

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE 29

Swallowtail Butterfly

INSECT

HABITAT & DIET

Widely spread throughout the world. Around 25 species in North America. They snack on leaves as caterpillars, then drink sweet nectar from flowers when they are adult butterflies.

FUN FACTS

There are over 550 species of swallowtail butterflies. God was very creative in making all these different kinds! Think of all the colors and patterns He came up with.

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW COLORFUL INSECTS ARE?

A few days ago, we found two swallowtail caterpillars in our yard. One was bright green (pictured to the bottom left), and the other was bright orange. They were about the same size and shape, and both had “false eyes” to trick predators into thinking they were looking at them. These caterpillars were similar and will both become swallowtail butterflies but were very different colors! God was very creative when He made everything in nature. You have probably seen a swallowtail butterfly, even if you did not know what it was. They are very common, and there are over 550 different species. They get their name because of the two points on their hindwings that look similar to a type of bird God made called the swallow. Notice the similar points.



SWALLOW



SWALLOWTAIL
BUTTERFLY

I love noticing similar details in very different creatures God has made. It reminds me that God has a specific style, just like any artist. He invented all the shapes, patterns, colors, textures, aromas, and flavors in nature. He used all those things to create countless plants and creatures—just consider the over 550 types of swallowtail butterflies! This week, try to find some insects or creatures you have never seen. Perhaps stroll through a garden or look at the leaves of trees and bushes and find something interesting! As you do, remember Psalm 104:24, “O Lord, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures.”

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