

The Butterflies of Fort Washington State Park

Fort Washington, Pennsylvania

Compiled 1980 - 2011 by Richard W. Boscoe

Published and distributed by The Militia Hill Hawk Watch
in association with Wyncote Audubon

Total Number of Species - 62

Swallowtails (*Papilionidae*) - 5

Whites and Sulphurs (*Pieridae*) - 5

Brush-footed Butterflies (*Nymphalidae*) - 18

Hairstreaks, Coppers, Blues, and Harvesters (*Lycaenidae*) - 13

Skippers (*Hesperiidae*) - 21

0912



H: Host, OS: Overwinter & Status, BF: Broods & Flights + Comments

Swallowtails

Papilionidae

Pipevine Swallowtail

Battus philenor

H: Pipevine *Aristolochia serpentaria*, does not occur in FWSP

OS: Pupa

BF: Two broods, May into June and August. Rare stray.

Black Swallowtail

Papilio polyxenes

H: Queen Anne's Lace *Daucus carota*, Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*

OS: Pupa

BF: Multiple broods, late April into September

Giant Swallowtail

Papilio cresphontes

H: Prickly Ash *Zanthoxylum americanum*, does not occur in FWSP

OS: Pupa

BF: Two broods, May into June and August. Very rare stray, seen once.

Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio glaucus

H: Wild Cherry *Prunus serotina*, perhaps also Tulip Poplar *Liriodendron tulipifera*

OS: Pupa

BF: Two broods, May into early June, late July into early September

Spicebush Swallowtail

Papilio troilus

H: Spicebush *Lindera benzoin*, Sassafras *Sassafras albidum*

OS: Pupa

BF: Two broods, May into June, late July into early September

Whites & Sulphurs

Pieridae

Orange Sulphur

Colias eurytheme

H: clover *Trifolium*, Sweet White Clover *Melilotus alba*, Crown Vetch *Coronilla varia*

OS: Part-grown larva

BF: Multiple broods, April into October

Common Sulphur (Clouded)

Colias philodice

H: clover *Trifolium*, Sweet White Clover *Melilotus alba*

OS: Part-grown larva

BF: Multiple broods, April into October

Cloudless Sulphur

Phoebis sennae

H: sennas *Senna*, *Chamaecrista*, host plant found elsewhere

OS: Migrant in late summer, does not breed

BF: September. Rare in FWSP.

Little Sulphur

Eurema lisa

H: Sensitive Plant *Chamaecrista nictitans*

OS: Migrant, does not overwinter

BF: August - September. Rare stray in FWSP. Breeding in 2007.

Cabbage Butterfly

Pieris rapae

H: Winter Cress *Barbarea vulgaris*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria officinalis*

OS: Pupa

BF: Multiple broods, late March - early April into October. Larvae will eat many mustards, both wild and cultivated.

Monarchs

Danainae

Monarch

Danaus plexippus

H: milkweeds *Asclepias*

OS: Migratory, does not overwinter in this area

BF: Multiple broods, June to September

Brush-footed Butterflies

Nymphalidae

Little Wood Satyr

Megisto cymela

H: grasses

OS: Part-grown larva

BF: One brood, mid-June through July

Hackberry Butterfly

Asterocampa celtis

H: Hackberry *Celtis occidentalis*

OS: Part-grown larva

BF: Two broods, mid-June into early July and mid-August into early September

Tawny Emperor

Asterocampa clyton

H: Hackberry *Celtis occidentalis*

OS: Part-grown larva

BF: Two broods, June, August. Rare.

Viceroy

Limenitis archippus

H: willow *Salix*

OS: Part-grown larva

BF: Three broods, late May into June, mid-July to early August and early September

Red Spotted Purple

Limenitis arthemis astyanax

H: Wild Cherry *Prunus serotina*, willow *Salix*

OS: Part-grown larva

BF: Three broods, late May into June, mid-July to early August and early September

Buckeye

Junonia coenia

H: Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*

OS: Migratory, does not overwinter in this area

BF: Multiple broods, June into October

Red Admiral

Vanessa atalanta

H: Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*

OS: Adults hibernate/migrate

BF: Multiple broods, June - September. Adult hibernators/migrants appear in May.

Painted Lady

Vanessa cardui

H: thistles *Cirsium*

OS: Migratory, does not overwinter in this area

BF: Migrants arrive in May then multiple broods June into September. Sporadic, not present in most years.

American Painted Lady

Vanessa virginiensis

H: Pussytoes *Antennaria*

OS: Adults hibernate/migrate

BF: Multiple broods, June - August. Adult hibernators/migrants appear in May.

Question Mark

Polygonia interrogationis

H: Elm *Ulmus americana*,

Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*

OS: Adults hibernate

BF: Multiple broods, late May - October. Adult hibernators appear in late March into April. Pronounced seasonal dimorphism, hibernators are much paler than summer individuals.

