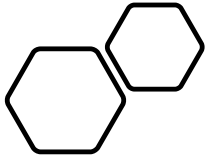


# Butterflies of Colorado

Pieridae (Whites and Sulphurs)

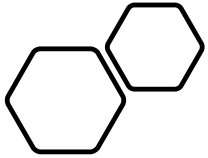




# Pieridae: Whites

- Pine White
- Spring White
- Checkered White
- Western White
- Cabbage White
- Mustard White
- Large Marble
- Olympia Marble
- Julia Orangetip
- Great Southern White





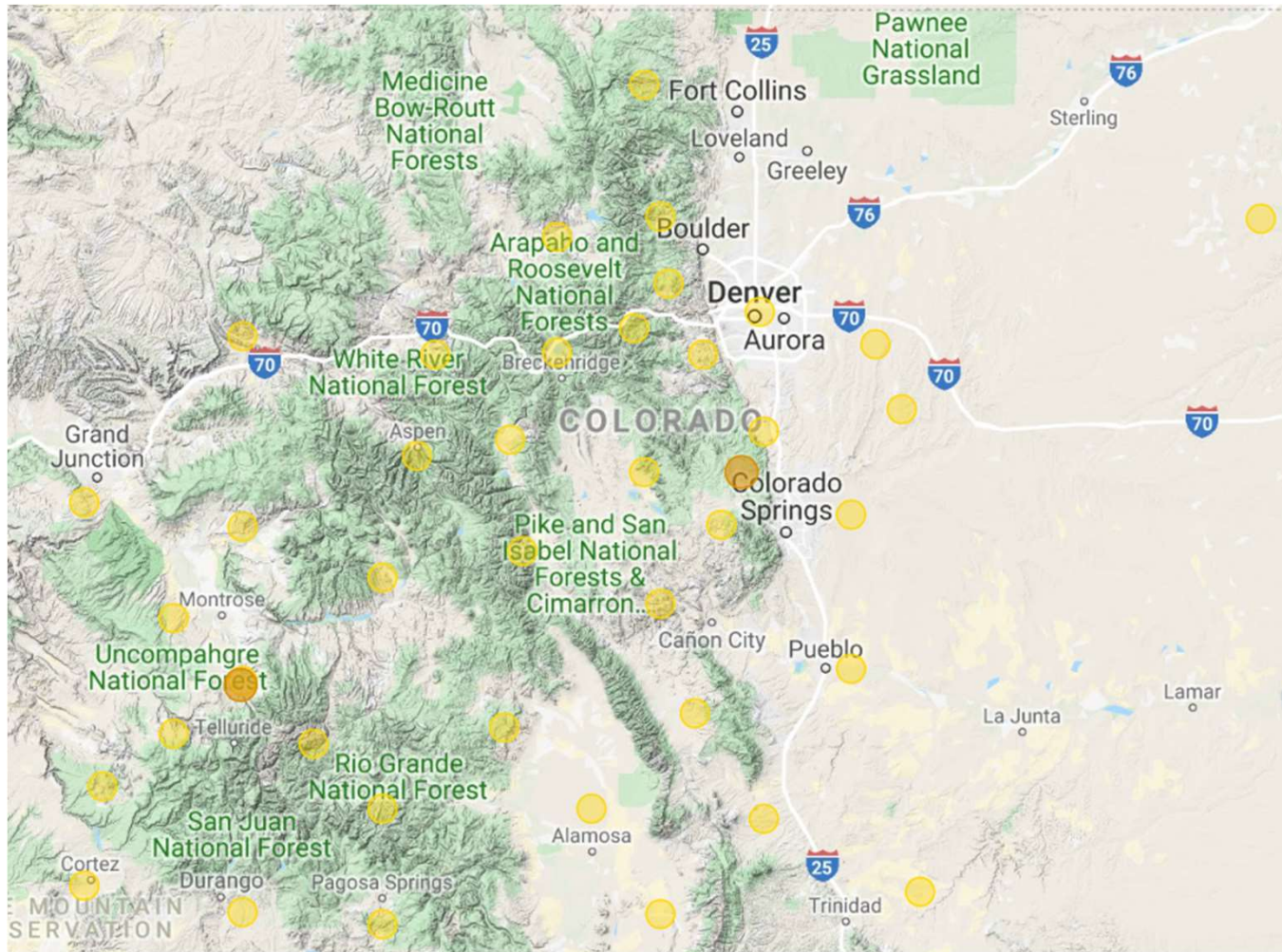
# Pine White

## *(Neophasia menapia)*

- Above, forewing tip is **bold black with several white ovals**; lower half of the forewing is black curving upward into a rounded hook. Below, forewings are similar to the upper surface; hindwings show **black veining with a black submarginal line**.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 3/4 to 2 1/4 inches.
- Habitat: Coniferous forests (ponderosa pine and possibly lodgepole pine); foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: July to mid-September; one brood. Egg overwinters on needles of various conifers.
- Larval Foodplant: Needles of ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine and douglas fir.

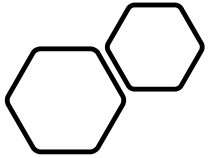


## Distribution Map (*Neophasia menapia*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record





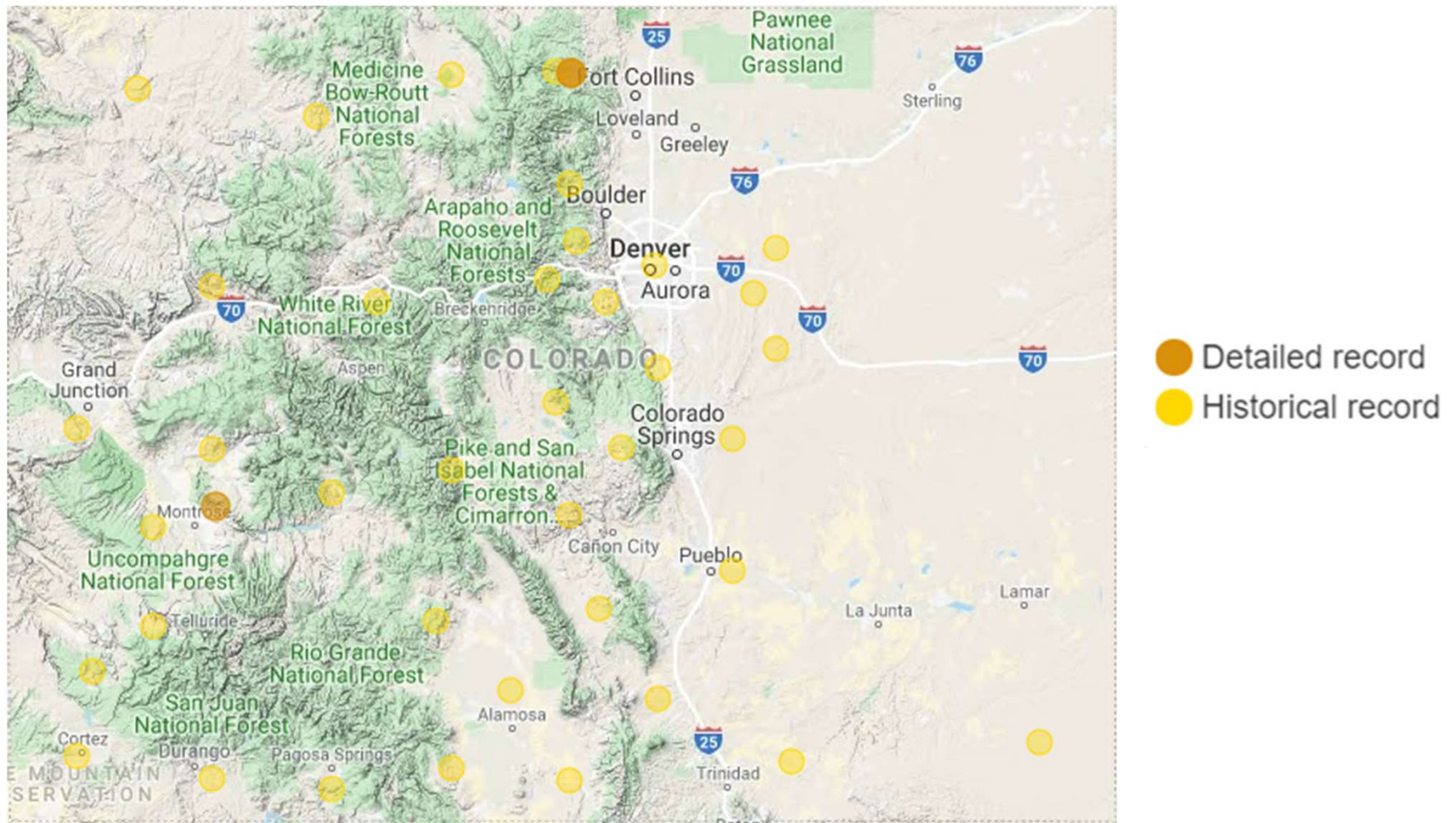
# Spring White (*Pontia sisymbrii*)

- Prominent **black cell end bar** at the end of a **large white cell** along leading edge of forewings, and **black or gray checkered pattern along trailing edge**. From above, hindwing is white with black veining. Below, hindwing shows **heavy gray scaling along yellow veins**.

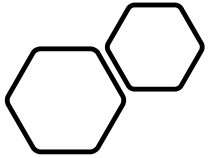
- Wingspan: Small; 1 1/4 to 1 3/4 inches.
- Habitat: Dry canyons, rocky outcrops, open coniferous forests; plains, foothills, montane.
- Flight times: April to mid-June; one brood. Chrysalis overwinters.
- Larval Foodplant: Plants in the mustard family.



