

The Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterflies are one of the most beautiful and well-known species of butterflies. They have lived on the earth for more than 50 million years. Unfortunately, now their lives are threatened by pollution, habitat loss, and changes to their environment.

The conservation of Monarch Butterflies is critical for 3 main reasons:

First, they share much of the same habitat as bees and other pollinators. So when the Monarchs are impacted, so are other important species like bats, moths, beetles, and more.

Second, they are an important part of the food chain since they are food for birds, bats, and other insectivorous animals.

And third, we need to protect all of our pollinators because our food supply also relies on them. Do you like raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, apples, bananas, and more? If so, without pollinators doing their job, you would have to go without these yummy foods.



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"What we appreciate, we preserve.
What we value, we conserve.
What we are taught, we understand.
And when we understand, we can
come together to protect the earth
and its animals."

— C S Wurzberger, *The Green Up Girl*®



Male Monarchs
have a black spot
on their rear wing

Fun Facts:

There are two species of Monarchs. One found in North and the other in South America. Both species are present in the Caribbean, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Hawaii and Tahiti.

Migrating butterflies travel at speeds of 12 up to 25 miles per hour.

Monarch butterflies flap their wings at a slower rate than other types of butterflies. About 300 to 720 times in one minute.

In the spring Monarch butterflies leave Mexico or southern California and travel north. They can produce four generations during one summer. The first three generations will have life spans from 2 - 6 weeks and will continue moving north. During this time they will mate and have the next generation that will continue the northward migration. The fourth generation is different and can live up to nine months. These are the butterflies that will migrate south for winter to either Mexico or southern California.

