

## gray hairstreak *Strymon melinus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Lycaenidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The gray hairstreak has a wingspan of about one and one-quarter inches. The upperside of the wings is dark gray, while the underside is a lighter gray. An orange spot with a black dot at the bottom is present at the back edge of each hindwing. The hindwing has two tails. A three-colored line separated into two sections is also present on the hindwing.

### BEHAVIORS

This species can be found statewide from April through October. It lives in most open areas. Several generations are produced annually, with overwintering occurring in the chrysalis stage. The larva eats beans, hops and many other species of plants.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

**none**

Woodland Habitats

**none**

Prairie and Edge Habitats

**edge**

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2020. Biodiversity of Illinois.