

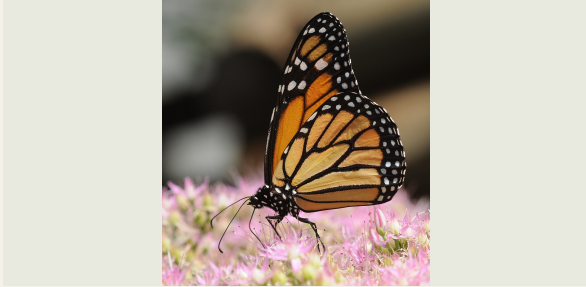
Butterfly identification chart

Six regional examples | Eastern United States, with a Mid-Atlantic focus | Online Field Guide

Compare the complete wing pattern. Sex, wear and viewing angle can change the appearance.

1. Monarch

Danaus plexippus



Orange wings; black veins and white-spotted borders

Adult; sex not assigned

2. Viceroy

Limenitis archippus



Orange wings; an extra black hindwing cross-line

Adult; sex not assigned

3. Eastern tiger swallowtail

Papilio glaucus



Yellow form: dark stripes and hindwing tails

Adult, yellow form

4. Black swallowtail

Papilio polyxenes

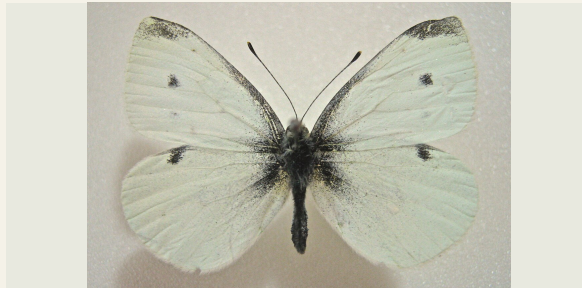


Black wings; rows of yellow spots and tails

Adult male

5. Cabbage white

Pieris rapae



White wings; dark tips and one or two forewing spots

Adult male

6. Red admiral

Vanessa atalanta



Dark wings; orange-red bands and white forewing spots

Adult; sex not assigned

1. Thomas Bresson. CC BY 2.0. ComputerHotline - Danaus plexippus (by) (3).jpg.

2. Benny Mazur from Toledo, OH. CC BY 2.0. Limenitis archippus Cramer.jpg.

3. DoristheExplorist.

4. D. Gordon E. Robertson. CC BY-SA 3.0.

5. Ypna. CC BY-SA 3.0.

6. Toni Wöhr. CC BY-SA 4.0.

Comparison notes and photo credits

Butterfly chart companion | Original layout and wording by Online Field Guide

Butterfly	Habitat or nesting clue	Identification level	Adult activity
Monarch	Open areas and gardens; milkweed hosts	Species candidate	Warm months; fall migration
Viceroy	Wetland edges; willow and poplar hosts	Species candidate	Late spring through fall
Eastern tiger swallowtail	Woodland edges and gardens; several tree hosts	Tiger-swallowtail candidate	Spring through early fall
Black swallowtail	Open fields and gardens; carrot-family hosts	Species candidate	Spring through early fall
Cabbage white	Gardens and open ground; mustard-family hosts	Species candidate	Spring through fall
Red admiral	Woodland edges and gardens; nettle-family hosts	Species candidate	Spring through fall

Activity periods are broad regional clues. The caterpillar host plant can help explain a sighting, but an adult may visit a flower far from its host plant.

Photo credits and original file links

- 1. **Monarch**: [ComputerHotline - Danaus plexippus \(by\) \(3\).jpg](#), by Thomas Bresson. CC BY 2.0.
- 2. **Viceroy**: [Limenitis archippus Cramer.jpg](#), by Benny Mazur from Toledo, OH. CC BY 2.0.
- 3. **Eastern tiger swallowtail**: [Eastern tiger swallowtail Papilio glaucus \(2\).jpg](#), by DoristheExplorist.
- 4. **Black swallowtail**: [Black Swallowtail, male, Ottawa.jpg](#), by D. Gordon E. Robertson. CC BY-SA 3.0.
- 5. **Cabbage white**: [Pieris rapae male.jpg](#), by Ypna. CC BY-SA 3.0.
- 6. **Red admiral**: [Red Admiral near Lerik Hirkan National Park WDPa ID 313470.jpg](#), by Toni Wöhr. CC BY-SA 4.0.

Identification references: Monarch; Viceroy; Eastern tiger swallowtail; Black swallowtail; Cabbage white; Red admiral.

This chart compares regional examples; it is not a complete species key.