Part II:
Columbia County Butterfly Course

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Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program

Unless otherwise noted photos are by the Farmscape Ecology Program
“PAPILLIONIDAE”
SWALLOWTAILS
“PIERIDAE”
WHITES & SULPHURS
“NIMPHALIDAE”
CHECKERSPOTS & CRESCENTS
MONARCH, VICEROY, BROWNS

“NIMPHALIDAE”
LADIES, ADMIRALS, TORTOISESHELLS

“NIMPHALIDAE”
Illustrations from Samuel Scudders’
*Butterflies of Eastern United States and Canada.*
Pieridae: CLOWDED SULPHUR
Pieridae: CABBAGE WHITE
Nymphalidae: COMMON RINGLET
Nymphalidae: COMMON RINGLET

Butterfly Mystery #1:

*Why has Common Ringlet expanded south over the last few decades?*
Nymphalidae: GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY
Butterfly Mystery #2:

*Once common throughout Massachusetts, it’s now absent from the eastern half, why?*
Lycaenidae: EASTERN TAILED BLUE
Hesperidae: SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER
Hesperidae: DUN SKIPPER

One of the “Three Witches”
Butterfly Mystery #3: How many generations?
Hesperidae: TAWNY-EDGED SKIPPER
Extra-Special
Ye Olde Field!
Nymphalidae: APHRODITE FRITILLARY
Butterfly Mystery #4:

Was this our most common 19th century Fritillary?
Lycaenidae: CORAL HAIRSTREAK

Steepletop, Hillsdale, NY
Nymphalidae: GREEN COMMA

Photo by Brad Smith
Nymphalidae: REGAL FRITILLARY

Steepletop, Hillsdale, NY
Butterfly Mystery #5:

Why the sudden disappearance of the Regal Fritillary from the East?
LAWN
GARDENS
Papilionidae: PIPEVINE SWALLOWTAIL

Photo by Margaret Roach
DRY MEADOW
Hesperidae: INDIAN SKIPPER
Butterfly Mystery #6:

Why is Leonard’s Skipper so closely tied to Little Bluestem?
Hesperidae: DUSTED SKIPPER

Photo by Patrick Coin.
WET MEADOWS
WET MEADOWS
Nymphalidae: VICEROY
Nymphalidae: APPALACHIAN BROWN
Nymphalidae: BALTIMORE CHECKERSPOT
Butterfly Mystery #7:

Can Baltimore Checkerspot survive on Common Plantain?
Hesperidae: MULBERRY WING
Lycaenidae: BRONZE COPPER
Butterfly Mystery #8:

Bronze Copper populations are spotty – how spotty can they get before disappearing?
Nymphalidae: SILVER-BORDERED FRITILLARY
Hesperidae: TWO-SPOTTED SKIPPER

Photo by Reuven Martin
Lycaenidae: BOG COPPER

From Denton
FOREST
Nymphalidae: RED-SPOTTED PURPLE
Butterfly Mystery #8a:

*Why does the Limenitis arthemis come in two forms?*
Lycaenidae: BANDED HAIRSTREAK
Lycaenidae: SPRING/SUMMER AZURE
Butterfly Mystery #8b:

*Dagnabit, how many species of Azures are there?*
Butterfly Mystery #9:

Mustard White was flirting with pest status in the 1800s, now it is very rare, why? Competition with Cabbage White? Garlic Mustard?
Nymphalidae: HARRIS’ CHECKERSPOT
FLOODPLAIN
FOREST
Nymphalidae: AMERICAN SNOUT
Nymphalidae: HACKBERRY EMPEROR
RED CEDAR WOODLAND
Lycaenidae: JUNIPER HAIRSTREAK
Harvester

WOODED WETLAND
Lycaenidae: WANDERER
Lycaenidae: WANDERER (aka Harvester)

Butterfly Mystery #10:

*Is the Wanderer our only carnivorous butterfly?*
DRY WOODS & EDGES
Hesperidae: HOARY EDGE

Photo by Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren
Hesperidae: COMMON ROADSIDE SKIPPER

Photo by Andrew Carlson
HEATH BARRENS
Hesperidae: JUVENAL’S DUSKYWING
Butterfly Mystery #11:

Have many of our Duskywings disappeared or are identification difficulties masking some patterns?
Lycaenidae: PINE ELFIN
Lycaenidae: BROWN ELFIN

Photo by
David Lewis
Lycaenidae: HOARY ELFIN

Photo by Don Henise
So, where do we look for butterflies?
EVERYWHERE!

