Zebra Swallowtail

Eurytides marcellus



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Zebra Swallowtail

Eurytides marcellus

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Papilionidae

Etymology: The genus is named after Eurytus, king of Oechalia. Marcellus is a Roman surname.

Wing span: 2.5 - 3.5 inches (63 - 88 mm)

Habitat: In roadleaved woodlands along rivers and in swamps where the host plant grows is where this butterfly can usually be found. Sometimes they stray into open fields in search of nectar plants.

Host Plant: Shrubs in the genus *Asimina* (pawpaw).

Adult Food Source: Having a shorter proboscis than other swallowtails, this butterfly uses the flowers of blueberry, redbud, lilac, verbena and common milkweed as their nectar source.

Life History: To find a mate, the males patrol areas where the host plant is present. After mating, the female lays her eggs one at a time on the underside of the host plant leaves. Caterpillars then eat the leaves until they form their chrysalis. The butterfly overwinters as a chrysalid.

Flights: In the north, there are 2 broods between April and August. In the south there can be up to 4 broods between March and December.

Fun Facts: When threatened, the caterpillar pops out an orange gland, called an osmeterium, which releases a strong odor to repel small predators.

In 1995, the Zebra Swallowtail was named the state butterfly of Tennessee.

Range:

