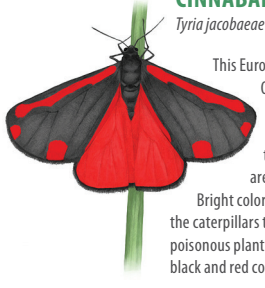
COMMON WOOD NYMPH

Cercyonis pegala **Wingspan: 1¾ - 3"**

These very common butterflies are usually found in open, grassy areas where they are tempting targets for hungry birds. As a defense, they flash their prominent forewing "eye spots" to make a bird think it has disturbed a reptile. Males hunt for mates with a flight that dips in and out of the vegetation. Caterpillars hatch in the late summer, but hibernate until spring.

CINNABAR MOTH

Tyria jacobaeae **Wingspan: 1¼ - 1¾"**



This European species was released in Oregon to help control tansy ragwort, an exotic noxious weed. The moth's caterpillars feed on the leaves of the ragwort, which are highly toxic to livestock and deer. Bright coloration lets predators know that the caterpillars taste bad as a result of feeding on poisonous plants. Adult moths, with their bold black and red coloring, are easy to identify.

caterpillar

ISABELLA TIGER MOTH

Pyrrharctia isabella

Wingspan: 1¾ - 2½"

You probably know this moth better in its larval state: the fuzzy black-and-orange woolly bear caterpillar. The caterpillars find dark, sheltered places to hibernate during the winter and emerge in spring to spin their cocoons. Adult moths are orange and wings have sparse black spotting. Paler hindwings may have a rosy tint in females.

caterpillar

RED-SHOULDERED CTENUCHA MOTH

Ctenucha rubroscapus **Wingspan: 1 ¼ - 1½"**

Pronounced "ten-OOCH-ah," this boldly colored moth is strictly a species of low elevations. Look for reddish-orange head and "shoulders," metallic blue abdomen, and smoky black forewings with white tips. You may find it in wet meadows and marshes where its caterpillars feed on grasses.

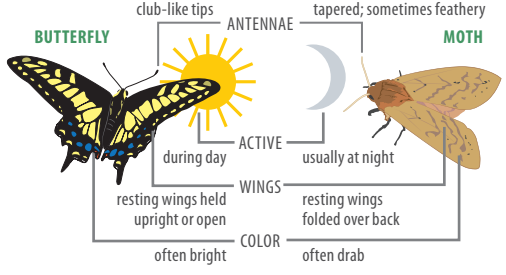
MORNING GLORY PLUME MOTH

Emmelina monodactlya **Wingspan: ¾ - 1⅛"**

Instead of having membranes connected by a network of tubular veins, the wings of this unusual moth consist of feathery plumes. The plumes are hidden when the moth is at rest, making it resemble a "T." Look for it in waste areas, gardens, and near homes.

BUTTERFLY OR MOTH?

Butterflies and moths are both members of the insect order **Lepidoptera,** which means "scaly wings." They both live as caterpillars and undergo complete metamorphosis to become winged adults. Though similar, some important differences distinguish them:



Bring back the pollinators! Butterflies are important pollinators for many kinds of plants. Here are two ways you can help pollinators thrive:

Grow pollinator-friendly flowers, trees, and shrubs with overlapping bloom times to support pollinators from spring through fall.

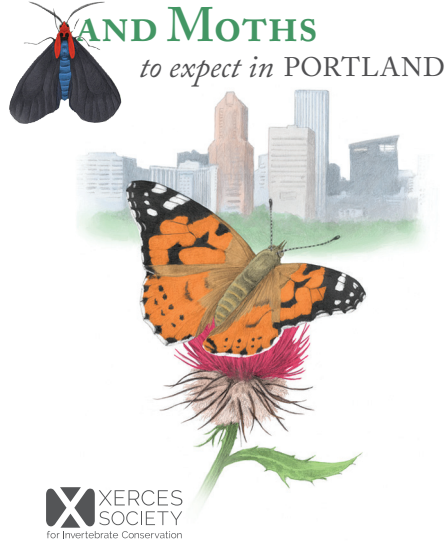
Avoid insecticides as they can be especially harmful to butterflies and other pollinators.

For more information:
www.bringbackthepollinators.org
www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/ee

Brochure design, illustrations, and icons by Matt Strieby, Newleaf Design. Butterfly and moth descriptions written by Matt Strieby.

