

The Butterflies of The Environmental Education Center at Lord Stirling Park



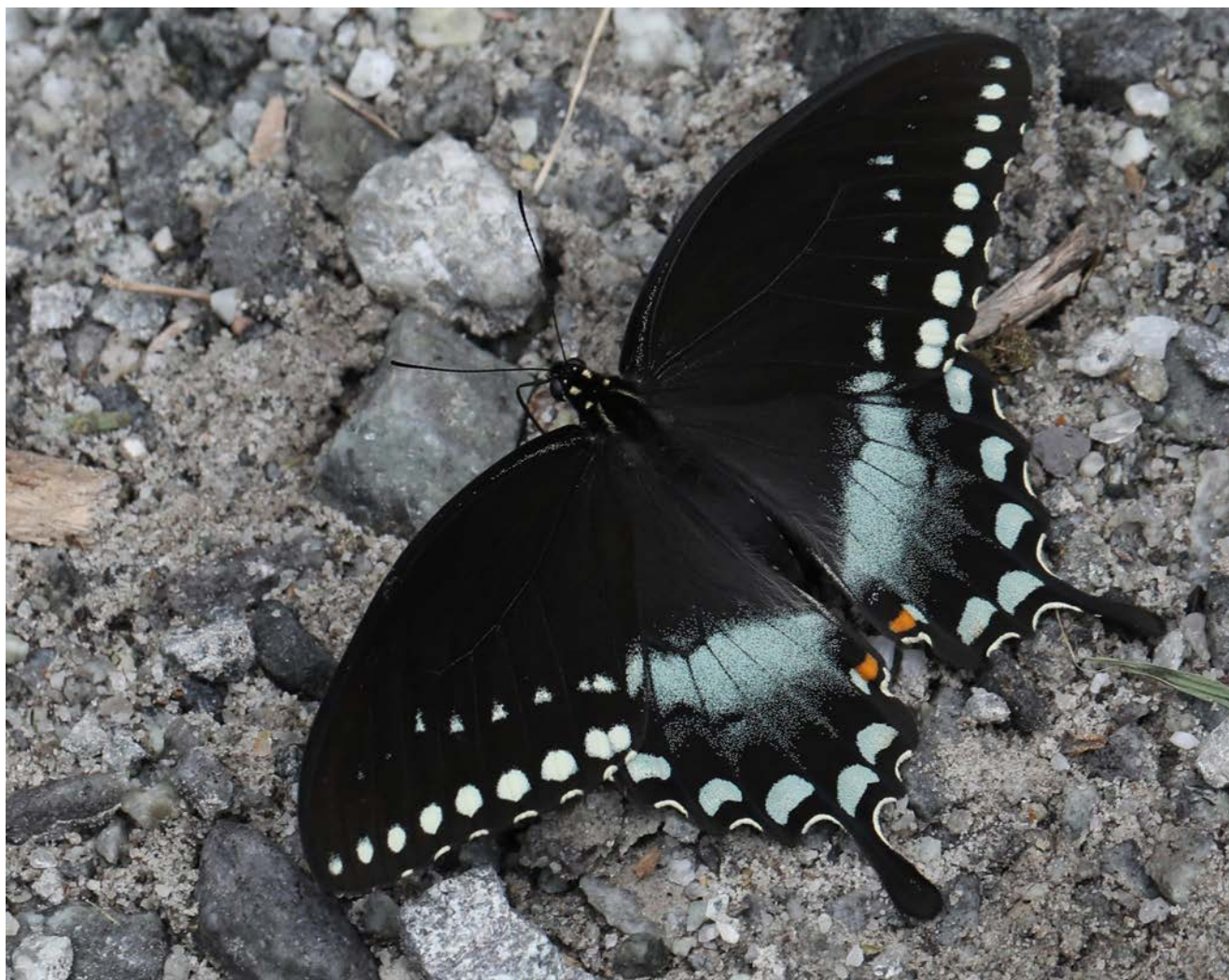
190 Lord Stirling Road
Basking Ridge, New Jersey
07920



Introduction

The flowering meadows, sun-soaked wood edges, and wetland marshes of the Somerset County Park Commission 1,000-acre Lord Stirling Park provide exceptional habitat for a wide variety of butterfly species. Approximately half of the property is managed by the Lord Stirling Stable. The remainder is managed by the Environmental Education Center (EEC). The purpose of this photographic guide is to aid in the identification of the 56 species that have been seen on the grounds of the Environmental Education Center. With increased survey efforts, more species are expected to be found. For additional information on the species included, please visit the New Jersey Butterfly Club's website (<http://www.njbutterflies.org>).

