

Bronze Copper
Lycaena hyllus



Appearance: Striking gray-white hindwing and orange forewing below, with a thick orange marginal band on hindwing and small black spots on both forewing and hindwing. Above, female is brown and orange and male is purplish-orange, but both display the prominent orange band on their hindwings. Wingspan 1 1/4 – 1 3/8".

Similar Butterflies: [Purplish Copper](#) has narrow orange marginal band on hindwing and is orange-brown on the underside of hindwing.

Habitat: Wet meadows and agricultural areas, often near streams, swamps and rivers; plains and foothills.

These dazzling coppers, common in swampy areas of northeastern North America, range into eastern Colorado, where they breed in wet floodplains at the base of the foothills. They often fly in late summer.

Host Plants: Docks and knotweeds.

Life Cycle: Males perch prominently on milkweed leaves and other low growth near host plants to wait for females. After mating, females lay eggs singly on host plants, where the eggs overwinter until spring. Caterpillar is yellow-green with prominent black stripes and yellow dots.