Despite its very small size, Point Pelee National Park supports a large number of butterfly species. Due to its unusual shape and its position on Lake Erie, several of the species recorded are immigrants from the south, and four of these represent the only records for Ontario. Since 1882, Point Pelee has been visited irregularly by numerous naturalists interested in butterflies and other insects. Most of these collectors were associated with museums and other institutions, and the specimens they deposited in the various collections of these institutions have provided invaluable information.

The present work is the first comprehensive list to appear on the butterflies of Point Pelee National Park. Two unpublished reports (prepared for Parks Canada) discuss butterflies and are worth mentioning here. G.M. Stirrett, in Point Pelee, Ontario: a migratory pathway for birds and insects (1970), discusses 27 species of butterflies which he considers to be migratory. Unfortunately, supporting data for his conclusions are for the most part lacking. His historical accounts, however, are particularly valuable as they give in-depth information about the collectors who visited Point Pelee over the years. The other report, A Study of Selected Insect Taxa at Point Pelee National Park by P.D.N. Hebert and T.M. Fox (1978), should be disregarded by all lepidopterists interested in Point Pelee butterflies. The authors list 70 species of butterflies (except skippers) which could 'theoretically' be found at Point Pelee, but many of these species have not been recorded within a hundred or more miles. In general, very little information presented in their report cannot be found in the standard field guides.

A total of 68 species of butterflies are included in this report. For each species, information is given concerning its status and distribution at Point Pelee, the number of broods which occur, and when the adult butterfly is on the wing. Additional information of note is also included. Larval foodplants are generally not stated in each of the species accounts since it is largely unknown what plants are utilized at Point Pelee. For a listing of foodplants used throughout a specie range, in addition to detailed descriptions of the butterflies themselves, the reader is referred to A Field Guide to the Butterflies, East of the Great Plains by A.B. Klots (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1951) or The Butterflies of North America by W.H. Howe (Doubleday and Company, New York, 1975).

If the subspecies found at Point Pelee is not the nominate one, the subspecific name is also given. Also listed are the common names of each species; these are adopted from Klots with only very minor
Table 1. Southern immigrants at Point Pelee National Park, and the years when they have been recorded. Some species (e.g., little sulphur) regularly breed at Point Pelee after they arrive; however, none is capable of surviving the winter. Two additional species (buckeye and painted lady) are also immigrants from the south, but there is some evidence that they overwinter occasionally, so have not been listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Years Recorded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checkered Skipper</td>
<td><em>Pyrgus communis</em></td>
<td>1953, 1954, 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipevine Swallowtail</td>
<td><em>Battus philenor</em></td>
<td>1962, 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checkered White</td>
<td><em>Pontia protodice</em></td>
<td>1931, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Southern White</td>
<td><em>Ascia monuste</em></td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Face Sulphur</td>
<td><em>Zerene cesonia</em></td>
<td>1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloudless Sulphur</td>
<td><em>Phoebis sennae eubule</em></td>
<td>1914, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Sulphur</td>
<td><em>Eurema mexicana</em></td>
<td>1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-M Hairstreak</td>
<td><em>Par'hasius m-al/bum</em></td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Silvery Blue</td>
<td><em>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</em></td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variegated Fritillary</td>
<td><em>Euptoieta claudia</em></td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*refers to the nominate subspecies lygdamus

For each species which is presently highly localized, rare, or extirpated at Point Pelee, indication is given where specimens are deposited. Collections containing these specimens are as follows, along with the acronym adopted for use in this report:

Institutional Collections
CNC - Canadian National Collection, Ottawa
PPNP - Point Pelee National Park, Leamington
ROM - Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
UG - University of Guelph, Guelph
UMMZ - University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor

Private Collections
ARW - A. Richard Westwood, Guelph
AW - Alan Wormington, Leamington
JBW - John B. Walty, Willowdale
JEP - Jack E. Pilkington, Windsor
SMD - Sidney M. Daniels, Willowdale

Describing the abundance of each species in a particular area is perhaps the most difficult task of a lepidopterist. The frequency of how often a species will be encountered, and in what numbers, depends so much on having the right weather, covering the right habitat, observing in the proper season, and, most important, the amount of time spent afield. It should also be pointed out that the populations of many species may fluctuate somewhat from year to year. The following abundance scale applies only when ideal conditions as described above are met. Due to their differing patterns of occurrence, 'residents' and 'immigrants' are described under different criteria:

Residents
Abundant: an extremely common species and encountered in very large numbers (eg., more than 100 daily).
Common: a species encountered daily in substantial numbers (eg., 10 to 50 daily).
Uncommon: a species encountered almost every day but in small numbers only (eg., 1 to 10 daily).
Rare: a species only occasionally encountered, some years missed altogether; numbers found are always very low (eg., not normally more than 1 daily).

Immigrants
Abundant: occurs every year in very large numbers (eg., more than 100 daily).
Common: occurs every year and is encountered every day in substantial numbers (e.g., 10 to 50 daily).

Uncommon: occurs every year and encountered almost every day but in small numbers only (e.g., 1 to 10 daily).

Rare: does not occur annually, but may occur several years in a ten-year period; single or many individuals may be encountered daily.

Extremely rare: occurs once or less than once in a ten-year period; single or many individuals may be encountered daily.

In some respects the present work should be considered preliminary as considerable additional information is required on species status, number of broods, timing of adults, and larval foodplants utilized at Point Pelee. Additionally, it was not possible to obtain lists of Point Pelee specimens that may be present in a number of major museum collections. These include the British Museum of Natural History (London), American Museum of Natural History (New York) and Michigan State University (East Lansing).

