *The Hessel's Hairstreak Butterfly Search is joint venture between the Massachusetts Butterfly Club and Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Danielle served as the 2018 search coordinator and plans on continuing that role in the future. No Hessel's Hairstreaks were known to be reported in Massachusetts in 2018. If you are interested in joining the Massachusetts search in future May and June months please email Danielle at [Dldesmar@hotmail.com](mailto:Dldesmar@hotmail.com)*



## Ode to a Butterfly

Butterfly, oh butterfly, why do you hide in the shadows?  
Spread wide your wings, let your heart sing  
And come dance with me in the meadow

Butterfly, oh butterfly, why do you fear?  
You'll never stray, I'll lead the way  
Just follow the path, I'll be near

Butterfly, oh butterfly, have you no hope?  
Drink of the sun, our life's just begun  
Thro time's hills and valleys we'll lope

Butterfly, oh butterfly, dare you to dream?  
On our hearts we depend, shall we follow the wind  
And consign to the fates grander scheme?



-Sheri Walters

## 4th of July Counts for 2018

First I would like to thank Karl Barry for helping to compile all the tables for the 2018 counts. I could not have done it without his help. He does a wonderful job entering all of the data as well as making sure that the tables fit carefully into this format. Thank you Karl!

I looked at the data for the last 10 years. The number of individuals on most counts was down. This year the Northampton Count led the way with 1,809 individuals. A large number of these were Pearl Crescents at 729. Six of the last 10 years, the Central Franklin Count has led the way for the number of species seen but, this year Central Berkshire took the honors with 44 species.

There were 15 species that were found on only ONE count. The Northampton Count had 5 species found on no other counts. They were: Variegated Fritillary, Tawny Emperor, Hoary Edge, Common Checkered Skipper (Northampton Community Gardens) and 49 Common Sootywing. The 3 Berkshire Counts had 6 species not found on the other counts. The most interesting one was 8 Acadian Hairstreaks. Most hairstreaks were way down in numbers except Gray Hairstreaks. There were eight counts that recorded the same 2 species. Example: Dion Skipper-- 1 was seen on the Central Berkshire and 4 were seen on the South Berkshire Count. A few of the hi-lites seen elsewhere were: Mustard White--10 and Harvester--1 on the Central Berkshire Count. One Oak Hairstreak and one Painted Lady were found on the Blackstone Corridor; a Milbert's Tortoiseshell was found on the Central Franklin Count, and Gray Commas were seen on the North and South Berkshire Counts. A great find on the Falmouth Count was a single Sachem. A Bronze Copper was found on the North Berkshire Count. Brewster and Truro came in with Juniper Hairstreaks.

I look forward to the 5 counts that I usually participate on each year. This year I missed the South Berkshire Count; thus, I missed Broad-winged Skipper for the year. Each count I participate

on usually has 1 or 2 butterflies I just do not find elsewhere. I guess that is why I enjoy participating on these counts.

Does anyone have any ideas how we as a club or as individuals could get more participation for the counts that take place in Eastern Massachusetts? I am sure Mark Mello, Joe Dwelly and Mark Faherty would love to have a few more sets of eyes out counting with them. I thank all the compilers for pulling all these great counts together; whether it is 14 participants or only 2, we are all contributing to our database for Citizen Science.

Tom Gagnon-----Vice-president of NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club



NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club field trips, 2018: Northampton Community Gardens, 9/1/18, Northampton, MA (above), and Mt. Greylock, 5/29/18, Adams, MA, (below); photos by Sue Cloutier



