

## 2014 Eastern Catskills NABA Butterfly Count

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Eastern Catskills North American Butterfly Association (NABA) 4<sup>th</sup> of July Butterfly Count was conducted on Saturday, 28 June 2014. For the second consecutive year we experienced good survey conditions with sunny skies, little wind, and no precipitation, following six initial years of inclement weather hampering part of the count day effort.

Sixteen observers in six field parties encountered a total of 1,589 individuals of 44 adult butterfly species, plus one additional unique immature species (Harris' Checkerspot). Our total number of species and individuals were both slightly above the previous 7-year average of 42.43 species and 1,387 individuals/year. The 2014 count featured many highlights, including a very good showing of hairstreaks, and the effort accurately documented a phenomenal local flight of Baltimore Checkerspots and Banded Hairstreaks during the final week of June into early July.

One apparently fresh **Coral Hairstreak** was observed and photographed in a private meadow at Fehr Brothers in Saugerties, representing a first record for this count and a rare species for the Eastern Catskills region in any season or year. One locally uncommon **Hickory Hairstreak** was seen at Poet's Walk Preserve in Dutchess County, and new high counts were recorded for the following ten species: **Banded Hairstreak (102)**, greatly exceeding last year's high count of 14 and exceeding the total number of Banded Hairstreaks that most local field observers encounter over any given multi-year time period), Summer Azure (21, eclipsing last year's high count of 12), Meadow Fritillary (75, previous high count of 49 in 2009), **Baltimore Checkerspot (117)**, greatly exceeding last year's high count of 39), Tawny Emperor (3, previous high count of 2 in 2013 and 2008), Least Skipper (148, previous high count of 82 in 2013), Peck's Skipper (11, previous high count of 4 in 2013 and 2009), Common Ringlet (18, previous high count of 2 in 2007), Hobomok Skipper (17, previous high count of 8 in 2011), and **Zabulon Skipper (18)**, eclipsing our previous high count of 4 in 2011).

Eastern Comma (17) tied our previous high count, and one Long Dash represented only our second count record, previously recorded in 2010. **Harris' Checkerspot** was recorded for the first time on this count, as immature eggs and caterpillars, at a newly established small colony in a private meadow in Saugerties with introduced host plant. Pearl Crescent and Wild Indigo Duskywing were apparently between flights and absent on the 2014 survey; as were the larval (and adult) stages of Giant Swallowtail, for the first time since 2010.

Below is a summary of the count results. Thanks to all of the field observers for their time and effort. Next year's count is scheduled for the traditional last Saturday of the month, **June 27, 2015**, with Sunday (28 June) reserved for a rain date. Please mark your calendars and save the dates. Steve M. Chorvas – Compiler.

**Adult Butterflies:** Black Swallowtail (4), Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (8), Spicebush Swallowtail (3), Cabbage White (253), Clouded Sulphur (23), Orange Sulphur (1), *White-form female Sulphur sp.* (1), **Coral Hairstreak (1)**, **Banded Hairstreak (102)**, **Hickory Hairstreak (1)**, Striped Hairstreak (1), Eastern Tailed-Blue (30), Summer Azure (21), Great Spangled Fritillary (169), Meadow Fritillary (**75**), **Baltimore Checkerspot (117)**, Question Mark (5), Eastern Comma (17), *Anglewing sp.*(1), Mourning Cloak (4), American Lady (2), Red Admiral (15), Red-spotted Purple (3), Viceroy (3), Hackberry Emperor (1), Tawny Emperor (3), Northern Pearly-eye (5), Appalachian Brown (13), Little Wood-Satyr (82), Common Ringlet (18), Common Wood-Nymph (12), Monarch (4), Silver-spotted Skipper (50), Hoary Edge (5), Northern Cloudywing (8), Least Skipper (148), European Skipper (156), Peck's Skipper (11), Tawny-edged Skipper (7), Long Dash (1), Northern Broken-Dash (8), Little Glassywing (68), Delaware Skipper (1), Hobomok Skipper (17), Zabulon Skipper (18), Dun Skipper (21), *Grass-Skipper "Witch" sp.* (46), other *Grass-Skipper sp.* (26).

**Immature Butterflies:** Black Swallowtail (2 caterpillars [cats] on Fennel), Spicebush Swallowtail (10 cats on Spicebush), **Harris' Checkerspot** (~150 eggs and ~400 cats on Flat-topped Aster), American Lady (11 cats on Pearly Everlasting), Viceroy (4 cats on Aspen), Hackberry Emperor (5 cats on Hackberry), Silver-spotted Skipper (4 cats on Black Locust and 4 cats on False Indigo), Hoary Edge (2 cats on Showy Tick-trefoil).

