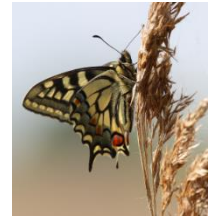


Swallowtail facts

- Their caterpillars possess a unique organ behind their heads, called the osmeterium. The osmeterium mimics a snakes tongue and repels insects with a repugnant pineapple smell.
- Lives in wetlands that grow the caterpillars food plant, milk parsley.
- Largest UK butterfly with a wingspan of nearly 10cm.
- Swallowtails normally only lay their eggs once a year and lay each egg on a different milk parsley plant.
- Only 1% of their original habitat remains.
- Swallowtail butterflies can be seen on the wing between late May and mid-July with a possible second brood in early August.
- The tail and false eyes on the swallowtails hind wings mimic the head and antennae of the butterfly. This is a defence mechanism which intends to give the butterfly a 50% chance of surviving an attack.
- The swallowtail gets its name because of the similarity between the forked appearance of its hind wings and the tail of a swallow.



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