

Hey, families! Can you find these bugs? None stings or will hurt you. Enjoy them, and don't worry if birds eat them. Birds need to eat too! If we leave plenty of plants around and don't spray chemicals, new bugs will hatch. See if you can find three in a row, like a bug tic-tac-toe!



Green lacewing



Eastern tiger swallowtail



Flower longhorn beetle



Crane fly



Spittlebug



Acorn weevil



Walking stick



Katydid



Eastern "eyed" click beetle

Look on the next page for cool info about each of these bugs!!!

### **Green Lacewing**

Like butterflies, green lacewings start life inside cocoons. Gardeners love the babies because they eat the aphid bugs munching on the gardener's precious plants. But gardeners aren't the only ones that love lacewings: birds, bats, spiders, ants, and dragonflies eat them. We all eat: sunlight and soil minerals get eaten by leaves; leaves get eaten by aphid bugs (and humans); aphid bugs get eaten by lacewings; and lacewings get eaten by birds and other predators. We're all in the food chain!

### **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail**

Is there a tiger in your backyard or local park? Look for adult swallowtails on flowers, where they drink tiny drops of sweet liquid, called nectar. They also visit puddles for salt and other minerals in the water that they need. The male attracts females by charming them with his own special perfume!

### **Flower Longhorn Beetle**

Yes, even beetles can be pollinators! Flower Longhorn beetles are slender with long, elegant antenna. They eat pollen and nectar on flowers, where they mostly crawl around covering their bodies in pollen. Look for them on a wide variety of flowers, including Hydrangeas and Viburnums.

### **Crane Fly**

People think they're giant mosquitoes, but actually crane flies only bite rotting leaves, fungi, algae and moss. Find them on your doors and windows and at your porch lights at night. There are about 300 different kinds of crane flies in PA. Robins and starlings eat the little ones.

### **Spittlebug**

This bug's babies make a foamy mixture that sticks to plants in the late summer. They can make up to 80 bubbles in one minute! This "spit" (which isn't really spit) protects the tiny babies until they're old enough to come out. Meadowlarks especially like to eat them.

### **Acorn Weevil**

This bug's female uses her long snout to lay eggs inside an acorn. Acorns contain the seeds of oak trees, so look for these bugs around oaks. She looks like a little elephant, doesn't she? Blue jays and wild turkeys eat acorns; sometimes they end up eating the weevils too, which gives them extra protein.

### **Northern Walking Stick**

These bugs hide right in front of you by looking like sticks. The males are brown; the larger females are greenish-brown. They eat leaves, but they don't like tough leaf veins, so when they're done you'll see just the outline of the leaf with nothing inside it—a leaf skeleton! Crows and robins eat walking sticks.

### **Katydid**

Katydids are named for the "ka-ty-did" sound of their call, which they make over and over in the summer by rubbing their wings together really fast. When you find one, you might think you're looking at a leaf—until it moves! Tufted titmice and many other birds eat katydids.

### **Eastern "Eyed" Click Beetle**

What looks like eyes on this beetle is actually a trick to scare off whoever wants to eat it. Its real eyes are much smaller. If it gets stuck on its back, it'll flip over with a loud click sound. If an insect-eating bird isn't fooled into being scared, the bird will eat this beetle as a tasty treat. If you don't find this particular species of click beetle, watch and listen for its relatives; there are many types of click beetles.

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