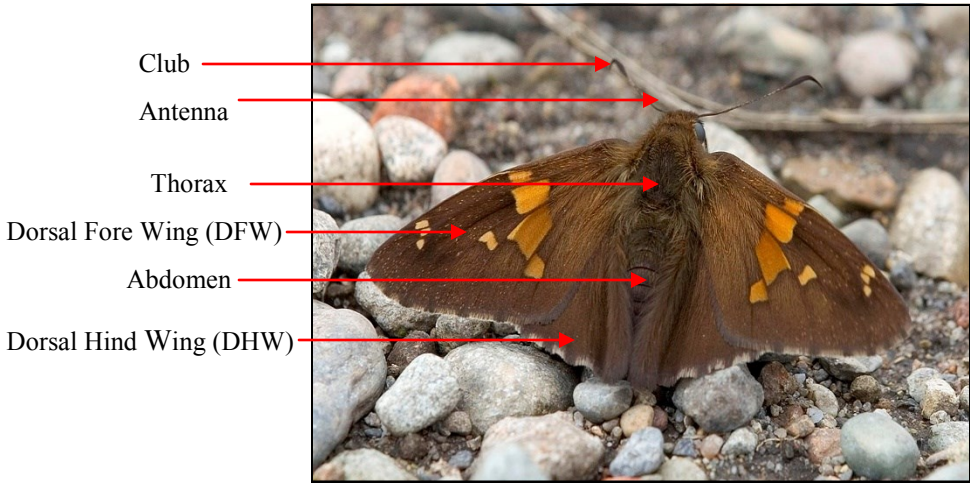
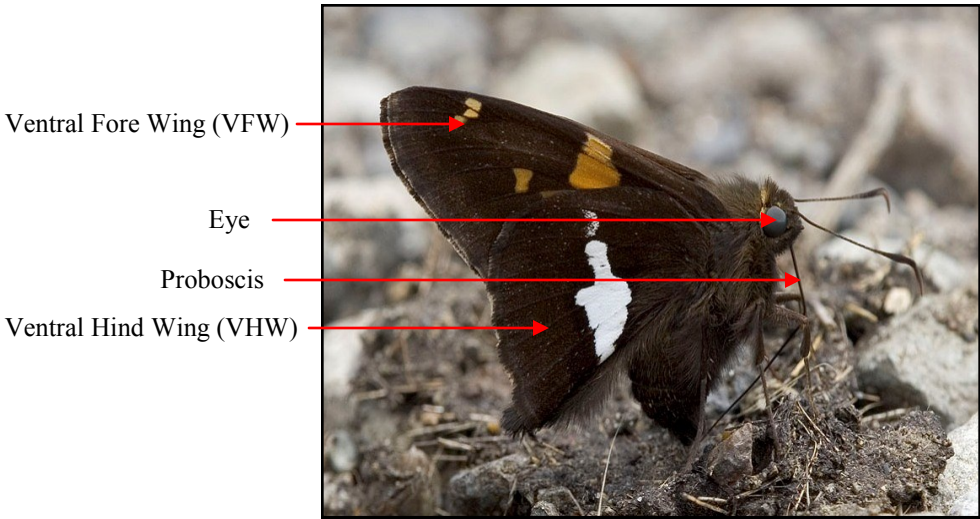


Butterfly Anatomy

Dorsum (Upperside) (DW)



