

Abundance codes: 1 - common, easily observed, 15 species; 2 - uncommon, work required to observe, 11 species; 3 - rare, local, sporadic, difficult access, 11 species.



1. Dreamy Duskywing (left)

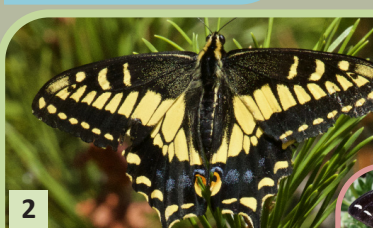
2. Two-banded Checkered Skipper (right & below)



3. Woodland Skipper (below)

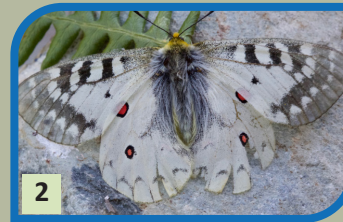


4. Oregon Branded Skipper (below)



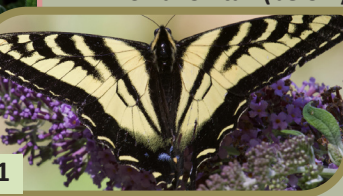
6. Anise Swallowtail (left)

7. Pale Swallowtail (below)



5. Clodius Apollo (above)

8. Western Tiger Swallowtail (below)



9. Western White (left x 2)

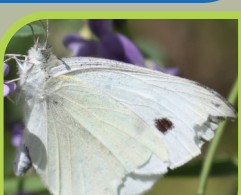


10. Margined White (m - spring - left; f - below x2)



11. Pine White (above)

12. Cabbage White (left)



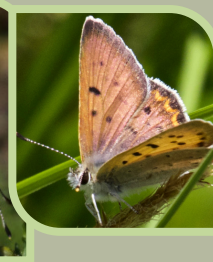
13. Sara Orangetip (above)



14. Mariposa Copper (f - left, middle; m - right)



16. Clouded Sulphur (right)



15. Purplish Copper (left x2)



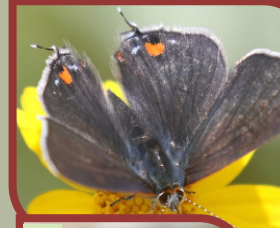
17. Johnson's Hairstreak (above)



19. Western (Brown) Elfin (above)



18. Cedar Hairstreak (above)



21. Gray Hairstreak (above, left)



22. Western Tailed Blue (below)



23. Echo Azure (above, right)



24. Silvery Blue (above x2)



25. Satyr Comma (below x2)



26. Green Comma (left x2)



27. Hoary Comma (left & below)



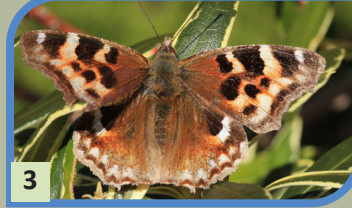
29. California Tortoiseshell (below)



30. Mourning Cloak (left)



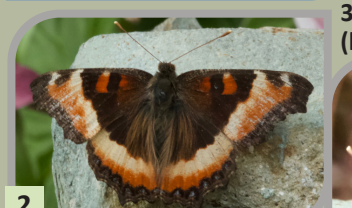
31. Milbert's Tortoiseshell (left & below)



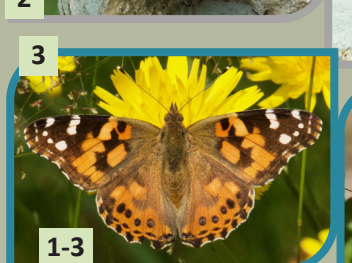
32. Painted Lady (above, right)



33. West Coast Lady (below)



34. Red Admiral (above)



35. Hydaspe Fritillary (above x2)



36. Pacific Fritillary (left, below)



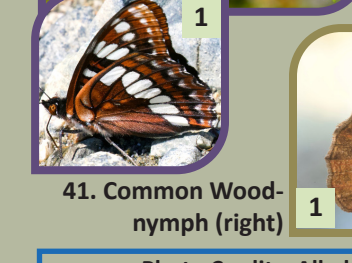
37. Mylitta Crescent (right, above)



38. Field Crescent (left)



39. Lorquin's Admiral (left x2)



40. Greater Arctic



41. Common Wood-nymph (right)

Butterflies of the Sunshine Coast

Tony Greenfield
Rand Rudland

Note: each species has a unique colour border.

Butterflies (Order: Lepidoptera, Superfamily: Papilionoidea) number around 275 species in Canada and about 190 in British Columbia. The Sunshine Coast, located in the Coastal Temperate Rainforest, is not a butterfly-species rich area with only about 40 species occurring here. They are colourful day-time fliers, compared to dull night-time fliers for most moths. Their four wings are covered with fine overlapping and highly colourful minute scales. Mouthparts modified for sipping nectar - a tube-like proboscis that curls up when not in use. Caterpillars of each species specialize in their choice of larval food plants.

