

Glasswing

Greta oto



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

Glasswing

Greta oto

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: The genus *Greta* is Greek for ‘pearl’, while *oto* is Greek for ear.

Wingspan: 2.2 – 2.4 inches (56 – 61 mm)

Habitat: Glasswing butterflies are found in various habitats throughout Central America, usually near a host plant.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to feed on plants in the genus *Cestrum*.

Adult Food Source: Adults are known to feed on a variety of nectar plants, but especially Aster flowers, from which males gather chemicals needed for pheromone production..

Life History: Male Glasswings take part in a behavior called lekking where the males gather together and defend small territories. The females choose a male based on his defended territory. After mating, females lay eggs on the host plant. When they hatch, the larvae feed on the host plant until they form pupae.

Flights: There are multiple flights throughout the year ranging from Mexico to Panama. Adults can be found year round.

Fun Facts: The poisonous compounds in Aster flowers allow males to produce a potent pheromone. Grouping together allows mass release of this pheromone, which makes it very easy for females to locate the lekking grounds of males.

Range:

