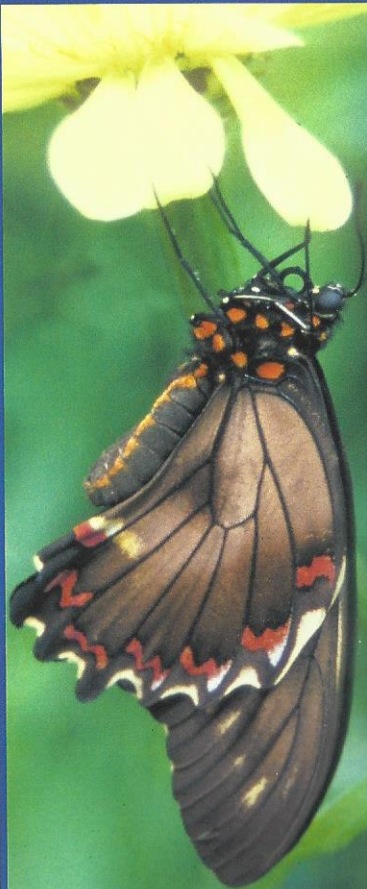


Butterflies!
at
Brookfield Zoo



Plus...
*A Guide to
Chicagoland
Butterflies*



Both colorful and color*fun*, butterflies paint Chicago's backyards and gardens with a fluttering brush and turn a visit to Brookfield Zoo's *Butterflies!* exhibit into a momentary musing on nature's creativity.

This book is a celebration of *Butterflies!* and butterflies.

Spread the wings of the book. Let your imagination take flight as you read fascinating facts about butterflies. With your finger, trace a butterfly's wings and remember your walk through *Butterflies!*, vibrantly alive with these winged wonders.

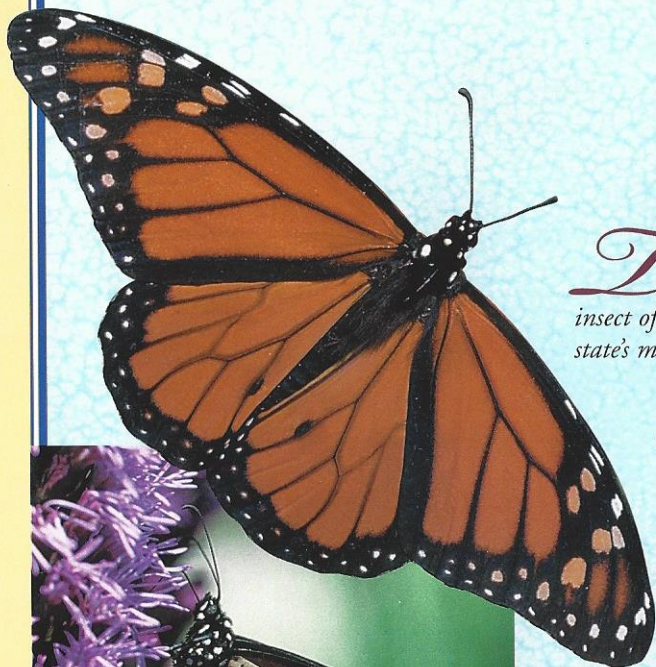
Turn to the handy guide to some of Chicago's butterflies. Choose a butterfly—the most dazzling one you can find—and memorize its colors. Go find the butterfly. Or grow some of the suggested plants and wait for it to stop by.

Then start over.

Any way you can, discover the fascination behind the creatures poet Robert Frost described as “flowers that fly and all but sing.”

