The more regular, or commoner Butterflies of NYC, LI and Lower Hudson Valley

Swallowtails

- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail – common and widespread; black morph ♀ scarce.
- Spicebush Swallowtail – common and widespread; mainly open woodlands
- Black Swallowtail – local; mainly Jamaica Bay and coastal areas; open fields
- Pipevine Swallowtail – very irregular southern immigrant, mainly to Jamaica Bay area. Permanent colony along NJ Palisades (Greenbrook sanctuary).

Whites and Sulphurs

- Cabbage White – very common and widespread
- Checkered White - sporadic, occasionally fairly common. Most years confined to Jamaica Bay area.
- Falcate Orangetip – local in Hudson Highlands, early spring. Hook Mt, Rockland Co., etc
- Clouded Sulphur – fairly common and widespread; less so than next species.
- Orange Sulphur – common and widespread; note: white morph ♀.
- Little Yellow - very sporadic southern immigrant; most often to Marine Park, Brooklyn
- Cloudless (Giant) Sulphur – sporadic southern immigrant (occasionally common some years, mainly along coastal area in late summer/fall).

Lycaenids (Glossamer-wings)

- Harvester – very local; permanent colony along Bronx River near Zoo (hard to locate)
- American Copper – common and fairly widespread, though often local; in NYC mainly Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.
- Eastern Tailed Blue – common and widespread.
- Spring Azure – fairly common in Hudson Valley (early spring); rare in NYC.
- Summer Azure – common and widespread; occurs in NYC parks from June-September.
- Coral Hairstreak – fairly common and widespread. Can be seen at Van Cortlandt Park at Vault Hill.
- Acadian Hairstreak – local; mainly Hudson River valley – occurs at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co.
- Banded Hairstreak – common and widespread; e.g. occurs at Forest Park, Queens.
- Edward’s Hairstreak – quite local, always near Scrub Oak (powerline cuts, etc); on Eastern Long Island and Hudson Valley.
- Striped Hairstreak – widespread, but a lower density species; occurs in Van Cortlandt Park.
Juniper (Olive) Hairstreak – fairly widespread but local (always around Red Cedar); local in Hudson Valley and Long Island (not NYC).

Brown Elfin – common in heath Barrens on Eastern Long island; more local in Hudson Valley.

Henry’s Elfin – in our area, only known from Sandy Hook, N.J.


Frosted Elfin – very local colonies in Eastern Long Island.

White M Hairstreak – fairly widespread but quite local; never more than a few and hard to locate, however distinctive.


Gray Hairstreak – fairly widespread but commonest along coast, best numbers in late summer.

Nymphalids, etc

American Snout – nearly always around Celtis occidentalis (Hackberry) trees. Fairly common at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Tottenville, Staten Island and Sandy Hook, N.J.. Sporadic In Hudson Valley.

Variegated Fritillary – irregular immigrant to our area, but usually seen each summer. Most likely in Coastal areas, e.g. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Great Spangled Fritillary – Common in Hudson valley, but very scarce wanderer to NYC parks and Long Island.

Pearl Crescent – very common and widespread.

Meadow Fritillary – fairly common locally in Hudson valley (Pound Ridge, etc).

Silvery Checkerspot – very local in northeastern USA, but a good population survives in ‘North Woods’ area of Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx.

Harris’ Checkerspot – Hudson Valley, where fairly local; best seen at pound Ridge, Westchester Co.

Baltimore – Hudson Valley (where local); now uncommon at Pound Ridge, more frequently seen in Orange Co.

Question Mark – common and widespread; including NYC parks.

Eastern Comma – mainly Hudson Valley, where fairly common; scarce along coastal plain.

Compton Tortoiseshell – local; best areas are inland, west of Hudson River: Rockland Co., best in Sterling Forest, Orange Co.

Mourning Cloak - common and widespread; including NYC parks.

Red Admiral – common and widespread.

American Lady – common and widespread.

Painted Lady – irregular immigrant to area; common some years, absent others.

Common Buckeye – immigrant nearly every year, occasionally commonly; mainly on coastal plain.

Red-Spotted Purple – Fairly common and widespread (Hudson Valley, Long Island,…) but local and scarce in NYC parks.
- Viceroy – fairly common and widespread in Hudson Valley; much more local on coastal plain, but seen occasionally at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and on Staten Island.
- Hackberry Emperor – local; near *Celtis occidentalis* (Hackberry) trees. Best population at Tottenville, Staten Island; rare at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and locally in Hudson Valley.
- Tawny Emperor – similar to above in distribution, but scarcer at Tottenville, more common at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; colonies at Sandy Hook, N.J. Local inland.

**Satyrs**

- Northern Pearly Eye – Hudson Valley only; fairly common in Orange Co., etc.
- Appalachian Brown – the commoner ‘Brown’ in our area. Fairly common in Hudson Valley (e.g., Pound Ridge); more local on Long Island (not in NYC parks).
- Eyed Brown – a more northern species; very locally in Hudson Valley, especially Orange Co.
- Little Wood Satyr – very common and widespread, even in NYC parks with habitat.
- Common Ringlet – has moved south to our region: fairly common at pound Ridge, Westchester Co., Northern N.J., etc.
- Common Wood Nymph – very common north of city and on Long Island, but very scarce in NYC proper.
- Monarch – common and widespread.

**‘Spread-wing’ Skippers**

- Silver-spotted Skipper – common and widespread.
- Hoary Edge – locally fairly common in Hudson valley; good population in Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx. Much more local on Long Island.
- Northern Cloudywing – fairly common and widespread. In Bronx Parks, but not in Queens.
- Southern Cloudywing – much more local here than above; probably best at Pound Ridge.
- Dreamy Duskywing – common and widespread, but scarce in Bronx and absent from Queens.
- Sleepy Duskywing - only likely in Scrub Oak/Pine Barrens on Eastern Long Island.
- Juvenal’s Duskywing – common and widespread, especially in pine/oak barrens; much more local in NYC parks. Spring brood only.
- Horace’s Duskywing – more southern and more local than above (mainly noted in early summer); most likely in coastal plains (Staten Island, etc.)
- Wild Indigo Duskywing – common and now widespread, often around crown-vetch host plant, where it may show up anywhere. 2-3 broods.
- Common Sootywing – fairly common but quite local, especially coastal plain. Prefers disturbed lots, etc.
- Common Checkered Skipper – irregular southern immigrant, mainly to coastal plain (regular at Floyd Bennett Field, Gateway National Recreation Area, Brooklyn). Also, not uncommon in farmlands of southern Orange Co. in late summer.

‘Folded-wing’ grass Skippers

- Swarthy Skipper – fairly common in Jamaica Bay area. Locally on Long Island and very local in Hudson Valley.
- Least Skipper – common and widespread; prefers damp, wet areas.
- European Skipper – very common and widespread. Abundant Hudson valley; less common on eastern Long Island.
- Fiery Skipper – irregular southern immigrant (usually present in late summer); most likely along coast.
- Leonard’s Skipper – formerly in Hudson Valley (extirpated ?). Now, mainly seen on eastern Long Island.
- Cobweb Skipper – fairly common on eastern Long Island (oak/pine barrens, etc.); generally local, but good population at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co.
- Indian Skipper – locally fairly common in Hudson Valley (Pound Ridge, Hook Mt., etc); more local on western Long Island; not in NYC parks.
- Peck’s Skipper – common and widespread, including NYC parks.
- Tawny-Edged Skipper – flies with Peck’s Skipper but more local; common in Hudson Valley, fairly common on Long Island but scarce in NYC.
- Crossline Skipper – mainly one brood here. Widespread, mainly in drier areas than above species. Occurs throughout, including Van Cortlandt Park (Bronx), Jamaica Bay area (Queens, Brooklyn) and eastern Long Island.
- Long Dash – Hudson Valley, where common (apparently, not on coastal plain here).
- Northern Broken Dash – fairly common and widespread, including NYC parks.
- Little Glassywing – fairly common and widespread, but local in NYC (fairly common in Bronx, not in Queens); also Long Island.
- Dun Skipper – common and widespread, especially Hudson Valley. Less regular on Coastal Plain.
- Sachem – increasingly common immigrant to our area (formerly rare); perhaps breeding on Long Island? Mainly in late summer.
- Delaware Skipper – common in Hudson Valley. Occurs uncommonly in Brooklyn and Queens, but mostly not on Long Island east of NYC.
- Mulberry Wing – mainly Hudson Valley, where locally common (e.g., Pound Ridge). Occurs at a few sites on eastern Long Island (Riverhead area).
- Hobomok Skipper – common and widespread, including NYC parks. Increasingly less common eastward on Long Island. Prefers wooded areas.
- Zabulon Skipper – very common and widespread, eastward throughout Long Island.
- Dion Skipper – very local in Hudson Valley (only). Typically, low density species with few dependable sites.
- Dusted Skipper – Locally throughout, especially grassy/sandy barrens, often with Cobweb Skipper (but seems very local on Long Island). However, dependable at pound Ridge.
- Salt Marsh Skipper – fairly common locally, in salt marshes on western Long Island. (Apparently not east of Jones Beach). Hard to find at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, but dependable around Tobay/Oak Beach marshes at Jones.