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## BUTTERFLIES and MOTHS

Butterflies and Moths are insects that belong to the Order **Lepidoptera**. Butterflies hatch from eggs and begin their larval stage as **caterpillars**. The eggs are laid on a **host** plant on which the caterpillar feeds during its larval stage. Caterpillars have 6 legs like all insects, but they also have extra pairs of **prolegs** that make them appear worm-like. After feeding, the caterpillar enters the pupal stage and a **chrysalis** is formed. Once emerged from the chrysalis, the adult stage has begun as a butterfly. Most butterflies feed on flower nectar. Mating occurs in the adult stage and the cycle repeats. Moths can usually be distinguished from butterflies by their feather-like antennae, by holding their wings flat and folded back during rest, by duller color, and by activity at night. During the pupal stage, moths pupate in **cocoons** or underground. Over 150 species of butterflies have been recorded in Michigan, along with hundreds of moths. This section includes some of the most common that you are likely to encounter.



### BLACK SWALLOWTAIL

*Papilio polyxenes*, Swallowtail Family  
**Wingspan** 3-4". **Color** black, yellow spots in rows, orange and black dot on inner edge of hindwing, female with more blue on hindwing and less yellow, male with bolder yellow (pictured). **Traits** tails on hindwings. **Habitat** open areas. **Food** red clover, milkweed, thistles. **Host** plants in carrot family.



### CANADIAN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL

*Papilio canadensis*, Swallowtail Family  
**Wingspan** 3". **Color** yellow with black stripes, female with blue coloring and orange spot on hindwing. **Traits** tails on hindwings. **Habitat** woods, woodland edges. **Food** cherry trees, tulip trees, lilacs. **Host** poplars, ash, cherry, and birch.

### CABBAGE WHITE

*Pieris rapae*, White and Sulphur Family  
**Wingspan** 2". **Color** white with black-tipped forewings, 2 black spots on each wing on female (pictured), one on male.

**Traits** one of the first butterflies to emerge in spring. **Habitat** fields, open areas. **Food** mustards, dandelion, clovers, asters. **Host** plants in mustard family.



### MUSTARD WHITE

*Pieris oleracea*, White and Sulphur Family  
**Wingspan** 2". **Color** all white with black along base and front edges of wings, yellow patch at base of hindwing, veins on underside outlined in gray in spring. **Traits** often at yellow and white flowers. **Habitat** wetlands, bogs, forests. **Food** mustards, dandelion, blueberry, boneset.



### ORANGE SULPHUR

*Colias eurytheme*

White and Sulphur Family

**Wingspan** 2". **Color** yellow-orange with black border, black spot on male. **Traits** wings most often folded back. **Habitat** fields, open areas. **Food** dandelion, milkweed, asters, goldenrods. **Host** white clover, vetches, alfalfa.



### AMERICAN COPPER

*Lycaena phlaeas*, Gossamer-wing Family

**Wingspan** 1". **Color** red-orange with black spots, underside orange and gray-brown with black spots. **Traits** striped antennae. **Habitat** open disturbed areas. **Food** buttercup, clover, yarrow, daisy. **Host** curled dock and sheep sorrel.





**EASTERN TAILED BLUE**

*Everes comyntas*, Gossamer-wing Family  
**Wingspan** 1". **Color** male blue with black border, female gray-brown, gray-white below with black spots. **Traits** two orange spots next to tails on hindwing. **Habitat** open disturbed areas. **Food** clover, strawberries, asters. **Host** plants in pea family.

**SPRING & SUMMER AZURES**

*Celastrina spp.*, Gossamer-wing Family  
**Wingspan** 1". **Color** blue above with black border, gray-blue below with black spots. **Traits** spring azures fly in April-June, summer azures fly June-September. **Habitat** forest edges, woods, swamps. **Food** various flowers. **Host** dogwood, cherry, blueberry.

**MONARCH**

*Danaus plexippus*, Brushfoot Family  
**Wingspan** 3-5". **Color** bright orange with black veins, white spots, male with 2 small black dots on hindwings. **Traits** white spots on body. **Habitat** fields, marshes, open areas, migrates in late summer to California and Mexico. **Food** various flowers. **Host** milkweed.

**GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY**

*Speyeria cybele*, Brushfoot Family  
**Wingspan** 2-4". **Color** tan-orange with black, silver spots on underside of hindwing, female darker. **Habitat** open wet areas. **Food** variety including milkweeds, thistles, vetches, red clover, coneflowers. **Host** violets.

**MOURNING CLOAK**

*Nymphalis antiopa*, Brushfoot Family  
**Wingspan** 2-4". **Color** black to purple with yellow border, row of blue spots next to border. **Traits** irregular border on wings. **Habitat** woods, open areas, overwinters as adult. **Food** tree sap. **Host** willows, birches, elms.

**RED-SPOTTED PURPLE**

*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*  
 Brushfoot Family  
**Wingspan** 3-4". **Color** black edged with blue, orange and white spots on tips. **Habitat** woods, overwinters as caterpillar. **Food** sap, carrion, rotting fruit, cherry, sumac, viburnum. **Host** cherry, willow, aspen, birch, basswood.

**VICEROY**

*Limenitis archippus*, Brushfoot Family  
**Wingspan** 2½-3½". **Color** orange with black veins, white spots, black line across both hindwings making "V" shape. **Traits** mimics Monarch. **Habitat** swamps, wet fields, shrubby areas. **Food** honeydew, carrion, fungi, goldenrods, thistle. **Host** willows, apple, cherry.

**NORTHERN CRESCENT**

*Phyciodes selenis*, Brushfoot Family  
**Wingspan** 1". **Color** black and orange. **Traits** similar to Pearl Crescent (*P. tharos*). **Habitat** meadows, near streams. **Food** clover, asters, thistles. **Host** aster.