**SPECIES ACCOUNTS**

CLASS: INSECTA  
ORDER: LEPIDOPTERA  
FAMILY: HESPERIIDAE (Skippers)

Silver Spotted Skipper *Epargyreus clarus* (Cramer)  
Status: Common resident.

Distinctive and highly pugnacious, solitary individuals of this species are regularly encountered throughout the park near woods and occasionally in fields.

Generally regarded as single-brooded in southern Ontario, at Point Pelee an extended flight period suggests that two overlapping broods occur, the second perhaps only partial. Other than an individual recorded by A. Wormington on September 29, 1982, dates of occurrence are May 28 to September 7. The silver spotted skipper is most numerous in June and July.

Northern Cloudy Wing *Thorybes pylades* (Scudder)  
Status: Former resident (probably extirpated).  
Specimen(s): ROM

A single specimen obtained June 29, 1965, by J.C.E. Riotte and P.D.N. Hebert, is the only known record for Point Pelee. The fresh specimen (of a species that is not known for its wandering) suggests
that the northern cloudy wing was once established. The species has not been found subsequently and is probably extirpated; if still present it must be exceedingly rare.

**Scalloped Sooty Wing** *Staphylius hayhurstii* (W.H. Edwards)
Status: Rare immigrant.
Specimen(s): CNC, ROM, PPNP, SMD, JBW

Essentially southern in distribution, the scalloped sooty wing has been recorded in Ontario only at Point Pelee and Pelee Island. Point Pelee specimen records are for the years 1963 (J.B. Walty), 1967 (W.M. Edmonds), 1971 (S.M. Daniels), 1975 (D. Brown) and 1976 (D. Stewart).

From 1980 to 1982, A. Wormington searched specifically for this species without success; its presence at Point Pelee is probably the result of irregular immigrations. Although double-brooded, only the second generation has been recorded, from July 31 to August 18.

**Juvenal's Dusky Wing** *Erynnis juvenalis* (Fabricius)
Status: Rare resident.
Specimen(s): None.

Although relatively scarce, individuals of this early spring butterfly are regularly encountered at Point Pelee along the west beaches and other similar open areas. All observation dates are between May 9 and June 10. The juvénal's dusky wing is single-brooded.

**Checkered Skipper** *Pyrgus communis* (Grote)
Status: Extremely rare immigrant.
Specimen(s): CNC, ROM

Primarily a southern and mid-western species, the checkered skipper has reached Point Pelee as a rare and irregular immigrant. D.M. Wood collected one on September 21, 1953; the next year P.D. Syme and D.M. Wood collected five specimens on September 24 and 25. The only other record concerns an individual recorded by D. Stewart on September 13, 1975. These records represent individuals of a second brood.

**Common Sooty Wing** *Pholisora catullus* (Fabricius)
Status: Former resident (extirpated).
Specimen(s): CNC, UMMZ, PPNP, JBW

The common sooty wing, although widespread in extreme southern Ontario, is, at present, apparently absent at Point Pelee. Despite considerable collecting from 1980 to 1982, A. Wormington did not record the species. The species was last recorded by L. Bevan in 1971.
Considering its versatility, often being found on disturbed land and other "waste" areas, the species may re-establish itself at Point Pelee. In southern Ontario it is at least double-brooded, with recorded dates at Point Pelee extending from May 28 to July 30.

**Least Skipper** *Ancyloxypha numitor* (Fabricius)

Status: Abundant resident.

Wherever tall grass or cattail provide protective haunts this diminutive butterfly will be found. It is particularly abundant anywhere along the edges of the Pelee Marsh.

The least skipper is double-brooded. The first generation (recorded from May 31 to July 2) is less numerous than the second (July 21 to September 18).

**European Skipper** *Thymelicus lineola* (Ochsenheimer)

Status: Common resident, locally abundant.

Throughout most of Point Pelee numbers of this introduced skipper do not approach its noted abundance elsewhere in southern Ontario. The only location where it could reasonably be called abundant is the North Dike, which forms the northern boundary of the park.

The European skipper is single-brooded; it has been recorded from June 14 to July 10.

**Fiery Skipper** *Hylephila phyleus* (Drury)

Status: Rare resident.

Specimen(s): CNC, ROM, PPNP, JEP

This showy species was first recorded at Point Pelee when D.M. Wood and P.D. Syme collected three individuals in 1954. Subsequent records include three collected by J.E. Pilkington in 1974, and A. Wormington recorded the species on a number of occasions from 1980 to 1982.

The fiery skipper is very fond of visiting flowers, especially those of asters. At Point Pelee the species is possibly double-brooded, but only one has thus far been detected: recorded from July 30 to September 28.

**Peck's Skipper** *Polites coras* (Cramer)

Status: Rare resident.

Specimen(s): UMMZ, PPNP

The Peck's skipper is relatively rare at Point Pelee although it is abundant elsewhere in southern Ontario. It is double-brooded, with recorded dates of the first from June 7 to June 24; P.A. Taverner recorded a second brood on September 6, 1909.
Tawny Edged Skipper *Polites themistocles* (Latreille)
Status: Rare resident.
Specimen(s): CNC, UMMZ

The scarcity of this species at Point Pelee is puzzling as it is common, even abundant, throughout much of southern Ontario. The restricted area of grassy fields within the park is possibly the reason, since the larvae are grass feeders. There are probably two broods in extreme southwestern Ontario, but June records only are available for Point Pelee.

Long Dash *Polites mystic* (W.H. Edwards)
Status: Former resident (probably extirpated).
Specimen(s): CNC

Specimens of this skipper were collected in 1913 by P.A. Taverner and C.H. Young from June 12 to July 17; these records represent the single brood of the species.

