

POLLINATING
BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS

825
BUTTERFLY
SPECIES

12,000
MOTH
SPECIES

APPROXIMATE, NORTH OF MEXICO

ONE ORDER, TWO REPUTATIONS

Butterflies and moths are not two kinds of insect. They are one order, **Lepidoptera**, which means scaled wing. Both start as caterpillars. Both drink through a coiled tube called a proboscis. Both carry pollen from flower to flower while they feed.

Moths are the larger half, and it is not close. Most of them work while we are asleep.

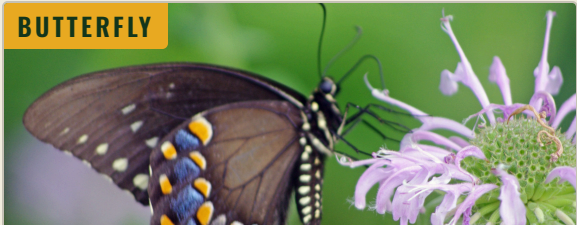
Same order. Same job. Different hours.



MONARCH NECTARING ON SWAMP MILKWEED

! BUTTERFLY OR MOTH? THREE THINGS TO LOOK AT !

BUTTERFLY



SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL

Thin, with a small club at the tip. 

Mostly by day, and fond of open sun.

Folded straight up and closed over the back.

VS

ANTENNAE

WHEN THEY FLY

WINGS AT REST

MOTH



LUNA MOTH

 Feathery, or thin and tapered. No club.

Mostly after dark, at your porch light.

Held flat, or tented over the body.

FUN FACT THE RULES LEAK

The hummingbird clearwing is a moth, and it works in full sun, hovering at flowers on clear wings. Plenty of moths fly by day, and a few out-color any butterfly. When you are not sure, look at the antennae.

FUN FACT NOT EVERY MOTH IS A POLLINATOR

A luna moth comes out of its cocoon with no working mouthparts. It cannot feed at all. It lives about a week on what it stored as a caterpillar, finds a mate, and is gone. Giant silk moths never visit a flower.

NO BASKETS, NO POCKETS

A bee packs pollen into stiff hairs on its legs and carries it home on purpose. A butterfly has nothing like that. Pollen sticks to its legs, its face and its body scales, and rides along to the next flower.

FEWER GRAINS, MORE GROUND

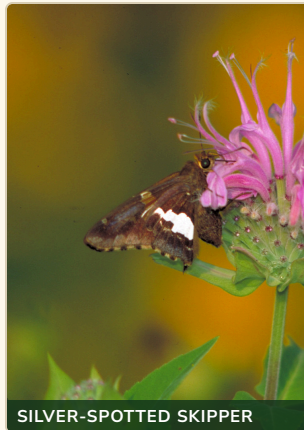
Perched high on thin legs, it touches less of a flower than a bee does, so it moves less pollen per visit. It makes up for that by roaming, over ground a bee working near its nest never covers.

THE NIGHT SHIFT

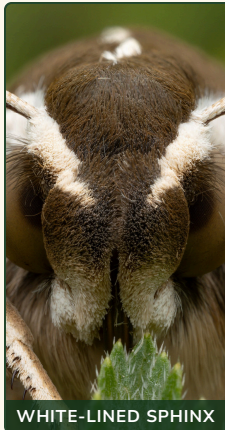
After dark the work passes to moths. Flowers that open at dusk are usually pale, so they show in low light, and heavily scented, so a moth finds them by nose. Some plants have no other option. A yucca is pollinated by its own yucca moth and by nothing else.



HUMMINGBIRD CLEARWING



SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER



WHITE-LINED SPHINX

NEW
JERSEY

NEWLY LISTED HERE AT HOME

New Jersey has recently listed, or raised the status of, eleven butterflies and skippers: **Acadian hairstreak**, **common roadside-skipper**, **dotted skipper**, **gray comma**, **Georgia (Lakehurst) satyr**, **hoary elfin**, **Leonard's skipper**, **northern metalmark**, **pepper-and-salt skipper**, **silver-bordered fritillary** and **two-spotted skipper**. The **checkered white** and the **frosted elfin** moved onto the endangered list.

The **monarch** has been proposed for federal threatened status. A final decision has not been made.



HOST PLANTS FIRST

Nectar feeds the adult. The host plant feeds the caterpillar, and it is usually specific. Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed and nothing else. Spicebush swallowtails need spicebush or sassafras.



NECTAR ALL SEASON

Good New Jersey natives: mountain mint, joe pye weed, goldenrod and asters. The last two matter most. They are still open in the fall, when the monarchs head south.



LEAVE THE LEAVES

Most of our butterflies and moths winter right here, as an egg, a caterpillar, a chrysalis or a cocoon in the leaf litter. Bagging every leaf throws out next summer's butterflies.



SKIP THE SPRAYER

Insecticides do not read labels. Whatever kills the pest on the roses kills the caterpillar on the milkweed, and a caterpillar is a butterfly you have not met yet.



PROTECTING POLLINATORS • PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

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