Butterfly Anatomy

Dorsum (Upperside) (DW)
- Club
- Antenna
- Thorax
- Dorsal Fore Wing (DFW)
- Abdomen
- Dorsal Hind Wing (DHW)

Ventrum (Underside) (VW)
- Ventral Fore Wing (VFW)
- Eye
- Proboscis
- Ventral Hind Wing (VHW)

Text by Ann Potter and Rod Gilbert. All photos by Rod Gilbert unless otherwise stated. This item may not be reproduced, except for personal use, or sold without the author’s written permission. Flight periods are specific to SPS. March 2014. Report rare or species of conservation concern to: Ann.Potter@dfw.wa.gov
| **Silver-spotted Skipper**  
| *Epargyreus clarus*  
| **Habitat:** Open flowery places, riparian, parks, gardens  
| **Flight period:** May - July  
| **Larval host:** Legumes  
| **Notes:** Large turtle shaped white marking on VHW and orange patches on DFW. Remarkable looking butterfly. Uncommon in WA. |

| **Dreamy Duskywing**  
| *Erynnis icelus*  
| **Habitat:** Woodland edges and openings  
| **Flight period:** May - June  
| **Larval host:** Willows, poplars, locusts  
| **Notes:** < 1.5” Uncommon locally. A few known occurrences in Mason Co. No hyaline spots on DFW. Report sightings. |
**Persius Duskywing**  
*Erynnis persius*

**Habitat:** Meadows, glades, mountains  
**Flight period:** May - June  
**Larval host:** Legumes  
**Notes:** < 1.5” Mostly montane. Difficult to ID. Report sightings.

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**Propertius Duskywing**  
*Erynnis propertius*

**Habitat:** Oak woodlands and adjacent grasslands, forest openings  
**Flight period:** L Apr - E June  
**Larval host:** Garry oak obligate  
**Notes:** Largest Duskywing skipper in our region. < 1.75” Rare. Species of conservation concern in W WA. Difficult to ID. Report any sighting. Extant at Bald Hills.
Two-banded Checkered Skipper
*Pyrgus ruralis*

**Habitat:** Meadows, prairies, glades, road edges

**Flight period:** L Apr - May

**Larval host:** Cinquefoil, strawberry

**Notes:** Moth-like and small. D&V wings and margins checkered with white squares.

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Arctic Skipper
*Carterocephalus palaemon*

**Habitat:** Wet meadows, streambanks, forest openings

**Flight period:** May - E June

**Larval host:** Wet habitat grasses

**Notes:** Can’t be confused with any other Skipper. DW have bright orange cells and VHW has outlined creamy orbs.

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**Notes**

Book resources for detailed descriptions and more information on Pacific Northwest butterflies:
The Butterflies of Cascadia (Pyle)
Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies (James and Nunallee)
An Atlas of Washington Butterflies (Hinchliff)

Web: http://butterfliesofamerica.com
**Common Wood Nymph**  
*Hesperia colorado oregonia*

**Habitat:** Prairies, grasslands  
**Flight period:** July - E Sept  
**Larval host:** Grasses

**Notes:** Common, large, > 2” Dark brown to often almost black. Prominent concentric circle eye spots on DFW and VFW. Weak flight pattern.

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**Juba Skipper**  
*Hesperia juba*

**Habitat:** Prairies, grasslands  
**Flight period:** May and L July - E Sept  
**Larval host:** Grasses

**Notes:** Largish skipper, > 1.5” Pale apical spots and dorsal pattern of black margins pointing inward. Head and upper abdomen often greenish pubescent. Difficult to identify (see Oregon Branded Skipper) Uncommon in SPS.

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**Monarch**  
*Danaus plexippus*

**Habitat:** Any locally  
**Flight period:** May - Sept  
**Larval host:** Milkweeds

**Notes:** Rare transitory migrant. Host does not occur in SPS. Occasionally released by humans.

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**Oregon Branded Skipper**  
*Hesperia colorado oregonia*

**Habitat:** Prairies, grasslands  
**Flight period:** L July - E Sept  
**Larval host:** Grasses and sedges.

**Notes:** < 1.25” ♀’s greenish, ♂’s tawny orange. Clear cream rectangular cells with leading edges, distinct markings on VHW. Rare, species of conservation concern. Report sightings.

