



Small Butterflies

A female Cabbage White butterfly has two black spots on her forewings. Note dark area at the tips of her wings.

Only one spot appears on the male Cabbage White's forewing, along with the dark wingtip. Usually in constant motion on warm, sunny days, one can catch these butterflies at rest in cooler parts of the day.



A male Clouded Sulphur butterfly, sharing a goldenrod flower with a Goldenrod Soldier Beetle, displays the dark spot on its forewing and red circle on its hindwing. Note pink edge around its yellow wings.

Showing her lighter red circle and diminutive spot, this female Clouded Sulphur visits a wild aster in North Park. Note orange antennae on both female and male Clouded Sulphurs.



Light blue is the main color of this Spring Azure, photographed in April. Each wing is only one-half inch wide. Note dots along the forewings.

The underside of the Spring Azure's wings present a variety of dark spots and lines on an almost white background. Note black and white antennae and legs.



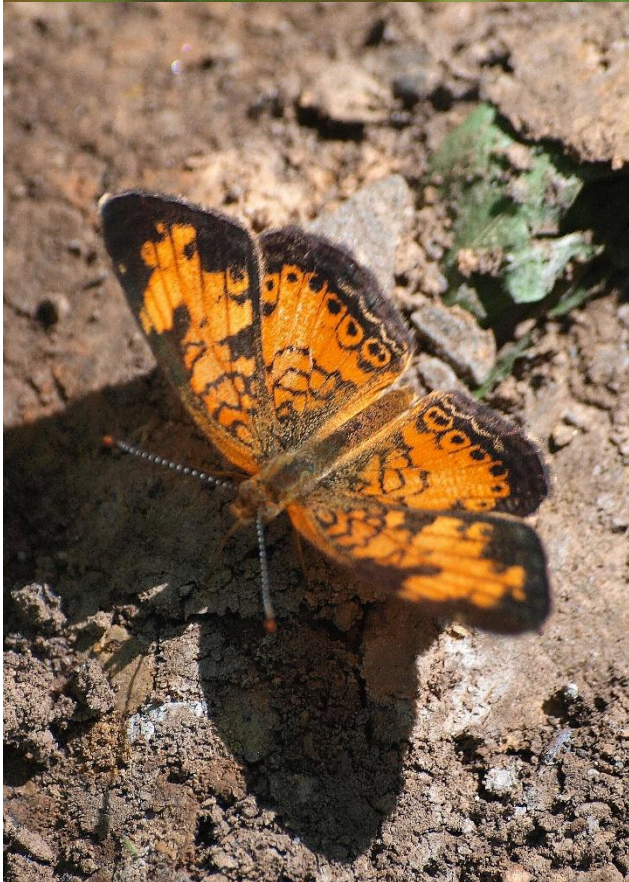


The Eastern Tailed-blue shows its two little tails extending from its hindwings and the orange and black spots on the wing near the tails. Like the Spring Azure, the antennae are black and white. Note similarity of underside wing patterns these two species.

The female Eastern Tailed-blue is not blue at all but brown. She does have the distinctive spots near her tails.



The last small butterfly is the Pearl Crescent, ubiquitous from the East Coast to the Rocky Mountains. Its yellow-orange and brown coloring is enhanced by the intricate, filigree pattern in the center. Note its spread-wing sitting position.,

