

10 Common Meadow Pollinators

The 
Meadowway
COMMUNITY POWERED GREEN SPACES



A project of:



Toronto and Region
Conservation
Authority

Monarch

- Caterpillar: Yellow, white, black stripes
- Larval Host Plant: Milkweeds
- Butterfly: Orange with black lines
- Timing: May-September
- Notes: Federally and provincially classified as a “species of Special Concern”
- Migratory



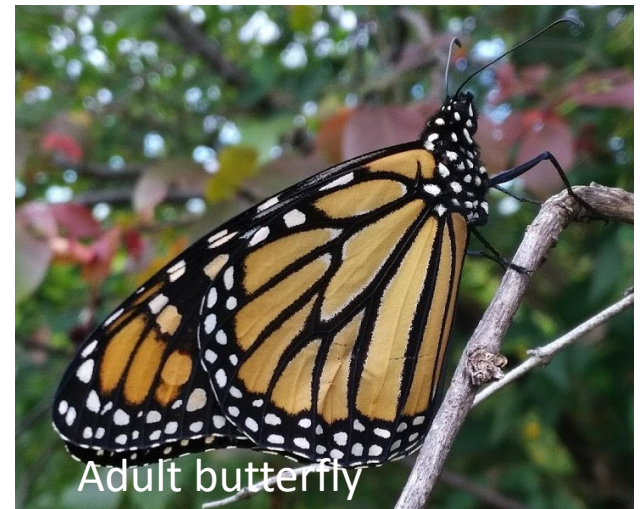
Egg



Caterpillar



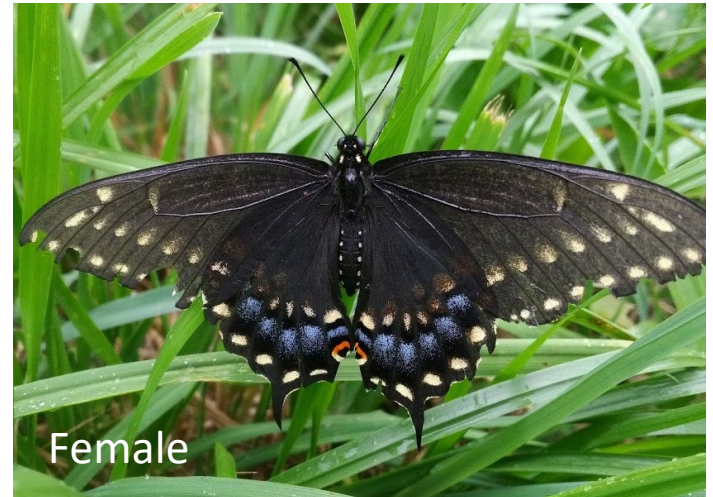
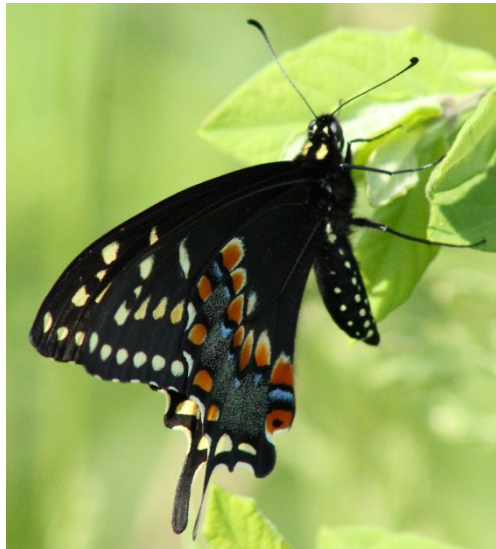
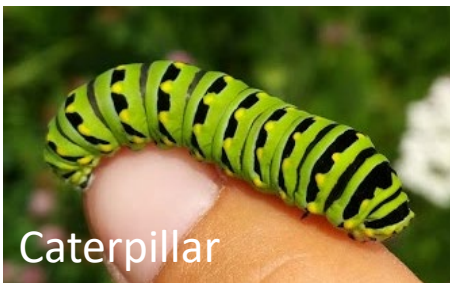
Chrysalis



Adult butterfly

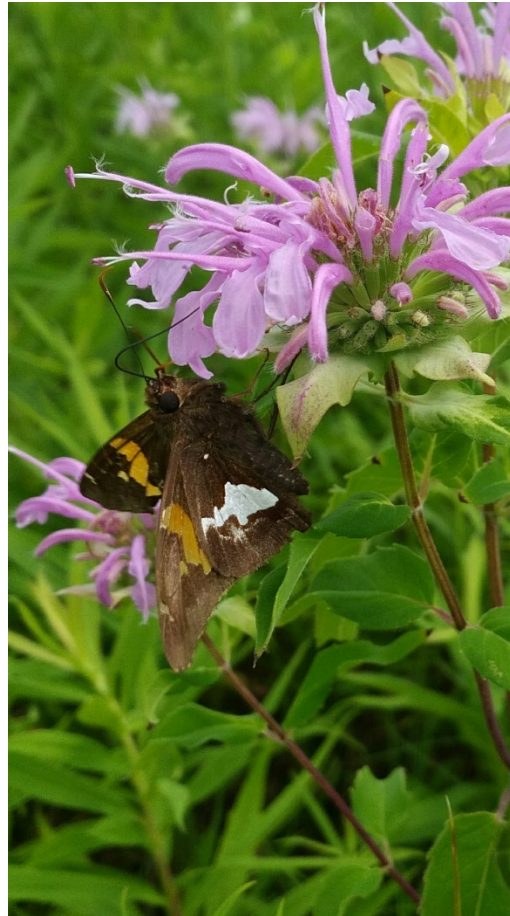
Black Swallowtail

- Caterpillar: Green + black + yellow
- Larval Host Plant: parsley/carrot family
- Butterfly: Large, mostly black with yellow dots lining bottom edge of wings
- Timing: May-August
- Notes: Butterfly displays sexual dimorphism (males and females look different)
- Non-migratory



Silver-spotted Skipper

- Caterpillar: pale yellow/green, with a dark brown head with 2 orange spots on it
- Larval Host Plant: Legumes, Black Locust tree
- Butterfly: Medium, brown with orange/yellow band and white spot on underside of wing
- Timing: June-July
- Non-migratory



Silvery Blue

- Caterpillar: Vary in colour depending on food plant
- Larval Host Plant: Legumes
- Butterfly: Very small, blue upperwing with black border, silver underside with black dots outlined in white ring
- Timing: May-July
- Non-migratory



Red Admiral

- Caterpillar: Black to yellow/green in colour, with yellow lateral stripes and branched spines
- Larval Host Plant: Nettles
- Butterfly: Medium sized, camouflage brown/grey underside, top of wings black with orange/red stripes and small white markings
- Timing: March-September
- Notes: Territorial/aggressive
- Migratory



Sulphur Species

- Caterpillar: Smooth, green with dark stripe down back
- Larval Host Plant: Legumes (clover)
- Butterfly: Medium-sized, yellow, black edge along upperwing surface
- Timing: May-November
- Notes: Sulphur species can look very similar in flight (Clouded Sulphur and Orange Sulphur)



Sweat Bees

Halictidae family

- Generally metallic, not fuzzy
- Tend to be small
- Generally stingless
- Can be solitary or semi-social
- Generally nest underground
- Often attracted to the minerals and nutrients in perspiration



Bumble Bees

- Large, fuzzy, round
- Carries pollen on legs
 - Pollen Baskets
- Flies in cooler temperatures
- Social, but smaller hives than honey bees
- Annual colonies



Beetles

- The 'original' pollinators
 - Here before bees evolved
 - Are responsible for pollinating close to 90% of all flowering plants
 - However, are not the primary pollinators of many plants
- Only feed on pollen (not nectar like bees and butterflies)
- "Mess and soil" pollinators
 - Chew into the flower to reach the pollen, creating a mess
 - Defecate in flower after pollinating
- Beetles have colour vision but rely on their sense of smell to find flowers
- No specialized pollen carrying structures (just sticks to their bodies)



Hover Flies

- Flies are important pollinators
- Flies have very large compound eyes
- Have 2 wings, so are more agile in the air than bees (bees have 4 wings)
- Colouring mimics bees (yellow + black stripes) to help intimidate predators and avoid being eaten

