








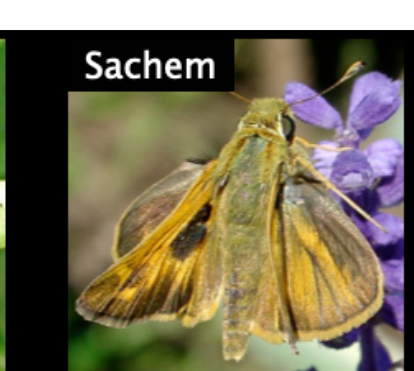








SKIPPER TOPS

By Sharon Wander





Orange/Tawny MALES with stigma surrounded by orange/tawny field:



<p>European</p> 	<p>Least</p> 	<p>Indian</p> 	<p>Long Dash</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very thin stigma - Orange FW & HW with narrow, blurred trailing dark borders - Blunt-tipped antennae - Female same, lacks stigma - U TNJ in open, grassy habitats, June to mid-July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tiny! Low-flying. - FW completely dark or with orange patch above stigma - HW orange patch with wide dark borders - Orange abdomen with dark stripe - C and widespread TNJ in grassy wetlands, late May-Oct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Half-circle dark patch near FW apex - Scalloped trailing edges to FW/HW orange patches - No black across HW orange patch - R in high-elevation openings NNJ, May-Jun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thick stigma + dark patch form "long dash" across FW - Blurred (not jagged) edges to FW/HW orange patches - Black divides HW orange patch - R/L in grassy meadows NNJ, late May to late June
<p>Leonard's</p> 	<p>Dion</p> 	<p>Black Dash</p> 	<p>Fiery</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LARGE - Orange costa - Yellow spot in darkish cell above stigma, band of yellow spots below - R/L Sussex & Warren in barren areas with Little Bluestem, mid-Aug to late Sept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fairly large - Straight, narrow stigma - Dark "hook" mark attached to end - HW orange stripe mirrors ventral ray - U to R/L TNJ in open, sedgy wetlands, early July to mid-Aug 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thick stigma with dark "hook" mark at end - Very wide, dark FW/HW borders - Pale HW mark mirrors ventral "chunky" mark - U/L NNJ in sedgy habitats, mid-June to mid Aug 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prominent stigma + curvilinear dark patch point to dark FW apex - FW & HW orange with extremely jagged dark borders - Mostly U late-summer immigrant in small numbers in NNJ, more common in SNJ - Open habitats with flowers
<p>Aaron's</p> 	<p>Sachem</p> 	<p>Dotted</p> 	<p>Two-spotted</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orange field with ragged trailing edges, very thin, gray stigma - "Bird's head" mark pointing in from FW apex - U/L SNJ salt/brackish marshes, June-Sept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bold, square stigma - Dark, branched veins in HW orange patch - C-A SNJ in dry, grassy fields; much less C NNJ, July to late Oct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prominent stigma in restricted pale/tawny patch - FW with bracelet, cell spots, 2 isolated spots toward apex - HW mirrors ventral dot pattern - R/L SNJ in dry, open habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crooked stigma in variable orange field - Large dark patch joins FW border - R/L on CP in acid bogs, mid-June to mid-July

Orange/Tawny MALES with no orange field below stigma, but with rectangular spot at end of stigma:

Peck's	Tawny-edged	Crossline	N. Br.-Dash
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stigma bordered by orange costa above and oval brown patch below -Projecting spot on HW orange patch mirrors ventral side -C NNJ, less so SNJ in grassy, flowery fields, May-Oct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bright-orange costa -Uniformly thick stigma parallel to costa -Single orange spot at end of stigma -Unmarked HW -FC TNJ in grassy areas, May-Oct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stigma tapers toward body (does not parallel costa) -Two orange spots at end of stigma -U NNJ (June-Aug) & SNJ (May-Oct), in a variety of open areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stigma "broken" into 2 parts (often a dot + a nonstigmatic connecting patch + dash) -FC NNJ, more L on CP in open, moist, grassy areas, mid-June to late Sept

Orange/Tawny MALES with no stigma:

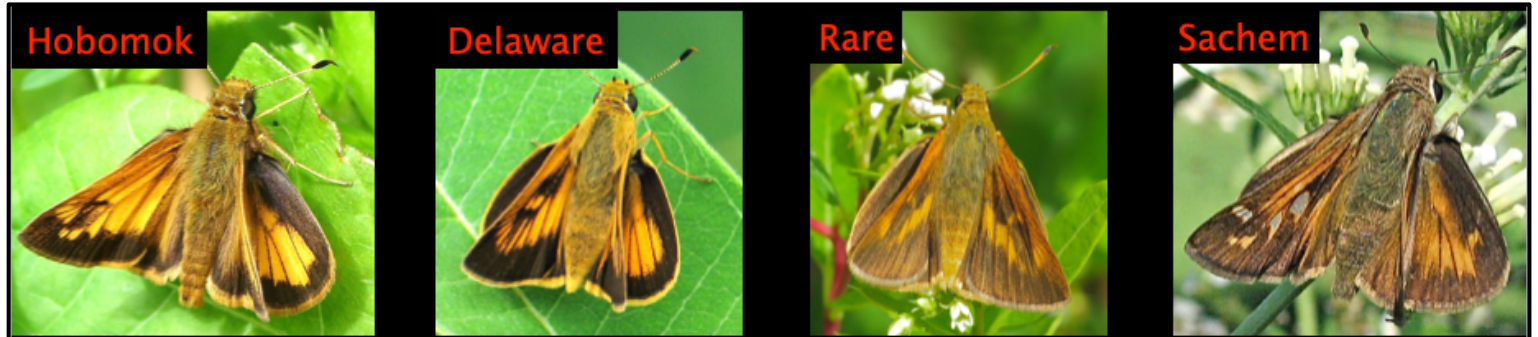
Zabulon	Hobomok	Delaware	Broad-winged
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -“Hook” on HW orange patch points to HW apex -Trailing edge of HW orange patch has no projecting spot -No dark veins through HW orange patch -C TNJ in woodland openings and edges, May-Oct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No "hook" on HW orange patch -Projecting spot on HW orange patch mirrors ventral side -Dark veins through HW orange patch -FC NNJ, R on CP in grassy openings/edges of woodlands, late May to early July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Orange FW with harpoon-shaped mark at end of cell -Radiating dark veins (resembling “crow’s foot”) extending from above mark to dark FW border -U NNJ, FC SNJ in wet to dry open habitats, early June to late Aug 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -LARGE -Dark FW with bold orange marks, including “boot kicking a stone” -Orange HW field has scalloped trailing edges -LC TNJ near Common Reed stands, mid-June to late Sept

Arogos	Rare
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FW orange patch unmarked, or with faint cell-end mark -Extremely R/L (extirpated?) in NNJ in dry habitats with Little Bluestem, late June to mid-July -R/L SNJ (known only on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst) in seasonally wet savannas; late July to mid-Aug 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FW with angled cell-end mark (like Delaware), but radiating veins less conspicuous -White rings circle abdomen -LC in/near SNJ marshes with Tall Cordgrass, late June to early Aug

Orange/Tawny FEMALES



<p>Fiery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Blocky orange marks across FW -HW orange patch forms a blunt "arrow" pointing back -Resembles Leonard's but much smaller, not as dark, with orange "dusting" between markings 	<p>Leonard's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -LARGE -Striking blackish FW with bold, blocky orange spots -HW orange pattern mirrors ventral chevron 	<p>Indian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>Scalloped</i> trailing edges to extensive FW/HW orange patches -Half-circle dark patch near FW apex -NO black across HW orange patch 	<p>Long Dash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2 FW dark patches resemble male's "long dash" -Dark markings divide HW orange patch in two
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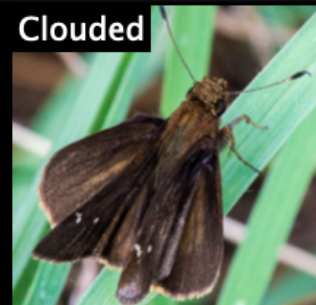

<p>Hobomok</p> <p>"Normal" female like male:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Projecting spot in HW patch mirrors ventral side -No "hook" on HW orange patch -Dark veins cross HW orange patch -Darker toward FW base than M 	<p>Delaware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wide, dark borders on both wings -2 orange spots in dark patch on FW that does <i>not</i> reach dark border, but extends in radiating dark veins 	<p>Rare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Much larger than female Delaware -much less orange on FW, and dark patch in FW reaches dark border 	<p>Sachem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2 large glassy spots in FW -Orange HW patch has branching dark veins and scalloped trailing edges
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<p>Broad-winged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -LARGE -FW dark with cream-colored spots including "boot kicking stone" -HW patch mirrors ventral pattern 	<p>Aaron's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Orange FW/HW patches crossed by strong dark veins 	<p>Dion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FW dark with transverse row of bold whitish or tawny marks, somewhat arrowhead-shaped. Orange streak on HW mirrors ventral side.
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Dark MALES (usually hard to see stigma, if any):













<p>Dun</p> 	<p>Mulberry Wing</p> 	<p>Little Glassywing</p> 	<p>Cobweb</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Unmarked dark brown FW and HW -Head and upper thorax often golden when fresh -C TNJ in a variety of moist to wet open habitats, May-Sept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FW and HW very dark, with purplish sheen -Rusty scaling on costa -U/L N & CNJ + Atlantic coastal counties, in or near freshwater marshes, late June to late Aug 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FW with prominent pale glassy marks, the central one rectangular (female's is square) -White patch on antenna just below the club -C TNJ in open, grassy areas, late May to mid-Aug 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Thin pale/white edge along costal margin -Prominent stigma in vague, darkish-orange field -R/L NNJ & SNJ in barren areas with bluestem grasses, late May to mid-June

