



Yukon Butterflies

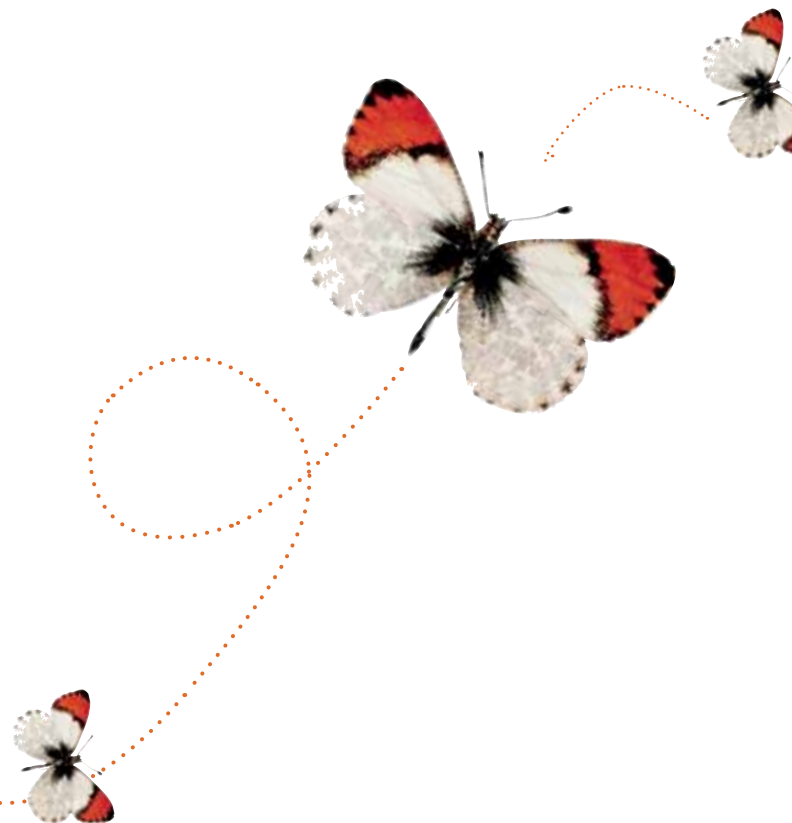




Photo left: Visitors follow an old mining road to explore the alpine on top of Keno Hill.

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Additional resources:

Butterflies of British Columbia (2001). Guppy, C.S. and J.H. Shepard. UBC Press.

Butterflies of North America (2006). Brock, J.P. and K. Kaufman. Houghton Mifflin.

The Butterflies of Canada (1998). Layberry R.A., P.W. Hall and J.D. Lafontaine. University of Toronto Press.

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A GUIDE TO YUKON BUTTERFLIES

Where to find them

Currently, about 91 species of butterflies, representing five families, are known from Yukon, but scientists expect to discover more.

Finding butterflies in Yukon is easy. Just look in any natural, open area on a warm, sunny day. Two excellent butterfly viewing spots are Keno Hill and the Blackstone Uplands. Pick up *Yukon's Wildlife Viewing Guide* and *Viewing Alpine Wildlife on Keno Hill* to find these and other wildlife viewing hotspots.

Viewing tips

This booklet will help you view and identify some of the more common butterflies, and a few distinctive but less common species. Additional species are mentioned but not illustrated. In some cases, you will need a detailed book, such as *The Butterflies of Canada*, to identify the exact species that you have seen.

Some Yukon butterflies, such as the large swallowtails, are bright to advertise their presence to mates.

Others are coloured in dull earth tones that allow them to hide from bird predators.

Many are masters at both advertising and camouflage, with bright uppersides and dull undersides.



Old-world Swallowtail

To identify butterflies, you will need to know the colour pattern on both sides of the wings. This is because many will only rest with their wings spread wide open, and others with them closed tightly over their backs. You can improve

your viewing chances by slowly approaching the butterfly from behind or while it is busy feeding or mud-puddling (drinking water containing salt). Try using binoculars to get a closer look without disturbing them. Some species (notably "arctics") are so similar that butterfly specialists must examine them under a microscope to distinguish specific species. Recent DNA studies indicate that there some species in Yukon that have yet to be classified and named.



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION AND COLLECTION

Habitat conservation is critical for a butterfly species to persist. Moderate collecting does not harm butterfly populations, providing their habitat remains intact. When viewing, photographing, or collecting butterflies avoid damaging habitat in your pursuit.

If you decide to collect butterflies, ensure that your collection has scientific or educational value. Label each specimen with the exact location and date, and if you no longer want it, transfer your collection to another collector or a public institution, so that the specimens are not wasted.

Under Section 3 of the Scientists & Explorers Act, non-residents are required to obtain a permit from the territorial government to collect in all areas of Yukon. You can obtain this permit from the Department of Tourism and Culture. However, everyone must have a special permit to collect in any national or territorial park.

If you suspect illegal activity related to butterflies or other wildlife, please call the Turn in Poachers & Polluters (T.I.P.P.) Hotline at 1-800-661-0525. For more on butterfly conservation, contact the Yukon Conservation Data Centre www.env.gov.yk.ca/cdc.

BUTTERFLY OR MOTH?

Butterflies and moths are insects of the order Lepidoptera, meaning scaled wings. The wings are covered with flattened hairs that look like tiny fish scales. Butterflies always fly during the day in Yukon; moths may fly in either day or night, depending on the species.

Butterflies and day-flying moths are usually brightly coloured, while night-flying moths tend to be dull greys and browns. Bright colours usually mean they are distasteful or poisonous to many birds.

The antennae of moths are usually hair-like or feather-like, while butterflies have straight antennae with distinct knobs at the end. The only characteristics that infallibly separate butterflies from moths are details of the wing veins and other body structures.



Cerisy's Sphinx
with typical
moth antennae

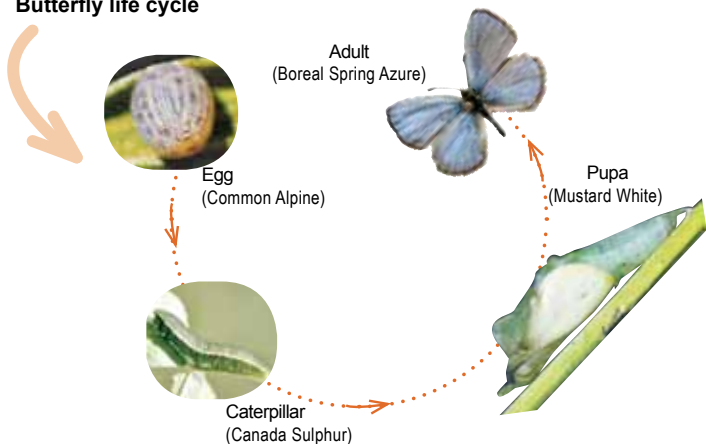


Anicia Checkerspot
with typical
butterfly antennae

A BUTTERFLY'S LIFE

A butterfly usually lives 10 to 14 days as an adult, and spends the rest of its one- to two-year life as an egg, caterpillar (larva), or pupa (chrysalis). The egg hatches into a small caterpillar, which typically sheds its skin five times as it grows before becoming a pupa. After about six weeks, the adult butterfly emerges from the pupa.

Butterfly life cycle



Caterpillars eat leaves, flowers, fruit, or seeds. Each species focuses on only one, or a few, foodplants. These larval foodplants are described in this booklet.

Adult butterflies feed mostly on nectar and sap (for sugar). Some eat less appetizing meals such as carrion and dung (for proteins and amino acids). Others congregate on wet soils to drink water containing salt (for sodium).

As the butterfly ages, its wings become worn and torn and the colours fade. A few species of brushfoot butterflies (tortoiseshells, anglewings) hibernate over the winter as adults; other species spend the winter in one of the other life stages.





Tlingit-style drawing of
Swallowtail butterfly

MYTH AND LEGEND

“If nothing ever changed, there’d be no butterflies...” – anon

Many people see butterflies and moths as symbols rather than living creatures. Because of their delicate beauty, power of flight, and complete metamorphosis, they appear in myths and legends the world over. Also known as “flying flowers,” they help us appreciate the fragile and ephemeral wonders of nature — like sunny, carefree days.

To some, the spirits of loved ones return to visit as butterflies or moths — physical symbols of the human soul. Many North and South American cultures believe that dreams are brought to us in our sleep by butterflies.

One North American legend says that anyone wanting a wish to come true can capture a butterfly and whisper their wish to it. Since butterflies make no sound; they cannot tell the wish to anyone but the Great Spirit. So by making a wish and releasing the butterfly, their wish will be taken to the heavens and be granted.

SKIPPERS, Family Hesperiidae

Small; grey, black or brown; caterpillars frequently feed on grass.

PYRGINE SKIPPERS, Subfamily Pyrginae

Persius Duskywing

Erynnis persius



Size Small, 3.0 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, low to the ground.

Foodplants Leaves of willow, lupine and other legumes.

Habitat Open forest, clearings, meadows; all Yukon at low elevations.

Notes One generation each year. Dreamy Duskywing (with no white spots on forewings) is near Watson Lake. Reports of the similar Afranius Duskywing were identification errors.

Grizzled Skipper

Pyrgus centaureae



Size Small, 2.8 cm wingspan.

Flight Moderately fast, with blurred wing-beats; low to the ground.

Foodplants Leaves of wild strawberry; cloudberry; cinquefoil.

Habitat Tundra, bog, roadside, meadow, forest clearings; throughout Yukon.

Notes No similar species. One generation every two years.

INTERMEDIATE SKIPPERS, Subfamily Heteropterinae

Arctic Skipper

Carterocephalus palaemon



Size Small, 2.5 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, low to the ground, tends to return to original perch after flight.

Foodplants Grass.

Habitat Forest trails and clearings, roadsides, moist meadows, tundra; throughout Yukon.

Notes No similar species. One generation each year.



underwings



BRANDED SKIPPERS, Subfamily Hesperinae**Common Branded Skipper***Hesperia comma*

Two other skippers occur in Yukon.

Size Small, 3.0 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, low to the ground.

Foodplants Grass (bluegrass, fescue, bluestem).

Habitat Roadsides, meadows, bogs, gravel ridges, low hilltops; throughout Yukon.

Notes Draco Skipper is similar, but with tan underside spots, one of which is elongated, and occurs north to Dawson. One generation each year.



underwings

SWALLOWTAILS & APOLLOS, Family Papilionidae

Large; brightly coloured; only a few species in Yukon.

PARNASSIANS, Subfamily Parnassiinae**Eversmann's Parnassian***Parnassius eversmanni*

Size Large, 5.0 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, low to the ground.

Foodplants Unknown in North America, but probably Few-flowered Corydalis or silene.

Habitat Mountainous willow shrub and grass tundra.

Notes Males: pale yellow; females: white. May be one generation every two years.

Rocky Mountain Parnassian*Parnassius smintheus*

Size Large, 5.7 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, low to the ground.

Foodplants Lance-leaved Stonecrop.

Habitat Dry meadows, rocky areas; low to mid-elevation in southern Yukon.

Notes Phoebus Parnassian is similar. Inhabits tundra meadows in Kluane Park and the north. One generation each year.

SWALLOWTAILS, Subfamily Papilioninae

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail Size Large, 8.2 cm wingspan.

Papilio canadensis



Flight Moderate speed, various heights.

Foodplants Aspen, poplar, willow.

Habitat Roadside, forest clearings, along streams; throughout Yukon.

Notes The less common Old-world Swallowtail (photo p.1) is similar but has more black, less yellow, and usually flies at higher elevations and further north. One generation each year.

WHITES & SULPHURS Family Pieridae Medium size; white, yellow and orange; many of the caterpillars eat mustards.

WHITES, MARBLES & ORANGETIPS, Subfamily Pierinae

Western White

Pontia occidentalis



Size Medium, 4.0 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, zigzag; flies around hilltops.

Foodplants Leaves of wild mustards, especially rock cress.

Habitat Roads, dry rocky areas, hilltops.

Notes Spring White is similar but rare. One generation each year.



Spring White
Female

Arctic White

Pieris angelika



Size Medium, 3.8 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, up to 2 m above ground.

Foodplants Leaves of wild mustards, such as *Parrya*.

Habitat Wet riparian areas, willow shrub areas, wet meadows.

Notes Margined White and Mustard White are both very similar. Females have grey markings on the upperside. One generation each year.



