

Zebra Swallowtail-related terms:

Chrysalis = aka **pupa(e)**, is one of the stages in a butterfly life cycle. Not to be confused with cocoon (term specific to moth).

Diapause = a stage of hibernation that larva goes into, typically during cooler autumn months.

Eclose = aka as **emerge**, to come out as an adult butterfly from the chrysalis ("hatch" is incorrect)

Host plant = plant consumed by caterpillar to survive

Instar = a phase between 2 periods of molting in the development of the caterpillar

Frass = caterpillar poop

Molt = shed their skin, about caterpillars

Proboscis = a paired tube, similar to a straw, that allows butterflies to suck nectar from flowers, juice from fruits and minerals from puddles.

Purge = eliminate undigested food to clear themselves of excess waste before forming a chrysalis.

Rearing = be involved in raising butterflies

Osmeterium = a defensive organ (forked gland) that protrudes from the back of its head when the larva feels threatened and emits a bad odor and liquid.

Oviposition = the act or process of depositing or laying eggs



Zebra Swallowtail Life Cycle:

Egg: Pale green to orange brown; takes 4-10 days to hatch, depending on temperature.

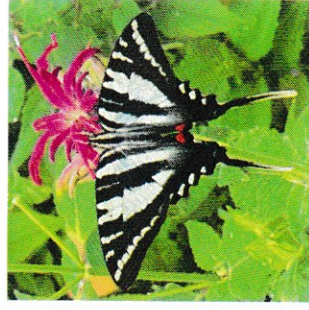


Caterpillar (larva): 3-4 weeks; goes through 5 instars by molting to allow for additional growth. Early instar caterpillars are mostly black and have small-horn like projections. Middle instar larva are also dark colored, but have transverse yellow and white bands. Fifth instar caterpillars are usually green with broad blue, black and yellow transverse bands between the thorax and the abdomen, and numerous fine yellow and black bands on their body. Zebra caterpillars exhibit color polymorphism and some fifth instars are very dark colored with fine yellow and white bands.



Chrysalis: 10-20 days (except for overwintering cases); can be green or brown with fine lines simulating a leaf-like texture.

Adult butterfly: Live up to 6 months



ZEBRA SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY

Zebra Swallowtail (*Eurytides Marcellus*) is a butterfly in the swallowtail family that can be found as native in the Eastern United States and Southeast Canada. Its distinctive wing shape and long tails make it easy to identify, and its black & white-striped pattern is reminiscent of a zebra.

All butterflies go through a life cycle of 4 stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), chrysalis (pupa) and adult. The eggs are light green, then turn yellow to dark-brown, as they are closer to hatching. The caterpillars are mostly black in the 1st instar, then they can become light green with yellow and black bands or mostly dark black with white and yellow bands. The chrysalis can be anywhere from light green or brown, assumed to try and take a color similar to that of the environment if forms onto as a camouflage mechanism. The chrysalis had three small horn-like projections coming out from the head and thorax.

The Zebra Swallowtail caterpillars feeds only on species within the genus *Asimina*, only one available in Ohio being *Asimina Triloba*, **Common Pawpaw** tree. Zebra Swallowtails can be found in corridors of wooded land alongside bodies of water such as riversides, lakeshores, creek banks, marshes and open moist woods, places preferred by common pawpaw also.

Join me on Facebook Groups: [Pawpaw Chronicles](#) and [Zebra Swallowtails \(Alina Nemeec\)](#).