



Wingspan: $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Fly: March - September

Western Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio rutulus

The French word "papillon" actually means butterfly. The Western Tiger Swallowtail is a member of the Papilionidae family, and is easily recognized by long "tails" projecting from the hind wings. This beautiful butterfly's habitat extends from seacoast to desert, along roadways and in vacant fields. Males often seek out hilltops for courtship and mating.



Wingspan: $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches
Fly: All year

Monarch

Danaus plexippus

The Monarch's main habitat is in meadows and woody fields wherever milkweed grows. Adult Monarchs and their caterpillars are brightly colored, alerting potential predators of their high toxicity, caused by the caterpillars' feeding on toxic milkweed plants.

Monarchs are well known for their annual north to south migrations, as they cannot tolerate cold winters. However, no single individual completes the round trip. Monarchs often overwinter in eucalyptus, pine or cypress groves.



Mourning Cloak

Nymphalis antiopa

Wingspan: $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Fly: All year

The Mourning Cloak's common name probably comes from its somber color, reminiscent of funeral shawls worn by widows. These are very well camouflaged creatures, resting with wings closed and blending in perfectly with the dark bark and twigs where they land.

Mourning Cloaks favor a habitat in meadows, open groves, and woodlands of deciduous and evergreen trees, where they fly all year.



Wingspan: $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Fly: April - October

California Sister

Adelpha bredowii

California Sisters are so named because their wing coloration was once thought to resemble a nun's habit.

Their main habitat is in oak groves, both canyon live oak and coast live oak. They are also observed visiting certain trees' flowers and near wineries, where adults may alight near puddles of spilled grape juice.



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BUTTERFLIES

Watching butterflies is fascinating. Each species has its own flight pattern and habits. Patience is the key, and each one will offer you time to reflect and wonder about their lives and their mysterious beauty.



Wingspan: 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Fly: All year

Painted Lady

Vanessa cardui

The beautiful Painted Lady is also known as a "Thistle Butterfly." They are known to have a one-way migration from the southwestern states northward to California and also to the Pacific northwest.

These butterflies live in almost any kind of habitat, but especially in flowery meadows, open lots and in backyards. Painted Lady adults sip flower nectar and sometimes aphid honeydew. During courtship, a male and a female fly in a fast figure-eight pattern.



Wingspan 1 to 1½ inches
Fly: April - October

California Ringlet

Coenonympha tullis californica

California Ringlets are similar to moths in appearance, but look for their clubbed antennae to be certain, in addition to the tiny black rings on their wings. They like to eat our grasses, such as Bluegrasses and Purple Needlegrass and use them as host plants for their life cycle.



Wingspan 1½ to 2½ inches
Fly: All year

Buckeye

Junonia coenia

The Buckeye is a "brush-footed" butterfly in the family Nymphalidae. It has wings that are rounded and scalloped in shape, with brightly colored eyespots that function as deterrents to predators.

Buckeyes are found in open area habitats. They are very swift fliers. They can often be found along shorelines and roadsides, on steep embankments and in fields and meadows. Because they have a wide variety of host plants, and because of the distinctive eyespot pattern on their wings, Buckeyes are one of the most easily identified butterflies.



Acmon Blue

Icaricia acmon

Wingspan 1½ to 1 inch
Fly: March - October

The Acmon Blue is identified with the Lycaenidae family, also called "Gossamer Wings." Males are a bright metallic blue in color, while the females are brown. The blue of the males is due to reflected light rather than pigmentation.

Acmon Blues are often found in open oak woodlands, fields, deserts and western prairies. They can be seen during the day sipping flower nectar, and water from moist sand and mud. Males patrol all day near host plants to seek mates.



Wingspan 1½ to 1½ inches
Fly: May - July

California Hairstreak

Satyrion californiat

California Hairstreaks are members of the Lycaenidae family or "Gossamer Wings." The males have hairlike tails on the hindwings, with streaks of white and brown, which is why they are named "hairstreaks."

Adult California Hairstreaks are swift, erratic fliers, never venturing too far from their home terrain, usually oak woodland, chaparral or scrub. They feed on sap, flowers and microorganisms found in mud. They rest with their wings closed and bask in the sunlight during the early morning hours. Males perch during the afternoon and often patrol hilltops looking for mates.

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Wingspan 1½ to 2½ inches
Fly: Spring - Fall

Orange Sulfur

Colias eurytheme

Orange Sulfurs are more yellow in color than their name implies. They have become very successful because they can use a wide variety of plants to eat, and to use as hosts for laying eggs and attaching their cocoons for metamorphosing.

They are quite adaptable and can be found flying in many environments in our state and all across North America.



Wingspan 1½ to 2½ inches
Fly: Early Spring - Fall

Cabbage White

Pieris rapae

The Cabbage White butterfly is found in every state and in many kinds of habitat, from open, woody and wild areas, such as mountain meadows and streambeds, to cities and suburbs in backyards, gardens, and abandoned lots.

The Cabbage White is considered to be a true butterfly in the family Pieridae. It has a fluttery, irregular flight pattern. Adults of this family are known to visit flowers for nectar. The caterpillars of the Cabbage White are considered to be a pest, as they feed heavily on cultivated crops such as broccoli, cabbage, collards, radishes and also on nasturtiums, especially in home gardens.