

Identifying Similar Species

Colorado Butterfly Monitoring
Network

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- Some butterflies are really distinct and can easily be distinguished from other species
 - However, there are some butterflies that look almost identical to another species, and can be more difficult to identify

Checkered White vs Western White



Checkered White



Western White (Source:
Robert Weeden, BAMONA)

Telling them apart...



(source: raisingbutterflies.org)

Checkered White:

- Male (left) female (right) will have clear distinction in patterns
- Yellow-brown veins below
- Forewing will have grayish/lighter black pattern



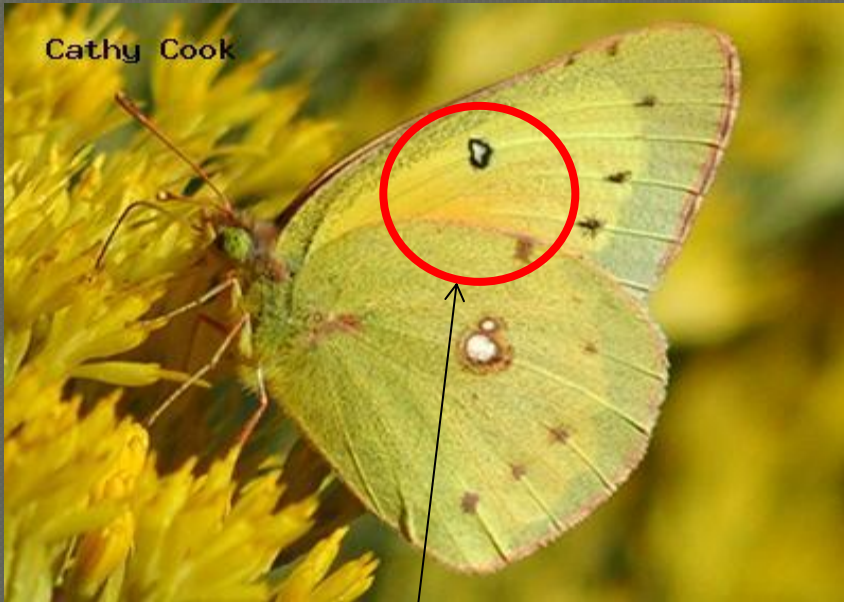
Female *Pontia occidentalis* (Western White Butterfly) specimen GLAC 14031 (54 X 32 mm), collected along the Siyeh Pass Trail by Diane Debinski, July 28, 1987.

(source: inaturalist.org)

Western White:

- Dark yellow-green veins below
- Forewing will have darker black pattern

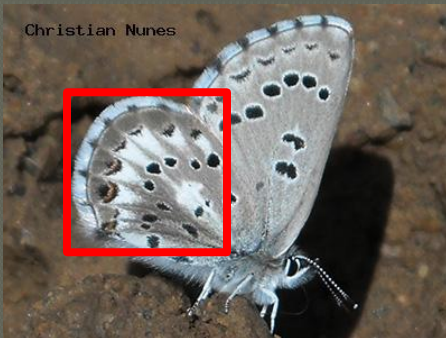
Orange Sulphur vs Clouded Sulphur (closed wing)



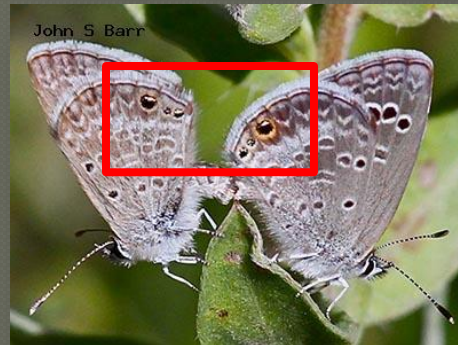
- You should be able to see some orange through the forewing

Blues

- Blues are very difficult to tell apart unless you can see under the wing. Below are some defining features you can use to tell blues apart



Arrowhead Blue –
white 'arrows' on
hindwing

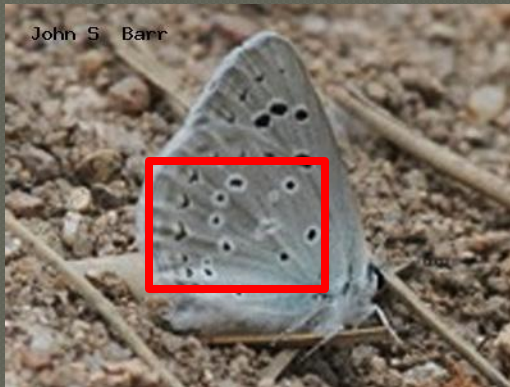


Reakirt's Blue –
prominent black
spot on hindwing

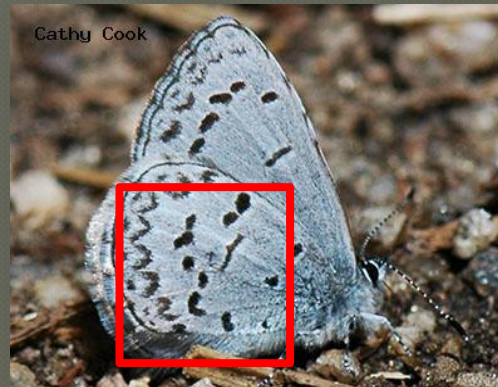


Marine Blue –
similar black spot
on hindwing. Gray
and white bands
instead of spots

Blues cont'd



Boisduval's Blue –
post median band
either all white, or
black with white
border



Spring (echo) Azure
– black bands and
spots below on
hindwing



Silvery Blue – white
ringed, round black
spots

Blues cont'd



John S. Bapp
Melissa Blue

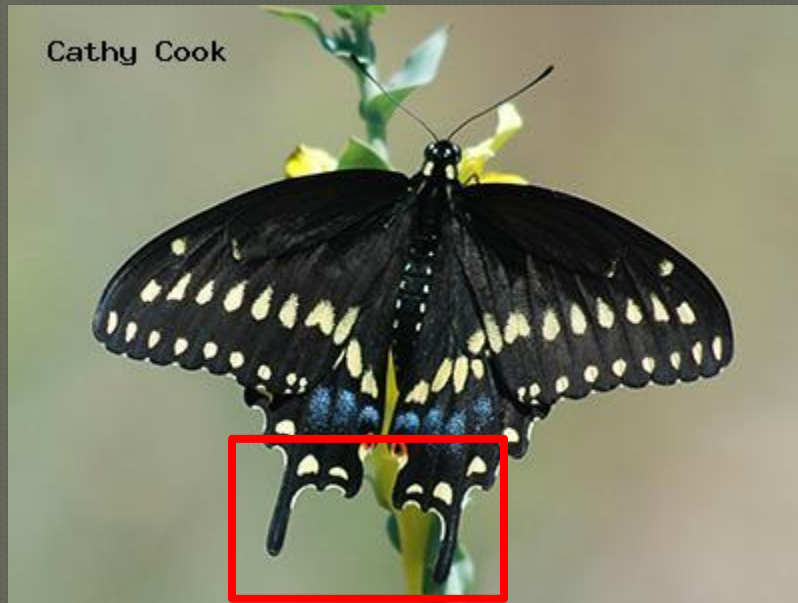


Joe Krieg
Rocky Mountain
Dotted Blue



Jani Chu
Lupine Blue

Black Swallowtail vs Indra Swallowtail



Black Swallowtail – longer tail on wings



Indra Swallowtail – Shorter tail on wings

Monarch vs Viceroy



Monarch – No black band on hindwing



Viceroy – Black band on hindwing

Painted Lady vs American Lady



Painted Lady – Heavy orange coloring. Black forewing tips with bold white spots.



American Lady- faded, rusty orange coloring. Brown/lighter black forewing tips with some white spots.

Northwestern vs Aphrodite Fritillary



Northwestern Fritillary – Below hindwing, reddish-brown with pale submarginal band. Spots can be silvered or unsilvered.

Aphrodite Fritillary – Below hindwing can also be red-brown/brown. Spots are always silvered.



Edward's vs Callippe Fritillary

Edward's Fritillary – Larger, up to ~3.5 inches. Green/gray-green below wings.



Callippe Fritillary – Smaller, up to ~2.5 inches. Olive or brown below wings.

Pearl Crescent vs Silvery Checkerspot



Pearl Crescent – Small, up to 1.5 inches. Above, orange with black borders.



Silvery Checkerspot – Medium, up to 2 inches. Above, yellow-orange with black borders.

Spread-wing Skippers



Dreamy
Duskywing – lacks
white spots on
forewing.



Persius
Duskywing- dark
black/brown with
scattered gray
scales. White spots
near tip of
forewing. Has gray
hairs which make
it look softer.



Afranius
Duskywing – Very
similar to Persius
Duskywing. Brown
patch on outer
forewing. Lacks
gray hairs that
Persius has.

Woodland vs Taxiles Skipper



Woodland Skipper – Orange wings with black patches above.

Taxiles Skipper – Orange wings with black border above.

