

Common Butterflies of the Chicago Region

The Field Museum, Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network and Chicago Wilderness

Note: The black scale bar represents 2 cm in all photos.

Dorsal View

Ventral View

Resting View

GIANT SWALLOWTAILS: Giant swallowtail is a large butterfly with dark wings above with two yellow crossing stripes, below pale yellow. Host Plants: prickly ash (*Xanthoxylum*) and hoptree (*Ptelea*).



FMNHINS 124003 Papilionidae: Papilioninae: Papilionini
Papilio cresphontes Cramer, 1777



EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL: As compared to the Black Swallowtail, no inner line of yellow dots. Lots of blue on hindwing, up into center of hind wing. No inner row of orange dots. Host Plants: Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).



FMNHINS 124000 Papilionidae: Papilioninae: Papilionini
Papilio glaucus Linnaeus, 1758



EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL female dark form: Tiger stripes often still visible on female dark form.



FMNHINS 124001 Papilionidae: Papilioninae: Papilionini
Papilio glaucus Linnaeus, 1758



BLACK SWALLOWTAIL:

In addition to outer line of yellow dots, male has a strong inner line, and blue may be almost absent. Female with much weaker inner line of yellow with separate spot near tip of wing. Some blue on hind-wing, but does not extend up into hindwing above row of faint spots. Host Plants: Parsley Family (*Apiaceae*).



FMNHINS 124005 Papilionidae: Papilioninae: Papilionini
Papilio polyxenes Fabricius, 1775

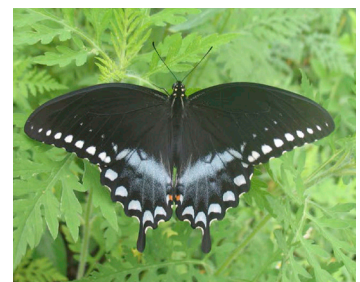


SPICEBRUSH SWALLOWTAIL:

With half-moon shaped blue marks on the hindwings and cream-blue edge spots. Host Plants: Spicebush (*Lindera*) and Sassafras.



FMNHINS 124006 Papilionidae: Papilioninae: Papilionini
Papilio troilus Linnaeus, 1758



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OLYMPIA MARBLEWING:

Underside of hindwing with sparse marbling leaving much white space; pink tinge at upper margin in living butterflies. Host Plants: various rock cresses (*Arabis* species) in the mustard family (*Brassicaceae*).



FMNHINS 124058 Pieridae: Pierinae: Anthocharini
Euchloe olympia (Edwards, 1871)

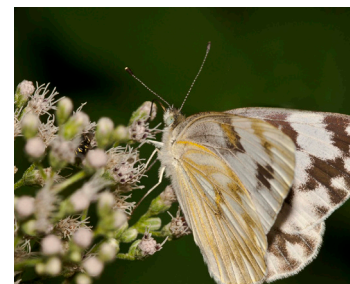
CABBAGE WHITE: Very common, white butterfly with one black spot. Host Plants: various.



FMNHINS 124049 Pieridae: Pierinae
Pieris rapae (Linnaeus, 1758)

CHECKERED WHITE BUTTERFLY:

Upperside of male forewing has black checkered pattern on outer half. Female is more heavily patterned, but markings are more brown and diffuse. Hindwing of both male and female white. Host Plants: plants in mustard family (*Brassicaceae*) and caper family (*Capparidaceae*).



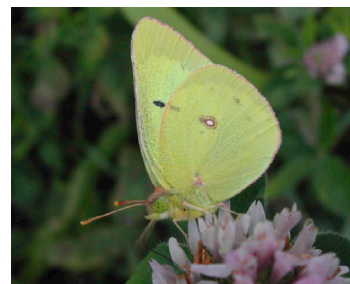
FMNHINS 124055 Pieridae: Pierinae: Pierini
Pontia protodice (Boisduval & Leconte, 1830)

ORANGE SULPHUR: Yellow to orange-yellow with black along the upperside edges. These species will hybridize. Females can be white. Orange sulphur has at least some orange hue above. Host Plants: clovers and alfalfa (*Fabaceae*).



FMNHINS 124048 Pieridae: Coliadinae
Colias eurytheme Boisduval, 1852

CLOUDED SULPHUR: Clouded sulphur upperside without orange patches. Host Plants: same as Orange Sulphur.



FMNHINS 124044 Pieridae: Coliadinae
Colias philodice Godart, 1819

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ACADIAN HAIRSTREAKS:

No dots near the body on the hairstreaks as seen in Azures and Eastern Tailed Blue. Blue and orange dots on the underside. Host Plants: willows (*Salix*).



FMNHINS 124071 Lycaenidae: Theclinae: Eumaeini
Satyrium acadica (W.H. Edwards, 1862)



BANDED HAIRSTREAKS:

Banded Hairstreak with a band of dashes on the underside. Host Plants: oaks (*Quercus*) and hickories (*Carya*).



FMNHINS 124085 Lycaenidae: Theclinae: Eumaeini
Satyrium calanus (Hübner, [1809])



SPRING AZURE:

Strong flyer, blue top usually seen in flight. Underside patterned like hairstreaks or eastern tailed blue. No colored spots on underside. No tails. Host Plants: dogwood (*Cornus*), meadowsweet (*Spiraea*), and other plants.



FMNHINS 124080 Lycaenidae: Lycaeninae: Polyommattini
Celastrina ladon (Cramer, 1780)



SUMMER AZURE: This tiny "blue" can generally be found along woodland edges. Lighter and less mottled than their spring counterparts and more widely distributed in their habitat preferences. Host Plants: Racemose dogwood (*Cornus*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus*), and other plants.



FMNHINS 124084 Lycaenidae: Lycaeninae: Polyommattini
Celastrina neglecta (W.H. Edwards, 1862)



EASTERN TAILED BLUE: Weak flyer, blue or very dark top. Usually stays right above the vegetation. Orange spots on the underside. Tails on hindwing. Host Plants: Pea family (Fabaceae).



FMNHINS 124083 Lycaenidae: Lycaeninae: Polyommattini
Cupido comyntas (Godart, [1824])



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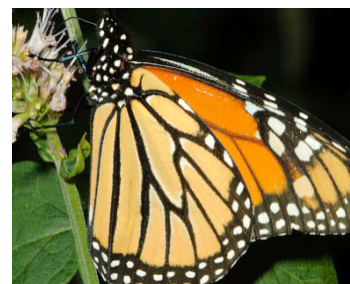
AMERICAN SNOOT BUTTERFLY:

Mouthparts long and drawn-out pointing forward. Dorsal side brown, forewing with orange at base and inner margin, and white spots on outer half. Ventral hindwing spotted or smooth violet-gray. Host Plants: several species of Hackberry (*Celtis*).



FMNHINS 124021 Nymphalidae: Libytheinae *Libytheana carinenta* (Cramer, 1777)

MONARCH: Without line crossing through the hind wing. Much larger and a stronger flier than a Viceroy. Host plants: milkweeds (*Asclepias*).

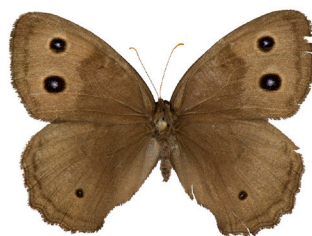


female

FMNHINS 124007 Nymphalidae: Danainae: Danaini *Danaus plexippus* (Linnaeus, 1758) male

COMMON WOOD NYMPH:

Two large eye spots on forewing. Small dots in a row on hindwing. Found in open habitats. Host plants: grasses (Poaceae).



FMNHINS 124034 Nymphalidae: Satyrinae: Satyrini *Cercyonis pegala* (Fabricius, 1775)

NORTHERN PEARLY-EYE:

No large eyespots. Eyespots on the underside edge of the wing surrounded by yellow. Tends to be more strongly patterned on underside. Somewhat scalloped hindwing. Savanna species. Host Plants: grasses (Poaceae).



FMNHINS 124031 Nymphalidae: Satyrinae: Satyrini *Enodia anthedon* A.H. Clark, 1936

LITTLE WOOD SATYR: Small and quite variable. Eye spots on all wings. Found in woodlands. Host Plants: grasses (Poaceae).