*The photos that appear in this guide are taken by EEC Naturalist Ben Barkley and former seasonal Naturalist Brian Magnier. The majority of the photos are taken from the grounds of the EEC, but a few are added from other locations in New Jersey and the United States to assist identification.



Pipevine Swallowtail

Battus philenor

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: Pipevine Swallowtail is an uncommon and local species. It is a southern species that is not seen every year in the park.

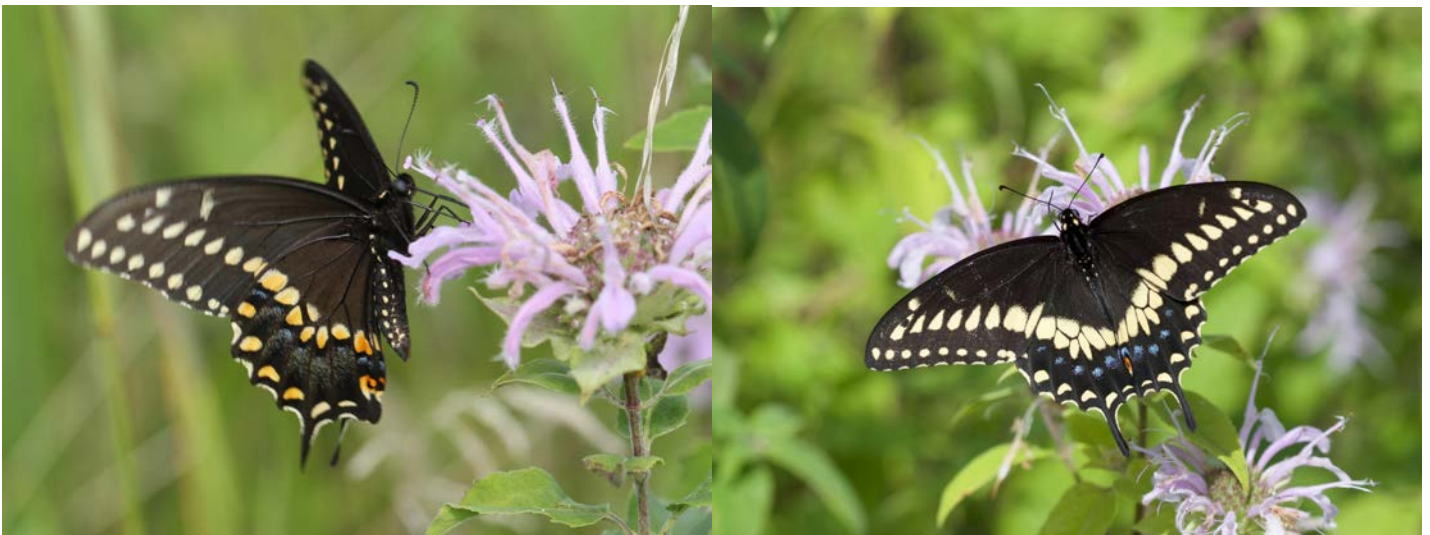


Black Swallowtail

Papilio polyxenes

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: Black Swallowtail is uncommon in spring but becomes common during the summer.



Giant Swallowtail

Papilio cresphontes

Seasonality: May and mid-July to September

Abundance: Rare. The records of Giant Swallowtail for the park are from early September 2017 and late August 2019.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio glaucus

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail is very common during its spring and summer peaks, especially in the latter half of the summer.

*The dark morph female Eastern Tiger Swallowtails (bottom two photos) can be found at the EEC in late summer and early fall.



Spicebush Swallowtail

Papilio troilus

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: Spicebush Swallowtail is uncommon overall, but sightings become more frequent over the summer.



Cabbage White

Pieris rapae

Seasonality: March-October

Abundance: Cabbage White is abundant and easy to identify as it is the only white species of butterfly in the area.



Clouded Sulphur

Colias philodice

Seasonality: April-October.

Abundance: Clouded Sulphur can be tough to distinguish from Orange Sulphur. It lacks the orange spots or wash on the upperside of the hindwing and instead has a yellow wash.



Orange Sulphur

Colias eurytheme

Seasonality: March-December.

