



# Colorado Butterflies

## Identification by Color



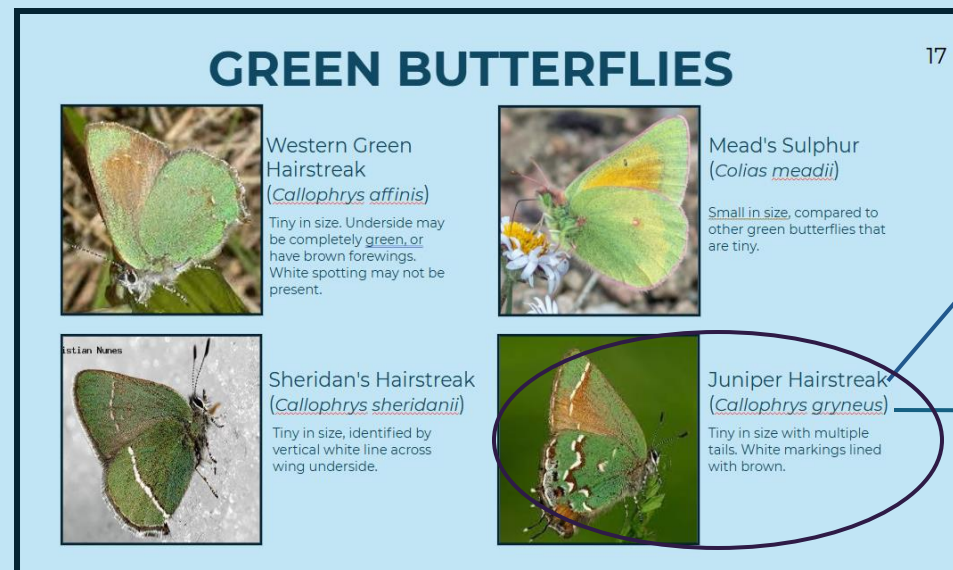
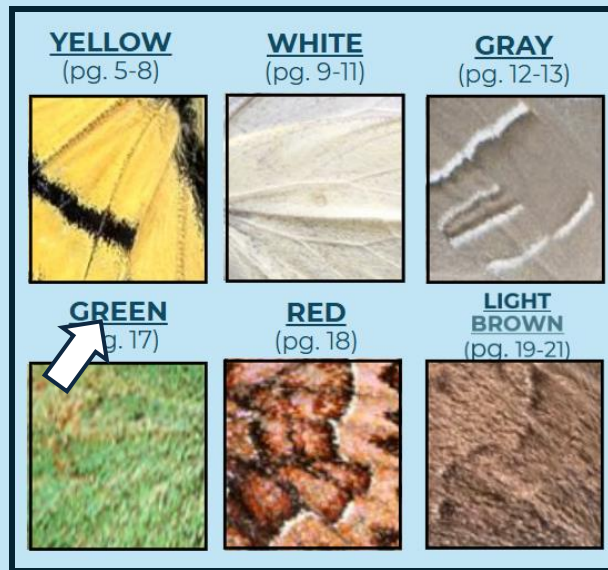
BUTTERFLY  
PAVILION



# USING THIS GUIDE...

i

This guide allows you to search for butterflies by their predominant color or unique color pattern. The next page (ii) is a glossary of terms used in this guide to refer to the anatomy of butterflies. The following three pages (iii-v) are the table of contents presenting the color or color patterns represented in this guide. Page numbers indicate the location of this color or color pattern within the guide. The table of contents is hyperlinked- allowing pdf users to click on the color pattern titles and have the guide jump to the starting page of that color section.



## Juniper Hairstreak

(Common name). Varies regionally and is in local languages. There may be several common names for each species.

## (*Callophrys gryneus*)

(Scientific name). Used unambiguously throughout the world to refer to the same species.





# Glossary

## Dorsal

The upper side or back of an animal.

## Ventral

The underside or abdominal side of an animal.

## Sexual Dimorphism

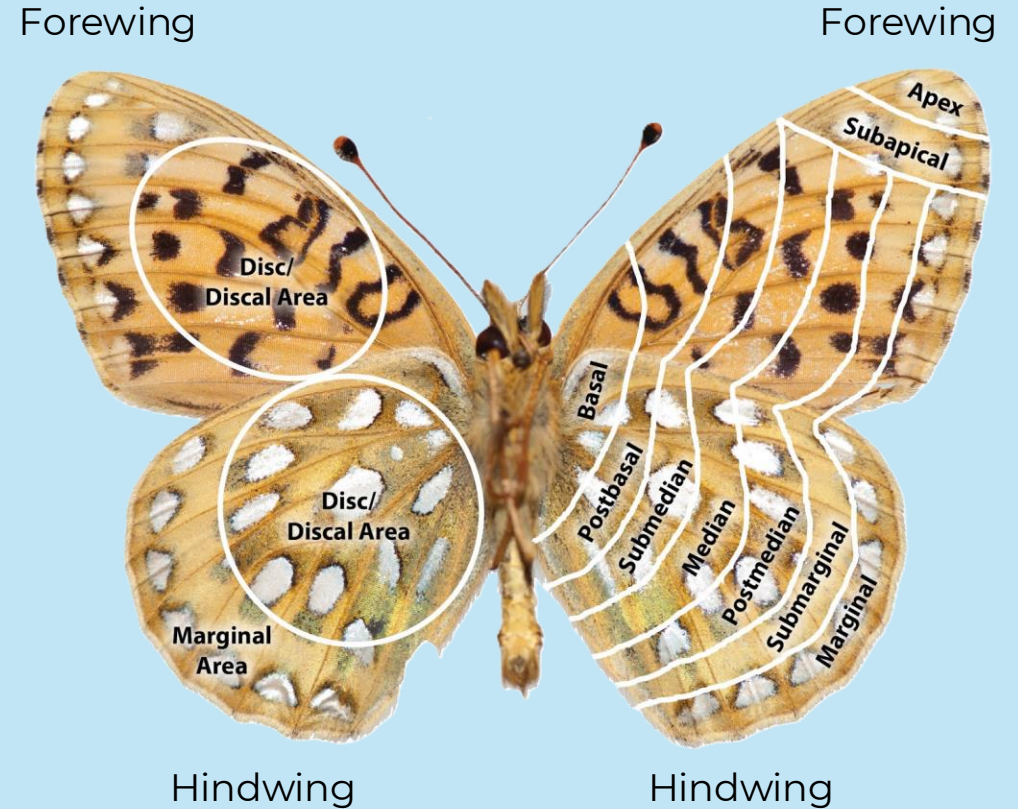
A distinct difference in appearance between the sexes of the species.

## Tail

An extension of the hindwing that protrudes outward like the tail of a bird.

## Veins

Tube-like structures that run throughout the butterfly's wing to provide support. Vein patterns vary between species and can be a helpful identification tool.



You are looking at the **ventral** side of this butterfly.



# PRIMARY BUTTERFLY COLORATION <sup>iii</sup>

## BLACK

(pg. 1)



## ORANGE

(pg. 2-4)



## YELLOW

(pg. 5-8)



## WHITE

(pg. 9-11)



## GRAY

(pg. 12-13)



## TAN

(pg. 14)



## BLUE

(pg. 15)



## PURPLE

(pg. 16)



## GREEN

(pg. 17)



## RED

(pg. 18)



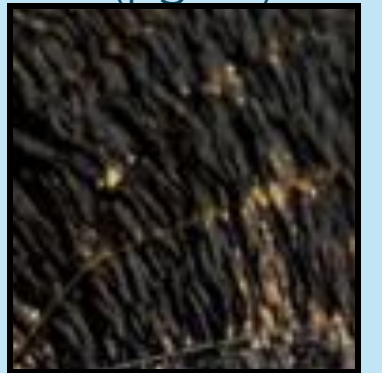
## LIGHT BROWN

(pg. 19-21)



## DARK BROWN

(pg. 22)





# COMMON PATTERNS

iv

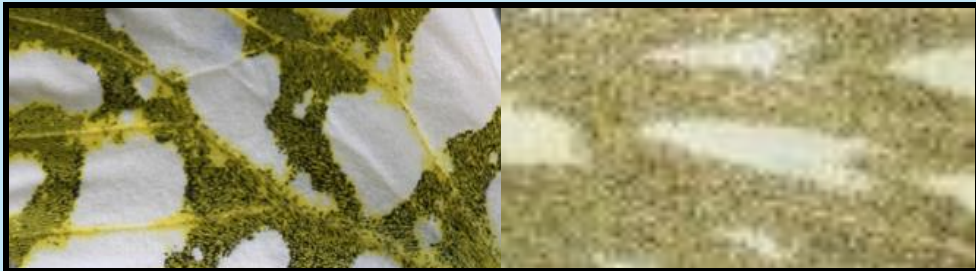
## ORANGE WITH DARK BLOTCHES (pg.. 23-26)



## YELLOW WITH BLACK STRIPES (pg. 30)



## WHITE WITH YELLOW MARBLING (pg. 27)



## WHITE WITH DARK MARGINS (pg. 31-32)



## TAN AND WHITE (pg. 28-29)



## LIGHT AND DARK TAN (pg. 33-35)



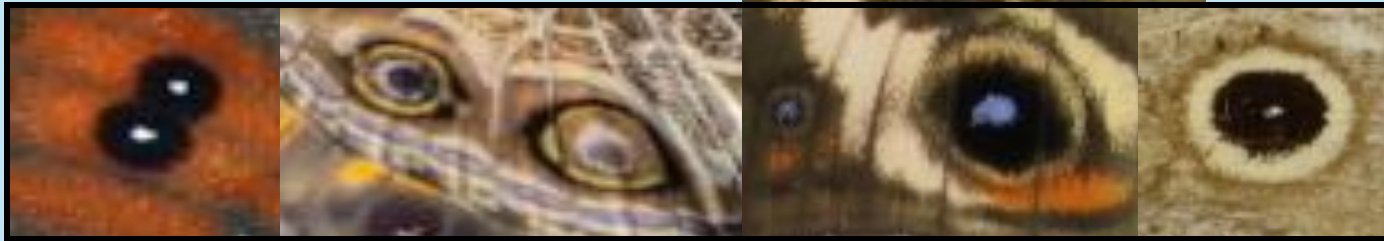
# COMMON PATTERNS

V

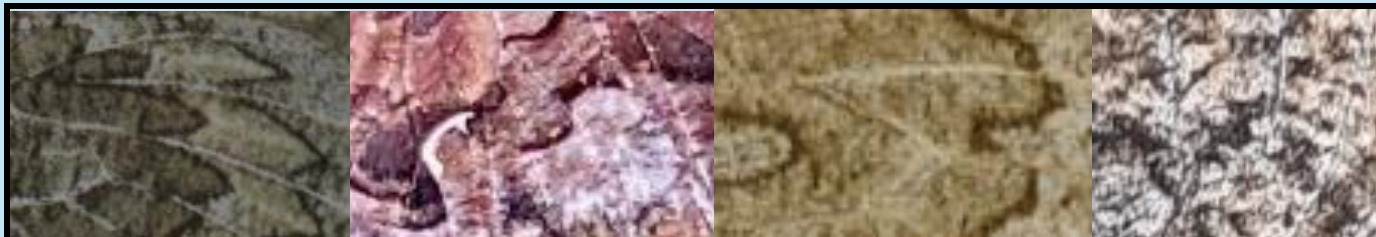
## CHECKERSPOT (pg. 36-39)



