Important Illinois Pollinators

Species in Greatest Conservation Need

Rusty-patched Bumble Bee

Bombus affinis

Southern Plains Bumble Bee

Bombus fraternus

Half-black Bumble Bee

Bombus vagans

American Bumble Bee

Bombus pensylvanicus

Regal Fritillary

Speyeria idalia

Swamp Metalmark

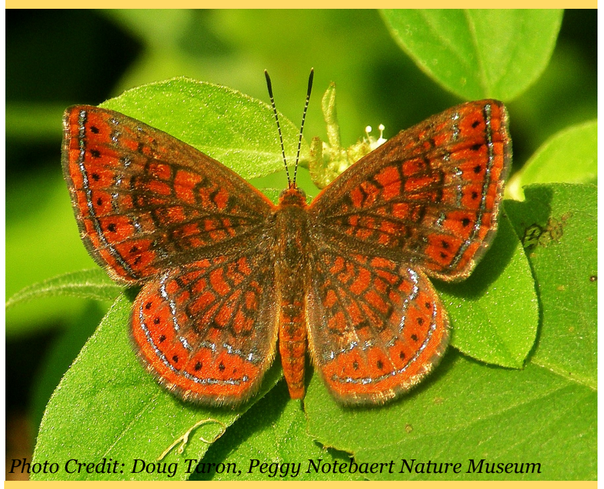


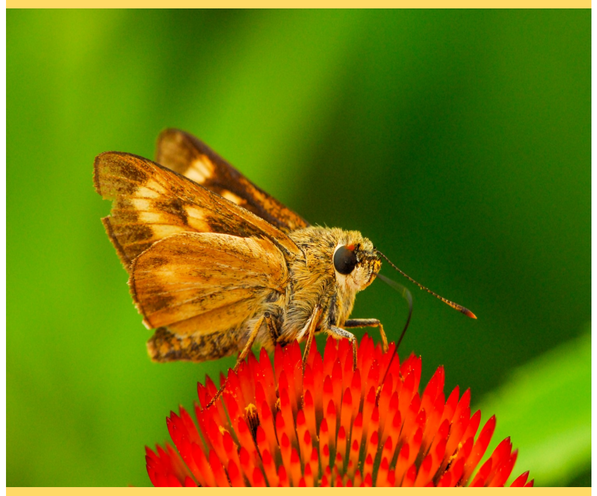
Photo Credit: Doug Taron, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Calephelis mutica

Monarch Butterfly

Danaus plexippus

Byssus Skipper



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Illinois Wildlife Action Plan Watch List Species

Great Copper

Lycaena xanthoides

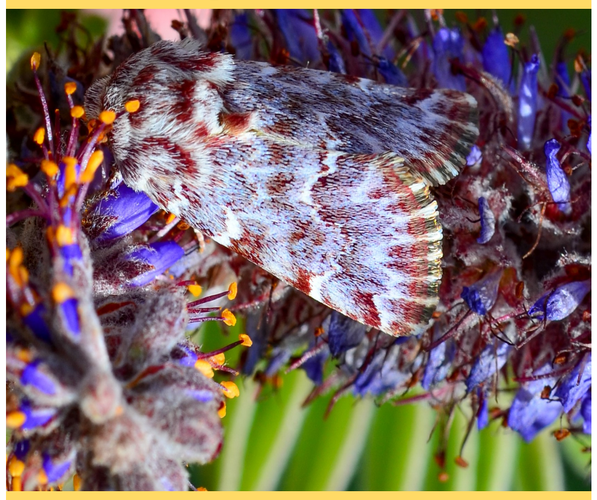
Edward's Hairstreak

Satyrium edwardsii

Scurf Pea Flower Moth

Schinia jagaurina

Leadplant Flower Moth



Schinia lucens

Common Pollinators

Spring Beauty Andrena

Andrena erigeniae

Red Flower Longhorn Beetle

Brachyleptura rubrica

Potter Wasp

Euodynerus hidalgo hidalgo

Striped Bromeliad Fly

Copestylum vittatum

Pollinators are organisms that transfer pollen between plants. The pollen attaches to individuals that land on the plants to feed on their nectar or seeds. The primary pollinators in Illinois are insects and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Unfortunately, pollinators are in decline everywhere. As these important populations decrease, so will the number of plants that require pollinators for their life cycles.

But why should we care about this problem? Pollinators are vital to plant biodiversity and viability, including crop production. Not only do they contribute to the survival of important plants for food, drink, and medicines, but they also pollinate plants critical to providing clean air, stable soils, and support for other wildlife.

Fortunately, you can provide for pollinators through simple actions right in your own backyard. Planting native plants —such as flowers with nectar, flowering trees, and bunch grasses — will allow pollinators to flourish with food and nesting sites. Additionally, using chemicals as little as possible and mowing on a higher level will help ensure their survival. Planting a variety of native plants will attract a great diversity of pollinators. For more information on Illinois pollinators and native plants, please visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' website.

The native plants depicted above are identified as follows: (1,3)Joe Pye Weed, (2)Goat's Rue, (4)Butterfly Weed, (5,9,10)Common Milkweed, (6) *Euphorbiaceae,* (7) Rosinweed, (8)Purple Coneflower, (11)Purple Prairie Clover, (12)Leadplant, (13)Spring Beauty, (14)Dogwood, (15) Rattlesnake Master, and (16)Old Field Goldenrod.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL