

tiger swallowtail

Papilio glaucus

FEATURES

The male tiger swallowtail is yellow with black stripes. The female has two forms: one like the male and another that is all black. Both female forms show iridescent blue on the upperside of the hindwings. The underside of the forewing has a row of yellow spots, while the underside of the hindwing has an orange spot. The hindwing also has a projection from the rear edge. The tiger swallowtail has a wingspan of three and five-eighths to six and one-half inches. Its caterpillar is dark green with two large eyespots behind the head. Early stages of the caterpillar are colored like bird droppings.

BEHAVIORS

The tiger swallowtail may be found statewide in Illinois. Its larva eats the leaves of cherry, birch, tulip poplar and other trees and shrubs. The adult eats flower nectar. The caterpillar has yellow or red structures that can be extended from behind the head when it is threatened.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Papilionidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE







black phase female



black phase female



Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none