A tentative table of Columbia County NY butterflies, with indications of their status. C. Vispo (with input from Harry Zirlin & others) April 2023

These pages are meant to help you learn the butterflies of the County. Alone they are, obviously enough, useless, but if you match them up with a good guide (we recommend Cech & Tutor's Butterflies of the East Coast), then they should help your learning. All the common, occasional or rare butterflies listed here have been observed by us or our collaborators, except for those marked "rare". The so marked butterflies are either listed by Opler and colleagues (at the Butterflies and Moths of North America web site) and/or by contributors to inaturalist.org.

Flight time and foods are from Cech and Tudor; habitat is from that work and our own observations. Species that seem to have experienced a net regional increase over the last 150 years are indicated by "UP", those which have apparently experienced a decline are indicated by "DOWN"; the remaining species have shown no obvious trends. These assessments of dynamics are based upon recently published butterfly faunas from the Northeast and a review of historical literature dating back to 1853. Glassberg's Butterflies through Binoculars: Boston-New York-Washington Region is also a good, regional guide.

	Apparent Abundance				
Common Name	in County*	Trend	Flight Time	Caterpillar Food	Habitat
FAMILY HESPERIIDAE					
Common Sootywing	common		mid-May - mid June; late July-Aug	lamb's quarters & others	open
Duskywing, Juvenal's	common		late April-early June	oaks	varied open, usually not wet or disturbed
Skipper, European	common	UP	June-July	timothy & other introd grasses	fields
Skipper, Hobomok	common		late May - early July	grasses	old fields
Skipper, Least	common		June - Oct	grasses	wet, tall grass
Skipper, Peck's	common		late May - Sept	grasses	fields
Skipper, Silver-spotted	common		June-Aug	black locust	brushier fields
Skipper, Tawny-edged	common	UP	late May -mid July; early Aug - Sept	grasses	grassy oft moist
		UP	, , , , , ,	9 *** * *	•
Cloudywing, Northern	occasional		late May - early July	clovers & other legumes	"scrubby fields"
Dash, Black	occasional		late April - early June	sedges	sedgy wetlands
Dash, Long	occasional		early June-early July; Aug	grasses	open grassy oft moist
Duskywing, Wild Indigo	occasional	UP	May-Aug	wild indigo and now vetch	in or near alfalfa fields
Little Glassywing	occasional	UP	late June-July	Purple Top & ?? Other grasses	old fields/pastures
Skipper, Broadwing	occasional	UP	mid-July - Aug	reeds, sedges, wild rice	wet areas with Phragmites
Skipper, Common Checkered	occasional	UP	mid May - Sept	mallows	short, sparse fields/lawns
Skipper, Crossline	occasional		late June-early Aug	grasses	dry and moist fields
Skipper, Dun	occasional		July-Aug	sedges, maybe grasses	old fields
Skipper, Arctic	rare		late May to Mid-June	grasses	grasses near woods
Mulberry Wing	rare		mid July - early Aug	sedges	sedgy wetlands
Northern Broken-dash	rare		early June-mid Aug	panic grasses	old fields
Sachem	rare		vagrant; obsvd. once in Sept	wide range of grasses	circa any disturbed grassy area
Skipper, Cobweb	rare		May - June	bluestem	dry fields
Skipper, Deleware	rare	UP	mainly July	Little Bluestem, Switch Grass, other grasses?	varied, dry to wet
Skipper, Dion	rare		July	sedges	wetlands
Skipper, Fiery	rare		Sept-Oct	grasses	sunny upland
Skipper, Indian	rare	UP	May - June	grasses, inc. bluestem	dry, often shrubby, fields
Skipper, Leonard's	rare	DOWN	end of Aug/early Sept	native grasses such as Little Bluestem	dry upland grassland near wet area
Skipper, Ocola	rare		Sept-Oct in our area	Rice Cut Grass, other grasses?	widespread
Skipper, Pepper & Salt	rare		May - June	grasses	woodland openings
Skipper, Zabulon	rare		late May-mid June; mid Aug-mid Sept	grasses	shrubby, roadside
Cloudywing, Southern	rare*	UP	early June-mid July	legumes	open areas
Duskywing, Dreamy	rare*		mid-May - June	willows, aspen, black locust	open woods & edges
Duskywing, Horace's	rare*		May, June, Sept	oak	dry, open oak woods
Duskywing, Mottled	rare*	DOWN	May-June, July-August	NJ Tea	open, dry woods
Hoary Edge	rare*		June-July	legumes, e.g tick trefoil	old field brush, edges
Skipper, Roadside	rare*	DOWN	late May-mid June	grasses	woodland openings
Duskywing, Columbine	unseen but possible	DOWN	May-June, July	Columbine	where host plant
Duskywing, Sleepy	unseen but possible	DOWN	May	scrub oak	balds, barrens
Skipper, Dusted	unseen but possible		May - June	bluestems	dry, open
Skipper, Two spotted	unseen but possible		late June-July	sedges, esp. hairy-fruited sedge	wetlands
FAMILY LYCAENIDAE	unseem but possible		late Julie-July	Sedges, esp. halfy-fruited sedge	wellands
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Eastern Tailed Blue	common	1	May-Sept	legumes	open, disturbed low growth
Copper, Bronze	occasional	ļ	mid June-mid July; early Aug - mid Sept	docks	the wetlands around ponds or streams
Hairstreak, Banded	occasional	ļ	May-Aug	oaks and hickories	edges, opens
Hairstreak, Grey	occasional	ļ	early May - mid June	various field/brush plants	open, weedy, disturbed
Hairstreak, Hickory	occasional	ļ	late June-early Aug	hardwoods	edges of rich, deciduous forests
Elfin, Eastern Pine	rare		May-June	pines	near pine woods
Elfin, Brown	rare	DOWN	May	heath family	barrens, dry woods
Hairstreak, Coral	rare	UP	June	cherries, plums	old field, second growth
Hairstreak, Juniper	rare		mid May - June; Aug	red cedar	open uplands with Juniperus
Hairstreak, Red-banded	rare	UP	May-June; Aug-Sept	rotting leaves	open
Hairstreak, Striped	rare		late June - mid July	roses, cherries, hawthorn, heath, Carpinus	openings & edges in woods
Hairstreak, White M	rare	UP	May, Sept	oaks	oak forest