FMNHINS 124039 Nymphalidae: Satyrinae: Satyrini *Megisto cymela* (Cramer, 1777)

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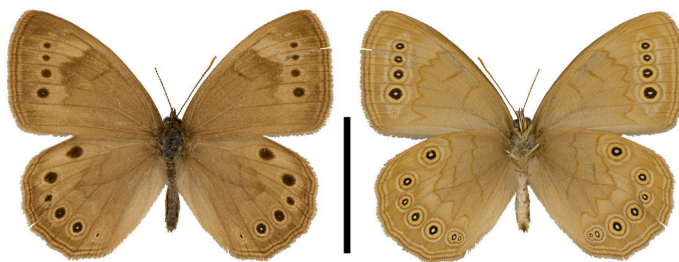
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Dorsal View

Ventral View

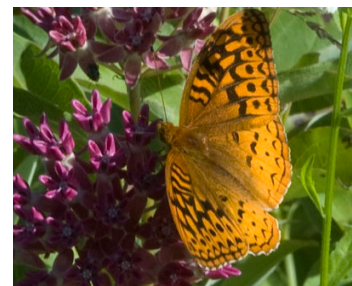
Resting View

EYED BROWN: No large eye spots. Eyespots on the underside edge of the wing surrounded by yellow and then surrounded by individual rings of brown. Each spot looks like a donut. Rounded hindwing. Found in sunny open areas. Host Plants: Sedges (*Carex*).



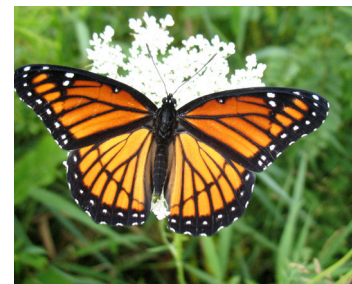
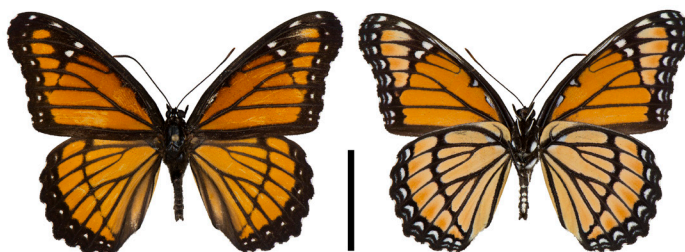
FMNHINS 124035 Nymphalidae: Satyrinae: Satyrini
Satyroides Eurydice (Linnaeus, 1763)

GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY: Large, very fast butterfly. Underside with a light band between rows of silver spots. Several species of Fritillary are found in the area. Host Plants: violets (*Viola*).



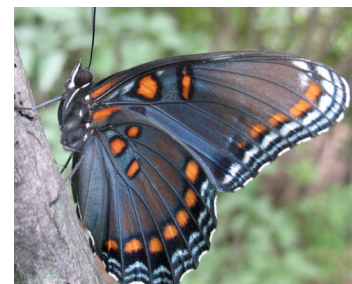
FMNHINS 124008 Nymphalidae: Heliconiinae: Argynniini
Speyeria cybele (Fabricius, 1775)

VICEROY: Line crossing through hind wing, smaller than a Monarch. Host plants: willows (*Salix*).



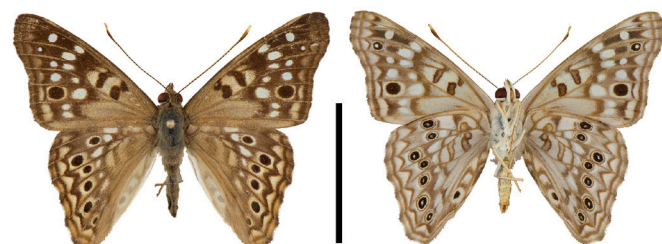
FMNHINS 124012 Nymphalidae: Limenitidinae: Nymphalini
Limenitis archippus (Cramer, 1776)

RED SPOTTED PURPLE: No tails, blue-green iridescence depends on lighting. "Red" (orange) spots on underside. Major Host Plants: cherry (*Prunus*) and others.



FMNHINS 124011 Nymphalidae: Limenitidinae: Limenitidini
Limenitis arthemis astyanax (Drury, 1773)

HACKBERRY: Single eyespot on the forewing and series of small eyespots on the hindwing. Host Plants: hackberry (*Celtis*).



FMNHINS 124022 Nymphalidae: Apaturinae
Asterocampa celtis (Boisduval & Leconte, [1835])

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COMMON BUCKEYE:

Prominent eye-spots along the margins of both wings, two orange bars on the upper forewing. Host Plants: false foxgloves (*Agalinis*), toadflax (*Linaria*), and plantain (*Plantago*).



FMNHINS 124019 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Junoniini
Junonia coenia Hübner, [1822]

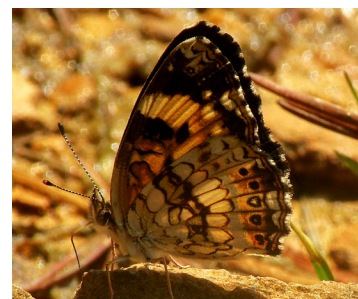


SILVERY CHECKERSPOT:

Uncommon butterfly that is very similar to Pearl Crescent. Black dots on hindwing are actually donuts (with a light center). Larger than Pearl Crescent. Host Plants: sunflowers (*Asteraceae*).



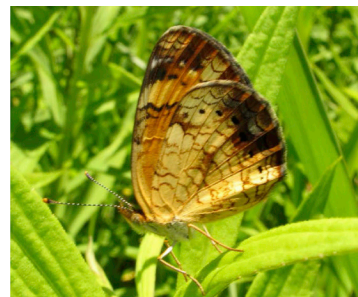
FMNHINS 124026 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Melitaeini
Chlosyne nycteis (Doubleday, [1847])



PEARL CRESCENT: Long forewings. "Curly" patterns near body, black edging on top. Row of solid, black dots along hindwing margin. Fairly plain underneath. Host Plants: asters (*Aster*).



FMNHINS 124027 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Melitaeini
Phyciodes tharos (Drury, 1773)

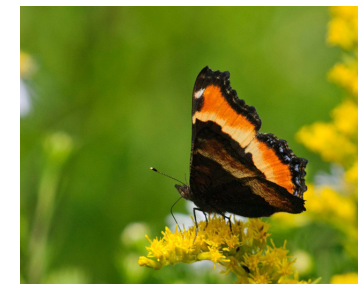


MILBERT'S TORTOISESHELL:

A dark orange and brown, irregular bordered butterfly that prefers northern climes. Its caterpillar feeds on nettle (*Urtica*), but the adult butterfly can be found in almost any habitat where cool weather prevails. Host Plants: nettles (*Urtica*).



FMNHINS 124038 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Nymphalini
Aglais milberti (Godart, 1819)



MOURNING CLOAK: Large butterfly with light band at edge. The only similar insect is a grasshopper. Host Plants: willows (*Salix*) and other trees and shrubs.



FMNHINS 124028 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Nymphalini
Nymphalis antiopa (Linnaeus, 1758)



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EASTERN COMMA: Generally smaller than a Question Mark. Silver mark on underside does not have a dot. No "eyebrow" above upper outer spot on forewing. Wings not as hooked and tail more stubby than Question Mark. Host Plants: elms (*Ulmus*) and nettles (*Urtica*).



FMNHINS 124036 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Nymphalini
Polygonia comma (Harris, 1842)

QUESTION MARK: Underside with a silver punctuation mark that includes a dot. Note: shading of underside is variable among males and females and between winter and summer forms. "Eyebrow" over upper outer spot on forewing. Wings are very hooked. Blue edge on upperside on tails. Host Plants: various.



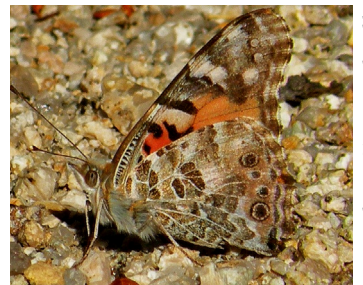
FMNHINS 124014 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Nymphalini
Polygonia interrogationis (Fabricius, 1798)

RED ADMIRAL: Upperside with large red or orange band. underside lacks eyespots. Host Plants: nettles (*Urtica*).



FMNHINS 124029 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Nymphalini
Vanessa atalanta (Linnaeus, 1758)

PAINTED LADY: Lacks the tiny white spot found in the corresponding area of the Painted Lady. The two orange spots in that area are connected. Underside of the hindwing has 4 -5 small eyespots. Host Plants: thistles (*Cirsium*) and many other species.



FMNHINS 124032 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Nymphalini
Vanessa cardui (Linnaeus, 1758)

AMERICAN LADY: A tiny white spot located in the orange area of the forewing. The eyespots on the top hindwing are very similar to Painted Lady but the American Lady has white in the center of the large spot. The underside is very different than Painted Lady with two large eyespots. Host Plants: asters (*Aster*).



FMNHINS 124033 Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Nymphalini
Vanessa virginiensis (Drury, 1773)