<p>Dusted</p> 	<p>Clouded</p> 	<p>Dark MALES/FEMALES (Sexes similar):</p>	<p>Swarthy</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -White "eyebrow" mark -Overall dingy brown with a few small white FW marks -C (CP) to U/L northward in dry, open habitats, late May to mid-June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FW with bracelet spots + 1-2 small, separated white spots near center, and often a white spot in cell -No markings on HW -Extreme SNJ only, R in late summer 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FWs and HWs all dull grayish-brown -Costa may be paler, but never rusty costa like Mulberry Wing -U/L NNJ, more C from CNJ south in dry, grassy fields

Dark MALES/FEMALES (sexes similar):

<p>Pepper and Salt</p> 	<p>Com. Roadside</p> 	<p>Salt Marsh</p> 	<p>Ocola</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Dark FW with prominent bracelet and white transverse marks -Brown-and-light checkered fringes -R/L NNJ only, late May to mid-June, in clearings, edges of mature forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -VERY SMALL—could be mistaken for a fly! -Bold white bracelet mark + (sometimes) 2 faint, pale spots on central FW -Black and tan checkered fringes -R/L NNJ in ridgetop openings, mid-May to mid-Aug 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Long, narrow FWs -Pale bracelet, spots, and cell-end mark on FW -Pale mark on HW mirrors diagnostic ventral dash -Abdomen striped lengthwise -LC in and near SNJ salt marshes, June-Sept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Long, narrow FWs -Variable series of spots on FW, the largest arrowhead-shaped. Spots larger on F. -Unmarked HW -Abdomen striped lengthwise -U/R late-summer stray TNJ in many open habitats, often gardens

Dark FEMALES (All have bracelet + 2 to several pale spots across FW):

<p>Little Glassywing</p> 	<p>Zabulon</p> 	<p>Hobomok</p> 	<p>Peck's</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Several glassy spots in FW—the largest is squarish -Often a distinct spot in cell -HW markings variable, depending on ventral pattern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Flashy white (not glassy) spots across FW -No pale spots in cell -Edge of HW white 	<p>Dark <i>Pocahontas</i> form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Isolated pale spots in cell -Edge of HW NOT white (as in Zabulon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very small -Reddish-orange costa -Numerous spots in wings give checkerboard effect
<p>Tawny-edged</p> 	<p>Crossline</p> 	<p>N. Br.-Dash</p> 	<p>Black Dash</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very small -Costa may be bright or dull -Pale, rectangular spots in mid-FW (usually 2; above individual shows more) -HW unmarked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Variably tawny costa (may wear off) -FW with 2-3 pale spots, the central one large and squarish -Hard to tell from Tawny-edged, but usually larger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Variably tawny costa -Yellowish marks (usually 2) across FW, the outermost one elongated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pale spots across FW often arrowhead-shaped -HW pale patch mirrors "chunky" ventral marking
<p>Dotted</p> 	<p>Cobweb</p> 	<p>Two-spotted</p> 	<p>Clouded</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FW with 8-10 scattered white spots, including 2 small, isolated dots near FW apex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -White "eyebrow" like Dusted -FW with bold pattern of transverse white spots + 1-2 small white spots in cell (barely visible above) -HW with faint mirror of ventral chevron 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Two to (usually) 3 pale spots in FW -HW variably tawny to unmarked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -One or two white spots on central FW; inner spot larger, irregular -Often a tiny spot in cell -Markings more prominent than in male

SKIPPER TOPS
By Sharon Wander
Field Sheets for Identifying New Jersey Grass-Skippers from Above

- Thanks to NABA – New Jersey Butterfly Club members and friends for the above photos: Dave Amadio, Ahmet Baytas, Deedee Burnside, Jeff Glassberg, Tom Halliwell, Jenny Harrington, John Lampkin, Brian Johnson, Glenn Mahler, Jack Miller, Mike Newlon, Peter Post, Jim Springer, Pat Sutton, Wade Wander, Ann Watts, and Chris Williams.
- Most of the ID characteristics are from Jeffrey Glassberg's *Butterflies through Binoculars* series of field guides, his *Swift Guide to Butterflies of North America*, and Rick Cech & Guy Tudor's *Butterflies of the East Coast*, with a few interpretations of my own
- Abundance, distribution, habitat, and flight-period information (provided with the male of each species) is from the New Jersey chapter website, where more photos and much additional information about grass-skippers (and all of NJ's butterflies) is available: njbutterflies.org.

Key:

Abundance:

A = Abundant

C = Common

FC = Fairly common

LC = Locally common

U = Uncommon

U/L = Uncommon and local ("local" meaning not found in all areas of apparently suitable habitat)

R = Rare

R/L = Rare and local (found in only a very few areas of apparently suitable habitat)

Distribution:

NNJ = Northern NJ, generally north of Mercer–Middlesex–Monmouth counties

CNJ = Central NJ, generally Mercer–Middlesex–Monmouth counties

SNJ = Southern NJ, generally the Coastal Plain (from Ocean & Burlington Counties south)

TNJ = Throughout NJ (all or most of the state – may be unrecorded from some counties)

CP = Coastal Plain

Flight-period information is somewhat generalized and may include gaps between two or more broods, when few individuals are flying.