

A NEW BUTTERFLY FOR SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA

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On 16 July 1988 Ken Pivnick of the Agriculture Research Station in Saskatoon was collecting insects near Val Marie on an insect survey of the proposed National Grasslands Park. He collected the first confirmed record of the Common Sooty Wing [*Pholisora catullus* (Fab.)] for Saskatchewan. On 17 July 1989 he collected one more in the same area which he donated to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History in Regina.

The Common Sooty Wing is a skipper with blackish-brown wings on both the upperside and the underside. It is easily recognized by a submarginal S-shaped row of 5 small white spots on each forewing. It differs from the Roadside Skipper by lacking checkered edges.

The larvae feed on pigweeds (plants of the genera *Chenopodium* and *Amaranthus*).

On 7 August 1989 Steve Lucyk of Balcarres, Saskatchewan collected one

specimen of Common Sooty Wing at Cromer, Manitoba along a grassy roadside. This species was previously reported for Manitoba, but when P. Klassen, A. Westwood, W.B. Preston and W.B. Killop wrote *The butterflies of Manitoba* (1989) they were unable to locate Manitoba specimens in any collection. This specimen, therefore, confirms the species for Manitoba. It was donated to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History in Regina.

The Common Sooty Wing occurs throughout most of the United States north to Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. There are not yet any confirmed records for Alberta (Norman Kondla; pers. comm.) although it is reported for all three prairie provinces by W.W. Gregory in *Checklist of butterflies and skippers of Canada*.

This now brings the list of Saskatchewan skippers (Hesperiidae) to 10 species.



Common Sooty Wing, Cromer, Manitoba

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