

Schiff's butterflies are commonly found throughout the forest, in the native plant garden and in the Great Meadow.

The butterflies of Schiff can be organized into the following five families, each of which is easily identifiable with some practice.

Swallowtails (*Family Papilionidae*)

Easy to recognize large butterflies that usually have "tails" on their hindwings. When landing on flowers for nectar, Swallowtails continue beating their wings instead of resting.

Whites and Sulphurs (*Family Pieridae*)

These small to large butterflies exhibit a fairly rapid and low flight, usually with only short stops for nectar. Sulphurs often drink water on damp earth, an activity known as "mud puddling."

Gossamer-wings (*Family Lycaenidae*)

These small butterflies usually perch with their wings closed. Some form symbiotic relationships with ants. The larvae (caterpillars) secrete a "honey-dew" from special glands that attract the ants and then ants tend the larvae, helping to protect them from predators.

Brushfoots (*Family Nymphalidae*)

The most diverse butterfly family. The single character common to all Brushfoots is their greatly reduced forelegs, giving the appearance of having only two pairs of legs. Some adults specialize in feeding on tree sap, rotting fruit, carrion or even dung.

Skippers (*Family Hesperidae*)

Small to medium sized brown butterflies that derive their name from their rapid, darting flight. Some Skippers resemble moths, but unlike moths, Skippers have clubbed antennae. They land with their wings closed or only partially opened.

Work still needs to be done to add to our understanding of butterfly distribution at Schiff. Please send comments or sightings to: info@schiffnaturepreserve.org or call the Nature Center at 973-543-6004. Reports should include sighting date, exact location, observed behavior and photographs, if possible.

A great resource for studying these fascinating bugs in our home state: *Butterflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Eastern North America* by Jeffrey Glassberg

Enthusiasts may also be interested in The North American Butterfly Association's New Jersey Chapter.

<http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabanj/>

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All photos courtesy of Allen Barlow



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Paper info to come

Butterflies

Scientific Name: *Insecta: Lepidoptera*

OF SCHIFF NATURE PRESERVE

Spring Azure



Butterflies are mainly day-flying insects of the order Lepidoptera. Butterflies have large, often brightly colored wings, and conspicuous, fluttering flight. Schiff Nature Preserve is home to at least 41 species of butterflies.



Butterfly Checklist for the Schiff Nature Preserve Area

Key To Status*

C - Common; seen in proper habitat at proper time
 U - Uncommon; visitor or occasionally seen
 R - Rare; Seen at preserve, but unexpected

Northern Pearly Eye

Gossamer-Wings

Lycaenidae

- Azure, Spring**
Celastrina ladon C Apr – Sept
- Azure, Summer**
Celastrina ladon neglecta C Apr – Sept
- Blue, Eastern Tailed**
Everes comyntas C May – Sept
- Copper, American**
Lycaena phlaeas C May – Sept
- Hairstreak, Gray**
Strymon melinus R May – Sept
- Hairstreak, Red-banded**
Satyrium calanus U/C Jun – Jul

Skippers

Hesperiidae

- Cloudywing, Northern**
Thorybes plyades U May – Jun
- Duskywing, Juvenal's**
Erynnis juvenalis C Apr – Jun
- Duskywing, Wild Indigo**
Erynnis baptisiae U Apr – Jun
- Glassywing, Little**
Pompeius verna C Jun – Jul
- Skipper, Crossline**
Polites origenes U Jun – Aug
- Skipper, Delaware**
Atrytone logan C July
- Skipper, Dun**
Euphyes vestris C Jun – Sept
- Skipper, Fiery**
Hylephila phyleus R/U Aug – Sept
- Skipper, Hobomok**
Poanes hobomok C May – Jun
- Skipper, Least**
Ancyloxypha numitor C Jun – Aug
- Skipper, Peck's**
Polites mystic C Jun – Sept
- Skipper, Sachem**
Atalopedes campestris R Jul – Sept
- Skipper, Silver-Spotted**
Epargyreus clarus U/C May – Sept
- Skipper, Tawny-Edged**
Polites themistocles C Jun – Aug

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status* Flight Period

Brushfoots

Nymphalidae

- Admiral, Red**
Vanessa atalanta U/C Apr – Sept
- American Snout**
Libytheana carinenta R May – Aug
- Buckeye, Common**
Junonia coenia U Jun – Sept
- Cloak, Mourning**
Nymphalis antiopa U/C Mar – Sept
- Comma, Eastern**
Polygonia comma C Mar – Oct
- Crescent, Pearl**
Phyciodes tharos C May – Sept
- Fritillary, Great Spangled**
Speyeria cybele C Jun – Sept
- Fritillary, Variegated**
Euptoieta claudia U Apr – Oct
- Lady, American**
Vanessa virginiensis U/C Apr – Sept
- Lady, Painted**
Vanessa cardui U May – Sept
- Monarch**
Danaus plexippus U/C Jun – Nov
- Viceroy**
Limentis archippus C May – Sept
- Wood-Nymph, Common**
Cercyonis pegala C Jun – Sept
- Wood-Satyr, Little**
Megisto cymela C May – Jul



Eastern Comma

Swallowtails

Papilionidae

- Swallowtail, Black**
Papilio polyxenes U May – Sept
- Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger**
Papilio glaucus C May – Sept
- Swallowtail, Spicebush**
Papilio troilus U/C May – Sept

Whites & Sulphurs

Pieridae

- Sulphur, Clouded**
Colias philodice U/C May – Oct
- Sulphur, Cloudless**
Phoebis sennae R May – Oct
- Sulphur, Orange**
Colias eurytheme U/C May – Oct
- White, Cabbage**
Pieris rapae C Apr – Oct



Pearl Crescent