

Name: _____ Date: _____



Black Swallowtail

Papilio polyxenes

The Black Swallowtail is a striking butterfly native to North America, recognized by its velvety black wings adorned with rows of yellow spots and, in females, a distinctive blue band on the hindwing...

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate

Family: Papilionidae

Habitat: Fields, meadows, gardens, and open areas

Diet: Herbivore

Conservation status: Least Concern

Lifespan: 6-14 days (adult stage); several months total including larval and pupal stages

Weight: 0.3-0.5 grams

Scientific name: *Papilio polyxenes*

Did you know?

- When threatened, Black Swallowtail caterpillars can extend orange, forked glands called osmeteria that emit a foul odor to deter attackers.
- Black Swallowtail caterpillars resemble bird droppings in their early stages, providing camouflage from predators. Adult males are highly territorial...

What I learned