Large Marble

Euchloe ausonides



Size Medium, 4.1 cm wingspan.

Flight Moderate, zigzag.

Foodplants Flowers and leaves of wild mustards, especially rock cress.

Habitat Roadsides, dry rocky areas; most of Yukon.

Notes Similar species are the Green Marble, with a darker underside, and the Northern Marble, which is smaller.

Females have cream-colour hindwings. One generation each year.

Pacific (Sara) Orangetip

Anthocharis sara



Size Small to medium, 3.6 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, fairly straight.

Foodplants Flowers and leaves of wild mustards, especially rock cress.

Habitat Roadsides, dry rocky areas, meadows.

Notes Females are pale yellow, with less orange wingtips than males. Only in the Annie Lake and Carcross to Atlin areas. One generation each year.

SULPHURS, Subfamily Coliadinae

Clouded Sulphur

Colias philodice



Size Medium, 4.5 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, zigzag.

Foodplants Clover and vetches.

Habitat Roadsides, meadows; throughout Yukon.

Notes There are three other similar sulphurs with yellow wings: the Giant Sulphur, Pelidne Sulphur, and Palaeno Sulphur. The Labrador Sulphur is smaller and a dusky greenish-yellow. One generation each year.

Christina Sulphur

Colias christina



Size Medium, 4.7 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, zigzag.

Foodplants Sweet-vetch.

Habitat Dry roadsides, forest openings; low elevation, Dawson and southward.

Notes Subspecies *kluanensis* is on the Yukon Watch List.

Three other sulphurs have orange wings: Hecla Sulphur (alpine and north), Booth's Sulphur (north) and Canada Sulphur (all Yukon, early summer). All have one generation each year.

Gossamer Wings, Family Lycaenidae

Small; grey, brown, blue, metallic blue or copper.

COPPERS, Subfamily Lycaeninae

Dorcas Copper

Lycaena dorcas



Size Small, 2.3 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, short flights.

Foodplants Marsh Cinquefoil.

Habitat Wet spruce forest, bogs and other wetlands.

Notes Two other coppers occur: American Copper (in tundra) and Mariposa Copper (southern forests). One generation each year.



underwings

HAIRSTREAKS, Subfamily Theclinae

Hoary Elfin

Callophrys polia



Size Small, 2.5 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, short flights. Flies in early spring.

Foodplants Bearberry (Kinnikinnick).

Habitat Dry grassy or rocky areas, dry forest openings.

Notes There are two other elfins: Brown Elfin (dry pine forests and bogs throughout Yukon) and Western Pine Elfin (Rancheria to Watson Lake; dry pine forests). One generation each year.



BLUES, Subfamily Polyommatainae**Western Tailed Blue***Cupido amyntula*

Size Small, 2.5 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, low to the ground.

Foodplants

Flowers of lupine, vetch, wild pea.

Habitat Roadside, meadows, open forest.

Notes This is the only blue with tails on the hindwing. Males are blue above, females brown. One generation each year.



underwings

Boreal Spring Azure*Celastrina lucia*

Size Small, 2.6 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, among shrubs.

Foodplants

Flowers of spring-flowering shrubs, such as Red-osier Dogwood and Bearberry. Populations using Labrado Tea as their foodplant have adults smaller, sootier colour

on the underside.

Habitat Open forest, riparian areas.

Notes This is the first blue to fly in the spring; has a sooty underside. One generation each year.



underwings

Silvery Blue*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*

Size Small, 2.6 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, low to the ground.

Foodplants

Lupines, vetch, wild peas.

Habitat Roadsides, meadows, open forest.

Notes Female shown here; males are entirely blue above, with a metallic silvery shine. One generation each year.



underwings

Northern Blue

Plebejus idas



Size Small, 2.6 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, low to the ground.

Foodplants

Lupines and other legumes.

Habitat Forest clearings.

Notes The only blue with a full row of orange spots on the underside. One generation each year.



underwings

Greenish Blue

Plebejus saepiolus



Size Small, 2.7 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, low to the ground.

Foodplants Clover and other legumes.

Habitat Roadsides, meadows.

Notes Cranberry Blue (bogs, wet open forest, tundra) and Arctic Blue (dry rocky areas) are similar. One generation each year.



underwings

BRUSHFOOTS, Family Nymphalidae

Small to large; grey, brown, orange-brown or black.

FRITILLARIES, Subfamily Argynninae

Mormon Fritillary

Speyeria mormonia



Size Medium, 4.7 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow to fast, zigzags.

Foodplants Violets.

Habitat Open forest, meadows; low to high elevations.

Notes Subspecies *bischoffii* is on the Yukon Watch List. Northwestern Fritillary and Atlantis Fritillary (southeast Yukon only) are similar. One generation each year.



underwings



Polaris Fritillary

Boloria polaris



Size Small to medium, 4.0 cm wingspan.

Flight Moderate, low to the ground.

Foodplants Mountain Avens, Bog Blueberry.

Habitat Alpine and arctic tundra.

Notes Often takes two years to complete a generation. Abundant every year in alpine tundra in Yukon.



Freija Fritillary

Boloria freija



Size Small to medium, 3.7 cm wingspan.

Flight Moderate, low to the ground.

Foodplants Blueberry, bearberry.

Habitat Open pine forest, tundra, dry rocky meadows.

Notes This species flies very early in the summer, before similar species fly. One generation each year.



Dingy Fritillary

Boloria improba



Size. Small to medium, 3.5 cm wingspan.

Flight. Moderate, very low to the ground.

Foodplants. Dwarf willows including Net-veined Willow.

Habitat. Moist tundra with dwarf, prostrate willows.

Notes. One of the first butterflies to fly in alpine tundra. One generation each year.



Other fritillaries

There are 11 other fritillaries species found in Yukon, distinguished by a combination of the details of pattern on the upperside and underside of the wings. They can be very challenging to correctly identify.

CHECKERSPOTS & CRESCENTS, Subfamily Melitaeinae

Field Crescent

Phyciodes pulchellus
(= *P. pratensis*)



Size Small to medium, 3.4 cm wingspan.

Flight Moderate, close to the ground.

Foodplants Asters.

Habitat Roadsides, meadows.

Notes The Northern Crescent (very rare in Yukon) is similar, but has more orange-brown and less black on the upperside of the wings. One generation each year.

Anicia Checkerspot

Euphydryas anicia



Size Small to medium, 3.8 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, close to the ground.

Foodplants Apparently Gorman's Penstemon.

Habitat Dry grassland.

Notes A similar species, the Chaledon Checkerspot, is rarely seen but occurs from the Atlin Road west to Champagne; it has blacker dark markings and whiter pale markings, and the foodplant is apparently Small-flowered Penstemon. One generation each year.

ANGLEWINGS, TORTOISESHELLS & THISTLE BUTTERFLIES

Subfamily Nymphalinae

Green Comma

Polygonia faunus



Size Medium, 4.7 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, erratic.

Foodplants Birch, willow, alder.

Habitat Open forests, rests on dirt roads.

Notes One generation each year. The underside of a female is shown above; the undersides of males are more strongly patterned.



underwings

Other anglewings

Four other anglewings and commas occur in Yukon. They are distinguished by details of colour on the underside of the wings. Males and females also differ in the patterns on the underside of the wings. The Compton Tortoiseshell is also similar, but larger.

Mourning Cloak

Nymphalis antiopa



Size Large, 6.1 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, frequently patrols a path.

Foodplants Willow, poplar.

Habitat Forest openings, riparian areas.

Notes This butterfly is considered to be one of the very few that occur across all of Europe, Asia, and North America. Caterpillars are black with a row of orangish or red spots down the back, are spiny, and live in large masses until nearly mature. They spend the winter as adults. One generation each year.

Milbert's Tortoiseshell

Aglais milberti



Size Medium, 4.8 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, frequently on dirt roads and alpine ridges in the south.

Foodplants Stinging Nettle.

Habitat Open forests, meadows, riparian areas; all elevations in southern Yukon.

Notes Painted Ladies and Red Admirals are rare migrants from the south whose caterpillars also feed on Stinging Nettle, living in rolled leaves. Tortoiseshells can spend the winter as adults. One generation each year.

ADMIRALS, Subfamily Limenitidinae

White Admiral

Limenitis arthemis



Size Large, 6.2 cm wingspan.

