

JULY 15-31, 2022, NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
By Dick Harlow

BLACK SWALLOWTAIL



#1. **Black Swallowtail**, *Papilio polyxenes*, male,
nectaring on Bee Balm © Richard Harlow

Pictures #1 and #2 were taken July 18, 2022. The male Black Swallowtail also known as Eastern Black Swallowtail was nectaring on Monarda.

This swallowtail can be found in any open field or farmland even in one's own town or city backyard. Its range includes East of the Rocky Mountains and into southern Canada.

As one can see there is a big color difference between the male and female. The male has large bright yellow markings on the dorsal and ventral wing edges and no large mass of blue on the dorsal posterior of the hindwings.

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#2. **Black Swallowtail**, *Papilio polyxenes*, male,
© Richard Harlow

However, looking at image #3 one can see that the yellow is muted, and the size of the yellow markings are much smaller. Also, there is definite blue at the posterior end of the wing defining a female's characteristic.



#3. **Black Swallowtail**, *Papilio polyxenes*, female,
© Richard Harlow

One can entice Black Swallowtails by growing milkweed, thistles, clovers, lilacs, Monarda and cone flowers. I have observed Eastern Black Swallowtails nectaring on all of these flowers.

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AMERICAN BULLFROG



American Bullfrog, *Lithobates catesbeianus*,
EastView, South Pond, © Richard Harlow

We arrived at EastView in the late Spring of 2013, a short period after South Pond had been formed. During that time span very little vegetation had developed on the shores of South Pond. There were some beginnings of Cat-O-NineTail vegetation and mats of algae in the pond along with a frog chorus. But the pond was so open that a muskrat family thought they would make it home. That didn't faze the Bullfrogs; they still set up a chorus whenever it was hot and muggy. We had several very large vocal American Bullfrogs singing and letting others know their presence, especially any females that might be present.

Simply known as bullfrog, this large true frog is native to Eastern North America. One can find this amphibian in most any body of water that is permanent like small to large ponds whether manmade or not as well as ditches, pools, or canals.

Bullfrogs will eat almost anything that they can capture. They have been considered an ambush predator that will feed on mice, snakes and lizards in the south, as well as other amphibians in the pond. They will even eat small birds, spiders, and many invertebrates such as worms, insects like beetles or butterflies as well as snails.

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American Bullfrog, *Lithobates catesbeianus*,
EastView, South Pond, © Richard Harlow

Of course, the Bullfrog is an important prey item for other animals as well, including human beings. The Great Blue Heron and the Green Heron find Bullfrogs a tasty item. A Belted Kingfisher would find Bullfrogs a beneficial food item, or in the South the American Alligator would be a natural predator of the Bullfrog.

The generalist diet of this species makes it a very adaptable amphibian and thus allows it to be invasive and competitive in many types of water environments.

Humans, in my mind, are probably the most successful predator of Bullfrogs, especially in the South where they hunt Bullfrogs as game for food, primarily for their legs.

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

Red Fox
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit
Field Mouse

AMPHIBIANS

Eastern Bull Frog
Pickerel Frog
Northern Leopard Frog
Eastern American Toad

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BUTTERFLIES

Cabbage White
Yellow Sulphur
Black Swallowtail
Great Spangled Fritillary
Monarch
Viceroy
Pearl Crescent
Common Wood Nymph, (southern form)
Silver-spotted Skipper

All Measurements taken at solar noon (1230 EST).

PRECIPITATION

Average July Precipitation for Vermont = 4.17 inches.

TOTAL July 2022' Rainfall: 1st Wk.= 15.8 mm; 2nd Wk.= 3.6 mm; 3rd Wk.= 12.2 mm; 4th Wk.= 18.8 mm 4 overcast days and 4 days of rain. This results in a Month's total of 50.4 mm or 1.98 inches. July Average is 4.17 inches, which leaves a deficit of **2.19 inches for this month. July had 13 overcast days and 11 days where there was some sort of precipitation. This year so far, we have a **total precipitation deficit of 4.99 inches.****