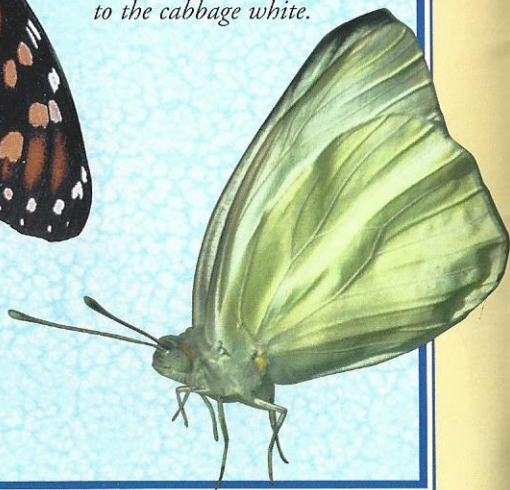
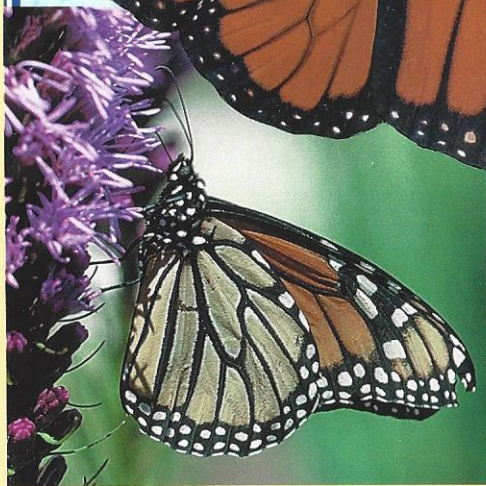


About 20,000 types of butterflies are flitting about the Earth. More than 700 of these live in the United States and Canada. About 150 types of butterflies live in Illinois.



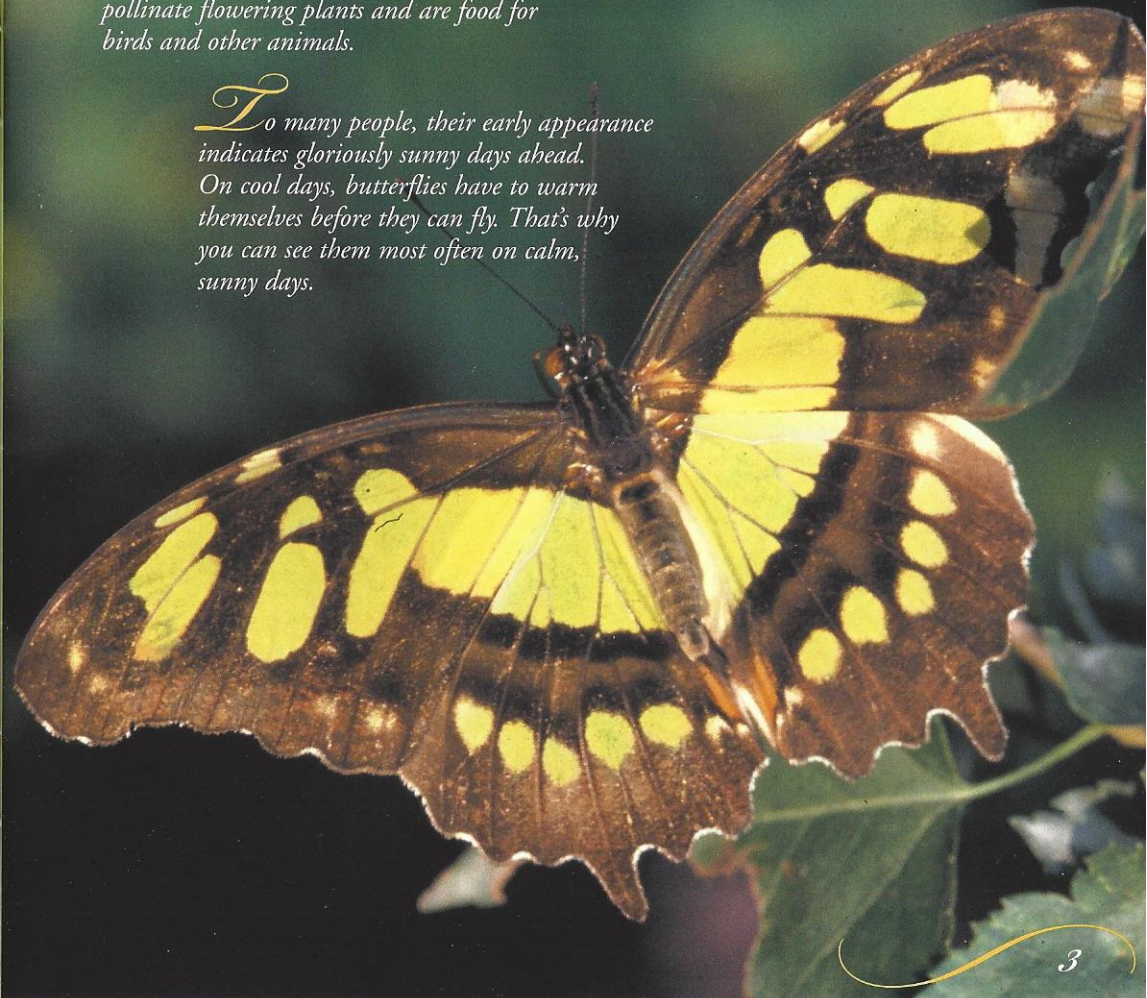
The monarch is the state insect of Illinois, but it's not the state's most common butterfly.