Flight Moderate, gliding.

Foodplants Aspen, poplar, willow.

Habitat Open aspen forests, riparian areas.

Notes This is one of the largest and most strikingly coloured butterflies. The adults are commonly seen feeding on old bones, animal dung, and fish offal. One generation each year.

SATYRS & WOOD-NYMPHS, Subfamily Satyrinae

Banded Alpine

Erebia fasciata



Size Medium, 4.3 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, close to the ground.

Foodplants Sedges, perhaps cotton grass.

Habitat Wet alpine and arctic tundra.

Notes The Mt. McKinley Alpine is the most similar, with the banding on the underside of the wings indistinct. One generation each year.



Four-dotted Alpine

Erebia youngi



Size Small to medium, 4.0 cm wingspan.

Flight Moderate.

Foodplants Unknown, probably grasses or sedges.

Habitat Dry tundra with short, dense grass (such as frequently occurs along scree slope edges).

Notes Subspecies *herscheli* is on the Yukon Track List. The Scree Alpine and the Reddish Alpine are very similar. One generation each year.

Common Alpine

Erebia epipsodea



Size Medium, 4.1 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, low to the ground.

Foodplants Grass.

Habitat Meadows, roadsides, and forest openings.

Notes There are seven other species of alpinines in Yukon, with distinguishing colour patterns on both sides of the wings. One of these is the Disa Alpine, which is on the Yukon Watch List. One generation each year.

Common Ringlet

Coenonympha tullia



Size Small to medium, 3.3 cm wingspan.

Flight Slow, bouncing.

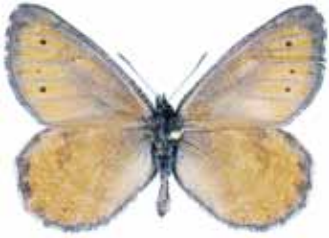
Foodplants Grass.

Habitat Low-elevation meadows to arctic and alpine tundra.

Notes No similar species. The Common Ringlet is a distinct species from the ringlets of the rest of North America (see *Butterflies of British Columbia*). One generation each year.

Chryxus Arctic

Oeneis chryxus



Size Medium, 4.5 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, erratic.

Foodplants Grass.

Habitat Dry meadows, open pine forest; tundra, mostly in south and central Yukon.

Notes One generation every two years.



underwings

Jutta Arctic

Oeneis jutta



Size Medium, 4.7 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, erratic; lands on tree trunks.

Foodplants

Sedges, possibly cotton grass.

Habitat Black Spruce bogs, wet tundra.

Notes One generation every two years.



underwings

Melissa Arctic

Oeneis melissa



Size Medium, 4.8 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, erratic.

Foodplants Uncertain, possibly grasses and/or sedges.

Habitat Dry alpine and arctic tundra.

Notes

Subspecies *atlinensis* is on the Yukon Watch List, however, recent DNA research indicates that the subspecies is unconfirmed. DNA studies indicate that there are at least three separate species in Yukon currently lumped under the name Melissa Arctic. One generation every two years.



upperwings



Polixenes Arctic

Oeneis polixenes



Size Medium, 4.6 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, erratic.

Foodplants Uncertain, possibly grasses and/or sedges.

Habitat Alpine and arctic tundra.

Notes Subspecies *yukonensis* is on the Yukon Watch List.

This species prefers tundra, while the extremely similar Philip's Arctic is found in Black Spruce bogs. Recent DNA studies indicate there is more than one species in Yukon lumped under the name Polixenes Arctic. One generation each year.



upperwings

White-Veined Arctic

Oeneis bore



Size Medium, 4.7 cm wingspan.

Flight Fast, erratic.

Foodplants Grasses, sedges.

Habitat Wet, hummocky alpine and arctic tundra.

Less frequently occurs at low elevations.

Notes One generation every two years.



upperwings

Other arctics

There are three other arctics: Philip's Arctic (very similar to Polixenes Arctic; in wet Black Spruce forest), Sentinel Arctic (similar to the Chryxus Arctic, but only in the high mountains of the north and the north coast) and Uhler's Arctic (similar to the Chryxus Arctic but paler, in dry alpine tundra and the north coast).