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**World Wildlife Fund**

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**Caitlin LaBar**
**Mardon Skipper**  
*Polites mardon mardon*  

**Habitat:** Prairies, native grasslands, meadows  

**Flight period:** E May - M June  

**Larval host:** Roemer’s fescue and CA oatgrass  

**Notes:** < 1” Small tawny skipper. Strongly rectangular cells in VHW discal band. Difficult to ID (compare to Sonora Skipper). Rare. Species of conservation concern, report sightings.

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**Sonora Skipper**  
*Polites sonora siris*  

**Habitat:** Meadows, prairies, pastures, roadsides, stream banks  

**Flight period:** E June - M July  

**Larval host:** Grasses  

**Notes:** Small, rectangular cells in symmetrical semi-circular pattern enclosing basal spot on VHW. Difficult to ID (compare to Mardon Skipper). Rare. Species of conservation concern, report sightings.

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**Lorquin’s Admiral**  
*Limenitis lorquini*  

**Habitat:** Most habitats except forest interior, wide-ranged  

**Flight period:** June - Aug  

**Larval host:** Willows, aspen, cottonwood, hardhack, ocean spray, apple  

**Notes:** White band of rounded rectangular cells across V and D wings. Watch for look-alike California Sister, which is anticipated but not yet recorded for SPS.

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**Ochre Ringlet**  
*Coenonympha tullia eunomia*  

**Habitat:** Grasslands, roadsides, pastures  

**Flight period:** L Apr-E June, M July - E Sept. Multiple generations per year  

**Larval host:** Grasses  

**Notes:** Creamy-orange FW, light to dark tan HW, with irregular white bands. Weak flight pattern.
Dun Skipper
*Euphyes vestris*

**Habitat:** Woodland edge, grasslands, watercourses, wetlands, prairie

**Flight period:** May - June

**Larval host:** Carex spp.

**Notes:** Chocolate brown color. Fresh individuals often with a purple iridescence. Wings are often immaculate (esp. males), though many individuals (esp. females) have small, white marks on the DFW or VHW.

Jeffrey Pippen

Woodland Skipper
*Ochlodes sylvanoides*

**Habitat:** Open, grassy areas, including urban areas

**Flight period:** L July - M Sept

**Larval host:** Grasses

**Notes:** Widespread, common. Often the only skipper flying locally during the late summer.

Jeffrey Pippen

Red Admiral
*Vanessa atalanta*

**Habitat:** Most habitats except forest, wide-ranged

**Flight period:** May - Aug

**Larval host:** Nettles

**Notes:** Common. Wide orange margins on bottom of DHW, orange band on DFW. Mottled, bark-like VHW.

Jeffrey Pippen

Painted Lady
*Vanessa cardui*

**Habitat:** All habitats

**Flight period:** Anytime. Most likely Apr - June and Aug - Oct

**Larval host:** Thistles favored, but a wide diversity of hosts may be used

**Notes:** Widespread, common. White mark on DFW leading edge (orange in other ladies). Populations erupt in north-flowing emigration events, does not occur in WA every year. Sometimes re-

Jeffrey Pippen

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*Euphyes vestris*

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Jeffrey Pippen
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Butterfly</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Flight Period</th>
<th>Larval Host</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Lady</td>
<td><em>Vanessa virginiensis</em></td>
<td>Fields, parks, gardens</td>
<td>Anytime, most likely Aug - Oct</td>
<td>Pearly everlasting, pussytoes</td>
<td>Rare. Not documented in Pierce or Thurston Co. Sometimes released by humans. Ornate and complex patterned VHW with two prominent eye spots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clodius Parnassian</td>
<td><em>Parnassius clodius</em></td>
<td>Open woodlands, roadsides, clearings</td>
<td>M May - July</td>
<td>Bleeding heart</td>
<td>&lt; 3” Only Parnassian in SPS. Outer FWs are waxy and translucent. Appears to be large, dirty-white butterfly until closer inspection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anise Swallowtail</td>
<td><em>Papilio zelicaon</em></td>
<td>Every habitat except deep woods</td>
<td>L Apr - July</td>
<td>Carrot family</td>
<td>Common. Broad black border along leading edge of DFW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Coast Lady</td>
<td><em>Vanessa annabella</em></td>
<td>Meadows, marshes, gardens</td>
<td>June - Oct</td>
<td>Mallows, nettles</td>
<td>Row of prominent blue spots with black bands around on the DHW. Populations erupts in north-flowing emigration events, does not occur in WA every year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pale Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio eurymedon

**Habitat:** Open woodlands, shrubby open areas

**Flight period:** May - July

**Larval host:** Red alder, cascara, ocean spray, serviceberry & bittercherry

**Notes:** Common. Light cream to chalk white with broad black border on trailing edge of wings (see Western Tiger Swallowtail).

Western Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio rutulus

**Habitat:** Most habitats

**Flight period:** May - July

**Larval host:** Broadleaf trees, incl. big leaf maple, willows, aspen, cottonwood, cherries

**Notes:** Common. Yellow, with broad black border on trailing edge of wings. DFW has broad, black stripes. (see Pale Tiger Swallowtail).

Mourning Cloak
Nymphalis antiopa

**Habitat:** Riparian, glades, wet meadows, roadsides

**Flight period:** M Feb - E June, July - Sept. Adults overwinter

**Larval host:** Willows, alders, maples, poplars, roses, hardhack

**Notes:** > 3” Widespread, distinct. One of the earliest butterflies to fly. Brown with cream leading edge on D and V wings.

Milbert’s Tortoiseshell
Nymphalis milberti

**Habitat:** Riparian, glades, wet meadows, roadsides

**Flight period:** Mar - May, July - Sept. Adults overwinter

**Larval host:** Stinging nettle

**Notes:** Large contiguous orange band along DWs.

Pale Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio eurymedon

**Habitat:** Open woodlands, shrubby open areas

**Flight period:** May - July

**Larval host:** Red alder, cascara, ocean spray, serviceberry & bittercherry

**Notes:** Common. Light cream to chalk white with broad black border on trailing edge of wings (see Western Tiger Swallowtail).
**Pine White**  
*Neophasia menapia*

**Habitat:** Coniferous forests, urban neighborhoods

**Flight period:** L July - Sept

**Larval host:** Conifers

**Notes:** Extensive black markings on leading edge of FW. Often in forest canopy. Weak, floppy flight pattern.

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**Margined White**  
*Pieris marginalis*

**Habitat:** Forest edge, roadsides, glades

**Flight period:** May - June, and Aug. Two generations per year

**Larval host:** Mustards

**Notes:** < 2” Sometimes yellowish with deep green veination. Summer brood often without veins.

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**Oreas Anglewing**  
*Polygonia oreas*

**Habitat:** Forest edge, streams, clearings, meadows

**Flight period:** Mar - June, and July - Sept. Adults overwinter

**Larval host:** Currants (*Ribes* spp)

**Notes:** Very rare in SPS. Very dark VW with 90° ‘V’ shaped comma marking.

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**California Tortoiseshell**  
*Nymphalis californica*

**Habitat:** Montane meadows, shrublands

**Flight period:** Mar - May and Aug - Sept. Adults overwinter

**Larval host:** Ceanothus spp

**Notes:** Uncommon below 1000’. Color pattern resembles anglewings and commas: bark-like VWs and bright orange DWs.
**Sara’s Orangetip**
*Anthocharis sara*

**Habitat:** Open natural habitat incl. balds, prairies

**Flight period:** E Apr - E June

**Larval host:** Native mustards

**Notes:** ♂ and ♀s have outer orange tips on DFW and VFW. ♀s have pastel yellow centers, ♂s have white (shown).

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**Cabbage White**
*Pieris rapae*

**Habitat:** Virtually every habitat type except forest

**Flight period:** M Mar - Sept. Many generations per year

**Larval host:** Mustards including garden cruciferous vegetables

**Notes:** Common, introduced. Easily ID’d by black tip and spots on FW.

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**Satyr Anglewing**
*Polygonia satyrus*

**Habitat:** Forest openings, forest edge, riparian

**Flight period:** Mar - June, July - Sept. Adults overwinter

**Larval host:** Primarily stinging nettle, willows

**Notes:** One of the earliest butterflies to fly. Widespread. Most common of the *Polygonias*. Difficult to ID from others. Comma marking not a 90° ‘V’.