Comma

Polygonia comma

H: Elm *Ulmus americana*, Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*

OS: Adults hibernate

BF: Multiple broods, late May - October. Adult hibernators appear in late March into April. Pronounced seasonal dimorphism, hibernators are much paler than summer individuals.

Compton Tortoise Shell

Nymphalis vau-album

H: In this area (if breeding) Elm *Ulmus americana* is most likely. Elsewhere willows *Salix*, aspen *Populus* and birch *Betula*.

OS: Adults hibernate, this is essentially a northern species which periodically expands its range

BF: One brood, emerges in late June, flies into October. Hibernators appear in late March through April. Fond of sapflows. First seen in FWSP in September 1995. Not seen since the late 1990's.

Mourning Cloak

Nymphalis antiopa

H: willow *Salix*, elm *Ulmus americana*

OS: Adults hibernate

BF: Number of broods uncertain, perhaps only one emerging in June. Hibernators appear in late March through April.

Pearl Crescent

Phyciodes tharos

H: asters *Aster*

OS: Part-grown larva

BF: Multiple broods, mid-May through September

Meadow Fritillary

Boloria bellona

H: violets *Viola*

OS: Part-grown larva

BF: Multiple broods, mid-April through September

Variegated Fritillary

Euptoieta claudia

H: violets *Viola*, in south passion flower *Passiflora*

OS: Summer influx species, does not overwinter

BF: August - September, occasional breeding is possible

Great Spangled Fritillary

Speyeria cybele

H: violets *Viola*

OS: Unfed first instar larva

BF: One brood, emerges in June and flies through September

☐ **Snout Butterfly**

Libytheana carinenta
H: Hackberry *Celtis occidentalis*
OS: Migratory, does not overwinter in this area
BF: Multiple broods, migrants arrive in June then into September

Hairstreaks, Coppers, Blues and Harvesters
Lycaenidae

☐ **Harvester**

Feniseca tarquinius
H: Larva carnivorous, feeds on wooly aphids especially the alder aphid *Prociphilus tessellatus* on Alder *Alnus rugosa*
OS: Pupa
BF: Multiple broods, June into September. Rare and sporadic in its occurrence in FWSP.

☐ **Coral Hairstreak**

Satyrrium titus
H: Wild Cherry *Prunus serotina*
OS: Egg
BF: One brood, late June to mid July. Adults are very fond of orange butterfly weed.

☐ **Striped Hairstreak**

Satyrrium liparops
H: hawthorn *Crataegus*
OS: Egg
BF: One brood, late June to mid July. Rare, adults visit milkweed and dogbane.

☐ **Hickory Hairstreak**

Satyrrium caryaevorus
H: hickory *Carya*
OS: Egg
BF: One brood, late June - early July. Common as recently as 1982, now rare. Adults fond of milkweed, dogbane and sweet white clover.

☐ **Banded Hairstreak**

Satyrrium calanus
H: Black Walnut *Juglans nigra*
OS: Egg
BF: One brood, late June - early July. Less common than formerly. Adults visit same flowers as Hickory Hairstreak.

☐ **Red-banded Hairstreak**

Calycopis cecrops
H: Reared on Staghorn Sumac *Rhus typhina*. Larvae are detritivores (feeds on rotting leaves)
OS: Part-grown larva, essentially a southern species, near the northern limit of its range.
BF: Multiple broods, May into early September. Adults of the late summer brood are fond of goldenrod.

☐ **White M Hairstreak**

Parrhasius m-album
H: White Oak *Quercus alba*
OS: Pupa, essentially a southern species
BF: Three broods, late April - early May, late June - early July and mid-August into early September. Adults visit yarrow, Queen Anne's Lace, milkweed, dogbane and goldenrod.

Notes:

☐ **Southern Hairstreak**

Fixsenia favonius ontario
H: White Oak *Quercus alba*
OS: Egg
BF: One brood, late June. Adults visit milkweed and dogbane. Extremely rare, seen only once (June 1980).

☐ **Gray Hairstreak**

Strymon melinus
H: Larvae eat plants of many families, mostly Tick Trefoils *Desmodium* in FWSP. Only flowers and seeds are eaten, not leaves.
OS: Pupa
BF: Multiple broods, May through September. Commonest in late summer.