That distinction belongs to the cabbage white.

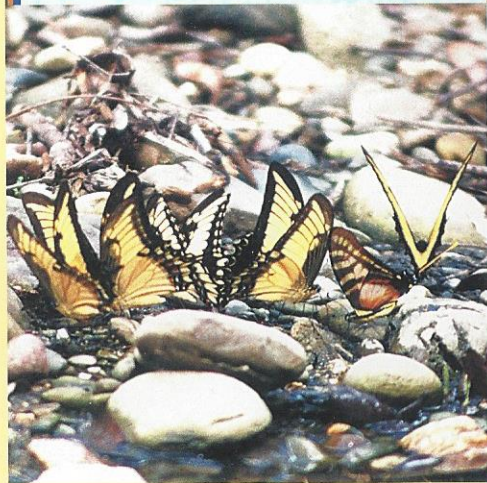
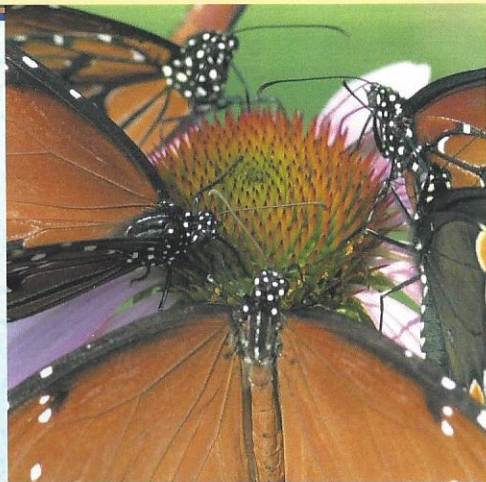


Butterflies are important. They help pollinate flowering plants and are food for birds and other animals.

To many people, their early appearance indicates gloriously sunny days ahead. On cool days, butterflies have to warm themselves before they can fly. That's why you can see them most often on calm, sunny days.



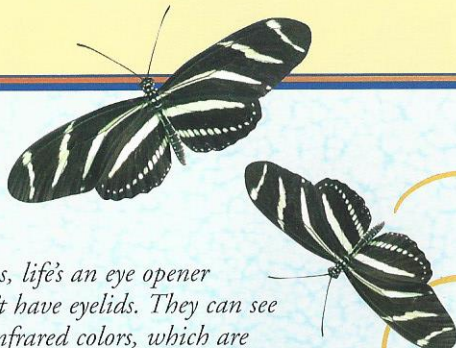
Butterflies drink, but they don't eat. They suck up liquids through their "proboscis," a straw-like tube. When not in use, their proboscis is coiled up like a spring.




Some butterflies prefer nectar, some prefer sap or fruit. Some male butterflies "puddle," gathering at wet or muddy spots on the ground. They get salts and minerals from the fluid they drink.



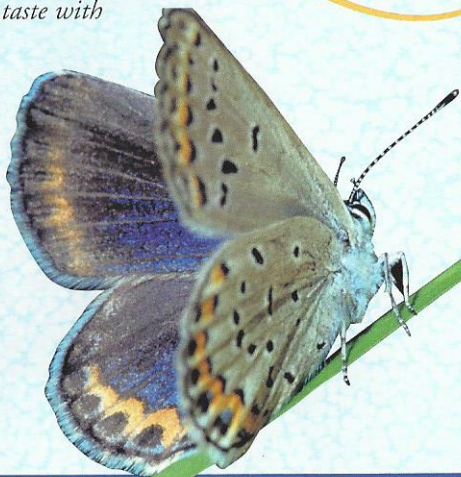
*C*aterpillars receive what liquids they need mainly from food plants. They eat and eat, growing too big for their skin until they shed the skin. In just a few weeks, they molt four to six times, growing to at least a hundred times their original size.

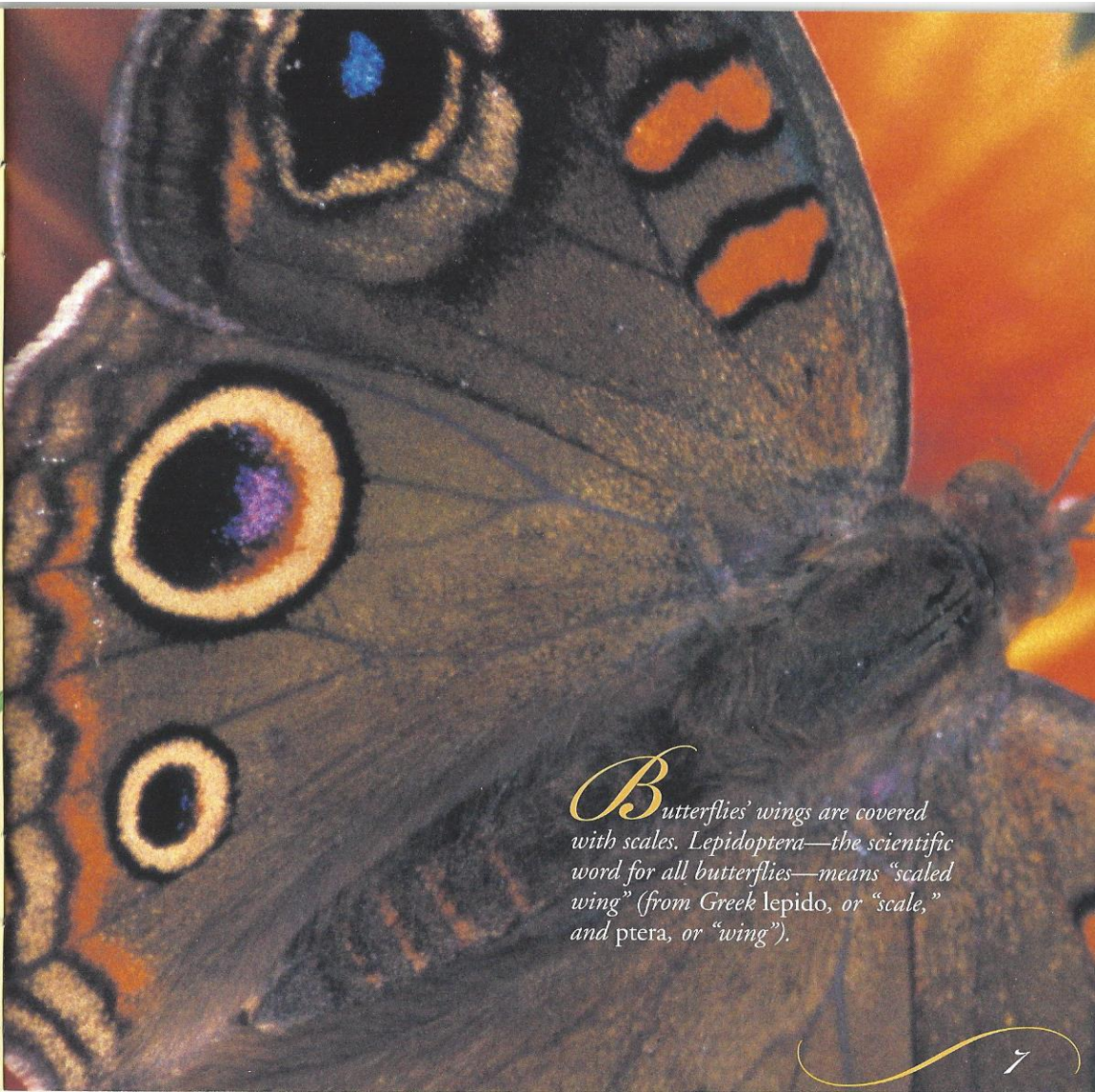


For butterflies, life's an eye opener because they don't have eyelids. They can see ultraviolet and infrared colors, which are invisible to us.