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**Green Comma, Faun Anglewing**
*Polygonia faunus*

**Habitat:** Forest openings, and corridors, riparian, meadows adjacent to forests

**Flight period:** Mar - June, July - Sept. Adults overwinter.

**Larval host:** Willows, alder, birch, aspen

**Notes:** < 2”. Rare. Comma marking rounded. Distinct yellow spots on DHW. Often green hairs on thorax.

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**Kim and Mike Strangeland**

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**Sara’s Orangetip**
*Anthocharis sara*

**Habitat:** Open natural habitat incl. balds, prairies

**Flight period:** E Apr - E June

**Larval host:** Native mustards

**Notes:** ♂ and ♀s have outer orange tips on DFW and VFW. ♀s have pastel yellow centers, ♂s have white (shown).
Clouded Sulphur
*Colias philodice eriphyle*

**Habitat:** Open areas, roads, meadows, yards, alfalfa fields

**Flight period:** L July - Sept

**Larval host:** Legumes

**Notes:** Rare. In W WA we see summer migrants from the south and east. Individuals encountered in our region typically fly by fast! Difficult to distinguish from Orange Sulphur.

Orange Sulphur
*Colias eurytheme*

**Habitat:** Meadows, prairies, yards, parks, open areas

**Flight period:** L July - Sept

**Larval host:** Legumes

**Notes:** Small orange patches on central DHW and DFW. In W WA we see summer migrants from the south and east. Difficult to distinguish from Clouded Sulphur.

Mylitta Crescent
*Phyciodes mylitta*

**Habitat:** Prairies, marshes, meadows, forest glades, roadsides, open fields

**Flight period:** L Apr - Sept. Multiple generations per year.

**Larval host:** Thistles

**Notes:** Widespread, common. Prominent orange crescents on VHW

Taylor’s Checkerspot
*Euphydryas editha taylori*

**Habitat:** Prairies, balds,

**Flight period:** M Apr - E June

**Larval host:** English plantain, Indian paintbrush

**Notes:** Strong, orange, cream and black checkered pattern. Federally listed Endangered. Report sightings ASAP.
**Hydaspe Fritillary**  
*Speyeria hydaspe*

**Habitat:** Moist areas, montane, forest glades, riparian  
**Flight period:** E July - Sept  
**Larval host:** Violets  
**Notes:** < 2.25” Rare below 1000’ elevation. VHW rusty to maroon; discal spots cream or yellow, typically not silver.

**Western Meadow Fritillary**  
*Bolaria epithore*

**Habitat:** Clearings, meadows, stream sides, open slopes, balds, forest edge  
**Flight period:** May - June  
**Larval host:** Violets  
**Notes:** < 1.75” VHW mottled lavender. Lacking prominent discal spots like *Speyeria* fritillaries.

**Purplish Copper**  
*Lycaena helloides*

**Habitat:** Any habitat except deep forest or alpine  
**Flight period:** May - Sept, more common late summer  
**Larval host:** Smartweeds, docks (*Polygonum, Rumex* spp)  
**Notes:** Prominent orange chevrons on HW. Common.

**Mariposa Copper**  
*Lycaena mariposa*

**Habitat:** Bogs, wet meadows, clearings >1000’  
**Flight period:** Summer. Flight periods not well known for SPS  
**Larval host:** Heath family, esp. huckleberries  
**Notes:** Very unlikely in SPS. Frosty VHW.
Bramble Green Hairstreak  
*Callophrys dumetorum*

**Habitat:** Forest clearings  
**Flight period:** L Apr - E June  
**Larval host:** *Lotus* spp  
**Notes:** Rare and localized in W WA, chiefly Mason and west Thurston Cos. The only green butterfly in W WA.

Cedar Hairstreak  
*Callophrys gryneus*

**Habitat:** Forest edge, roadsides, always near cedar  
**Flight period:** May - June  
**Larval host:** Western red cedar  
**Notes:** Always near host. Brown with white, ventral zig-zag pattern, sometimes very faint. Uncommon. Tailed. Keep an eye out for Johnson’s Hairstreak, an old-growth obligate look alike not yet documented in SPS.

