

**Butterflies in Idell's Garden in El Sobrante
2019**

Experts don't always agree on size (which can vary annually), or distribution or time of year (several listed from various sources). During the last few years many fewer butterflies have been seen flying in this garden. Note: blues, hairstreaks and skippers are difficult to identify; Rare = seen 1-5 times in a year or not for several years.

Family/ Butterfly	Size Inches	Description/ distinctive features	Distribution & Adult Food (BA = Bay Area)	Time of Year & Frequency	Caterpillar & Food
Nymphalidae Buckeye <i>(Junonia coenia)</i>	1.75-2.5"	Brown, rounded wings, bright and large eyespots, orange bars on front wings	Southern U.S. & both coasts into Mexico & Cuba; common in most of BA; old neglected fields, open areas with low vegetation and bare ground; eats nectar	Feb-Dec or year round or Spring-Fall; were frequent, now uncommon at iw's	Black, often with two yellowish stripes, very spiny; plantain, owls clover, monkey flower, toadflax, snapdragons, stonecrops, penstemon, lippia
Nymphalidae California Sister <i>Adelpha bredowii</i>	2.25-3"	Blackish wings with white v shape, orange large spots on ends of wings; similar to Lorquin's Admiral	Western states south into Baja and Honduras; oak woodlands	April/May to September; rare at iw's	Dark green with lighter green below, 6 green tubercles along back; oaks
Nymphalidae Callippe Silverspot or Callippe Fritillary <i>(Speyeria callippe)</i>	1.75-2.5"	Soft brownish gold rather than orange, outer black-edge wings have large whitish dots, bright silver underspots	British Columbia to Dakotas to Colorado; likes hilltops, chaparral; Adult food unknown	May to August; occasional at iw's	Wild pansy or Johnny-jump-up
Nymphalidae Common Checkerspot (Chalcedon Checkerspot) or Variable Checkerspot <i>(Euphydryas chalcedona)</i>	1.3-2.2"	Mostly black with yellowish checker spots, red spots on base of upper wings; a variable butterfly	Alaska to Dakotas to Baja; abundant in BA in hills & chaparral, prairie, open forests; tame; eats flower nectar	March-July; frequent at iw's garden	Black & spiny; living in colonies; one brood a year, over-winters; Scrophularia, monkey flower, snowberry, plantain, honeysuckle, penstemon
Nymphalidae Gulf Fritillary <i>(Agraulis vanillae)</i>	2.5-3.1"	Bright orange, black edging on lower wings only, large silver spots under wings; flies fast	From tropical group; gone from El Sob after the 1990s freeze but back; cultivated gardens in BA; Eats nectar	Aug-Nov or Spring, Summer, Fall; now occasional at iw's	Slender, black with reddish stripes and widely spaced spines; several broods; passion vines (no native CA plant food source)
Nymphalidae Lorquins' Admiral <i>(Limenitis lorquini)</i>	1.7 - 2.7"	Black with bands of white patches on wings, orange wing tips (looks quite like California Sister)	Common in BA in moist areas especially along streams and wet meadows	Sp-Fall; rarely seen at iw's drier garden-but in my willows at times	Brown larvae, horns behind head, bump on back; willow, poplar, chokecherry, orchard trees & ocean spray
Nymphalidae Monarch <i>(Danaus plexippus)</i>	3.2-4.6" Large	Bright orange with black edging & veins	Widely distributed; largely tropical so migrates; open areas, fields, meadows, marshes, weedy areas, roadsides; eats flower nectar	Feb-Nov or all year; uncommon at iw's, more in fall but some in March/April.	Dull green with bands of yellow & black, several broods; milkweeds only (<i>Asclepias</i> spp)
Nymphalidae Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	2.25-4"	Blackish with bright yellow border, row of blue spots along border	N. America to Central Mexico; anywhere with host plants; prefers tree sap, especially oak	June-July; rare at iw's	Black with red spots, spines; willows, cottonwood, aspen, birch, hackberry

