

Gillespie Creek Journal

The March 20, 2023 New Yorker, in the Annals of Science article "A Little-Known Planet" page 40-47 Kolbert's article will take you to David Wagner an entomologist searching to locate host plants in order to study the living caterpillar species hidden within their foliage. Wagner preaches: **"Caterpillars, the larvae of butterflies, matter!"** Wagner believes that each unique squishy and unassuming butterfly larvae has developed a special technique for surviving in our changing planet Earth. He is on a mission to photograph and catalogue every species before they become extinct.



Giant Swallowtail Butterfly Sun City, Arizona 3/20/23
Photo by J Appel



Giant Swallowtail Caterpillar
Photo by www.Keysmoths.com

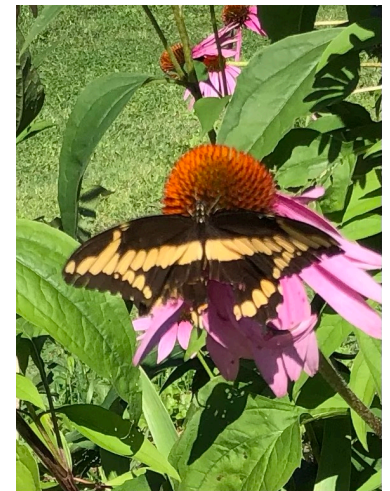
- * Most caterpillars have 12 eyes, 6 on each side although they don't see well.
- * They breathe through spiracles (tubes) within each body section
- * **Life Cycle of Giant Swallowtail:**
- * Egg 4-10 days
- * Caterpillar (larva) 3-4 weeks
- * Chrysalis 10-12 days
- * Adult butterfly 6-14 days

Check for Wagner's book, **Caterpillars of Eastern North America**. He is currently working on a Western version of the book and promises that it will be "a page turner"

This Gillespie Creek Newsletter features the life of the **Giant Swallowtail Butterfly** because currently they are laying eggs in Sun City, AZ citrus trees...apparently Elizabeth Kolbert, winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for writing **The Sixth ExExtinction** likes **Swallowtails** as well.

Giant Swallowtail Caterpillars look like bird droppings, in time they resemble a snake. Touching the caterpillar will leave your fingers with an ugly smell that's hard to wash off. It won't hurt you but it will not be good for the larvae !

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Giant Swallowtail Butterfly
Gillespie Creek 8/11/21
Photo by J Appel



Giant Swallowtail Chrysalis
Photo by www.Keysmoths.com