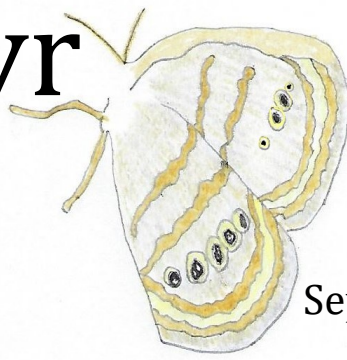


The Lonely Satyr

For Butterfly Enthusiasts
of Indiana, Michigan, Ohio



September 1, 2025

Karner Blue Comeback

Recently, wildlife experts in Michigan have reported the federally endangered Karner Blue butterfly is making a comeback. In this newsletter, I am paraphrasing some of the key points of an MLive.com news article about the comeback. I am also providing a reference to the original article at the end so you can enjoy the fantastic pictures. Congratulations to Ashley Cole-Wick, with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and the other officials working hard to protect and restore their habitat.

Scientists found several Karner Blue butterflies this summer (July) in a “habitat restoration plot near the Muskegon River.”

The Karner Blue is an “indicator species,” meaning “they are sensitive to environmental changes” and can be a sign of ecosystem health.

Restoration efforts of their oak-pine habitat are working! This benefits the Karner Blue and other species who need the habitat as well.

The Karner Blue was protected under the Endangered Species Act due to habitat loss related to a lack of fire. The oak-pine savannas “need repeated fires to naturally regenerate.” Without fires, trees eventually take over the open savannas and shade out the Karner Blue’s host plant, Sundial Lupine.

The Karner Blue has a “delicate” relationship with Sundial Lupine, needing the plant to grow in both sun and shade for the generations of caterpillars to have food when they need it. The dependence on just one type of lupine plant adds significantly to the vulnerability of the butterfly. They can only live where the lupine lives.

Land managers at Muskegon State Game Area have been using prescribed fires and timber cutting as well as other practices to help the lupines grow in both sun and shade.

Last year, researches found only one Karner Blue within the restoration plot at the Muskegon State Game Area. But this year, they found three! Go baby go! (1)

Ethan Foreman, with WPBN/WGTU, Up North Live, reported the total Michigan Karner Blue population is now estimated to be around 10,000. This is a wonderful increase from the estimated 100 butterflies in 2018. Restoration works! (2)



Above: Karner Blues

Photo credits: Ashley Cole-Wick (top) &
Mary Rabe (bottom)

Michigan Natural Features Inventory website

Comeback cont'd.

The Karner Blue can still be found in pockets in Minnesota, Ohio, New Hampshire, and the Hudson River area of New York. It became extirpated from Indiana Dunes National Park in 2012.

There are additional challenges to the recovery of the Karner Blue population. This includes the use of neonicotinoid insecticides in farming and nurseries. Warming temperatures are causing a third hatch of caterpillars, but there is no lupine available to eat.

There are also non-native lupines used in gardening that can harm the Karner Blue by tricking them into laying their eggs. The receptors in their feet trigger them to lay eggs when they touch any lupine. Therefore, it is essential the odds of them touching Sundial Lupine are the highest. (1)

How can we help?

Talk to everyone you can about ending the use of neonicotinoid insecticides. If you live within the range of the Karner Blue, make sure your landscaping is safe and friendly towards their host and nectar needs.

References:

1. McWhirter, Sheri. "This tiny, rare, blue butterfly is making a comeback in Michigan." August. 12, 2025. MLive.com.

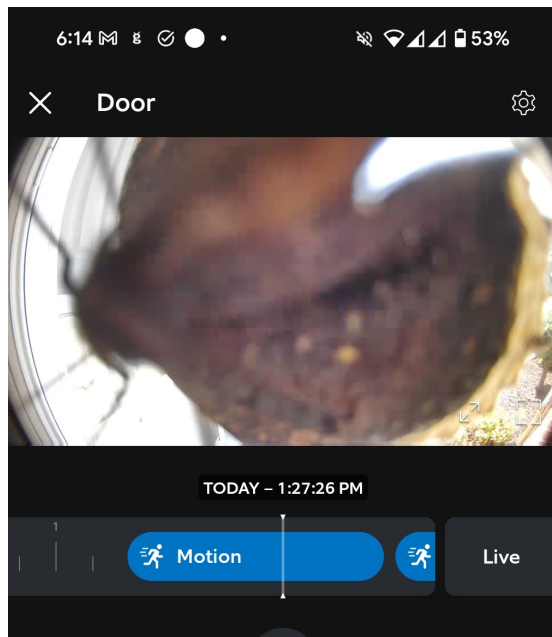
<https://www.mlive.com/environment/2025/08/this-tiny-rare-blue-butterfly-is-making-a-comeback-in-michigan.html>

2. Foreman, Ethan. "Engangered Karner blue butterfly makes a comeback in Michigan." August 18, 2025. UpNorthLive.com.

<https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/endangered-karner-blue-butterfly-makes-a-comeback-in-michigan>

(You can watch the original news story video or read a transcript at this web address.)