Abundance: Orange Sulphur is uncommon and can be tough to distinguish from Clouded Sulphur. Look for the orange spots or wash on the upperside of the hindwing.



Harvester

Feniseca tarquinius

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: Harvester is very rare. There is only one record from July 2013.

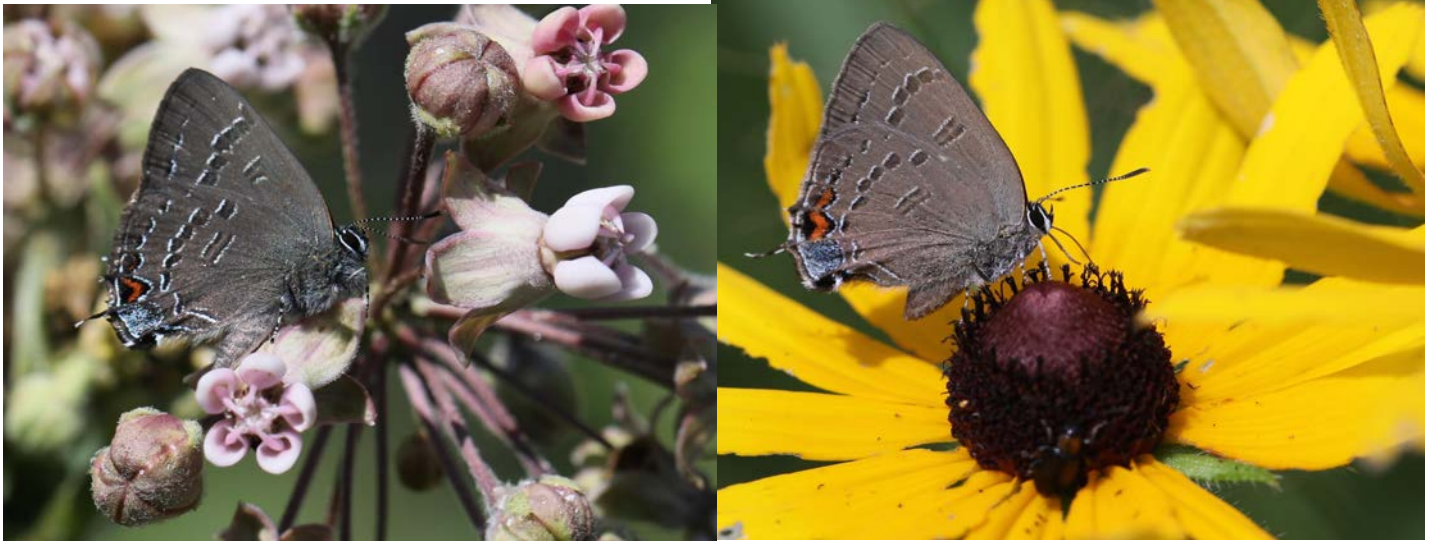


Banded Hairstreak

Satyrium calanus

Seasonality: June-August

Abundance: Banded Hairstreak is generally uncommon, becoming more common early in the summer.



Striped Hairstreak

Satyrium liparops

Seasonality: June-late July

Abundance: Striped Hairstreak is rare, with observations for the park occurring only in July.



White M Hairstreak

Parrhasium album

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: White M Hairstreak is rare with only one sighting from August 2018.



Gray Hairstreak

Strymon melinus

Seasonality: April-November

Abundance: Gray Hairstreak is relatively uncommon but can be more common at the end of July to early August.



Red-banded Hairstreak

Calycopis cecrops

Seasonality: May-June and August-September

Abundance: Red-banded Hairstreak is uncommon in spring and early summer, becoming common to abundant in late summer starting in late July.



Eastern Tailed-Blue

Everes comyntas

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: Eastern Tailed-Blue is very common throughout the flight period.



Spring Azure

Celastrina ladon

Seasonality: The spring brood is from March-early June. The summer brood, which is the subspecies “Summer” Spring Azure, is more common and occurs from June-October.

Abundance: Spring Azure is common throughout spring and summer.



American Snout

Libytheana carinenta

Seasonality: April to October

Abundance: American Snout is rare, with only one record from August 2019.



Variegated Fritillary

Euptoieta claudia

Seasonality: May-October

Abundance: Variegated Fritillary is rare, but probably underreported, with sightings coming in the late summer and early fall.