FAMILY LYCAENIDAE (cont'd.)

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Commo Croon Unacon but possible 2 flights April Cont2	
Comma, Green unseen but possible 3 flights, April - Sept? birches, willows, alder "boreal woodlands"	
FAMILY PAPILIONIDAE	
Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger common late May-Oct black cherry, tuliptree, ash near deciduous trees	
Swallowtail, Black common DOWN May-Sept parsely, carrot and other umbels mainly open fields	
Swallowtaii, Spicebush occasional May-Aug Spicebush varied open space, usually near fo	est
Swallowtaii, Giant rare May -Sept plants in the Rue family (or Rutaceae) various, often semi-open	
Swallowiaii, Pipevine Irare June-early Oct Ipipevine, Virginia Snakeroot Iin our area, gardens	
Swallowtaii, Canada unseen but possible May-early June? birch, aspen, cherry near deciduous trees	
Wallowan, Cartada Granda Grand	
Sulphur, Orange common mid May - early Oct alfalfa and other fabaceae open, weedy, alfalfa	
Cabbage White common UP May-Oct crucifers pastures or cultivated fields	
Sulphur, Clouded common UP May-mid Oct legumes pastures or cultivated fields open, prefers more natural area	than orange
	man orange
Little Yellow rare DOWN mid Aug-early Sept senna family fields and waste areas	
White, West Virginia rare DOWN early April-late May mainly Dentaria/Cardamine diphylla rich moist woods	
Falcate Orange Tip unseen but possible DOWN May mustards, rock cresses, two-leaved toothwort "trap rock hills"	
Mustard White unseen but possible DOWN as early as late April - Aug mustards, eg cut-leafed toothwort (dentaria), arabis, cardamine edges, streamside, old fields	
Sulphur, Cloudless unseen but possible Aug-Oct migrant senna family open	
White, Checkered unseen but possible DOWN late Aug-Sept crucifers weedy, open	
FAMILY RIONIDAE	
Northern Metalmark unseen but possible July round-leaved ragwort limestone outcrops	