

silver-spotted skipper *Epargyreus clarus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Hesperiidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The wingspan is about 1.5-2.4 inches. The upper side of the wings is dark brown. The forewings have a gold-colored band and a few gold-colored spots above it that can be seen on both the upper and lower surfaces of the wings. The most distinctive feature of this species is a large, silver-white spot on the underside of each hindwing. The edges of the wings have alternating tan and brown marks.

BEHAVIORS

The silver-spotted skipper lives in gardens, along roads, in woodlands and in nearly any places with flowering plants and host plants for the larvae. Two to three generations per year are raised. Adults are active from April through October. There are a variety of host plants for the larvae, including black locust trees (*Robinia* spp.), honey locust trees (*Gleditsia* spp.), false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) and many others. Larvae protect themselves in a cluster of leaves that they fasten together. Adults obtain nectar from many types of flowering plants.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; marshes; peatlands; rivers and streams; swamps; wet prairies and fens; lakes, ponds and reservoirs

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie

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