**FIELD TRIP REPORT – BUTTERFLIES AT INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK**

**JULY 30, 2022**

**LEADER: DORIS APPLEBAUM ASSISTANT LEADER: JEFF STACEY**

Temperatures in the mid- to upper-70s, lots of sun, and very little wind: A perfect day to look for butterflies. And the butterflies must have thought so too, because lots of them showed up to delight the 11 people who visited Indian Springs Metropark on this lovely day.

Several participants brought a long-lens type of camera. They had a very productive day, too, as several of the butterflies were quite cooperative and provided excellent opportunities for photos.

There were also dragonflies to photograph, along with hummingbird moths, and one incredible little fly which none of us had ever seen before. It posed beautifully for the cameras, and OAS Field Trip Officer Jeff Stacey took an outstanding photo of it, which accompanies this report. Jeff also took the time to find out what it was: a type of woolly bee fly. (I wanted to call Jeff my co-leader because he was so helpful all through the day, but he insisted that “Assistant Leader” was all he would accept.)

Among the most frustrating butterflies we saw were several dark species of skippers. They were so numerous that it was impossible to get an accurate count of them for my Michigan Butterfly Survey report. We kept looking for the more colorful orange species but none gave us a decent look.

It was nice to see several Monarchs, though, and it was amazing to see 11 Viceroys, those Monarch mimics that look so much like the more famous species.

As the 1:00 p.m. ending time for the walk arrived, everyone except Jeff and me headed home. Jeff wanted to try one more time for a hairstreak, which he felt sure should be around. These little gems are most numerous in July, and July 30 is getting a little late for any of these species to be seen. However, the butterfly gods, which had already been so kind to us, came through again and provided a Banded Hairstreak. And as an added attraction, the day’s only Eastern Comma showed up.

In all, there were 22 species of butterflies seen: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur, Orange Sulphur, Banded Hairstreak, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Summer Azure, Great Spangled Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Eastern Comma, Red Admiral, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy, Appalachian Brown, Common Wood-Nymph, Monarch, Silver-spotted Skipper, Wild Indigo Duskywing (skipper), Northern Broken-Dash (skipper), Dun Skipper, Dion Skipper.

What an enjoyable day!