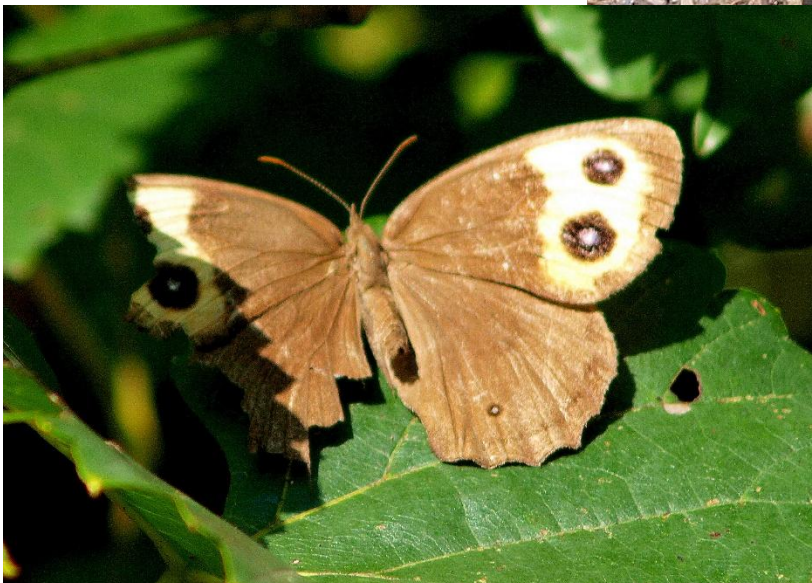
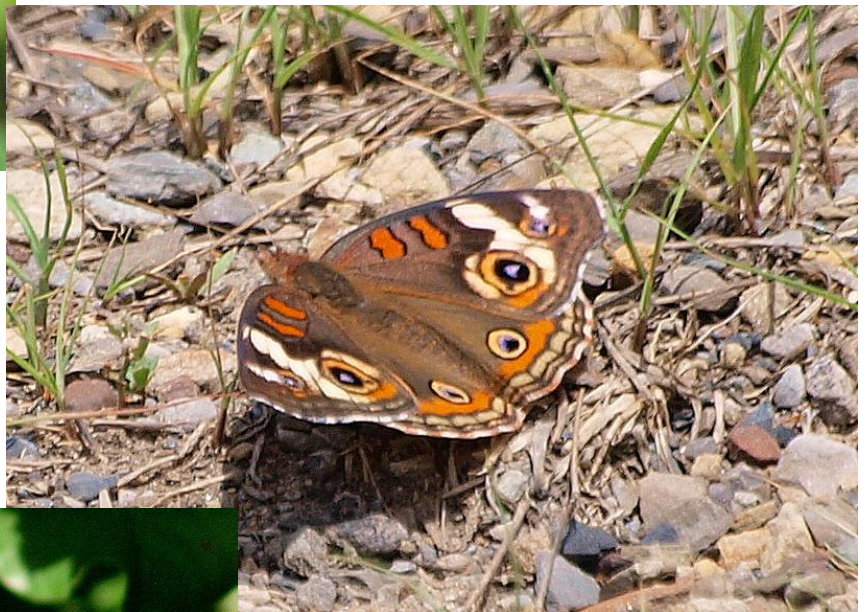


Medium-sized Butterflies



This Silver-spotted Skipper, hanging from a clover flower, actually has a *white* spot on its mostly brown hindwings. A dark yellow band shows on its forewings. The skipper is using its proboscis to drink nectar from the flower.

The aptly-named Common Buckeye has six eye-shaped patterns on its wings. The two largest on the forewings are meant to scare off any predator.



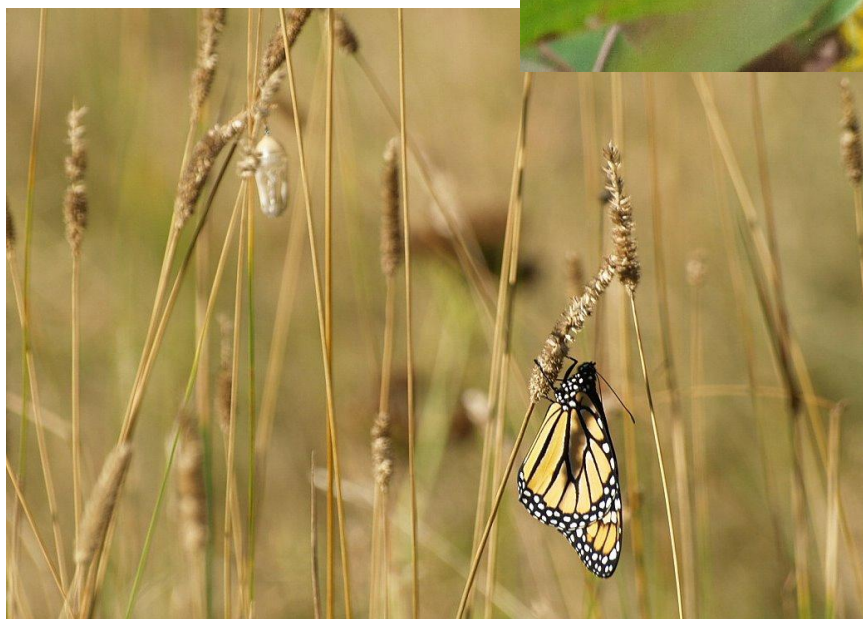
The Common Wood-nymph is another butterfly with large eye spots to ward off predators. Only three of its four “eyes” are showing. This is an older butterfly, whose wings have been tattered by age, wind, bird attacks, or general frailty.



Large Butterflies

The Monarch butterfly is a well-known species. Its orange and black patterns are distinctive and often seen in late summer. This male Monarch shows the two bulges in the veins on its hindwings near its abdomen.