## Distribution Map (*Pontia sisymbrii*)







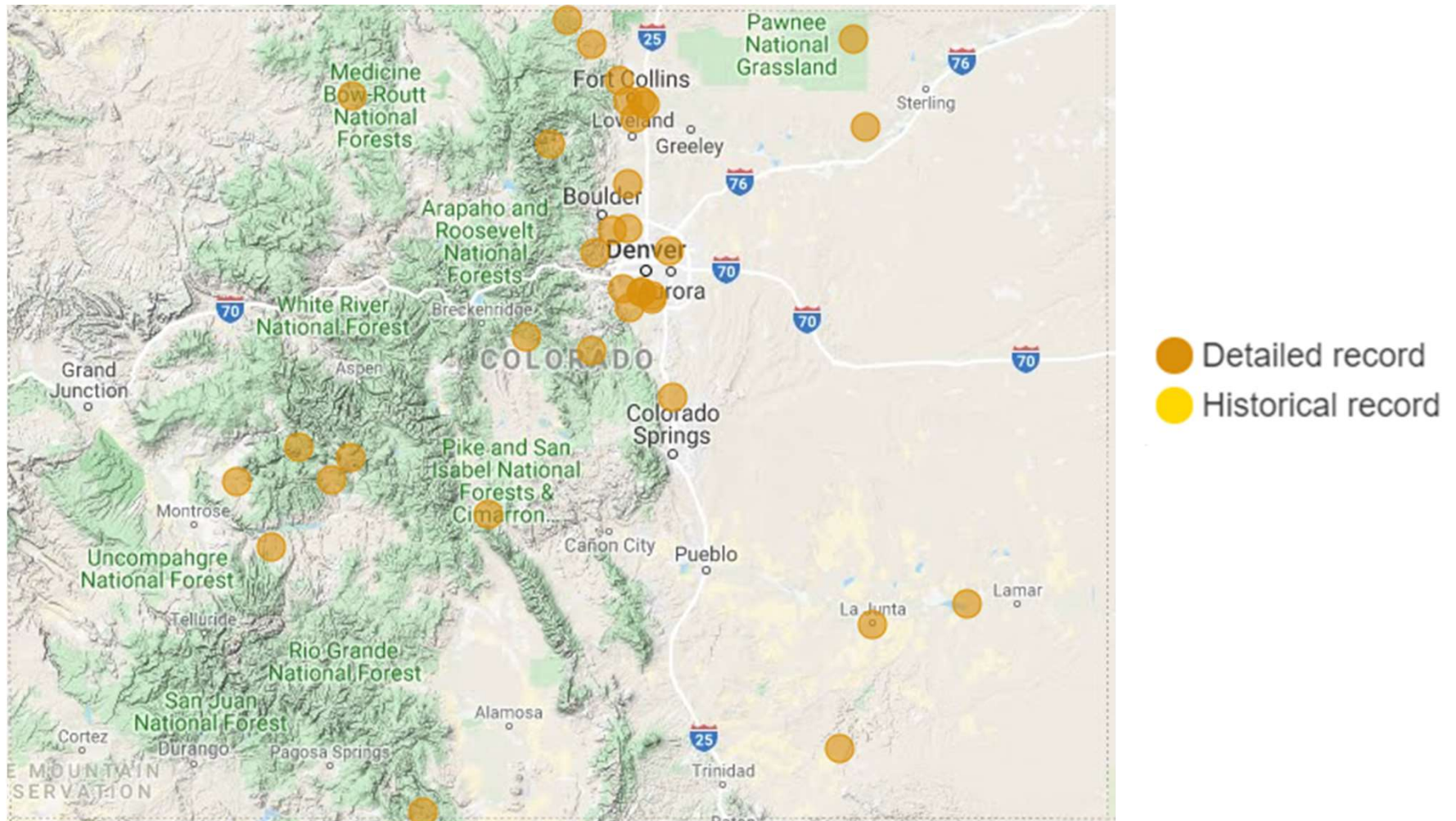
# Checkered White

## (*Pontia protodice*)

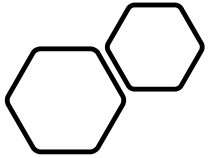
- **White above** with **checkered gray (black) pattern on trailing edge** of both wings both darker on forewing and on females. Also notice **central black bar on leading edge of forewing**. Hindwing below can show **yellow-brown veining**.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches.
- Habitat: Wide variety of sites: open areas, fields and clearings in forests; plains, foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: March through August. Chrysalis overwinters.
- Larval Foodplant: Native and exotic plants in the mustard family.
- Shows considerable variability of appearance between sexes and seasonal flights.



## Distribution Map (*Pontia protodice*)







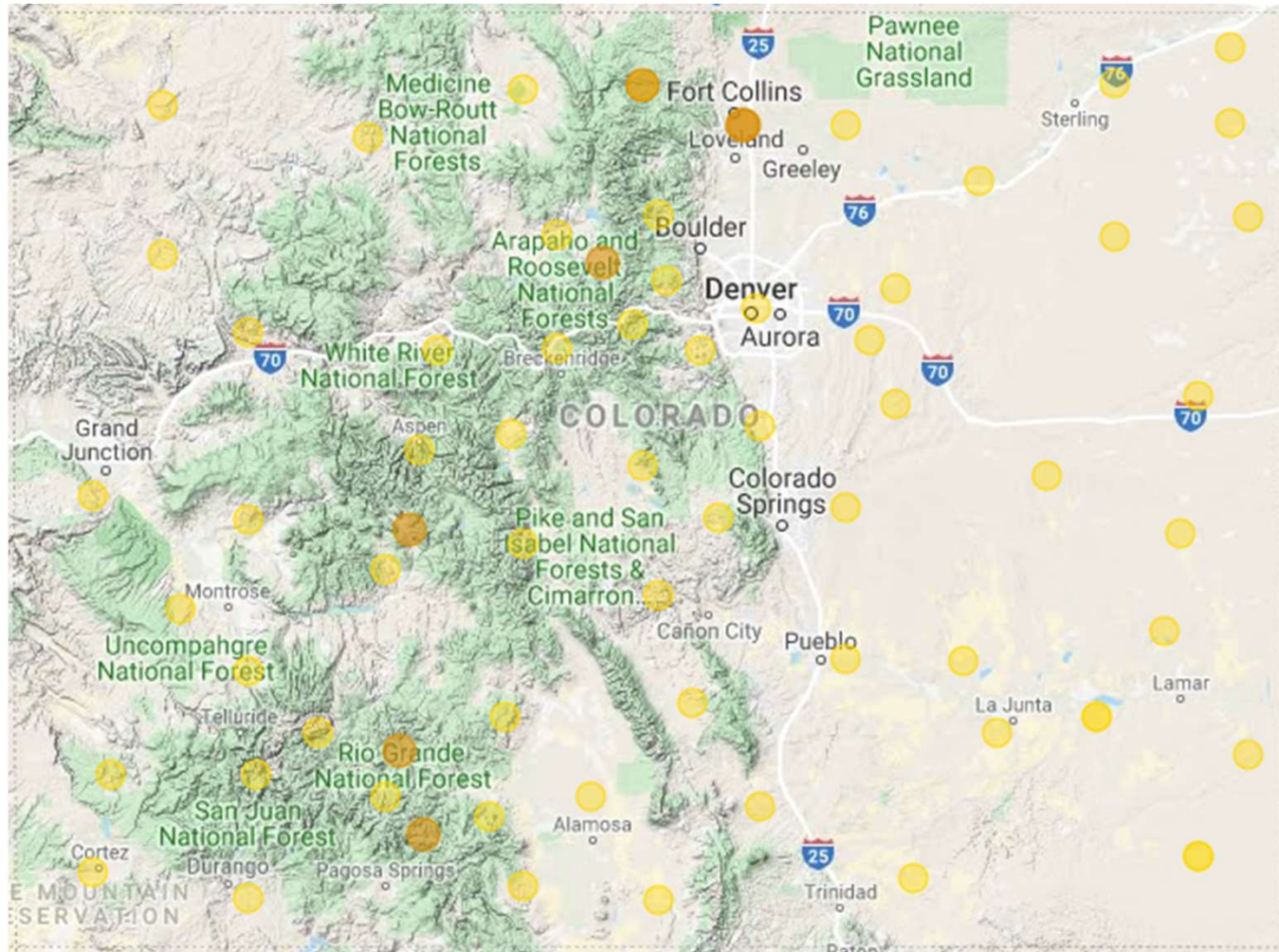
# Western White

## *(Pontia occidentalis)*

- White above with a **central black bar** on **leading edge of forewing**. Marginal **chevrons** tend to be gray while submarginal spots tend to be darker. Males generally more lightly marked than females. Below, **yellow- green veining on forewing apex and hindwing**.
- Wingspan: Small; 1 1/2 to 2 1/8 inches.
- Habitat: Forest openings, grasslands, and meadows; plains, foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: March to August; two broods, one at higher elevations. Chrysalis overwinters.
- Larval Foodplant: Native mustards.
- Very similar to and difficult to separate from Checkered White.

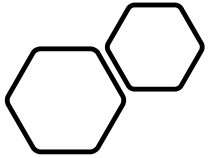


## Distribution Map (*Pontia occidentalis*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record





# Cabbage White

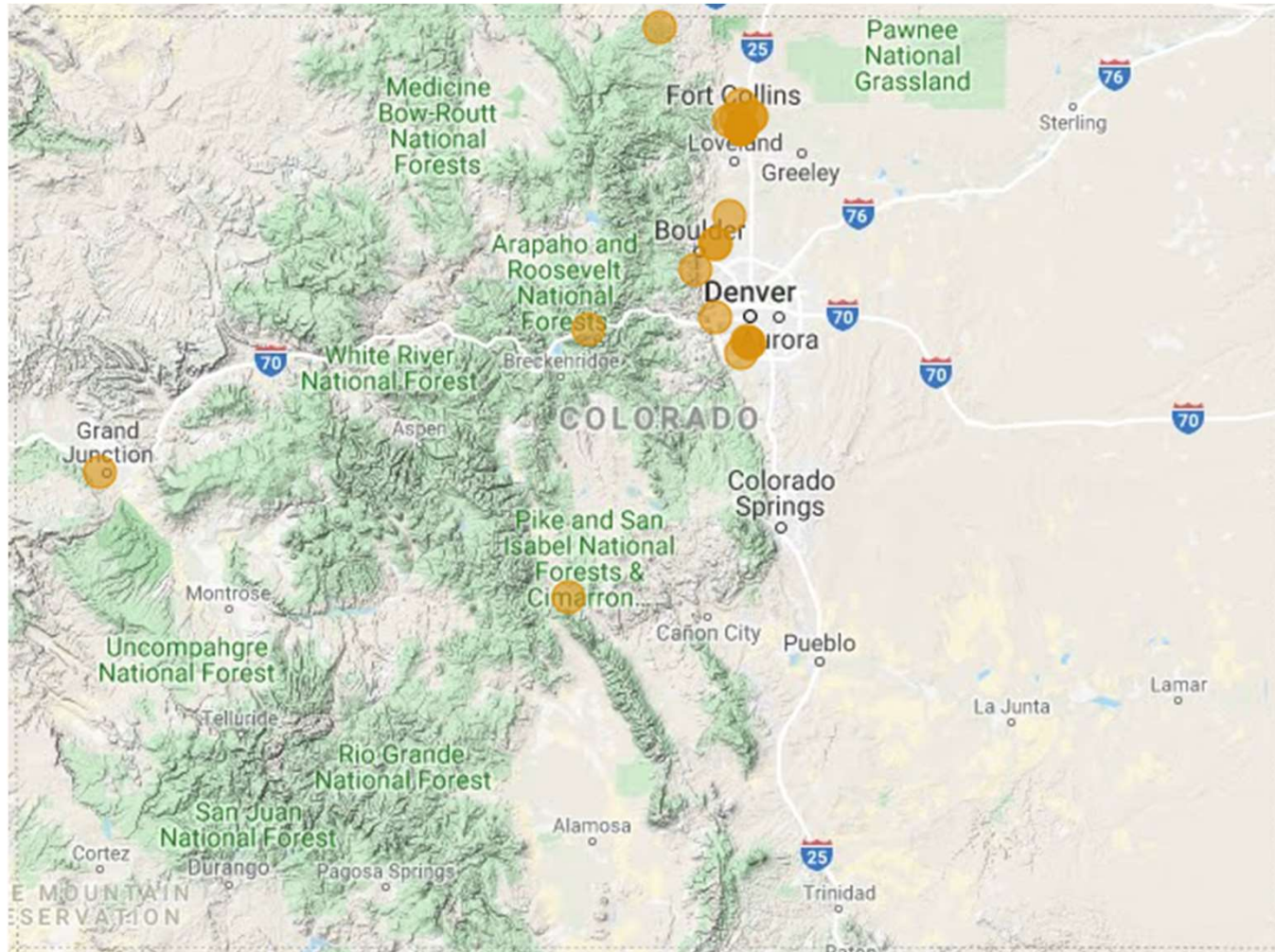
## (*Pieris rapae*)

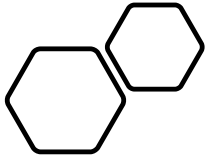
- White above with **gray patches at wingtips** and either **one (male) or two (female) black spots in middle of forewing**. Below, a white forewing and a hindwing unmarked and mostly gray-white or pale yellow.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 1/2 to 2 inches.
- Habitat: Common in open weedy areas, mountain meadows, stream sides and gardens; plains, foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: March through September; three or more broods. Chrysalis of last brood overwinters.
- Larval Foodplant: Wild and cultivated Mustard family plants including parsley and cress species.
- *The Cabbage White is one of the most common and widespread butterflies around the world.*





## Distribution Map (*Pieris rapae*)

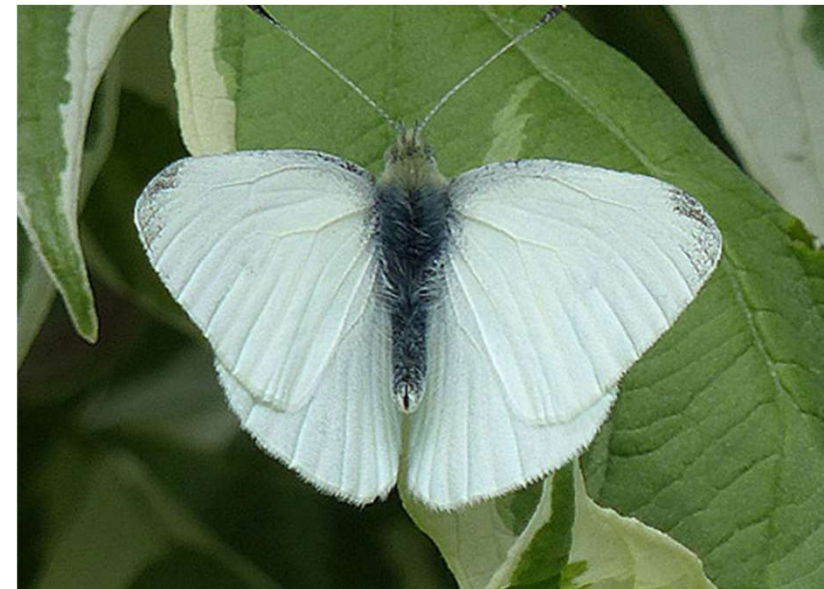




# Mustard White

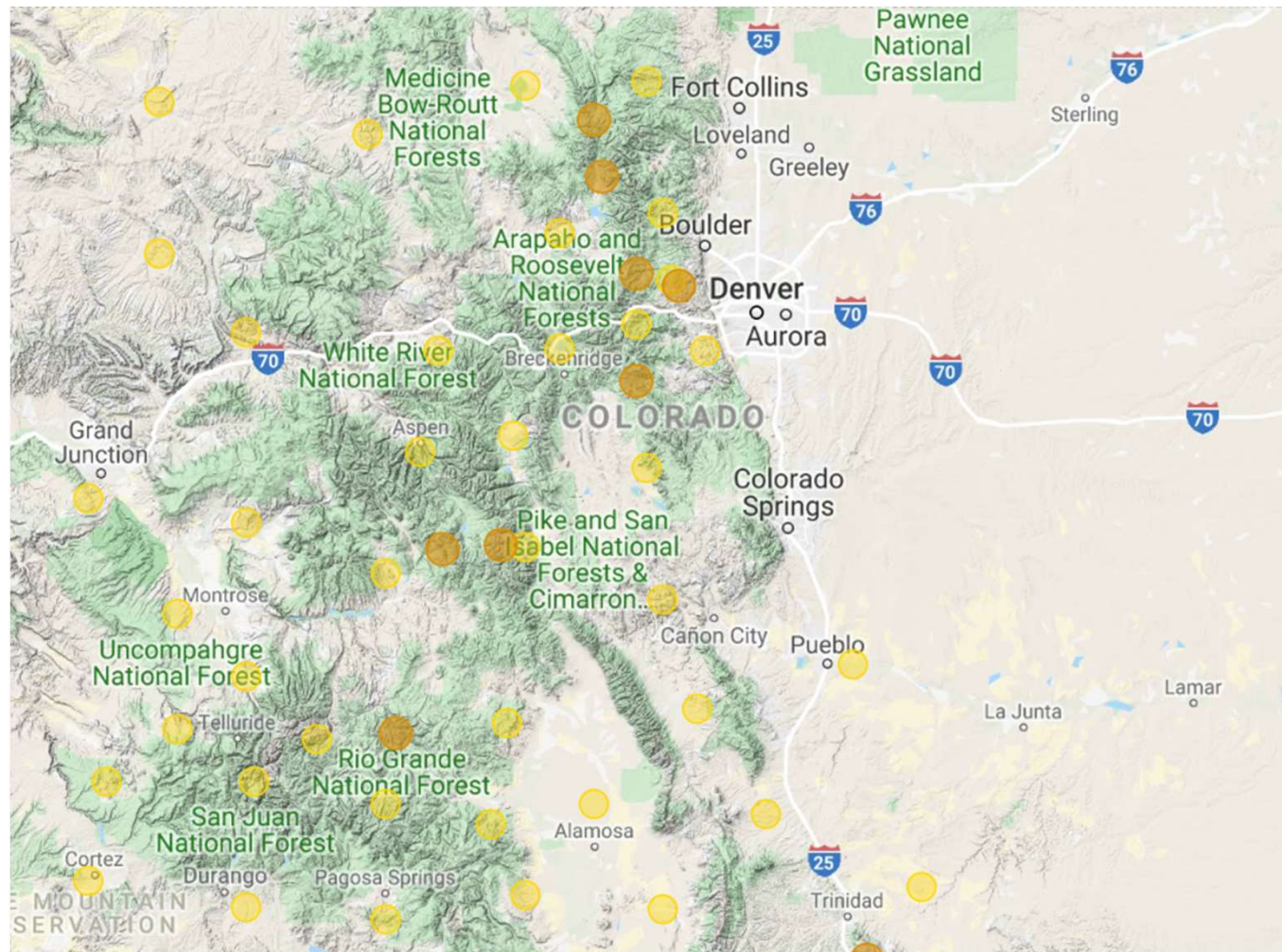
## (*Pieris marginalis*)

- Above, **white to dusted gray**. Possible **black patch at wingtip** and can show one or two round spots centered. Below, **white to pale yellow with gray veins**. Ventral veins may show through on males.
- Wingspan: Medium, 1 1/4 to 2 1/4 inches.
- Habitat: Moist areas in forests, meadows, streamsides; foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: April to August; two broods. Chrysalis overwinters.
- Larval Foodplant: Various native plants in the mustard family.



