

Massachusetts Butterflies



Fall 2004, No. 23

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

Massachusetts Butterflies is the semiannual publication of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, a chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. Membership in NABA-MBC brings you *American Butterflies*, *Massachusetts Butterflies*, *Butterfly Gardener*, and all of the benefits of the association and club, including field trips and meetings. Regular dues are \$30 for an individual, \$40 for a family, and \$60 outside the United States. Send a check made out to NABA to: NABA, 4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960.

Officers of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club

President: Carl Kamp
Box 111
Royalston, MA 01368
(978) 249-9675
carlkamp@lightband.net

Treasurer: Lyn Lovell
198 Purchase St.
Milford, MA 01757
(508) 473-7327
ilovell@naisp.net

Vice President-East:
Dolores Price
92 Samuel Drive.
North Grafton, MA 01536
(508) 839-2299
dprice@BeckerCollege.edu

Vice-President-West:
Elise Barry
45 Keep Avenue
Paxton, MA 01612
(508) 795-1147
elise_barry@hotmail.com

Secretary: Nancy Young, 63 Vernon St., Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 585-9380

Massachusetts Butterflies Staff

Editor: Sharon Stichter 108 Walden St., Cambridge, MA 02140
sharonstichter2@comcast.net

Records Compiler: Erik Nielsen 47 Pond Plain Rd., Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 762-7708 erik@massbutterflies.org

Webmaster: Dale Rhoda 330 Blandford Drive, Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 430-0513; daler@alumni.duke.edu

www.massbutterflies.org

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

CONTENTS

- 2 Site Guide: Dauphinais Park, Grafton, MA
Dolores Price
- 10 Site Guide: Williams Land, Harvard, MA
Tom Murray
- 15 Short Reports
Karner Blues in Concord, New Hampshire
Pipevine Swallowtails in New England
Sharon Stichter
- 20 2004 Fourth of July Count Results
Erik Nielsen
- 28 Reviews
*Common Butterflies and Skippers of Eastern North
America*, by Richard Walton and Greg Dodge (DVD)
Carl Kamp
- Milkweed, Monarchs, and More*, by Ba Rea, Karen
S. Oberhauser and Michael A. Quinn
Richard Hildreth

*Cover photo: Two-spotted Skipper (Euphyes bimacula) by Tom Murray,
Petersham, MA 6-28-04*

1 **MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES** No. 23, Fall 2004
© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

**Site Guide to Dauphinais Park
Follette Street
Grafton, Massachusetts**

By Dolores Price

Dauphinais Park is located along the Blackstone River in the southwest corner of Grafton, Massachusetts. This area of 67 acres offers nature enthusiasts opportunities to explore both a relatively undisturbed forested river terrace, and a very disturbed former site of a sand and gravel mining operation. Cronin Brook feeds into the Blackstone River here, and is home to wood turtles and native brook trout. Since 1998, I have reported sightings of **59 butterfly species** at Dauphinais Park. In late-May to mid-July, butterfly watchers have an outstanding opportunity to potentially observe **from 20-30 different butterfly species in one day!**

Walking is fairly easy at Dauphinais since most paths are level. However, there are a few spots where walking can be hazardous, such as the eroded areas along the river, the steep slopes near the edge of the mining area, and in springtime, the standing water in the old gravel pit areas that have been mined down to the water table. A walk to the river can be a bit confusing since there are no signs or trail markers. The river's natural levees channel and hold floodwaters here making this area very wet in spring.

With the exception of the mature woods that extend south to the river, the property has two large, flat excavated areas surrounded by slopes and ridges of discarded earth. The mined areas are being reclaimed by different stages of vegetation and trees, which grow on the dirt mounds, slopes, and ridges. Although the property is secluded, one can find the path back to the entrance on Follette Street by noting the location of the Grafton Water District's pump

2 **MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES** No. 23, Fall 2004

© **Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.**

house and the houses on Southfield Court near the southwestern edge. Finding the way back to the car is no problem.

The confusion lies in finding Dauphinais Park! There is now a second park called the Grafton Lions Club Dauphinais Memorial Park on Brigham Hill Road. The Dauphinais Park on Follette Street can be reached by heading south on Rt.122 in Grafton. Go past the police station, the municipal center, and Brigham Hill Road to the traffic light at Millbury Street. Turn right onto Millbury Street, and pass the elementary school. Look for Fitzpatrick Road and turn left. Follow Fitzpatrick as it winds to a stop sign, and turn right onto Follette Street. Immediately look up for the powerline crossing the road. The entrance is on the left directly under the powerline. Park without blocking the gate, and do not drive inside if it is open. There is a Dauphinais Park monument on a small slope just to the left of the entrance.

Walk straight in and along the access road (area A on map). This northeast corner of the property is previously mined land that has grown over with shrubs and mixed woodland vegetation. To your right is private property and under the powerline to your left is a 3-acre open area owned by the electric company. This is a good place to visit now or when you return to the car. It often has the Dusted Skipper, American Copper, American Lady, and Milbert's Tortoiseshell. In June or July, watch for the Common Buckeye, and the Coral and Edwards' Hairstreaks. Walk over to the river where Butterfly Club members have seen a pair of wood ducks and brown thrashers carrying nesting material. Look up to the powerlines for perching red-tailed hawks, kestrels, and kingbirds.

If you begin your Dauphinais walk by remaining on the access road, be sure to watch for butterflies on the ground, as well as on the clover, shrubs, and trees. This is a terrific spot for a "butterfly-fly-by" of Red-Spotted Admiral (purple form), Red Admiral, American Lady, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Viceroy, and Tiger

3 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

Swallowtail. Check the bush clover and grasses for Eastern-tailed Blue, Pearl Crescent, and plenty of skippers!

