

# EASTERN COMMMA BUTTERFLY

Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae

*Polygonia comma*

Bug  
of the  
Month



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**Have you ever seen a butterfly that looks like a dead, crunchy leaf, just before it flies away?**

Meet the Eastern comma! This hardy, woodland butterfly gets its name from a tiny white, comma-shaped mark on the underside of its wings.

When its wings are open, the Eastern Comma is bright and eye-catching, with bold, black spots on an orange background.

When wings are closed, they can be hard to spot, blending in with tree bark or fallen leaves.

The Eastern Comma maintains a surprising diet and unusual habits. Unlike many butterflies that rely on flowers, adult Eastern Commas prefer less showy food sources. They commonly feed on tree sap, rotting fruit and even animal droppings. These foods provide essential sugars and minerals

that nectar alone may not supply, especially early in the spring when flowers are scarce.

Eastern Commas are among the first butterflies you'll see in spring. They spend winter as adults, hiding under bark or in leaf litter, where they wait to reappear as temperatures warm.

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