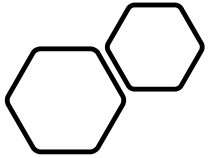


## Distribution Map (*Pieris marginalis*)



- Orange circle: Detailed record
- Yellow circle: Historical record





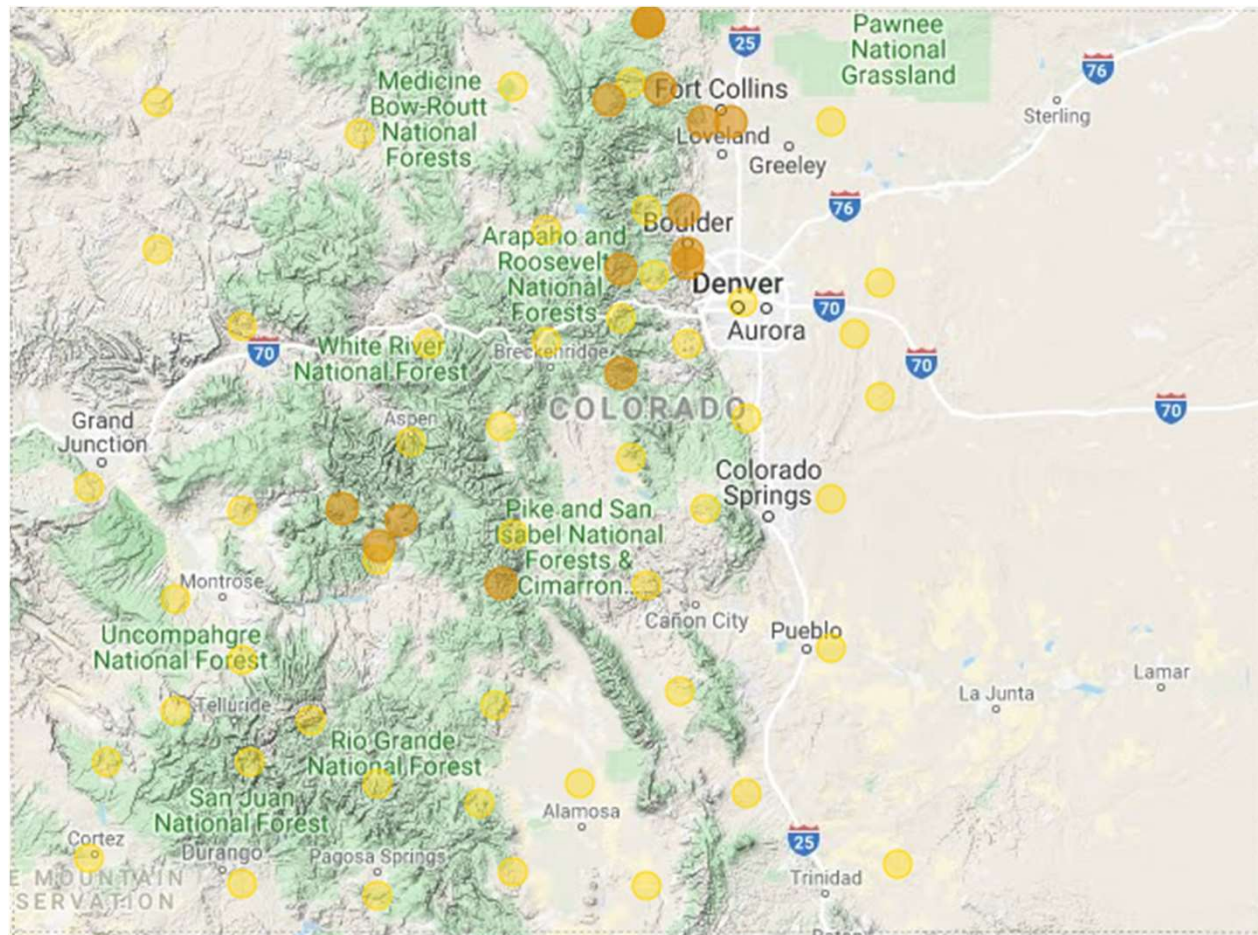
# Large Marble

## (*Euchloe ausonides*)

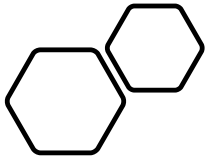
- Hindwing underneath **white with yellow veins** and **dark green marbling** cutting across the veins. Tip of white forewing beneath similarly patterned. Above, forewing has **white with black patterning at tip** and **black cell end bar**. White antennae.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 1/4 to 2 inches. Can be smaller.
- Habitat: Frequents wide variety of open habitats, meadows and forest openings; flies low along streams sides and trails; foothills, montane, alpine.
- Flight Times: April to late July. Chrysalis overwinters.
- Larval Foodplant: Mustard family plants.



## Distribution Map (*Euchloe ausonides*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record



# Olympia Marble

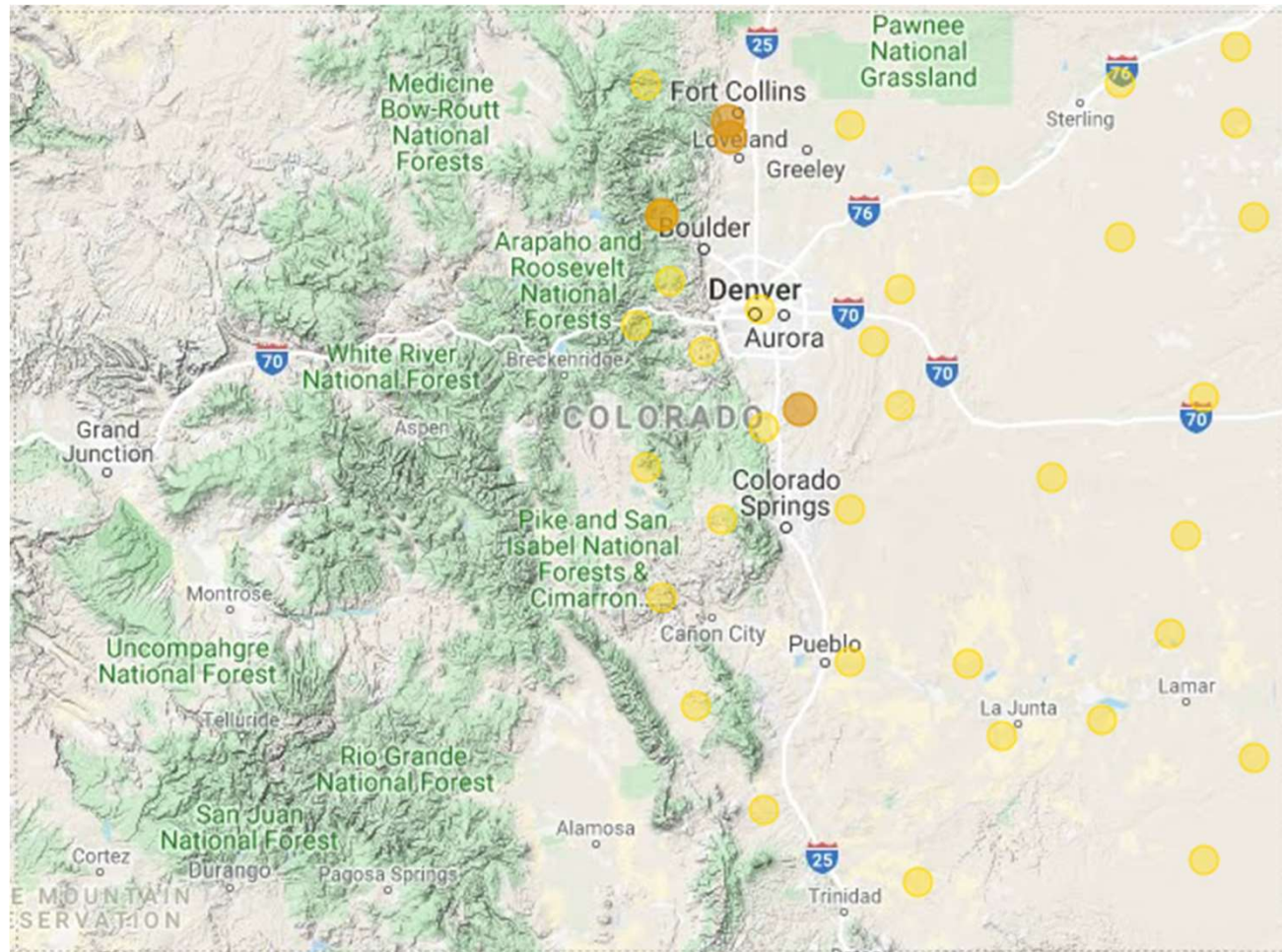
## (*Euchloe olympia*)

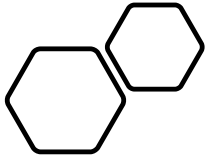
- Above, white with **black forewing cell bar** and **black shadowing** at tips of forewing. White antennae. Below, **sparse yellow-green marbling** on hindwing (much less than on Large Marble).
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 1/16 to 1 3/8 inches.
- Habitat: Prairies, grasslands, open woodlands; plains, foothills.
- Flight Times: April to August; one brood. Females lay single egg on flower bud of host plant; chrysalis overwinters.
- Larval Foodplant: Rockcress and other mustards.





## Distribution Map (*Euchloe olympia*)





# Julia Orangetip

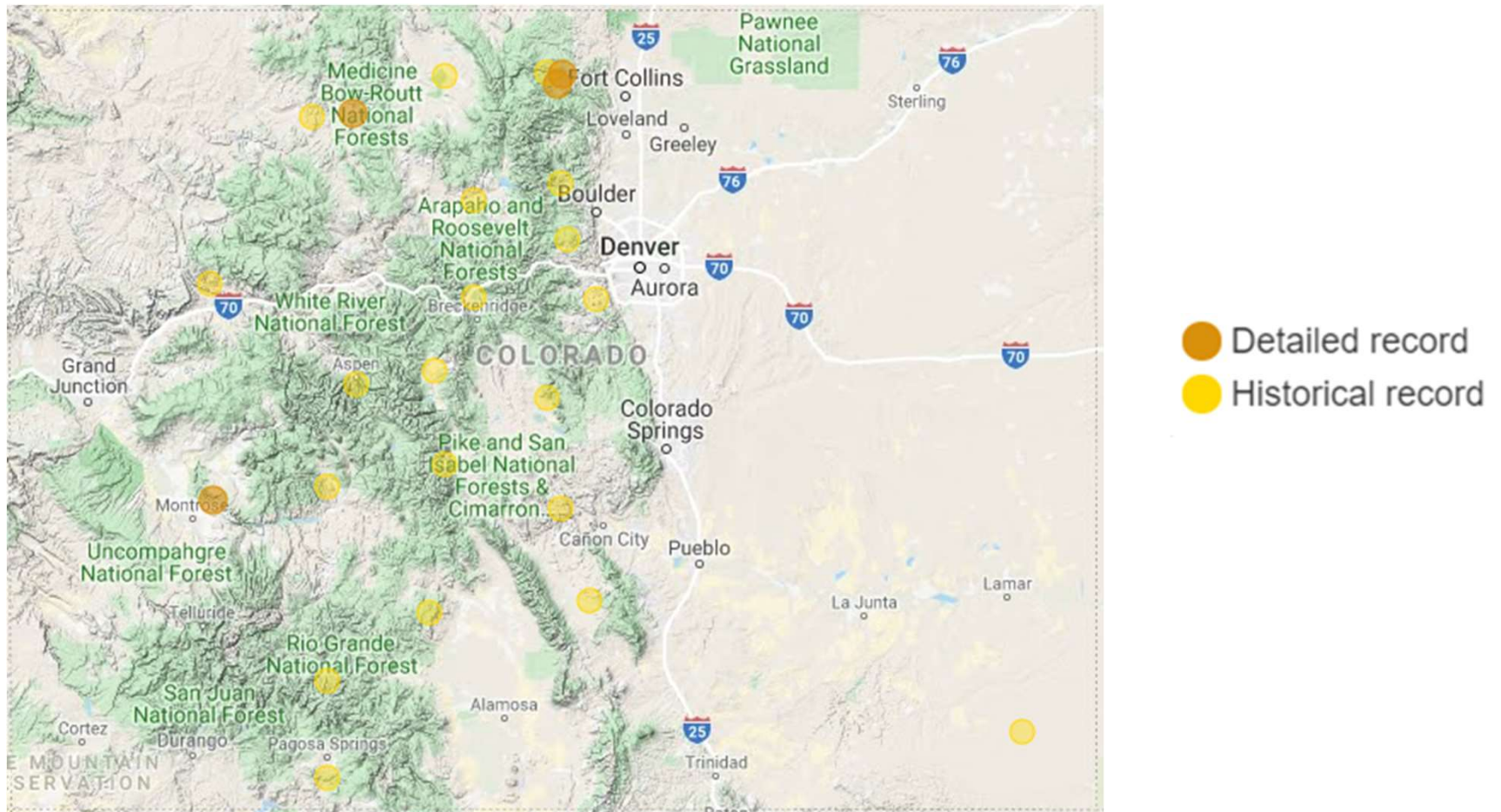
## *(Anthocharis julia)*

- Male white above (female, pale yellow) with **bright orange wingtips on forewings**. Below, the hindwing has **yellow veins and patchy yellow green marbling** (sometimes orange on forewing tip shows through when backlit). Usually shows a **white ray in middle of hindwing**.
- Wingspan: Small; 1 to 1 1/4 inches.
- Habitat: Mountain meadows and along stream sides in canyons; foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: April to late June; one brood. Overwinters as chrysalis.
- Larval Foodplant: Rockcress.

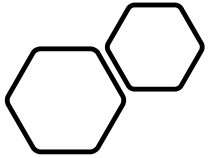




## Distribution Map (*Anthocharis julia*)







# Great Southern White (*Ascia monuste*)

- Upper surface of male forewing white with **black zigzag pattern** on outer margin. Dry season female form resembles male with heavier black zigzag pattern and a **small black spot** in the wing cell. Wet-season female is darkened with black scales above and below.
- Wing Span: 2 1/2 - 3 3/8 inches
- Flight: All year in South Texas, peninsular Florida, and along the Gulf Coast.
- Habitat: Salt marshes, coastal dunes, open fields, and gardens.
- Larval Foodplant: Mustard family plants including beach cabbage, cultivated cabbage and radish, peppergrass; and plants in the caper family including nasturtium.



## Distribution Map (*Ascia monuste*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record



# Side-by-Side Pieridae: Whites



Pine White



Spring White



Checkered White



Western White



Great Southern



Cabbage White



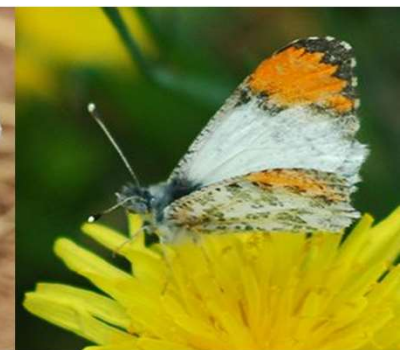
Mustard White



Large Marble

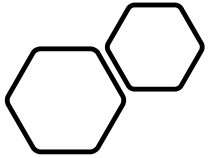


Olympia Marble



Julia Orangetip

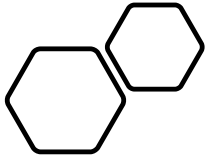




## Pieridae: Sulphurs

- Clouded Sulphur
- Orange Sulphur
- Queen Alexandra's Sulphur
- Southern Dogface
- Sleepy Orange
- Mexican Yellow
- Mead's Sulphur
- Dainty Sulphur





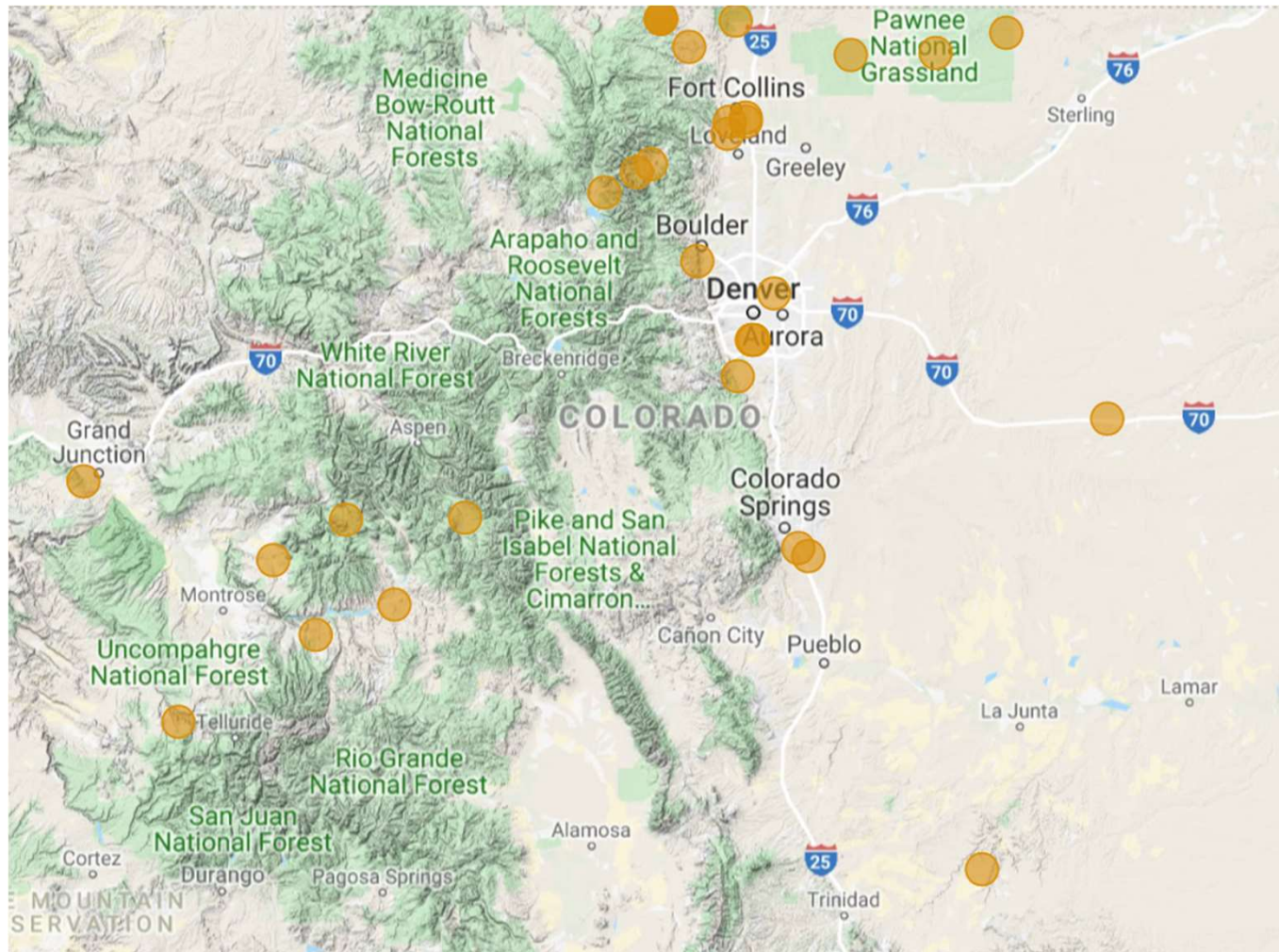
# Clouded Sulphur

## *(Colias philodice)*

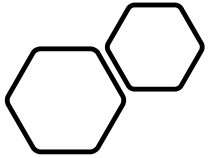
- Above, males are **bright yellow** with a **broad black band** along trailing edges of both wings and a **black spot** on each forewing. Below, both sexes **yellow with some pink on edges**, **hindwing spot** usually double, ringed with orange-pink. Forewing has a **black or light ringed spot**.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches.
- Habitat: Open habitats like cultivated fields, meadows, mountain parks, roadsides and alfalfa fields; plains, foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: March through October, one to three broods.
- Larval Foodplant: Legumes – white clover, alfalfa, vetches and golden banners.
- Female has two forms – yellow with black edging enclosing yellow spots on the forewing, and a greenish-white. Their flight is direct, but erratic.