Continue ahead to where the road crosses over Cronin Brook. In spring, this is a lovely spot for watching phoebes and woodpeckers. In summer, the milkweed patches at the edge of the road often attract the Great Spangled Fritillary, Northern Broken Dash, and Dun Skippers. There is a fork in the road here where I often watch mud-puddling butterflies such as Pearl Crescent, Eastern-tailed Blue, and Spring Azure. This is **the best place to see a Northern Pearly-eye** fly out of the woods! Also watch for Question Mark, Eastern Comma, and Red Admiral.

If you are searching for the Mourning Cloak, Spring Azure, anglewings, or Banded Hairstreak, go straight at the fork. However, if you want to see sulphurs, cloudywings, Viceroy, skippers, and swallowtails (or want to avoid mosquitoes) go right and walk toward the pump house. The pines near the pump house and path are the only spots where I have seen Pine Elfin.

From the pump house, most paths end in large open, flat excavated areas that are sparsely covered with clover and grasses, and edged with willows and poplars. There is a large ditch (marked on the map) where I once spied seven basking Viceroy! In fact, Dauphinail was noted in *Massachusetts Butterflies* for its **high count of Viceroy** (24) on July 30, 2003. A walk west from the pump house leads to a large grassy area just behind the houses on Southfield Court (area B on map). Along the way, the vegetation on both sides of the path has Eastern-tailed Blues, Dreamy Duskywings, Peck's and Hobomok Skippers in spring. For many years now, I have observed a pair of thrashers nesting in the corner of the western slope just before the houses. In summer I see Silver-spotted, Hoary Edge, European, Delaware, Northern Broken Dash and Dun Skippers; Northern and Southern Cloudywings; American

and Painted Ladies; Gray Hairstreak, Clouded Sulphur, Orange Sulphur, and Cabbage White.

Proceeding west, take a left curve to the wooded edge on a ridge behind the houses. This is a good place to snack in the shade while keeping your eyes open for bluebirds around the houses, hawks in the sky, and wild turkey on the west knoll. Walk down toward the open field below the west knoll. As you enter the field, look for the drainage pipe (marked dp on map) surrounded above by clumps of dense grasses. This is the best spot for finding Long Dash, Common Sootywing, and Tawny Edge Skippers! This field also has several young poplars for nature study of viceroy eggs and caterpillars. You will also see Clouded Sulphur, Cabbage White, Common Wood Nymph, Common Ringlet, and American Lady. A walk to the wild indigo bushes at the base of the knoll may surprise you with a Delaware Skipper or a Common Buckeye!

If you choose to retrace your steps to your car at this point, you can be satisfied with having completed a level, 1.5-hour hike of 1.5 miles. But there is so much more! There is another excavated, open area on the other side of the wooded ridge from where you had your snack. It lies in the southwest corner, and I call it the "pit" (area C on map). A downward-sloping path through the ridge leads to the pit and many more butterflies. There is also a meadow further to the south (area D on map), located beyond the pit, and behind another milder slope of trees. I usually explore both the pit and the meadow looking for different butterfly species in these two different habitats.

The most northerly end of the pit becomes very wet in spring. There is a pond there on the right where I have seen red-wing blackbirds, green heron, and wood duck. Loosestrife grows in the pit, along with willows and poplars. Explore this area for it is the best place on the property to see Viceroy! You may also see Acadian and Banded Hairstreaks, Silver-spotted Skipper, Hoary

5 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

Edge, Red-spotted Purple, Pearl Crescent, American and Painted Ladies, American Copper, Wild Indigo, Dreamy Duskywing, and Eastern-tailed Blue. If you wish to head back now, just stay in the open and walk north out of the pit; the pump house is on your left.

However, if you have the time but not enough species on your list, head south to the meadow. You must backtrack to the very southern end of the pit and look for the path on the left that is just around the end of a small slope of trees. Follow the path left and northward through the meadow. In mid June, you will probably see more skippers here than anywhere else on the property! Also watch for sulphurs, Viceroy, Spicebush and Tiger Swallowtails, Great Spangled Fritillaries, Common Wood Nymphs, hairstreaks, Question Marks, Red-spotted Purples, Pearl Crescents, and Eastern-tailed Blues. Although the milkweed is here, I haven't seen a Monarch in four years.

Avoid the first path you come to on the left, which leads into the pit. Go straight along the edge of the forest. Also avoid the next path on the right which leads into the forest toward the Blackstone River. This spot is noteworthy for its beautiful catalpa tree (marked E on map). Notice the 10-inch, spade-shaped leaves as they droop down into the path. Step backward just a few feet from where you came, and on the right, is a section of low shrubs that tends to be a hotspot for butterflies in the spring. Many are attracted to the blooms of the black raspberry bush.

As you continue northward past the catalpa tree, you can just barely see the stone wall on the right just inside the woods. This property was probably used for farming about 75 years ago before sand and gravel mining began. Continue to the intersection of the path. There are three ways back to the car: 1) If you go left, and walk several feet, the pond will be on your left (marked F on map), the pit in the distance ahead of you, and the pump house far to the right. 2) If you go straight across, the path passes between two

6 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

large stones and becomes a grassy trail through the pines and to the pump house. Watch for Pine Elfin. 3) If you go right, you can finish your adventure along a short, wooded path that ends at the main access road, with the pump house to your left. Watch for Mourning Cloak, Question Mark, Eastern Comma, Spring/Summer Azure, and Banded Hairstreak.