A PORTLAND PARKS POCKET GUIDE

15 BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS *to expect in* PORTLAND



XERCES SOCIETY for Invertebrate Conservation

PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

ANISE SWALLOWTAIL

Papilio zelicaon

Wingspan: 2½-3″

caterpillar

Look for yellow wings with prominent black margins and red "eye spots" near the tails. The black "pupils" are centered in the spots and not connected to the hindwing margins. A swallowtail's characteristic hindwing tails are a defense against a bird looking for its next meal: they detach easily if grabbed by a beak. Anise Swallowtails can be found in many open areas like vacant lots and fields as well as along roads and in gardens.

WESTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL

Papilio rutulus

Wingspan: 2½ - 3½″

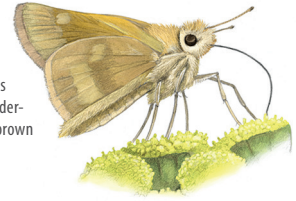
Large size and distinctive "tiger stripes" on the forewings make this butterfly stand out. Look for these stately insects in wooded areas near streams as well as in suburbs and parks. Caterpillars feed primarily on willow and cottonwood leaves and have conspicuous yellow and black spots that mimic snake eyes.

caterpillar

You might spot this small butterfly in a woodland, field, or garden, perched on a flower and sipping nectar. Upper sides are orange with toothed brown borders along wing margins. Males have elongated black spots (stigmas) on their forewings. Undersides are orangish to yellowish-brown with lighter spots.

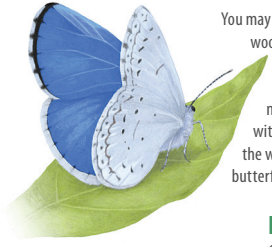
WOODLAND SKIPPER

Ochlodes sylvanoides **Wingspan: 1 - 1¼″**



SPRING AZURE

Celastrina ladon **Wingspan: ⅞ - 1″**



You may find these common butterflies in the woods, flocking around wet spots along paths. The tops are iridescent blue and females have black along the forewing margins. Undersides are pale bluish-gray with distinctive "chevron" markings along the wing edges. Azures are among the first butterflies to appear in spring.

EASTERN TAILED-BLUE

*Cupido comyntas** **Wingspan: ⅞ - 1⅛″**

Look for narrow tails trailing from each hindwing and orange spots along the hindwing margins. Males are iridescent blue with black wing margins; the smaller females are darker and turn brown during summer. Most common in the eastern U.S., they can also be found here in open, sunny places.

*The similar Western Tailed-blue *(C. amyntula)* is larger and has paler undersides.

PAINTED LADY

Vanessa cardui **Wingspan: 2 - 2⅞″**

Look for this showy butterfly in open areas like fields and gardens. They are strongly patterned overall with orange and black and have prominent white markings on their forewings. *Cardui* means "of thistles," a reference to the plants on which their spiny caterpillars feed. In some years, Painted Ladies migrate north by the billions from warmer areas in the southern U.S.

caterpillar

RED ADMIRAL

Vanessa atalanta **Wingspan: 1¾ - 3″**

This butterfly is found throughout the northern hemisphere but is not common locally. To spot one, look in moist areas: along streams and in shady woods, as well as in parks, gardens, and other well-watered areas. The upperside is dark brown to black with red-orange bands. White marks on the forewings are similar to those of the Painted Lady. Adult Red Admirals hibernate during winter in mild climates like Portland's.

caterpillar

CABBAGE WHITE

Pieris rapae **Wingspan: 1½ - 2¼″**

Often mistaken for a moth, these European imports are the white butterflies you often see fluttering about in your garden. Uppersides have black forewing spots: one spot on each wing in males and two in females. Their larvae can be serious garden pests.

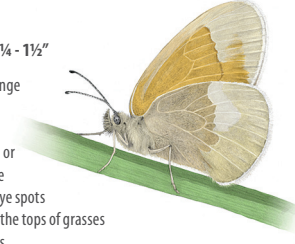
MYLITTA CRESCENT

Phyciodes mylitta **Wingspan: 1⅛ - 1½″**

Equally at home in both rural and urban settings, you will find this common butterfly in meadows, fields, vacant lots, and parks. Females have bold black and orange patterning with white "scallops" along the wing margins. The similar-looking males are more delicately patterned.

OCHRE RINGLET

Coenonympha tullia **Wingspan: 1¼ - 1½″**



Look for this common yellowish-orange butterfly in grassy, open areas like fields and meadows. Undersides of the forewings are browinish-orange or ochre. Butterflies east of the Cascade Range have prominent underwing eye spots that local ringlets lack. Males patrol the tops of grasses in a bobbing flight, looking for mates.