

Butterflies and Moths Play Several Important Ecological Roles:

- Adults pollinate many plants whose flowers attract them with sugar-rich nectar.
- Our food crops, flowers, and plants couldn't produce seeds without the pollen of nature's busy insects.
- Larvae browse certain parts of plants, including seeds and flowers, influencing the plants' shape.
- Many predators and parasitoids eat them, such as birds, bats, and dragonflies
- The butterfly plays an important role in ecosystems, acting as a pollinator, a food source and an indicator of the ecosystem's well-being.

Is it a Butterfly, a Skipper, or a Moth?

Butterflies:

- Antennae have oval clubs
- Wings held flat or together over body
- Body small for wing size
- Active during the day
- Flight relatively horizontal except for hairstreaks, whose flight is erratic and hard to follow

Skippers:

- Antennae have hooked clubs resembling a "golf club"
- Wings held flat, together over body, or at "jet" angles
- Body large for wing size
- Active during the day
- Flight skipping, or wavy, often hard to follow

Moths:

- Antennae smooth, "hair" like, or feathered, without clubs
- Wings held flat or angled down like a roof
- Body sometimes large for wing size
- Some fly during the day but most fly at night and hide during the day. If disturbed they fly erratically in a zig zag pattern and dive into another hiding place landing like a crashing airplane