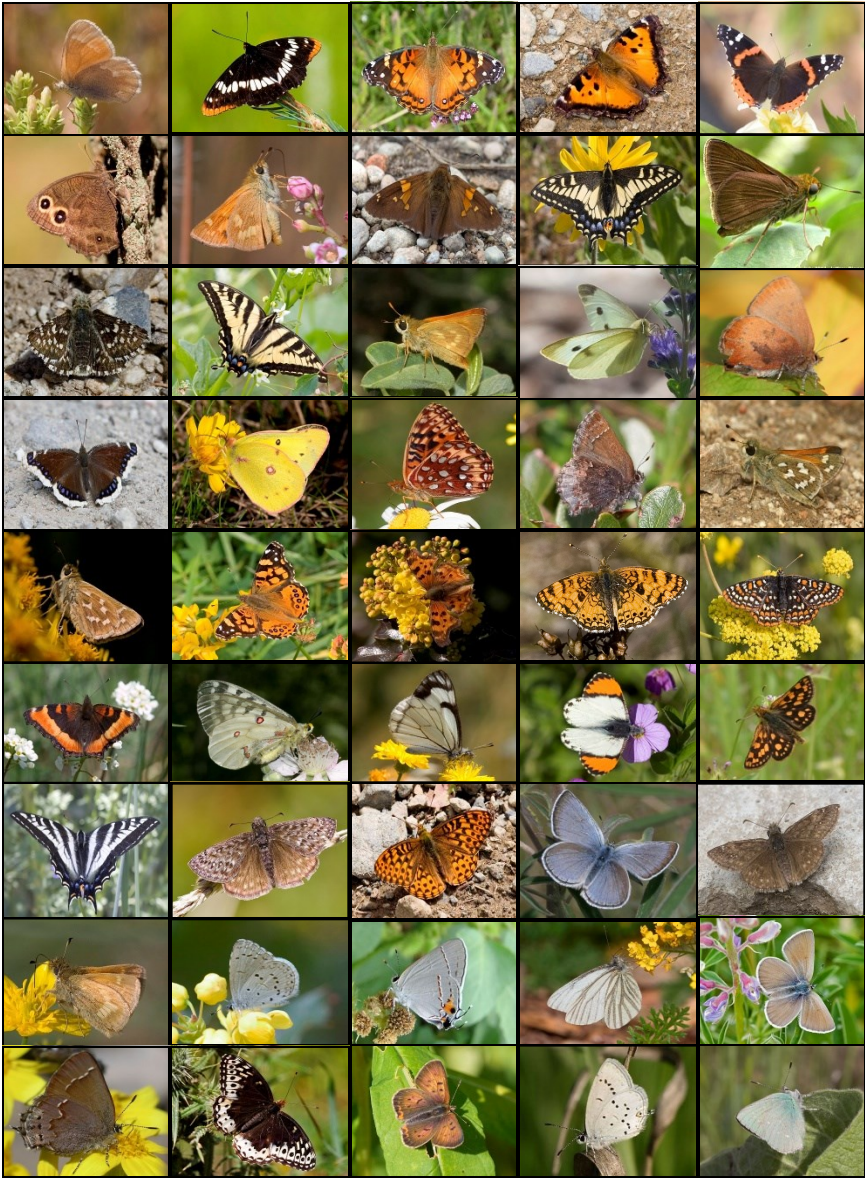
Ventrum (Underside) (VW)



Text by Ann Potter and Rod Gilbert. All photos by Rod Gilbert unless otherwise stated. This item may not be reproduced, except for personal use, or sold without the author’s written permission. Flight periods are specific to SPS. March 2014. Report rare or species of conservation concern to: Ann.Potter@dfw.wa.gov

A Region Specific Guide to Butterflies of South Puget Sound, Washington

Rod Gilbert and Ann Potter





Silver-spotted Skipper

Epargyreus clarus

Habitat: Open flowery places, riparian, parks, gardens

Flight period: May - July

Larval host: Legumes

Notes: Large turtle shaped white marking on VHW and orange patches on DFW. Remarkable looking butterfly. Uncommon in WA.



Randy Emmitt



Dreamy Duskywing

Erynnis icelus

Habitat: Woodland edges and openings

Flight period: May - June

Larval host: Willows, poplars, locusts

Notes: < 1.5" Uncommon locally. A few known occurrences in Mason Co. No hyaline spots on DFW. Report sightings.

Randy Emmitt





Propertius Duskywing
Erynnis propertius

Habitat: Oak woodlands and adjacent grasslands, forest openings

Flight period: L Apr - E June

Larval host: Garry oak obligate

Notes: Largest Duskywing skipper in our region. < 1.75" Rare. Species of conservation concern in W WA. Difficult to ID. Report any sighting. Extant at Bald Hills.



Persius Duskywing
Erynnis persius

Habitat: Meadows, glades, mountains

Flight period: May - June

Larval host: Legumes

Notes: < 1.5" Mostly montane. Difficult to ID. Report sightings.



Ron Wolf



Two-banded Checkered Skipper

Pyrgus ruralis

Habitat: Meadows, prairies, glades, road edges

Flight period: L Apr - May

Larval host: Cinquefoil, strawberry

Notes: Moth-like and small. D&V wings and margins checkered with white squares.



Arctic Skipper

Carterocephalus palaemon

Habitat: Wet meadows, streambanks, forest openings

Flight period: May - E June

Larval host: Wet habitat grasses

Notes: Can't be confused with any other Skipper. DW have bright orange cells and VHW has outlined creamy orbs.



Tom Murray

Notes

Book resources for detailed descriptions and more information on Pacific Northwest butterflies:

The Butterflies of Cascadia (Pyle)

Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies (James and Nunallee)

An Atlas of Washington Butterflies (Hinchliff)

Web: <http://butterfliesofamerica.com>



Caitlin LaBar

Common Wood Nymph

Cercyonis pegala incana

Habitat: Grasslands, meadows, roadsides, forest glades

Flight period: July - E Sept

Larval host: Grasses

Notes: Common, large, > 2" Dark brown to often almost black. Prominent concentric circle eye spots on DFW and VFW. Weak flight pattern.



World Wildlife Fund

Monarch

Danaus plexippus

Habitat: Any locally

Flight period: May - Sept

Larval host: Milkweeds

Notes: Rare transitory migrant. Host does not occur in SPS. Occasionally released by humans.



Juba Skipper

Hesperia juba

Habitat: Prairies, grasslands

Flight period: May and L July - E Sept

Larval host: Grasses

Notes: Largish skipper, > 1.5" Pale apical spots and dorsal pattern of black margins pointing inward. Head and upper abdomen often greenish pubescent. Difficult to identify (see Oregon Branded Skipper) Uncommon in SPS.



Oregon Branded Skipper

Hesperia colorado oregonia

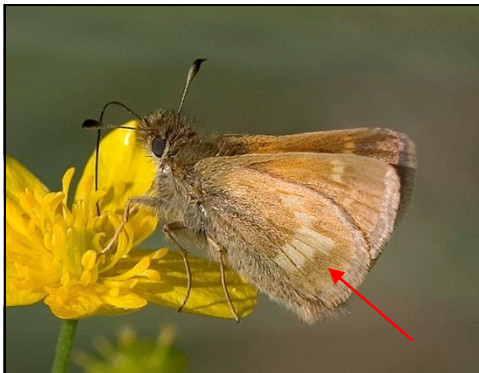
Habitat: Prairies, grasslands

Flight period: L July - E Sept

Larval host: Grasses and sedges.

Notes: < 1.25" ♀'s greenish, ♂'s tawny orange. Clear cream rectangular cells with leading edges, distinct markings on VHW. Rare, species of conservation concern. Report sightings.





Mardon Skipper
Polites mardon mardon

Habitat: Prairies, native grasslands, meadows

Flight period: E May - M June

Larval host: Roemer's fescue and CA oatgrass

Notes: < 1" Small tawny skipper. Strongly rectangular cells in VHW discal band. Difficult to ID (compare to Sonora Skipper). Rare. Species of conservation concern, report sightings.



Kim and Mike Strangeland

Sonora Skipper
Polites sonora siris

Habitat: Meadows, prairies, pastures, roadsides, stream banks

Flight period: E June - M July

Larval host: Grasses

Notes: Small, rectangular cells in symmetrical semi-circular pattern enclosing basal spot on VHW. Difficult to ID (compare to Mardon Skipper). Species of conservation concern, report sightings.



Kim and Mike Strangeland



Lorquin's Admiral
Limnitis lorquini

Habitat: Most habitats except forest interior, wide-ranged

Flight period: June - Aug

Larval host: Willows, aspen, cottonwood, hardhack, ocean spray, apple

Notes: White band of rounded rectangular cells across V and D wings. Watch for look-alike California Sister, which is anticipated but not yet recorded for SPS.



Ochre Ringlet
Coenonympha tullia eunomia

Habitat: Grasslands, roadsides, pastures

Flight period: L Apr-E June, M July - E Sept. Multiple generations per year

Larval host: Grasses

Notes: Creamy-orange FW, light to dark tan HW, with irregular white bands. Weak flight pattern.





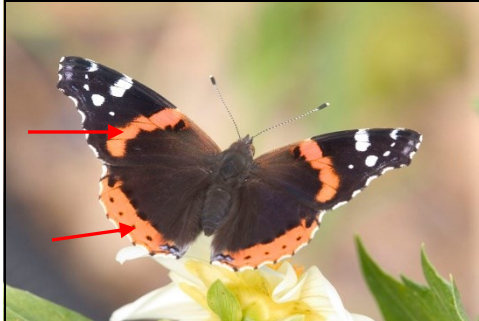
Painted Lady
Vanessa cardui

Habitat: All habitats

Flight period: Anytime.
Most likely Apr - June and
Aug - Oct

Larval host: Thistles fa-
vored, but a wide diversity of
hosts may be used

Notes: Widespread, com-
mon. White mark on DFW
leading edge (orange in other
ladies). Populations erupt in
north-flowing emigration
events, does not occur in WA
every year. Sometimes re-



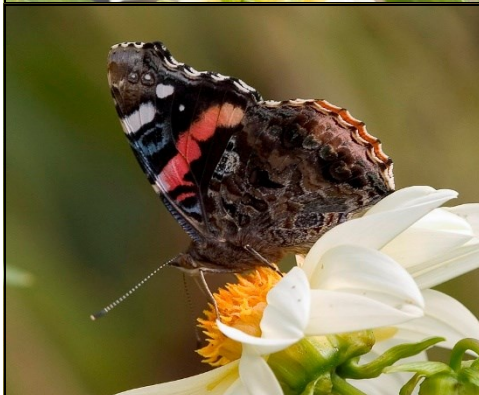
Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta

Habitat: Most habitats ex-
cept forest, wide-ranged

Flight period: May - Aug

Larval host: Nettles

Notes: Common. Wide or-
ange margins on bottom of
DFW, orange band on
DFW. Mottled, bark-like
VHW.



Woodland Skipper
Ochlodes sylvanoides

Habitat: Open, grassy are-
as, including urban areas

Flight period: L July - M
Sept

Larval host: Grasses

Notes: Widespread, com-
mon. Often the only skip-
per flying locally during
the late summer



Dun Skipper
Euphyes vestris

Habitat: Woodland edge,
grasslands, watercourses,
wetlands, prairie

Flight period: May - June

Larval host: *Carex* spp.

Notes: Chocolate brown col-
or. Fresh individuals often
with a purple iridescence.
Wings are often immaculate
(esp. males), though many indi-
viduals (esp. females) have
small, white marks on the DFW
or VHW.



Kim and Mike Strangeland



Clodius Parnassian

Parnassius clodius

Habitat: Open woodlands, roadsides, clearings

Flight period: M May - July

Larval host: Bleeding heart

Notes: < 3" Only Parnassian in SPS. Outer FWs are waxy and translucent. Appears to be large, dirty-white butterfly until closer inspection.

Kim and Mike Strangeland



Anise Swallowtail

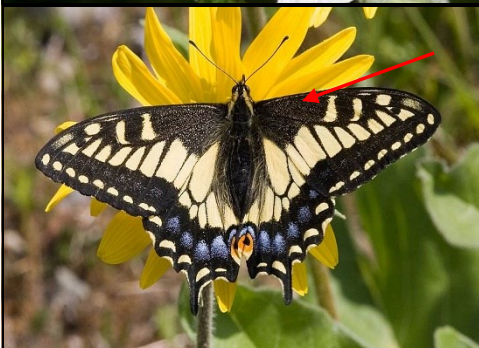
Papilio zelicaon

Habitat: Every habitat except deep woods

Flight period: L Apr - July
Multiple generations per year

Larval host: Carrot family

Notes: Common. Broad black border along leading edge of DFW.



Jeffrey Pippen



American Lady

Vanessa virginiensis

Habitat: Fields, parks, gardens

Flight period: Anytime, most likely Aug - Oct

Larval host: Pearly everlasting, pussytoes

Notes: Rare. Not documented in Pierce or Thurston Co. Sometimes released by humans. Ornate and complex patterned VHW with two prominent eye spots.



West Coast Lady

Vanessa annabella

Habitat: Meadows, marshes, gardens

Flight period: June - Oct

Larval host: Mallows, nettles

Notes: Row of prominent blue spots with black bands around on the DHW. Populations erupts in north-flowing emigration events, does not occur in WA every year.



Erik Runquist





Mourning Cloak

Nymphalis antiopa

Habitat: Riparian, glades, wet meadows, roadsides

Flight period: M Feb - E June, July - Sept. Adults overwinter

Larval host: Willows, alders, maples, poplars, roses, hardhack

Notes: > 3" Widespread, distinct. One of the earliest butterflies to fly. Brown with cream leading edge on D and V wings.



Milbert's Tortoiseshell

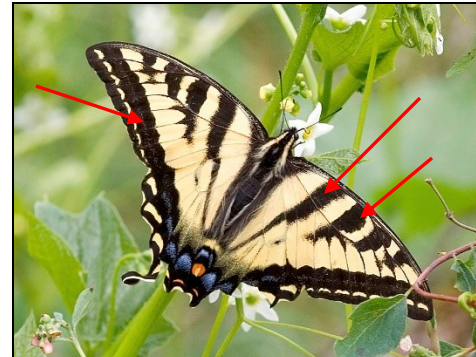
Nymphalis milberti

Habitat: Riparian, glades, wet meadows, roadsides

Flight period: Mar - May, July - Sept. Adults overwinter

Larval host: Stinging nettle

Notes: Large contiguous orange band along DWs.



Western Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio rutulus

Habitat: Most habitats

Flight period: May - July

Larval host: Broadleaf trees, incl. big leaf maple, willows, aspen, cottonwood, cherries

Notes: Common. Yellow, with broad black border on trailing edge of wings. DFW has broad, black stripes. (see Pale Tiger Swallowtail).



Pale Tiger Swallowtail

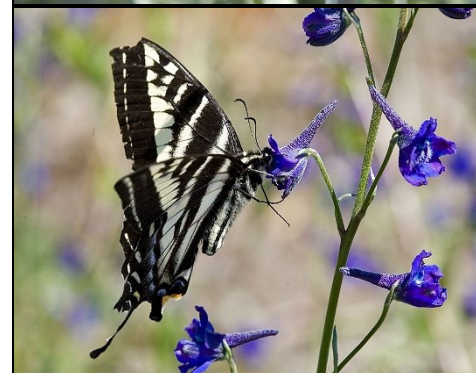
Papilio eurymedon

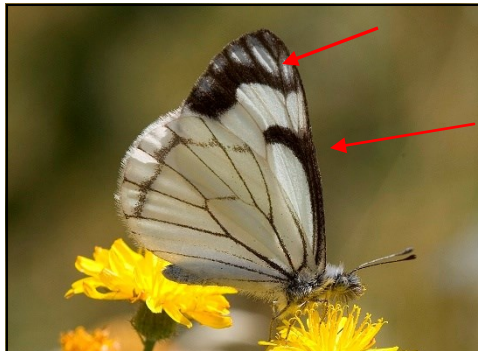
Habitat: Open woodlands, shrubby open areas

Flight period: May - July

Larval host: Red alder, cascara, ocean spray, serviceberry & bittercherry

Notes: Common. Light cream to chalk white with broad black border on trailing edge of wings (see Western Tiger Swallowtail).





Pine White

Neophasia menapia

Habitat: Coniferous forests, urban neighborhoods

Flight period: L July - Sept

Larval host: Conifers

Notes: Extensive black markings on leading edge of FW. Often in forest canopy. Weak, floppy flight pattern.



Margined White

Pieris marginalis

Habitat: Forest edge, roadsides, glades

Flight period: May - June, and Aug. Two generations per year

Larval host: Mustards

Notes: < 2" Sometimes yellowish with deep green venation. Summer brood often without veins.



Oreas Anglewing

Polygonia oreas

Habitat: Forest edge, streams, clearings, meadows

Flight period: Mar - June, and July - Sept. Adults overwinter

Larval host: Currants (*Ribes* spp)

Notes: Very rare in SPS. Very dark VW with 90° 'V' shaped comma marking.



California Tortoiseshell

Nymphalis californica

Habitat: Montane meadows, shrublands

Flight period: Mar - May and Aug - Sept. Adults overwinter

Larval host: *Ceanothus* spp

Notes: Uncommon below 1000'. Color pattern resembles anglewings and commas: bark-like VWs and bright orange DWs.





Satyr Anglewing

Polytonia satyrus

Habitat: Forest openings, forest edge, riparian

Flight period: Mar - June, July - Sept. Adults over-winter

Larval host: Primarily stinging nettle, willows

Notes: One of the earliest butterflies to fly. Wide-spread. Most common of the *Polytonias*. Difficult to ID from others. Comma marking not a 90° 'V'.



Green Comma, Faun Anglewing

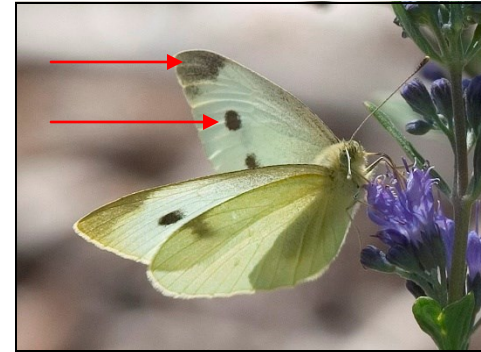
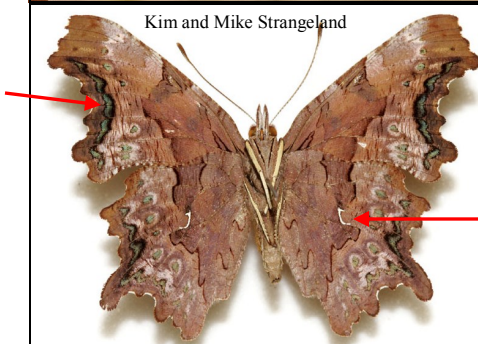
Polytonia faunus

Habitat: Forest openings, and corridors, riparian, meadows adjacent to forests

Flight period: Mar - June, July - Sept. Adults over-winter.

Larval host: Willows, alder, birch, aspen

Notes: < 2" Rare. Comma marking rounded. Distinct yellow spots on DHW. Often green hairs on thorax.



Cabbage White

Pieris rapae

Habitat: Virtually every habitat type except forest

Flight period: M Mar - Sept. Many generations per year

Larval host: Mustards including garden cruciferous vegetables

Notes: Common, introduced. Easily ID'd by black tip and spots on FW.



Sara's Orangetip

Anthocharis sara

Habitat: Open natural habitat incl. balds, prairies

Flight period: E Apr - E June

Larval host: Native mustards

Notes: ♂ and ♀s have outer orange tips on DFW and VFW. ♀s have pastel yellow centers, ♂s have white (shown).



Kim and Mike Strangeland



Clouded Sulphur

Colias philodice eriphyle

Habitat: Open areas, roads, meadows, yards, alfalfa fields

Flight period: L July - Sept

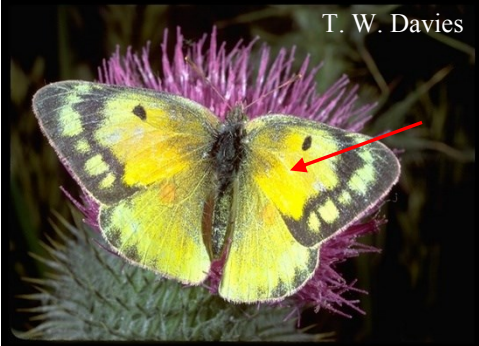
Larval host: Legumes

Notes: Rare. In W WA we see summer migrants from the south and east. Individuals encountered in our region typically fly by fast! Difficult to distinguish from Orange Sulphur.

Norbert Kondla



T. W. Davies



Orange Sulphur

Colias eurytheme

Habitat: Meadows, prairies, yards, parks, open areas

Flight period: L July - Sept

Larval host: Legumes

Notes: Small orange patches on central DHW and DFW. In W WA we see summer migrants from the south and east. Difficult to distinguish from Clouded Sulphur.



Mylitta Crescent

Phyciodes mylitta

Habitat: Prairies, marshes, meadows, forest glades, roadsides, open fields

Flight period: L Apr - Sept. Multiple generations per year.

Larval host: Thistles

Notes: Widespread, common. Prominent orange crescents on VHW

Caitlin LeBar



Taylor's Checkerspot

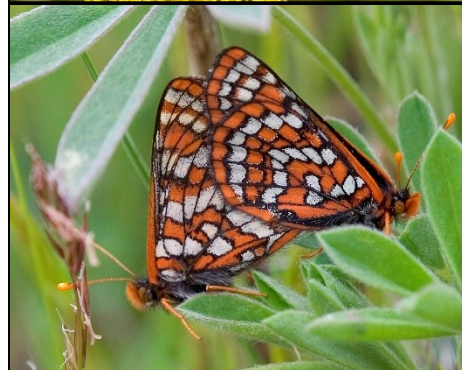
Euphydryas editha taylori

Habitat: Prairies, balds,

Flight period: M Apr - E June

Larval host: English plantain, Indian paintbrush

Notes: Strong, orange, cream and black checkered pattern. Federally listed Endangered. Report sightings ASAP.





Hydaspe Fritillary
Speyeria hydaspe

Habitat: Moist areas, montane, forest glades, riparian

Flight period: E July - Sept

Larval host: Violets

Notes: < 2.25" Rare below 1000' elevation. VHW rusty to maroon; discal spots cream or yellow, typically not silver.



Western Meadow Fritillary
Boloria epithore

Habitat: Clearings, meadows, stream sides, open slopes, balds, forest edge

Flight period: May - June

Larval host: Violets

Notes: < 1.75" VHW mottled lavender. Lacking prominent discal spots like *Speyeria* fritillaries.



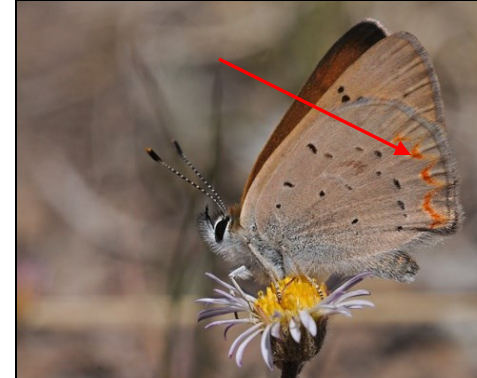
Purplish Copper
Lycaena helloides

Habitat: Any habitat except deep forest or alpine

Flight period: May - Sept, more common late summer

Larval host: Smartweeds, docks (*Polygonum*, *Rumex* spp)

Notes: Prominent orange chevrons on HW. Common.



Mariposa Copper
Lycaena mariposa

Habitat: Bogs, wet meadows, clearings >1000'

Flight period: Summer. Flight periods not well known for SPS

Larval host: Heath family, esp. huckleberries

Notes: Very unlikely in SPS. Frosty VHW.





