

SOME SKIPPERS AND BUTTERFLIES FROM DINOSAUR PROVINCIAL PARK, ALBERTA

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There have been no published records of skippers or butterflies from Dinosaur Provincial Park, 20 miles northeast of Brooks, Alberta. The purpose of this paper is to report the 18 species collected there by the junior author in July, 1971, including one, the Acadian Hairstreak, *Strymon acadica acadica*, which is new to Alberta. These reports are significant because very little is known about the skippers and butterflies of the prairie and badland area of southeastern Alberta.

Dinosaur Provincial Park is of unusual interest because it encompasses some of the finest badland terrain in Canada. Western Cottonwood (*Populus sargentii*) forms a scattered riverine forest along the Red Deer River and several tributaries. Shrubby Sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*) and Greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) occur in the coulee systems along with Wolf Willow (*Elaeagnus commutata*) and willows. Short grass prairie, with many characteristic badland plants, is found on the south-facing slopes and summits of the buttes and ridges. The ecology of the area will be further described in a paper now being prepared on the birds of the region by the junior author.

The following determinations were

made by the senior author in connection with the writing of a book, with John and Allan Legge, on the butterflies and skippers of Alberta. Voucher specimens are in the collections of both authors. The nomenclature corresponds to that of Hooper's *Butterflies of Saskatchewan*.

Peck's Skipper (*Polites coras*). One specimen collected on July 21 in a Western Cottonwood clearing with much Wild Bergamot.

Garita Skipper (*Oarisma garita*). One individual visiting Pink Cleome on July 14.

Common Checkered Skipper (*Pyrgus communis communis*). One female collected in a coulee on July 26.

Persius Dusky Wing (*Erynnis persius*). One male collected in a coulee on July 26.

Bruce's Swallowtail (*Papilio bairdii brucei*). One male on July 21 and a female on July 27, both in the vicinity of Western Cottonwoods.

Alfalfa Butterfly (*Colias eurytheme eriphyle*). Two albinistic females on July 26 in a coulee.

Acadian Hairstreak (*Strymon acadica acadica*). One fresh female on July 14 in open Western Cottonwood riverine forest. New to Alberta, Hooper cites specimens north to Fort Qu'Appelle and Eston, Saskatchewan. The specimen is light grayish brown beneath rather than light tan brown and thus cannot be *S. acadica watrini* which also occurs in Saskatchewan.

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Female Acadian Hairstreak (*Strymon acadica acadica*) collected at Dinosaur Provincial Park, Alberta on July 14, 1971, by N. Kondla. The scale is in centimeters.

Melissa Blue (*Lycaeides melissa*). One was collected in a coulee on July 26.

White Admiral (*Limenitis arthemis rubrofasciata*). One individual on July 21 along the riverine forest.

Milbert's Tortoise Shell (*Nymphalis milberti milberti*). One in open Western Cottonwood forest on July 14.

Acasta Checkerspot (*Chlosyne acastus*). A female was collected in a coulee on July 26. Known elsewhere in Alberta only from badland terrain along the Red Deer River up to Drumheller.

Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*). Six specimens collected from July 14 to 26 in coulees and in the riverine forest.

Meadow Crescent (*Physiodes campestris camillus*). One individual collected in a coulee on July 26.

Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria toddi jenistai*). Six individuals from July 21 to 26 in the vicinity of the riverine forest.

Callippe Fritillary (*Speyeria callippe calgariana*). Four females and one male collected from July 21 to 26 in a coulee and in riverine forest.

Northwestern Silverspot (*Speyeria atlantis helena*). Three males from July 21 to 26 in riverine forest.

Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele pseudocarpenteri*). Ten individuals from July 14 to 26 in, or near, the riverine forest.

Small Wood Nymph (*Cercyonis oetus oetus*). Three individuals were collected in a coulee on July 26.

The relatively small number of species discovered reflects, in part, the absence of collections during the spring and late summer. It is highly likely that early butterflies such as Western Checkered White (*Pieris protodice occidentalis*), Spring Azure (*Celastrina argiolus lucia*), Alberta Arctic (*Oeneis alberta*), and Varuna Arctic (*O. uhleri varuna*); and late ones such as species of Coppers (*Lycaena* spp.) are also present.