<b>July Counts 2018 Summary</b>	No. of Individuals	No. of Species	No. of Partici- pants	Party Hours	Date	Compiler
Northern Berkshire	1234	40	14	35.5	July 8	Tom Tynning
Central Berkshire	794	44	13	28.5	July 14	Tom Tynning
Southern Berkshire	688	39	13	?	July 6	Rene Wendell
Central Franklin	863	39	9	31.5	July 4	Mark Fairbrother
Northampton	1809	40	6	20	July 21	Mark Fairbrother
Northern Worcester	788	36	9	25.5	July 6	Wendy Howes
Concord	296	28	14	13	July 7	Dick Walton
Northern Essex	42	10	9	10	June 23	Howard Hoople
Blackstone Corridor	637	41	7	16.75	July 8	Tom Dodd
Bristol	180	25	2	5.5	July 21	Mark Mello
Falmouth	194	19	5	30	July 14	Joe Dwelly
Brewster	584	23	6	13.5	July 21	Joe Dwelly
Truro	485	25	4	9	July 9	Mark Faherty

(continued p. 18)



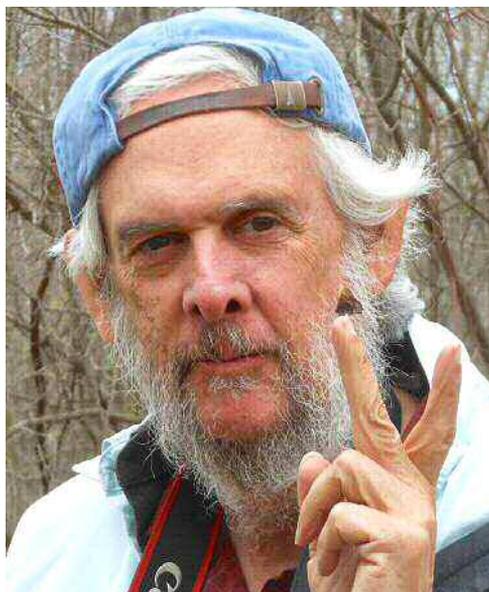
Harvester (*Feniseca torquinius*), 7/14/18, Central Berkshire Count, Bill Benner



How I imagined finding a Hessel's Hairstreak (*Callophrys hesseli*) would look, by Danielle Desmarais

Garry Kessler and Henry's Elfin (*Callophrys henrici*) 5/1/18, Milton, MA, Lucy Merrill-Hills

Spicebush Swallowtail chrysalis (*Papilio troilus*), 1/5/18, Athol, MA, Dave Small



Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*), 7/19/18, West Bridgewater, MA, Don Adams



Great Spangled Fritillaries (*Speyeria cybele*), 7/8/18, Hardwick, MA, Alan Rawle



Brown Elfin  
(*Callophrys augustinus*),  
5/3/18, Worcester, MA,  
Bruce deGraaf

Leucistic European  
Skipper (*Thymelicus  
lineola*), ventral and dorsal,  
7/8/18, Windsor, MA,  
Bill Benner



Bronze Copper  
(*Lycaena hyllus*),  
6/17/18, Concord,-  
MA, Greg Dysart

Red-spotted  
Purple (Admiral),  
(*Limenitis  
arthemis*),  
5/24/18,  
Wareham, MA,  
Andrew Griffith





Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), dorsal and ventral, left, and Gray Comma (*Polygonia progne*), dorsal and ventral, right, 6/19/18, Newbury, MA, Marjorie Watson



Monarchs (*Danaus plexippus*), 9/1/18, NABA-MBC trip to Northampton Community Gardens, Northampton, MA, Sue Cloutier



Michael Newton photographing exotic butterflies, July 2018, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Barbara Volkle



Peacocks (*Inachis io*) dorsal, above, and ventral, below, 7/21/18, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Michael Newton



Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*), 7/21/18, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Michael Newton



Happy and successful NABA-MBC butterflies!, July 2018, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Steve Moore

## MONTREAL BUTTERFLY TRIP – JULY 20-22, 2018

by Steve Moore

Seven members of the NABA-Massachusetts Butterfly Club (Mike and Melissa Newton, Ron Hamburger, Dawn Vesey, Steve Evangelista, Barbara Volkle and me) traveled to Montreal, Canada from July 20 to 22, 2018 primarily for the purpose of observing two European butterfly species that have established themselves in the new world – the Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) and the European Peacock (*Inachis io*).

The trip north took about 6 hours driving time from eastern MA, and the return trip should be about the same depending on how much time it takes to get through the border. People on our trip took between 15 minutes and 2 hours to clear the border.

The Peacock was first seen in the Montreal area near the Mirabel Airport in 2005, and the Common Blue was first reported in the Montreal area in 1994. Both have expanded their range and numbers since, with the Blue becoming abundant throughout the area and the Peacock local and uncommon (one was seen in Massachusetts in Milton in 2017!).

On our trip we concentrated at the east end of Ile du Montreal. Both species were seen in the Parc-Nature de la Pointe-Aux-Prairies along the Riviere des Prairies on Rue Gouin E (as we drove west on Rue Gouin E from the east end of the Ile, we took the 2nd entrance to the Parc on the left after passing under the powerlines).

The Blues were abundant throughout the grassy areas of the Parc, and the Peacocks were on their hostplant (Stinging Nettle) along the trails not far from the parking lot. We also found the Blues in a number of gardens in front of homes in this area and in a vacant field near the corner of 94th Avenue and Rue Bellerive, where we had over 75 individuals. Peacocks have also been reported on pink coneflowers which are seen in front of many homes between 81st and 94th Avenues, to the right of Rue Notre Dame. The Blue has been accepted by NABA and is on its checklist. Both species have been placed on the latest J.P. Pelham *Catalogue of Butterflies of the US and Canada*.

Thanks to Michael Newton for organizing this trip and to Pierre Legeault, a Montreal lepidopterist who provided much needed information and spent the day of July 21 guiding us in this area.



<b>July Count 2018</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>Harvester</b>	<b>American Copper</b>	<b>Bronze Copper</b>
Northern Berkshire	1	97	4			118	35	4			1
Central Berkshire	10	59			10	105	87	8	1	30	
Southern Berkshire	1	38				66	47	4			
Central Franklin	2	46		12		138	74	14		46	
Northampton	23	71		4		217	145	15		13	
Northern Worcester	8	54		15		81	60			16	
Concord	2	2		1		54	17	9		44	
Northern Essex	1					7					
Blackstone Corridor	8	12		5		50	32	19		57	
Bristol	1			1		8	3	1		3	
Falmouth	1			17		5	22	23		9	
Brewster				11		171		8		122	
Truro	3	4		9		27		3		104	

<b>July Count 2018</b>	<b>Bog Copper</b>	<b>Coral Hairstreak</b>	<b>Acadian Hairstreak</b>	<b>Edwards' Hairstreak</b>	<b>Banded Hairstreak</b>	<b>Striped Hairstreak</b>	<b>Oak Hairstreak</b>	<b>Juniper Hairstreak</b>	<b>Gray Hairstreak</b>	<b>Eastern Tailed-Blue</b>	<b>'Summer' Spring Azure</b>
Northern Berkshire		14				1					20
Central Berkshire		48	8							6	10
Southern Berkshire					1					5	10
Central Franklin	242	4			7				5	7	16
Northampton									3	14	4
Northern Worcester					2	1				3	16
Concord									11	18	8
Northern Essex											
Blackstone Corridor		2				1	1		17	21	10
Bristol									1	1	
Falmouth				2					2	4	
Brewster	4	28				2		2	5	3	
Truro	50	3		3	2	1		1			

<b>July Count 2018</b>	<b>Variegated Fritillary</b>	<b>Great Spangled Fritillary</b>	<b>Aphrodite Fritillary</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>Gray Comma</b>
Northern Berkshire		40	2	4		85		24		9	3
Central Berkshire		22	1	7			3			1	
Southern Berkshire		19	3			4	1		1	4	2
Central Franklin		34	2		1	7		14		2	
Northampton	1	11			12		729	50		8	
Northern Worcester		20	2					2	2	7	
Concord		9			15		11			2	
Northern Essex											
Blackstone Corridor		37					5	116	1	6	
Bristol		2					27				
Falmouth								27			
Brewster							16				
Truro											

