

Zebra Swallowtail

Zebra Swallowtails occur throughout Alabama. They are multi-brooded, flying in spring, summer, and fall. The spring brood is typically the largest. They occur in bottomlands as well as deciduous forests and do not stray far from them. Males gather in groups with other butterflies to sip nutrients from damp areas. The proboscis is short, restricting Zebra Swallowtails to short-tubed plants as nectar sources.



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- Easily identified by black stripes on a white background on dorsal and ventral wings. The only white swallowtail in its range.
- Male and female butterflies have no field marks that distinguish them from each other
- Early spring individuals are smaller, lighter, and have shorter tails. Summer adults are larger, have broader black stripes, and longer tails. Tail length increases with each generation
- Not typically confused with any other butterfly species in Alabama





Zebra Swallowtail

Dorsal Spring Form

White with black stripes* (Black stripes are thinner in spring)

Bright patch of red above eyespot*

Eyespot

Long, slender tails, black edged in white* (Tails are shorter in spring with thin, white edge)

Zebra Swallowtail *Eurytides marcellus*

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** Reliable diagnostic markers*

2 3/8 to 3 1/2 inches (6.0-8.9 cm) Smaller and lighter in spring



Zebra Swallowtail

Dorsal Summer Form

White with black stripes* (Black stripes are broader in summer)

Bright patch of red above eyespot*

Eyespot

Long, slender tails; black edged in white* (Length increases with each generation) Broader white edge in summer

Zebra Swallowtail *Eurytides marcellus*

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Zebra Swallowtail

Ventral

Similar to Dorsal surface*

Nearly continuous red line*

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