## EYESPOTS (pg. 40-45)



## BARK COLORATION (pg. 46-49)



## GREY WITH BLACK SPOTS

(pg. 50-55)



## GREY/WHITE BLOTCHES

(pg. 56)



BUTTERFLY  
PAVILION





# BLACK BUTTERFLIES

## Large:

Swallowtails (Family *Papilionidae*)  
(See Swallowtail guide for further identification)



## Medium:

Weidemeyer's Admiral  
(*Limenitis weidemeyerii*)



## Small Black Butterflies:



Common Sootywing (*Pholisora catullus*)

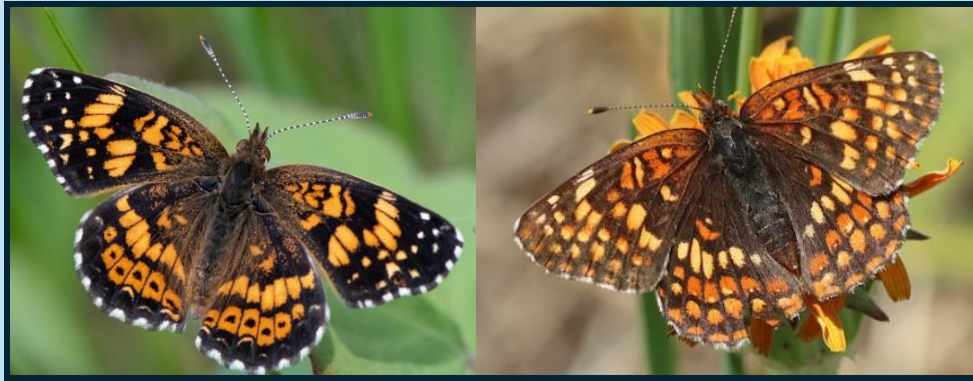


Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)





# ORANGE BUTTERFLIES



Orange Checkerspot Pattern  
Continue to pages 36-39 for further identification



Orange with Dark Blotches Pattern  
Continue to pages 23-26 for further identification



Medium-Large Orange Butterflies  
**Continue to next page for further identification.**



Miscellaneous Orange Butterflies  
Continue to page 4 for further identification





# ORANGE BUTTERFLIES

## Medium - Large Orange Butterflies:



Goatweed Leafwing (*Anaea andria*)

Identified by vivid orange coloration and angled, tailed wings.



Queen (*Danaus gilippus*)

Identified by darker, more reddish orange coloration. Dark veining absent from dorsal side of wings.



Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)

Identified by horizontal black line across the hindwings and separating apex of forewings. Smaller in size than Monarchs with less prevalent white spotting.



Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

Identified by bright orange coloration with dark veining and white spotting on both sides of wings



# ORANGE BUTTERFLIES

## Miscellaneous Orange Butterflies:



Skippers (Family *Hesperiidae*)

See ID Guide: **Skippers** for further identification.



Metalmarks (Family *Riodinidae*)



Behr's Hairstreak  
(*Satyrium behrii*)

Tiny in size. Dorsal wings are orange, ventral wings are grayish.

Milbert's Tortoiseshell  
(*Aglais milberti*)

Small in size. Top of wings are bright orange, ventral side is dark.



Chryxus Arctic  
(*Oenosis chryxus*)

Small in size. Dorsal wings are orange, ventral are bark patterned..







# YELLOW BUTTERFLIES

## Large:

Swallowtails (Family *Papilionidae*)



Large butterflies with broad, pointed forewings. Hindwing has tails protruding. May be pale to bright yellow.

**See ID Guide: Swallowtails for further identification.**

## Small:

Sulphurs (Family *Pieridae*)



Small butterflies with rounded wings. Often have dark margins along the dorsal side. May be slightly green, gray, or orange.

**Continue to next page [\(6\)](#) for further identification.**



# YELLOW BUTTERFLIES



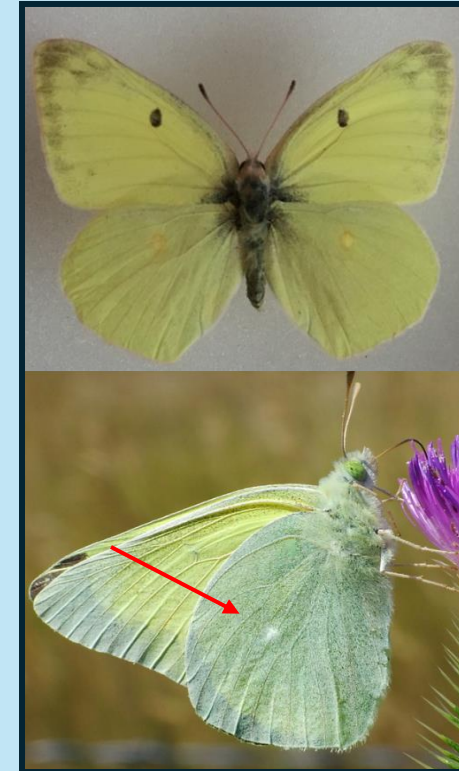
Clouded Sulphur  
(*Colias philodice*)

Wing margins are darkened.  
Distinctive black spot on the forewing.  
Ventral median spot typically has a light-colored border (often with a small, secondary spot above).



Orange Sulphur  
(*Colias eurytheme*)

Similar appearance to clouded sulphur but is partially to mostly orange. Ventral wings and median spot are outlined with red.



Queen Alexandria Sulphur  
(*Colias alexandra*)

Underside typically has a silver-grey appearance with a silver median spot.  
Males have dark margins on the dorsal side, females usually do not.



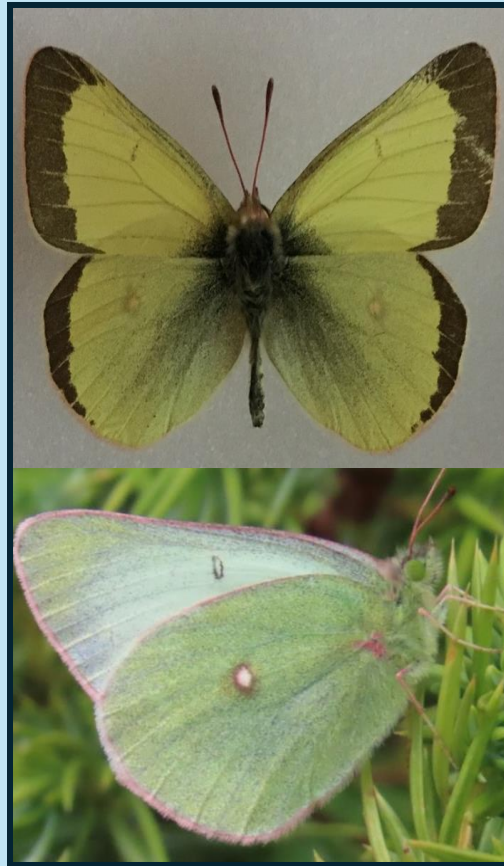


# YELLOW BUTTERFLIES



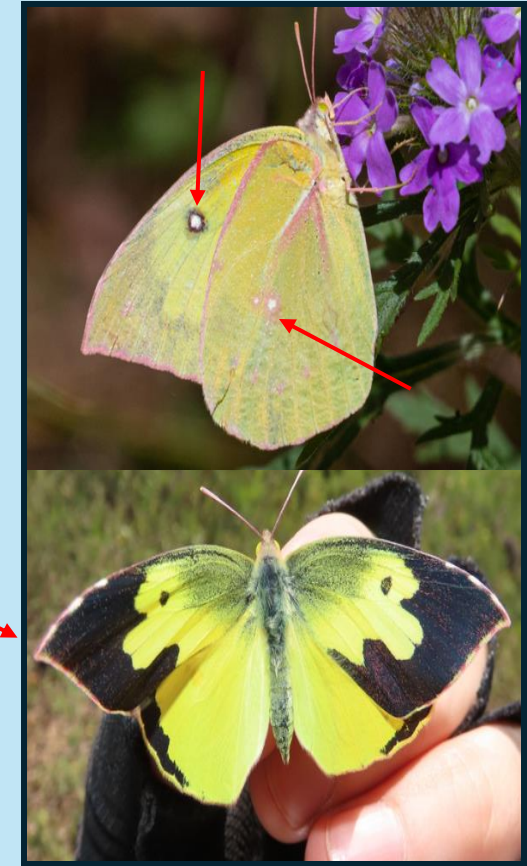
Mead's Sulphur (*Colias meadii*)

Found at higher mountain elevations. Dorsal side is orange with thick dark margins. Ventral side is often greenish.



Scudder's Sulphur (*Colias scudderi*)

Found in higher mountain elevations. Ventral side appears dusted gray or greenish. Females lack or have reduced black margins.



Southern Dogface (*Zerene cesonia*)

Forewings are pointed and have a "dogface" pattern. Ventral forewing has a dark spot, and hindwing has two pink bordered white spots. Additional ventral pink shading may be present.



