

Two butterflies of the Nymphalidae family

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Mylitta Crescent

The Mylitta Crescent butterfly (*Phyciodes mylitta*) belongs to the Nymphalidae family.

Its wingspread can be up to one and a half inches. The upper side of its wings ranges in color from bright orange to yellow and features thin black markings and spots. The underside is a blurry rusty-orange with yellow and orange markings.

It lays its eggs on the undersides of host-plant thistles: native *Cirsium*, milk (*Silybum marianum*), or European. Through naturalization of other thistle species and their relatives, the mylitta has become widespread. Larvae feed on host plants living inside a web nest. Later, half-grown larvae will overwinter or hibernate on host plants.

Adults nectar on host-plant flowers of thistle, asters, rabbitbrush, pearly everlasting, and many others. Two or more broods occur from March to mid-October, and they can be seen throughout spring, summer, and fall from sea level to elevations up to 8,000 feet. Some habitats are fields, roadsides, parks, and meadows.

The range of the Mylitta Crescent is from southern British Columbia south through California, Mexico, and the Rocky Mountains. It is a common butterfly throughout its range.

Mylitta Crescent is easily recognizable after you get to know it in the field. Sometimes just when you think you aren't going to see many butterflies, a mylitta will show up and warm your day!

Western Meadow Fritillary

The Western Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria epithore*), also known as the Pacific Fritillary, is another member of the Nymphalidae family. This butterfly can have a wingspread of up to one and three-quarter inches. Mostly bright orange, this butterfly has black lines, triangle-tipped arrowhead markings, and black spots on the upper side of its wings. The underside has beautiful purple-brown markings

and a row of dark circles on the hindwing.

Males patrol frequently, flying low in their search for females. Single eggs are laid on species of violets, mostly redwood and evergreen (*viola sempervirens*), western dog and hookedspur (*viola adunca*), and stream and pioneer (*viola glabella*). Larvae will eat the edges of leaves and sometimes the flowers. They diapause (hibernate) in the third or fourth instar. ("Instar" is a term used for a stage in the development of a caterpillar.) Feeding in spring, the larvae turn to chrysalis, producing a single flight in early summer to early fall.

Adults will nectar on pearly everlasting, thistles, blackberry, strawberry, cinquefoil, and other plants. Habitats for the Western Meadow Fritillary are wet meadows, streamsides, and healthy green open places from valleys to mid- and higher-elevation mountains.

Their range in the Pacific Northwest is from western Alberta, British Columbia, and from the coast throughout the western United States.

The Western Meadow Fritillary flies slow and low, stopping on flowers to nectar, but can still remain somewhat



Western Meadow Fritillary on American bistort



Western Meadow Fritillary on blue-headed gilia

elusive. Sometimes it will get busy enough on flowers to allow for a closer encounter for you to enjoy its light beauty and, if lucky, catch a photo. This butterfly is one of my favorites when visiting mid-elevation meadows, which it frequents throughout the warm days of early to late summer.

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Butterfly photos by Linda Kappen.



Mating Mylitta Crescent on Oregon sunshine

■ APPLGATE INNS

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Magnolia Inn



The Magnolia Inn is located near the shops, restaurants, and attractions of Jacksonville. The unique vintage style of each room reflects the warm hospitality of innkeepers Robert and Susan Roos, who have loved the inn since their first stay there, on vacation. In 2007 they left their corporate jobs in the hospitality industry in Orange County, California, to become its owners. With a southern, old-fashioned appeal, the Magnolia Inn even has a pet-friendly room downstairs. Susan says the upscale continental breakfast is amazing, with pastries from local bakeries. The chocolate mint cookies deserve a paragraph of their own.

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TouVelle House

TouVelle House bed-and-breakfast is an authentic 1916 craftsman house with six guest rooms. In 2013, after years in law enforcement in Los Angeles, Jamie Kerr, a Medford native, convinced her husband, Sean, that they should follow their dream of owning a bed-and-breakfast. They bought the TouVelle House, and Jamie went to culinary



school. The gardens of the B&B allow Jamie a farm-to-table approach with the breakfasts she makes daily for guests. Jamie takes great pride in keeping TouVelle House up to her particularly high standards, while Sean, who takes care of the gardens, grounds, swimming pool, and bees, covers everything else, from entertaining guests in the morning to doing maintenance. Each room has feather beds and fancy sheets and a glass water bottle to fill from the water coolers on each floor.

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Wine Country Inn, McCully House, Wine Cottages



Wine Country Inn is one of three properties offered by hotel group Country House Inn in Jacksonville.

Inns around the Applegate Contact information

- **Applegate River Lodge**, 15100 Highway 238, Applegate; 541-846-6690; applegateriverlodge.com. Rates: \$130 - 165.
- **Bybee's Historic Inn**, 883 Old Stage Road, Jacksonville; 541-899-0106; bybeehistoricinn.com. Rates: \$145 - 199.
- **Elan Guest Suites**, 245 West Main Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-8000; elanguestsuites.com. Rates: \$190 - 260.
- **Horsefeather Farms Ranchette**, 13291 Highway 238, Applegate; 541-941-0000; horsefeather-farms-ranchette.com. Rates: \$100 - 235.
- **Jacksonville Inn**, 175 East California Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-1900; jacksonvilleinn.com. Rates: \$159 - 465.
- **Magnolia Inn**, 245 North 5th Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-0255; magnolia-inn.com. Rates: \$124 - 179.
- **McCully House** (240 E. California Street, Jacksonville) and **Wine Cottages** (220 E. C Street, Jacksonville); 541-899-3953; countryhouseinnsjacksonville.com. Rates: \$209 - 299.
- **TouVelle House**, 455 North Oregon Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-8938; touvelhouse.com. Rates: \$135 - 199.
- **Wine Country Inn**, 830 North 5th Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-3953; countryhouseinnsjacksonville.com. Rates: \$139 - 209.



Wine Country Inn, the most economical of the three, has 27 comfortable and tidy rooms, two with Jacuzzi tubs. Wine Country Inn is pet friendly and treats its guests to a Continental breakfast. It also provides check-in and other services for

guests of Country House Inn's two more luxurious properties: McCully House and the Wine Cottages. McCully House, on California Street, offers five deluxe rooms and two luxury suites. The Wine Cottages are on C Street and feature private entrances, outdoor sitting areas, king-sized pillow-top beds, flat-screen televisions, and other amenities. Guests of McCully House and Wine Cottages are given vouchers for breakfast at six of Jacksonville's eateries.

No matter which accommodations you choose (try them all), you are bound to have an exciting new experience as a "local tourist."

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