

AUGUST 15 - 31, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

By Dick Harlow

GIANT SWALLOWTAIL



Giant Swallowtail, *Papilio cresphontes*, nectaring on Purple Coneflower. © Dick Harlow

Up until 2010 the Giant Swallowtail butterfly was not known as a migrant, only as a possible vagrant to Vermont. According to Rick Cech and Guy Tudor's book, "Butterflies of the East Coast, an Observers Guide", their map on page 68 doesn't even show this butterfly entering Vermont. As a matter of fact, its primary range is along the coastline of VA, NC, SC, GA, LA and all of Florida. They do show that it is found inland in those states and does come as far north as parts of NY, all of CT, RI and MA. Northern NY and VT, NH and ME are not considered.

With the changing climate, warming winters, and larval food items that are available, this species has been moving north. Host plants for the larva are: Northern Prickly-Ash and Rue along with several southern plants. Prickly-Ash is one that can be found here in the north.

This species' larvae prefer citrus and are found wherever there is a hint of citrus, whether that be citrus in an orange grove or on Prickly-Ash. With the climate changing, we are

AUGUST 15 - 31, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

By Dick Harlow

seeing more of Giant Swallowtail and when its larva pupate the Giant Swallowtail will overwinter.

This species is considered a generalist and fairly adaptable.



Giant Swallowtail, *Papilio cresphontes*, nectaring on Purple Coneflower. © Dick Harlow

AUGUST 15 - 31, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
By Dick Harlow

GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY



Great Spangled Fritillary, *Speyeria cybele*, feeding on Purple Coneflower. © Dick Harlow

Unlike the preceding species, this fellow is a northern butterfly. It is found throughout New England plus NY, PA, NJ, WVA, and inland parts of VA, NC, SC and GA.

This species likes open or wet areas that grow violets. This species is not fussy and will lay its eggs on whatever violet it can find as long as the plant is in the fritillary's primary habitat.

I believe we have seen this butterfly here at EastView because we have open fields, South Pond and violets. Our problem this year is the lack of precipitation. For the month of July, we were very dry, and August didn't become wet until the last two weeks, which might cause this species to look elsewhere.

AUGUST 15 - 31, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
By Dick Harlow



Great Spangled Fritillary, *Speyeria cybele*, feeding on Purple Coneflower. © Dick Harlow



Great Spangled Fritillary, *Speyeria cybele*, feeding on Purple Coneflower. © Dick Harlow

AUGUST 15 - 31, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
By Dick Harlow

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

- **Red Fox**
- **Weasel**
- **Gray Squirrel**
- **Eastern Cottontail Rabbit**

REPTILES

- **Garter Snake**

AMPHIBIANS

- **Leopard Frog**
- American Bull Frog

BUTTERFLIES

- Cabbage White
- Clouded Sulphur
- Wood Nymph, galanda
- Eastern Tailed-Blue
- Monarch
- Viceroy
- Black Swallowtail

AUGUST 15 - 31, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
By Dick Harlow

Weather Tidbits

Month of AUGUST 01-31, 2020

All Measurements taken at solar noon (1230 EST).

PRECIPITATION

Average August Precipitation for Vermont = 4.3 inches.

August Precipitation = 134 mm or 5.3 inches. A 1.0 inch above normal.

Overcast Days: 14