The female Monarch looks almost exactly like the male, but she lacks the two vein bulges near her abdomen.



Here is a newly emerged Monarch drying in the sun. Its empty chrysalis can be seen in the background. Note the lighter pattern on the underside of its wings.

An Eastern Tiger Swallowtail feeds on a
lantana flower. The black and yellow
pattern of its wings is repeated on its
body. Note this butterfly has already lost
one of its swallowtails.



Although females can be yellow like
males, this female Eastern Tiger
Swallowtail is completely dark with
only the hindwing edge pattern of
the male above, an example of
sexual dimorphism.



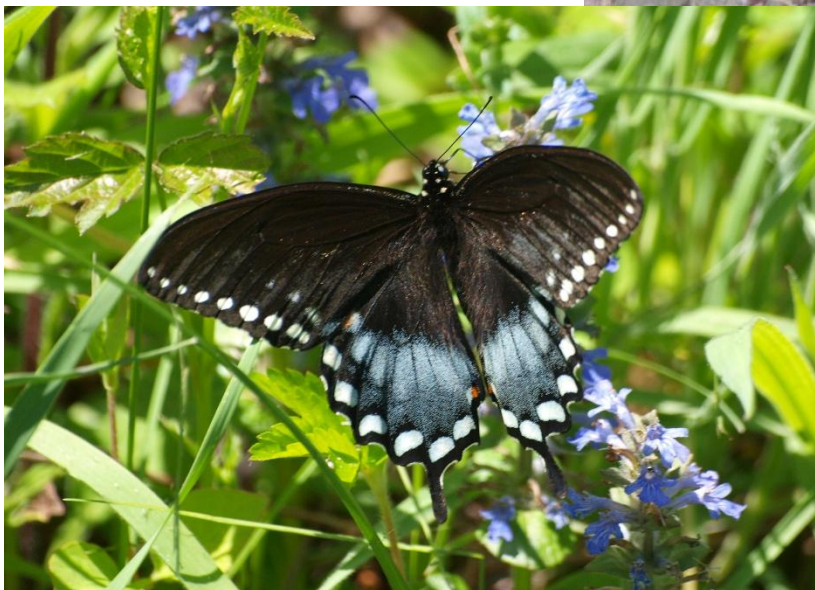
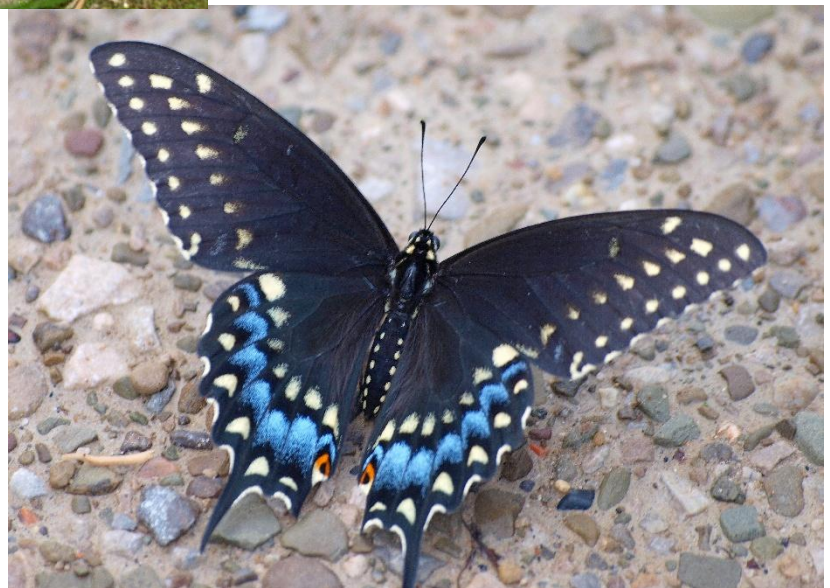
Another example of the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
female dimorphism is this *intermediate* female
with a more distinct edge pattern and two yellow
designs on each forewing.





Unfortunately, birds do prey on butterflies. Here is the result of a tragic encounter of a Tiger Swallowtail and a bird. The butterfly's body was eaten, but the wings were discarded.

A Black Swallowtail is much blacker than the female dark Tiger Swallowtails above. Although the intermediate female above looks similar, the Black Swallowtail lacks her midwing yellow spots.