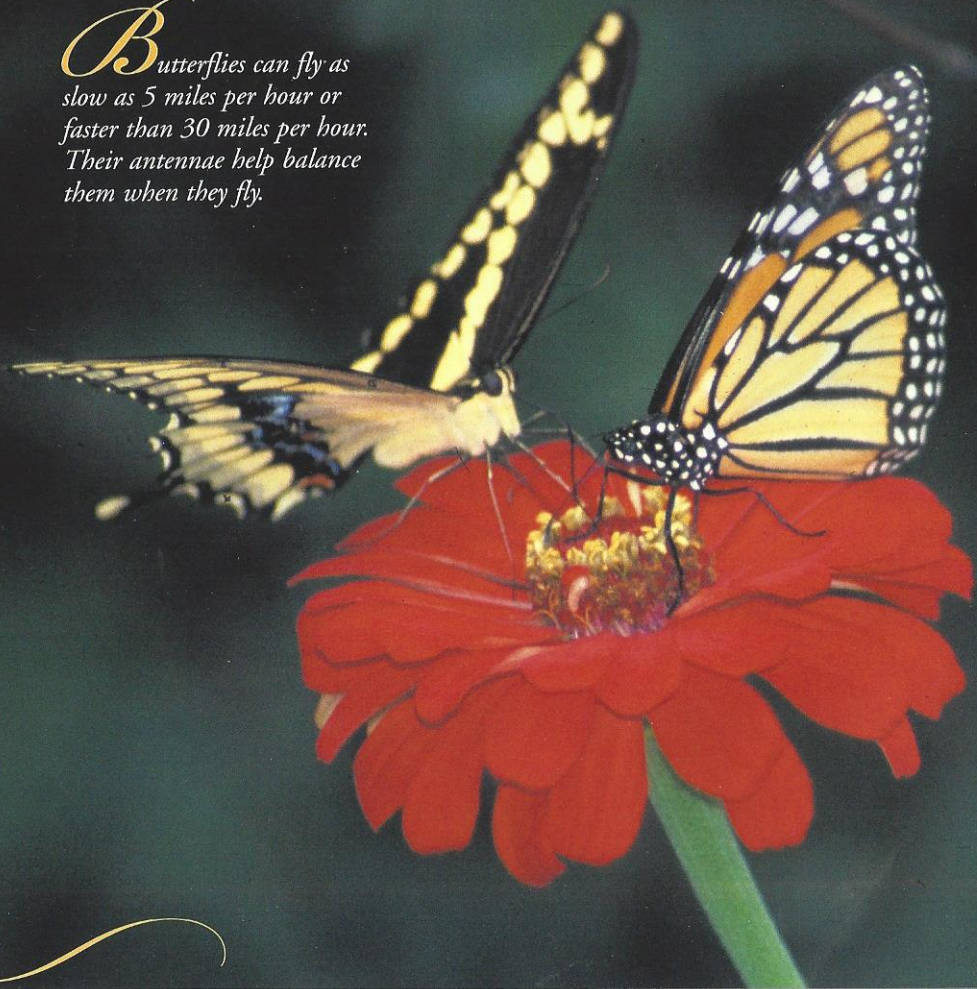
Other ways that butterflies sense their world are delightfully different: they smell with their antennae and taste with their feet.

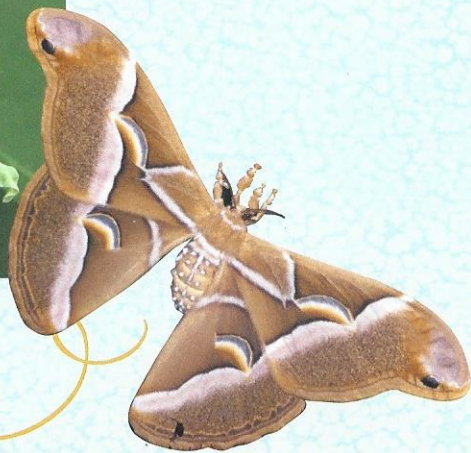


A close-up photograph of a butterfly wing, likely a member of the Pieridae family. The wing is a dark, charcoal grey color and is covered in fine, overlapping scales. Several prominent eye spots are visible, each consisting of a dark central pupil surrounded by a ring of yellow and orange. There are also two distinct orange, comma-shaped markings on the upper portion of the wing. The background is a warm, out-of-focus orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

