



**A Guide to the
BUTTERFLIES
of the Trails and Fields
at Rice Creek Field Station
State University of New York at Oswego**

Michael Holy - August 2010



Compton Tortoise Shell (*Nymphalis vau-album*) Nymphalidae

Description: [L] Various shades of brown with black and white markings above. Underside is a dark gray with a silver comma on its hindwing.

Interesting Fact: This species is known to aestivate ("hibernate") during the hottest weeks of summer.

Best Observed: Area around Herb Garden, wooded Red Trail between the upper field and parking lot.

Milbert's Tortoise Shell (*Nymphalis milberti*) Nymphalidae

Description: [M] Orange bands across black wings above with blue spots along edge of hindwing.

Interesting Fact: In flight this species is easily mistaken for a Comma or Question Mark despite its wing colors.

Best Observed: Herb Garden, Beaver Meadow on Green Trail, and open fields nectaring Milkweed, Joe-pye Weed, and Purple Loosestrife, June through August.

Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*) Nymphalidae

Description: [L] Wings above are a rich brown black color bordered with blue spots and a pale yellow band.

Interesting Fact: A true hibernator, this species can be observed in wood settings on warm early spring days with snow still on the ground.

Best Observed: Woods in spring, fields and all trails in summer, April through early November.

White Admiral (*Limenitis arthemis*) Nymphalidae

Description: [L] White bands interrupt a black/brown wing color.

Interesting Fact: A variant, the Red-spotted Purple, lacks the white wing bands, substituting a blue green metallic hue.

Best Observed: At Herb garden and along woods-bordered areas of the Green, Red, and Blue Trails, from June through early September.

Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*) Nymphalidae

Description: [L] Wing shape like White Admiral, but with orange and black color of Monarch. It possesses an additional black band on the hindwing.

Interesting Fact: This is the butterfly that mimics the distasteful Monarch.

Best Observed: Late June through early October in open areas along all trails.

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) Nymphalidae

Description: [L] Larger than the Viceroy; lacks black band on inner hindwing.

Interesting Fact: In the autumn Eastern U.S. Monarchs migrate all the way to Mexico. In spring they only make a partial trip back. It is their offspring that actually return north.

Best Observed: All locations except the mature woods of the Blue and Red Trails. Look for it from late May to mid October.



Compton Tortoise Shell
(*Nymphalis vau-album*)
Nymphalidae



Milbert's Tortoise Shell
(*Nymphalis milberti*) Nymphalidae



Mourning Cloak
(*Nymphalis antiopa*) Nymphalidae



White Admiral
(*Limenitis arthemis*) Nymphalidae



Viceroy
(*Limenitis archippus*) Nymphalidae



Monarch
(*Danaus plexippus*) Nymphalidae

Species Checklist

This list includes all butterfly species observed from transect studies by Dr. Peter Weber, Nicholas Weber, and Michael Holy from 1996 through 2009.

Papilionidae

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|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ Black Swallowtail
(<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>) | ___ Canadian Tiger Swallowtail
(<i>Papilio canandensis</i>) |
| ___ Giant Swallowtail
(<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>) | ___ Spicebush Swallowtail
(<i>Papilio troilus</i>) |
| ___ Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
(<i>Papilio glaucus</i>) | |
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Pieridae

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| ___ West Virginia White
(<i>Pieris virginiensis</i>) | ___ Orange Sulphur
(<i>Colias eurytheme</i>) |
| ___ Cabbage white
(<i>Pieris rapae</i>) | ___ Dainty Sulphur
(<i>Nathalis iole</i>) |
| ___ Clouded Sulphur
(<i>Colias philodice</i>) | |
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Lycaenidae

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ Harvester
(<i>Feniseca tarquinius</i>) | ___ Striped Hairstreak
(<i>Satyrium liparops</i>) |
| ___ American Copper
(<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>) | ___ Gray Hairstreak
(<i>Strymon melinus</i>) |
| ___ Bronze Copper
(<i>Lycaena hyllus</i>) | ___ Eastern Tailed-Blue
(<i>Everes comyntas</i>) |
| ___ Coral Hairstreak
(<i>Satyrium titus</i>) | ___ Spring Azure
(<i>Celastrina ladon ladon</i>) |
| ___ Hickory Hairstreak
(<i>Satyrium caryaevorum</i>) | ___ Summer Azure
(<i>Celastrina ladon neglecta</i>) |
| ___ Banded Hairstreak
(<i>Satyrium calanus</i>) | |