red admiral Vanessa atalanta

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Lepidoptera Family: Nymphalida

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

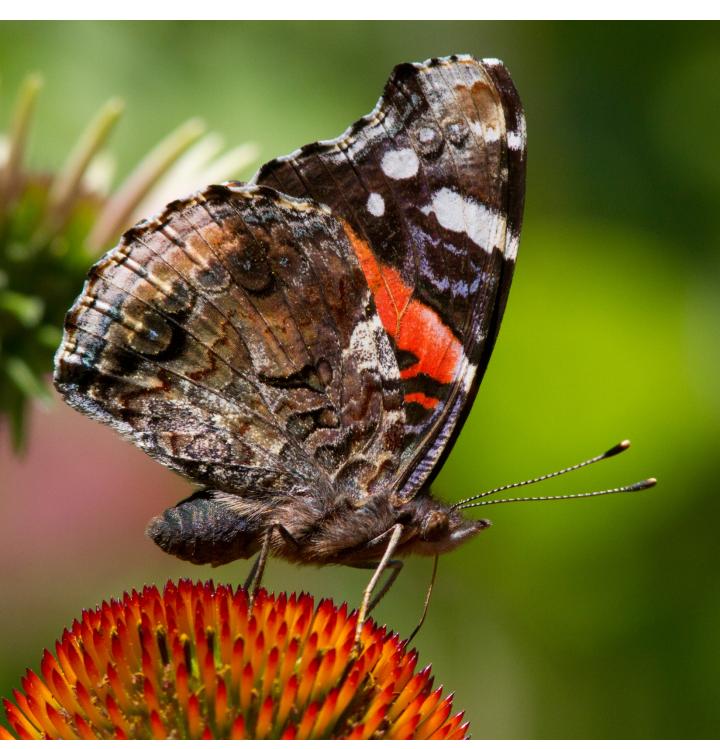
The red admiral butterfly has a wingspan of 1.75 to 3.00 inches. The upperside of its forewing is brownblack with white spots near the tip and an orangered band. The upperside of the hindwing has an orange band near the edge. The underside of the forewing has blue and white colors and a pink-red bar. The underside of the hindwing is shades of gray and brown with faint spots.

BEHAVIORS

The red admiral may be found statewide. It frequents woodland edges and other edge habitats, bottomland forests, stream banks, roadsides, yards, parks and gardens. The larvae eat nettles. The adults will eat flower nectar but also feed on tree sap and rotten fruit. This species only survives the winter in Illinois if the weather conditions are mild. It may overwinter as an adult or chrysalis but also migrates into the Illinois annually from more southern states. Multiple generations are produced per year. Adults are active from March to early November.

ILLINOIS RANGE





adult



adult

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge