

XERCES UPDATE

Donor Newsletter | August 2022



Trade Lawn for Fauna

You Can Make a Difference

As individuals, we can each do our part for conservation through the choices we make, whether that's at the grocery store or the candidates we vote for.

More directly, if we have even a small yard, we can move away from manicured landscapes that provide nothing for insects. We can plant native flowers and allow a little messiness to give small animals a place to live. We can stop using pesticides and encourage our friends to do the same.

Visit xerces.org to find more simple solutions that will help you change your yard into a haven for insects and all of the other animals that need them to survive. Together, we can have a large and positive impact on preserving life on Earth.

Thank you from all of us at Xerces!

Leave the Leaves

Pollinators and other invertebrates use dead leaves and other plant material for winter cover.

Get ready to leave the leaves this fall with your very own yard sign. Signs are available for a donation online.

xerces.org/gifts

A Xerces "Leaves the Leaves" yard sign displayed in a garden spreads the word to folks passing by. (Photo: Suzanne Granahan.)



Ways to Donate

Online

xerces.org/donate

By Mail

The Xerces Society
PO Box 97387
Washington, DC 20090-7387

By Phone

(855) 232-6639, option 2

Email for Assistance

membership@xerces.org



give.org



Connect

Our website expands on our work and what you can do to help invertebrates. Updates are posted to our blog and webinars to YouTube. You can also connect on social media.

xerces.org



@xercessociety



Bumble Bee Atlases Expand

Pollinator Conservation

Bumble bees are vital pollinators of crops as well as of many plants in meadows, prairies and forests. Nearly a decade ago, the Xerces Society worked with the International Union for Conservation of Nature to demonstrate that a quarter of North American bumble bee species are at risk. They continue to be threatened by habitat loss, pesticide use, diseases from commercial bees and climate change. More than ever, it is vital to understand which species of bumble bees are declining, where they are found, and what conservation actions will help them. This is why Xerces is working with partners to conduct Bumble Bee Atlas projects. Bumble Bee Atlas is a community-based effort to track and conserve native bumble bees.

These projects engage hundreds of volunteer community scientists in collecting critical information on bumble bee distribution and ecology. Volunteers help us gather large amounts of information across vast geographies that would otherwise be impossible. Atlas projects are being used to both promote on-the-ground land management and to develop policy initiatives that help these species thrive. In addition to collecting vital information for our conservation efforts, our volunteers often become bumble bee conservation advocates in their communities. These projects are a win-win for bumble bees!

Currently, our regional bumble bee atlases cover over 500,000 square miles in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Kansas. We are also excited to announce that in 2023, alongside new partners, we will initiate atlas projects in Iowa, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. These atlases help efficiently focus conservation resources where they are needed most, but we could not do this work without the support of all of our agency and academic partners, as well as our many dedicated volunteers. Thank you!

If there is not an atlas in your state, remember that you can submit bumble bee photos to Bumble Bee Watch from anywhere in the U.S. and Canada. Every bumble bee observation contributes to our conservation efforts.

[Bumble bees crawl on a volunteer's hands during a field survey for the Missouri Bumble Bee Atlas. \(Photo: Katie Lamke/Xerces Society.\)](#)



Get Involved

Your participation strengthens our conservation work. Get involved with existing atlases.

[xerces.org/
community-science](https://xerces.org/community-science)



A western monarch drinks nectar from milkweed blooms. (Photo: Stephanie McKnight.)

Monthly Giving

No renewal notices, convenient payment options, a continued connection, and our **deepest gratitude.**

xerces.org/donate

DC Monarch Summit Secures Funding

Monarch Conservation

This summer, Xerces staff collaborated on a two-day Monarch Butterfly Summit at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C. Hosted by Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley in collaboration with the Department of the Interior, the event brought together key stakeholders to discuss solutions to reverse population decline of the monarch butterfly, particularly the western monarch population.

As part of the Summit, Senator Merkley and Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced \$1 million for western monarchs that will go to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for western monarch grants. In addition, they announced the establishment of a Pollinator Conservation Center of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, whose first hire will be a western monarch coordinator.

Senator Merkley has been a champion for conservation since he entered the senate. The Senator convened the Monarch Butterfly Summit to elevate the conservation issues that western monarchs face, and to include policymakers in work sessions to identify solutions. Working closely with the USFWS and Xerces, Senator Merkley ensured that issues like pesticides, the availability of early emerging native milkweeds in the spring breeding areas, loss and degradation of western monarch overwintering sites, and other important issues would be highlighted throughout the meeting. We hope this will lead to additional focus on key priorities for recovering the western monarch population, such as protecting and restoring overwintering sites, protecting monarch habitat from insecticides, and scaling up production of early-emerging native milkweeds like *Asclepias californica* to support the first generation of monarchs in priority zones.

We want to recognize our members and donors, Xerces' hardworking staff, and our partners in conservation. All of us together form a network of conservationists working to bring back the beloved monarch, as well as so many other vulnerable invertebrates. This summit would not have been possible without all of us working together.

A monarch egg rests on a leaf. (Photo: Jennifer Hopwood.)





Please recycle

Habitat Kits

Xerces habitat kits have provided thousands of native, climate-resilient pollinator plants to conservation-minded organizations and individuals since 2019. The first habitat kit project began in California and has expanded to the Northeast and Santa Fe, New Mexico. These curated native plant kits are designed to support a diversity of native pollinators across seasons and are offered to project participants at no cost.

xerces.org/habitat-kits

A project participant picks up a Xerces habitat kit in California.
(Photo: Angela Laws.)

