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Fluttering Gems: Discovering the Common Butterflies in Your Area

Butterflies are like colorful jewels fluttering through the air, adding beauty and charm to the world around us. If you're curious about the most common species of butterflies in your area, you've come to the right place.

- **Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*):** The monarch butterfly is perhaps one of the most iconic and recognizable species in North America. With its distinctive orange wings adorned with black veins and white spots, the monarch is a sight to behold. These majestic butterflies are known for their epic migrations, traveling thousands of miles between their breeding grounds in the northern United States and Canada to overwintering sites in Mexico.
- **Cabbage White Butterfly (*Pieris rapae*):** The cabbage white butterfly is a common sight in gardens, parks, and fields across North America and Europe. With its white wings and small black dots, the cabbage white may not be as flashy as some other butterflies, but its abundance makes it a familiar sight to many. The larvae of cabbage white butterflies are often considered pests as they feed on plants in the cabbage family.
- **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*):** The eastern tiger swallowtail is a striking butterfly with yellow wings accented by black stripes and blue and orange markings near the tail. Found throughout much of eastern North America, these graceful butterflies can often be seen gliding gracefully through wooded areas and gardens. The larvae of eastern tiger swallowtails feed on a variety of trees and shrubs, including cherry, ash, and tulip trees.
- **Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*):** The black swallowtail is another common butterfly species found across North America. It is named for its dark wings accented by rows of yellow spots and blue markings near the tail. Black swallowtail larvae feed on plants in the carrot family, including parsley, dill, and fennel.
- **Painted Lady Butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*):** The painted lady butterfly is a widespread species found on every continent except Antarctica. It is known for its orange and black wings with white spots and is often seen migrating in large numbers. Painted lady larvae feed on a variety of plants, including thistles, mallows, and nettles.



These are just a few examples of the many butterfly species you might encounter in your area. Keep your eyes peeled for these winged wonders as you explore the outdoors and marvel at the beauty of nature.