



pipe-vine swallowtail

Battus philenor

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Lepidoptera
Family:	Papilionidae

FEATURES

The pipe-vine swallowtail has a wingspan of two and three-fourths to five and one-eighth inches. Its wings and body are black. The hindwings are iridescent green-blue on the upper side and have a projection from the back edge. Each hindwing has a row of seven orange spots that can be seen on the underside. The larva is brown or black with fleshy projections, two rows of which on the back are orange or red.

BEHAVIORS

The pipe-vine swallowtail may be found statewide in Illinois woods where pipe-vine plants are present, although it is not abundant. The larva and adult are bad tasting to birds and can actually make birds spit them out after being eaten. This trait helps birds learn to not eat them. Several other butterflies are colored and shaped similar to the pipe-vine swallowtail, and birds are reluctant to eat them, too, even though they have none of the distasteful chemicals. The pipe-vine swallowtail reproduces twice each year. The caterpillar has yellow or red structures that can be extended from behind the head when it is threatened. The pupa is

protectively colored. This insect overwinters in the pupa stage. The adult feeds on nectar, flapping the wings rapidly as it does so. The larva eats vegetation, particularly of the snakeroot and pipe-vine plants.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

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