

# Vermont Butterfly Taxonomy Guide

This is not a comprehensive species list of butterflies in Vermont, but will help you learn to recognize groups and their names, which is especially useful when you are in the field!

## Swallowtail

Family *Papilionidae*

### Subfamily: Papilioninae

*Heraclides cresphontes* (Giant Eastern Swallowtail)

*Papilio* spp. (4) (all others)



Spicebush Swallowtail  
*P. troilus*



Eastern, Canadian,  
Midsummer Swallowtails  
(*Papilio* species)



Black Swallowtail  
*P. polyxenes*

## Brush-footed

Family *Nymphalidae*



Subfamily: Apaturinae (Emperors)  
*Asterocampa* spp. (2)



Subfamily: Limenitidinae (Admirals & Viceroy)  
*Limenitis* spp. (3)



Subfamily: Danainae (Milkweed)  
*Danaus plexippus* (Monarch)



Subfamily: Nymphalinae (Nymphs, Checkerspots)  
*Nymphalis* spp. (3) (Tortoiseshells & Mourning Cloak)  
*Aglais milberti* (Milbert's Tortoiseshell)  
*Polygonia* spp. (4) (Commas & Question Mark)  
*Phyciodes* spp. (2) (Northern & Pearl Crescents)  
*Euphydryas phaeton* (Baltimore Checkerspot)  
*Chlosyne* spp. (2) (Harris's & Silvery Checkerspot)  
*Vanessa* spp. (3) (Ladies & Admirals)  
*Junonia coenia* (Common Buckeye)



Subfamily: Satyrinae (Satyrs)  
*Coenonympha inornata* (Common Ringlet)  
*Megisto cymela* (Common Wood-Nymph)  
*Oeneis jutta balder* (Jutta Arctic)  
*Lethe* spp. (3)



Subfamily: Heliconiinae (Fritillary)  
*Euptoieta claudia* (Variegated Fritillary)  
*Argynnis* spp. (3)  
*Boloria* spp. (2)  
*Speyeria* spp. (4)



Subfamily: Libytheinae  
*Libytheana carinenta* (American Snout)  
\*rare subfamily



VERMONT CENTER  
FOR  
ECOSTUDIES

Uniting People and Science for Conservation

# Skippers

Family *Hesperiidae*

Subfamily: **Heteropterinae** (Skipperlings)  
*Carterocephalus mandan* (Arctic Skipper)



Subfamily: **Hesperiinae** (Grass Skippers)

Includes +20 species from 12 genera of Grass Skippers.  
 Includes most of the Grass Skippers with relatively  
 bright colors and orange/yellow on wings;  
 however, see Silver-spotted Skipper  
 and Arctic Skipper



Subfamily: **Eudaminae** (Dicot Skippers)  
*Epargyreus clarus* (Silver-spotted, shown in image)  
*Thorybes pylades* (Northern Cloudywing)



Subfamily: **Pyrginae** (Spread-wing Skippers)

Almost all are very dark colored  
*Burnsius communis* (Common Checkered-Skipper)  
*Pholisora catullus* (Common Sootywing)  
*Erynnis* spp. (4)

# Gossamer-winged

Family *Lycaenidae*

Subfamily: **Theclinae** (Hairstreaks)  
*Satyrium* spp. (6) (Satyrid Hairstreaks)  
*Callophrys* spp. (5) (Green Hairstreaks)  
*Eryora laeta* (Early Hairstreak)  
*Strymon melinus* (Gray Hairstreak)  
*Parrhasius m-album* (White-m Hairstreak)



Subfamily: **Polyommatinae** (Blues)  
*Polyommatus icarus* (Common Blue)  
*Glaucopsyche lygdamus* (Silvery Blue)  
*Cupido comynatas* (Eastern Tailed-Blue)  
*Celastrina* spp. (3) (Holarctic Azures)



Subfamily: **Lycaeninae** (Coppers)  
*Lycaena* spp. (3)  
*Tharsalea* spp. (2)



Subfamily: **Miletinae** (Harvesters)  
*Feniseca tarquinius* (Harvester)

# Whites & Yellows

Family *Pieridae*

Subfamily: **Pierinae** (Whites)  
*Pieris virginiensis* (West Virginia White)  
*Pieris rapae* (Cabbage White) [abundant]  
*Pieris oleracea* (Mustard White)



Subfamily: **Coliadinae** (Yellows)  
*Colias* spp. (3) (Sulphurs)  
*Pyrisitia lisa* (Little Yellow) [very rare]  
*Phoebis sennae* (Cloudless Sulphur) [very rare]