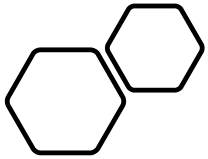


Butterflies of Colorado

Nymphalidae: Polygonia
(Anglewings)

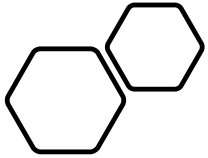




Polygoniids: Angle Wings

- Green Comma
- Satyr Comma
- Hoary Comma
- Eastern Comma
- Question Mark
- Gray Comma
- Zephyr Comma ??





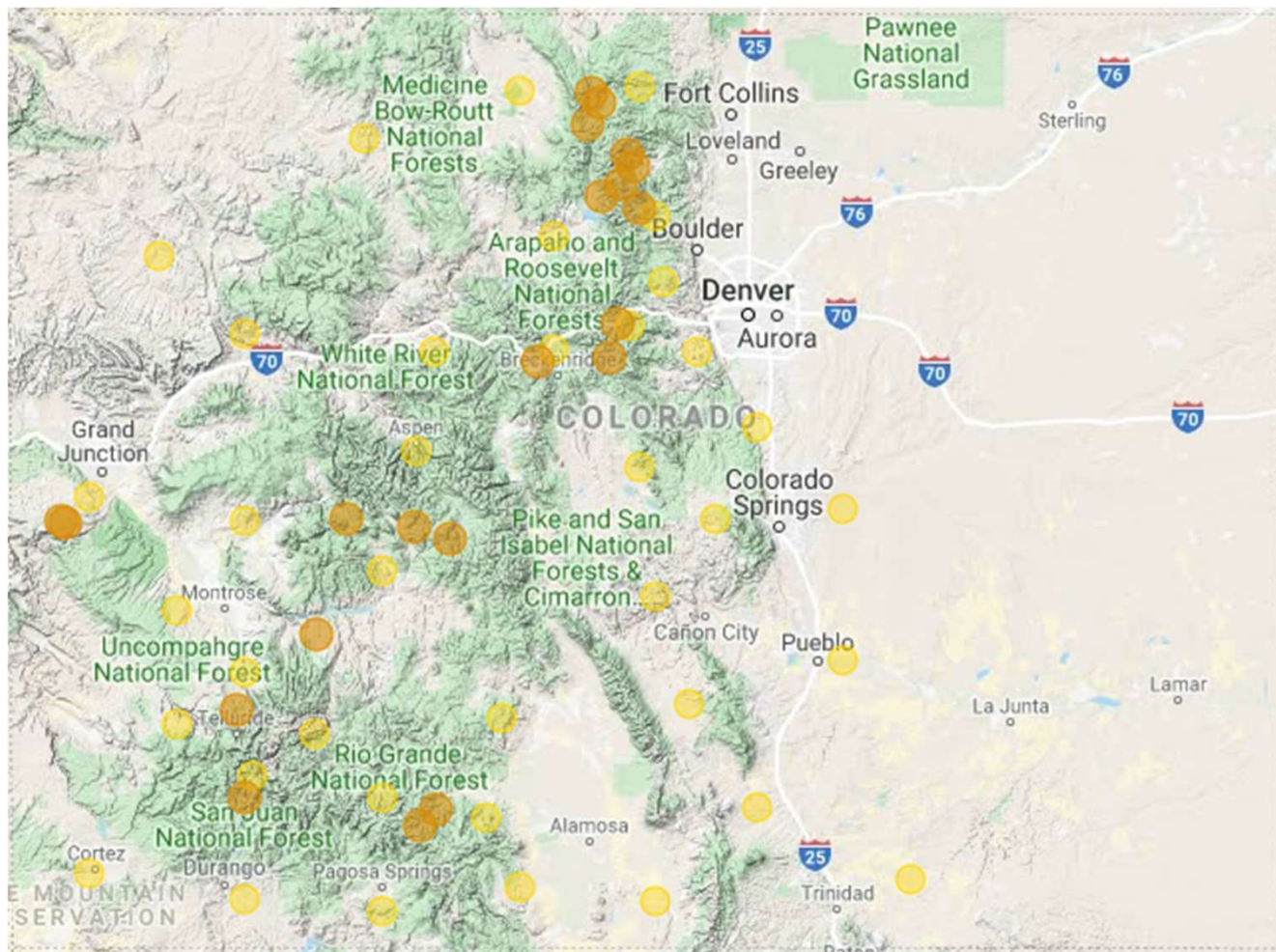
Green Comma

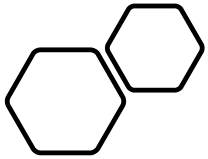
(Polygonia faunus)