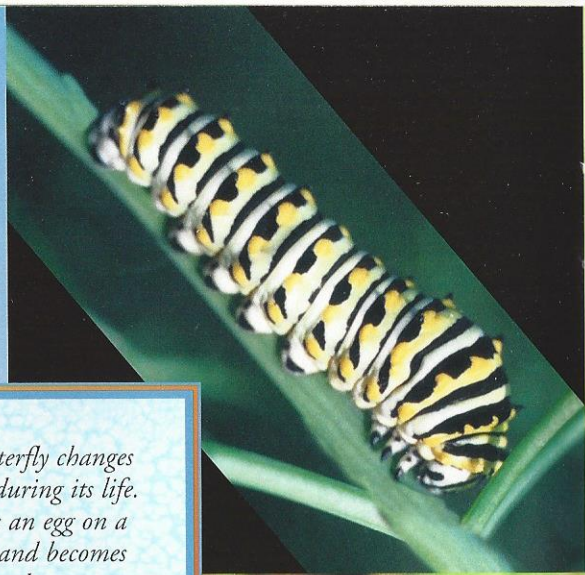
Butterflies' wings are covered with scales. Lepidoptera—the scientific word for all butterflies—means “scaled wing” (from Greek lepido, or “scale,” and ptera, or “wing”).

Butterflies can fly as slow as 5 miles per hour or faster than 30 miles per hour. Their antennae help balance them when they fly.

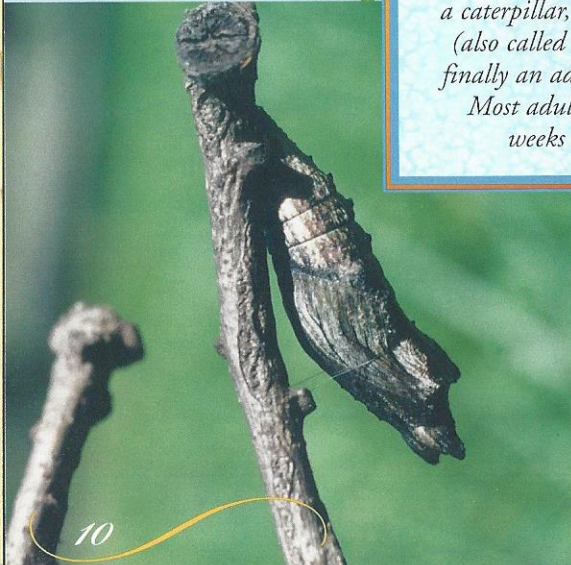




***B**utterflies tend to fly during the day.
Most moths, however, are fly-by-night critters.
The types of moths outnumber the types of
butterflies by 16 to 1.*



A butterfly changes three times during its life. It begins as an egg on a host plant and becomes a caterpillar, then a pupa (also called a chrysalis), finally an adult butterfly. Most adults live two weeks or less.





A Guide to Chicagoland Butterflies

This section will introduce you to some of the butterflies you can find in the Chicago area. If you want a butterfly garden, this is one place to start. Another is Brookfield Zoo's Web site (BrookfieldZoo.org). There you can find all kinds of great information on attracting butterflies to your garden.



The Basics of Butterfly Gardens

*B*utterflies are attracted to warm, sunny, brightly colored spaces with shelter from the wind. These spaces can be small containers or large garden plots.

Nectar Plants

Flower nectar is adult butterflies' main food source. They drink nectar from a huge variety of annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, vines, and herbs. They look for a good place to land, with easy access to nectar; colors like purple, lavender, red, and pink; and clusters of similar plants that create a burst of color and smell.

Host Plants

Although butterflies take nectar from many plants, they are very selective about which plants they lay eggs on. Some preferred host plants are weeds or native flowers, shrubs, and trees. If you decide to plant weedy varieties, you can keep them in containers.





Question Mark

Polygonia interrogationis

Wingspan: 2.4 to 3 Inches

These butterflies love fruit. Try leaving out some rotting watermelon or banana. Also, keep a close eye on elm trees. Why? Question mark caterpillars enjoy eating their leaves.