☐ **American Copper**

Lycaena phlaeas
H: Sheep Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: Multiple broods, early May into September

☐ **Eastern Tailed Blue**

Everes comyntas
H: Crown Vetch *Coronilla varia* and other vetches, clover *Trifolium*
OS: Mature larva
BF: Multiple broods, late April into September

☐ **Spring Azure**

Celastrina ladon
H: Dogwood *Cornus*, Cherryleaf *Virburnum* *Virburnum prunifolium*. Larvae eat flowers, not leaves.
OS: Pupa
BF: One brood, April

☐ **Summer Azure**

Celastrina neglecta
H: Dogwood *Cornus*, Maple-leaf *Virburnum* *Virburnum acerifolium*, Green-headed Coneflower *Rudbeckia laciniata*, Wingstem *Actinomeris alternifolia*. Larvae eat flowers, not leaves.
OS: Pupa
BF: Multiple broods, Spring into September

Skippers

Hesperiidae

☐ **Swarthy Skipper**

Nastra Iherminier
H: Little Bluestem Grass *Andropogon scoparius*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: Two broods, June and mid-August to early September

☐ **Least Skipper**

Ancyloxypha numitor
H: Wide-bladed grasses growing in wet ground e.g. Reed Grass *Phalaris arundinacea*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: Multiple broods, early June through September

☐ **Fiery Skipper**

Hylephila phyleus
H: grasses
OS: Migratory, does not overwinter in this area
BF: August, September. An occasional pest on lawn grass in the far south.

☐ **European Skipper**

Thymelicus lineola
H: Timothy Grass *Phleum pratense*
OS: Egg
BF: One brood, June

☐ **Peck's Skipper**

Polites peckius
H: grasses e.g. Low Speargrass *Poa annua*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: Two broods, late May into mid-June, late July to early September

☐ **Tawny-Edged Skipper**

Polites themistocles
H: grasses e.g. Low Speargrass *Poa annua*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: Two broods, late May into mid-June, late July to late August

☐ **Cross-Line Skipper**

Polites origenes
H: Little Bluestem Grass *Andropogon scoparius*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: Two broods, late June to early July, mid-August into early September. Much less common than Tawny-edged Skipper.

☐ **Northern Broken Dash**

Wallengrenia egeremet
H: Panic Grass *Panicum lanuginosum*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: One brood, late June to mid-July. Adults are fond of dogbane.

☐ **Little Glassy Wing**

Pompeius verna
H: Purpletop *Triodia flava*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: One brood, late June. Adults are fond of milkweed.

☐ **Sachem**

Atalopedes campestris
H: grasses
OS: A late summer influx species, does not overwinter in this area
BF: August, September. Adults are fond of thistle.

☐ **Delaware Skipper**

Anatrytone logan
H: Panic Grass *Panicum lanuginosum*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: One brood, early to mid-July. Adults are fond of thistle.

☐ **Zabulon Skipper**

Poanes zabulon
H: grasses, probably preferring broad-bladed species
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: Two broods, late May into June and mid-August into September. Sexes are dimorphic, females are dark.

☐ **Dun Skipper**

Euphyes vestris
H: sedges *Carex*
OS: Part-grown larva
BF: Two broods, mid to late June and mid to late August

☐ **Dusted Skipper**

Atrytonopsis hianna
H: Little Bluestem Grass *Andropogon scoparius*
OS: Mature larva
BF: One brood, late May to mid-June

☐ **Silver-Spotted Skipper**

Epargyreus clarus
H: Indigo Bush *Amorpha fruticosa*, Hog Peanut *Amphicarpa bracteata*, Tick Trefoils *Desmodium*
OS: Pupa
BF: Multiple broods, late May through September

☐ **Long-Tailed Skipper**

Urbanus proteus
H: Legumes including Tick Trefoils *Desmodium* and string bean *Phaseolus*
OS: Migratory, does not overwinter in this area
BF: September, rare in FWSP. Can be a pest on cultivated string beans in the far south.

☐ **Juvenal's Dusky Wing**

Erynnis juvenalis
H: White Oak *Quercus alba*, other oaks elsewhere
OS: Mature larva
BF: One brood, late April to late May

☐ **Horace's Dusky Wing**

Erynnis horatius
H: oaks *Quercus*
OS: Mature larva
BF: Two broods, late April into May and July. Occasional in FWSP.

☐ **Wild Indigo Dusky Wing**

Erynnis baptisiae
H: Crown Vetch *Coronilla varia*, Sweet White Clover *Melilotus alba*
OS: Mature larva
BF: At least two broods, late May into June, July into September

☐ **Checkered Skipper**

Pyrgus communis
H: Common Mallow *Malva neglecta*
OS: Mature larva, does not survive winters in this area in most years
BF: Multiple broods, late May through September. Most often seen in late summer.

☐ **Common Sooty Wing**

Pholisora catullus
H: Pigweed *Chenopodium album*
OS: Mature larva
BF: Multiple broods, May through September. Most often seen in disturbed areas in association with its food plant.

Historical

Not seen in 20+ years

☐ **Wood Nymph**

Cercyonis pegala
H: grasses
OS: Unfed first instar larva
BF: One brood, late June through August

☐ **Hobomok Skipper**

Poanes hobomok
H: grasses, probably *Panicum* and *Poa*
OS: Larva
BF: One brood, late May into June. Adults are fond of blackberry blossoms.

☐ **Hoary Edge**

Achalarus lyciades
H: Tick Trefoils *Desmodium*
OS: Mature larva
BF: One brood, June. Rare in FWSP.