Bramble Green Hair-streak

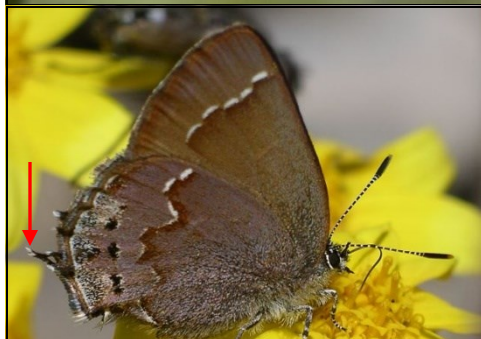
Callophrys dumetorum

Habitat: Forest clearings

Flight period: L Apr - E June

Larval host: *Lotus* spp

Notes: Rare and localized in W WA, chiefly Mason and west Thurston Cos. The only green butterfly in W WA.



Cedar Hairstreak

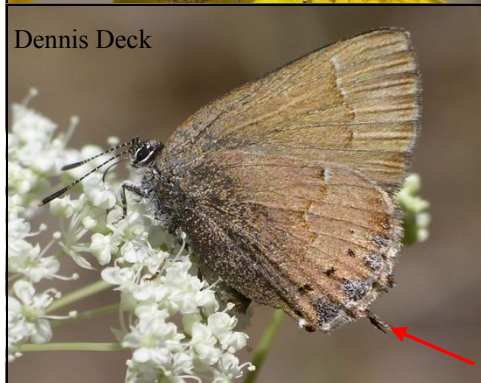
Callophrys gryneus

Habitat: Forest edge, roadsides, always near cedar

Flight period: May - June

Larval host: Western red cedar

Notes: Always near host. Brown with white, ventral zig-zag pattern, sometimes very faint. Uncommon. Tailed. Keep an eye out for Johnson's Hairstreak, an old-growth obligate look alike not yet documented in SPS.



Dennis Deck



Puget Sound Fritillary, (Great Spangled Fritillary)

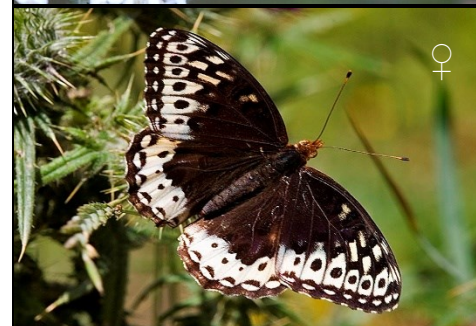
Speyeria cybele pugetensis

Habitat: Prairie, oak-pine glades, roadsides, riparian, forest glades

Flight period: L June - Sept

Larval host: Violets

Notes: Large < 3" ♂♀ dimorphic. ♂ orange/black ♀ dark brown w/creamy bands along outer edges. Silver spots on VHW are small and widely spaced.



Valley Silverspot, (Zerene Fritillary)

Speyeria zerene bremnerii

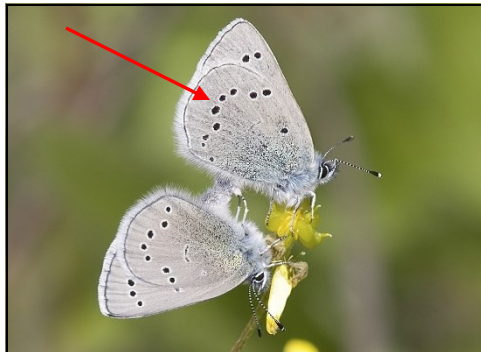
Habitat: Prairies, meadows, forest edge, roadsides

Flight period: E July - Sept

Larval host: *Viola adunca*

Notes: < 2.5" large silver orbs on VHW prominent and close together. Rare. Species of concern, report sightings.





Silvery Blue
Glaucopsyche lygdamus

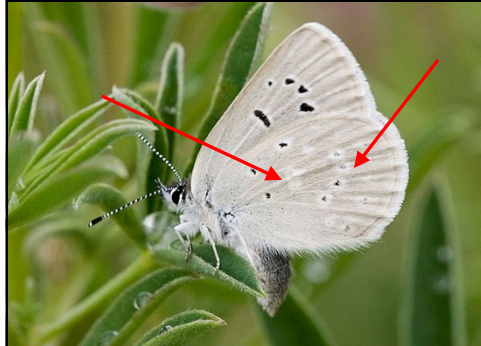
Habitat: Meadows, riparian, swales, prairies

Flight period: L Apr - E June

Larval host: Legumes



Notes: Common. DW dimorphic for M/F: ♂ blue, ♀ brownish. Prominent white-ringed black spots in single row on VHW and no markings outside this row