# YELLOW BUTTERFLIES



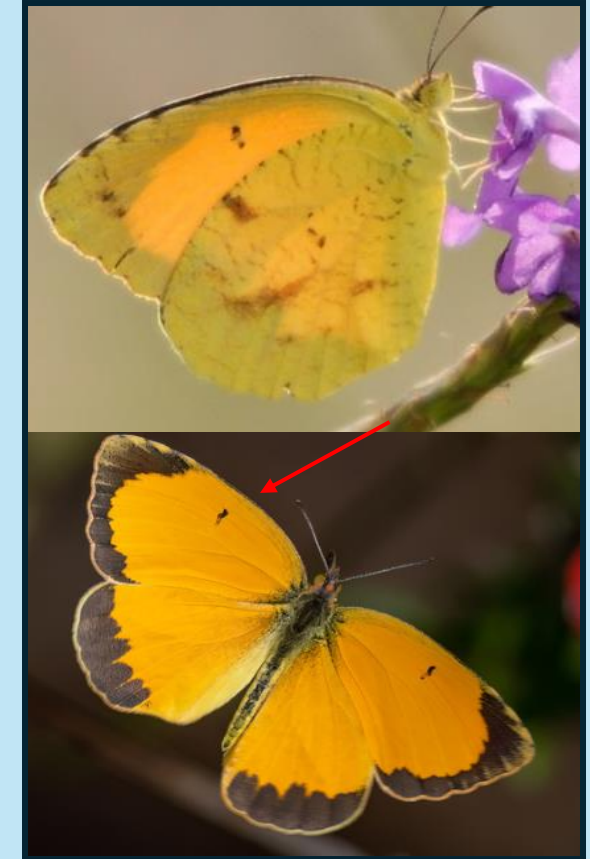
Dainty Sulphur  
(*Nathalis iole*)

Smallest North American *Pierid*. Variable appearance. Forewings are elongated with darkened tips.



Mexican Yellow  
(*Eurema mexicana*)

Uncommon in Colorado. Dorsal "dogface" pattern. Pale yellow to brownish. Hindwing has slight tail protrusion. Males have bright yellow bar.



Sleepy Orange  
(*Eurema nicippe*)

Dorsal wings are bright orange and have wide black borders. Forewing has narrow black marking resembling a closed eye. Seasonal shading variance.





# WHITE BUTTERFLIES

## Small White Butterflies:



White with Dark  
Markings Only

Continue to next page (10)  
for further identification



White with Yellow  
Marbling

Continue to page 27 for  
further identification

## Medium White Butterflies:



Weidemeyer's Admiral  
(*Limenitis weidemeyerii*)

Mostly black on the  
dorsal side with large  
white stripes



Rocky Mountain  
Parnassian  
(*Parnassius smintheus*)

Identified by red spots on  
wings- always present on  
hindwing, variable presence  
on forewings. Black markings  
vary from minimal to near  
complete shading.



# WHITE BUTTERFLIES

10

## Small White and Dark:



Pine White  
(*Neophasia menapia*)

Red margin of hindwing  
not always present



Western White  
(*Pontia occidentalis*)

Found along the front range and west  
throughout the state. Underside is lightly  
yellow marbled.



Spring White (*Pontia sisymbrii*)

Found in foothills and mountain  
habitats. May be darkly shaded or  
yellow tinted.





# WHITE BUTTERFLIES

## Small White and Dark:



### Checkered White (*Pontia protodice*)

Common throughout Colorado. Sexual dimorphism- females have more dark coloration and markings.



### Margined White (*Pieris marginalis*)

Found in mountain habitats. Varies from completely white to dark shaded veins.



### Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)

**\*Most** common white butterfly. Dark markings may not be present; one or two spots on the forewing.



# GRAY BUTTERFLIES

12

## Gray Gossamer-Wings:

Blues, Coppers, and  
Hairstreaks

(Family *Lycaenidae*)

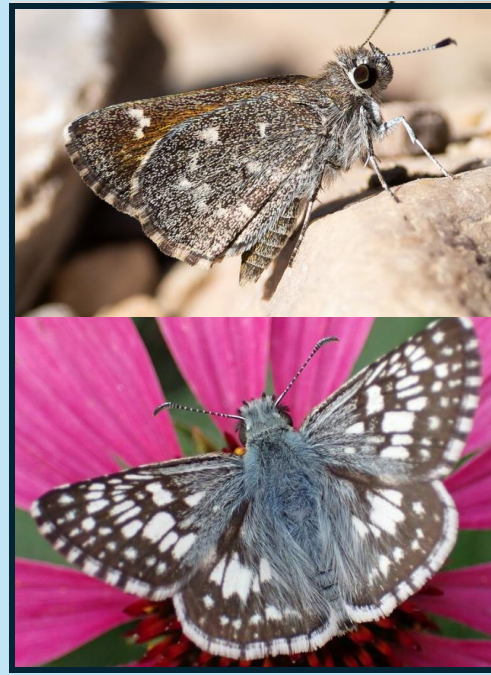


See ID Guide: Coppers, Blues, and  
Hairstreak for further assistance.

## Gray Skippers:

Spread-Winged  
Skippers

(Family *Hesperiidae*)



See ID Guide: Skippers for  
further assistance.

## Gray Brushfoot Butterflies:

Hackberry Emperor, Arctics, and  
Colorado Alpine

(Family *Nymphalidae*)



Continue to next page  
(13).





# GRAY BUTTERFLIES

13

## Small Gray Brushfoot Butterflies:



### Arctics (Genus *Oenis*)

Found at high mountain elevations. Coloration is cryptic gray to brown on the underside and solid colored on top.



### Colorado Alpine (*Erebia callias*)

Dorsal wings are brown with red highlighted eyespots. Underside is cryptic brown or gray patterning.



### Hackberry Emperor (*Asterocampa celtis*)

Small to medium sized. Gray or brown underside with distinctive eyespot pattern along the wing margins.



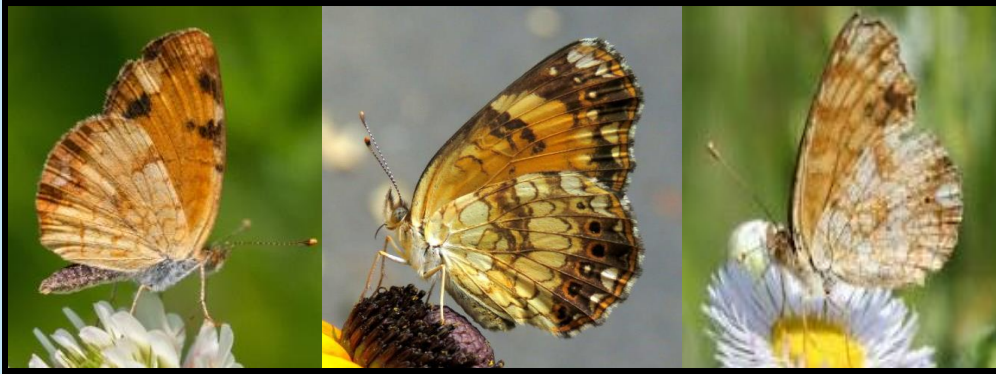
**See ID Guide: Satyrs and Wood-nymphs  
for further assistance.**





# TAN BUTTERFLIES

14



Crescents and Checkerspots  
(Family *Nymphalidae*; Tribe *Melitaeini*)  
**Continue to page 36 (checkerspot pattern)**  
**for further identification.**



Arctics (Genus *Oeneis*)  
**See ID Guide: Satyrs and Wood-nymphs**  
**for further assistance.**



Grass Skippers (Family *Hesperiidae*)  
**See ID Guide: Skippers for further identification.**



Common Ringlet (*Coenonympha californica*)





# BLUE BUTTERFLIES

## Large:



Pipevine Swallowtail  
(*Battus philenor*)

Uncommon in Colorado.

## Tiny:



Blues and Coppers (Family *Lycaenidae*)

**See ID Guide: Coppers, Blues, and Hairstreaks  
for further assistance.**





# PURPLE BUTTERFLIES

16

Tiny:



Colorado Hairstreak  
(*Hypaurotus crysalus*)

State butterfly of Colorado.



Edith's Copper  
(*Tharsalea editha*)

Dorsal wings are gray to purplish. Ventral side is light colored with many dark markings.



Purplish Copper  
(*Tharsalea helleoides*)

Dorsal side may be orange and/ or purple tinted. Ventral side is lighter in color.





# GREEN BUTTERFLIES



Western Green  
Hairstreak  
(*Callophrys affinis*)

Tiny in size. Underside may be completely green, or have brown forewings. White spotting may not be present.



Mead's Sulphur  
(*Colias meadii*)

Small in size, compared to other green butterflies that are tiny.



istian Nunes

Sheridan's Hairstreak  
(*Callophrys sheridanii*)

Tiny in size, identified by vertical white line across wing underside.



Juniper Hairstreak  
(*Callophrys gryneus*)

Tiny in size with multiple tails. White markings lined with brown.





# RED BUTTERFLIES



Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)



Alpines (Genus *Erebia*)



Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)



Checkerspots (Genus *Euphydryas* and *Chlosyne*)



Elfins (Genus *Callophrys*)





# LIGHT BROWN BUTTERFLIES

**Tiny to very small sized light brown butterflies:**

Hairstreaks and Elfin  
(Family *Lycaenidae*)



**See ID Guide: Coppers, Blues, and  
Hairstreaks for further assistance.**

Skippers (Family *Hesperiidae*)



**See ID Guide: Skippers for further  
assistance.**

Canyonlands Satyr  
(*Cyllopsis pertepida*)



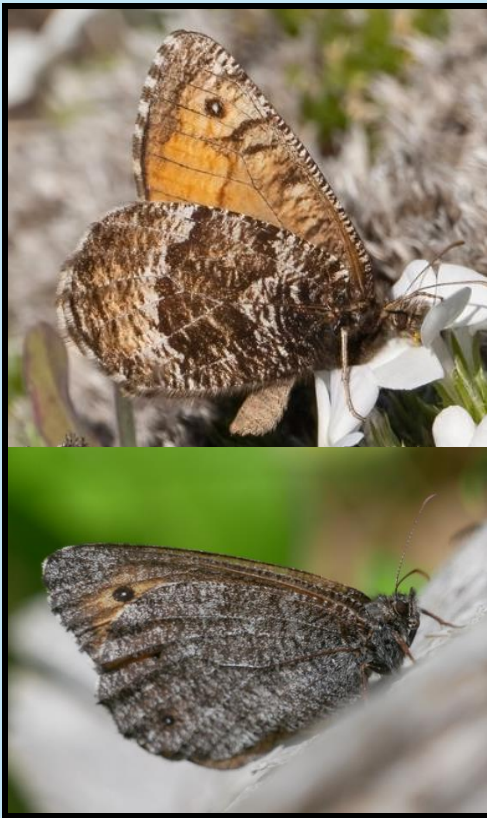


# LIGHT BROWN BUTTERFLIES

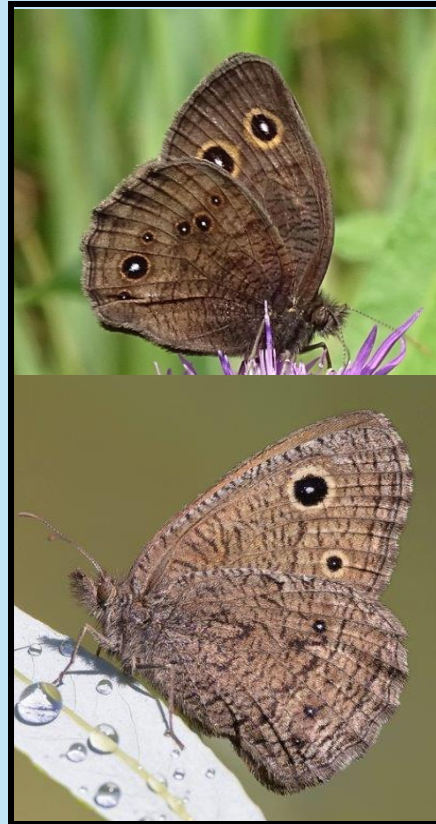
20

**Small to medium sized light brown butterflies:**

Arctics  
(Genus *Oeneis*)



Wood Nymphs  
(Genus *Cercyonis*)



Anglewings  
(Genus *Polygonia*)



**See ID Guide: Satyrs and Wood-nymphs for further assistance.**

**See ID Guide: Anglewings for further assistance.**





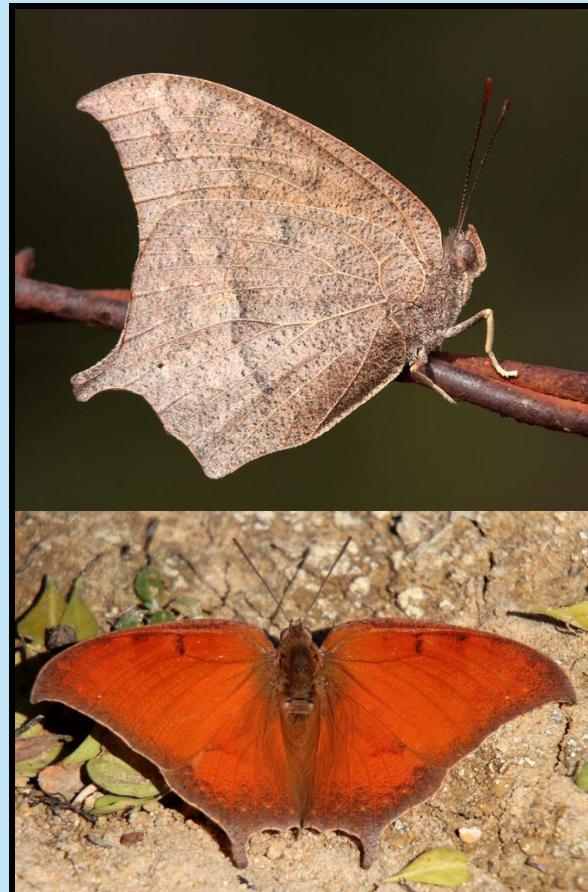
# LIGHT BROWN BUTTERFLIES

**Small to medium sized light brown butterflies:**

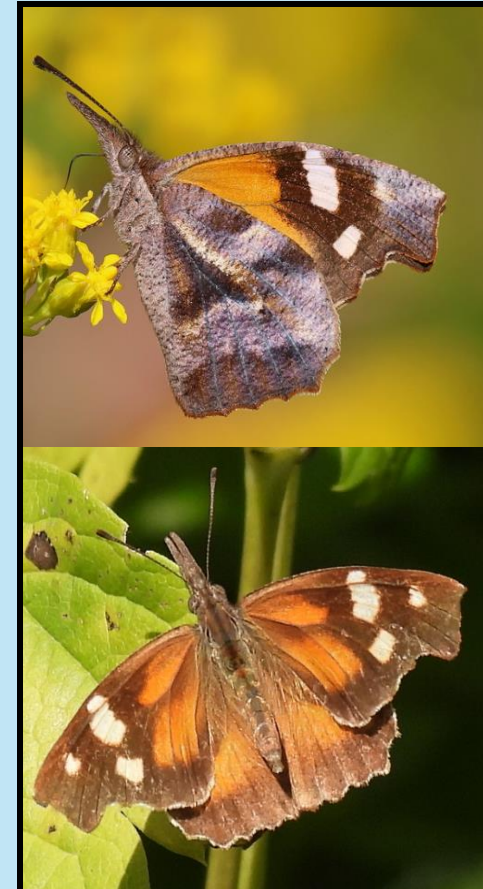
Buckeye  
(*Junonia coenia*)



Goatweed Leafwing  
(*Anaea andria*)



American Snout  
(*Libytheana carinenta*)





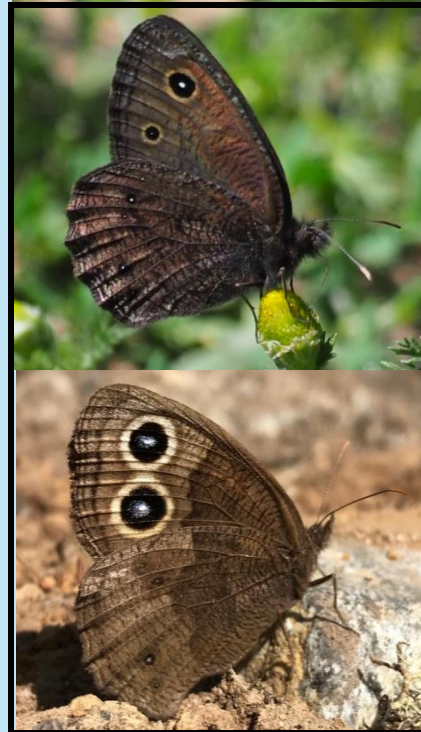


# DARK BROWN BUTTERFLIES



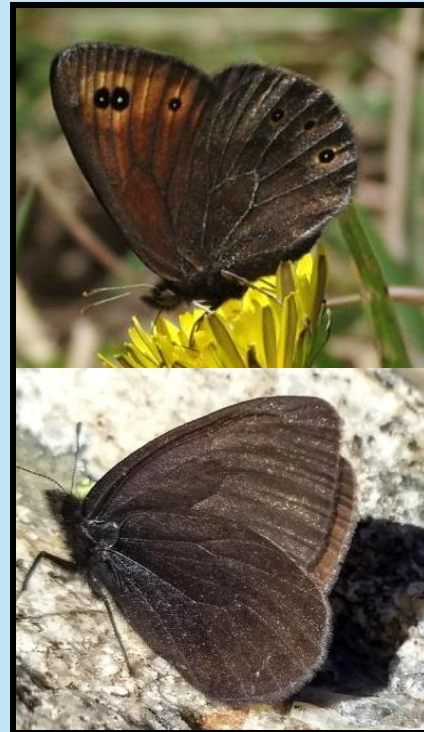
Cloudywing and  
Duskywing Skippers  
(Genus *Thorybes* and  
*Erynnis*)

See ID Guide: Skippers  
for further assistance.



Wood Nymphs  
(Genus *Cercyonis*)

See ID Guide: Satyr and Wood-nymphs for further  
assistance.



Alpines  
(Genus *Erebia*)



Tortoiseshells  
(Genus *Nymphalis* and *Aglais*)

Milbert's Tortoiseshell (*Aglais milberti*)  
California Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis californica*)  
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)





# ORANGE WITH DARK BLOTCHES PATTERN

23



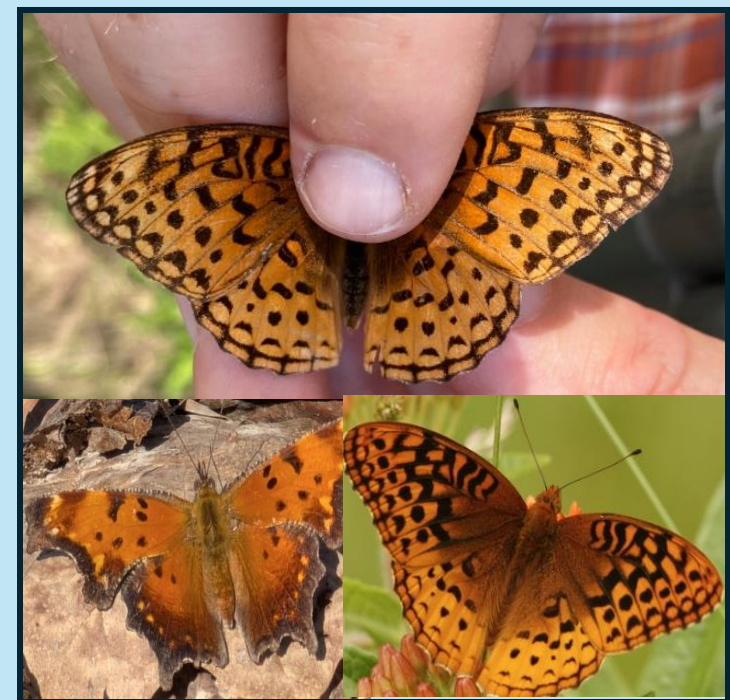
Tiny Sized Orange  
with Dark Butterflies

**Continue to next page  
for further identification.**



Small Sized Orange with  
Dark Butterflies

**Continue to pages 24-25 for  
further identification**



Medium Sized Orange with  
Dark Butterflies

**Continue to page 26 for  
further identification**





# ORANGE WITH DARK BLOTCHES PATTERN

## Tiny:



### Coppers (*Subfamily Lycaeninae*)

Bright orange coloration dorsally with small dark blotches,.  
Ventral side may be predominately gray.