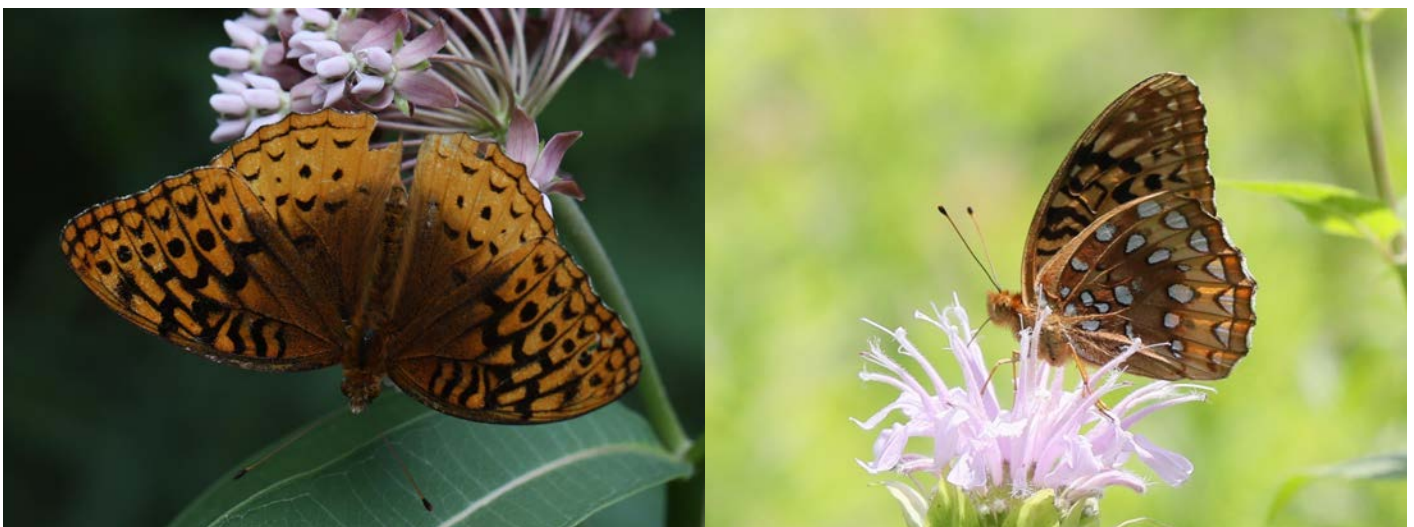


Great Spangled Fritillary

Speyeria cybele

Seasonality: June-October

Abundance: Great Spangled Fritillary can be very common later in summer into early fall.



Pearl Crescent

Phyciodes tharos

Seasonality: April-November

Abundance: At certain points in the late summer and fall, Pearl Crescent can be the most abundant butterfly in the park.



Question Mark

Polygonia interrogationis

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: Question Mark is generally uncommon, but numbers vary from year to year. Close views are required to distinguish from Eastern Comma.



Eastern Comma

Polygonia comma

Seasonality: February-November

Abundance: Eastern Comma is slightly more common than Question Mark, but it can be difficult to distinguish from Question Mark.



Gray Comma

Polygonia progne

Seasonality: Early spring, mid-summer, and late fall

Abundance: Gray Comma is extremely rare with only one observation from July 2009



Mourning Cloak

Nymphalis antiopa

Seasonality: February-December

Abundance: Mourning Cloak is uncommon overall. It is observed most often in early spring.

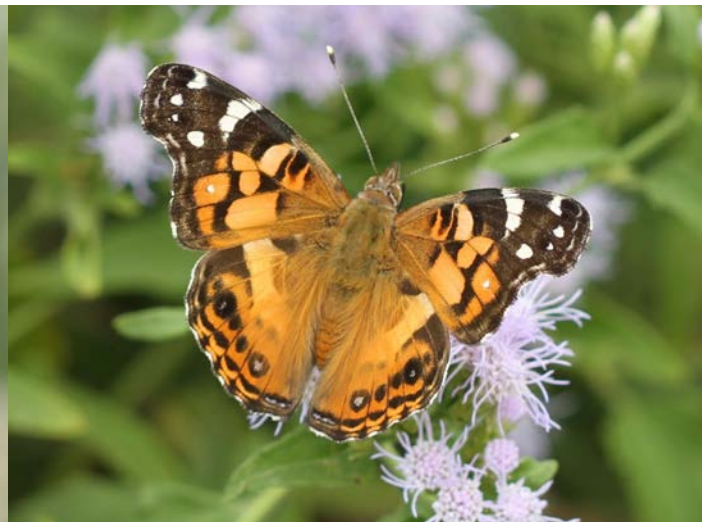


American Lady

Vanessa virginiensis

Seasonality: April-November

Abundance: American Lady is uncommon with sightings spanning from spring until fall.