## Distribution Map (*Colias philodice*)





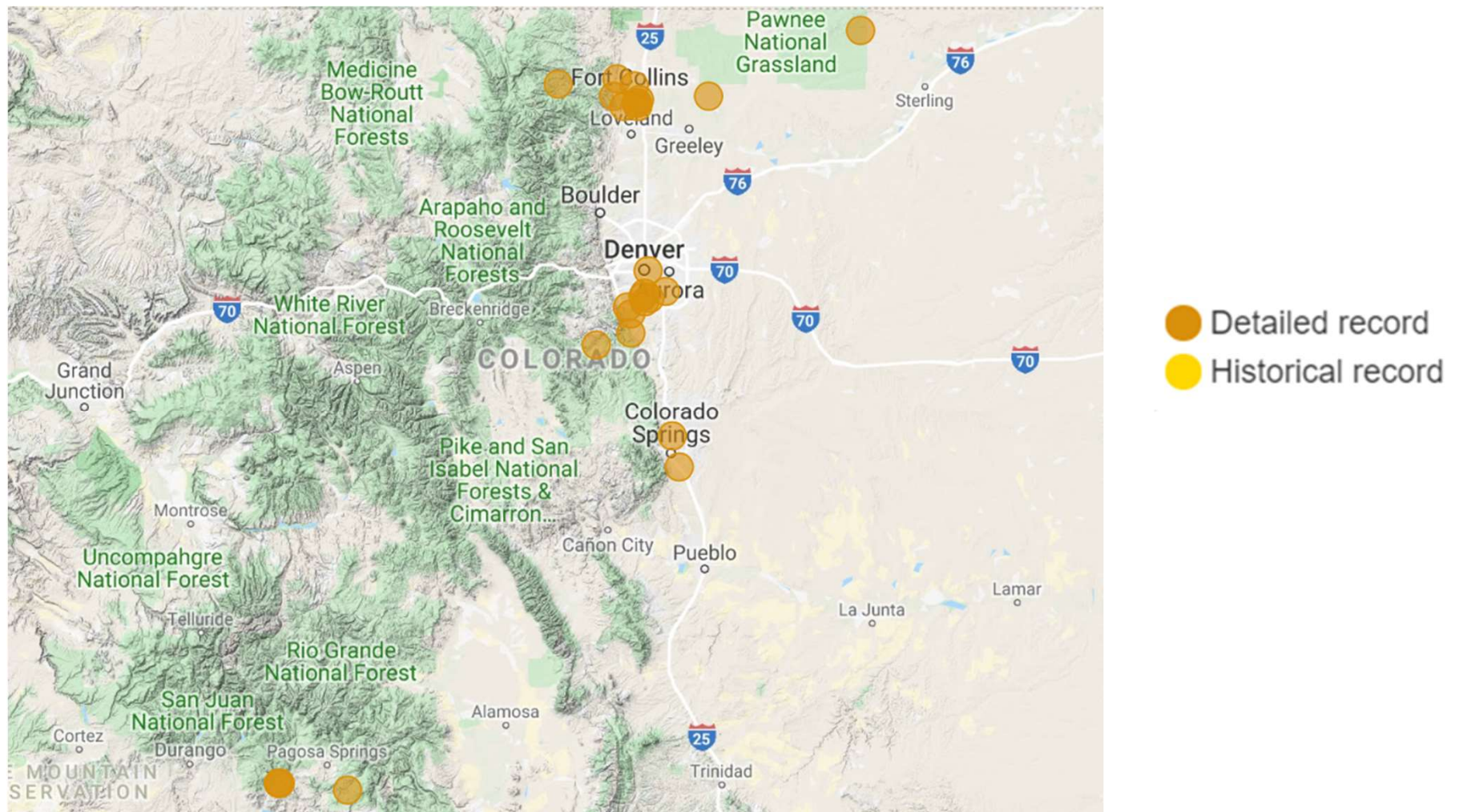


# Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*)

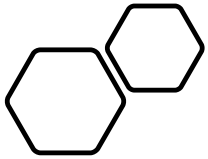
- **Yellow with orange tinge** on trailing edge of forewing; female has an orange flush on forewing, may be more greenish-white or white. Both have **wide black wing borders**; solid in male, female black border surrounds light spots. **Dark median cell spot** toward the leading edge of the forewing. Below, **greenish-yellow with a silver or white hindwing spot** trimmed with **dark concentric rings**, sometimes with a smaller “satellite” spot above. Highly variable appearance.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 1/2 to 2 3/4 inches.
- Habitat: Widespread in clover and alfalfa fields, meadows, parks, road edges; plains, foothills, montane, alpine.
- Flight Times: April through October; multiple broods.
- Larval Foodplant: Legumes, including alfalfa, clovers and vetches.



## Distribution Map (*Colias eurytheme*)







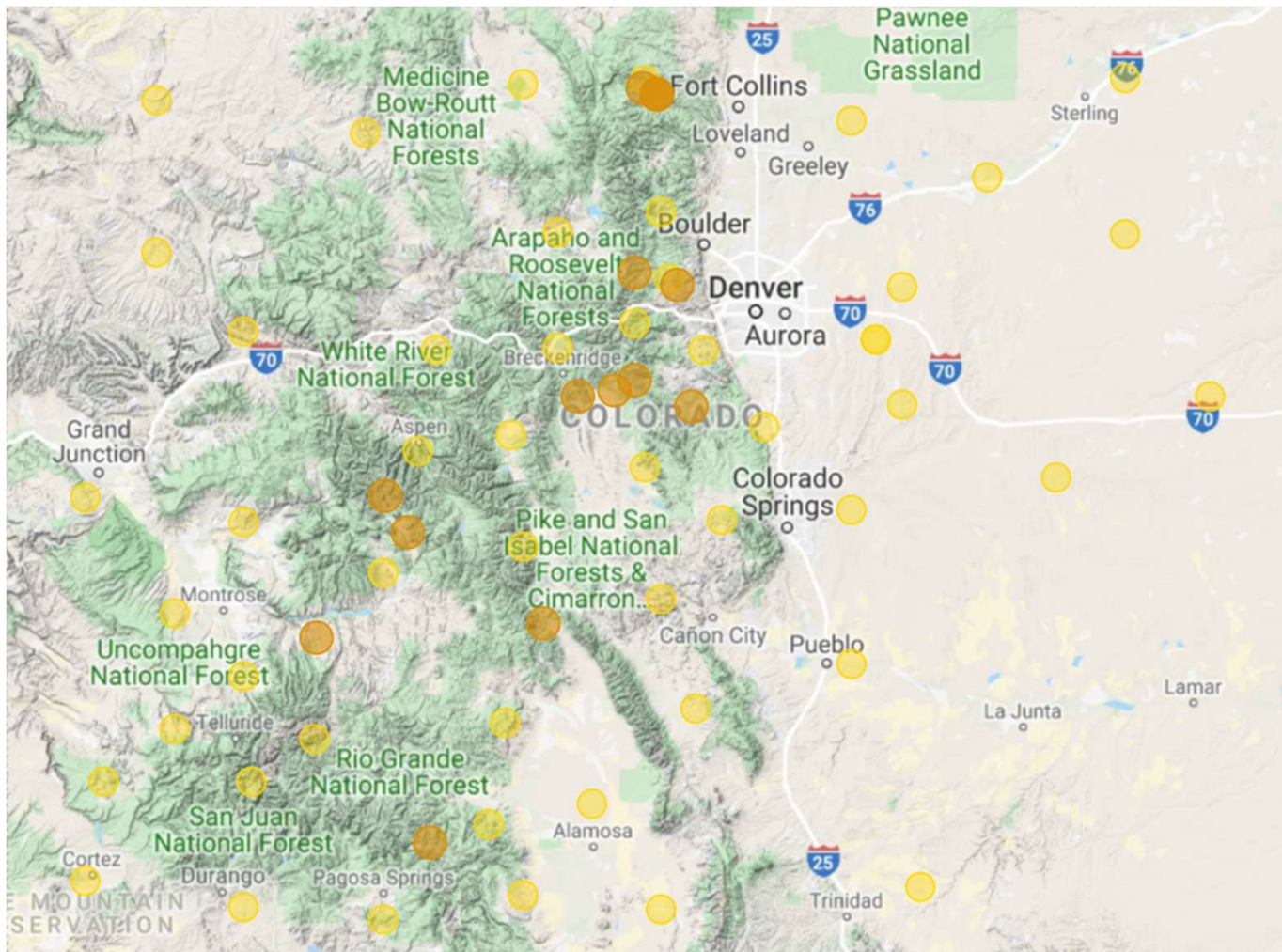
## Queen Alexandra's Sulphur (*Colias alexandra*)

- Above, **bright yellow with narrow black border** on both wings and **small cell spot**; **female lighter yellow**, sometimes white, with forewing border faded or absent. Below, hindwing a **uniform pale green-gray** with a **central white spot** without colored rim. Underside of the forewing is somewhat more yellow. There is a **small black bar** near mid-point of the leading edge of the forewing.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 1/2 to 2 inches.
- Habitat: A variety of habitats including grasslands, clearings, wet meadows in woodlands and forest edges; foothills, montane to treeline.
- Flight Times: May to September; one brood. Late-stage caterpillars overwinter.
- Larval Foodplant: Golden banner, milk vetches, clovers, lupines, and other legumes.

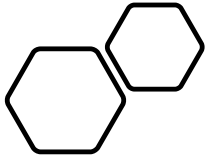




## Distribution Map (*Colias alexandra*)



- Orange circle: Detailed record
- Yellow circle: Historical record



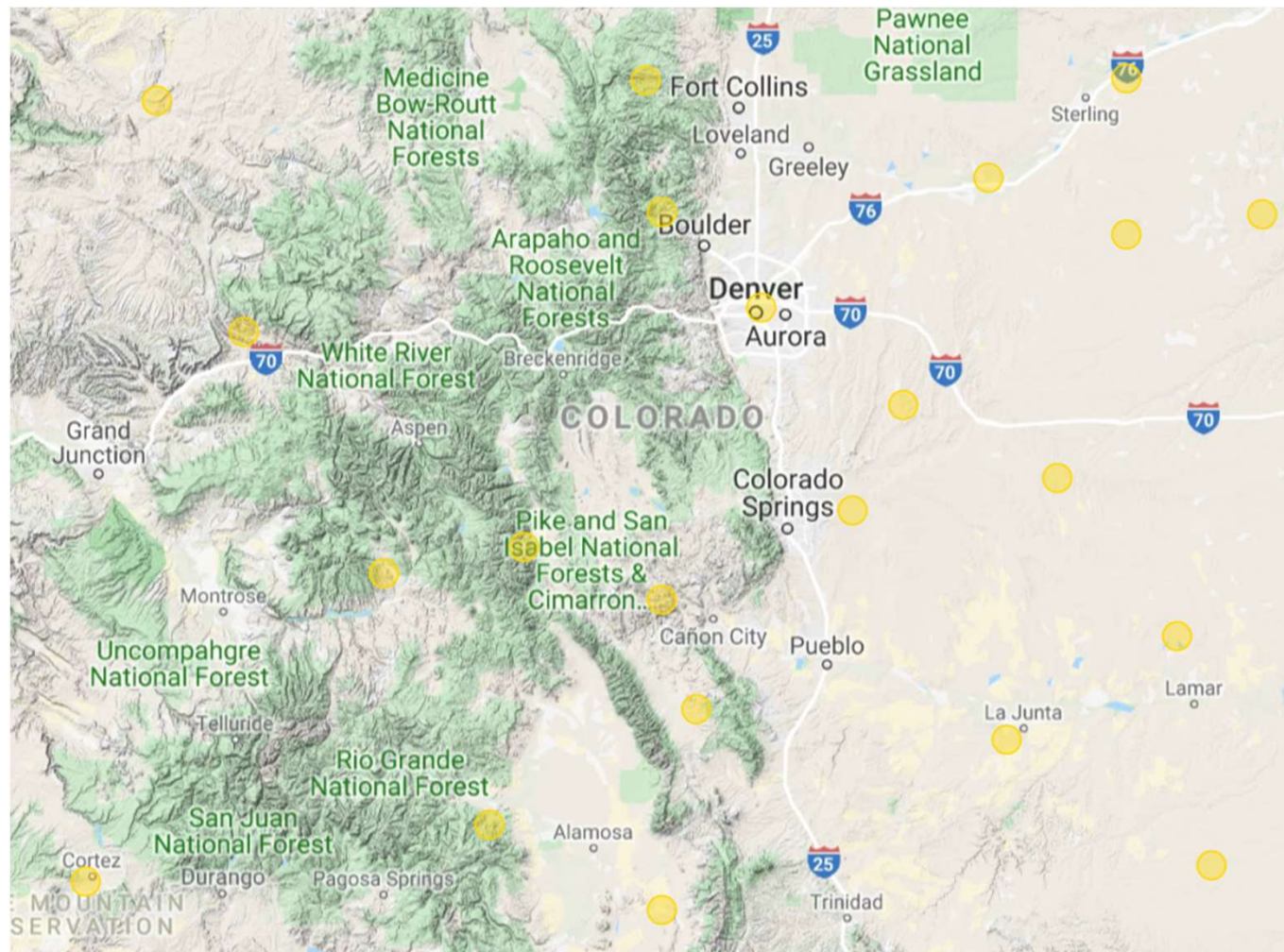
# Southern Dogface (*Zerene cesonia*)

