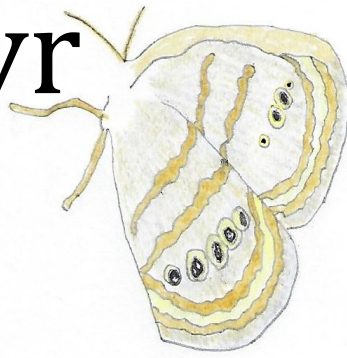


The Lonely Satyr

For Butterfly Enthusiasts
of Indiana, Michigan, Ohio



August 1, 2025

Update on Monarch Status

The August newsletter has traditionally highlighted the Monarch. In keeping with this tradition, I have paraphrased current information about Monarch populations and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposed status change.

The original article “Eastern monarch population count announced” by Karen Oberhauser and The Journey North Team can be found on The Journey North website at:

<https://journeynorth.org/monarchs/news/spring-2025/03525-eastern-monarch-population-count-announced>

For clarity in reading, 1 hectare = 2.47 acres

“On March 6, the World Wildlife Fund - Telmex Telcel Foundation Alliance (WWF) and the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas in Mexico (CONANP) released data from the winter 2024-25 monarch butterfly population counts. In December 2024, monarchs occupied 1.79 hectares, compared to 0.9 hectares at the same time in 2023. This represents a 99% increase.” An increase in the population, is, of course, good news, but 1.79 hectares is bittersweet when compared to 2.81 hectares, the historic average for the past decade. Furthermore, the average for the past decade is even below average when compared to earlier data from the 1990’s.

The overall decline has prompted the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to propose to list the Monarch as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, this proposal contains another proposal to designate the overwintering areas of Coastal California as critical habitat for the western Monarchs.

The September 2020 Species Status Assessment published a grim future, predicting the probability of extinction (if nothing is done) for the western Monarchs as 99% by 2080. Our eastern Monarchs fared slightly better with only a 56-74% extinction probability by 2080. I would be 100 years old, but my sons and grandchildren would live in a world without Monarchs, and very likely many other species as well. If you believe we are to be thinking for seven generations ahead, then we haven’t a second to spare.



Above: Monarch egg
Photo credit: Andy Barry
Eagle Marsh, Fort Wayne, IN
7/24/2025

To read the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Monarch Butterfly Species Status Assessment Report, visit:

<https://www.fws.gov/media/monarch-butterfly-species-status-assessment-ssa-report>

Status cont'd.

So, what can we do to help the Monarchs? The answer is pretty simple - plant milkweed. We have all heard of the “debt ceiling” and probably the “glass ceiling,” but Oberhauser asks us to help raise “the population ceiling.” This is the best way to help Monarchs.

To explain, the population of Monarchs is limited to the amount of quality habitat available. Increasing milkweed in “our yards, places of work, schools, churches; along roadsides, utility rights-of-way, railroads;” fallow fields, and more will create more habitat. More milkweed means hopefully more eggs, more caterpillars, and more adults.

We can also support organizations dedicated to protecting their crucial overwintering sites. Additionally, we can educate our local government offices and neighbors about best mowing practices as well as pesticide and herbicide use.

The Monarch population is estimated to be still in the millions. Now is the time to act before the numbers become too low. Species that are dependent on a specific food and/or habitat are most vulnerable. Let us learn from the Mitchell's Satyr. And conveniently, what is good for the Monarch is also good for us humans.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is currently running the 9th annual International Monarch Monitoring Blitz **now through August 3.**

All you have to do is choose a participating citizen science program and share your Monarch observations.

Choose from:

iNaturalist

Journey North

Monarch Larva Monitoring Program

You can report all life cycle stages like adult Monarchs, eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises.

This Blitz is the only coordinated Monarch monitoring effort in North America!

To learn more, just do a quick Google search for “monarch monitoring blitz.”

To read the entire proposal (all 55 pages) to list the Monarch as threatened, visit:

<https://www.fws.gov/species/monarch-danaus-plexippus>

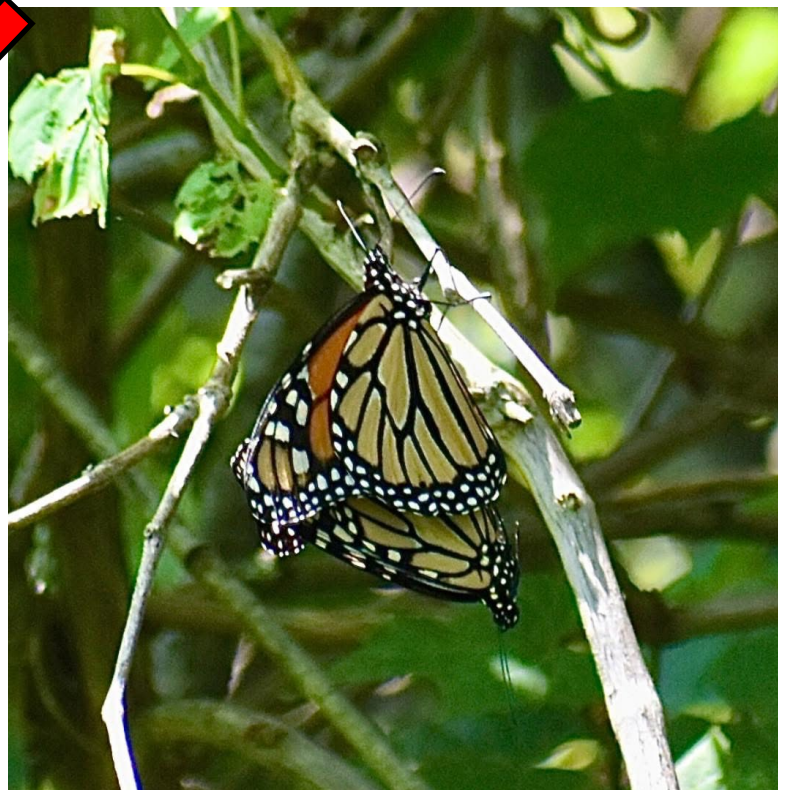


Above: Monarch caterpillar

Credit: John Michael Durback

Kitty Todd Nature Preserve, Lucas Co., OH

7/19/2025



Right: Monarchs mating

Credit: Dawn Pietrykowski

Chain O' Lakes State Park, Albion, IN

7/8/2025

Butterfly Sightings

Right: Monarchs

Photo credit: John Brittenham

LaGrange Co., IN

7/31/2025

John also reported:

Camp Friedenswald, MI - 7/23/2025

Giant Swallowtail

Spicebush Swallowtail

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Monarch

Viceroy

Pearl Crescent

Great Spangled Fritillary

Nasby Fen, Pigeon River FWA, IN - 7/18/2025

Tawny Emperor



Right: Silver-spotted Skipper

Photo credit: Emily Wolfe

Mt. Pisgah, LaGrange Co., IN

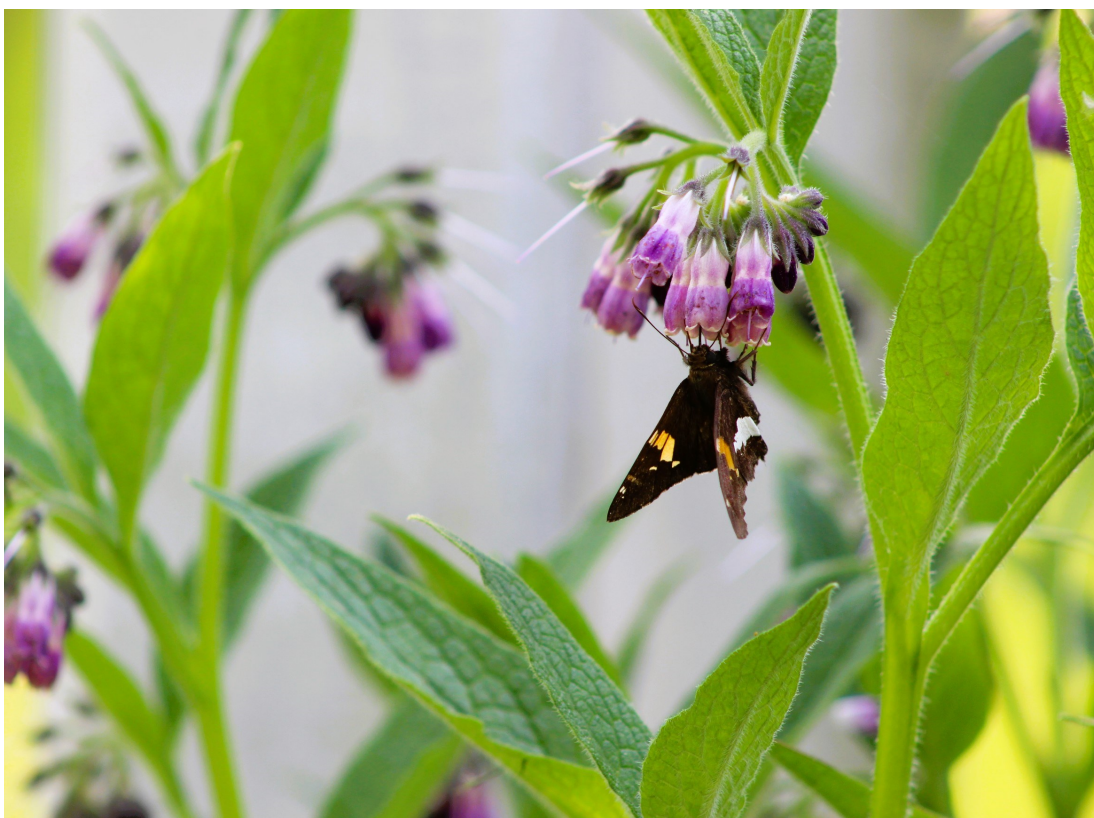
7/29/2025

Emily also reported:

Orange Sulphur

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Monarch



Butterfly Sightings

Right: Viceroy
Credit: Andy Barry
Eagle Marsh, Fort Wayne, IN
7/24/2025



Right: Cabbage White (female)
Credit: Mary Durand
LaGrange Co., IN
7/12/2025

Mary also reported:

Red-spotted Purple 7/11/25
Pearl Crescent 7/11/2025
Viceroy 7/13/2025
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 7/14/2025
Monarch caterpillar 7/16/2025
Tawny Emperor 7/23/2025



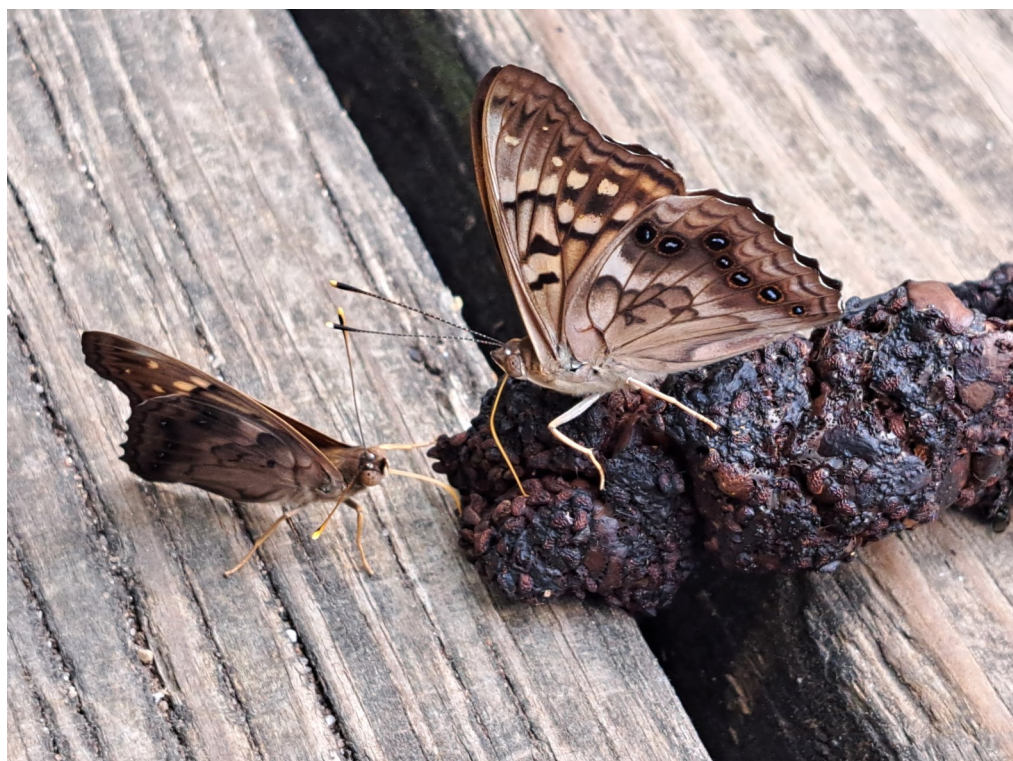
Butterfly Sightings

Right: Summer Azure
Credit: Carole Mitchell
Goshen, IN
7/24/2025

Carole also reported:
Cabbage White
Monarchs
Viceroy
Pearl Crescent
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Banded Hairstreak (we think!)
Tawny-edged Skipper (we think!)



Right: Tawny Emperors
Credit: John Michael Durback
Chain O' Lakes State Park, Albion, IN
7/6/2025



Butterfly Sightings

July 8 Chain O' Lakes NABA Count Results:

Observers: Leslie Arnold, John Michael Durback, Dawn Pietrykowski

*New Species for count

Red-spotted Purple
Tawny Emperor
Red Admiral
Great Spangled Fritillary
Summer Azure
Eastern Comma
Wild Indigo Duskywing
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Cabbage White
Pearl Crescent
Spicebush Swallowtail
Monarch
Delaware Skipper
Northern Broken-Dash Skipper
Broad-winged Skipper*
Eastern Tailed-Blue
Mulberry Wing Skipper*
Least Skipper
Harvester*
Hackberry Emperor
Question Mark
Black Swallowtail
Silver-spotted Skipper

Please inquire with Leslie Arnold if you'd like counts of each species.

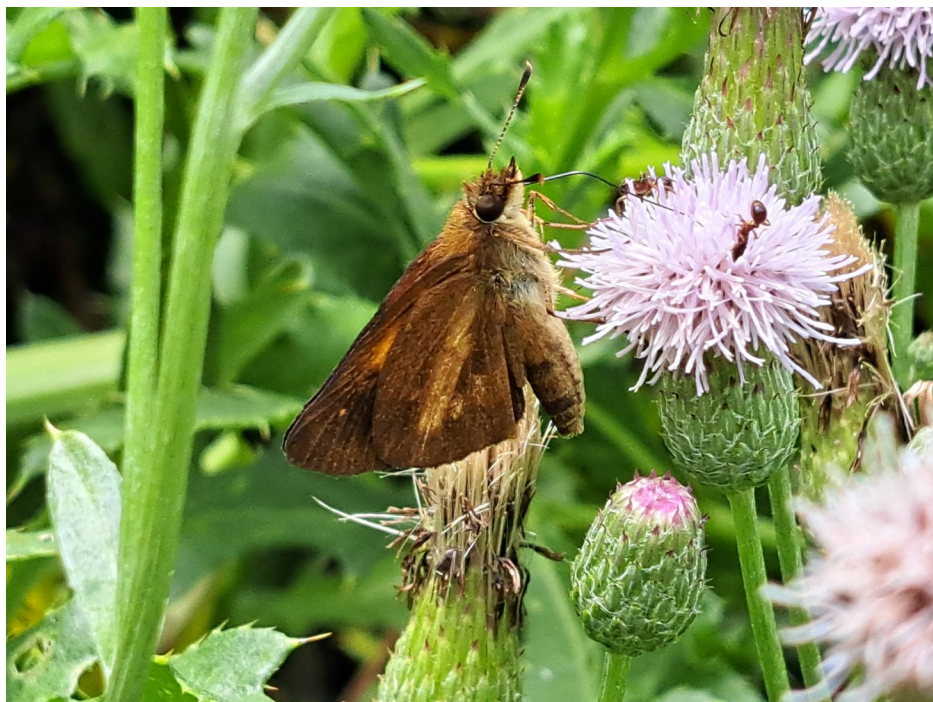


Above: Harvester

Credit: Dawn Pietrykowski

Chain O' Lakes State Park, Albion, IN

7/8/2025



Right: Broad-winged Skipper

Credit: John Michael Durback

Chain O' Lakes State Park, Albion, IN

7/11/2025

Community Calendar

Contact the event host prior to traveling to make sure it's not cancelled.

Saturday, August 2

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Monarch Parenting 101

Chain O' Lakes State Park, Stanley Schoolhouse, Albion, IN

The Naturalist will teach you the basics on collecting, raising, and releasing Monarchs. Air-conditioned schoolhouse. Park entry fees may apply. Call 260-636-2654 for more info.

Saturday, August 9

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Monarch Migration

Chain O' Lakes State Park, Stanley Schoolhouse, Albion, IN

Learn about the Monarch's incredible migration, and if available, participate in live tagging and release. Park entry fees may apply. Call 260-636-2654 for more info.

Saturday, August 23

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Guided Butterfly Walk

Emma Pitcher Prairie, KNC Camp

Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 N Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI

Join staff from the Michigan Butterfly Network to walk around the prairie and look for butterflies. Learn about different species. [Fees and registration required](https://naturecenter.org/michiganbutterfly/) at <https://naturecenter.org/michiganbutterfly/>

Thursday, August 28

9:00 - 10:30 pm

Creatures of the Night: Moth Rave

Ox Bow County Park, Black Maple Shelter

23033 CR 45, Goshen, IN

Join Professor of Entomology, Andy Ammons, to look for and learn about moths. Program is fully outdoors and will be canceled in adverse weather. Wear evening clothes and bring a flashlight. Park entry fee is \$3 per vehicle. Call 574-535-6458 for more info.

(No endorsement or discrimination of specific events or vendors on this community calendar is intended or implied.)

Additional Butterfly Sightings

Kathy Brittenham

LaGrange Co., IN - 7/26/2025

2 Eastern Tiger Swallowtails

Dallas Lake Park, LaGrange, IN - 7/19/2025

3 Monarchs

Leslie Arnold

LaGrange Co., IN - 7/30/2025

Zabulon Skipper (male)

2 Least Skippers

2 Cabbage Whites

Spicebush Swallowtail

2 Peck's Skippers



If you'd like your event information to be in September's newsletter, please turn it in by Aug. 22. Local sightings are my favorite part of the newsletter, so please report what you're seeing. Don't be shy! Photos are great!

To subscribe and submit, contact:

Leslie A. Arnold, Volunteer Naturalist

leslie@forestteacher.org

260-854-2225

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