- Extremely jagged wing edges. Above, **orange with wide dark brown borders**. Hindwing has **black central spots** and **light yellow submarginal spots**. Below, brown to gray, mottled appearance with outer half lighter, **greenish submarginal spots**, and a **silver 'comma' shape** in center of hindwing.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 3/4 to 2 1/2 inches.
- Habitat: Coniferous or mixed woods, canyons, streamsides; foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: May to September; one brood. Adult overwinters to fly and mate the following spring.
- Larval Foodplant: Willows, alders, birches, gooseberry.



Distribution Map (*Polygonia faunus*)





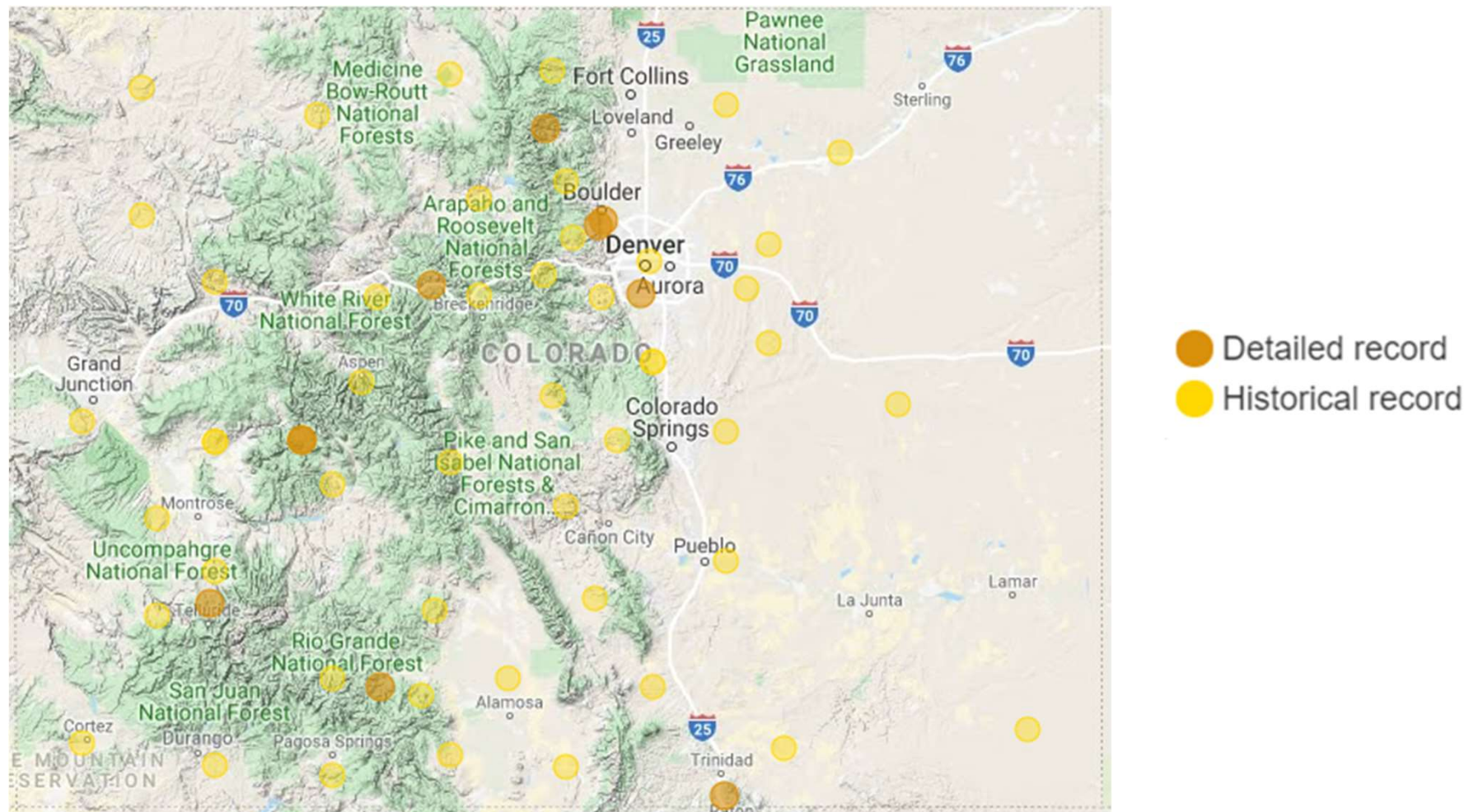
Satyr Comma

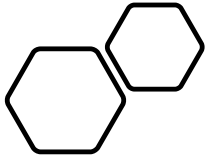
(Polygonia satyrus)

- Above, **bright yellow-orange with black spots** in the middle of both wings and a **pale submarginal band**. Below, **marbled light and dark brown** with **silver comma** in center of hindwing.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 3/4 to 2 1/2 inches.
- Habitat: Woodland edges and openings, marshes, valley bottoms, streamsides, parks and open lots; foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: June through September. Adults hibernate so may be seen on warm days in early spring.
- Larval Foodplant: Nettles.



Distribution Map (*Polygonia satyrus*)





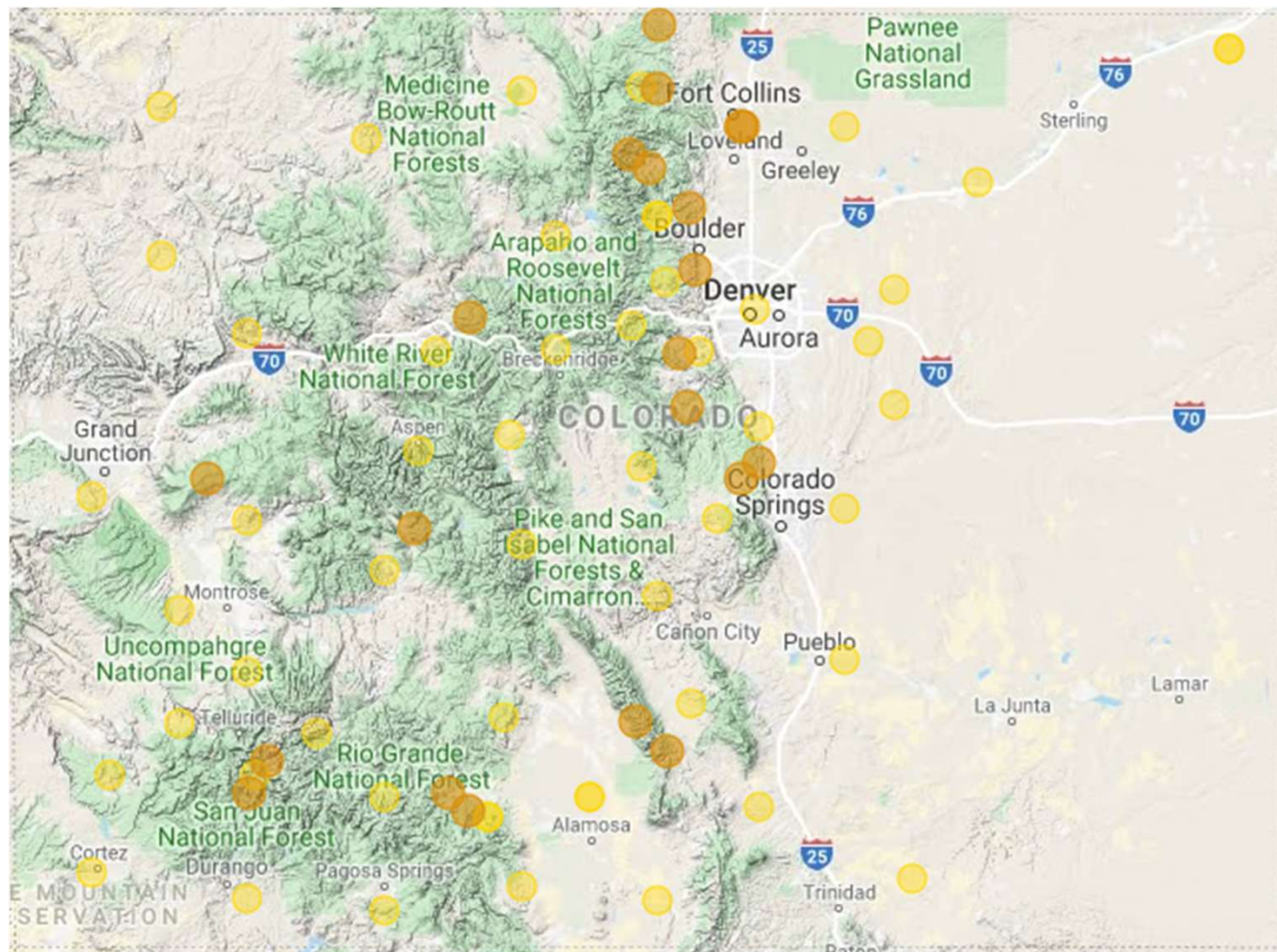
Hoary Comma

(Polygonia gracilis)

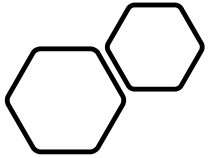
- Above, **dark red-orange and brown** with black spots and bars on forewing. Jagged wing edges marked inward by row of **indistinct yellow spots**. Below, **gray** with **inner portions darker** and **white comma** at the edge of the darker part on hindwing.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 1/2 to 2 1/4 inches.
- Habitat: Conifer or mixed woods often near streams, prairies, meadows; plains, foothills, montane, alpine.
- Flight Times: Adults overwinter, emerge in spring to mate and lay eggs until June. The new generation emerges in July, flies until September, and then overwinters as an adult.
- Larval Foodplant: Currants and gooseberries.



Distribution Map (*Polygonia gracilis*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record



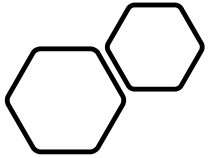
Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*)

- **Forewing hooked**; upperside is **red-orange with black spots**. Above hindwing of summer form is **mostly black with a short tail**; that of winter form has much **orange and a longer, violet-tipped tail**. Underside is **light brown**; hindwing with **pearly white question mark** in center.
