Open Space and Mountain Parks
Butterfly Monitoring Field
Identification Guide
**Pierids**

**Western white**  
(*Pontia occidentalis*)
- Above marginal spots tend to be gray with black submarginal band  
- Males have 5-6 marginal spots  
- Hindwing below strong gray-green veining

**Flight Period**

February to November, three possible generations.
**Papilios**

Black Swallowtail
(*Papilio polyxenes*)
- abdomen with rows of yellow spots
- long tails on hind wing

**Flight Period**
February to November, two possible generations
**Papilios**

**Indra Swallowtail**  
*(Papilio indra)*

- thorax near head with yellow line of spots
- tails on hind wing are short

**Flight Period**

May to early July, usually on one generation.
Papilios

Anise Swallowtail
(*Papilio zelicaon*)
- broad yellow submarginal band
- eyespot on hindwing has centered black spot
- yellow marginal spots flatten towards wing tip

**Flight Period**
April to early August, usually only one generation.
Pierids

Checkered white
(Pontia protodice)

- Above marginal spots tend to be similar color to submarginal spot band
- Males have 2-3 marginal spots
- Females have a break in the submarginal spot band
- Hindwing below with yellow-brown veining

Flight Period
February to November, two generations normally
Lycaenids

Silvery Blue
(Glaucopsyche lygdamus)
- Postmedian line of black spots
- No marginal spots
- Male above bright blue

Flight Period
April to June, one generation.
Lycaenids

Boisduval’s Blue
(Plebejus icarioides)
- Large in size for a blue
- Postmedian dark spot band darker than submarginal
- Black spots encircled with white

Flight Period
April to mid August, one generation.
Lycaenids

Rocky Mountain Dotted-Blue
(*Euphilotes ancilla*)

Flight Period

Late April to early August, one generation.
Lycaenids

Acmon Blue
(Plebejus acmon)
- orange hindwing band capped with metallic blue spots
- orange band on dorsal view as well
- fringes uncheckered
- veins

Flight Period
Lycaenids

Arrowhead Blue
(*Glaucopsyche piasus*)
- postmedian band on hindwing of arrowheads pointed inward
- fringe checkered

Flight Period
March to early July, normally one generation.
Lycaenids

Hedgerow Hairstreak
(*Satyrium saepium*)
- underside without orange spots
- strong postmedian line
- pale cell-end bars

Flight Period
July to August with one generation.
Nymphalids

Atlantis Fritillary
(Speyeria atlantis)
- disc brown to reddish brown
- eyes blue-gray
- narrow pale submarginal band

Flight Period
June to early September, normally one generation.
Nymphalids

Aphrodite Fritillary
(*Speyeria aphrodite*)
- yellow-green eyes
- brown to reddish-brown extending beyond the postmedian silver spots
- dorsal view on males do not have swollen black on forewing veins
- dorsal view, black spot in forewing cell

Flight Period

June to October, normally one generation.
Nymphalids

Edwards's Fritillary
(Speyeria edwardsi)
- forewing pointed and indented below tip
- pronounced silvering of discs
- olive-green underside
- large marginal silver spots, rounded inward
- dorsal view, third black bar away from head does not touch second black bar
- bold black border on dorsal view

Flight Period
May to early September, normally one generation.
Hesperia

Woodland Skipper
(Ochlodes sylvanoides)
- spotband of yellow or cream squarish spots.
- Spotband straight with top spot inset
- Male has prominent black stigma
- Dorsal wing with jagged dark borders

Flight Period
July to October, normally one generation.
Hesperia

Common Branded Skipper
(*Hesperia comma*)
- Basal spots often form the shape of a "C"
- Outer spot band also curved enclosing basal spot
- Variable

Flight Period

Early June to mid September, one generation.
Hesperia

Long Dash
*(Polites mystic)*
- Hindwing orange/brown with broad yellow spotband
- Short basal spot

**Flight Period**

Late May to early August, one generation.
Peck’s Skipper
(Polites peckius)
- Hindwing brown and tan
- Postmedian band has center spot jutting outward
- Two bands, may be connected
- Broad bands

Flight Period
May to September, may have two generations.