

# Skippers of the Ottawa District

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## **Workshop**

June 21, 2008

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

# Agenda

- Overview of local skippers
- Identification aids
- Unique species
- Species groupings plus identification tests
- Comparisons of most-difficult species

# What is a skipper?

- Intermediate between a butterfly and a moth
- Antennal club has a sharp point
- Usually dull colours - black, brown, orange
- Mostly small size (LBJs)
- Thick bodies, small wings
- Powerful flight, rapid wing movements
- 70 species in Canada

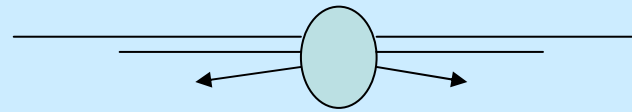
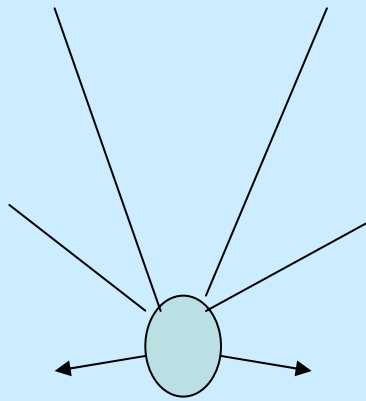
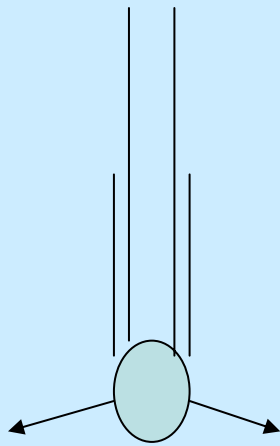


# Identification aids

- Size – tiny to large (for a skipper)
- Shape – pointed, rounded wings
- Colour – ground – black, brown, orange
- Colour – spots or bands
- Perches – wings flat, closed, half-open
- Flight characteristics – deliberate, erratic\*
- Flight season – spring, early or late summer
- Habitat – dry or wet fields, marshes, sandy, sedges, etc.
- Proximity to larval foodplant

\*watch out for small brown or orange moths

# Perching styles



# 27 species in 3 subfamilies in the Ottawa District

- Pyrgine Skippers – 7  
mostly cloudywings, duskywings



- Intermediate Skippers – 1  
Arctic Skipper



- Branded Skippers – 19  
mostly skipperlings, branded,  
sedge



# Unique species

- **Silver-spotted Skipper**  
large, gold and silver spots



- **Arctic Skipper**  
unique subfamily, circular spots



- **Common Sootywing**  
historical only, rounded black wings



# Cloudywing, Duskywings



Northern Cloudywing



Columbine Duskywing



Dreamy Duskywing



Juvenal's Duskywing

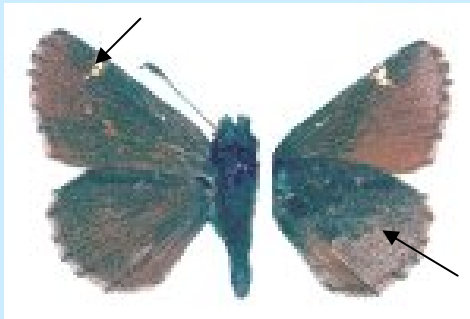


Mottled Duskywing

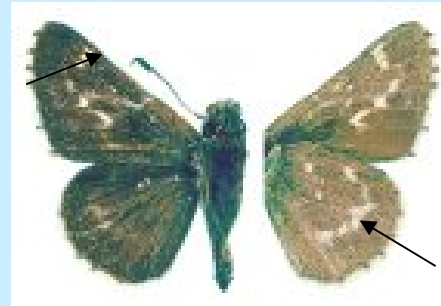
# Cloudywing, Duskywings



# Roadside Skippers



Common Roadside Skipper



Pepper and Salt Skipper

# Roadside Skippers



# Branded Skippers – sedge dwellers



Broad-winged Skipper



Dion Skipper



Mulberry Wing

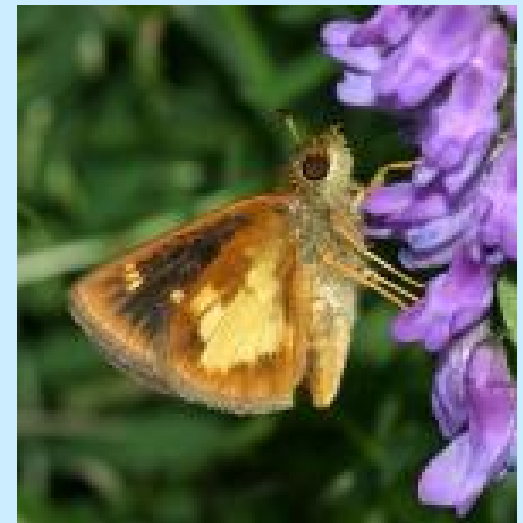


Two-spotted Skipper



Least Skipper

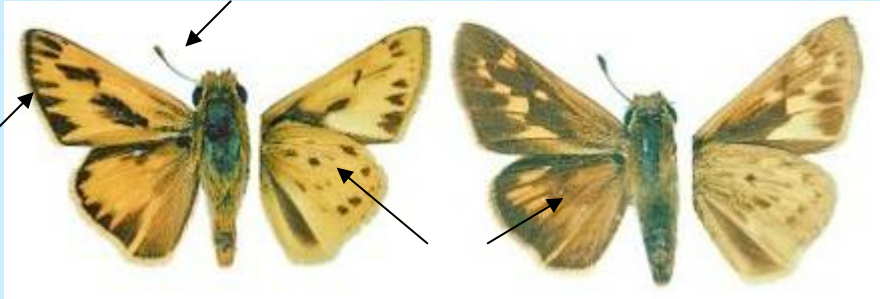
# Branded Skippers – sedge dwellers



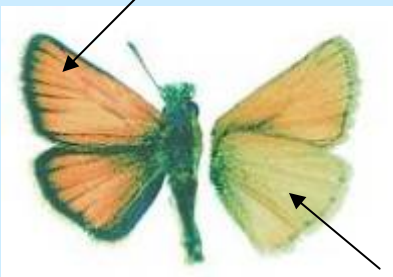
# Branded Skippers – grass feeders (easier)



Dun Skipper



Fiery Skipper



European Skipper

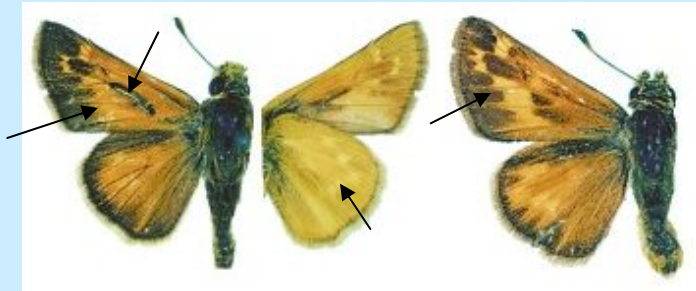


Hobomok Skipper

# Branded Skippers – grass feeders (easier)



# Branded Skippers – grass feeders (more difficult)



Indian Skipper



Delaware Skipper



Leonard's Skipper



Northern Broken Dash

# Branded Skippers - grass feeders males (more difficult)



# Branded Skippers – grass feeders females (more difficult)



# Branded Skippers – grass feeders

## Polites group



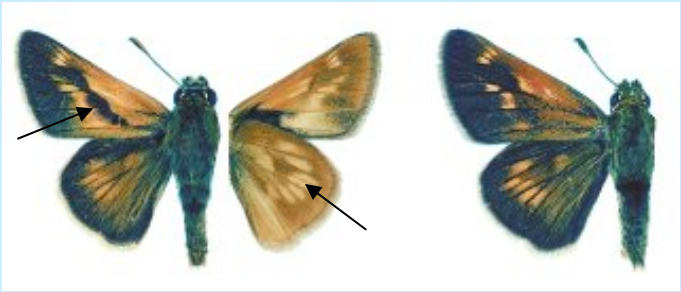
Crossline Skipper



Tawny-edged Skipper



Peck's Skipper



Long Dash Skipper

# Branded Skippers – grass feeders Polites group males



# Branded Skippers – grass feeders

## Polites group females



# Branded Skippers – comparisons



Peck's Skipper



Mulberry Wing



Hobomok Skipper

# Branded Skippers comparisons



Indian Skipper



Long Dash

# Branded Skippers male comparisons



Tawny-edged Skipper



Crossline Skipper



Two-spotted Skipper

# Branded Skippers female comparisons (most difficult)



# Branded Skippers females comparison



Two-spotted Skipper



Crossline Skipper



Tawny-edged Skipper



Dun Skipper



Northern Broken-Dash

# Branded Skippers comparisons



European Skipper



Delaware Skipper