

COMMON BACKYARD Butterflies

There are roughly 146 species of butterflies regularly occurring in Minnesota. These are some of the most regular visitors to backyard gardens and parks in the Twin Cities and beyond.



CABBAGE WHITE



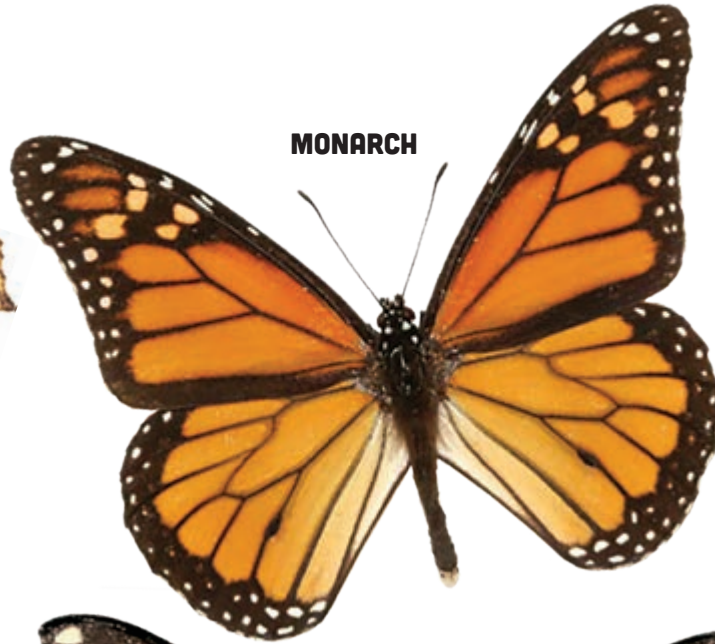
EASTERN TAILED-BLUE



SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER



MOURNING CLOAK



MONARCH



EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL



BLACK SWALLOWTAIL



PEARL CRESCENT



ORANGE SULPHUR



RED ADMIRAL

Minnesota ^{THREATENED AND ENDANGERED} Butterflies

MN ENDANGERED:



Persius duskywing
Erynnis persius persius

Ottoe skipper
Hesperia ottoe



Dakota skipper*
Hesperia dacotae

Assiniboia skipper
Hesperia assiniboia



Uncas skipper
Hesperia uncas

*Karner blue
Lycaeides samuelis



Poweshiek skipperling*
Oarisma poweshiek

Uhler's arctic
Oeneis uhleri varuna



MN THREATENED:



Garita skipperling
Oarisma garita

MN SPECIAL CONCERN:



Arogos skipper
Atrytone arogos iowa

Disa alpine
Erebia mancinus



Leonard's skipper
Hesperia leonardus

Nabokov's blue
Lycaeides idas nabokovi



Grizzled skipper
Pyrgus centaureae freija

Regal fritillary
Speyeria idalia



* U.S. Threatened/Endangered

Photo credit: Andrew Warren, butterfliesofamerica.org

MINNESOTA ZOO SAVING PRAIRIE BUTTERFLIES



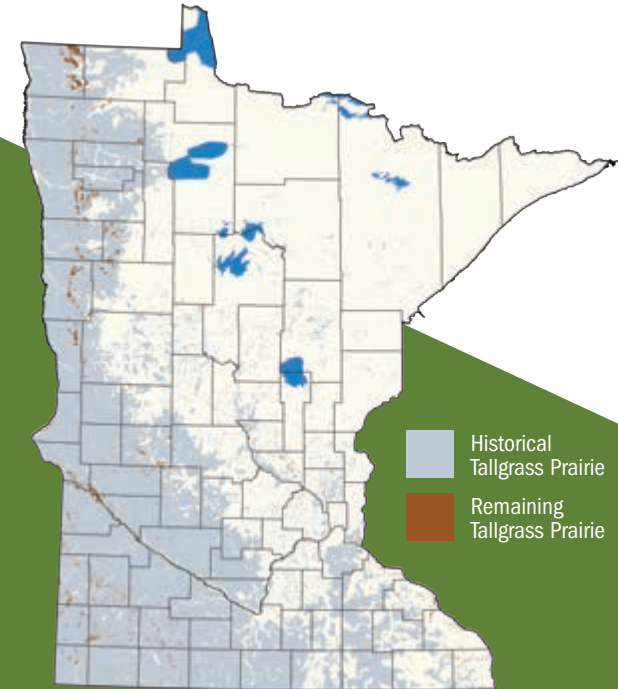
MINNESOTA ZOO®

Minnesota's LOST PRAIRIE

Prairie butterflies and other pollinators are struggling. Minnesota Zoo scientists are working with many partners to save Minnesota's endangered prairie butterflies. We are breeding butterflies at the Zoo and studying reasons for their decline in the wild.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES AND PROTECT POLLINATORS IN YOUR GARDEN?

- Plant wildflowers native to your region. Check out a big list of Minnesota-native pollinator favorites at mnzoo.org/plantforpollinators
- Choose your plants so that there are different flowers blooming from spring to fall.
- Avoid pesticides and avoid purchasing plants that have been treated with pesticides. Ask your garden store for pesticide-free plants.
- Choose plants of different heights.
- Choose plants that provide food for butterfly caterpillars. For example, monarch caterpillars can only eat milkweed.
- Get out and look for butterflies and your other insect neighbors!



The tallgrass prairie once covered about 33 percent of Minnesota and it shaped our history. Today only one percent of it remains. Many animals and plants that need prairie have declined or vanished. Habitat loss is the major cause, but some species declined rapidly for other unknown reasons in recent years. Butterflies are “canary in the coalmine” indicators of prairie health because of their sensitivity to changes in their habitats.



MALE FEMALE

DAKOTA SKIPPER

Hesperia dacotae
 Habitat: Tallgrass and Mixed prairie
 Status: U.S. Threatened, MN Endangered
 Host plant: Native grasses

The Dakota skipper is an adorable prairie specialist butterfly. Males are orange-yellow and females are latte colored. This species has vanished from more than 75 percent of its former range. The Minnesota Zoo is breeding this species to create “insurance populations” to prevent their extinction. The Zoo has also begun reintroducing Dakota skippers to prairies they have disappeared from.

Learn more about the Minnesota Zoo's work to save butterflies at mnzoo.org/savebutterflies



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GET TO KNOW YOUR
Butterfly
 Neighbors