### Participants, Field Parties and Field Party Effort (Miles on Foot):

**Central** – Henry Halama, Laurie Bloomfield, Jayne Dean, Charles Woodruff (09:00 – 17:30 / 8.50 hrs. / 3 miles)

**Northern (1-8)** – Steve Chorvas, Alan Beebe (08:45 – 19:30 / 10.75 hrs. / 3.5 miles)

**Northern (9-13)** – Frank Murphy, Deb Ferguson (10:00 – 17:25 / 4.75 hrs. / 4.5 miles)

**Dutchess** – Barry Haydasz, Barbara and Ray Mansell (10:00 – 16:00 / 6.0 hrs. / 3 miles)

**Southern (1-7)** – Mark DeDea, Lin Fagan, Jessica Prockup, Wendy Tocci (09:35 – 16:00 / 6.50 hrs. / 3.0 miles)

**Southern (8)** – Thomas Crepet (10:10 – 15:30 / 5.25 hrs. / 1.5 miles)

**Observers: 16 Field Parties: 6 Party-hours: 41.75 Party-miles: 18.5 Weather: AM Sunshine: 76-100 % PM Sunshine: 76-100 % Temperature: 71 - 85°F Wind: SE 0-7 mph**



**Coral Hairstreak  
Saugerties, NY  
June 28, 2014  
Jessica Prockup**



8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern Catskills NABA Fourth of July Butterfly Count June 28, 2014		Central	Winston Farm	EBNP	Phillips Rd	Glasco PL	Woodstock	Northern	Seamon Park - HITS	West Camp Field	Dave Elliott Meadow	Dave Elliott Utility Cut	Dave Elliott Road	Great Vly WMA	Kolar Rd	Mt. Airy/Hommel PL		Northern	Lauren Tice Fields	Bristol Beach SP	Thorn Preserve	Saug. Lighthouse	Falling Waters	Dutchess	Poet's Walk		Southern	Jockey Hill fields	Onteora Lake East	Onteora Lake West	Zena School	Kingston Res. #1	Ruby Utility Cut	Fehr Fields		Southern	IBM Rec. Fields	
Total	Species	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			9	10	11	12	13		1			1	2	3	4	5	6	7			8		
8	Northern Cloudywing	2			2																		3	3		2	1					1			1	1		
148	Least Skipper	30	4	20	1	3	2	36	3	15	8	7		2	1			18	1	2	5		10	10	10	52	15		1	3			1	32		2	2	
156	European Skipper	18	2	10	1	3	2	10		4	4	2						5		5			51	51	72	30								42				
11	Peck's Skipper	1		1				8	1	5	2							2				2																
7	Tawny-edged Skipper	1		1				3		1	1	1						3				3																
1	Long Dash							1			1																											
8	Northern Broken-Dash	5		3		1	1	1			1													2	2													
68	Little Glassywing	6		6				17		6	5	6						16		3	3		10	17	17	11	4		1	1	2	1	2		1	1		
1	Delaware Skipper																																			1	1	
17	Hobomok Skipper	3		3				7		3	3	1						2		2						5	1							4				
18	Zabulon Skipper	1		1																				17	17													
21	Dun Skipper	12		11			1	7		2	5															1	1									1	1	
46	"Witch" sp.	27	8	10	2	3	4	14		6	8							4		2	1		1			1								1				
26	Skipper sp.							3		1	2															9	3					2			4		14	14
1,589	<b>Total Individuals</b>	303	46	144	34	56	23	357	12	105	53	129	19	34	3	2		226	10	23	147	7	39	215	215	412	79	2	14	17	9	15	276		76	76		
44	<b>Total Species</b>	30						24										21						21		29										17		

Immature Butterfly Species	Egg(s)	Caterpillar(s)	Pupa(s)	On (plant/surface)	Location
Black Swallowtail		2		Fennel	Northern – Malden Garden
Spicebush Swallowtail		10		Spicebush	Northern – Dave Elliott Meadow
Harris' Checkerspot	~150	~400		Flat-topped Aster	Northern – Dave Elliott Meadow (2+6 clusters)
American Lady		11		Pearly Everlasting	Northern – Malden Garden (6), D. Elliott Meadow (5)
Viceroy		4		Aspen	Northern – Malden Garden (2), D. Elliott Powerline (2)
Hackberry Emperor		5		Hackberry	Northern – Seamon Park
Silver-spotted Skipper		8		Black Locust (4), False Indigo (4)	Northern – Dave Elliott Road (4), Malden Garden (4)
Hoary Edge		2		Showy Tick-trefoil	Northern – Dave Elliott Powerline North

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**Notes:** Coral Hairstreak new species for count, Hickory Hairstreak locally uncommon. **New High Counts** for Banded Hairstreak, Summer Azure, Meadow Fritillary, Baltimore Checkerspot, Tawny Emperor, Least Skipper, Peck's Skipper, Common Ringlet, Hobomok Skipper, and Zabulon Skipper. Eastern Comma tied previous high count. Long Dash second count record.