Getting information on even the common species is important...

They might not always stay common!

Plus, get to know the familiar ones first.
The Hill Country supports many of those important high & dry former sheep pastures.
And the open woodlands of the High Taconics host their own flora and fauna.
The remnants of the Columbia “Pine Bush”.
Limey forests and wetlands ("fens")
And don’t forget biogeography.
More “boreal” species might hold out in the NE Hills.
And expect southern arrivals first in the SW.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RARITIES TO LOOK FOR</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bog Copper</td>
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<td>Common Roadside Skipper</td>
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<td>Dreamy Duskywing</td>
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<td>Dusted Skipper</td>
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<td>Early Hairstreak</td>
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<td>Falcate Orangetip</td>
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<td>Green Comma</td>
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<td>Harris' Checkerspot</td>
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<td>Hoary Edge</td>
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<td>Hoary Elfin</td>
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<td>Horace's Duskywing</td>
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<td>Mottled Duskywing</td>
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<td>Mustard White</td>
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<td>Northern Metalmark</td>
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<td>Oak Hairstreak</td>
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<td>Silver-boardered Fritillary</td>
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<td>Tawny Emperor</td>
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<td>Two-spotted Skipper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleepy Duskywing</td>
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## RARE SPECIES TO HUNT FOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Butterfly</th>
<th>Food Plant</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Other Tips</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bog Copper</td>
<td>cranberry</td>
<td>Lt June - Lt. July</td>
<td>cranberry bogs</td>
<td>unlikely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Roadside Skipper</td>
<td>Kentucky bluegrass, oats, bent grass</td>
<td>Lt May - Lt. June</td>
<td>sandy edges</td>
<td>likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreamy Duskywing</td>
<td>birch, aspen</td>
<td>May-June</td>
<td>openings in various forests</td>
<td>likely</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dusted Skipper</td>
<td>Little Bluestem</td>
<td>Lt. May-early June</td>
<td>dry meadows/savannas</td>
<td>likely</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Hairstreak</td>
<td>Beechnuts</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>High Beech Forests</td>
<td>Taconics if anywhere</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falcate Orangetip</td>
<td>various native cresses</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>rocky, dry woods</td>
<td>southern species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Comma</td>
<td>willow, birch, alder</td>
<td>July - Oct</td>
<td>openings in northern forests</td>
<td>northern species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris' Checkerspot</td>
<td>flat-topped aster</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>wet open woodlands/meadows</td>
<td>higher?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoary Edge</td>
<td>tick trefoils, bush clover</td>
<td>June-July</td>
<td>wood edges where sandy</td>
<td>nw sands?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoary Elfin</td>
<td>bearberry, trailing arbutus</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>pine-oak barrens</td>
<td>nw sand plain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horace's Duskywing</td>
<td>oaks</td>
<td>July-Aug</td>
<td>late-flying Juvenal's</td>
<td>likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mottled Duskywing</td>
<td>NJ tea</td>
<td>June-Aug</td>
<td>upland woods with host plant; balds</td>
<td>unlikely; where food plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustard White</td>
<td>rock cresses, peppergrass, toothwort</td>
<td>April-June</td>
<td>northern forests</td>
<td>northern species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Metalmark</td>
<td>round leaved ragwort</td>
<td>Early July</td>
<td>limestone bluffs</td>
<td>unlikely; southern spp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Hairstreak</td>
<td>white oaks</td>
<td>June - July</td>
<td>open oaky woods</td>
<td>southern species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver-boarded Fritillary</td>
<td>violets, willows?</td>
<td>Early June to early July &amp; Lt July thru</td>
<td>open wetlands, wet meadows</td>
<td>fens?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tawny Emperor</td>
<td>Hackberry</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>floodplains with hackberry</td>
<td>sw/w floodplains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-spotted Skipper</td>
<td>sedges</td>
<td>June-July</td>
<td>sedgy wetlands in sandy areas</td>
<td>wet nw sands? nectars blue flag irises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleepy Duskywing</td>
<td>scrub oaks</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>dry oak barrens-ish</td>
<td>nw sands?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
But more important than the small print, have fun!