Abbreviations used in the text: Date format: dd/mm, mm, or mm-mm
 OFF - Observed Flight Period LFP - Larval Food Plant SL - Sea Level
 OG - Old Growth SC - Sunshine Coast FSR - Forest Service Road

1. Dreamy Duskywing (*Erynnis icelus*) **Small, 2.8 cm**
 Duskywings belong to the Skipper complex. Five similar-looking species occur in BC: all are dark with a silvery, furry and moth-like appearance. This is the only SC duskywing recorded. The LFP is willow and adults nectar on composites, clover, and other flowers. Most observations have been at mud-puddles or damp spots on the powerline right-of-way in the Trout Lake area of Halfmoon Bay. Generally observed singly but 10 individuals were recorded mud-puddling together on one occasion. OFF is 29/04 to 24/05.

2. Two-banded Checkered Skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis*) **Small, 2.6 cm**
 There are 3 species of Checkered Skippers in BC but only the Two-banded has been recorded on the SC. The name refers to the checkerboard pattern of black and white. The LFP is wild strawberry. Adults nectar on the hostplant, dandelions and other early blooming flowers. Habitat is moist openings in forested areas, roadsides and rights-of-way from SL up to about 500m. Reliable locations have been the powerline above the Sechelt airport, the powerline to the Hydro pond in Halfmoon Bay and various low-elevation regenerating clearcuts. OFF is 12/04 to 11/06 with the peak in 05.

3. Woodland Skipper (*Ochlodes sylvanoides*) **Small, 2.7 cm**
 There are about 2,000 species of skippers worldwide, mainly in the neo-tropics. Skippers perch with their wings in a distinctive profile - hindwings at 90 degrees to the body and the forewings at 45 degrees. In late summer the Woodland Skipper is the most abundant local butterfly, occurring in open habitats, especially dry, grassy areas and gardens. LFPs are both native and exotic grasses. Adults are highly successful generalists utilizing many garden flowers and herbs; introduced and native flowering species such as oxeye daisy, aster, yarrow, pearly everlasting, goldenrod, gumweed, thistle, buddleia and fireweed. OFF is 19/07 to 1/10 with a peak from early 08 to early 09.

4. Oregon Branded Skipper (*Hesperia colorado oregonia*) **Small, 3.2 cm**
 Rare species found so far only on grassy hilltops in the Pender Harbour area. LFP are grasses, incl. *Festuca sp.* Adults nectar on chokecherry and composites, esp. yarrows and pearly everlasting. Elsewhere flies 05-09, but SC OFF has narrow window 30/06 - 06/07.

5. Clodius Apollo (*Parnassius clodius*) **Medium, 6 cm**
 Occurs from SL to the sub-alpine. Lower elevation populations fly in 06 and higher elevation ones in late 07 and early 08. Each population has a flight period of 4-6 weeks. Low and mid-elevation populations inhabit moist riparian habitat and those at higher elevations use wet sub-alpine meadows and open forest (white rhodos in OG mountain hemlock at 1400m in Mt. Steele sub-alpine). The LFP is Pacific bleeding heart and adults nectar on a variety of flowers including Himalayan blackberry at low elevation, and asters and pearly everlasting higher up. Adults are thought to be toxic to predators as advertised by their red spot. Female wings partly transparent. OFF is 6/6 to 18/08.

6. Anise Swallowtail (*Papilio zeliacon*) **Large, 5.2-8 cm**
 Size variation covers small alpine males to large sea-level females. Named for its use of anise as a larval foodplant in California. In BC it utilizes domestic and wild members of the parsley family especially angelica along beach tops, cow parsnip elsewhere, and parsley, parsnips, carrots and dill in gardens. Inhabits a wide range of habitats from beach tops to sub-alpine meadows and includes forest edges, hilltops and open rocky knolls. It appears to be uncommon and local on the SC though reported to be common on Gambier Island. Recorded at a beach top in Howe Sound (in spring), Trout Lake Road power lines, gardens, and on the dry rocky bluffs atop Pender Hill. OFF is 27/02 to 13/08.

7. Pale Swallowtail (*Papilio eurymedon*) **Large, 6.2-10 cm**
 Distinguished from the other two swallowtail species by the white basal colour (males) or very pale yellow (females). Found in low to mid-elevation forest openings, riparian areas and gardens. Alder is the primary LFP on the coast but also uses cultivated apple, chokecherry, ocean spray, cascara and hardhack. Nectars at various flowers especially *Buddleia*. Mud-puddles. Observed along logging road edges, powerline rights-of-way and disused gravel pits where *Buddleia* is present. OFF is 30/04 to 8/08, peak flight in 06-07.

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