

Order Orthoptera: Grasshoppers & Kin

Short-winged Green Grasshopper



Dichromorpha viridis

Can be green, brown, or a mix. Found in fields.



Fork-tailed Bush Katydid

Scudderia furcata

Found on deciduous trees and shrubs. Their call can be heard day and night.

Order Diptera: Flies

Hover Fly



Toxomerus geminatus

The larva of this harmless bee-mimic is a predator of aphids, helping gardeners.



Deer Fly

Chrysops sp.

Only females bite, males drink nectar. The larvae are aquatic. Most common in July.

Class Arachnida: Spiders & Kin

Other arthropods are also diverse, and captivating in their life cycles and habits.

Goldenrod Crab Spider



Misumena vatia

Shown here with a honeybee as prey, these spiders can change color to sit and wait on different flowers for insects to come along.

Insects and Plants

Often, insects can be found on or around certain plants because of their life cycles. Here are a few plants at Horse Hill that support a high diversity of insect species.



Milkweed

Clusters of pink flowers, large seed pods. Insects that eat this are often red/orange and black to show they are poisonous.



Goldenrod

Various types found in fields and forests. Attracts many types of pollinators and predators.



Blackberry

Thorny brambles. Insects use the leaves, stems, and fruit for food and also for shelter.



Jewelweed

Also called touch-me-not for its exploding seed pods. Usually grows near poison ivy and is a natural remedy for such.



Insects

of Horse Hill Nature
Preserve

By Molly Jacobson

Why be interested in insects?

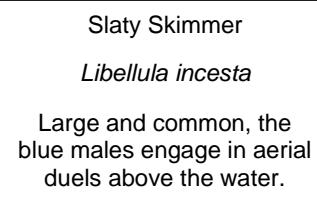
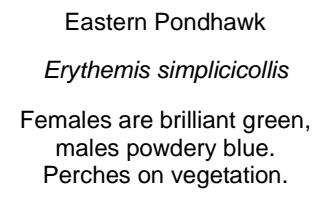
Insects dominate planet Earth in both diversity and multitude. They come in every shape, color, and form, some undergoing transformations that defy imagination. The vast majority of insects are beneficial or harmless, and all are fascinating. They coevolved with plants so neither can exist without the other. They provide food for other creatures up and across the web of life, and are excellent indicators of environmental health. With insects, the intrigue never ceases!

Horse Hill Nature Preserve has an astounding diversity of wildlife, insects among the most abundant. Here are some common and spectacular species that you're likely to see during your visit. Guide continued on back.

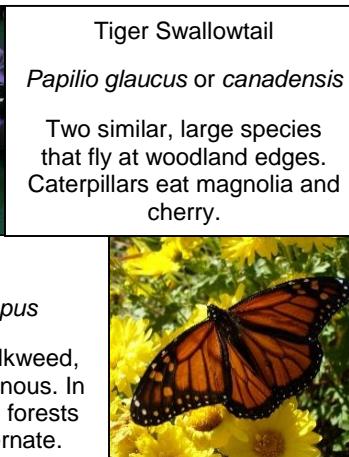
Order Coleoptera: Beetles

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|  | <p>Red-necked Cane Borer <i>Agrilus ruficollis</i></p> <p>These tiny but noticeable beetles feed on blackberry, the larvae causing galls (growths) on the stem.</p> |
| <p>Whirligig <i>Dineutus sp.</i></p> <p>A gregarious insect known for its circular patterns of swimming on the water's surface.</p> |  |
|  | <p>Six-spotted Tiger Beetle <i>Cicindela sexguttata</i></p> <p>Among the fastest insect runners, they hunt along sunlit paths in the woods.</p> |
| <p>Black Firefly <i>Lucidota atra</i></p> <p>This species does not glow, and is active during the daytime in forests.</p> |  |
|  | <p>Mottled Tortoise Beetle <i>Deloyala guttata</i></p> <p>Their wing case covers their body like a shell. They eat morning-glory.</p> |

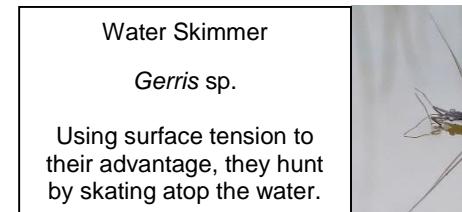
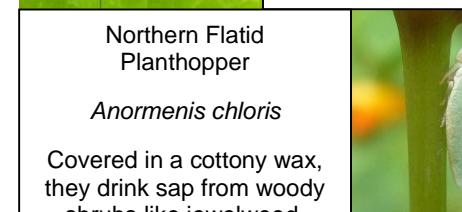
Order Odonata: Dragonflies & Damselflies

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|  | <p>Slaty Skimmer <i>Libellula incesta</i></p> <p>Large and common, the blue males engage in aerial duels above the water.</p> |
|  | <p>Common Whitetail <i>Plathemis lydia</i></p> <p>Males have bright white tails, and often perch on rocks and logs.</p> |
|  | <p>Eastern Pondhawk <i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i></p> <p>Females are brilliant green, males powdery blue. Perches on vegetation.</p> |
|  | <p>Bluet <i>Enallagma sp.</i></p> <p>A genus of blue damselflies found close to the water.</p> |

Order Lepidoptera: Butterflies & Moths

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|  | <p>Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus or canadensis</i></p> <p>Two similar, large species that fly at woodland edges. Caterpillars eat magnolia and cherry.</p> |
|  | <p>Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i></p> <p>Caterpillars eat milkweed, making them poisonous. In fall they migrate to forests in Mexico to hibernate.</p> |

Order Hymenoptera: Bees, Wasps, Ants

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|  | <p>Common Eastern Bumblebee <i>Bombus impatiens</i></p> <p>Unlike honeybees, these are native. They fly from spring to fall and nest underground.</p> |
|  | <p>Metallic Green Bee <i>Agapostemon sp.</i></p> <p>These small bees are solitary and can be seen on a variety of flowers.</p> |
|  | <p>European Paper Wasp <i>Polistes dominula</i></p> <p>An introduced species, it is very common and is often mistaken for a yellowjacket.</p> |
|  | <p>Water Skimmer <i>Gerris sp.</i></p> <p>Using surface tension to their advantage, they hunt by skating atop the water.</p> |
|  | <p>Stilt Bug <i>Jalysus sp.</i></p> <p>Common in weedy fields, they drink plant juices. Can be seen on nightshade.</p> |
|  | <p>Northern Flatid Planthopper <i>Anormenis chloris</i></p> <p>Covered in a cottony wax, they drink sap from woody shrubs like jewelweed.</p> |