Puget Blue
Plebejus icarioides blackmorei

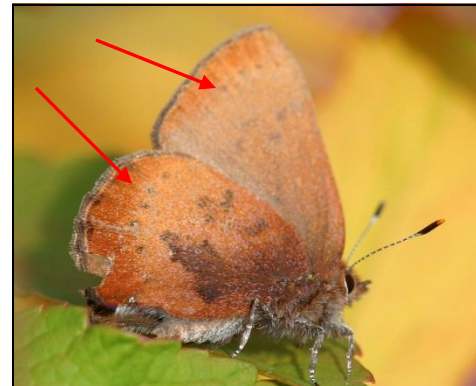
Habitat: Prairie endemic

Flight period: L May - E July

Larval host: Sickle-keeled lupine



Notes: DW dimorphic for M/F: ♂ blue, ♀ brownish. VHW with indistinct black spots with fuzzy white halos. Typically some spots are only white halos. Rare. Species of conservation concern, report sightings.

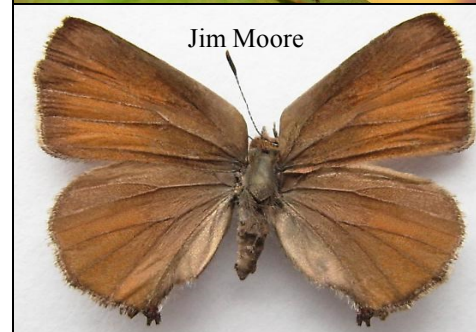


Brown Elfin
Callophrys augustinus

Habitat: Wide ranging, any open habitats, open shrub and woodlands

Flight period: L Apr - E June

Larval host: Many spp in of heath family (*Ericaceae*) roses, Oregon grape, salal, kinnikinnick



Notes: Copper-brown with small black spots in single row on VWs.



Hoary Elfin
Callophrys polios

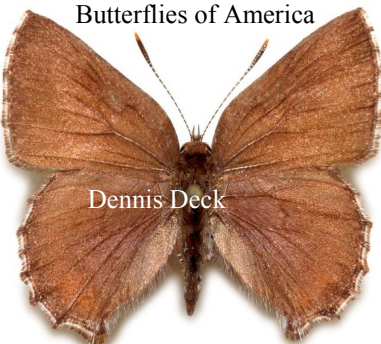



Habitat: Prairies, open rocky areas, balds

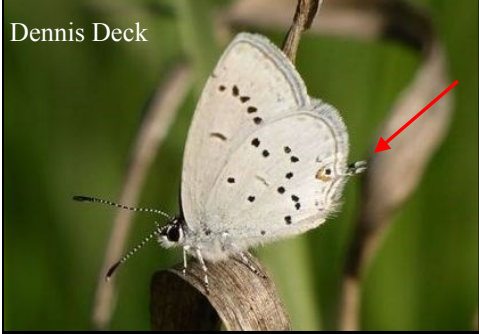


Flight period: L Apr - E June

Larval host: Kinnikinnick obligate



Notes: < 1" Rare and highly localized. Brownish, with row of white dashes on VFW. Frost-like (hoary) markings on VHW. Species of conservation concern, report sightings.

<p>Butterflies of America</p>  <p>Dennis Deck</p>	<p>Pine Elfin <i>Callophrys eryphon sheltonensis</i></p> <p>Habitat: Pine trees and pine forest edge</p> <p>Flight period: L Apr - E June</p> <p>Larval host: Pine (needles)</p> <p>Notes: < 1.25" Localized in W WA where ponderosa or lodgepole pine occurs. Heavy, black zig-zagging pattern on VHW. Rare.</p>
	
<p>Kim and Mike Strangeland</p> 	<p>Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i></p> <p>Habitat: All habitats incl. urban except deep forest and alpine</p> <p>Flight period: May - Aug Multiple generations per year</p> <p>Larval host: Wide range of hosts incl. legumes, roses, mallow, oak, pine</p> <p>Notes: < 1.5" Widespread. Dramatic and noticeable tails (hairstreaks) with orange patch at their base.</p>
<p>Kim and Mike Strangeland</p> 	

<p>Dennis Deck</p> 	<p>Western Tailed Blue <i>Cupido amyntula</i></p> <p>Habitat: Meadows, prairies, balds</p> <p>Flight period: L Apr - E June</p> <p>Larval host: Legumes</p> <p>Notes: < 1.25" Tiny tails on HW, chalky white VW.</p>
<p>Dennis Deck</p> 	
	<p>Spring Azure, Echo Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i></p> <p>Habitat: Woodsy, shrubby, riparian areas, prairies</p> <p>Flight period: Apr - June, and Aug. Two generations per year</p> <p>Larval host: Red osier dogwood, elderberries, madrona, ocean spray,</p> <p>Notes: Faint chevron patterning on outer VWs. Common esp. in spring. DW dimorphic for ♂/♀: ♂ blue, ♀ brownish.</p>
