



J. Acorn

Arctic Skipper

**Family: HesperIIDae—Skippers**

Skippers are small butterflies with a powerful flight. They fly by skipping from place to place with rapid wing movements. Skippers have a thick and heavily muscled thorax, with small, short wings. Most are brown coloured.

Species	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Roadside Skipper	•	•			C Fd R
Long Dash Skipper	•	•			C M
Peck's Skipper	•	•			C M
Arctic Skipper	•	•			C
Grizzled Skipper*	•	•			B Fc
Northern Cloudy Wing	•	•			C H



T. Thormin

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail

**Family: Papilionidae—Swallowtails**

Swallowtails are large-sized butterflies and fast fliers. They typically have yellow and black wings, with a small tail on each hind wing. The males seek out hilltops and establish territories to patrol.

Species	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Anise Swallowtail*	•	•			Fm H
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	•	•			Fd
Old World Swallowtail*	•	•			Fc



T. Thormin

White Admiral

**Family: Nymphalidae—Brush-footed Butterflies**

Brush-footed are the largest family of butterflies in the Athabasca region. Adults are generally medium sized. Many feed on ground moisture or rotting fruit.

Species	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	•	•	•	•	C Fm
Mourning Cloak	•	•	•	•	C Fm
Compton Tortoiseshell	•	•	•		Fc Fm
Green Comma	•	•	•		Fm
Gray Comma	•	•	•		Fd Fm
Satyr (Anglewing) Comma		•	•		C P
Red Admiral <sup>☞</sup>	•	•	•		A C
Painted Lady <sup>☞</sup>	•	•	•		A R
Meadow Fritillary	•	•			C M R
Arctic Fritillary*	•	•			Fc M
Bog Fritillary	•	•			B Fc
Freija Fritillary*	•	•			B Fm
Frigga Fritillary	•	•			Fd W
Silver-bordered Fritillary	•	•			M W
Variiegated Fritillary*		•	•		A C M R
Aphrodite Fritillary		•			C P
Atlantis Fritillary	•	•			C P
North Western Fritillary	•	•			C P
Great Spangled Fritillary		•			P W
Mormon Fritillary*		•			M
Tawny Crescent*	•	•			M
Northern (Pearl) Crescent	•	•			C R
White Admiral	•	•			Fd
Common Wood Nymph		•			A P
Common Ringlet	•	•			M P
Mancinus Alpine*	•	•			B
Red-disked Alpine*	•	•			M
Common Alpine	•	•	•		M W
Jutta Arctic*	•	•			B Fc S
Macoun's Arctic*	•	•			H S



T. Thormin

Clouded Sulphur

**Family: Pieridae—Whites and Sulphurs**

These butterflies are medium sized. There are two subfamilies:

1. Pierinae (Whites and Marbles) are medium to fast flyers. They lay their eggs on mustard family plants.
2. Coliadinae (Sulphurs) are avid mud-puddlers, often seen collecting in groups around muddy pools or on roads.

Species	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Mustard White	•	•			Fc Fd
Cabbage White	•	•	•		B Fm M
Western White	•	•	•		A H
Large Marble	•	•			M P S
Christina's Sulphur*	•	•			Fm S
Giant Sulphur	•	•			M W
Pink-edged Sulphur*	•	•			S
Clouded Sulphur	•	•	•		C M

**Seasons Key for Adults**

Sp = Spring (March 21-June 21)

Su = Summer (June 21-September 21)

Au = Autumn (September 21 until freeze-up)

Wi = Overwinter as adults

<sup>☞</sup> Migrants from populations inhabiting warmer climates

\* Not officially collected in the Athabasca area. If you find such species, please notify Science Outreach—Athabasca at Athabasca University.  
E-mail: sc-outreach.coord@athabascau.ca



T. Thormin

Silvery Blue

**Family: Lycaenidae—Blues and Coppers**

These butterflies are small and often brightly coloured. There are two subfamilies in this area:

1. Lycaeninae (Coppers) males are known to be territorial and aggressive. Most have an erratic flight pattern.
2. Polyommattinae (Blues) are weak flyers and like to hover near their foodplants.

Species	Sp	Su	Au	Wi	Habitat
Dorcas Copper		•			B W
Bronze Copper*		•			W
Coral Hairstreak*	•	•			P
Brown Elfin*	•	•			B Fc
Hoary Elfin*	•	•			B C R
Eastern Pine Elfin*	•	•			S
Spring Azure*	•	•			Fd M
Western-tailed Blue	•	•			Fc Fd
Silvery Blue	•	•			C Fd
Northern Blue		•			S
Greenish Blue	•	•			C M

**Habitat Key for Adults**

- A = Agricultural fields
- B = Bogs
- C = Clearings
- Fc = Coniferous forest
- Fd = Deciduous forest
- Fm = Mixed forest
- H = Hilltops
- M = Meadows/grassy areas
- P = Parkland
- R = Roadsides
- S = Sandy areas/pine forests
- W = Wetlands