

# Viceroy

*Limenitis archippus*

-The Viceroy is famed for riding the orange and black coattails of the well-known Monarch. To the beginner, they are hard to tell apart. Birds are reluctant to attack and eat the Monarch because it tastes bad. Bitter chemicals remain in its body from its Milkweed-eating diet as a caterpillar. Birds quickly learn to associate that yucky taste with the distinctive color of the Monarch. By donning the same color scheme, the Viceroy boosts its chances of survival, even though it never eats a bite of Milkweed.

-To check your observation powers, look for the curving black line across each hind-wing of the Viceroy. This curving black line is missing in the Monarch. You may also notice a difference in flight style between Viceroys and Monarchs. As they move from one part of your yard to another, Monarchs are leisurely, while viceroys flap frantically, then sail briefly.



Wingspan:

2 ½ to 3 inches

Caterpillar hosts:

The female Viceroy will frequently lay her eggs on Willows and Aspens, but she may also choose fruit trees, such as Apples, Plums, and Cherries to house her progeny.

Adult food:

Early in the season when few flowers are available, Viceroys feed on aphid honeydew, carrion, dung, and decaying fungi. Later generations of that same year more often feed on New England Aster, Goldenrods, Joe Pye Weed, and Boneset