Clouded Sulphur

Colias philodice

Wingspan: 1.6 to 2.5 Inches

These butterflies are common in Chicago gardens.

Nectar plants include dandelion, clover, milkweed, sunflower, and aster.

Females lay eggs on clover, alfalfa, and related plants.





Giant Swallowtail

Papilio cresphontes

Wingspan: 4 to 6 Inches

Illinois' largest butterfly is quite a sight. It prefers woodlands but gets nectar in open areas *near* woodlands. Favorite flowers include milkweed and other composites, phlox, and clover.

Black Swallowtail

Papilio polyxenes

Wingspan: 3 to 4 Inches

Black swallowtails' host plants include dill, fennel parsley, and native herbs in this group. Consider planting these herbs in your vegetable garden... for black swallowtails *and* for yourself.





Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio glaucus

Wingspan: 3.5 to 5 Inches

While these large, beautiful butterflies tend to hang out in woodlands, they also like suburban gardens. They get nectar from many flowers, including butterfly bush, purple coneflower, and lilac.

Eastern Tailed-Blue

Everes comyntas

Wingspan: .75 to 1 Inches

These tiny butterflies sport tails on their hindwings. Flying low to the ground in open areas, they search out many different nectar plants, including clover, milkweed, dogbane, and aster.





Viceroy

Limenitis archippus

Wingspan: 3 to 4 Inches

These monarch look-alikes have a black line running across their hindwings, unlike monarchs. Viceroys lay eggs on willow trees. Adults get nectar from ripe fruit, sap, and flowers such as swamp milkweed.

Monarch

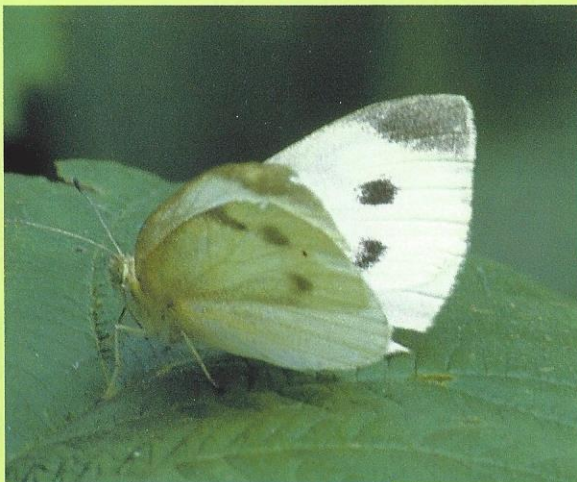
Danaus plexippus

Wingspan: 3.3 to 4.8 Inches

Watching these popular butterflies' vibrant colors is a fun family activity.

Adults get nectar from milkweed, butterfly bush, butterfly weed, and many other flowers. They lay eggs on milkweed.





Cabbage White

Pieris rapae

Wingspan: 1.75 to 2.25 Inches

Cabbage white caterpillars enjoy...cabbage, of course (along with other plants in the cabbage family). Adults get nectar from a wide variety of plants and are common in gardens.

Red Admiral

Vanessa atalanta

Wingspan: 2.2 to 3 Inches

These fast, agile flyers with the dominant red stripe prefer sap flows, overripe fruit, and bird droppings. They also enjoy garden flowers like common milkweed, red clover, and aster.





Buckeye

Junonia coenia

Wingspan: 2 to 2.5 Inches

Bright spots on the upper side of buckeyes' wings might scare predators away. You can spot buckeyes getting nectar from garden composites such as aster, chicory, tickseed sunflower, dogbane, and peppermint.

Painted Lady

Vanessa cardui

Wingspan: 2.25 to 3 Inches

Painted ladies aren't too fussy about laying eggs: over 100 host plants have been identified. As for nectar, they prefer 3- to 6-foot-high composites, among them thistle, blazing star, and joe-pye weed.





Silver-Spotted Skipper

Epargyreus clarus

Wingspan: 1.5 to 1.8 Inches

With their transparent gold spots and metallic silver bands, these skippers are eye-catching. But look quick, as they are fast and agile. They get nectar from butterfly bush, zinnia, and coneflower.

