

Our Arroyo Ecosystem



Western Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio rutulus*

One of the largest butterflies, the Western Tiger Swallowtail is yellow with black tiger-stripe markings and long tails.

This elegant butterfly seems to effortlessly glide among the streamside willows, but when disturbed it can fly quite rapidly.

It's not usually seen nectaring at flowers, though you might see it alight on wet sand or mud along a stream bank to sip water, a behavior called "puddling." Its larval food plants include the arroyo willow, the California sycamore, and the cottonwood.



For more information, visit <http://nathistoc.bio.uci.edu/lepidopt/papilio/tiger.htm>