

TWO SULPHUR BUTTERFLIES



1. **Clouded Sulphur**, *Colias philodice*, nectaring on New England Aster, *Aster novae-angliae*, October 7, 2021. © Dick Harlow

The Clouded Sulphur Butterflies primary food plant is White Clover. Therefore, on lawns, fields, open areas, roadsides one might see pale yellow to darker yellow butterfly males searching for a mate or simply feeding on clover. This doesn't mean they will not be attracted to pollen or nectar of other plants as seen in the following photographs. What it does mean is that White Clover is where they will lay their eggs for the next generation.

This species is found over the entire United States, including the Gulf States and into Canada.



2. **Clouded Sulphur** *Colias philodice*,, same Sulphur as in #1, © Dick Harlow



3. This view of the same **Clouded Sulphur** is to give context to size and late blooming N.E. Aster. © Dick Harlow

OCTOBER 15- 31, 2021 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

By Dick Harlow

Similar species to the Clouded Sulphur are the Cabbage White and the Orange Sulphur.

When these butterflies set down, they usually land with their wings closed and therefore it is difficult to see whether the yellow butterfly is truly a Clouded Sulphur or an Orange Sulphur because Orange Sulphurs look very similar on their dorsal side. However, if you watch them flying an Orange Sulphur will usually show orange on its dorsal side as well as being very dark yellow.

There are noted cases of albino Clouded Sulphur butterflies, but generally Clouded Sulphur's are pictured as these images show. Plus, an albino would have some light yellow and would not look like a Cabbage White.



4. Orange Sulphur, *Colias eurytheme*,
© Bugguide.net.jpg

Notice in #4 and #5 the orange in the forewing with just a touch of orange in the hindwing, which is very characteristic of an Orange Sulphur. This orange color will not be seen in any aspect on the wing of a Clouded Sulphur.

Also, Orange Sulphur butterflies' primary food plant is alfalfa and similar legumes. Consequently, it would be found in similar places as is the Clouded Sulphur and Cabbage White. Yet, we here at EastView, do not seem to see Orange Sulphur butterflies until the end of Summer and the first of Fall.



5. Orange Sulphur, *Colias eurytheme*, open wing, © National Park Service.

A WEATHER NOTE

As of **October 26, 2021, 39.6% of the U.S.** and **47.3% of the lower 48 states** are in drought in the U.S. and **47.34% of the lower 48 states** are in drought this week. Acres of crops in the U.S. are experiencing drought conditions this week.

Almost half of the Northeast remains in drought, with another **18%** experiencing drier than normal conditions, according to the Drought Monitor published October 15th. Much of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and all of Rhode Island remain in either **"Severe" (D2)** or **"Extreme Drought" (D3)**.

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Just over 57% of Vermont is experiencing moderate drought conditions, and most of the state is abnormally dry, according to the National Integrated Drought Information System monitor. I realize the rain we are experiencing today October 31st has taken us over the precipitation average for the month of October. Although the rain last night and today, was copious we still have two months to go.

Since **2000**, the longest duration of drought (**D1-D4**) in Vermont lasted **70 weeks** beginning on **June 23, 2020, ending on October 19, 2021**. The most intense period of drought occurred the week of **September 29, 2020, where D2 affected 29.39% of Vermont land**.

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

White-tailed Deer

REPTILES

Garter Snake

AMPHIBIANS

Green Frog

Bull Frog

BUTTERFLIES

Cabbage White

Clouded Sulphur

Orange Sulphur

Monarch

All Measurements taken at solar noon (1230 EST).

PRECIPITATION

Average October Precipitation for Vermont = 3.58 inches.

Total EastView precipitation for October 2021 was 122.2 mm or 4.8 inches. This is a 1.22 surplus for the month. This surplus brings us out of the drought.

Overcast Days for the month: We had 22 days of overcast skies. Of those overcast skies 16 days produced rain. One day more than three weeks were overcast, and two days more than two weeks produced rain! October was a fairly wet month!