

## red-spotted purple *Limenitis arthemis*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Nymphalidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The red-spotted purple has a wingspan of three to four inches. The upperside of the wings is dark blue-black to blue-green. The underside of the forewing has two red-orange bars while the underside of the hindwing has three red-orange spots near the body and a row of red-orange spots near the outer edge of the wing. The caterpillar is gray-brown and white with a hump toward the front end.

### BEHAVIORS

The red-spotted purple may be found statewide in Illinois. Its caterpillar eats the leaves of wild black cherry, poplars, aspens, black oak and other plants. The larva overwinters in a shelter made of leaves.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

**bottomland forests**

Woodland Habitats

**bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests**

Prairie and Edge Habitats

**none**