In the future, you may wish to begin your hike on the wooded path by staying straight at the fork and avoiding the pump house. I usually take this route when I participate in the Fourth of July Blackstone Corridor Butterfly Count. I can circle the property and collect data from all paths and all open areas. Full exploration in this manner takes about 3 hours covering 3 miles.

I should mention that I have only gone to the river with friends. A river walk always involves a separate trip and boots! Forest trails often lead nowhere and are not marked. Walking along the river edge is hazardous due to eroded paths, which often lead inland to a flooded dead-end. I once saw a Great Blue Heron and a Mourning Cloak on the riverbank. I am sure there is much more to see along the river, but I hesitate to do any exploring there, especially since the area is so secluded.

Dauphinis Park is a great place for nature study, butterfly watching, and hiking. It isn't a developed park, but that's just fine with me! I've heard talk of a possible playing field construction in the plans. Therefore, I urge all butterflyers to visit this Grafton gem now, and learn all you can from the current biodiversity of this very special place.

Species List (total-59)

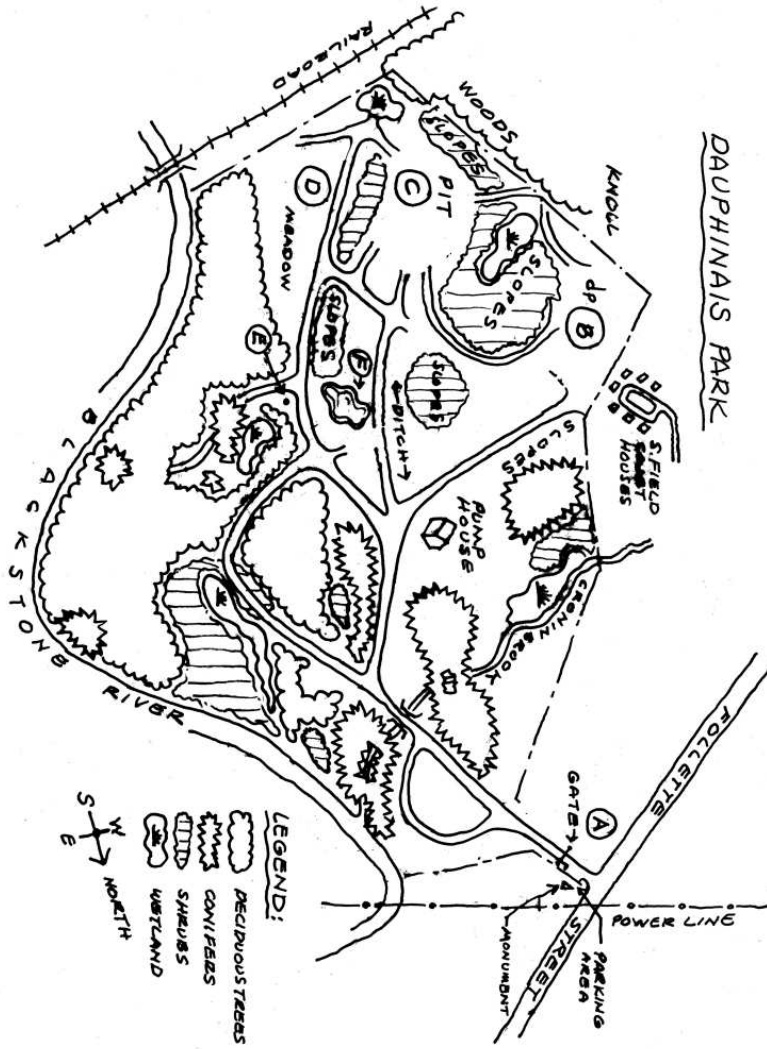
Black Swallowtail (U), Tiger Swallowtail (C), Spicebush Swallowtail (U), Cabbage White (C), Clouded Sulphur (C), Orange Sulphur (U), Clouded-Orange Sulphur (U), Harvester (R), American Copper (C), Coral Hairstreak (U), Acadian Hairstreak

7 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

(U), Edwards' Hairstreak (U), Banded Hairstreak (U), Striped Hairstreak (U), Eastern Pine Elfin (U), Gray Hairstreak (U), Eastern Tailed-Blue (C), Spring or Summer Azure (U), Great Spangled Fritillary (C), Aphrodite Fritillary (U), Pearl Crescent (A), Question Mark (U), Eastern Comma (U), Milbert's Tortoiseshell (U), Mourning Cloak ((R), Red Admiral (U), American Lady ((C), Painted Lady (U), Common Buckeye (U), Red-spotted Purple (C), Viceroy (C), Northern Pearly Eye (U), Little Wood Satyr (A), Common Ringlet (C), Common Wood Nymph (C), Monarch (R), Silver-spotted Skipper (C), Hoary Edge (U), Southern Cloudywing (U), Northern Cloudywing (C), Dreamy Duskywing (C), Juvenal's Duskywing (C), Horace's Duskywing (R), Wild Indigo Duskywing (U), Common Sootywing (C), Least Skipper (C), European Skipper (A), Indian Skipper (R), Peck's Skipper (C), Tawny-edged Skipper (U), Crossline Skipper (U), Long Dash (U), Northern Broken Dash (C), Little Glassywing (U), Delaware Skipper (U), Hobomok Skipper (C), Dun Skipper (C), Dusted Skipper (U), Pepper and Salt Skipper (U).





