

September Dry Openland Butterflies

American Copper,
1" wingspan



Pearl Crescent,
1.3" wingspan



Cabbage White,
1.7" wingspan



Eastern-tailed Blue,
1" wingspan



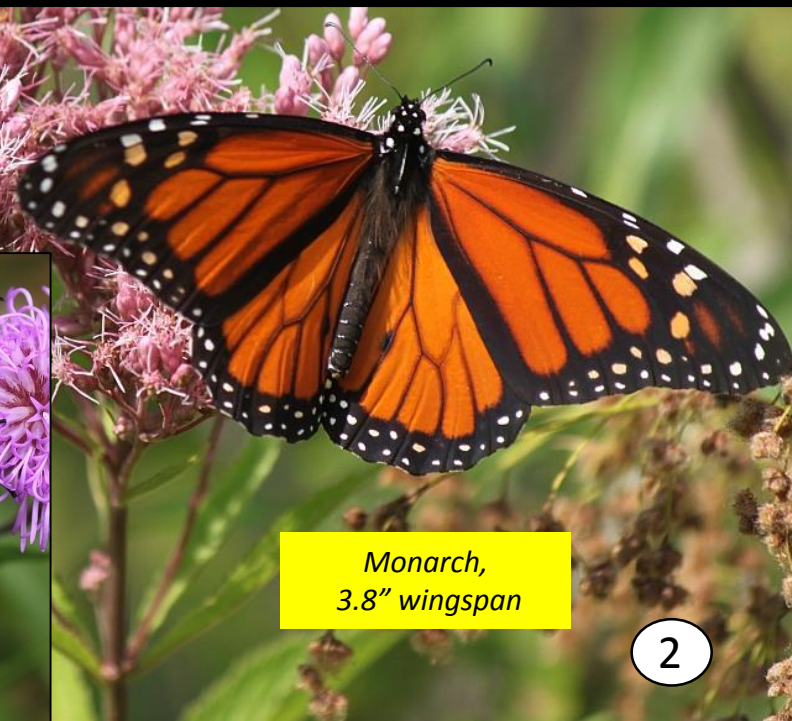
Clouded Sulphur,
1.8" wingspan



Viceroy
2.8" wingspan

(The Viceroy is not a dryland butterfly, but is included for comparison with the Monarch.)

Grey Hairstreak,
1.2" wingspan



Monarch,
3.8" wingspan



female

Leonard's Skipper,
1.2" wingspan



Little Bluestem

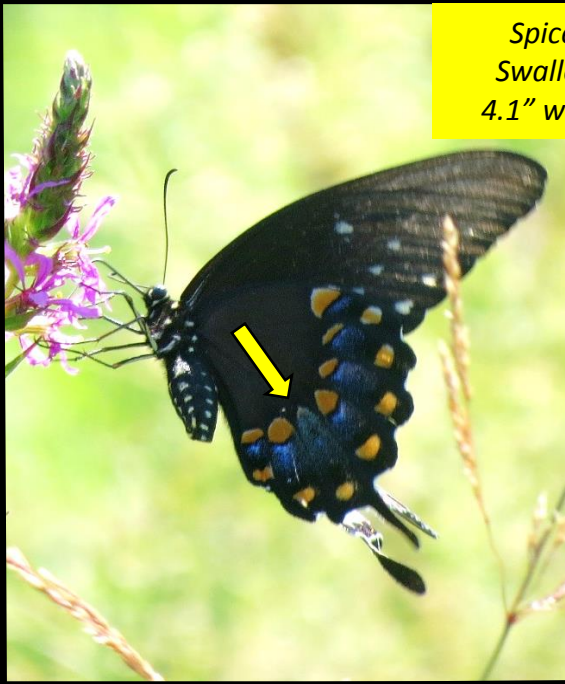


male



female

Black Swallowtail,
3" wingspan



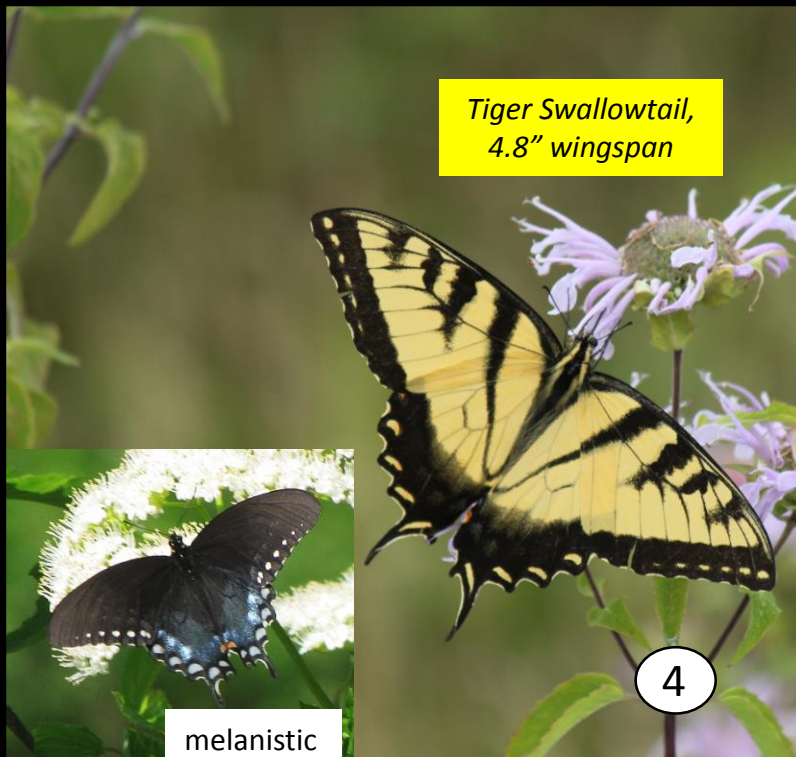
Spicebush Swallowtail,
4.1" wingspan



(The Sp
dryland
included
with the



male



Tiger Swallowtail,
4.8" wingspan



melanistic



Broad light band

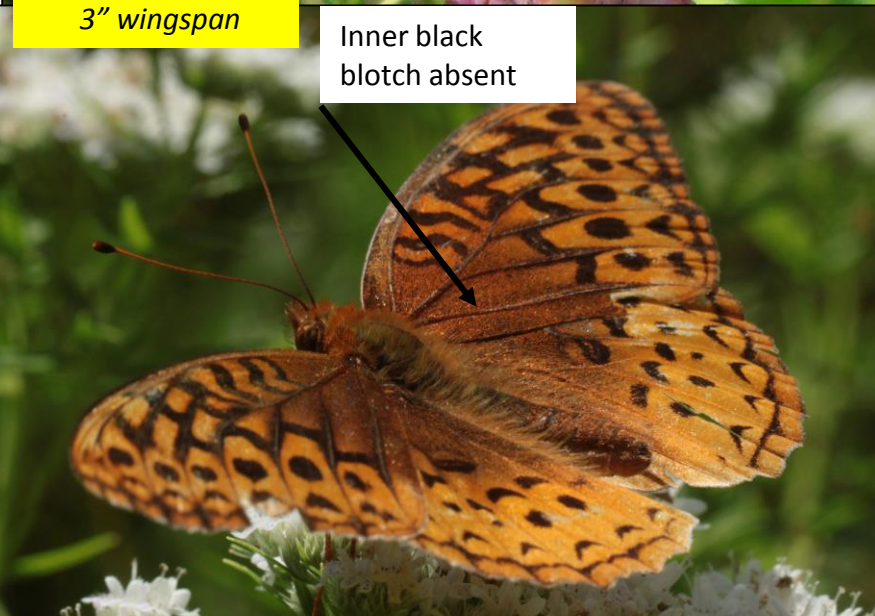
*Great Spangled
Fritillary,
3" wingspan*

Inner black
blotch absent



Narrow light band

*Aphrodite Fritillary,
2.7" wingspan*



Prominent inner
black blotch





Some Odds 'n Ends – These didn't make the formal sheet but, after yesterday's walk, I include them here for completeness.

Another odd Skipper that we sometimes see is the **Giant Swallowtail**, with up to a 6" wingspan.



A few of the widespread busybody, the **Peck's Skipper**, are still out there.



Several last, worn **Common Ringlets** are flying.



The **Silver-Spotted Skipper** frequents farmyards and dry meadows, although its exact food plants, various legumes, likely differ between those sites.

Some Useful Books

Butterflies of the East Coast by Rick Cech and Guy Tudor; a great resource for identification and ecology; a guide not just to butterflies but also their biology. Unfortunately, it’s out-of-print and pricey.

Butterflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide to the Boston-New York-Washington Region by Jeffrey Glassberg; Jeffrey Glassberg has created a variety of very useful and appealing guides, including version for the whole continent; we choose this relatively old volume because of its conveniently relevant, restricted geographic scope. Look for it used.

Butterflies of North America by Jim Borck and Ken Kaufman; a compact, easy-to-use reference. The pan-continental approach may make it daunting for beginners, but it's a great reference for quick look ups.

The Connecticut Butterfly Atlas by Jane O'Donnell, Lawrence Gall and David Wagner; some more good, regional butterfly info. Not great for IDs, but does include caterpillar photos; beware the poor binding. See also Wagner’s ***Caterpillars of Eastern North America***.

The Butterflies of Massachusetts: Their History and Future by Sharon Stichter; much of the information from her rich web site in book form. Not a field guide but our best regional accompaniment to field guides.

Comments, questions, butterfly photos ID’d? Please send them along to Conrad Vispo at fep@hawthornevalleyfarm.org, 518 672 7994. Our web page, <http://hvfarmscape.org/butterflies>, has summaries of some of our past butterfly work. Let us know if you would like to join us for butterfly surveys.

A few tidbits about our butterflies:

- Butterflies differ from moths in having clubbed antennae. They also tend to be colorful and day-flying (diurnal), while moths tend to be less colorful and night-flying.
- There are many more moths (about 10,500 species in the US and Canada) than butterflies (something like 680 species).
- Most adult butterflies feed on the nectar of various flowers, but the caterpillars are generally more particular. The occurrence of the caterpillar’s food plants largely determine whether a habitat is suitable for a given butterfly species.
- Butterflies over-winter at a variety of stages, and some are migratory. Our earliest appearing butterflies (e.g., the Mourning Cloak and Comma) hibernate as adults and thus are ready to fly as soon as the air temperature warms. Other species pass the winter as eggs, caterpillars or pupae.
- Once they have emerged from their pupae, butterfly wings do not grow any further nor can they repair themselves. Thus, one frequently sees butterflies with faded, tattered wings. These can sometimes make identification confusing.
- Many butterflies are “sexually-dimorphic”; that means that, with a little practice, males and females can be told apart by their markings.