The long dash is an inhabitant of wet meadows which at Point Pelee are now very limited to certain edges of the Pelee Marsh. The species is probably extirpated considering that there are no records subsequent to the above specimens. A. Wormington searched for this species on a limited basis during 1982 without success.

Northern Broken Dash *Wallengrenia egeremet* (Scudder)
Status: Common resident.

The northern broken dash is found in a variety of habitats including forest edges and clearings, open fields, and swampy areas.

In 1976, after a very early spring, J.E. Pilkington collected a specimen on the exceptional date of June 13. Otherwise, recorded dates of the single brood are from July 1 to July 30.

Hobomok Skipper *Poanes hobomok* (Harris)
Status: Uncommon resident.

Essentially a forest species, the Hobomok skipper is regularly encountered at sunlit clearings and along trails and roadways. It is single-brooded with recorded dates from May 27 to June 19. The dark female form pocahontas, rare to uncommon in southern Ontario, has not been found at Point Pelee.

Dion Skipper *Euphyes dion* (W.H. Edwards)
Status: Uncommon, extremely local resident.
Specimen(s): CNC, PPNP

The Dion skipper is well-known for being quite local, with colonies usually found in wet sedge meadows or swamps. The only known population at Point Pelee is confined to a small area along the edge
of the Pelee Marsh northeast of the DeLaurier Homestead site. This colony was discovered by J.E. Pilkington in 1980 and independently by A. Wormington in 1982. The specimen taken by P.A. Taverner in 1913 possibly came from the same locality.

The Dion skipper is single-brooded; recorded dates are from July 13 to July 25.

**Dukes' Skipper** *Euphyes dukesi* (Lindsey)
*Status*: Rare, extremely local resident.
*Specimen(s)*: PPNP

Throughout its range the Dukes' skipper is exceedingly local and is known only from widely separated colonies. The species was once thought to be confined strictly to swamps in association with the sedge *Carex laeacris*, a probable foodplant of the larvae. More recently, however, it has also been found at considerably drier sites with the similar *C. hyalinolepis* (Irwin 1972).

The first record for Point Pelee is a specimen collected on the beach at The Dunes, a very dry site, on July 1, 1973 by J.E. Pilkington. This individual probably represents a stray since neither *C. laeacris* nor *hyalinolepis* is found at this site. In 1982, A. Wormington discovered a colony of Dukes' skippers along the Pelee Marsh edge east and north of the DeLaurier Homestead site. He collected a single specimen on July 20 and observed three or four others on July 25. In this area *C. laeacris* is widespread and it is also the location where Dion skippers are found.

**Dun Skipper** *Euphyes ruicola metacomet* (Harris)
*Status*: Uncommon resident.

Both this species and the northern broken dash are often found together, with the dun skipper always much scarcer and seemingly confined to more wooded situations.

The single brood has been recorded from July 6 to August 1.

**FAMILY: PAPILIONIDAE (Swallowtails)**

**Pipevine Swallowtail** *Battus philenor* (Linnaeus)
*Status*: Extremely rare immigrant.
*Specimen(s)*: PPNP, AW, ARW

The pipevine swallowtail was first recorded at Point Pelee in early July, 1962, when J.B. Walty noted the species in numbers. Of several individuals examined, all proved to be somewhat worn. In 1981, numerous immigrants from the south appeared suddenly in mid-June. A. Wormington observed 15 to 20 individuals on June 16, collected
several, and saw a few others the following day. A.R. Westwood collected four or five specimens on June 20. At the same time in 1981, pipevine swallowtails were recorded in Michigan, elsewhere along Lake Erie and on Lake Ontario, indicating a widespread movement had taken place.

The species is double-brooded, perhaps triple-brooded, in the northern part of its range. No subsequent generation was detected in either 1962 or 1981 at Point Pelee, undoubtedly since larval foodplants are absent within the park.

**Zebra Swallowtail** *Eurytides marcellus* (Cramer)
Status: Extremely rare immigrant (formerly more regular).
Specimen(s): CNC, UG

This striking butterfly appears at Point Pelee as an immigrant from the south. Formerly frequent, perhaps even annual, it also appeared in numbers: P.A. Taverner (1914) saw zebras "nearly every day and often from two to six." Similar accounts are found for the years 1882, 1909, 1913, and 1931. In 1965, J.C.E. Riotte saw an individual which he was unable to capture. The only recent records are from 1978; M. Gawn saw an individual on July 2 and W.A. Attwatter collected a specimen on July 18.

Although double-brooded, only the second ('summer') brood is apparently prone to wandering. Recorded dates are from June 29 to August 5, in addition to a worn individual on September 6.

**Eastern Black Swallowtail** *Papilio polyxenes asterius* Stoll
Status: Uncommon resident, locally common.

Throughout most of Point Pelee this swallowtail is uncommon; many individuals are probably wanderers from outside the area. The only location where it is notably numerous is the North Dike, which forms the northern boundary of the park. Here there is an abundance of larval foodplants, most notably wild carrot (*Daucus carota*).

Three broods occur at Point Pelee. The distinction between each generation is not clearly delineated since they overlap widely. J.E. Pilkington and A. Wormington independently recorded individuals on April 17, 1976 during a period of abnormally warm weather. Otherwise, recorded dates are May 19 to September 26.

**Giant Swallowtail** *Hesperides creaphontes* (Cramer)
Status: Common resident.

A memorable experience for even the most casual park visitor is the observation of one of these gigantic butterflies at close range. The large resident population at Point Pelee, and locally elsewhere in
Essex County, is unique in Ontario - elsewhere it occurs only sparingly. The hop tree (Ptelea trifoliata), is widespread throughout the park and is used extensively as a larval foodplant.

At Point Pelee the giant swallowtail is triple-brooded, the third generation being only partial. The first is recorded from May 20 to July 10, and the more numerous second brood from July 19 to about early September. Approximately 54 days separate the first emerging adults of the first brood from those of the second. The appearance of a few fresh individuals in mid-September - again about 54 days later - are representatives of the partial third brood (recorded on dates from September 11 to September 25).

**Tiger Swallowtail** (*Pterourus glaucus* (Linnaeus))
Status: Common resident.
Specimen(s): dark females: PPNP, JEP, SMD, AW

At Point Pelee the familiar tiger swallowtail utilizes a number of plants including hop tree, a species not usually recognized in the literature as a larval foodplant.

Dark 'melanic' females, a form of subspecies *glaucus* which occurs with increasing frequency to the south of Ontario, is rare but regular at Point Pelee. Two of several larvae found on August 28, 1974 by S.M. Daniels emerged as dark females; similarly J.E. Pilkington reared three larvae found October 2, 1977, one of which emerged as the dark form. A. Wormington has recorded dark females on four occasions, indicating that this form is of regular occurrence: August 14, 1981, June 2, 1982, two individuals on June 18, 1983, and two individuals on August 1, 1983.

The tiger swallowtail is double-brooded at Point Pelee. J.E. Pilkington and A. Wormington independently recorded early individuals on April 18, 1976 during unusually warm weather. Otherwise, recorded dates of the first brood extend from April 30 to July 6 and those of the second from July 18 to August 25. During extended seasons there is possibly a third, but partial brood; an individual recorded by P.D. Pratt on October 11, 1982 represents a probable example.

**Spicebush Swallowtail** (*Pterourus troilus* (Linnaeus))
Status: Common resident.

The spicebush swallowtail, essentially a southern species, utilizes as larval foodplants spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), which are both widespread at Point Pelee.

The species is double-brooded. Except for a very early individual recorded by A. Wormington on April 17, 1976, during very mild conditions, dates of occurrence are from May 21 to July 4 (first brood) and July 23 to September 28 (second brood).
FAMILY: PIERIDAE (Whites and Sulphurs)

Checkered White *Pontia protodice* (Boisduval & Le Conte)
Status: Extremely rare immigrant.
Specimen(s): CNC

The only records of this species for Point Pelee are individual specimens collected by G.S. Walley on July 9, 1931 and D.M. Wood on September 24, 1953. This southern species, abundant throughout most of the United States, periodically becomes established in extreme southern Ontario only to subsequently disappear. It is unknown if the above records represent strays or if a temporary population once established itself at Point Pelee.

European Cabbage White *Artopeia rapae* (Linnaeus)
Status: Abundant resident.

The European cabbage white is one of the most abundant of Point Pelee's butterflies. Populations early in the season are scarce and vary considerably from year to year, a reflection of winter survival rates. As the season progresses, however, the species becomes increasingly more common and can be found almost everywhere.

At Point Pelee the species is multi-brooded with probably as many as four broods. The first has been recorded from April 10 to mid-May and subsequent broods from June 13 to mid-October.

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste* (Linnaeus)
Status: Extremely rare immigrant.
Specimen(s): None.

A. Wormington recorded the great southern white for the first time in Canada during the influx of southern species at Point Pelee in June, 1981. He reported his observation in the 1981 Seasonal Summary of the Toronto Entomological Association (Hess 1982). Since no specimen was collected the details are repeated here to support the record:

"On June 16 I observed a male great southern white in the vicinity of the Visitor Centre at Point Pelee National Park. Although I was unable to capture this individual, I was able to approach it closely and observe it well: large size, giving the impression of being twice the size of the cabbage white, totally unmarked white above except for bold blackish markings on the extreme apex of the forewing above, and a strong, direct manner of flight. The individual was moving purposefully in a northerly direction, so was therefore assumed to be migrating."

As no specimen is available, a subspecific determination cannot be made.

Ont. Field Biol 37(1), 1983
Common Sulphur *Colias philodice* Godart  
Status: Common resident.

A species of almost all open areas in the park, the common sulphur becomes increasingly more numerous as the season progresses. It is suspected that part, perhaps most, of the population present at Point Pelee is the result of frequent immigration from adjacent areas, since very few fresh individuals are ever encountered. This and the following species hybridize frequently producing many interesting intermediates. White 'albino' females of the species are not uncommon. The common sulphur is multi-brooded with recorded dates extending from May 5 to November 9.

Orange Sulphur *Colias eurytheme* Boisduval  
Status: Abundant resident.

Like the preceding species, the orange sulphur becomes increasingly more numerous as the season progresses. Particularly in August and September this species is virtually everywhere. It is also at this time of year when white females are found, perhaps comprising as much as 50% of the population.

The orange sulphur is multi-brooded with recorded dates from May 8 to November 9.

Dog Face Sulphur *Zerene cesonia* (Stoll)  
Status: Extremely rare immigrant.  
Specimen(s): CNC

In 1931 G.S. Walley obtained a number of southern strays at Point Pelee, among them a specimen of the dog face sulphur collected on June 24. Although this is the only Point Pelee record, the species is known for its periodic wanderings northward and can therefore be expected to occur here again.

Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae eubule* (Linnaeus)  
Status: Extremely rare immigrant.  
Specimen(s): CNC, ROM

Essentially a tropical species, the cloudless sulphur is well-known for its periodic migrations northward in late summer-autumn. Point Pelee records are from two different years. In 1914, P.A. Taverner noted one on October 4; the following day he saw another, while J.H. Fleming and others recorded two. D.M. Wood collected two males and two females on September 20, 1953 during a large movement of the species into Point Pelee.

Mexican Sulphur *Eurema mexicana* (Boisduval)  
Status: Extremely rare immigrant.  
Specimen(s): CNC
The only Canadian record for this southwestern species is an undated specimen, a slightly ragged male, in the Canadian National Collection labelled "Point Pelee, W.E. Saunders."

Saunders (1885) details the capture of a Mexican sulphur at Point Pelee on June 30, 1882. The description he gives clearly corresponds to that of a male, even though he states his specimen to be a female. The confusion is perhaps the result of a typographical error; without any doubt the specimen now in the C.N.C. is the same individual.

**Little Sulphur** *Pyrisitia lisa* (Boisduval & Le Conte)

Status: Rare immigrant.
Specimen(s): CNC, ROM, UG, PPNP, ARW, SMD, JBW


The little sulphur is unable to survive Ontario winters, but breeding takes place once the butterflies arrive. Recorded dates of occurrence extend from June 9 to September 25; these records indicate as many as three broods are possibly involved. In 1981, after recording the species in June, A. Wormington found fresh individuals beginning July 25.

An excellent account of the history of the little sulphur in Ontario (which includes many Point Pelee records) is presented by Catling (1974).

**FAMILY: LYCAENIDAE (Gossamer-winged Butterflies)**

**Bronze Copper** *Hyllolycaena hyllus* (Cramer)

Status: Uncommon resident.

Although somewhat local, the bronze copper is regularly encountered in open meadows adjacent to the Pelee Marsh. The species is double-brooded; the earliest and latest dates of the first generation are June 9 and July 5, those of the second August 7 and September 23.

**Acadian Hairstreak** *Satyrium acadica* (W.H. Edwards)

Status: Uncommon, extremely local resident.
Specimen(s): CNC, PPNP

The only locality presently known for this species at Point Pelee is the open area northeast of Tilden's Woods. Here the larval foodplant, willow (*Salix*), is very abundant. A colony was discovered
in 1982 by A. Wormington who recorded several individuals on July 9 and July 12. A specimen collected by W.J. Brown on July 9, 1931 is the only prior record of the species for the park. The Acadian hairstreak is single-brooded.

Banded Hairstreak *Satyrium calanus falacer* (Godart)
Status: Uncommon resident.

This species, now Point Pelee's most numerous hairstreak, is widespread in the park. It can most easily be found by checking flowers of the common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) near woods. It is single-brooded, with recorded dates extending from June 25 to July 22.

Striped Hairstreak *Satyrium liparope strigosum* (Harris)
Status: Rare resident.
Specimen(s): CNC, PPNP, UG, JEP

Although likely to be encountered in or near any wooded area at Point Pelee, the striped hairstreak is nonetheless quite scarce. The species is single-brooded with extreme early and late dates of June 28 and August 1, respectively.

Olive Hairstreak *Mitoura gryneus* (Hubner)
Status: Rare, local resident (formerly common).
Specimen(s): CNC, ROM, UMMZ, PPNP, JEP, SMD, JBW

Throughout its range this diminutive, although colourful, butterfly is often quite local, always to be found in close association with red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), the larval foodplant. The Point Pelee butterflies are somewhat unique as they are disjunct from other populations. On nearby Pelee Island, F.M. Gaige collected 36 specimens on June 7, 1918. However, the species has not been recorded there since. Elsewhere in Ontario the olive hairstreak is limited to certain locations in the southeastern section of the province (e.g., Tweed, Campbellford, Shannonville and Kingston). In Michigan it has yet to be discovered.

Saunders (1885) gives an account of finding the olive hairstreak at Point Pelee on June 29, 1882, the first record for Canada. Other early naturalists subsequently found the species to be common here, often describing how they located numbers of the butterfly by rapping the trunks of the larger cedars, thus flushing them from their lofty perches. In more recent times the olive hairstreak has, unfortunately, become exceedingly elusive; although probably still present the population must be very low. Small numbers were regularly recorded up to 1976, but since then only one has been found, on June 13, 1980 by A. Wormington. Wormington searched extensively for the species in 1982, and to a lesser extent in 1981, without success. All of the
more recent observations have been made within a kilometre of the Visitor Centre. The disappearance of open cedar groves, due to natural succession, is believed to be the main reason for the species gradual decline.

The first brood of the olive hairstreak has been recorded from May 24 to June 29. At its northern limit the second brood of the species is less often detected and at Point Pelee it has been recorded only twice, on July 18, 1968 (J.B. Walty) and August 10, 1975 (S.M. Daniels and D. Stewart).

**White-M Hairstreak** *Parrhasius m-album* (Boisduval & Le Conte)
**Status:** Extremely rare immigrant.
**Specimen(s):** CNC, PPNP

The only Ontario records of this southern well-marked butterfly were in 1960, undoubtedly the result of a movement of the species from the south. R.W. Holzman collected two specimens at Point Pelee on August 31; the only other record is from nearby Essex, Essex County, where D.M. Wood obtained a single individual on September 11. All three specimens are somewhat battered.

**Gray Hairstreak** *Strymon malinus humuli* (Harris)
**Status:** Rare resident.
**Specimen(s):** CNC, ROM, PPNP, JEP

The gray hairstreak is widespread in the park but is scarce and difficult to locate. At Point Pelee it is multi-brooded. Recorded dates are from June 14 to June 19 (worn individuals of the first brood) and July 24 to September 11 (second and third broods). Fresh individuals recorded during the short period of September 21 to September 26 (three different years) may indicate the occurrence of a partial fourth brood.

**Eastern Tailed Blue** *Everes comyntas* (Godart)
**Status:** Common resident.

The Eastern tailed blue is one of the smallest of Ontario's butterflies. At Point Pelee the species may be difficult to locate but as soon as one is found others can be expected nearby.

There are probably four broods of this species at Point Pelee, but additional study is required to bear this out. Recorded dates are from May 10 to June 10 (first brood), June 16 and July 12 (second brood) and July 29 to September 27 (third and fourth broods). Numbers increase greatly as the season progresses with the spring generation exceedingly scarce.
Spring Azure  *Celastrina ladon* (Cramer)
Status: Abundant resident.

The spring azure, or common blue, is one of the first butterflies to emerge in spring. Numbers are regularly on the wing by late April. A number of seasonal "forms" have been described (some are considered by certain authors as possibly representing different sibling species) but which of these are found at Point Pelee is not yet known.

There are several broods of the spring azure at Point Pelee. The first trends to be confined to woods, is uncommon, and has been recorded from April 10 to May 14. Dates of subsequent generations extend from June 7 to September 18. The species is abundant in late June and July.

**Silvery Blue**  *Glaucopsyche lygdamus* (Doubleday)
Status: Extremely rare immigrant.
Specimen(s): PPNP

A female specimen collected by A.R. Westwood on June 29, 1981 is nominate *lygdamus* and probably represents the first record of this subspecies in Canada (the subspecies *couperi* is widespread in central and northern Ontario). Undoubtedly this silvery blue immigrated here from the south, since other southern species appeared in numbers at Point Pelee at precisely the same time.

FAMILY: LIBYTHEIDAE (Snout Butterflies)

**Snout Butterfly**  *Libytheana bachmani* (Kirkland)
Status: Uncommon to common resident, usually uncommon.

Although rare in Ontario, the resident population of this distinctive butterfly at Point Pelee is the result of an abundance of hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), the larval foodplant.

Probably three broods are involved at Point Pelee with considerable overlapping between them; recorded dates range from June 10 to September 28. The snout butterfly appears to be most numerous in August.

FAMILY: NYMPHALIDAE (Brush-footed Butterflies)

**Variegated Fritillary**  *Euptoieta claudia* (Cramer)
Status: Extremely rare immigrant.
Specimen(s): PPNP, AW

Noted for its northward movements, the variegated fritillary was found for the first time at Point Pelee in 1981—its appearance coinciding with the arrival of other southern immigrants. A
Wormington recorded two on June 16 and regularly encountered individuals until mid-July. All of those that could be examined were found to be somewhat worn; breeding at Point Pelee probably did not take place since no fresh specimens were subsequently found.

**Great Spangled Fritillary** *Speyeria cybele* (Fabricius)
*Status*: Uncommon immigrant, probable rare resident.

Very few fresh individuals of this large brilliant species are ever seen at Point Pelee, indicating that most observations refer to immigrants from adjacent areas. Since various species of violets (the larval foodplant) are widespread in the park, at least limited numbers probably breed.

The great spangled fritillary is single-brooded but has a very extended flight season, with extreme dates of June 26 and August 17.

**Aphrodite** *Speyeria aphrodite* (Fabricius)
*Status*: Extremely rare immigrant (former resident).

Specimen(s): CNC, PPNP

G.S. Walley collected a specimen of the aphrodite at Point Pelee on June 26, 1931, and another in nearby Leamington the following day. These records indicate that the species was probably once an established resident in the area. The only other record concerns a probable stray found dead on a park road by M. Matheson on August 4, 1982. This individual may have been transported here on the grill of a car; however, this specimen was fresh and unmarked and the body parts were still soft, which suggests it had just died.

**Silvery Checkerspot** *Charidryas nycteis* (Doubleday & Hewitson)
*Status*: Former resident (extirpated).

Specimen(s): CNC

The three specimens collected by F.P. Ide on July 8, 1927 are the only Point Pelee records of this species. These specimens, in fresh condition when collected, probably indicate a resident population was once established here. Since there have been no subsequent records of silvery checkerspot, the species is considered extirpated.

**Pearl Crescent** *Phyciodes tharos* (Drury)
*Status*: Abundant resident.

The pearl crescent is found everywhere at Point Pelee except in the most heavily-shaded woodlands. There are probably three broods but considerable overlapping makes the distinction of each generation impossible. The earliest and latest dates for the species are May 19 and October 2.
Baltimore  *Euphydryas phaeton* (Drury)
Status: Former resident (extirpated).
Specimen(s): CNC

A specimen of this distinctively-marked butterfly, collected on July 9, 1931 by G.S. Walley, represents the only Point Pelee record. Highly local and always confined to wet meadows where turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*) grows (the sole foodplant of the first-year larvae), the Baltimore is undoubtedly extirpated at Point Pelee. Suitable habitat for the species is now very limited in the park, if it exists at all, and such an obvious butterfly could hardly be consistently overlooked if still present.

**Question Mark  *Polygonia interrogationis* (Fabricius)**
Status: Common resident.

The question mark is the largest member of the genus *Polygonia* and is widespread throughout the park.

At Point Pelee brood relationships appear complex, with two, perhaps three, generations involved. The species has been recorded from April 16 to November 9.

**Hop Merchant; Comma  *Polygonia comma* (Harris)**
Status: Common resident.

The hop merchant is widespread in the park but is usually less numerous than the preceding species. At least two broods occur at Point Pelee. An early observation was made by J.E. Pilkington during mild weather when he saw several (overwintering) individuals on March 10, 1974; in contrast N. Zalkind observed two late individuals on December 1, 1982. Otherwise, recorded dates extend from April 5 to November 10.

**Gray Comma  *Polygonia progne* (Cramer)**
Status: Former resident (extirpated).
Specimen(s): CNC

A fresh specimen collected by F.P. Ide on July 6, 1927 is the only record for Point Pelee indicating the species was once established here. Essentially northern, its disappearance is probably attributed to changing ecological conditions; a population may still exist at nearby Rondeau Provincial Park.