Dauphinais Park map by Dolores Price and Joe Stichter

Site Guide to Williams Land Harvard, Massachusetts

by Tom Murray

Williams Land is one of a number of conservation properties owned by the Harvard Conservation Trust. It consists of 64 acres, of which 34 are fields and wetlands and 30 are woodlands with a loop trail that connects to a back field.

From the parking area along Stow Road (see map and directions below), the first feature you will notice is a rolling hill, or drumlin, known as Round Hill. Walk through the field (Field 1 on the map) toward this landmark. There is no real trail at this point; the grasses are tall until late summer when the fields are hayed. From April until the end of July be careful, because Bobolink nest here.

There is a small stream in front of Round Hill that leads into a small pond (see map). This area has marsh vegetation (reeds, etc). Some of the plants that attract butterflies here are Swamp Milkweed, Common Milkweed, Plantain, Joe-Pye Weed, Asters, and Goldenrod. I always give this area a thorough search for Baltimore Checkerspot from late June to late July with biggest counts coming around July 20 to 28. Also the preceding and following months look for their caterpillars on the Plantain. Mulberry Wing and Black Dash can be found here in mid to late July, particularly around the Swamp Milkweed. Other species that can be found are Coral Hairstreak, Striped Hairstreak, Silvery Blue, Silver-bordered Fritillary, and Milbert's Tortoiseshell.

Next, find a crossing over the stream and check on top of the hill. Then go to the back right side of the hill and through a path(see map). Going to the right on the path takes you to the back side of the pond, going straight takes you up to another field (Field 2 on

10 **MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES** No. 23, Fall 2004

© **Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.**

the map). Here you can find many of the swallowtails, sulphurs, anglewings, browns, and skippers. Leonard's Skipper can be found in September (One seen 9-2-01). Baltimore Checkerspots can be more numerous in the back left of this field than in the previous field.

If you want to continue, there is an overgrown path on the back side of this field that is hard to find with lots of poison ivy. This path leads to the wooded loop trail shown on the map. Go left on the trail for about 1/4 mile, where a trail goes out to the left into another field (Field 3 on map). In the springtime this field can be loaded with hundreds of ticks, but seems to be okay during the summer. There is a great deal of brush that doesn't get mowed, and a small swampy area on the far end. By four o'clock shadows start to cover this field, so it's best in the early afternoon.

To get back, you can either backtrack or continue on the loop trail, which will take you to a marshy pond in the woods along Stow Road at Murray Lane. Then continue back around to the field from which you entered.

In 2 years and about 20 trips to this conservation land I've listed 44 species.

Highest totals:

Black Swallowtail (2) Spicebush Swallowtail (1) Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (3) Cabbage White (12) Clouded Sulphur (10) Orange Sulphur (4) American Copper (4) Coral Hairstreak (1) Striped Hairstreak (1) Eastern Tailed Blue (3) Silvery Blue (2) Great Spangled Fritillary (3) Atlantis Fritillary (1) Silver-bordered Fritillary (1) Baltimore Checkerspot (28) Pearl Crescent (15) Question Mark (1) Eastern Comma (1) Milbert's Tortoiseshell (7) American Lady (2) Red Admiral (1) Red-spotted Admiral (1) Viceroy (2) Common Wood Nymph (18) Eyed Brown (1) Appalachian Brown (1) Little Wood-Satyr (6) Common Ringlet

11 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

(12) Monarch (5) Silver-spotted Skipper (2) Common Sootywing
(1) European Skipper (300) Least Skipper (4) Leonard's Skipper
(1) Peck's Skipper (6) Long Dash (5) Crossline Skipper (2) Tawny-
edged Skipper (3) Northern Broken Dash (4) Little Glassywing (3)
Dun Skipper (2) Delaware Skipper (4) Mulberry Wing (3) Black
Dash (5)

Examples of trip lists:

6-30-03 : Black Swallowtail (1) Spicebush Swallowtail (1)
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (1) Cabbage White (8) Silvery Blue (2)
Great Spangled Fritillary (3) Baltimore Checkerspot (11) Milbert's
Tortoiseshell (3) Red-spotted Admiral (1) Common Ringlet (5)
Silver-spotted Skipper (1) European Skipper (300) Least Skipper
(2) Peck's Skipper (4) Long Dash (5)

7-20-03 : Black Swallowtail (1) Spicebush Swallowtail (1)
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (2) Cabbage White (6) Clouded Sulphur
(3) Orange Sulphur (1) American Copper (4) Coral Hairstreak (1)
Striped Hairstreak (1) Eastern Tailed-Blue (1) Great Spangled
Fritillary (2) Baltimore Checkerspot (28) American Lady (1) Red
Admiral (1) Common Wood-Nymph (4) Eyed Brown (1) Little
Wood-Satyr (1) Monarch (1) Silver Spotted Skipper (3) Crossline
Skipper (1) Dun Skipper (1) Northern Broken-Dash (4) Delaware
Skipper (4) Mulberry Wing (2) Black Dash (5)

Odonates of interest at the Williams Land are Unicorn Clubtail
(common around pond edges), Arrowhead Spiketail (U), and Elfin
Skimmer (U).

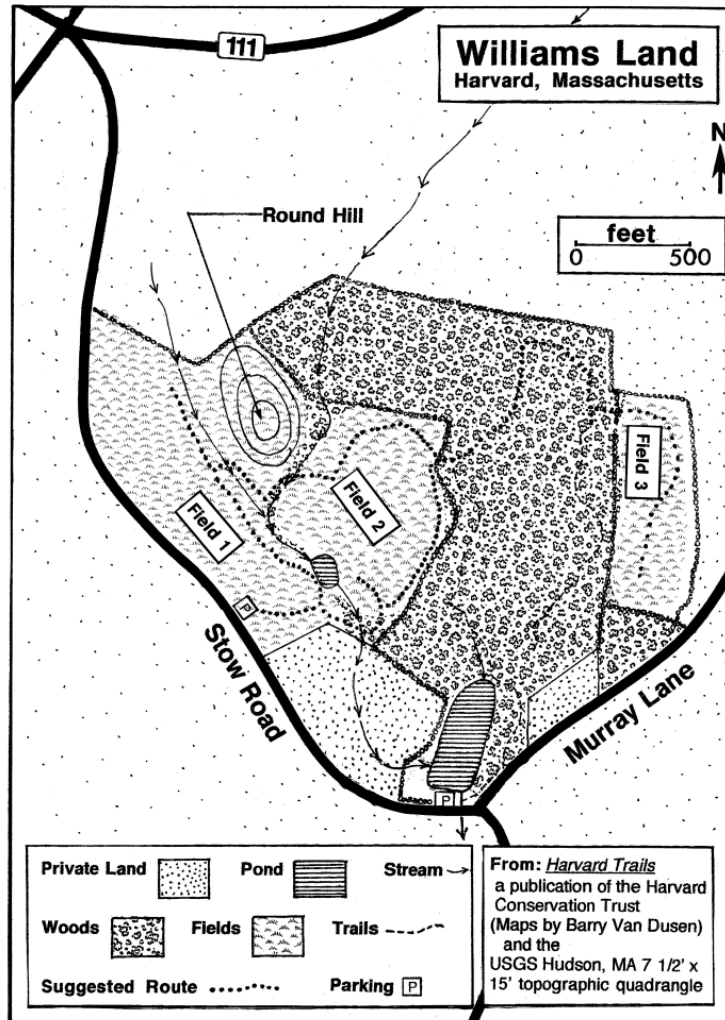
Directions: Take Route 495 to exit 28, then Route 111 north
towards Harvard. Go 1.6 miles, take a sharp left on Stow Road,
then go .5 miles to a gap in stone wall on the left, where there is a
small parking area at a sign for Harvard Conservation Land. An
alternate entrance is .25 miles further at Murray Lane. This area
takes you to the wooded loop trail. Other nearby sites are Oxbow
NWR in Harvard, (Henry's Elfin, 3 seen on 5-3-03), and Delaney

12 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

WMA in Stow (Silvery Blue, 31 seen on 5-20-03); each are within three to four miles of Williams Land. And only six miles away is Bolton Flats (Leonard's Skipper, 5 seen on Joe Pye Weed 9-8-02).





Williams Land map by Richard W. Hildreth

Karner Blue Reintroduction Project, Concord, New Hampshire

by Sharon Stichter

The Karner Blue (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) butterfly is a beautiful, Federally-listed endangered species whose two New England populations lie---tantalizingly—just outside the Massachusetts border, one in upstate New York, and other in New Hampshire. On July 8, 2004, Joe Stichter and I were able to visit the New Hampshire Fish and Game’s captive rearing facility for Karner Blues in Concord, New Hampshire. It was a wonderful experience to observe the emergence and mating of this exquisite butterfly in a clean and well-run lab. Later, we were privileged to witness an actual release of marked butterflies into the wild.

The Karner Blue became a Federally-listed endangered species in 1992. The last truly wild Karner Blue in the Concord area was seen in 2001. At least 99% of its native pine barrens habitat in this area was lost to development. For the last four years, federally funded efforts to breed and reestablish the species have been going strong. Fresh eggs are collected every summer from the Albany, New York, area, the closest genetically similar population. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has purchased a “Karner Blue” easement next to the Concord Municipal airport, and adjacent to this site over 400 acres total are now preserved. About half is high-quality habitat; the rest is being restored through prescribed burns and the replanting of the butterfly’s host plant, wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) and other nectar plants. Local school children have been helping in the replanting effort.

We had hoped to catch the first flight of this double-brooded species at the site, since eggs and mating had been observed in the wild last season. Alina Pyzikiewicz, biological technician for the

15 **MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES** No. 23, Fall 2004

© **Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.**

project, told us that Karners usually fly the first two weeks of June here, emerging about Memorial Day. This seemed a bit later than the first flight in the Albany and Saratoga areas, which many Massachusetts Butterfly Club members have visited. However, although this year's first brood emerged in good numbers in the lab, there seemed to be very few flying in the wild. The nearly constant rains this spring delayed the monitoring and releases, and our visit.

When we visited the lab in early July, the emergence of the second brood was well underway. Steve Fuller, the biologist in charge, and Alina Pyzikiewicz and Celine Goulet, his aides, were marking some of the butterflies for immediate release, using a sharpie pen. New Hampshire Public Television was filming the scene. Eighteen white nylon cages were set up for the breeding stock, and carefully selected males and females were nectaring on attractive bouquets of New Jersey Tea, Butterfly Weed, Scabiosa and Lupine inside the cages. These breeders are kept here for about five days, until ovipositing, then released. The nylon is very small mesh, to keep out all predators, especially one very tiny wasp. Female Karners lay their eggs on the lupine usually, or on anything nearby, since the lupine is usually dried up by July. At the lab, the eggs are carefully collected with a soft paintbrush, then put in a Petri dish in a cage outside to overwinter.

Afterwards, we went to the easement site next to the Concord airport, and saw a number of marked individuals released into their native habitat. We felt that it was truly an inspiring and historic moment! Steve Fuller spoke of the importance of educating the public about the project and enlisting their support in preserving and maintaining this new butterfly population. The area now has a large interpretive sign, but as yet there are no trails and no easily accessible areas where one could see Karners. The small release locations are carefully monitored. What the project leaders are looking for at this juncture is volunteers who would be willing to

help in the lab, or in systematic field monitoring, or in habitat restoration. The site is not yet designed to handle large crowds of fun-loving sightseers.

A beautifully photographed description of the Karner Blue life cycle, some further information about the Concord project, and links to other Karner Blue websites can all be found at http://members.aol.com/ht_a/karnerblues/index.html?mtbrand=AOUS If you would be interested in volunteering some time to this project, please contact me, Sharon@massbutterflies.org, and I will put you in touch with the project staff.



Pipevine Swallowtails in New England

by Sharon Stichter

Once again this year Richard and Robin Gross of Lakeville, Massachusetts had Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars feeding on the Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia macrophylla*) in their yard. This is the only known occurrence of breeding of this species (*Battus philenor*) in Massachusetts. Robin Gross first observed the larvae, about one inch long, on June 24, 2004. About 20 of them grew to full size in about three weeks, then disappeared, presumably into chrysalis. She did not observe any second brood, but did see several "dark swallowtail" butterflies in the yard later in the summer. The yard has three stands of Dutchman's Pipe along with several buddleia bushes, so it seems an ideal habitat.

In Connecticut, a breeding population of Pipevines was recently discovered in the summer of 2003. The sighting of freshly hatched Pipevines in Lyme that year led to a search for the food source, which turned out to be a large patch of Virginia Snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*) growing in the nearby Eightmile River watershed. This is the largest of several small known occurrences of Virginia Snakeroot near the coastal areas of southern Connecticut. Prior to 2003, the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly was thought to be only an accidental migrant into Connecticut, which did not reproduce there. (CBA Newsletter, Summer 2004)

Former Massachusetts butterflyer Harry Pavulaan points out that the Connecticut colony is on the extreme northern edge of what is usually considered the Pipevine's normal breeding range. Yet "outlier colonies like this may be responsible for supporting the very low-level population in places like Rhode Island and Massachusetts where *Aristolochia* does not occur naturally."

18 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

Harry suggests we butterflyers in Massachusetts plant more *Aristolochia* vines in hopes of attracting the butterfly north. A good arrangement is several vines on trellises or arbors, surrounded by flowers. “ Butterfly Bush is an absolute favorite of Pipevine Swallowtails and attracts them like a magnet. We have three broods in my Virginia garden yearly and most of the adults seem to just stay here (as evidenced by individuals with unique markings or wing damage), since we have everything they need to feed and breed.” (personal communication, 9/18/04)



Pipevine caterpillar, Lakeville MA , July 2004
Richard Gross

2004 Fourth of July Butterfly Count Results

by Erik Nielsen

15250 individual butterflies of 72 species were reported in the 15 count circles. The totals from Central Franklin County were not received by the deadline for this report.

Again this year the western counts had in general much higher totals in both species and individuals. Participants in Northampton found the highest number of species - 51, and the highest count of individual butterflies was in Northern Worcester - 3029 of 50 species. Of the species less commonly seen on the Counts, Mustard White, Harvester, Juniper Hairstreak, Hackberry Emperor, Tawny Emperor, Hoary Edge, and Hobomok Skipper share the distinction of being seen in only one count circle, with two of these in Southern Berkshire, three in Northampton, and two in Central Berkshire.

798 American Coppers for Northern Worcester was a nice count. In general Hairstreak numbers were good and some great. Especially notable were 56 Acadian Hairstreaks for the Central Berkshires, a total of eight Hickory Hairstreaks in six circles, and 103 Edward's, 65 Banded, and 24 Oak Hairstreaks on Martha's Vineyard --- the last species being new to that count!

Three Atlantis Fritillaries were reported from the Northern Worcester count - well east of their "normal" range in the Berkshires. There were high numbers of Eastern Commas in the more western count circles and for the second year in a row Gray Commas were recorded - this year in both the Central and Northern Berkshires. Milbert's Tortoiseshells had another good -

20 **MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES** No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

or as they might have said on the Northampton/Amherst count, where 176 were recorded - a banner year. Red-spotted Admirals had a good showing in the Northern Berkshires with 106 individuals in a 40 White Admiral / 66 Red-spotted Purple split. Twelve Tawny Emperors was a nice total in the Northampton/Amherst circle. Common Wood-Nymphs were generally seen in good numbers - especially in the Southern and Central Berkshires where totals of 871 and 624 were reported. Skipper numbers were for the most part unremarkable; but 71 Common Sootywings in Northampton/Amherst and 240 Delaware Skippers in Northern Worcester were notable exceptions.

Counts, Abbreviations, Dates and Compilers:

Northern Berkshire: NB, July 11, Tom Tynning
Central Berkshire: CB, July 18, Tom Tynning
Southern Berkshire: SB, July 10, Rene Laubach
Northampton: NH, July 17, Dottie Case
Northern Worcester: NW, July 11, Carl Kamp
Concord: CO, July 10, Dick Walton
Northern Essex: NE, July 11, Bob Speare
Brewster: BW, July 3, Tor Hansen
Truro: TR, July 10, Tor Hansen
Blackstone Valley: BV, July 10, Tom Dodd
Martha's Vineyard: MV, July 17, Matt Pelikan
Bristol: BR: July 18, Mark Mello
Falmouth: FA, July 20, Alison Robb
Middlesex: MI, July 23, Karen Holmes
Barnstable: BA, July 25, Alison Robb, Mark Bailey

	COUNT	NB	CB	SB	NH	NW	CO
Black Swallowtail	9	57	20	91	10	3	
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	8	2	19	32	47	16	
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	1				1		
Spicebush Swallowtail			2	23	16	2	
Mustard White		38					
Cabbage White	22	62	78	183	69	106	
Clouded Sulphur	48	144	207	525	63	54	
Orange Sulphur	13	30	45	112	27	10	
Harvester		1					
American Copper		11	1	44	798	25	
Bog Copper					76	6	
Coral Hairstreak		14		1		10	
Acadian Hairstreak	1	56	1				
Edwards' Hairstreak			2			3	
Banded Hairstreak	5	10	12	14	10	3	
Hickory Hairstreak	2	1	1	2			
Striped Hairstreak	9	4	5	3	9		
Oak Hairstreak							
Juniper Hairstreak				2			
Gray Hairstreak							
Eastern Tailed-Blue	6	11	13	30	21	25	
'Summer' Spring Azure	30	54	6	23	13	10	
Variegated Fritillary				1	6		
Great Spangled Fritillary	7	34	57	75	37	14	
Aphrodite Fritillary	4	3	2	4	10		
Atlantis Fritillary	12	2			3		
Silver-bordered Fritillary				26	1	12	
Meadow Fritillary	3	3	19				
Pearl Crescent		93	7	318	30	3	
Baltimore Checkerspot	4	37	37	30		1	
Question Mark	2	3	10	4	1		
Eastern Comma	35	31	46	52	7	4	
Gray Comma	1	1					
Compton Tortoiseshell	1						
Mourning Cloak	13	17	6	4	4	3	
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	1	6		176	19		
American Lady	6	5	3	14	18	7	
Painted Lady		1	3	1	2		
Red Admiral	3	4	7	14	2	4	

22 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004
 © Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

NE	BW	TR	BV	MV	BR	FA	MI	BA	TOTAL
5			15	34		9	6		259
24	1	2	42	19	5	5	2		224
			2						4
2	3	3	20	28	11	8	1		119
									38
254	92	26	41	168	2	23	253	36	1415
104	9	6	52	87	15	15	51	2	1382
55	9	10	22	213	46	5	23	19	639
									1
11		1	41	106	2	5	1	16	1062
		58		6					146
			5	25	2				57
			5		2				65
			1	103					109
7			6	65		2			134
1						1			8
8			7	14		1			60
			1	24					25
									2
			2	7				1	10
28	1		40	70	14	2		10	271
20			7		3			1	167
									7
31			61		21		4		341
			1						24
									17
		1	1		2				43
									25
	1	1	14	11	11	35	26	76	626
47			120	1					277
1			1	1					23
6			8				1		190
									2
2									3
4			2	3	2				58
									202
18	9	2	14	25		1	1	1	124
9		2					1		19

23 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004
 © Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

	16	1	11	4		1			67
	COUNT	NB	CB	SB	NH	NW	CO		
Common Buckeye			1		4	2			
Red-spotted Admiral		106	31	16	18	11			
White Admiral		40	9		7				
Red-spotted Purple		66	22		11	11			
Viceroy		1	6	5	22	4			
Hackberry Emperor				1					
Tawny Emperor					12				
Northern Pearly-eye		19	13	6		5			
Eyed Brown		3	15	12	4	3	1		
Appalachian Brown					14	16	2		
Little Wood-Satyr				16	21	27	54		
Common Ringlet		1				4			
Common Wood-Nymph		61	624	871	192	21	20		
Monarch		3	2	8	28	12	2		
Silver-spotted Skipper		10	9	12	92	404	27		
Hoary Edge					1				
Southern Cloudywing						1			
Northern Cloudywing						5			
Horace's Duskywing									
Wild Indigo Duskywing					6	2			
Common Sootywing					71	1	8		
Least Skipper		27	19	57	5				
European Skipper		58	166	40	5	784			
Peck's Skipper		1	3	8	12				
Tawny-edged Skipper			4	1	6	1	1		
Crossline Skipper						5	2		
Long Dash		2	5	3					
Northern Broken-Dash		5		4	50	40	2		
Little Glassywing			2	10	13	48	6		
Delaware Skipper		2	5	4	24	240	36		
Mulberry Wing			6	4	16	11	9		
Hobomok Skipper				1					
Broad-winged Skipper			5		1				
Black Dash				1	8	9	1		
Dun Skipper		17	121	99	114	23	9		
Tiger Swallowtail Sp.						35			
Clouded/Orange Sulphur						6			
Greater Fritillary						9			
Anglewing Sp.				1					

NE	BW	TR	BV	MV	BR	FA	MI	BA	Total
1			3	1					12
2	2	3	11	4	2				206
									56
2	2	3	11	4	2				134
			5				2		45
									1
									12
3			2				5		53
14			4						56
12			9	10	8				71
11	8	10	111	70	14		20		362
						1			6
28	2	4	163		49	8	10	17	2070
2	4	3		16		1			81
47	11	49	79	62	18	23	1	2	846
									1
					1				2
3									8
			3	1	2				6
	1				3			1	13
									80
2	4	2		2			1		119
25	268	8	21	1	2			1	1379
1									25
7	5		1	11	1		1		39
			5	16		4			32
11	1				1				23
54	4	1	28	29	1	1	2	12	233
20	1		39		2				141
27			39		2			12	391
6			7				3		62
									1
			3					1	10
			3		8				30
2	6	1	17	115	8	1	1	3	537
									35
								1	7
									9
									1

25 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004
 © Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

	COUNT	NB	CB	SB	NH	NW	CO
Individuals		562	1772	1789	2543	3029	501
Species		40	47	46	51	50	36
Participants		3	12	12	19	22	13
Party Hours		16.3	20.7	21.75	64.5	39.7	13



Harvester chrysalis found by Renee LaFontaine, Arlington, MA
July 16, 2004. Photo by Marj Rines.

