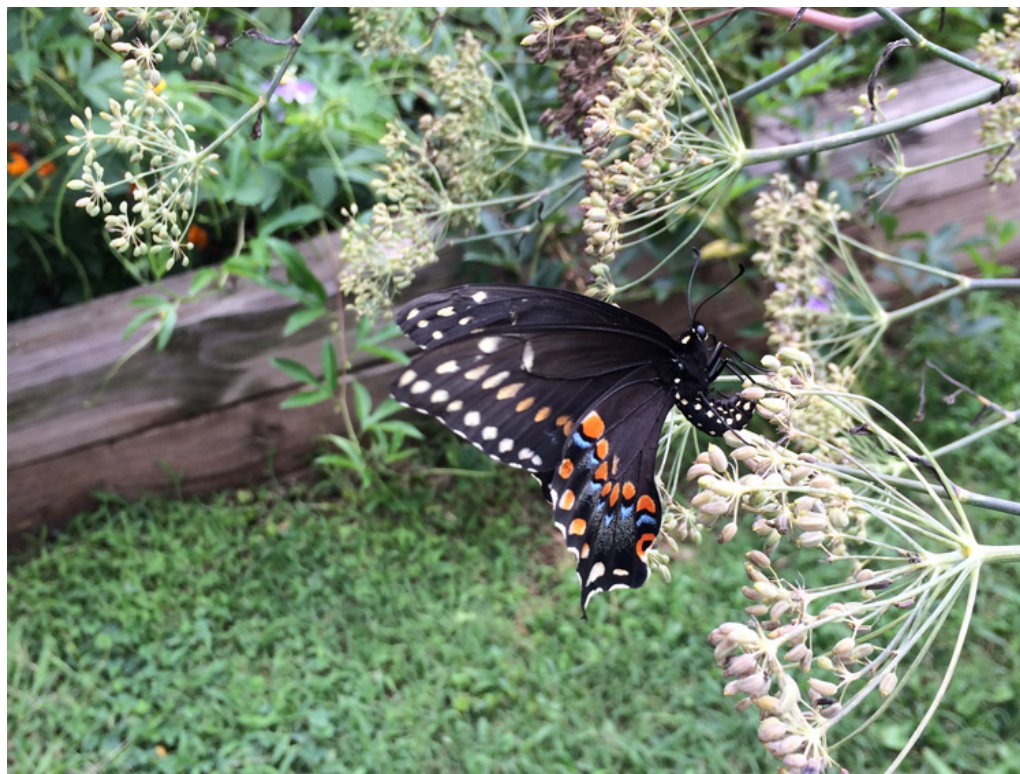




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Eastern Black Swallowtail



Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillars eat parsley and fennel.
This mother butterfly is laying eggs on a fennel plant.



Eastern Black Swallowtail



The eggs are round and yellow.



Eastern Black Swallowtail



Young Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillars are black with a white belt.



Eastern Black Swallowtail



Older caterpillars have bright stripes.



Eastern Black Swallowtail



They shed their skins to grow.



Eastern Black Swallowtail



They stick up orange horns to scare off predators. They also make a bad smell.



Eastern Black Swallowtail



When it's time to make a chrysalis, the caterpillar secures its feet with silk.
Then it spins a silk band and leans back on it.



Making a Chrysalis



It sheds its skin one last time, and hardens into a chrysalis.
Some caterpillars hibernate in the chrysalis all winter.



Emerging



When the butterfly is ready to emerge, the chrysalis splits open.



Emerging



At first, it has a fat body and crumpled wings.
It pumps fluid into its wings to fill them out



Drying the wings.



It takes about two hours for the wings to dry.



Eastern Black Swallowtail



Then the butterfly is ready to fly.