**Compton's Tortoiseshell  *Nymphalis va-a-album j-album* (Boisduval & Le Conte)**
Status: Extremely rare immigrant.
Specimen(s): UG
Only one record exists for Point Pelee: a specimen collected on July 25, 1976 by P.R. Heels. Essentially northern (i.e. the forested regions of the Precambrian Shield), the Compton's tortoiseshell irregularly invades areas south of its usual range when it is abnormally abundant. In 1976 records were obtained from numerous southerly locations.

**Mourning Cloak**  *Nymphalis antiopa* (Linnaeus)

*Status: Common resident.*

Although always common, the numbers of mourning cloaks at Point Pelee is subject to variation from year to year. Overwintered adults have been recorded from April 13 to May 3. The following dates, during which this species has been recorded, indicate there are probably three broods: May 25 to June 28 (first), mid-July to August 25 (second) and September 21 to November 9 (overwintering third brood).

**Milbert's Tortoiseshell**  *Aglais milberti* (Godart)

*Status: Erratic resident and immigrant, usually rare.*

*Specimen(s): PPNP*

The status of the Milbert's tortoiseshell at Point Pelee is not totally clear. The species is often absent but other years may be found in numbers. It is probable that immigration largely accounts for its presence.

During mild weather J.E. Pilkington recorded an individual on March 10, 1974 which is exceptionally early. Other recorded dates for the species are from April 16 to September 1.

**American Painted Lady**  *Vanessa virginiensis* (Drury)

*Status: Uncommon to common resident, usually common.*

Always present and widespread in the park, the abundance of the American painted lady can vary from year to year. Immigration may account for part of the population in years when it is unusually common, as in 1981. There are probably two broods, with first and last dates of observations being April 16 and September 18.

**Painted Lady**  *Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus)

*Status: Erratic immigrant and resident, sometimes common.*

*Specimen(s): PPNP*

The painted lady is subject to great variation in abundance from year to year, in some seasons being quite numerous, and in others extremely scarce or virtually absent. The species is strongly migratory, its presence at Point Pelee during any season dependent on an influx of migrants. Subsequent broods then occur as a result of breeding. Each winter, however, kills off the existing population.
A. Wormington collected a very small, fresh specimen on June 10, 1982, the only record for the season after the species was present the previous year in numbers. It would appear that this individual probably overwintered in the pupal stage and suggests that the species is perhaps capable of doing so in very small numbers.

Two broods may occur if the species arrives early in the season. Recorded dates range from May 2 to late October.

Red Admiral  *Vanessa atalanta ruribria* (Fruhstorfer)
Status: Uncommon to abundant resident, usually common.

The red admiral is a common and conspicuous butterfly throughout Point Pelee. Periodically the species abundance may vary considerably. In 1981 the butterfly was literally everywhere, almost to the point of being present in swarms. The population subsequently 'crashed', and in 1982 the species was barely detectable for much of the season.

There are at least two broods of the red admiral at Point Pelee; recorded dates extend from April 11 to early October.

Buckeye  *Junonia coenia* Hubner
Status: Erratic immigrant and resident, sometimes uncommon.
Specimen(s): CNC, PPNP, UG, ARW, AW

The exact status of the buckeye at Point Pelee is not totally clear since it is not known if the species is capable of overwintering. The buckeye is noted for its annual northward migrations and this is the source of most, if not all, records of the species. If migrants arrive early in the season, breeding takes place and subsequent broods (probably two) also occur. There are records for the years 1908, 1913, 1932, 1953, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1978, 1981, 1982 and 1983; recorded dates extend from June 16 to November 2.

Red Spotted Purple  *Basilarchia arthemis astyanax* (Fabricius)
Status: Common resident.

Conspicuous and highly attractive, the red spotted purple is typically encountered drinking from moist ground along sunlit trails and roadways in Pelee's woodlands. It is possible the species was formerly more numerous since P.A. Taverner considered it to be one of the commonest butterflies on September 5, 1909.

There are two broods at Point Pelee; the first has been recorded from June 6 to July 8, and the second, more numerous, generation from July 21 to September 5.
Viceroy  *Basilarchia archippus* (Cramer)
Status: Common resident

The viceroy is found throughout the park but is most easily encountered in open areas adjacent to the Pelee Marsh. Here the larval foodplant, willows, are abundant. Recorded dates extending from June 8 to September 29 represent two overlapping broods; the species is most numerous in August.

FAMILY: APATURIDAE (Hackberry Butterflies)

Hackberry Butterfly  *Asterocampa celtis* (Boisdual & Le Conte)
Status: Abundant resident.

The established population of this species at Point Pelee is due to an abundance of hackberry, the larval foodplant. Elsewhere in Ontario, except Pelee Island, the species is exceedingly rare. Males especially are highly pugnacious, and often 'attack' and land on unsuspecting park visitors. The hackberry butterfly is double-brooded at Point Pelee. The first brood flies from early July (earliest June 28) to about the first of August. Emerging adults show a remarkable tendency to appear at almost the same time each year; in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, A. Wormington recorded the first individuals on July 1, June 29, and June 30, and July 2, respectively. The second generation, partial only with reduced numbers, flies from mid-August to mid-September (latest date September 18). Curiously, only a single brood was recorded from nearby South Bass Island, Ohio, where the species was formerly extremely abundant and studied extensively in the early 1950's (Langlois and Langlois, 1964).

Tawny Emperor  *Asterocampa clyton* (Boisdual & Le Conte).
Status: Uncommon resident.