<b>July Count 2018</b>	<b>Mourning Cloak</b>	<b>Milbert's Tortoiseshell</b>	<b>American Lady</b>	<b>Painted Lady</b>	<b>Red Admiral</b>	<b>Common Buckeye</b>	<b>Red-spotted Admiral</b>	<b>White Admiral</b>	<b>Red-spotted Purple</b>	<b>Viceroy</b>	<b>Hackberry Emperor</b>
Northern Berkshire					4			16	10	1	
Central Berkshire	3		1		1			2	5	1	
Southern Berkshire			2		3					1	1
Central Franklin	2	1			4	1	14				
Northampton			1		5			2	3	29	
Northern Worcester	1				2			1	1		
Concord					3				1		
Northern Essex			1								
Blackstone Corridor	4		2	1	2	3	1			3	
Bristol	1									9	
Falmouth											
Brewster			1								
Truro	1		1						1		

<b>July Count 2018</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>	<b>Silver-spotted Skipper</b>	<b>Hoary Edge</b>	<b>Southern Cloudwying</b>
Northern Berkshire		4	21		3	68	64	26	27		
Central Berkshire		14	2	16	1	1	64	60	43		
Southern Berkshire		3		6	20	8	26	15	18		
Central Franklin		2	6		7			22	56		2
Northampton	2			13	2	3	72	125	79	1	
Northern Worcester		1		7	23	1	2	32	16		
Concord				7	19		8	8	7		
Northern Essex					11	9		1	1		
Blackstone Corridor		1		4	28		26	23	23		
Bristol		1		6	10		22	19			
Falmouth					2		29	31			1
Brewster					1		41	50	4		
Truro				13	26		8	11	40		

<b>July Count 2018</b>	<b>Northern Cloudywing</b>	<b>Horace's Duskywing</b>	<b>Wild Indigo Duskywing</b>	<b>Common Checkered-Skipper</b>	<b>Common Sootywing</b>	<b>Least Skipper</b>	<b>European Skipper</b>	<b>Peck's Skipper</b>	<b>Tawny-edged Skipper</b>	<b>Crossline Skipper</b>	<b>Long Dash</b>
Northern Berkshire	5		1			11	420	18	4		12
Central Berkshire						2	16	31	6		6
Southern Berkshire						6	237	14		1	3
Central Franklin						4	10	1	3		2
Northampton		2	7	1	49	1					
Northern Worcester	1					5	366	1			2
Concord									1		
Northern Essex						6	3	2			
Blackstone Corridor						4	5		1	1	
Bristol		1	3					1		1	
Falmouth										1	
Brewster		1	1					1			
Truro						1	24				

<b>July Count 2018</b>	<b>Northern Broken-Dash</b>	<b>Little Glassywing</b>	<b>Sachem</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	22	11		2		5				17
Central Berkshire	23	21		4	1	2		1	1	50
Southern Berkshire	12	52		7	6	1		4	5	31
Central Franklin	13	9		17						12
Northampton	25	6		2	4				5	46
Northern Worcester	3	14		11						2
Concord	6	4		4	8		4		13	
Northern Essex										
Blackstone Corridor	8	15		46	9				3	24
Bristol	23	1					6			20
Falmouth	5		1	9						3
Brewster	48			2			5			57
Truro	32			4						113

## Massachusetts Butterfly Adventures, by Sue Cloutier

Our Massachusetts butterfly season this year started with the sighting of an Eastern Comma on our dirt road in New Salem on March 31st. Then on April 14th, we joined the Club on the first walk of the year lead by Tom Gagnon on Mount Tom. The whole group had good looks at one of the Eastern Commas we found there (see photo to right).

The next species we chanced upon was a White M hair-streak in the New Salem play fields on May 13th. That heralded a good year for unusual



butterflies close to home. So we decided then to take it easy this year and not try for 100 species in MA this year. It is enough to



just enjoy being out in the field (left - photo of the White M). To add to special New Salem finds, on July 6th we found a Dion and a Two-spotted Skipper. There must be a meta-population of these skippers in the wetlands of central and western Massachusetts. We need to get out more and see next year what we can find (see the Two-spotted Skipper photo on the next page).



It is hard to resist traveling with the Mass Butterfly Club to Mount Greylock as we see so many wonderful things there. This year on May 29th we were lucky enough to watch a

pair of vireos building their nest. Of course we came for a chance to see the Early Hairstreak, and we were rewarded with a close look (below--Betsy Higgins getting a close shot).

Back in central Mass on June 6th we checked the Tully spillway in Royalston for Variegated Fritillary and found one near some lovely pitcher plants. Two days later,



in New Salem, we found this female Cobweb Skipper egg-laying in the grass in our usual place for this species that is protected by a conservation restriction. (left--Cobweb Skipper).

Much of the butterflying we did this summer was in the Quabbin Reserva-

tion. The area is often called an “accidental wilderness” due to the restriction of development there. On June 3rd we found the Pepper and Salt skipper at two new sites after not finding it at the usual Quabbin site in Pelham. June 17th, we were out looking for more butterflies at the south end of Quabbin and we found a fresh Vice-roy as well as a tiny moth (photo of the moth, a *Thyris maculata* – Spotted *Thyris* - below) on wild geranium. June 27th - July 1st we visited the same power lines near and saw quite butterflies in the coyote must have saw a Coral Hair-Commas, and an Blue, while off in a fisherman was the stocked trout (photo of the fisherman, below).



loop trail under the Swift River, a collection of sand where a left its mark. We streak, Eastern Eastern Tailed-the Swift River catching one of

We traveled 20th to Broad for the Hoary Hairstreak that had reported. get a photo of cuckoo that was nearby shrubs.



east on June Meadow Brook Edge and Oak Steve Moore I was happy to a yellow-billed calling from the

common this year, as the gypsy moths provided lots of easy food for them last year in August, we Meadow Brook Leonard’s Skip-Quabbin area and exact location of (photo of Leon-



This bird is quite and this. Later returned to Broad as we missed the per in the north Steve reported the the skipper here ard’s - left).

The August 14th with Barbara Volkle was documented by a reporter as we wend-

NABA-MBC trip

ed our way through the various habitats and saw butterflies along the Crane Swamp Trail in Westboro and Northboro. We had good looks at a number of new species for us this year. Again the sightings included interesting plants and animals as well as the target butterfly species (photos of a Spotted Turtle and Broad-winged Skipper, below).



Every fall we look forward to visiting the Northampton Community Gardens to see the great butterfly gardens tended by Tom Gagnon. At the Club's walk on September 1st among many other species that drew our attention we saw lots of Monarchs. Monarchs are having a good year here in MA and based on what we saw, more will be on the way (see some Monarchs on p. 15)

In spite of not chasing butterflies this year, we have seen almost 90 of the possible 100 or so butterflies that can be seen in Massachusetts. We traveled as far west as Mount Greylock and east to Horn Pond Mountain, north to Royalsen and south to Fannie Stebbins in Longmeadow for a Zabulon Skipper. The butterflies that test range expansion in the fall have not yet arrived in September as I write this report so our number of species could break 90 if the Northampton Gardens attract southern butterflies as they often do. Remember, next year is another opportunity for each of us to get out into the field and enjoy the discoveries that come with butterfly watching!



## 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.

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*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.





Giant Swallowtail caterpillar (*Papilio ctesiphontes*) with osmateria extended, 9/2/18, Whately, Bill Benner



Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio ctesiphontes*), 8/20/18, Shrewsbury, MA, Bruce deGraaf