Mourning Cloak

Nymphalis antiopa

Wingspan: 3.2 to 4 Inches

Unlike many butterflies that die by autumn, mourning cloak adults lie dormant during winter and emerge among spring's first arrivals. They prefer tree sap, especially from oaks.

Also, put some fruit in your garden on warm days in late March and early April.





Pearl Crescent

Phyciodes tharos

Wingspan: 1.2 to 1.5 Inches

Look closely in your garden, along roadsides, and in fields and vacant lots for these small butterflies. Adults get nectar from a wide variety of plants, including dogbane, aster, swamp milkweed, and winter cress.

Fiery Skipper

Hylephila phyleus

Wingspan: 1 to 1.3 Inches

These gold, black-spotted butterflies—with wings bordered in “flaming” black—are among the most active skippers. They lay eggs on grasses and get their nectar from sweet pepperbush, sneezeweed, and knapweed, among other plants.



Butterflies in This Book

Front cover: Silvery checkerspot (top), monarch (top),
Karner blue (bottom)

Back cover: Julia

Inside front cover: Black swallowtail

Page 1: Pearl crescent, giant swallowtail, zebra,
gulf fritillary, common sulphur (clockwise from
upper left)

Page 2: Monarchs, cabbage white (lower right)

Page 3: Malachite

Page 4: Queens (upper right), tropical swallowtails
(lower left)

Page 5: Black swallowtail (left), queen (lower center),
giant swallowtail (upper right)

Page 6: Variegated fritillary (left), zebra longwings
(upper center), Karner blue (lower right)

Page 7: Buckeye

Page 8: Giant swallowtail (left), monarch (right)

Page 9: Luna moth (upper left), cynthia moth
(lower right)

Page 10: Black swallowtail life cycle

Page 11: Question mark (top and bottom),
tiger swallowtail (left square), monarch (center square),
buckeye (right square)

Page 12: American painted lady

This page: Gulf fritillary

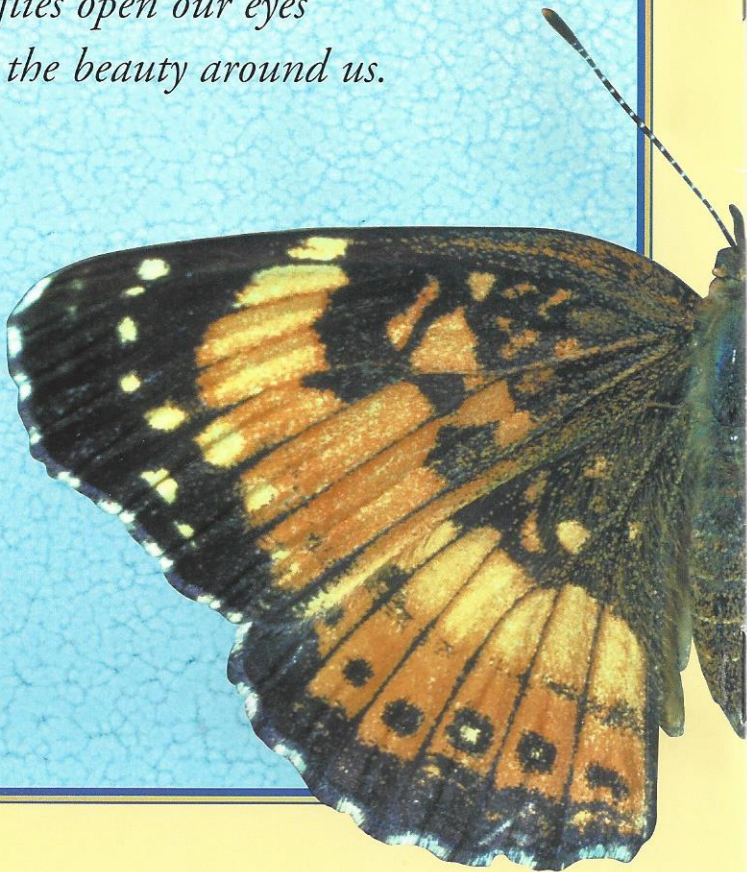
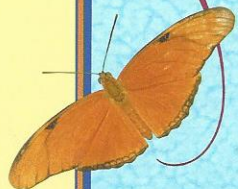


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*Butterflies open our eyes
to the beauty around us.*



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