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Nymphalidae Mylitta Crescent (<i>Phyioides mylitta</i>)	1.0-1.6" Small	Orange with fine black lines, blackish center section, pale yellow crescent along edge of hind wing	Rockies to Pacific Coast; throughout BA; fields, weedy areas, parks; eats nectar	Feb-Dec or Spring, Summer, Fall or early Spring-Fall; at iw's were common—now few since almost no thistles	Black with yellow hairs on some segments, several broods; thistles (Cirsium), milk thistles (Silybum)
Nymphalidae Painted Lady or Thistle Butterfly or Cosmopolitan (<i>Vanessa cardui</i>) Historic massive migration in thousands for days in 2005	1.75-2.5"	Orange with black tips & edging around upper wings, four black spots across lower wing; distinguish from other "ladies" by white bars near wing tip	From all over world except Australia; migrates, also hibernates in mild winter areas; in open and disturbed areas where thistles grow; prefers nectar from 3-6 ft high composites, especially thistles	Feb-Dec (migrates north in Spring, south in Fall) or year round; frequent at iw's	Lavender to pale brown, two yellow lateral lines with dark lines below on each side, spiny; makes leaf shelter; several broods; thistles, mallows (incl. Sidalcea), fiddleneck, lupines, pearly everlasting, asters, borage
Nymphalidae Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	1.75-2.3"	Black with reddish bands crossing upper wings, reddish edging on lower wings, white spots on wing tips; erratic rapid flyer	In N. America, Europe & Asia; not common in BA; found in riparian areas, moist yards, woods; prefers eating tree sap, fermenting fruit, rare to visit flowers	All year; adults overwinter in BA and sometimes are active on warm winter days; cannot survive a lot of cold; rare at iw's	Black & spiny, draws edges of leaves together & lives inside; three or more broods; nettles, baby tears, hops and some say thistle (Circum).
Nymphalidae West Coast Lady (<i>Vanessa annabella</i>)	1.75-2"	Orange with black tips and edging, orange bar on front edge of upper front wing, four blue spots across lower wings; looks like smaller, more rusty Painted Lady	Only <i>Vanessa</i> restricted to West but goes south to Guatemala; in BA in disturbed areas, foothills, chaparral, gardens, fields; eats nectar	All year; frequent at iw's	Tan through brown to black with yellow lines, spiny, makes shelter from a leaf; caterpillars may be found all year including winter; mallows (incl. Sidalcea), lupines, nettles
Lycaenidae Acmon Blue (<i>Plebejus acmon</i>)	.75-1.0" Small	Male lavender-blue, hind wing has orange-pink edge; female very dark brown with orange edge on hind wing; both with large orange spots under hind wing	California west of Sierra Nevada's to Baja; most common blue in BA, found almost everywhere; fields, hills, weedy areas, bare ground; eats flower nectar	All year; or Feb-Oct; relatively common at iw's	Yellowish with greenish sides and black back streak; ants tend caterpillars; various legumes (lotus, lupines, astragalus), buckwheats (Eriogonum), knotweed
Lycaenidae Bramble Hairstreak or Coastal Green Hairstreak (<i>Callophrys dumetorum</i>)	1.0-1.2" Small	Male gray; female brown-yellowish; both greenish below, gray lower forewing	In BA, general distribution & common in wastelands, rocky hills, and chaparral; eats nectar	March-Apr or early Spring; occasional at iw's	Medium green with 2 white stripes or beige with red stripes; buckwheats (espially Eriogonum latifolium), lotus
Lycaenidae Common Hairstreak or Gray Hairstreak (<i>Strymon melinus</i>)	1.0-1.2" Small	Gray above, red spots at base of tail, under wing pale gray with a red spot and red edge	Throughout continental US south to Venezuela; general distribution in BA in open, disturbed, weedy areas; scarce early in season, more common later; eats nectar	Feb-Oct or March-Oct or 12 months; relatively common at iw's	Pale green with yellow stripe caterpillars feed on flowers & fruit, older ones on leaves; mallows, lupine, hops, buckwheat, coyote bush, clovers, coffeeberry, lotus

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Lycaenidae Echo Blue or Spring Azure (<i>Celastrina ladon echo</i>)	1.0-1.1" Small	Male azure blue above; female duller with dusky gray on forewings; both whitish below with tiny dark specks; very similar to Icaroides Blue	Alaska south to mountains of Columbia; general BA distribution; found almost everywhere but more common in wooded areas and canyons; eats flower nectar	Feb-July or Spring, Summer, Fall or March-July; relatively common at iw's	Slug-like small, greenish whitish or rose colored with a small head; ants tend for honeydew; two-three broods; dogwood, buckeye, California Lilac, oak, lupine, coffeeberry, toyon, blueberry
Lycaenidae Icaroides Blue, Boisduval's Blue (<i>Plebejus icarioides</i>)	1.0-1.2" Small	Males bright blue with dark rim on wings, female brown or blue, both with black spots on wing edge; very similar to Echo Blue	British Columbia to edge of Great Plains, south into New Mexico, Arizona & Baja; in E & S Bay – P. paradalis; eats nectar	March-July then over winters in debris at base of host plant; probably common at iw's (identify?)	Pale green with darker green stripe; ants protect to eat sweet secretion from caterpillars; males avid puddlers; lupines.
Hesperiidae Common Checkered Skipper (<i>Pygus communis</i>)	.75-1.25" Small	White checkered pattern on bluish-gray wings; male light gray, female darker	Most of temperate U.S. into Mexico; found most anywhere in BA; roadsides, old fields, waste lots, gardens, trails in woods; eats flower nectar	Mar-Nov or Spring, Summer, Fall; common at iw's	Apple green to purplish brown, dark line down back; fully grown caterpillars hibernate; many kinds of mallows
Hesperiidae Mournful or Sad Dusky Wing (<i>Erynnis tristis</i>)	1.2-1.8"	Deep blackish brown, light brown pattern on wings, hind wings have white fringed edge	N. CA south through central Arizona, southern New Mexico, mountains of Mexico, Central America to Colombia; oak woodlands, clearings, roadsides	Flights in April, June & September in BA; sometimes common, often scarce; occasional at iw's	Larvae is grayish green with yellow lateral stripe, has mushroom-like white dots; oaks
Hesperiidae Woodland Skipper (<i>Ochlodes sylvanoides</i>)	.9-1.1" Small	Bright red-brown upper wings, under-wings red-brown to dark, may have a pale band on hind wing; can have considerable variation.	British Columbia to S. California, east to Montana; Almost everywhere in B A, probably most common skipper; roadsides, openings in forests, chaparral, gardens, riparian areas; eats nectar	July-Oct or Summer to Fall; common at iw's	Tan or tan-green; first-stage caterpillars hibernate, then feed in spring, diapause in the summer as full grown caterpillars, then pupate and come out as adults in the fall; grasses, both native and cultivated
Pieridae Cabbage Butterfly or Imported Cabbage Worm (<i>Pieris rapae</i>)	1.25-1.9"	Dull white with grey-black tips of forewings and one-two spots on upper wings	From Europe, all over US, widely distributed; nectar for food	Feb-June; Spring, Summer, Fall; most common butterfly at iw's	Bright green with tiny black specks, dark line down back, yellow dots on side; many broods, including in winter; Mustard family, especially cabbage, cauliflower, related vegetables, also nasturtiums
Pieridae Common White or Checkered White (<i>Pontia protodice</i>)	1.5-2.2"	Male-glossy white, dark markings mostly on front wings; female-dull white with brown checkered marks	Native to S. U.S & N. Mexico, migrates into Canada; grassland species; very common; eats nectar	April-November; less common now so occasional at iw's	Slender, light green to deep bluish green, four yellowish stripes & many black dots; many broods per year; many species of mustards

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Papilionidae Anise Swallowtail or Western Parsley Swallowtail (<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>)	2.5-3.0" Large	Smaller than Western Tiger Swallowtail, much more black (including all around wings) than other yellow swallowtails	British Columbia to Mexico; widely distributed in BA; vacant lots, roadsides, hills, fields; adult food not reported	Mar-Oct or Spring-Summer or Mar-Oct; at iw's even occasionally in winter	Black with orange spots when young, green with black bands when mature; young larvae eat leaves, adults eat flowers; native parsley-like plants incl lomatium, tauschia, angelica; now introduced anise; fennel, poison hemlock
Papilionidae Pale Swallowtail (<i>Papilio eurymedon</i>)	3.0-3.5" Large	Like Western Tiger Swallowtail but cream color instead of yellow	British Columbia to Montana, south to Baja; in BA, widely distributed on hills, canyons, chaparral, attracted to puddles; eats nectar	Mar-Aug or year round; common at iw's	Soft green with "eyes" reduced to a few dark markings, at least two broods; coffeeberry, California Lilac (<i>Ceanothus</i>), wild plums
Papilionidae Pipevine Swallowtail (<i>Battus philenor</i>) BA one is <i>B. philenor hirsutus</i>	2.75-3.5" Large	Black on upper wings, deep iridescent blue on lower, orange spots underneath; female mostly brownish with some white spots; flies very fast	Central and S. U.S. into S. Mexico; isolated population in N. CA; moist areas; nectar for food	April-November; 2nd most common butterfly at iw's; also around at times in winter	Black with bright red spots, long filaments on body, two-three broods a year then some stragglers; bright orange eggs; pipevine (<i>Aristolochia</i> only)
Papilionidae Western Tiger Swallowtail (<i>Papilio rutulus</i>)	2.75-3.9" Large	Yellow with wide black wing edges, four black vertical stripes on upper wing; (Two-tailed Swallowtail very similar but for double tail and found more in Inner Coast Ranges)	Western North America; widely distributed in most of California; In BA, streamsides, wooded areas, canyons, roadsides; eat flower nectar	Mar-Sept or Spring-Summer or March to Fall; common at times at iw's, occasional at other times	Bright green with big "false" eyes on fourth segment and a black & yellow bar just back of these; willow, cottonwood, sycamore, elm, ash, wild cherry, apples, privet, lilac

Hope to attract this butterfly by including more larval plants:

Nymphalidae California Silvespot or Crown Fritillary or Coronis Fritillary (<i>Speyeria coronis</i>)	2-3.3"	Pale orange with black checkers and black dots on edges of wings, silver underneath	Great Basin to South Dakota to Baja; in BA in canyons and woodland clearings including oak areas and grasslands; eats flower nectar	June or mid June-Sept	Wild violets, and some say ocean spray, chokecherry and others
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Hard Copy Information Sources: (As time goes on data on names, frequency of occurrence, and territories change but the photos do not)

Alan, Brock, Glassberg, *Caterpillars in the Field and Garden; A Field Guide to the Butterfly Caterpillars of N Am*; Oxford Press 2005; good color photos, short descriptions
Carter, *Butterflies and Moths*; Dorling Kindersley Handbooks 2000; over 600 photos and descriptions of butterflies and moths from many parts of the world.

Garth & Tilden, *California Butterflies*; UC Press, Berkeley, 1986

Glassberg, *Butterflies through Binoculars, The West, Field Guide to Butterflies of W. North America*; Oxford Press 2001; lots of photos short descriptions

Mitchell & Zimm *Butterflies & Moths A Guide to the More Common American Species*; Golden Press 1962 – handy pocket size

Opler & Wright, *Western Butterflies*, Peterson Field Guide 2nd Edition 1999; lots of range maps and photos

Pyle, *The Audubon Society Handbook for Butterfly Watchers*; Schribner 1984; from a birdwatchers perspective

Shapiro & Manolis, *Field Guide to Butterflies of SF Bay and Sacramento Valley Region*; UC Press 2007; detailed descriptions primarily on locations, colored plates

Stewart, *Common Butterflies of California*; West Coast Lady Press 1998, large photos of butterflies
Tilden, *Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay Region*; UC Press 1965; very local information
Wright, Peterson First Guide to Caterpillars; Houghton Mifflin 1993; descriptions and color drawings, good small handbook to carry to the field

Local fold-out laminated Quick Guides *Local Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay area* plus other even more local county ones

Butterflies and Gardens

Helpful information on plants and butterfly behavior. These both have excellent color photos and descriptions plus the Pacific Northwest book includes caterpillar photos .
Heath & Clark, *An Introduction to Southern California butterflies*; Mountain Press 2004
Neil & Hepburn, *Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest*; Mountain Press 2008

Bauer, *The Habitat Garden Book - Wildlife Landscaping for the San Francisco Bay Region*; Coyote Ridge Press, 2001: a brief discussion and summary of habitat area and many garden creatures including butterflies
Schneck, *Butterflies, How to Identify and Attract Them to Your Garden*; Rodale Press 1990
Tekulsky, *The Butterfly Garden*; Harvard Press 1985; extensive information on gardening for butterflies
Xerces Society, *Gardening for Butterflies*; Timber Press 2016; extensive detailed information on plants, caterpillars and on butterflies and moths .

On-line Resources

Lately many more gardens, nurseries and websites include butterfly data.

For some examples see:

<https://www.anniesannuals.com/plants/lists/?list=plants-that-attract-butterflies>

<http://www.ebcnps.org/nativehere.html> Natives Here Nursery carries plants native only to Alameda and Contra Costa counties

<https://www.laspilitas.com/butterfl.htm>

<https://nativeherenursery.org/california-native-plants-that-attract-butterflies/>

http://www.theodorepayne.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=California_Native_Plant_Library

http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com/Butterfly_List.php

Specialty Butterfly/Moth Sites

Art Shapiro's *Butterfly Site* <http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu/> ; huge butterfly database started in 2007

Audubon *Name that Butterfly* <https://www.audubon.org/news/name-butterfly>

California Native Plant Society <https://www.cnps.org/gardening/gardening-for-butterflies-3106>

Deutsch & Levinson *Bay Area Butterflies*, North American Butterfly Association <https://www.naba.org/ftp/baca.pdf>

Garden With Wings <http://gardenswithwings.com/>

North America-*Butterflies & Moths of North America* http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/checklists?species_type=All&tid=381; Once her, go to drop down menus and choose Unites States, California & Contra Costa; https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/checklists?species_type=0&tid=45529 for *Contra Costa*

Butterflies of Orange County; <http://mamba.bio.uci.edu/~pjbryant/biodiv/bflyplnt.htm> Butterfly photos

North America Butterfly Association <https://nababutterfly.com/> butterflies and habitats and gardening

University of California https://ucanr.edu/sites/PollenNation/Meet_The_Pollinators/Butterflies/ includes lot of other pollinators here too

HOSTS a data base of World Lepidoptera Host Plants <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/data/hostplants/>