The tawny emperor is another of the Point Pelee hackberry feeders. Like the above species, it is very rare elsewhere in Ontario except on nearby Pelee Island. More so than the hackberry butterfly, which is always more numerous, the tawny emperor tends to fly and rest higher in the trees and thus may be routinely overlooked. The species is dimorphic with the Point Pelee population dominated by the dark *proserpina* form; the only record of the light form (*typical clyton*); is a male collected by A. Wormington on August 2, 1983.

The tawny emperor is single-brooded and has been recorded from July 6 to August 22.

FAMILY: SATYRIDAE (Satyrs and Wood Nymphs)

Northern Eyed Brown  *Satyrodus eurydice* (Johansson)
Status: Common resident.
This species and the following were long considered to be the same. The northern eyed brown is common at Point Pelee and is found in the Pelee Marsh and adjacent (especially moist) open grassy areas.

The species is single-brooded with a long flight season; recorded dates extend from June 29 to August 28.

**Appalachian Eyed Brown** *Satyrodes appalachia leeuwi* (Gatrell & Arbogast)
Status: Rare, local resident.
Specimen(s): PPNP

The first records of Appalachian eyed brown for Point Pelee pertain to two worn specimens collected in 1982 by A. Wormington, one on July 21 (southeast section of the Woodland Nature Trail) and the other July 29 (Tilden's Woods). In 1983, on July 14, he observed two individuals at the former site. All individuals encountered have been at sunlit clearings in otherwise shaded woodland. The very similar northern eyed brown (common at Point Pelee) has been recognized as distinct from the Appalachian eyed brown only since 1970; the former is a butterfly of more open situations. Further study is required to determine more precisely the status of the Appalachian eyed brown at Point Pelee.

**Little Wood Satyr** *Megisto cymela* (Cramer)
Status: Common resident.

The little wood satyr is widespread throughout the wooded sections of the park where it always avoids open areas with direct sunlight.

The species is single-brooded and, although common, has a relatively short flight season. Recorded early and late dates are May 31 and July 12, respectively. A partial second brood has been recorded in the nearby city of Windsor by J.E. Pilkington but has not been recorded at Point Pelee.

**Blue Eyed Grayling; Wood Nymph**

*Cercyonis pega* *nephele* (W. Kirby)
*Cercyonis pega* *alope* (Fabricius)

Status: Uncommon resident.

The blue eyed grayling, which flies in dry grassy areas or, occasionally, woodland edges, is widespread in the park but never numerous. Point Pelee and much of extreme southwestern Ontario lie in the zone of intergradation between *nephele* (the typical Ontario subspecies) and *alope* (which is widespread southward). At Point Pelee individuals with large yellow patches on the forewings (*alope*) are frequently found, but are clearly outnumbered by *nephele*. Apparent intermediates between the two are widespread.
The blue eyed grayling is single-brooded. Both nephele and alope appear at the same time with recorded dates from July 3 to August 28. This species is most numerous in July.

FAMILY: DANAIDAE (Monarchs)

Monarch Danaus plexippus (Linnaeus)
Status: Abundant immigrant; common resident.

The monarch is a common resident at Point Pelee due to an abundance of the larval foodplant, common milkweed. The well-known migratory pattern characteristic of the species is regularly observed at Point Pelee in the autumn. Massive numbers occasionally congregate overnight at the extreme tip creating a spectacle enjoyed by many park visitors. Timing of the fall migration can vary considerably from year to year, but usually extends from mid-August to early October. Peak numbers normally occur in the last half of September.

There have been a number of observations made at Point Pelee that represent extreme early and late occurrence dates in Ontario. These include individuals recorded on May 8, 1982 (S. Schaub) and May 9, 1979 (A. Wormington). M.J. Oldham and A. Wormington found a live female specimen on December 4, 1982; this individual had undoubtedly emerged recently since it was immaculate, and temperatures during the preceding two months had been well above normal. Other recorded dates extend from May 23 to November 5. At Point Pelee the monarch is probably double-brooded, and perhaps occasionally, triple-brooded.

QUESTIONABLE SPECIES

The following five species may occur in Point Pelee National Park but have not been accepted for inclusion in the present work. Reasons for excluding these species are discussed below.

Little Glassy Wing Pompeius verna (W.H. Edwards)
A specimen in the Point Pelee National Park insect collection was possibly collected at Point Pelee but no collection data are attached to the specimen.

Sleepy Orange Abasea nicippe (Cramer)
This species is listed by Hess (1979) as occurring in Ontario, based on a Point Pelee specimen in the Canadian National Collection. However, J.D. Lafontaine (pers. comm.), of Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, states there has never been a Point Pelee specimen in that collection. Klots (1951) includes this species as occurring in Ontario, probably based on the C.N.C. specimen labelled 'W.E. Saunders - Ottawa.' Lafontaine, however, believes that the label is
a Saunders collection label and is unrelated to where the specimen was captured. Many other specimens with this label have normal locality data on a separate label.

**Dorcas Copper ** *Epidemia dorcas* (W. Kirby)

Two specimens in the collection of the University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology, are labelled "Point Pelee, July 25, P.A. Taverner" but no year is given. In his journals Taverner regularly made lists of butterflies he encountered at Point Pelee but never mentioned this species. It is probable that the specimens represent Michigan material, since Taverner lived and regularly collected there.

**Silver-bordered Fritillary** *Clossiana selene* [Denis & Schiffermuller]

Hebert and Fox (1978) list this species as occurring at Point Pelee without giving a source. Hebert (pers. comm.) states all records in the above report were based on a study of specimens in the Royal Ontario Museum and the Canadian National Collection. However, neither collection contains a Point Pelee specimen.

**Pearly Eye** *Enodia anthedon* A.H. Clark

Hebert and Fox (1978) list this species as found at Point Pelee without giving a source. The reason for not including the pearly eye on the list of Point Pelee butterflies is the same as that of the preceding species.

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