Painted Lady

Vanessa cardui

Seasonality: June-October

Abundance: Painted Lady is uncommon and is less common than American. However, it can become very common in fall during irruption years.



Red Admiral

Vanessa atalanta

Seasonality: March-November

Abundance: Red Admiral is another irruptive species. In some years it can be uncommon and other years abundant.



Common Buckeye

Junonia coenia

Seasonality: March-December

Abundance: Common Buckeye is a southern irruptive species to northern New Jersey so numbers fluctuate, but it is common in general.



Red-spotted Purple

Limenitis arthemis astyanax

Seasonality: May-October

Abundance: Red-spotted Purple is common in early summer with a peak again in late August to early September.

*The subspecies White Admiral (middle photograph) has been photographed at the EEC.



Viceroy

Limenitis archippus

Seasonality: May-October

Abundance: Viceroy is uncommon and is seen less frequently than Monarch.



Hackberry Emperor

Asterocampa celtis

Seasonality: Primarily June and July

Abundance: The only records of Hackberry Emperor are from July.



Monarch

Danaus plexippus

Seasonality: April-November

Abundance: Monarch is most common during the summer and fall and can be abundant as a migrant during this time.



Northern Pearly-eye

Enodia anthedon

Seasonality: June-September

Abundance: Northern Pearly-eye is uncommon overall with most sightings in July.



Appalachian Brown

Saytrodes appalachia

Seasonality: May-September

Abundance: Appalachian Brown is locally common; however, it is less common than Little Wood-Satyr, which behaves similarly.



Little Wood-Satyr

Megisto cymela

Seasonality: May-August

Abundance: Little Wood-Satyr is common throughout the summer. It is abundant in early summer when nearly 100 can be seen in one afternoon.



Common Wood-Nymph

Cercyonis pegala

Seasonality: June-September

Abundance: Common Wood-Nymph is most common in mid-summer, starting in early July.



Silver-spotted Skipper

Epargyreus clarus

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: Silver-spotted Skipper is very common to abundant.



Juvenal's Duskywing

Erynnis juvenalis

Seasonality: April to June. It flies earlier in the spring than Horace's Duskywing.

Abundance: Juvenal's Duskywing is uncommon, appearing mainly in early spring.



Horace's Duskywing

Erynnis hora

Seasonality: May-August, sometimes as late as October

Abundance: Horace's Duskywing is common, especially in the late summer.



Wild Indigo Duskywing

Erynnis baptisiae

Seasonality: April-October

Abundance: Wild Indigo Duskywing is uncommon but widespread throughout its flight season.

