

## Beyond the Beginner's Checklist

**These descriptions are for butterflies in the Northern and Central parts of Illinois. The skippers, especially, may differ in other regions, including more southern parts of the state.**

\*Beginner's Checklist species - These species are included, because they are springboards to related species.

HW=hindwing FW=forewing Under=underside of wing Top=topside of wing

**\*Eastern Black Swallowtail** - similar to other dark swallowtails - inner line of yellow, present, but reduced, on females - Under HW, 2 rows of orange spots, yellow/orange cell spot  
**Spicebush Swallowtail** - similar to other dark swallowtails - no inner line of yellow like Black sw., teardrop shaped tails - Top HW, large greenish dots - Under HW, 2 rows of orange spots, no yellow/orange cell spot, reduced yellow lines of FW  
**Pipevine Swallowtail** - somewhat similar to other dark swallowtails - Top, very little markings, blue iridescence on HW - Under HW, large orange dots in one band

**\*Common/Orange Sulphur Hybrid** - dot on FW & HW, may have black edging  
**Dogface** - square apex on forewings - Top FW, dogface pattern in black, can be hard to see in flight, look for wing shape, may have 2 pink rays on HW under  
**Little yellow** - small, pearl crescent size, use size as main identification guide, yellow with black edges on both wings on top, esp. in Apical region - HW under, marginal rust spot  
**Dainty Sulphur** - very small, E.T. Blue size, use size as main identification guide, usually highly patterned, even if these may be faint

**Great Gray Copper** - wet prairies and meadows - large - Top, light to dark gray both wings - Under FW white, not orange - Both sides, thick zig-zag orange line, not band  
**Bronze Copper** - wet areas - larger - Under, orange FW, white or very light gray HW - Top HW always dark, FW male bronze with purple cast, female orange - Top and Under HW, wide orange band, not zig-zag line  
American Copper - dry fields, use habitat to separate from Purplish - small, Top is 2 toned, orange FW, Dark HW, fatter orange band - Under HW whiter, thin orange zig-zag line on HW  
**Purplish Copper** - wetlands, use habitat to separate from American - small, Top FW & HW same, males purple cast, females orange - HW Under, light gray to brownish, thin orange line

**\*Hairstreaks** - topside never blue, look at underside for markings - FW inner line pattern, HW colored spots pattern near tail  
**Coral Hairstreak** - no taks, HW row or orange spot on outer margin, no blue spots  
**Banded Hairstreak** - HW blue spot, no orange cap, FW white edged band  
**Edwards' Hairstreak** - HW blue spot, no orange cap, FW white ringed ovals or oblongs  
**Acadian hairstreak** - HW blue spot, orange cap, FW row of black round spots, faint white ring  
**Striped Hairstreak** - HW blue spot, orange cap, FW irregular white thin stripes, not bands or circles

**Baltimore Checkerspot** - checkerboard of black, orange, and white  
**\*Pear Crescent** - smaller - solid black dots near HW edge, HW Under, faint markings  
**Silvery Checkerspot** - large - donut dots near HW edge, HW Under, dark markings  
**Snout Butterfly** - long "nose"

**Fritillaries** come in two size groups - Greater and Lesser

**Greater** - Monarch size or larger

**\*Great Spangled Fritillary** - larger than Aphrodite - Top FW, no black spot - HW Under, broad light band between 2 outermost rows of silver spots

**Aphrodite** - slightly smaller than Great S; angled, uncommon, needs large, 75+ acre prairies, Top GW, black spot near base - HW Under, silver spots, narrow light band along outer row

**Regal Fritillary** - 2 toned, Dark HW, lighter FW

**Variiegated Fritillary** - small for a greater fritillary, smaller than monarch - HW Under, no silver spots - Top, 2 toned pattern of light orange or yellow with darker orange with black zig-zag lines forming bands

**Lessers** - Pearl Crescent size or slightly larger

**Meadow Fritillary** - HW Under, no silver spots - Top, no black vorder, forewing in blunted

**Silver Bordered Fritillary** - HW Under, silver spots - Top, thin black border, apex edge is smooth curve

**Skippers** - on most skippers, the important markings are on the HW Under

**"Gang of Four"** - Sedge feeding skippers - look on HW Under for light pattern of spots

**Black Dash** - knuckles of a fist, 2nd knuckle may extend in towards body

**Broadwing Skipper** - large center stripe perpendicular to body w. small dots on either side close to body

**Dion Skipper** - two stripes, 2nd may be partially hidden in fold of wing, look closely

**Mulberry Wing** - shape of cross, 2nd spot extends both towards and away from body, starts flying early July

**orange underside, no markings**

**Delaware Skipper** - over 1 inch - virtually no markings like European, but large and a bright orangy-yellow - Thin dark margin on top

**European Skipper** - under 1 inch - olive abdomen under, dull orange, sometimes with olive cast, little or no black on top

**Least Skipper** - even smaller, under 1 inch - white abdomen under, bright orange, heavy black edges on Top HW, extensive black on Top FW

**Peck's Skipper** - HW Under, 2 extensive yellow patches, one towards edge of wing, one towards body

**Fiery Skipper** - HW Under, small dark dots on light background, looks like peper sprinkled on, flame pattern on Top

**Hobomok Skipper** - woodland species, very similar to Mulberry Wing at first glance, but in a different habitat and stops flying by mid-June

**Tawny Edge Skipper** - darker wings with orange leading edge on FW both Top and Under