**See ID Guide: Coppers, Blues, and Hairstreaks  
for further assistance.**

## Small:



### Ladies (*Genus Vanessa*)

Dorsal wings are orange with dark blotching and apex.  
White spotting present on apex of wing. Ventral side has  
characteristic eyespots and cryptic coloration.





# ORANGE WITH DARK BLOTCHES PATTERN

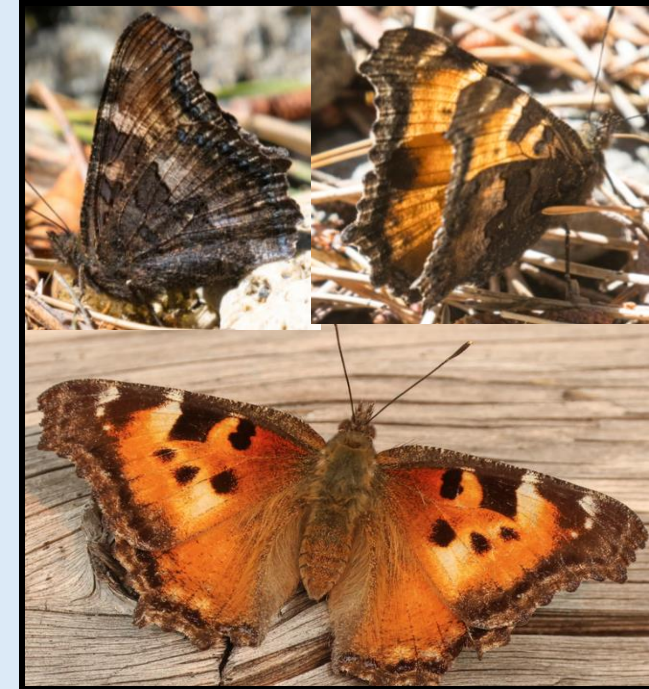
Small:



## Lesser Fritillaries (Genus *Boloria*)

Characterized by orange-colored wings with dark markings. Underside is orange to light tan with variable markings of red, brown, orange or white. NO silver spotting. Many species live in Colorado. Significantly smaller than the Greater Fritillaries and are found in moist environments.

**See ID Guide: Fritillaries for further assistance.**



## California Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis californica*)

Dorsal wings are bright orange with dark margins and dark spotting on the forewing. Underside is wood colored.



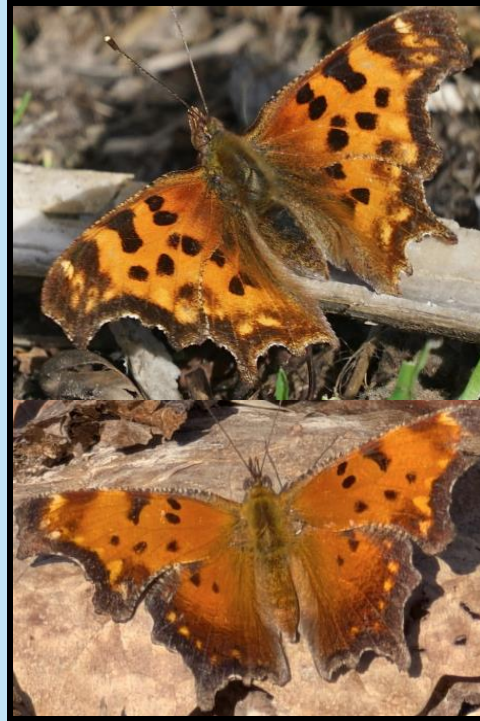
# ORANGE WITH DARK BLOTCHES PATTERN 26

## Medium:



Variegated Fritillary  
(*Euptoieta claudia*)

Characterized by orange to tan colored wings with dark markings. Margines are darkly outlined. **No silver spotting present on the underside of wings.**



Anglewings  
(Genus *Polygonia*)

Wings are uniquely shaped. Ventral side is bark colored and dorsal wings are orange with dark markings.

**See ID Guide: Anglewings for further identification.**



Greater Fritillaries  
(Genus *Argynnis*)

Characterized by orange-colored wings with dark markings. Ventral side is orange to light tan with silver-white spotting. Larger than the Lesser Fritillaries. Many species live in Colorado.

**See ID Guide: Fritillaries for further assistance.**



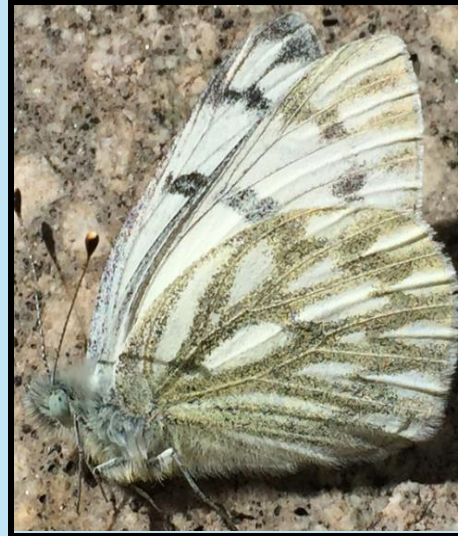


# WHITE WITH YELLOW MARBLING PATTERN

27

Julia Orangetip (*Anthocharis julia*)

Identified by bright orange tips on the forewing. Underside of hindwing has yellow marbling.



Large Marble (*Euchloe ausonides*)

Thick yellow marbling on underside of hind wing. Forewings have black tipped markings.



Becker's White (*Pontia beckerii*)

Marbling includes parallel yellow lines along the hindwing margin. Found in Western Colorado.



Western White  
(*Pontia occidentalis*)

Yellow shading may be faint or present on the forewing as well. Dorsal wings may have lots of dark checkering.

Olympia Marble (*Euchloe olympia*)

Hindwing marbling is thick yellow lines with wide white spaces. Yellow flecks on underside of forewings.





# TAN AND WHITE PATTERN

28

## Leonard's Skipper (*Hesperia leonardus*)

Wing pattern varies from lacking spots, to curved spotting being white or tan.



## Green Skipper (*Hesperia viridis*)

Found along the front range and southeast quadrant of Colorado.



## Nevada Skipper (*Hesperia nevada*)

Underside is often greenish tinted. White banding is irregular.



## Uncas Skipper (*Hesperia uncas*)

Underside of wings have white veins. Found in habitats that are sandy, sagebrush, and open woodland.







# TAN AND WHITE PATTERN

Juba Skipper  
(*Hesperia juba*)

Dorsal wings are orange-brown with white spots near the forewing apex. Underside is often greenish tinted.



Draco Skipper  
(*Polites draco*)

Found along the rocky mountains June to mid-August.



Western Branded Skipper (*Hesperia colorado*)

Found along the front range and west in boreal and subalpine areas. Appearance is extremely variable.



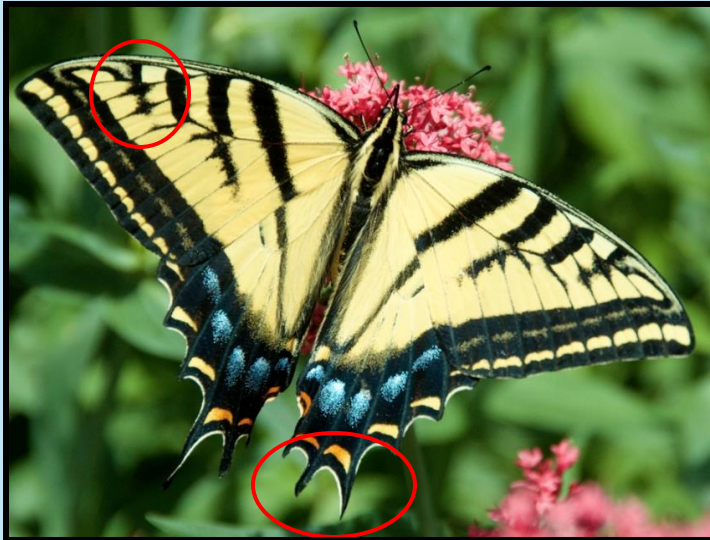
Pahaska Skipper  
(*Hesperia pahaska*)

Dorsal side of wings is yellow-orange. White spotting is consistent between individuals.





# YELLOW WITH BLACK STRIPES PATTERN



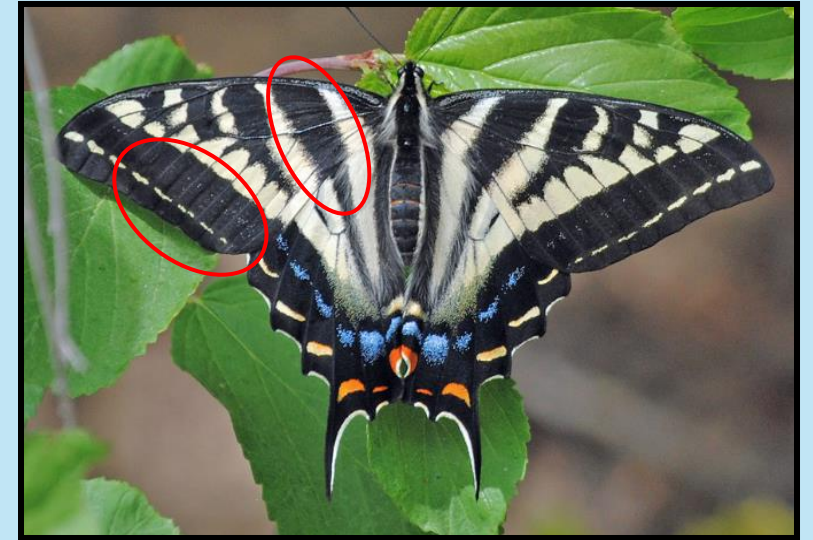
Two-Tailed Swallowtail  
(*Papilio multicaudata*)

Identified by an additional tail on hindwings. Larger size with broader forewings. Forewings have four distinct stripes.



Western Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio rutulus*)

Outermost stripe location is interrupted dotting rather than a solid bar.



Pale Swallowtail  
(*Papilio eurymedon*)

Identified by lighter yellow coloration and thick black striping. Borders of wings are black.





# WHITE WITH DARK MARGINS PATTERN



Rocky Mountain Parnassian  
(*Parnassius smintheus*)

Found at high elevations.  
Generally translucent and  
often present with red spots.  
Wingspan 2-3 inches.



Checkered White (*Pontia protodice*)  
Common throughout the state. Level of shading varies.



Western White (*Pontia occidentalis*)

Found along the front range and west throughout the  
state. Ventral side is lightly yellow marbled.

# WHITE WITH DARK MARGINS PATTERN

32

Pine White  
(*Neophasia menapia*)

Found in high elevation pine forests. Forewing is heavily darkened.



Beckers White  
(*Pontia occidentalis*)

Found in the western half of Colorado. Underside is yellow marbled.



Spring White  
(*Pontia sisymbrii*)

Found in foothills and mountain habitats. May be darkly shaded or yellow tinted.



Cabbage White  
(*Pieris rapae*)

Extremely common throughout the state. Only tips of forewings are darkened.





# LIGHT AND DARK TAN PATTERN <sup>33</sup>

Leonard's Skipper  
(*Hesperia leonardus*)

Wing pattern varies from lacking spots, to curved spotting being white or tan.



Fiery Skipper  
(*Hylephila phyleus*)

Identifiable by dark spotting on the underside of the wings.



Pawnee Skipper  
(*Hesperia leonardus* spp. pawnee)

Spotting on underside of wings may be absent.



Woodland Skipper  
(*Ochlodes sylvanoides*)

Found in the front range and west. Underside of wings have variable patterns.



# LIGHT AND DARK TAN PATTERN

34

Sonoran Skipper  
(*Polites sonora*)

Uncommon in Colorado. Found in high plains and moist mountain meadows.



Peck's Skipper  
(*Polites peckius*)

Characterized with contrasting large patches of light on dark tans on the ventral side of the wings.



Long Dash Skipper  
(*Polites mystic*)

Patterning on the underside of the wing varies in contrast from highly to hardly noticeable.



Sandhill Skipper  
(*Polites sabuleti*)

Pattern on ventral side of wings typically tri-shaded.





# LIGHT AND DARK TAN PATTERN

Snow's Skipper  
(*Paratrytone snowi*)

Found at higher elevations. Base color is dark tan, markings may be light tan or white.



Taxiles Skipper  
(*Lon taxiles*)

Darker shading variable from light tan (pictured) to dark brown.



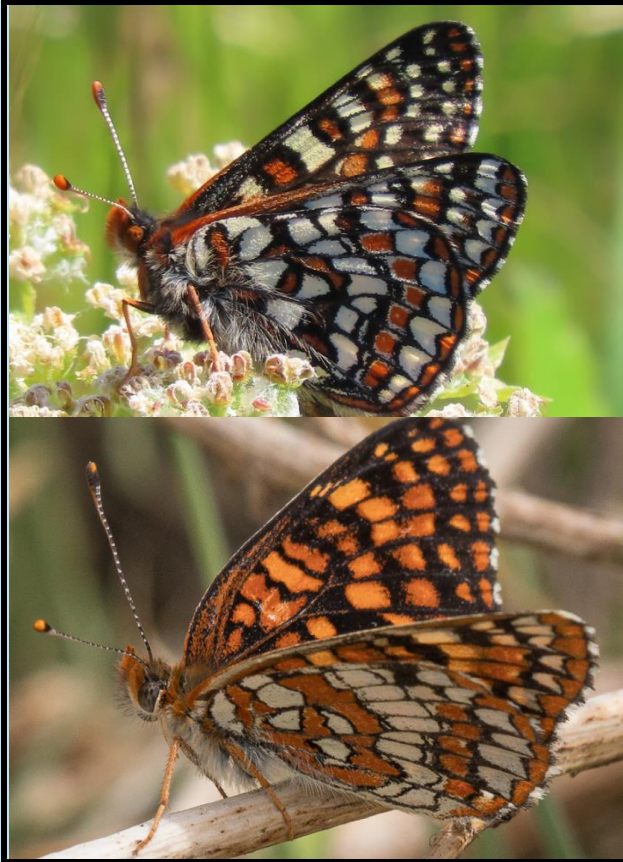
Huron Sachem  
(*Atalopedes huron*)

Found along the front range and east. Shading ranges from light tan to light brown.



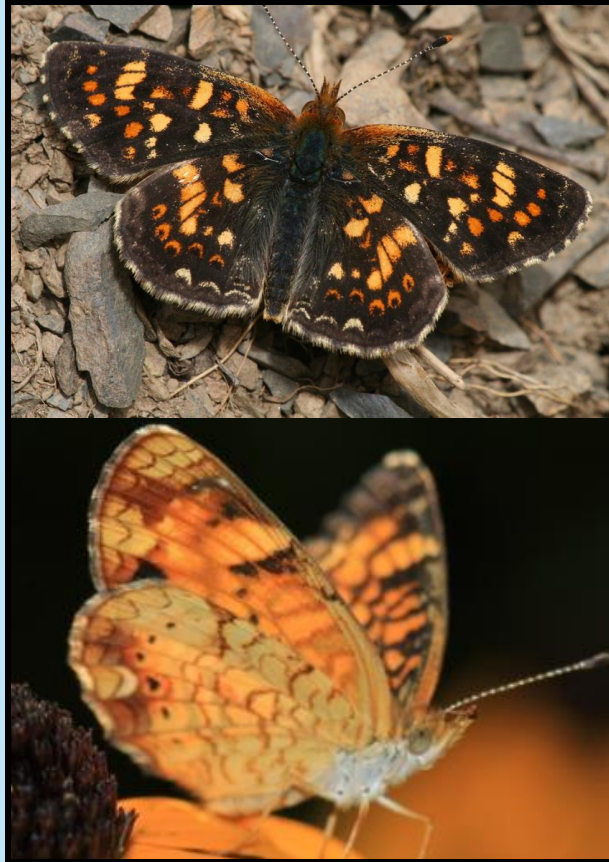


# CHECKERSPOT PATTERN



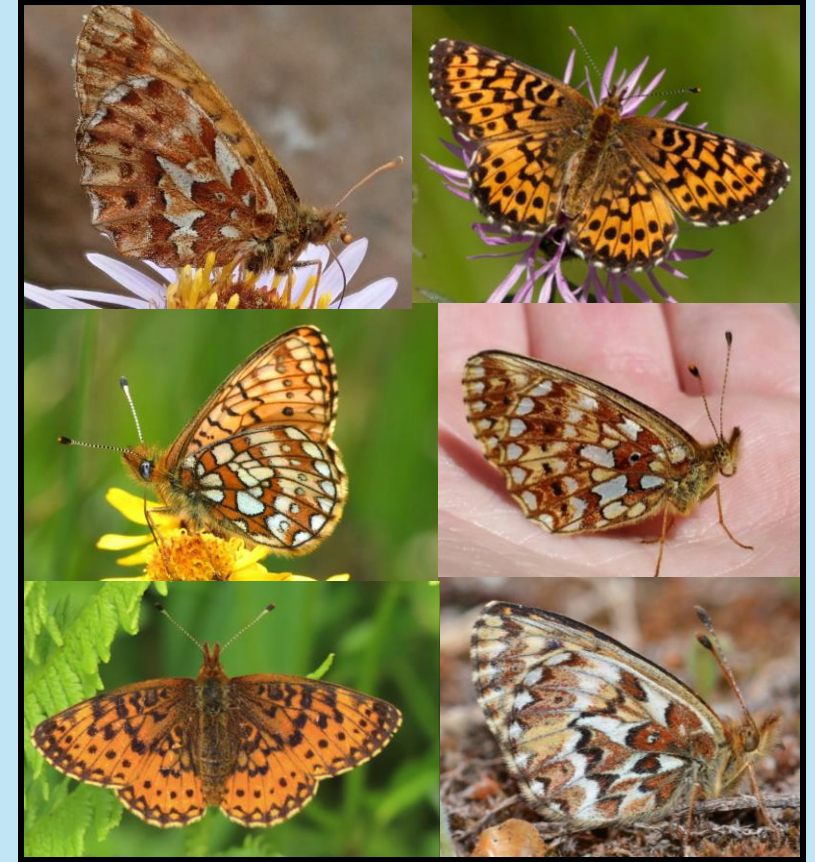
Checkerspot Pattern with  
Significant White Markings

**Continue to next page (37).**



Checkerspot Pattern with Only  
Tans, Oranges, and Browns

**Continue to page 39.**



Checkerspot-like Pattern on  
Underside Only (Genus *Boloria*)

**See ID Guide: Fritillaries for further  
assistance.**





# CHECKERSPOT PATTERN

37

Checkerspot pattern with significant white markings:



Arachne Checkerspot (*Poladryas arachne*)

Dorsal wings lack white and is predominately orange with dark markings.



Anicia Checkerspot (*Euphydryas anicia*)

Appearance varies greatly. May appear orange to red and be shaded greatly or minorly with lots of white.



Edith's Checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha*)

Color varies from orange to red.



Northern Checkerspot (*Chlosyne palla*)

Dorsal side lacks white but may vary in shades of orange.



# CHECKERSPOT PATTERN

Checkerspot pattern with significant white markings:



Gorgone Checkerspot  
(*Chlosyne gorgone*)



Rockslide Checkerspot (*Chlosyne damoetas*)  
Mountain habitats only.



Fulvia Checkerspot (*Chlosyne fulvia*)

Dorsal coloration varies greatly from mostly light orange to mostly dark (Medium mix pictured).



Leanira Checkerspot (*Chlosyne leanira*)

West of the western slope only. Dorsal coloration varies greatly from mostly light orange to mostly dark (Medium mix pictured).



# CHECKERSPOT PATTERN

39

Checkerspot pattern with only tans, oranges, and brown veining:



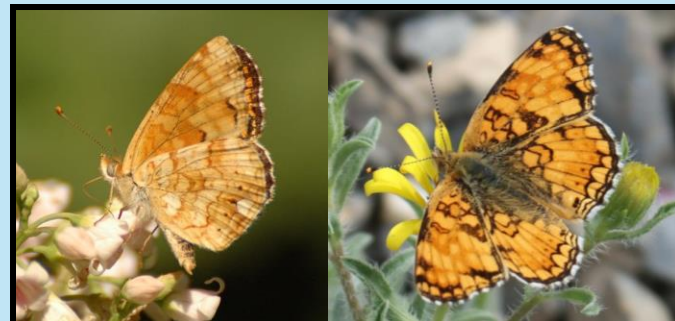
Silvery Checkerspot  
(*Chlosyne nycteis*)



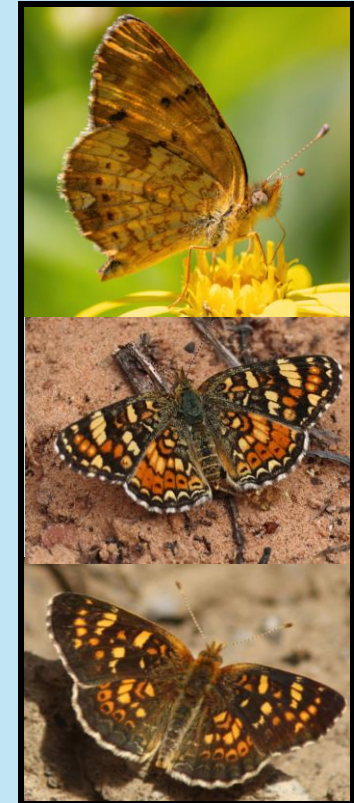
Pearl Crescent  
(*Phyciodes tharos*)



Northern Crescent  
(*Phyciodes cocyta*)



Pale Crescent  
(*Phyciodes pallida*)



Field Crescent  
(*Phyciodes pulchella*)

Dorsal  
appearance varies.



BUTTERFLY  
PAVILION



# EYESPOT PATTERNS



Small, Brightly  
Colored  
Butterflies with  
Eyespots

**Continue to next  
page (41).**



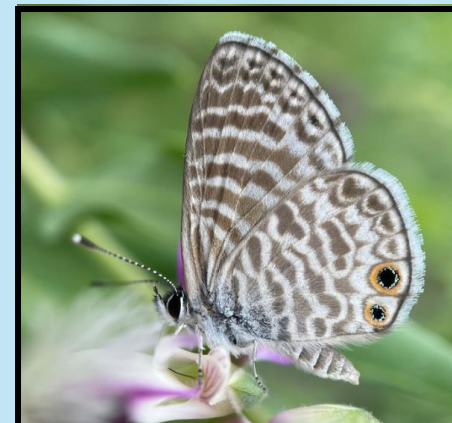
Light Tan  
Butterflies  
with  
Eyespots

**Continue to page 42.**



Brown Butterflies  
with Eyespots

**Continue to pages  
43-44.**



Tiny Eyespots on  
Tiny Butterflies

**Continue to page 45.**





# EYESPOT PATTERN

Small and brightly colored:



American Lady  
(*Vanessa virginiesnsis*)

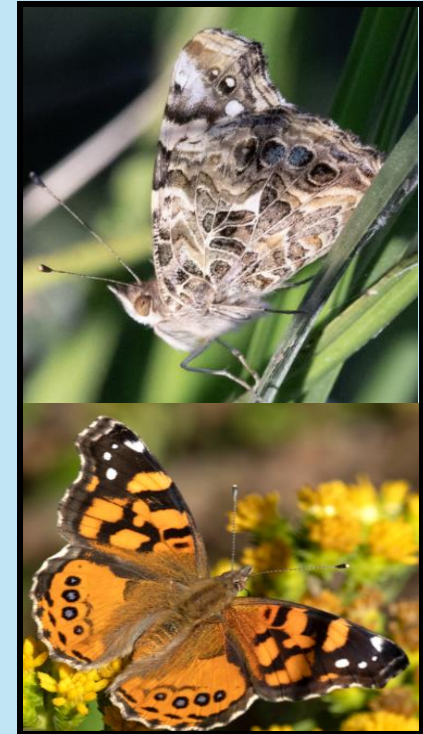
Identifying features: two large eyespots under hindwing, line of four eyespots on top of hindwing.



Painted Lady  
(*Vanessa cardui*)

\***Most** common lady found in Colorado

Identifying features: four small eyespots under hindwing, top of hindwing has a row of simple black spots



West Coast Lady  
(*Vanessa annabella*)

\*Least common "Lady" found in Colorado



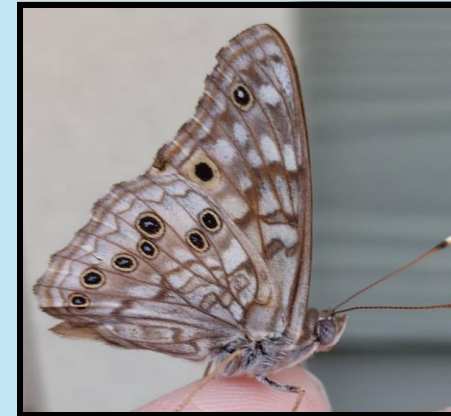
# EYESPOT PATTERN

## Light tan:



Riding's Satyr  
(*Neominois rigingsii*)

Two simple eyespots on either side of the forewing; light brown to tan coloration



Hackberry Emperor  
(*Asterocampa celtis*)

Eyespots along the underside of both wings, simple black dots dorsally. Coloration varies from light tan to brown



Common Ringlet  
(*Coenonympha californica*)

Single simple eyespot on tip of forewing (not always present). Coloration varies from light tan to orange and brown.



Uhler's Arctic  
(*Oeneis uhleri*)

Simple eyespots run along the underside margin of wings. Dorsal margins lined with dark spots.





# EYESPOT PATTERN

## Brown:



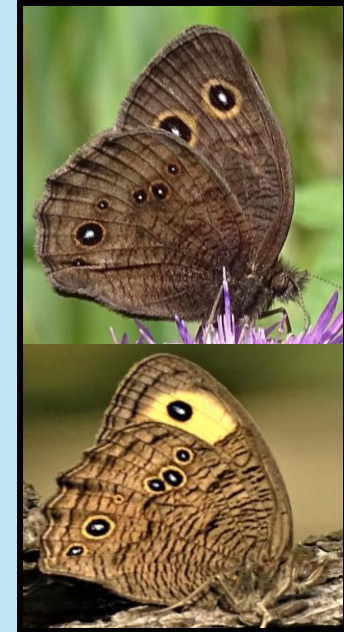
Buckeye  
(*Junonia coenia*)

Two eyespots on the top of each wing. Underside will have 1-4 eyespots. Underside coloration ranges from light tan to reddish.



Small Wood Nymph  
(*Cercyonis oetus*)

One large and one small eyespot on the underside of the forewing. Black dots may or may not be present on the top side of the wings.



Common Wood Nymph  
(*Cercyonis pegala*)

Variable appearance. 1-2 large eyespots on forewing, 3-6 eyespots on hindwing. Light to dark brown with tan highlights.



# EYESPOT PATTERN

## Brown:



Common Alpine  
(*Erebia epipsodea*)

Two eyespots and black dot on forewings, three eyespots on either side of hindwing. Red highlight over spots.



Jutta Arctic  
(*Oeneis jutta*)  
\*relatively rare



Colorado Alpine  
(*Erebia callias*)

Two eyespots on either side of forewing, highlighted with red coloration. Ventral wings are noticeably lighter than top side.



Chryxus Arctic  
(*Oeneis chryxus*)

Light cryptic coloration with orange/tan highlights.





# EYESPOT PATTERN

45

**Tiny eyespots on tiny butterflies:**  
(Not true eyespots but may resemble eyespots)



Western Pygmy Blue  
(*Brephidium exilis*)

Smallest butterfly in North America. Dorsal side is copper brown with blue nearing the body.



Melissa Blue  
(*Plebejus melissa*)

Dorsal wings are light blue. Margins of both sides of all four wings have orange markings.



Marine Blue  
(*Leptotes marina*)

Also known as the Striped Blue. Characteristic white stripes on ventral wings.



Reakirt's Blue  
(*Echinargus isola*)

One tiny eyespot on the ventral hindwing. Thick black dotting on the forewings.

# WOODY BARK PATTERN

Tiny, Bark Colored  
Butterflies:

**Continue to next page (47).**



Small, Bark Colored  
Butterflies:

Continue to page 48.



Medium, Bark Colored  
Butterflies:

Continue to page 49.







# WOODY BARK PATTERN

47

**Tiny:**



Elfins (Genus *Callophrys*)

Rounded hindwings, striped antennae stalks.

**See ID Guide: Coppers, Blues, and  
Hairstreaks for further assistance.**



Skippers (Duskywings - Genus *Erynnis*),  
(Cloudywings - Genus *Thorybes*)

Look for the clubbed antennae and various wing resting  
positions, large eyes.

**See ID Guide: Skippers for further assistance.**





# WOODY BARK PATTERN

Small:



Tortoiseshells (Genus *Aglais* and *Nymphalis*)

Dorsal wings are vibrant orange.



Arctics (Genus *Oeneis*)

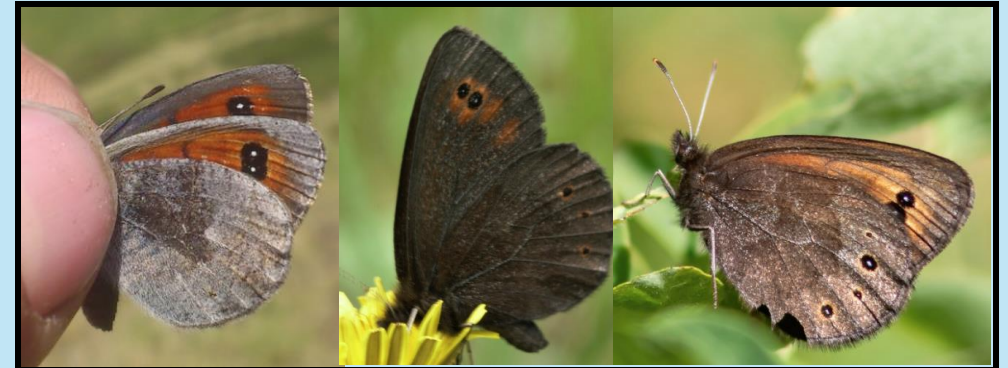
Dorsal wings are orange or tan.



Angelwings (Genus *Polygonia*)

Wings have jagged shape. Dorsal coloration is orange.

**See ID Guide: Anglewings for further assistance.**



Alpines (Genus *Erebia*)

Can be differentiated from Arctics by the black and white eyespots highlighted with red/orange.





# WOODY BARK PATTERN

49

Medium:



Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

Common throughout the state. One of the first butterflies seen in spring.



Question Mark  
(*Polygonia  
interrogationis*)

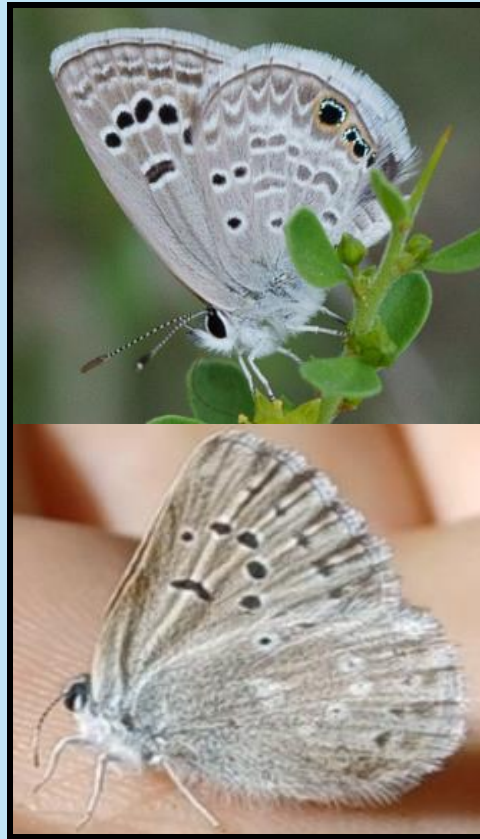
Ventral wing pattern varies to camouflage with leaves. Flies May-September.

# GRAY WITH DARK SPOTS PATTERN

50

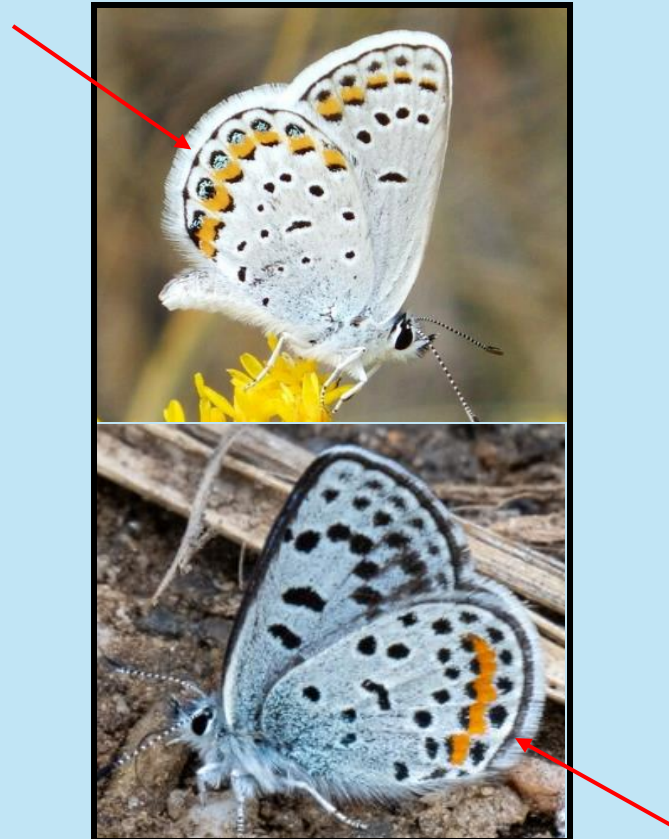
Gray with Dark Spots (Plain):

**Continue to next pages (51-52)**



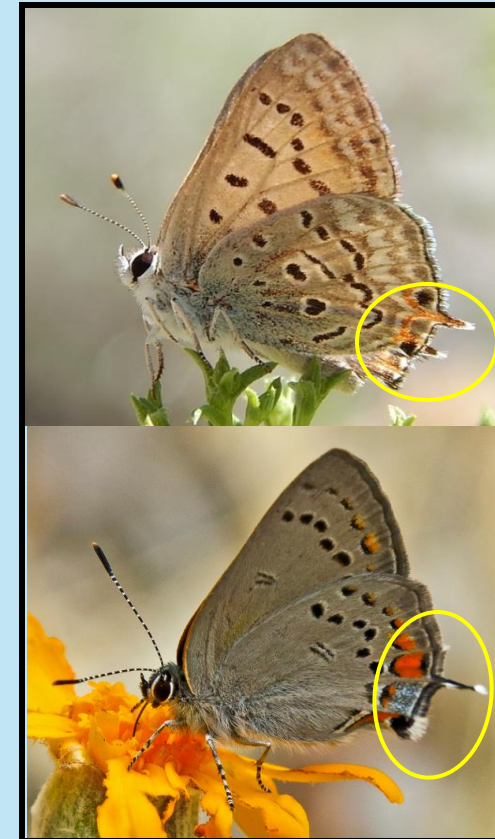
With Orange Markings:

Continue to pages 53-54.



With Tails:

Continue to page 55.



BUTTERFLY  
PAVILION



# GRAY WITH DARK SPOTS PATTERN 51

## PLAIN GRAY WITH DARK SPOTS: **BLUES**



Reakirt's Blue  
(*Echinargus isola*)

"Eyespot" may be highlighted.



Shasta Blue  
(*Icaricia shasta*)

May have orange markings on hindwing.



Arrowhead Blue  
(*Glaucopsyche piasus*)

Distinguished by white "arrow" markings.



Arctic Blue  
(*Agriades glandon*)

May be darkly shaded.



Boisduval's Blue  
(*Icaricia icariodes*)



Greenish Blue  
(*Icaricia saepiolus*)



Silvery Blue  
(*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*)



# GRAY WITH DARK SPOTS PATTERN

52

PLAIN GRAY WITH DARK SPOTS: **COPPERS, HAIRSTREAKS, AZURES**



Edith's Copper  
(*Tharsalea editha*)

Minor orange may be present on hindwing.



Blue Copper  
(*Tharsalea heteronea*)

Spotting on hindwing may be reduced or absent.



Ruddy Copper  
(*Tharsalea rubidus*)

Spotting on hindwing may be reduced or absent.



Lucia Azure  
(*Celastrina lucia*)

May appear darkly shaded or with brown blotches.



Echo Azure  
(*Celastrina echo*)



Hops Azure  
(*Celastrina humulus*)

"Imperiled" and found mostly in CO.



Behr's Hairstreak  
(*Satyrium behrii*)

Endangered.



BUTTERFLY  
PAVILION





# GRAY WITH DARK SPOTS PATTERN

WITH SIGNIFICANT ORANGE MARKINGS: BLUES AND HAIRSTREAKS



Melissa Blue  
(*Plebejus melissa*)

Dorsal wings are bright blue. Orange coloration is seen on both sides of all four wings.



Lupine Blue  
(*Icaricia lupini*)

Orange coloration visible on both sides of the hindwings.



Ancilla Blue  
(*Euphilotes ancilla*)

Rocky Mountain Dotted Blue. Blue (male) or brown (Female) on dorsal view of wings.



Coral Hairstreak  
(*Satyrium titus*)

Gray coloration is darker than seen in blues. Dorsal coloration is orangeish brown.

# GRAY WITH DARK SPOTS PATTERN

54

WITH SIGNIFICANT ORANGE MARKINGS: **COPPERS**



Gray  
Copper  
(*Tharsalea  
dione*)



Purplish  
Copper  
(*Tharsalea  
helloides*)



Lustrous  
Copper  
(*Lycaena  
cupreus*)



Edith's  
Copper  
(*Tharsalea  
editha*)

Orange may be  
reduced or absent.



Bronze  
Copper  
(*Tharsalea  
hyllus*)





# GRAY WITH DARK SPOTS PATTERN

## GRAY WITH DARK SPOTS AND TAILED



Tailed Copper  
(*Tharsalea arota*)

One generation per year,  
flies May-August. Dorsal side  
of wings are orange.



Western Tailed Blue  
(*Cupido amyntula*)

Blue coloration dorsally. Flies  
March-August.



California Hairstreak  
(*Satyrium californica*)

Dorsal view is brownish in color.  
Typically has two pairs of "tails."

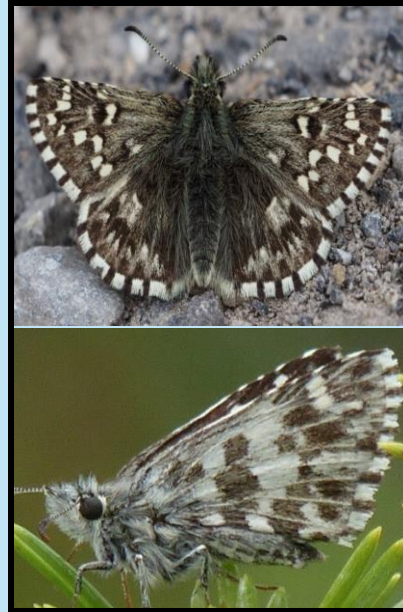


# WHITE AND GRAY BLOTCHES PATTERN



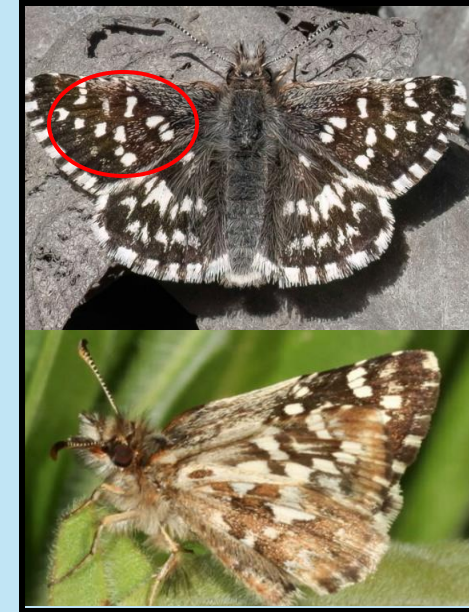
Common Checkered Skipper  
(*Burnsius communis*)

Most prevalent butterfly with this pattern. White markings on dorsal wings are significant. Ventral side is predominately white.



Grizzled Skipper  
(*Pyrgus centaureae*)

Coloration ranges from gray to brown. White blotches are variable, frequently white shading is present too.



Two Banded Checkered Skipper  
(*Pyrgus ruralis*)

Identified by two distinct rows of white blotches on the top of each wing. Coloration ranges from gray to brown. Ventral side is predominately dark.