More Harvester life cycle photos at
<http://mrines.com/Butterflies/GossamerWings/Harvesters2004/index.htm>

NE	BW	TR	BV	MV	BR	FA	MI	BA	Total
931	443	193	1095	1352	260	152	416	212	15250
41	22	20	47	34	30	21	22	17	72
11	9	9	13	6	2	4	1		
	12	6	31.5	22		5.5	5		



Tawny Emperor

Photo by Nancy Young, at the 2002 Northampton
Fourth of July Butterfly Count

27 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004
© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

Reviews

Common Butterflies and Skippers of Eastern North America.
A DVD produced and directed by Richard Walton and Greg Dodge. 2004.

Review by Carl Kamp

Using close-up videography as their medium, Dick Walton and Greg Dodge have produced a new DVD which introduces us to 70 Eastern butterflies and skippers (51 butterflies, 19 Skippers). An historical viewpoint begins the program with footage of some of the earliest pioneers of butterfly research like Edwards and Scudder.

You can watch the DVD from start to finish or use the menu option and through the benefits of DVD programming easily select any one of the butterflies or segments for instant “click and see” viewing. Stop action filming and the use of arrows makes it easy to focus on some of the identifying field marks as they are mentioned for each species.

The filming is first rate and was especially good at catching the iridescent scaling on some of the butterflies including the Pipevine Swallowtail, Coral Hairstreak, and Eastern Tailed Blue. Sometimes the reflective light on the scales that is captured effectively on the DVD is not so obvious in the field. The DVD is also helpful in identifying some of our less common southern immigrants like the Giant Swallowtail, Cloudless Sulphur and Common Checkered Skipper.

28 **MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES** No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

There is an extended section about the Monarch with some wonderful migration shots obviously not taken this year when fall Monarch numbers seem to be the lowest in recent memory. Nectaring, flying into shoreline headwinds or gathering in large groups at the end of the day were some of the Monarch migration highlights.

For \$24.95 you might want to own it just because our own Erik Nielson is mentioned in the “special thanks” credits. Also, Guy Tudor called it “the best introduction to Eastern Butterflies” while Paul Opler says that it is “highly recommended.” Other reasons are that it makes a great gift to a budding butterfly person. It also might be just the thing for those long winter nights... inducing dreams of butterflies that we look forward to seeing again next spring.

The DVD can be ordered from Transit Media. Phone 800 343 5540, or visit the web site www.brownbagproductions.com , and while there take a peek at some of the other titles about dragonflies, hawks, and shorebirds. Note the limited supply VHS version showcasing just the Skippers of the Northeast. It’s a useful tool for reviewing those sometimes challenging varieties of skippers.

Milkweed, Monarchs and More. Ba Rea, Karen S. Oberhauser, and Michael A. Quinn. Bas Relief Publishing Group, 2003. \$9.00

A Field Guide to Monarch Caterpillars (Danaus plexippus). Karen Oberhauser and Kristen Kuda. \$7.00

Reviewed by Richard W. Hildreth

29 MASSACHUSETTS BUTTERFLIES No. 23, Fall 2004

© Copyright 2004 Massachusetts Butterfly Club. All rights reserved.

Milkweed, Monarchs and More is a small book (4 ½” x 6 1/8”, 96 pages). The subtitle, *A Field Guide to the Invertebrate Community in the Milkweed Patch*, very well describes the content of the book. Many of the organisms associated with Milkweeds are very well described and illustrated in color: a lot of excellent information at a small price. This is an essential book for Monarch enthusiasts.

My special interest in this book is in the concept. Pick a flowering plant and watch to see what insects and other organisms are associated with it. Write down your observations and share them. This is the sort of project that butterflyers might want to get involved with.

A Field Guide to Monarch Caterpillars is another small book (5 ½” x 8 ½”, spiral bound, 14 pages). This very excellent guide gives the detailed drawings necessary to identify the various caterpillar instars. If you are serious about Monarchs, you need this book.

How to order: send a check made out to “University of Minnesota Monarch Fund” to Dr. Karen Oberhauser, Department of Ecology, University of Minnesota, 1987 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108. Postage: Orders under \$16, \$2.50; \$16 - \$30, \$4.50. You probably will also receive information regarding two Monarch-related programs at the University of Minnesota – Monarch Larva Monitoring Project and Monarchs in the Classroom. Both these projects will be of interest to many Massachusetts Butterfly Club members.

Visit the MBC website: <http://www.massbutterflies.org>

Submission of Articles, Illustrations, and Season Records

We encourage all members to contribute to *Massachusetts Butterflies*.

Articles, illustrations, descriptions of butterfly sites, garden reports, and book reviews are welcome and should be sent to the Editor by September 15 for the Fall issue, and January 15 for the Spring issue.

Send Fourth of July count results to Erik Nielsen by August 1 for inclusion in the Fall issue, and your season sightings and records to Erik by December 1 for inclusion in the Spring issue. Sending your records periodically during the season will make data entry an easier task.

Massachusetts Butterflies Advisory Board

Brian Cassie, Foxboro, MA
Madeline Champagne, Foxboro, MA
Mark Fairbrother, Montague, MA
Richard Hildreth, Holliston, MA
Matt Pelikan, Oak Bluffs, MA