



**Spicebush Swallowtails extracting important minerals  
from damp sand**

### **Coastal Carolina Wildlife Here's Mud in your Eye**

The next two months are the best time for observing most butterflies in the Lower Cape Fear. Nectar-bearing flowers and plants are at their peak bloom.

Butterflies may also be found in mud, on animal dung, and on rotten fruit. Other good observation strategies are to stakeout larval food plants and fields on top of hills.

Mud puddles are great for finding butterflies because the mud around the edge has needed nutrients not found in nectar. These Spicebush Swallowtails were probing wet sand.

Dung? Unfortunately, my first memory of the fall Monarch migration, in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, is seeing them totally covering a pile of "road apples".

John Ennis