- Wing Span: 2 1/4 - 3 inches (5.7 - 7.6 cm).
- Habitat: Wooded areas with some open space, city parks, suburbs, fencerows.
- Flight: Overwintered adults fly and lay eggs in the spring until the end of May. The summer form emerges and flies from May-September.
- Larval Foodplant: American elm, red elm, hackberry, Japanese hop, nettles, false nettle



Distribution Map (*Polygonia interrogationis*)





Gray Comma (*Polygonia progne*)

- Upperside is **bright orange-brown**; summer hindwing has wide **dark border**, winter form, border covering only about 1/4 of the wing; both enclosing a few **small yellow spots**. Underside is **charcoal gray** with **fine dark striations**; forewing with 3-4 **light chevrons** in a **dark border**. **Silver mark** in center of hindwing is **small, slender, and L-shaped**.
- Wing Span: 1 5/8 - 2 1/12 inches (4.4 - 6.3 cm).
- Habitat: Along dirt roads, streamsides, and within clearings in rich deciduous or coniferous woods, in aspen parks, yards, and gardens. Often in hilly terrain or canyons.
- Flight: Two flights; Summer adults fly from June-August, laying eggs of the winter generation which appears in October and then hibernates.
- Larval Foodplant: Gooseberries and azalea



Distribution Map (*Polygonia progne*)

