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## Common Butterflies in the Garden

Center for Urban Resilience

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# Common Butterflies in the Garden



Prepared by  
Lisa Fimiani of Friends of Ballona Wetlands  
and Scott Logan of Wild Wings Backyard Nature Store



## Monarch Butterfly



## Monarch Butterfly Diseases

Excerpt from link below with a few added comments from Lisa:

Now that we understand that monarchs are healthier when milkweed is seasonal and not year-round, we can work to improve monarch habitat. Below are recommendations for gardeners interested in reducing monarch disease and non-migratory behaviors:

1. Plant native milkweeds whenever possible (it dies back naturally and will reseed itself).
2. If you have tropical milkweed, cut it back from October-February to within 6" of the ground (unless it dies back naturally on its own). Also remove any new plant growth at the base of the plant. If you live in a warm coastal area in the southern U.S. or California, cutting the milkweed back is especially important and it will be necessary to prune frequently (every 3 weeks) as it quickly re-grows during these months.
3. Consider gradually replacing your tropical milkweed with native species (Narrow-leaf and Showy Milkweed).
4. Learn to identify native milkweeds and protect them.
5. Ask local growers to produce native milkweeds.

<http://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/news/qa-about-research-related-to-tropical-milkweed-and-monarch-parasites>





The monarch female has noticeably thicker wing veins, which give her a darker appearance. There are no black wing dots to be seen

Telling the difference between  
MALE and FEMALE Monarchs!



The male monarch butterfly has a black patch on each hind wing that releases pheromones for attracting elusive monarch females. These black dots are also an excellent 'male marker' for sexing purposes

<http://monarchbutterflygarden.net/female-or-male-monarch-butterfly-pictures/>

## West Coast Lady



Larvae food plants include:

- Hollyhock
- Mallow
- False Nettle



Orange bar, squared-off wing tips, blue in four eyespots





Licorice Plant 'Limelight'  
(*Helichrysum petiolare*)  
Lisa found on MdR plant!

Painted Lady



Larvae food plants Include:

- Cudweeds  
(Bicolor Everlasting)
- Red Clover
- Thistle
- Hollyhock
- Mallow



<http://msjacoby.com/butblog.html>

Most widespread  
butterfly in the world

Five eyespots on hind wings





## Anise Swallowtail

<http://www.gardenswithwings.com/butterfly/Anise%20Swallowtail/index.html>

Likes Rue,  
Parsley, Fennel,  
and Dill







[www.gardening-for-wildlife.com](http://www.gardening-for-wildlife.com)

Nectar Plants:

Thistle, lantana,  
zinnia and other  
aster family members



Western Tiger Swallowtail



Food Plants: Sycamore, Cottonwood, Willow, Ash and Alder

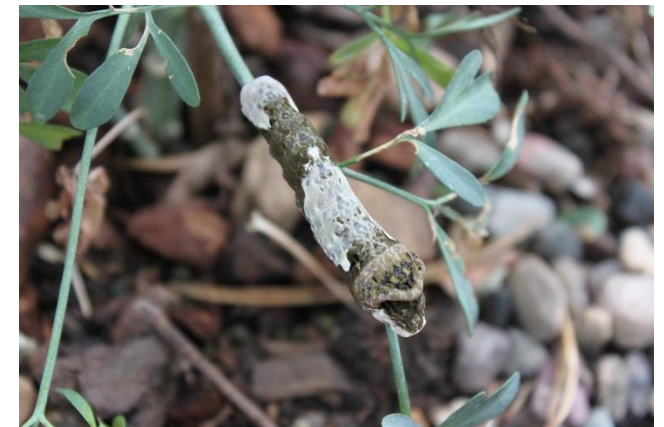


## Giant Swallowtail



Swallowtail  
Caterpillars are  
nicknamed the  
“Bird Dropping  
Caterpillars!”

Likes Rue,  
and Citrus





Gulf Fritillary

Likes  
Passion Flower  
Vines



Going into a cocoon





## Mourning Cloak



Larvae food plants: Willow, Elms Cottonwood  
(Lisa has seen the caterpillars on Chinese Elms)

[mourning cloakwww.fcps.edu](http://mourningcloakwww.fcps.edu) Copyright, Paolo Mazzei.



Cabbage White



Checkered White



Larvae food plants:  
Mustard family



p\_protodice\_slc\_firstinstar2\_600w.jpg  
[www.raisingbutterflies.org](http://www.raisingbutterflies.org)



## Cloudless Sulphur



[entnemdept.ufl.edu](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu)

Larvae Food Plants: Candle-stick Tree, Wild Senna, Sickle-pod

Nectar: Thistle



### Nectar Plants:

Blood Flower, Butterfly Milkweed,  
Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed ,  
Dogbane, Goldenrod, Queen Anne's Lace,  
Cow Vetch, Crown Vetch, Buckwheat

### Larvae Food Plants:

Hibiscus, Hollyhock, Passion Flowers,  
Mallow, White Clover, Cow Vetch,  
Crown Vetch

<http://www.gardenswithwings.com/butterfly/Gray%20Hairstreak%20/index.html>



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### Gray Hairstreak



## Skipper Butterflies

Grasses, like Bermuda Grass



Umber Skipper



Fiery Skipper

Food: Blue Cardinal Flower, Brazilian Verbena, Butterfly Bush, Garlic Chives, Common Sage, Globe Amaranth, Heath Aster, Heliotrope, Lantana, Marigold, Mist Flower, Oregano, Salvia - See more at: <http://www.thebutterflysite.com/butterfly-food.shtml#sthash.MfW4fThC.dpuf>



## Resources

<http://www.xerces.org/butterfly-conservation/>

<http://www.thebutterflysite.com/butterfly-food.shtml>

<http://theodorepayne.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=Butterflies>

[http://www.sfbaywildlife.info/species/western\\_tiger\\_swallowtail.htm](http://www.sfbaywildlife.info/species/western_tiger_swallowtail.htm)

### How to register your garden as a Wildlife Habitat Yard:

1. Audubon At Home <http://audubonathome.org/>
2. National Wildlife Federation  
<http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/create.cfm?CFID=7177856&CFTOKEN=176461acda590e96-4839F373-5056-A868-A0F00601F3124B08>
1. Monarch Waystation Program <http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/certify.html>
2. Xerces Society <http://www.xerces.org/>

Wild Wings Backyard Nature Store  
Has a LIVE BUTTERFLY HABITAT!



## Prepared by:

Lisa Fimiani, Executive Director



Friends of Ballona Wetlands

Friends' leads educational nature walks and  
Restoration parties in the Ballona Wetlands.  
Come "Explore Ballona" with us!

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Scott Logan, Owner

*Wild Wings Backyard Nature Store*

HELPING YOU COME CLOSER TO NATURE;  
HELPING NATURE COME CLOSER TO YOU.

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We are located a 1/2 block North of Ventura Blvd  
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