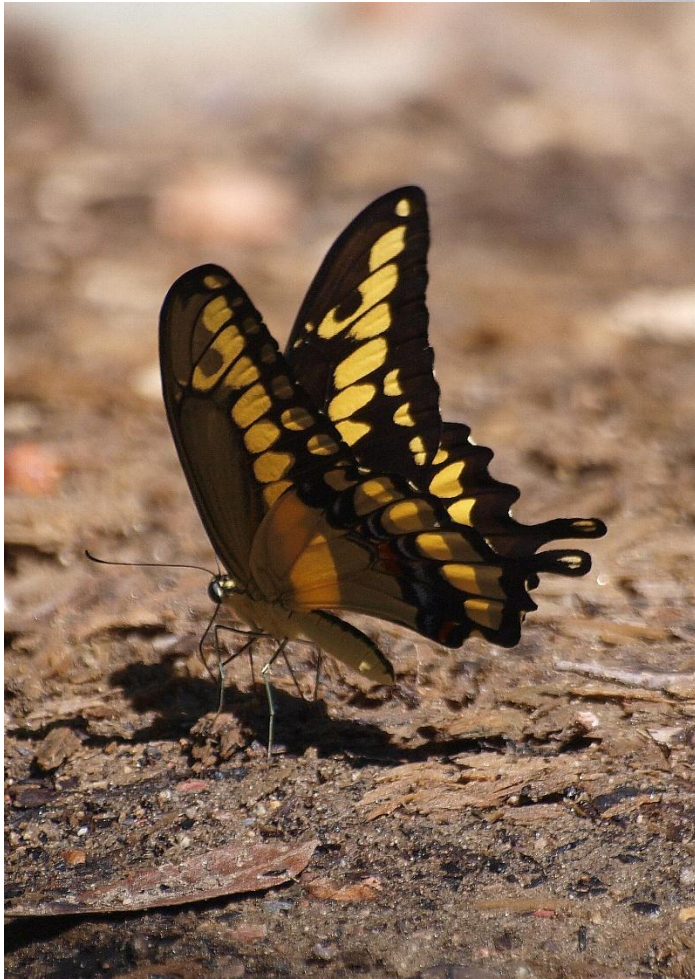


The pattern of a Spicebush Swallowtail with its white spots along the wing edges and light blue wash on the hindwings is different from the Black Swallowtail above.

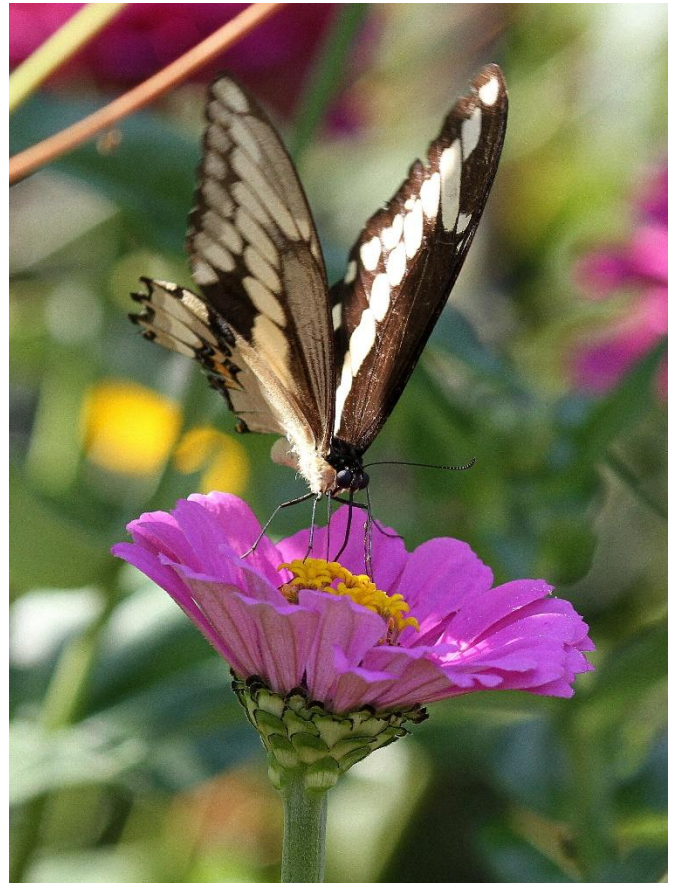
The first Giant Swallowtail I ever saw was this beauty on a Mexican Bird of Paradise plant at the Tucson Airport.



Again, I found a Giant Swallowtail in Madera Canyon in Arizona. Thus, I thought it was only a western species.



I was surprised to find a Giant Swallowtail in Frick Park two years after seeing them in Arizona. Its range goes from southwest Pennsylvania through the Southeast, out to Arizona in the West, and down into Mexico.



References:

Jim P. Brock and Kenn Kaufman. *Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003. Various pages consulted.

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