

Eastern Tailed-Blue Butterfly

By Brittany Boyd



Table of Contents

What is the Eastern Tailed-Blue Butterfly? Pg 1

- Life Cycle Pg 2

- What do they eat? Pg 3

Fun Facts

- Ant Army Pg 4

- Flower Cradle Pg 5

Glossary Of Terms Pg 6-7

References Pg 8

Standards

What is the Eastern Tailed-Blue Butterfly?

The Eastern Tailed-Blue butterfly, is an insect that is located in the western United States. These butterflies are found in California, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. This butterfly has grayish blue wings. Male butterflies have a lighter blue on the inside and females have a dark gray color on the inside.



The male



The female

The Eastern Tailed-Blue is often found in meadows and open fields close to the ground.

The Life Cycle

Like all butterflies, the Eastern Tailed-Blue butterfly goes through a **metamorphosis**.



The first stage is the caterpillar stage or **the larvae stage**.

The second stage is the hibernating stage, or the **pupating stage**.

The last stage is the adult stage, which is what we see as a full grown butterfly.

What Do They Eat?

As a caterpillar, the Eastern Tailed-Blue mainly eats yellow, sweet clover, **regular clobber**, wild peas, and **alfalfa**.

As an adult, they eat mostly nectar found in flowers close to the ground, due to their low flight patterns. This includes white sweet clover, **Shepard's needle**, wild strawberry, **cinquefoils**, **asters** and winter cress.



Cress



Wild strawberry



Alfalfa



Sweet Pea

Ant Army



In certain parts, the different types of food the Eastern Tailed-Blue butterfly eat causes the adult butterflies to produce a strange substance that certain types of ants like. In return for this liquid, the ants protect the eggs the females lay in flowerbeds.

Flower Cradle

Unlike most butterfly species, the Eastern Tailed-Blue lays their eggs in flowerbeds of their home. This is to protect the eggs, and to give the butterflies a better chance to watch the eggs.



Glossary of Terms

Metamorphosis: The change that insects go through to get to adulthood. It often contains at least two stages, like the Eastern Tailed-Blue butterfly.

The Larvae Stage: Also known as the caterpillar stage. One of the stages during the life cycle, often thought of as the baby stage.

Pupating stage: The second stage of the life cycle. This is when the caterpillar creates a shell around itself so it can change into an adult butterfly.

Regular clobber: a green plant that the Eastern Tailed-Blue butterfly caterpillar eats.

Alfalfa: a plant of the legume family that often has purple flowers. The Eastern Tailed-Blue butterfly caterpillar eats these.

Shepard's Needle: a white flower that came from Europe that is often known for its needle-like petals. The Eastern Tailed-Blue butterfly eats these.

Cinquefoils: a plant of the rose family that has five-petals, yellow flowers, and several leaves on one stalk.

Asters: a plant of the daisy family that has bright petals, normally purple or pink in color.

References

"Butterflies and Moths of North America | Collecting and Sharing Data about Lepidoptera." *Butterflies and Moths of North America | Collecting and Sharing Data about Lepidoptera*. Web. 15 Dec. 2014.
<<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Cupido-comyntas>>.

"Eastern Tailed Blue (Everes Comyntas) (Godart, 1824)." *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Government of Canada*. Web. 15 Dec. 2014.
<<http://www.cbif.gc.ca/eng/species-bank/butterflies-of-canada/eastern-tailed-blue/?id=1370403265607>>.

"Eastern Tailed-blue." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation. Web. 15 Dec. 2014. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_tailed-blue>.

Photo References

All photos in this book were taken from google underneath the “Label of Reuse” Section. This means that the images are okay to be used freely.

Male Butterfly (pg 1)

<http://k43.pbase.com/o6/99/758199/1/75764925.T96kU408.din008EasternTailedBlue.jpg>

Female Butterfly (Pg. 1)

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/51/Male Eastern Tailed Blue Megan McCarty23.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/51/Male_Eastern_Tailed_Blue_Megan_McCarty23.jpg)

Life Cycle images (pg. 2)

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ee/Ulysses Butterfly Caterpillar.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ee/Ulysses_Butterfly_Caterpillar.jpg)

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/35/TigerSwallowtailCaterpillar.jpg>

https://openclipart.org/image/300px/svg_to_png/81661/arrows_3_circular_interlocking.png

Wild Strawberry (pg 3)

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1a/3_wild_strawberries_close_up_UK_2006.JPG

Alfalfa (Pg 3)

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/76/Medicago_sativa_Alfalfa006.jpg

Cress (Pg. 3)

http://pixabay.com/static/uploads/photo/2014/01/31/23/20/cress-255931_640.jpg

Sweet Pea (Pg 3)

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/3/3e/Sweet-pea-flower.jpg>

Ant picture (Pg. 4)

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d5/Ant_on_larvae_of_mission_blue_butterfly_icaricia_icarioides_missionensisnd.jpg

Common Core State Standards

3.S.3.1.1 Describe the adaptations of plants and animals to their environment. [\(577.01.a\)](#)

3.LA.1.2.2 Identify purpose for print conventions such as end-sentence punctuation, paragraphing, bold print, and dialogue.

3.LA.1.4.1 Use knowledge of vowel digraphs, diphthongs, and r-controlled letter-sound association to read new words.
(689.01.d)

This e-book and any prints are released under a [CC BY 3.0 license](#) by the author.

This means that you are free to share, remix, transform, and build upon this book as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author.

Included works (e.g., images and other media) may have separate licensing requirements, and this release does not supersede or replace those requirements.

This e-book template is provided under a CC BY 3.0 license by the University of Idaho College of Education. If you use, share, remix, or transform this template, you should include this page at the end of your book.