MOTHS

Most Yukon moths are small and dull-coloured, and fly in dim light at night. Hence, we see few of them even though they are more abundant than butterflies. Here are a few more noticeable examples.

The large Gallium Sphinx flies rapidly and hovers in front of flowers to sip nectar. At first glance, they can be mistaken for hummingbirds. The caterpillars are very large, smooth-skinned, and have a "horn" at the rear end. They come in black or green forms (turning brown just before they pupate), and feed on Fireweed.

Gallium Sphinx, *Hyles gallii*



Gallium Sphinx caterpillar



black form



pre-pupal form

Hummingbird Moths, *Hemaris thysbe*, look very much like bumblebees and also hover at flowers to sip nectar.



Sylvan Foresters, *Alpia langtoni* (family Noctuidae), make a buzzing sound with their wings as the males fly over meadows.



Clear-winged Sessiid (family Sessiidae) moths imitate wasps to avoid being eaten, and their caterpillars feed on the inside of plant stems.



The Arctic Woolly Bear caterpillar is possibly the most cold-hardy of all insects. Found in northern Yukon, it survives freezing for up to 14 winters before pupating into a moth.





CHECKLIST OF YUKON BUTTERFLIES

FAMILY HESPERIIDAE (Skippers)

Subfamily Pyrginae (Pyrgine Skippers)

Persius Duskywing *Erynnis persius*, p. 5

Dreamy Duskywing *Erynnis icelus*

Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus centaureae*, p. 5

Subfamily Heteropterinae (Intermediate Skippers)

Arctic Skipper *Carterocephalus palaemon*, p. 5

Subfamily Hesperinae (Branded Skippers)

Common Branded Skipper *Hesperia comma*, p. 6

Draco Skipper *Polites draco*

FAMILY PAPILIONIDAE (Swallowtails & Appollos)

Subfamily Parnassiinae (Parnassians)

Eversmann's Parnassian *Parnassius eversmanni*, p. 6

Phoebus Parnassian *Parnassius phoebus**

Rocky Mountain Parnassian

Parnassius smintheus, p. 6

Subfamily Papilioninae (Swallowtails)

Old World Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*, p. 7

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio canadensis*, p. 7

FAMILY PIERIDAE

(Whites & Sulphurs)

Subfamily Pierinae

(Whites, Marbles & Orangetips)

Spring White *Pontia sisymbrii**, p. 7

Western White *Pontia occidentalis*, p. 7

Arctic White *Pieris angelika*, p. 7

Margined White *Pieris marginalis**

Mustard White *Pieris oleracea**

Large Marble *Euchloe ausonides*, p. 8

Green Marble *Euchloe naina**

Northern Marble *Euchloe creusa*

Pacific Orangetip *Anthocharis sara**, p. 8

Subfamily Coliadinae (Sulphurs)

Clouded Sulphur *Colias philodice*, p. 8

Christina Sulphur *Colias christina*, p. 9

Hecla Sulphur *Colias hecla*

Booth's Sulphur *Colias tyche**

Canada Sulphur *Colias canadensis*

Labrador Sulphur *Colias nastes*

Giant Sulphur *Colias gigantea*

Pelidne Sulphur *Colias pelidne**

Palaeno Sulphur *Colias palaeno*

Scientific names generally follow Butterflies of Canada (Layberry *et al* 1998) for consistency.

* indicates species of possible conservation concern within Yukon

**reported but unconfirmed



Collecting butterflies may require a permit from federal and territorial government agencies. If you suspect illegal activity related to butterflies or other wildlife, please call the Turn in Poachers & Polluters (T.I.P.P.) Hotline at 1- 800-661-0525.