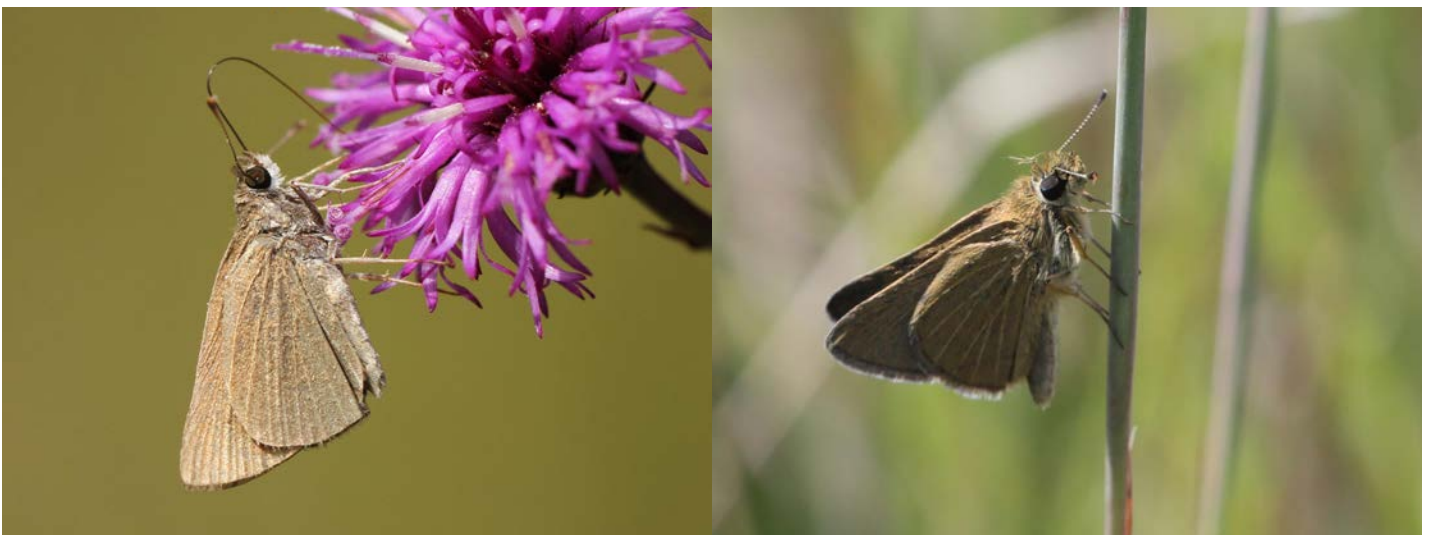


Swarthy Skipper

Nastra Iherminier

Seasonality: Late May-early July and early August-mid September

Abundance: Swarthy Skipper is rare overall with only a handful of sightings.



Least Skipper

Ancyloxypha numitor

Seasonality: May-October

Abundance: Least Skipper is common to abundant; 150 have been seen in one day in early August.

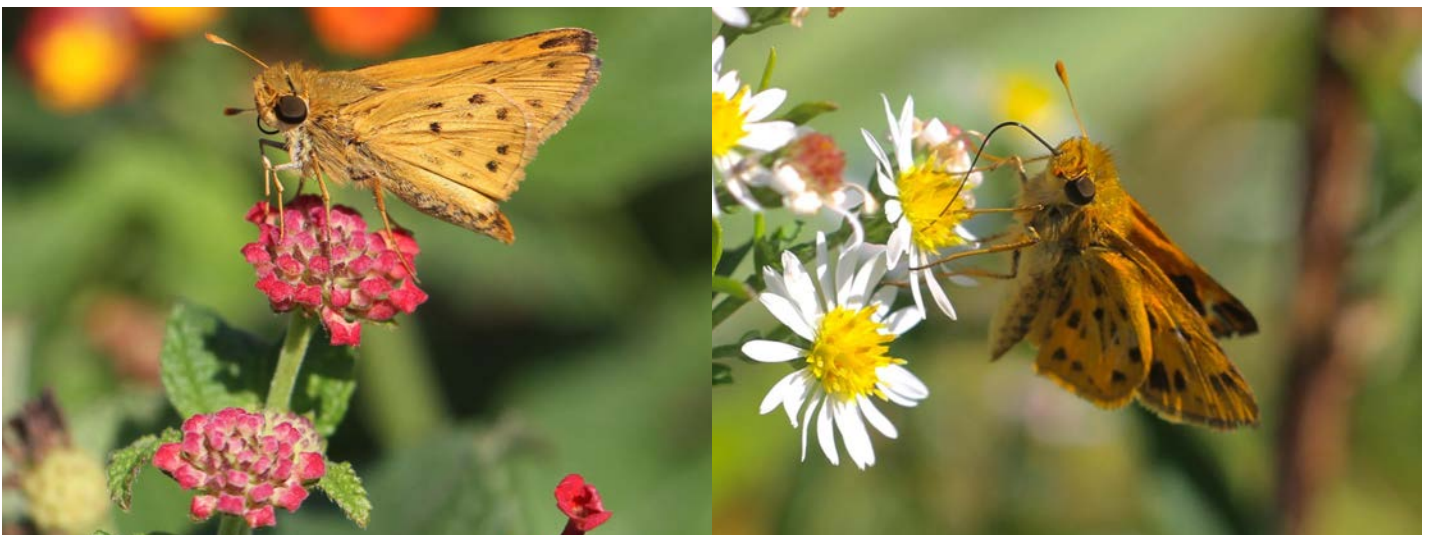


Fiery Skipper

Hylephila phyleus

Seasonality: The only park records are from early October.

Abundance: Fiery Skipper is uncommon, appearing in late summer and early fall.



Peck's Skipper

Polites peckius

Seasonality: May-October

Abundance: Peck's Skipper is fairly common to abundant in mid to late summer. Over 200 have been seen in one day in early August.