- **Forewing tips pointed.** Above, **yellow and black forewing** with the **outline of yellow dogface** pointed at trailing edge of the forewing. Yellow hindwing on the female; male has narrow black markings on hindwing margin. Below, bright to pale yellow. When backlit, dogface may show through.
- Wingspan: Medium; 2 1/8 to 3 inches.
- Habitat: Dry, open habitats such as weedy pastures, dry hillsides, and short grass prairies; plains.
- Flight Times: May to August; one brood.
- Larval Foodplant: Small-leaved plants in the pea family; clovers, indigo, alfalfa.

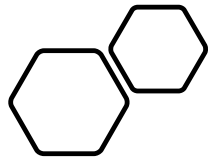




## Distribution Map (*Zerene cesonia*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record



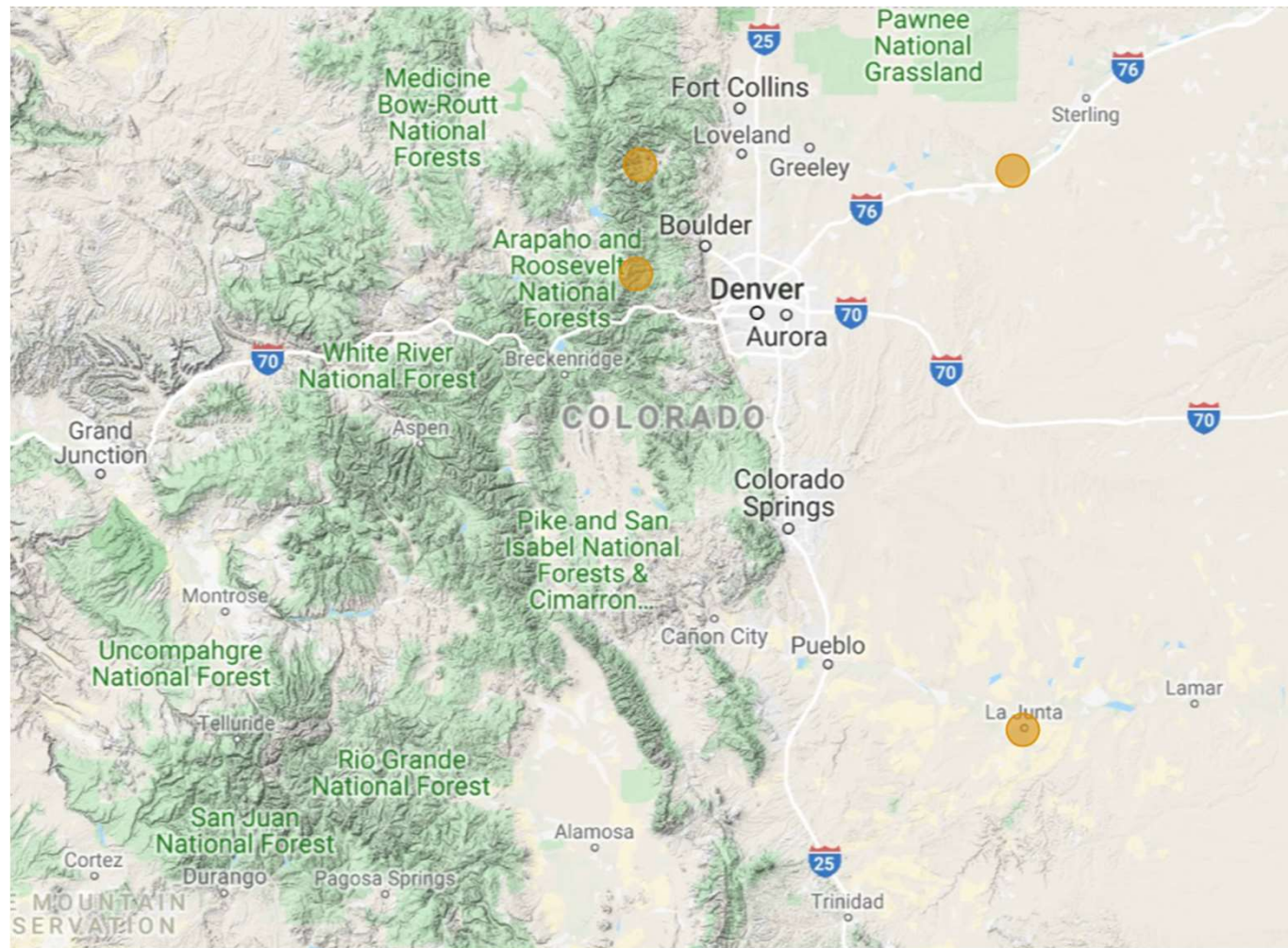
# Sleepy Orange (*Eurema nicippe*)

- Above, **orange in both male and female** with a **wide black border** (male) and **small black cell spot on forewing**; female borders not as well defined. Below, **orange-yellow with rust or light brown smudges** on the hindwing; **black cell spot** on forewing.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 3/8 to 2 1/4 inches.
- Habitat: Many open habitats such as disturbed or fallow fields, gardens and roadsides; plains, foothills.
- Flight Times: Mid-summer into fall.
- Larval Foodplant: Sennas; flowering plants in the legume family.

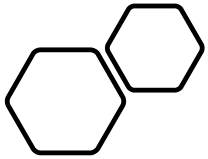




## Distribution Map (*Eurema nicippe*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record



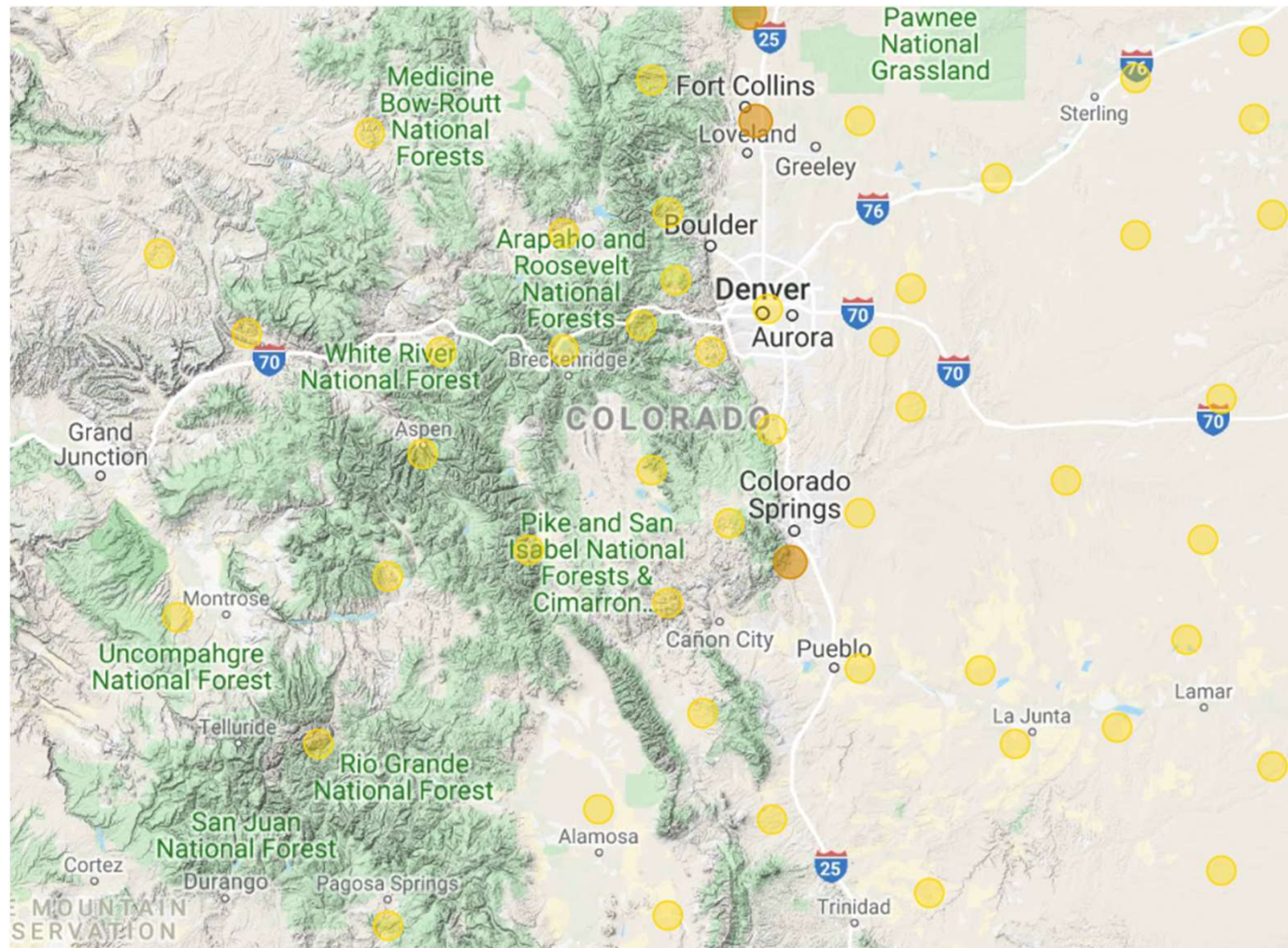
# Mexican Yellow (*Eurema mexicana*)

- Above, **pale yellow with uneven black forewing margin** which outlines a “**dogface**” pattern. Below, **pale yellow with scattered reddish-brown markings**. **Hindwing sharply angled** and has a **tail like projection at the rear margin**.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 3/4 to 2 1/2 inches.
- Habitat: Open habitats, prairies and canyons; foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: Late summer into fall; 1 brood? (see below)
- Larval Foodplant: Acacia, locust and other legumes.

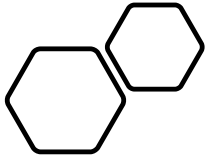




## Distribution Map (*Eurema mexicana*)



- Orange circle: Detailed record
- Yellow circle: Historical record



# Mead's Sulphur (*Colias meadii*)

- Below, male and female primarily **green with orange disk on forewing** and a **median white spot**, circled in pink on hindwing. **Wing fringes are pink**. Above, **males bright orange**; **females a subdued orange**; both with **dark borders**. White females are rare.
- Wingspan: Small; 1 1/4 to 1 5/8 inches.
- Habitat: Rocky slopes and meadows near treeline and alpine tundra; sub-alpine, alpine.
- Flight Times: July to August; one brood. Third-instar caterpillar overwinters.
- Larval Foodplant: Plants in the pea family, including clovers, alpine milk vetch, and subalpine locoweed.

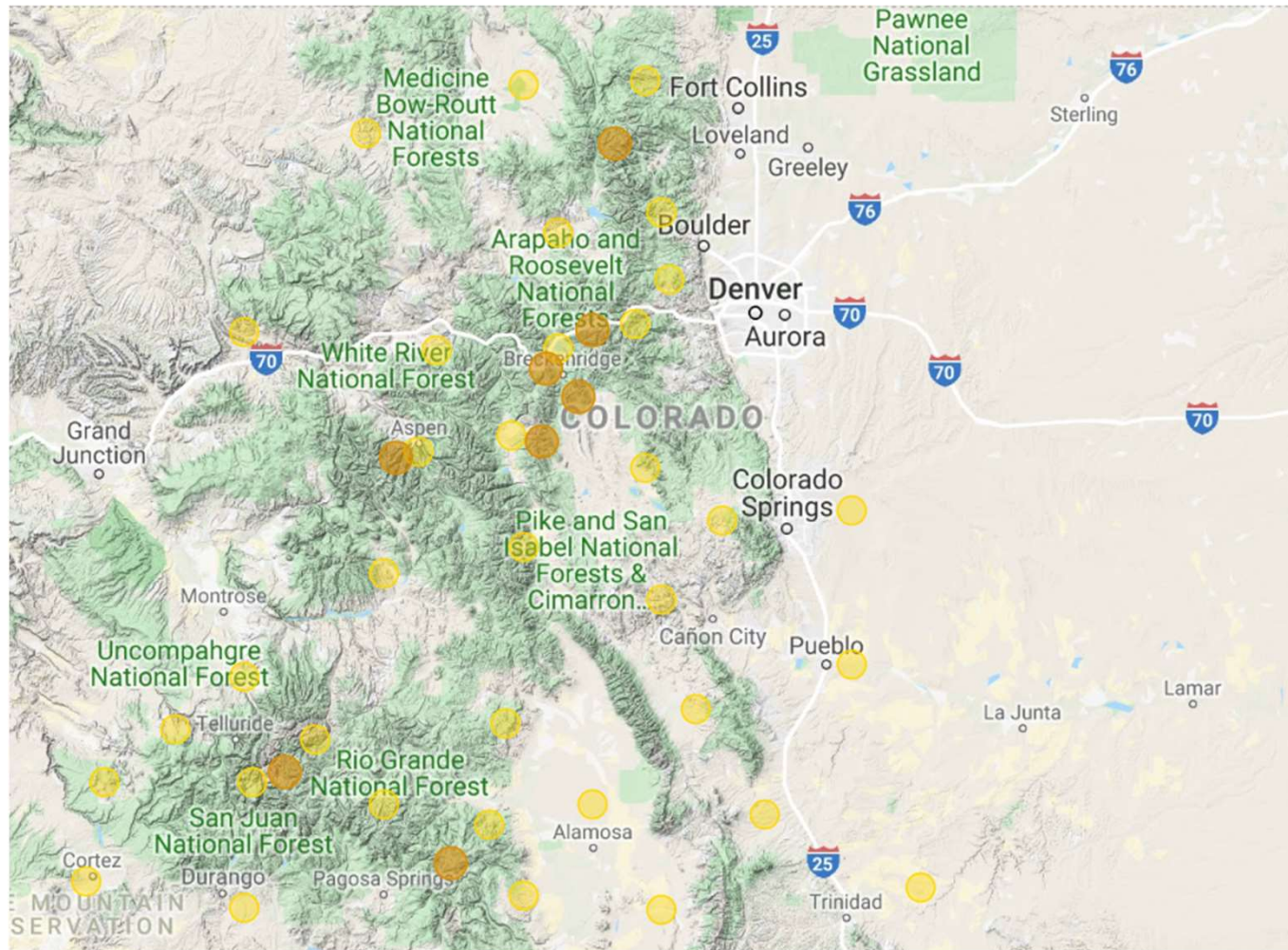


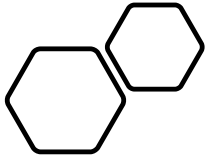
*Colias meadii* male





## Distribution Map (*Colias meadii*)





# Dainty Sulphur

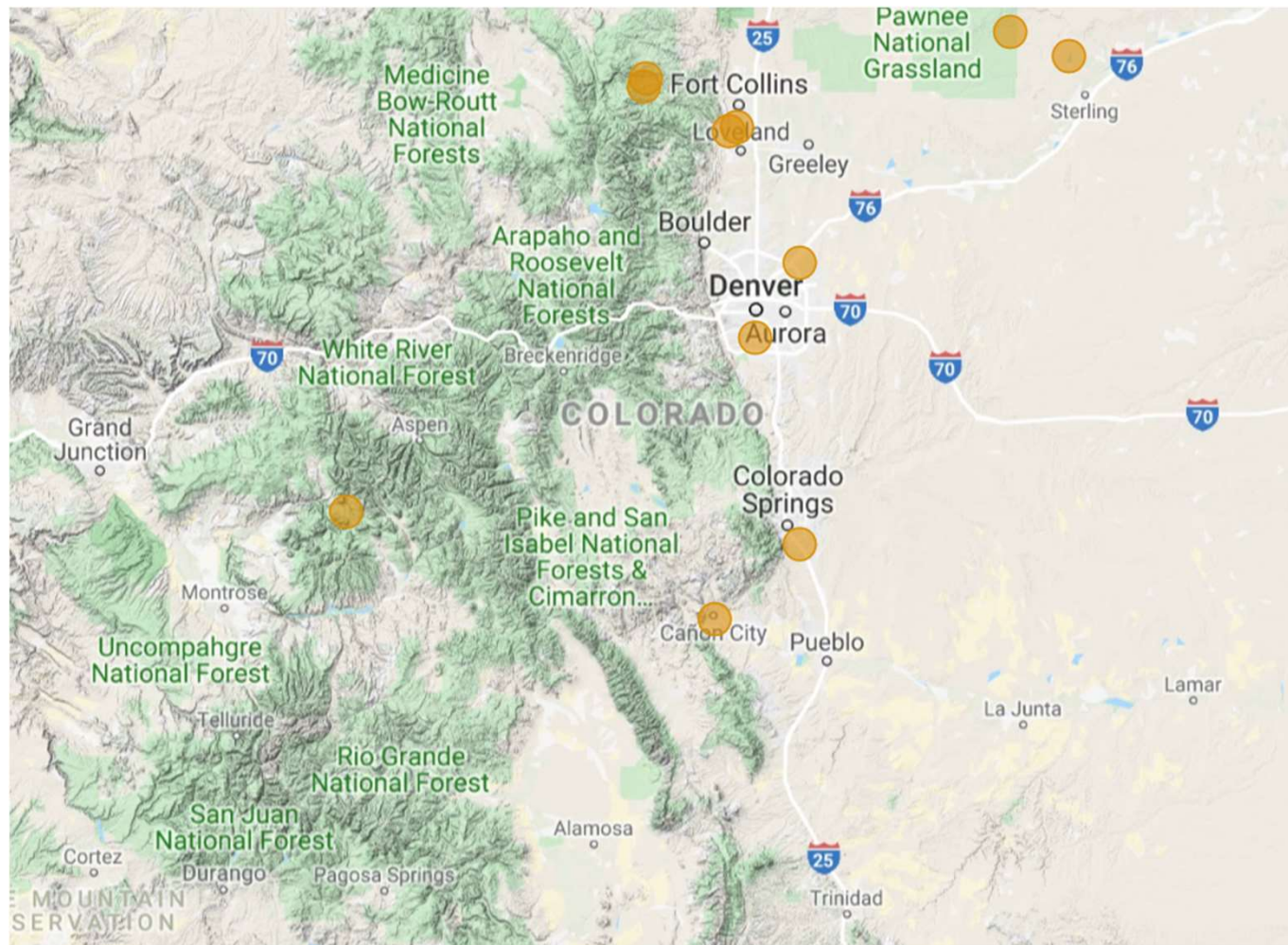
## (*Nathalis iole*)

- The smallest sulphur. Upper side **yellow with black markings**; female blacker than male. **Elongated forewing** below has **submarginal black spots** and a **yellowish basal area**. **Hindwing below varies from pale yellow to gray-green**.
- Wingspan: Small; 3/4 to 1 1/4 inch.
- Habitat: Open, dry places, fields, grasslands, meadows and hillsides; plains, foothills, montane. Flies close to the ground.
- Flight Times: May through September.
- Larval Foodplant: Aster family, such as fetid and marsh marigold, dogwood, cosmos, and sneezeweeds.





## Distribution Map (*Nathalis iole*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record

# Side-by-Side Pieridae: Sulphurs



Clouded  
Southern Dogface



Orange



Queen Alexandra's



Sleepy Orange



Mexican Yellow



*Colias meadii* male



Mead's