

Until this checklist, there was no useful literary source that detailed Cape May's butterflies. This list (current to Feb. 2007) is a compilation of records appearing in private collections, museums, and entomology literature (historic and recent), as well as extensive field work since the first checklist was published in 1989. Many of the records cited here do not appear in Opler's *Distribution of the Butterflies of Eastern United States* (1995). This checklist is intended to represent the most up-to-date catalog of the region's unique butterfly fauna and follows the common names in *Checklist & English Names of North American Butterflies*, 2nd Edition, a publication of the North American Butterfly Association, Inc. (2001).

Many of Cape May's butterflies have been poorly studied, especially the skippers (Hesperiidae), and for this reason new species should be expected to turn up from time to time. A suppositional list of species to look for is provided following the checklist; all have occurred on Cape May County's borders.

Records of any butterflies from the suppositional list seen in Cape May County, as well as sightings of any rare or historic species, and sightings of the following NJ Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species (Checkered White, Bronze Copper, Frosted Elfin, Hessel's Hairstreak, Silver-bordered Fritillary, Two-spotted Skipper) should be addressed to:

Pat Sutton
129 Bucks Avenue
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
patclaysutton@comcast.net

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE AND STATUS:

- a - abundant; species observable in great numbers
- c - common; should be seen in proper habitat
- u - uncommon; present in limited numbers and not certain to be seen
- r - rare; seen only at intervals of several years
- l - only found in very localized/specialized habitat
- s - stray, vagrant; irregular immigrant into area; not part of County's fauna & not seen most years (rare)
- * - known to be migratory (some regular); not considered to be permanent resident; temporary breeding possible, yet most can not survive in or near New Jersey for multiple seasons

SEASONS:	
1 Early Spring	Late March to Mid May
2 Late Spring	Mid May to Mid June
3 Early Summer	Mid June to Mid July
4 Mid Summer	Mid July to Late August
5 Late Summer/Fall	September to October (November)

	SEASONS				
	1	2	3	4	5
PIPEVINE SWALLOWTAIL, u*			X	X	X
ZEBRA SWALLOWTAIL, s	X	X	X	X	
BLACK SWALLOWTAIL, c	X	X	X	X	X
E. TIGER SWALLOWTAIL, c	X	X	X	X	X
SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL, c	X	X	X	X	X
PALAMEDES SWALLOWTAIL, s*					X

WHITES & SULPHURS (Pieridae)					
CHECKERED WHITE, r*	X	X	X	X	X
CABBAGE WHITE, a	X	X	X	X	X
FALCATE ORANGETIP, c	X				
CLOUDED SULPHUR, c	X	X	X	X	X
ORANGE SULPHUR, a	X	X	X	X	X
CLOUDED SULPHUR, c*		X	X	X	X
LITTLE YELLOW, u*				X	X
SLEEPY ORANGE, r*	X	X	X	X	X

HARVESTER, COPPERS, HAIRSTREAKS, & BLUES (Lycaenidae)					
HARVESTER, r		X	X	X	X
AMERICAN COPPER, c	X	X	X	X	X
BRONZE COPPER, r			X	X	X
BOG COPPER, l/u			X		
CORAL HAIRSTREAK, c			X		
BANDED HAIRSTREAK, c			X		
STRIPED HAIRSTREAK, u			X		
'NORTHERN' OAK HAIRSTREAK, r			X		
BROWN ELFIN, c	X				
FROSTED ELFIN, l/u	X	X			
HENRY'S ELFIN, c	X				
EASTERN PINE ELFIN, c	X	X			
'OLIVE' JUNIPER HAIRSTREAK, c	X	X	X	X	
HESSEL'S HAIRSTREAK, l/u	X				
WHITE M HAIRSTREAK, u	X	X		X	X
GRAY HAIRSTREAK, c	X	X	X	X	X
RED-BANDED HAIRSTREAK, c	X	X	X	X	X
EASTERN TAILED-BLUE, a	X	X	X	X	X
BLUEBERRY SPRING AZURE, a	X				
HOLLY SPRING AZURE, a	X	X			
SUMMER AZURE, c		X	X	X	X

SNOUTS (Libytheinae: Nymphalidae)	SEASONS				
	1	2	3	4	5
AMERICAN SNOUT, c*		X	X	X	X

BRUSHFOOTS (Nymphalinae: Nymphalidae)					
GULF FRITILLARY, s*				X	X
VARIEGATED FRITILLARY, c*		X	X	X	X
GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY, u			X	X	X
SILVER-BORDERED FRITILLARY, r	X	X		X	
MEADOW FRITILLARY, r	X	X	X	X	X
PEARL CRESCENT, a	X	X	X	X	X
QUESTION MARK, c	X	X	X	X	X
EASTERN COMMA, u	X	X	X	X	X
GRAY COMMA, s				X	X
COMPTON TORTOISESHELL, s*	X		X		X
MOURNING CLOAK, c	X	X	X	X	X
AMERICAN LADY, c-a*	X	X	X	X	X
PAINTED LADY, u-c*	X	X	X	X	X
RED ADMIRAL, c-a*	X	X	X	X	X
COMMON BUCKEYE, c-a*		X	X	X	X
RED-SPOTTED PURPLE, c		X	X	X	X
WHITE ADMIRAL, r/s			X	X	
VICEROY, u		X	X	X	X

HACKBERRY BUTTERFLIES (Apaturinae: Nymphalidae)					
HACKBERRY EMPEROR, u-c		X	X	X	X
TAWNY EMPEROR, u		X	X	X	X

SATYRS & WOOD NYMPHS (Satyrinae: Nymphalidae)					
APPALACHIAN BROWN, l/c			X	X	
LITTLE WOOD-SATYR, c		X	X	X	
COMMON WOOD-NYMPH, c-a			X	X	X

MILKWEED BUTTERFLIES (Danaina: Nymphalidae)					
MONARCH, a*	X	X	X	X	



SKIPPER (Hesperiidae)	SEASONS				
	1	2	3	4	5
SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER, c	X	X	X	X	X
LONG-TAILED SKIPPER, u*				X	X
HOARY EDGE, u		X	X		
SOUTHERN CLOUDYWING, c		X	X	X	X
NORTHERN CLOUDYWING, c		X	X		
HAYHURST'S SCALLOPWING, u		X	X	X	X
SLEEPY DUSKYWING, u	X	X			
JUVENAL'S DUSKYWING, c-a	X	X			
HORACE'S DUSKYWING, c	X	X	X	X	X
WILD INDIGO DUSKYWING, u	X	X	X	X	X
COMMON CHECKERED-SKIPPER, u*			X	X	X
COMMON SOOTYWING, c		X	X	X	X
SWARTHY SKIPPER, c		X	X	X	X
CLOUDED SKIPPER, u*				X	X
LEAST SKIPPER, c		X	X	X	X
EUROPEAN SKIPPER, u		X	X		
FIERY SKIPPER, c*		X	X	X	X
LEONARD'S SKIPPER, u					X
COBWEB SKIPPER, c	X				
PECK'S SKIPPER, u		X		X	X
TAWNY-EDGED SKIPPER, u		X	X	X	X
CROSSLINE SKIPPER, c		X	X	X	X
WHIRLABOUT, s*				X	X
NORTHERN BROKEN-DASH, c				X	
LITTLE GLASSYWING, u		X	X	X	
SACHEM, c-a*		X	X	X	X
DELAWARE SKIPPER, c		X	X	X	
RARE SKIPPER, l/u			X	X	
MULBERRY WING, l/c			X		
ZABULON SKIPPER, c		X	X	X	X
AARON'S SKIPPER, l/c-a		X	X	X	X
BROAD-WINGED SKIPPER, c-a			X	X	X
DION SKIPPER, l/c				X	
BLACK DASH, l/u				X	
TWO-SPOTTED SKIPPER, u				X	
DUN SKIPPER, u		X	X	X	
DUSTED SKIPPER, u		X			
COMMON ROADSIDE-SKIPPER, r	X		X		
EUFALA SKIPPER, s*					X
BRAZILIAN SKIPPER, s*					X
SALT MARSH SKIPPER, c		X	X	X	X
OCOLA SKIPPER, u*				X	X

HISTORICAL LIST (past records; thought to be extirpated)

	SEASONS				
	1	2	3	4	5
GREAT PURPLE HAIRSTREAK					X
APHRODITE FRITILLARY			X	X	
REGAL FRITILLARY				X	X
BALTIMORE CHECKERSPOT			X		
EYED BROWN			X	X	
GEORGIA SATYR			X	X	

SUPPOSITIONAL LIST (Species to look for; might be expected)

	SEASONS				
	1	2	3	4	5
GIANT SWALLOWTAIL*					X
SOUTHERN DOGFACE*					X
ORANGE-BARRED SULPHUR*					X
EDWARD'S HAIRSTREAK			X		
HOARY ELF	X				
SMALL TORTOISESHELL* (Eurasian)	X				X
WHITE PEACOCK				X	X
QUEEN*				X	X
GOLDEN-BANDED SKIPPER		X			
CONFUSED CLOUDYWING		X	X	X	X
DOTTED SKIPPER			X	X	
INDIAN SKIPPER		X			
AROGOS SKIPPER			X	X	
HOBOMOK SKIPPER		X	X		



CMBO's Monarch Monitoring Project
has been carried out each fall since 1996,
September 1 to October 31.
To learn more go to:
www.nj Audubon.org/Research/Monarch.html

Cape May Natural History Hotline
archives are available at:

www.nj Audubon.org

Simply click on "Sightings"
at the top of any page.

This weekly hotline was researched and written by Pat Sutton for 4 1/2 years (Oct. 4, 2001 to April 14, 2006). The archived hotline covers week-by-week reports of butterflies, dragonflies, birds, whales, mammals, marine life, and other nature notes. As such it provides a "Nature's Calendar" timetable to guide the explorations of current naturalists.

Between 1997 and 2006, 61 butterfly species have been recorded at the **CMBO Gardens in Goshen** (at the Center for Research & Education, 600 Route 47 North). At peak season (mid-July through early September), 36 or more species might be tallied there in a day. Rare Skipper (indeed quite rare) is regular and expected in the CMBO Gardens in Goshen throughout July.

For more information, to learn of programs and events, or to read the **"Cape May Birding Hotline"** (609-898-BIRD/2473)

go to:

www.birdcapemay.org
www.nj Audubon.org

or contact
Cape May Bird Observatory

Center for Research & Education
600 Route 47 North
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210; 609-861-0700
cmbo2@nj Audubon.org

Northwood Center
701 East Lake Drive, PO Box 3
Cape May Point, NJ 08212; 609-884-2736
cmbo1@nj Audubon.org

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS VITAL because it supports CMBO's research, education, and conservation efforts. If you are not a member already, consider joining today by sending this form and a check payable to:

Cape May Bird Observatory
600 Route 47 North
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

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- ___ Individual \$35
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BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
DANIEL BEYEL, DIRECTOR

CHECKLIST OF BUTTERFLIES OF CAPE MAY CO., NJ

by DAVID WRIGHT, PAT SUTTON, &
JAMES D. DOWDELL



CAPE MAY COUNTY is blessed with a wide variety of butterflies, **107 species** to be exact. Although this number is somewhat lower than the total number of birds recorded in the county, it is still quite impressive when you consider that butterflies migrate far less than birds and most are permanent "breeders" in the county. Habitat diversity is the key to a large butterfly fauna, and the Cape May area provides a unique blend of salt and freshwater wetlands, bogs, oak and pine woodlands, natural grasslands, old fields, and wildlife gardens. Also the peninsula frequently receives vagrant butterflies arriving from southern locations.

Historically, Cape May is of special interest to lepidopterists. It was here that Dr. Henry Skinner of Philadelphia discovered Aaron's Skipper in 1890. This saltmarsh skipper is still common in Cape May County, one of the few places it is still found in New Jersey. Also, studies on the life history of the Red-banded Hairstreak were carried out in the county near Reed's Beach by Sid Hessel in the late 1940's. Hessel gained considerable prominence in the field of lepidopterology and in 1950 a newly discovered hairstreak from Lakehurst (Ocean Co.) was named after him. This somewhat rare hairstreak, now known as Hessel's Hairstreak, also occurs in Cape May County (in the Atlantic white cedar swamps). The Monarch migration through Cape May each fall (mid-August through November) is as dramatic and wondrous as the bird migration. Cape May is a link in the chain of critical habitats for Monarchs, a chain that reaches all the way to the Monarch winter roosts in the mountains of Mexico.