Puget Sound Fritillary, (Great Spangled Fritillary)  
*Speyeria cybele pugetensis*

**Habitat:** Prairie, oak-pine glades, roadsides, riparian, forest glades  
**Flight period:** L June - Sept  
**Larval host:** Violets  
**Notes:** Large < 3” ♂ ♀ dimorphic. ♂ orange/black ♀ dark brown w/creamy bands along outer edges. Silver spots on VHW are small and widely spaced.

Valley Silverspot, (Zerene Fritillary)  
*Speyeria zerene bremnerii*

**Habitat:** Prairies, meadows, forest edge, roadsides  
**Flight period:** E July - Sept  
**Larval host:** Viola adunca  
**Notes:** < 2.5” large silver orbs on VHW prominent and close together. Rare. Species of concern, report sightings.
**Silvery Blue**  
*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*

**Habitat:** Meadows, riparian, swales, prairies  
**Flight period:** L Apr - E June  
**Larval host:** Legumes

**Notes:** Common. DW dimorphic for M/F: ♂ blue, ♀ brownish. Prominent white-ringed black spots in single row on VHW and no markings outside this row.

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**Puget Blue**  
*Plebejus icarioides blackmorei*

**Habitat:** Prairie endemic  
**Flight period:** L May - E July  
**Larval host:** Sickle-keeled lupine

**Notes:** DW dimorphic for M/F: ♂ blue, ♀ brownish. VHW with indistinct black spots with fuzzy white halos. Typically some spots are only white halos. Rare. Species of conservation concern, report sightings.

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**Brown Elfin**  
*Callophrys augustinus*

**Habitat:** Wide ranging, any open habitats, open shrub and woodlands  
**Flight period:** L Apr - E June  
**Larval host:** Many spp in of heath family (*Ericaceae*) roses, Oregon grape, salal, kinnikinnick

**Notes:** Copper-brown with small black spots in single row on VWs.

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**Hoary Elfin**  
*Callophrys polios*

**Habitat:** Prairies, open rocky areas, balds  
**Flight period:** L Apr - E June  
**Larval host:** Kinnikinnick obligate

**Notes:** < 1” Rare and highly localized. Brownish, with row of white dashes on VFW. Frost-like (hoary) markings on VHW. Species of conservation concern, report sightings.
**Gray Hairstreak**  
*Strymon melinus*

**Habitat:** All habitats incl. urban except deep forest and alpine  
**Flight period:** May - Aug  
**Larval host:** Wide range of hosts incl. legumes, roses, mallow, oak, pine  
**Notes:** < 1.5” Widespread. Dramatic and noticeable tails (hairstreaks) with orange patch at their base.

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**Pine Elfin**  
*Callophrys eryphon sheltonensis*

**Habitat:** Pine trees and pine forest edge  
**Flight period:** L Apr - E June  
**Larval host:** Pine (needles)  
**Notes:** < 1.25” Localized in W WA where ponderosa or lodgepole pine occurs. Heavy, black zig-zagging pattern on VHW. Rare.

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**Western Tailed Blue**  
*Cupido amyntula*

**Habitat:** Meadows, prairies, balds  
**Flight period:** L Apr - E June  
**Larval host:** Legumes  
**Notes:** < 1.25” Tiny tails on HW, chalky white VW.

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**Pine Elfin**  
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**Flight period:** L Apr - E June  
**Larval host:** Pine (needles)  
**Notes:** < 1.25” Localized in W WA where ponderosa or lodgepole pine occurs. Heavy, black zig-zagging pattern on VHW. Rare.

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**Spring Azure, Echo Blue**  
*Celastrina argiolus*

**Habitat:** Woodsy, shrubby, riparian areas, prairies  
**Flight period:** Apr - June, and Aug. Two generations per year  
**Larval host:** Red osier dogwood, elderberries, madrona, ocean spray,  
**Notes:** Faint chevron patterning on outer VWs. Common esp. in spring. DW dimorphic for ♂/♀: ♂ blue, ♀ brownish.