Butterfly Sightings



Above: Mourning Cloak

Photo credit: Lea-Ann McGregor & Ring doorbell
Kendallville, IN
8/18/2025



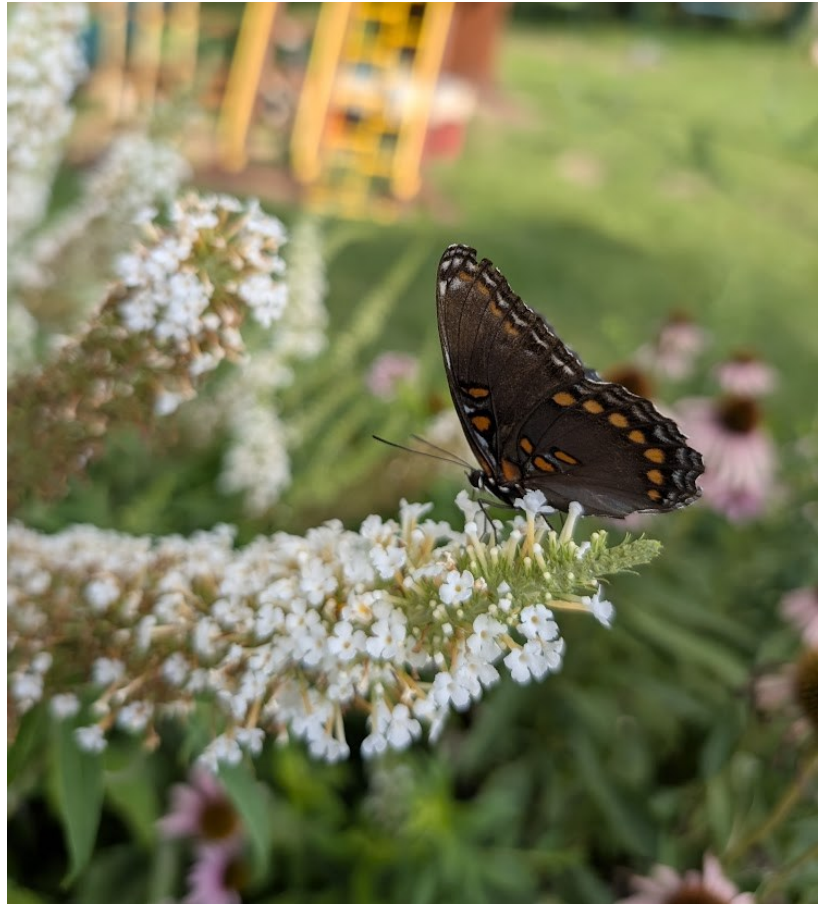
Above: Viceroy

Photo credit: Mary Durand
LaGrange Co., IN
8/30/2025

Butterfly Sightings

Right: Red-spotted Purple
Photo credit: Lisa Conrad
Auburn, IN
8/13/2025

Lisa also reported for August:
Viceroy
Hackberry Emperor
Red Admiral



Right: Wild Indigo Duskywing
Photo credit: Russ Voorhees
Eagle Marsh, Fort Wayne, IN
8/23/2025

Russ also reported for August:
Delaware Skipper



Butterfly Sightings

Right: Black Swallowtail
Credit: Mary Durand
LaGrange Co., IN
8/31/2025



Right: Gray Hairstreak
Credit: Carole Mitchell
Goshen, IN
8/30/2025

Carole had two Gray Hairstreaks side by side in another photo she sent.



