CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

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

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