

# Easy, Medium, and Difficult Butterfly IDs

{ Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network



Easy

# Cabbage White



- Black dot on forewing (one on males, two on females)
  - Black marking on apex of forewings

# Mourning Cloak



- Beige border above on outer margins of wings with blue spots on the inner border - brown in color
- Below, blackish brown with pale border around margins



# Weidemeyer's Admiral



- Black with white band on both wings above
- White spots near forewing tips

# Monarch

Stephen R. Jones



Cathy Cook



- Prominent black veins
- Two rows of white dots along wing margins
- Wingspan: 3 3/8 to 4 3/8in

# Viceroy



- Black line across hind wing
- Single row of white dots along margins
- Wingspan: 2.5 to 3 3/8 in



Medium



# Painted Lady



# American Lady





# Red Admiral



# Pearl Crescent

Cathy Cook



Cathy Cook





# Silvery Checkerspot



# Clouded Sulphur



Source: wikipedia.org



- When wings are closed, clouded and orange sulphurs look very similar



# Orange Sulphur



Source: BAMONA

- When wings are closed, clouded and orange sulphurs look very similar

Difficult



# Western White vs Checkered White



Western White (Source: Robert Weeden, BAMONA)



Checkered White female

- Western Whites and female Checkered Whites look almost identical
- Western Whites have heavy yellow-green veins below wings and checkered whites have yellow-brown veins
- Western Whites will typically also have darker, black patterns above on forewings, compared to lighter, gray-black pattern on checkered whites

# Blues

- From above, all blues can look nearly identical – IDs can mostly only be confirmed by observing underneath the wing



Arrowhead Blue



Boisduval's Blue



Silvery Blue



Rocky Mountain  
Dotted Blue



Reakirt's Blue



Spring (Echo) Azure



Melissa Blue



Lupine Blue



# Fritillaries

- Like Blues, Fritillaries are also nearly identical above the wing. Looking at markings below the wings can make identification easier.



Variegated Fritillary – will have no silvered spots on hindwing below



Aphrodite Fritillary – spots below will always be silvered



Edward's Fritillary – gray – green wings below with metallic silver spots



Northwestern Fritillary – spots can be silvered or unsilvered

# Spread-wing Skippers



Grizzled Skipper



Common - Checkered Skipper



Two-Banded Checkered Skipper



# Spread-wing Skippers Cont'd



Persius Duskywing



Dreamy Duskywing



Afranius Duskywing

# Grass Skippers



Woodland Skipper



Taxiles Skipper



Western Branded Skipper

# Resources for Identification

1. “Butterflies of the Colorado Front Range: A Photographic Guide to 100 Species (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)” by Janet R. Chu & Stephen R. Jones
2. Colorado Front Range Butterflies  
<http://coloradofrontrangebutterflies.com/>
3. Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA)  
<http://butterfliesandmoths.org>
4. iNaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org/>