A Beginner's Guide to Butterfly Identification

	Common Name	Color(s)	Key Feature(s)	Size (inches) from one wing tip to the other	Adult Habitat	Other
	Zebra Swallowtail (SWT)	White with black stripes	Very long tails zebra striped	2½ -4	Moist woods along rivers, woods swamps, pine flatwoods	Found April through September
© Town Potosons (1999)	Black Swallowtail	Black, yellow	Very dark black color 2 rows (bands) of spots	3-41/2	Open areas - fields, gardens, waste areas, marshes; meadow/old fields	Found April through October
	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	Yellow, black stripes; female dark form is black	Tiger-striped	3-61/2	Deciduous broadleaf forests, edges, and river valleys	Found April through September
	Spicebush Swallowtail	Black, blue	Spoon-shaped tails	3-5	Broadleaf deciduous forests second growth woods, deciduous woodlands, edges, wooded swamps, pine barrens	Found April through September

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Pipevine Swallowtail	black	Underside - large orange spots on iridescent blue Upper side - black with iridescent dark green	2¾ -5	glades in woods – wooded clearings	Found April through September
Cabbage White	white	extremely common and wide-spread	1-2	open, weedy areas in urban and rural settings: gardens, power lines, marshes, road edges.	Found March through November
Clouded (Common) Sulfur	yellow	Males have dark margins on front & hind wings	1-3	open – fields, lawns, road edges, clover fields	Found May through October. Confused with orange sulfur. No orange patch
Orange (Alfalfa) Sulfur	yellow; some orange	Orange patches in center of forewing Dark edges on males	1-2	open – alfalfa fields, lawns, fields, road edges	Found April through November. Confused with common sulfur. Has orange patch
American Copper	orange	Bright orange flash Forewings orange with black spots Flies close to the ground	1 – 1.5	meadow/old fields old fields, roadsides, pastures, landfills	Found April through November

	Common Name	Color(s)	Key Feature(s)	Size (inches)	Adult Habitat	Other
	Red-Banded Hairstreak	Gray- brown; red/orange stripe	Tails and red orange stripe	1 -1.25	Overgrown fields, coastal hammocks, edges	Found April through October
	Gray Hairstreak	Gray-blue; with large red spot near tail	Tails; red spot on hind wing	1-1.5	Open sites; common in disturbed, weedy areas.	Found May through September
	Eastern Tailed Blue	Light blue; orange spots on underside	Tiny orange eyespots on hindwing Two small hairs (tails) at bottom of hindwings Dark outline around wings Smaller than the common blue	<1	Meadow/old fields open, sunny, weedy	Found April through November. Often confused with common blue. ETB has orange spots and tiny tails
	Common Blue (Summer Azure)	Light blue; females have black outline	Very small Almost moth-like Often very pale blue	1	Deciduous woods and wooded edges	Found April through September. Often confused with ETB. Common blue has no spots or tails
©ZoomSchool.com	American Snout	Brown and orange	Snout – protrusion from head is very distinct Angular wings with dark margins Orange color on wings near the body	1.5 - 2	Forested rivers & marshes, fields, boundaries/edges	Found June through September.

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	Great Spangled Fritillary	Orange	Larger than Meadow Fritillary Bright orange color Silver spots	3-4	Open fields, meadows, roadsides. Prefers moist areas.	Found June through September. Similar to Meadow but has Spots on outside of hind wing
	Meadow Fritillary	Orange	Medium size Usually dull orange- brown with black dashes Similar to Great Spangled, but smaller	1.25-2	Low, moist grassy fields	Found April through October. Smaller than Great Spangled
	Variegated Fritillary	Orange	Upper side orange with thick dark veins and markings; black spots near margin. Underside of hindwing with a mottled pattern and no silver spots.	1.75-3	Open sunny areas such as fields, pastures, road edges, and landfills.	Found April through October
PART ACL	Pearl Crescent	Orange	Orange-colored, with varying dark markings Brown smudge on hindwing Low flight	1.25- 1.5	Meadow/old fields	Found April through November
	American Lady	Orange	Underside has a cobweb-like pattern and distinctive pink patch on forewing. Two eyespots on hind wings	1.75- 2.5	Open spaces like fields and roadsides	Found May through November

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Question Mark	Orange	Medium size Upper hindwings darker forewings with black speckles Frilly angular wing margins	2.25-3	Woodlands and nearby open areas.	Found March through November. Confused with Eastern Comma. Wing edges less distinct than Eastern Comma
Eastern Comma	Orange	Wing edges cut very deep looks worn out Upper wings have dark margin	1.75- 2.5	Forested rivers Marshes Swamps Damp forests	Found March through November. Confused w/ Question Mark. Upper wing has dark margin.
Mourning Cloak	Black	Pale yellow or white margin on outside of upper wings	2-2.5	Streams, Wooded clearings, urban parks, damp woods	Found February through December
Red Admiral	Black, red, orange	Reddish-orange bands on both forewings and hindwings Rapid flight	1.75-3	Open areas with flowers.	Found April through December

	Common Name	Color(s)	Key Feature(s)	Size (inches)	Adult Habitat	Other
	Red Spotted Purple	Greenish blue	Hindwings with black stripe lining margin Red spots towards tip of forewing	2.25-4	Broadleaf deciduous forests	Found May through September. Pipevine SWT mimic
	Common Buckeye	Brown with brightly colored spots	Eyespots on upper wings are large & brightly colored	1.5- 2.25	Exposed areas: meadows, road edges	Found May through November
0000	Hackberry Emperor	Dark brown	Very friendly – will land right on you. Upperside of forewing dark brown with white spots	2-2.5	Forested streams and clearings Edges	Found June through September
	Tawny Emperor	Brown with colorful hindwings	Usually more colorful than Hackberry Hindwings darker than forewings	2-2.5	Heavily wooded areas near rivers, dry woods, cities	Found June through August
	Common Wood Nymph	Brown	Dark spots on underside and upperside wing margins	1.75-3	Prairies, old fields, pinewoods, bogs, open meadows	Found June through September

	Common Name	Color(s)	Key Feature(s)	Size (inches)	Adult Habitat	Other
	Little Wood Satyr	Brown	Two eye spots found on forewing and hindwing	1.5-2	Edge habitat between fields and forested areas	Found May through September
o Form Bellering 1000	Northern Pearly Eye	Pale grey	Pale color Row of dark spots on underside of wings	1.5-2	Damp deciduous woods near streams or marshes	Found June through August
7	Monarch	Orange, black	Bright orange Black veins Glides while flying	3.5-4	Meadows Weedy fields Moist areas	Found May through November. Confused with viceroy. Does not have black line across hind wing.
	Viceroy	Orange, black	Similar to Monarch except for black line present crossing the hindwing	2.5-3.5	Moist open or shrubby areas such as lake and swamp edges, willow thickets, valley bottoms, wet meadows, and roadsides.	Found May through September
	Silver Spotted Skipper	Brown	Large silvery spot found on the hindwing	1.75- 2.5	Open areas like fields and gardens as well as woodland boarders	Found April through mid October

Online Sources:

http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/

http://www.virginia.edu/blandy/ClarkeCountyLandUseSurvey/ccmapping.htm http://www.carolinanature.com/butterflies/