FAMILY LYCAENIDAE

(Gossamer Wings)

Subfamily Lycaeninae

(Coppers)

- American Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*
 Dorcas Copper *Lycaena dorcas*, p. 9
 Mariposa Copper *Lycaena mariposa**

Subfamily Theclinae

(Hairstreaks)

- Brown Elfin *Callophrys augustinus**
 Hoary Elfin *Callophrys polia*, p. 9
 Western Pine Elfin *Callophrys eryphon**

Subfamily Polyommatainae

(Blues)

- Western Tailed Blue
 Cupido amyntula, p. 10
 Boreal Spring Azure *Celastrina lucia*, p. 10
 Silvery Blue *Glaucopsyche lygdamus*, p. 10
 Northern Blue *Plebejus idas*, p. 11
 Greenish Blue *Plebejus saepiolus*, p. 11
 Cranberry Blue *Vacciniina optilete*
 Arctic Blue *Agriades glandon*

FAMILY NYMPHALIDAE

(Brushfoots)

Subfamily Argynninae

(Fritillaries)

- Northwestern Fritillary *Speyeria hesperis**
 Atlantis Fritillary *Speyeria atlantis**
 Mormon Fritillary *Speyeria mormonia*, p. 11
 Mountain Fritillary *Boloria alaskensis*
 Bog Fritillary *Boloria eunomia*
 Silver-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene**
 Meadow Fritillary *Boloria bellona**
 Frigga Fritillary *Boloria frigga*
 Dingy Fritillary *Boloria improba*, p. 12
 Pacific Fritillary *Boloria epithore**
 Polaris Fritillary *Boloria polaris*, p. 12
 Freija Fritillary *Boloria freija*, p. 12
 Beringian Fritillary *Boloria natazhati**
 Astarte Fritillary *Boloria astarte*
 Arctic Fritillary *Boloria chariclea*

Subfamily Melitaeinae (Checkerspots & Crescents)

- Northern Crescent *Phyciodes cocyta*
 Field Crescent *Phyciodes pulchellus**, p. 13
 Anicia Checkerspot *Euphydryas anicia*, p. 13
 Chalcedon Checkerspot *Euphydryas chalcedona**

Subfamily Nymphalinae (Anglewings, Tortoiseshells, & Thistle Butterflies)

- Satyr Comma *Polygonia satyrus***
 Green Comma *Polygonia faunus*, p. 14
 Hoary Comma *Polygonia gracilis*
 Grey Comma *Polygonia progne**
 Oreas Comma *Polygonia oreas***
 Compton Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis l-album**
 Mourning Cloak *Nymphalis antiopa*, p. 14
 Milbert's Tortoiseshell *Aglais milberti**, p. 15
 Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* [migrate from south]
 Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* [migrate from south]

Subfamily Limenitidinae (Admirals)

- White Admiral *Limenitis arthemis*, p. 15

Subfamily Satyrinae (Satyrs & Wood-Nymphs)

- Common Ringlet *Coenonympha tullia*, p. 16
 Ross's Alpine *Erebia rossii*
 Disa Alpine *Erebia disa**
 Taiga Alpine *Erebia mancinus*
 Mt. McKinley Alpine *Erebia mackinleyensis*
 Banded Alpine *Erebia fasciata*, p. 15
 Red-disked Alpine *Erebia discoidalis*
 Mountain Alpine *Erebia pawloskii*
 Four-dotted Alpine *Erebia youngi*, p. 16
 Scree Alpine *Erebia occulta**
 Reddish Alpine *Erebia lafontainei*
 Common Alpine *Erebia epirodea*, p. 16
 Chryxus Arctic *Oeneis chryxus*, p. 17
 Uhler's Arctic *Oeneis uhleri*
 White-Veined Arctic *Oeneis bore*, p. 18
 Jutta Arctic *Oeneis jutta*, p. 17
 Melissa Arctic *Oeneis melissa*, p. 17
 Polixenes Arctic *Oeneis polixenes*, p. 18
 Philip's Arctic *Oeneis philipi**
 Sentinel Arctic *Oeneis alpina**



Keno City butterflies

In the late 1990s, residents of Keno City, Yukon noticed an increasing number of visitors using old mining roads to access the alpine and collect butterflies. The mountains around Keno are one of the few places to easily find alpine Beringian butterflies, and collectors were travelling from all over the world to visit the site.

Concerned for the health of the unique butterfly populations, the tiny community rallied and with the support of the Northern Research Institute and Community Development Fund, hired local residents to study the butterflies of Keno and better understand their behaviours.



In 2001 the Alpine Interpretive Centre was opened in Keno City, teaching visitors about butterflies and other alpine wildlife. With this information, visitors are able to appreciate the beauty of the alpine without damaging the fragile habitat or disturbing the plants and animals that live there.

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