Tawny-edged Skipper

Polites themistocles

Seasonality: May-October

Abundance: Tawny-edged Skipper is uncommon, but up to 50 have been seen in a day in early August.



Crossline Skipper

Polites origenes

Seasonality: June-September

Abundance: Crossline Skipper is rare, with only a couple of sightings in early summer and fall.



Northern Broken-Dash

Wallengrenia egeremet

Seasonality: June-September

Abundance: Northern Broken-Dash is common, but can be difficult to identify.



Little Glassywing

Pompeius verna

Seasonality: May-August

Abundance: Little Glassywing is common, but still difficult to identify.



Dun Skipper

Euphyes vestris

Seasonality: May-September

Abundance: Dun Skipper is relatively common, but can be difficult to identify.



Mulberry Wing

Poanes massasoit

Seasonality: Late June-August

Abundance: Mulberry Wing is uncommon, occurring in swampy areas in the middle of summer.



Hobomok Skipper

Poanes hobomok

Seasonality: May-early July

Abundance: Hobomok Skipper is uncommon, with sightings in the late spring and early summer.



Black Dash

Euphyes conspicua

Seasonality: Mid-June to mid-August

Abundance: Black Dash is uncommon, but it can be locally numerous in the middle of summer.



Sachem

Atalopedes campestris

Seasonality: July-October

Abundance: Sachem is common to abundant as the summer and fall progress.



Delaware Skipper

Anatrytone logan

Seasonality: June-August

Abundance: Delaware Skipper is rare, with records only from the last week of June.

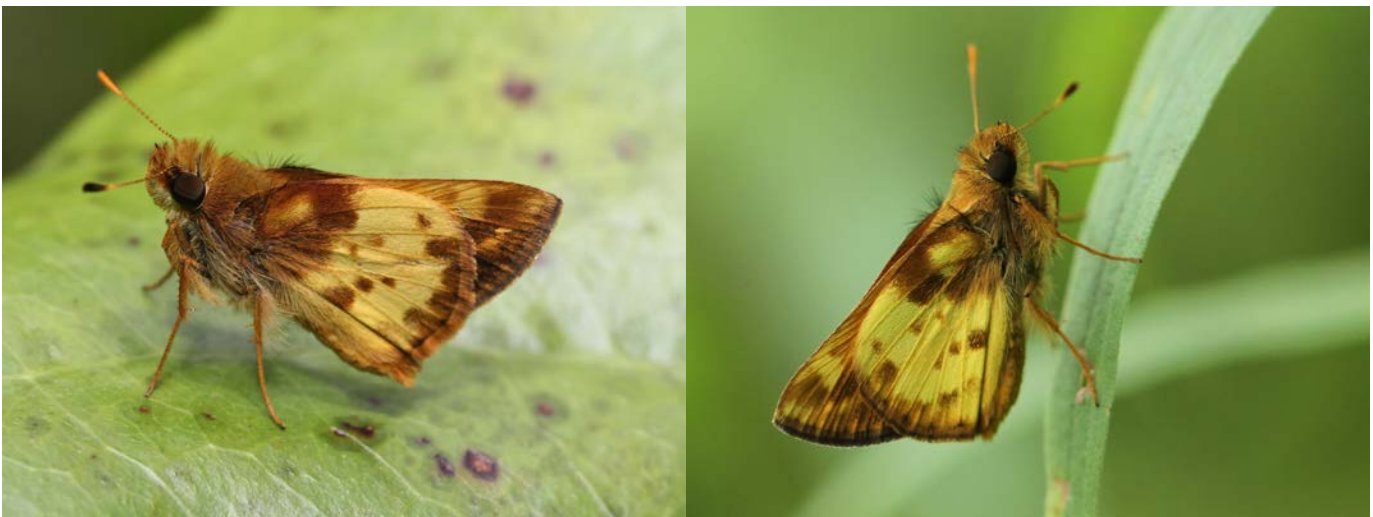


Zabulon Skipper

Poanes zabulon

Seasonality: May-October.

Abundance: Zabulon Skipper is very common to abundant during the peaks in the summer, especially late July to early August.



Broad-winged Skipper

Poanes viator

Seasonality: June-September

Abundance: Broad-winged Skipper tends to be uncommon and is seen mostly in mid-summer.



Ocola Skipper

Panoquina ocola

Seasonality: August to October

Abundance: Ocola Skipper is uncommon to rare, but is an irruptive species. Numbers vary year to year.



Written and compiled by Ben Barkley