Butterfly Sightings

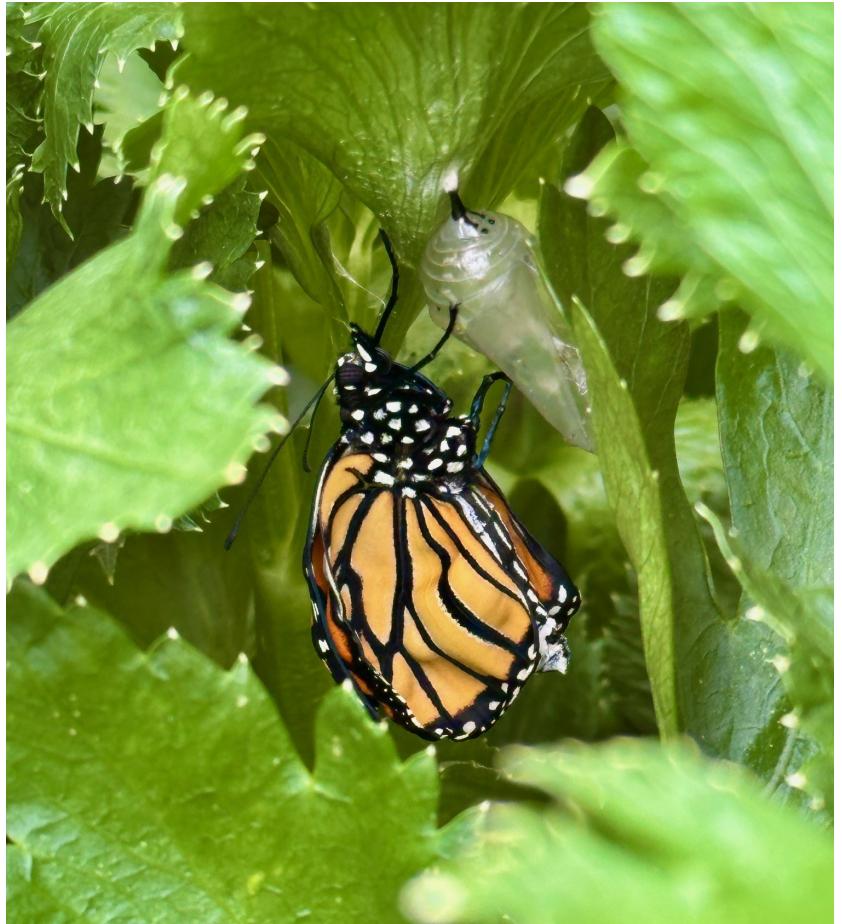
Right: Monarch and chrysalis

Credit: Andy Barry

NE Fort Wayne, IN

August 2025

Andy reported (and photographed)
Monarchs in various metamorphosis
stages this month.



Right: Clouded Sulphur

Credit: Janet McGowan

South Bend, IN

August 2025

Jan commented on the little White
House and snowman on the wings.
My son, who just got his black belt,
sees a little ninja doing a kick.



Community Calendar

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

Sunday, September 7

2:00 pm

Native Wildflower Planting Day

Austin Park, 950 E 750 S, South Milford, IN, 46786

Blue Heron Ministries is looking for volunteers to help plant over 1,000 native wildflowers at the park. Bring your own gloves, boots, and proper clothing for any weather. Email John Brittenham, with questions and to sign up, at johnbrittenham@gmail.com

Saturday, September 13

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Monarch Festival

Eagle Marsh Nature Preserve Barn, 6801 Engle Road, Fort Wayne, IN

Live Monarch displays, butterfly tagging, educational presentations and activities, plant giveaway, and more. Fees: Adults \$3, Children and LRWP Members are free. Call 260-478-2515 for more info.

Saturday, September 13

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/>

Monday, September 22

10:00am

Indiana Pollinator License Plate Review

Senate Chamber, 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

The application for the pollinator license plate will be reviewed at the Roads and Transportation Committee meeting. The public is invited to attend and support the plate and its sponsor, Pollinator Partnership.

Saturday, September 27

12:00 - 4:00 pm

Native Seed Collection

Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes, 2955 W. Orland Rd., Angola, IN

Volunteers needed. Join Blue Heron Ministries to collect seeds for future projects. Volunteers will meet at the Chapel, then travel to different locations. Call 260-316-2498 to ask questions and sign up.

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

Additional Butterfly Sightings

Leslie Arnold

August in LaGrange Co., IN

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Red Admiral

Giant Swallowtail

2 Eastern Tailed-Blues

2 Pearl Crescents

8 Monarch caterpillars

August at Lake City Bank, Kendallville, IN

Silver-spotted Skipper

5 Tawny Emperors

Cabbage White

Monarch



If you'd like your event information to be in October's newsletter, please turn it in by Sept. 21. 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:

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