



Tagging Monarchs Wayne National Forest

2013 Accomplishments

Tagging monarch butterflies began on the Wayne National Forest in 2008. Information collected on the butterflies is sent to the Monarch Watch program at the University of Kansas .

Mid-September to early-October have the biologists visiting old fields, wildlife openings and utility corridors (e.g. Figure 1) in search of migrating Monarch butterflies. The fall of 2013 proved to be very disappointing in regard to the apparent lack of monarch butterflies. Nationally, the population is reportedly at a very low point, due to a combination of multiple factors, and siting's of these butterflies were greatly decreased from previous years.

Since the beginning of the tagging program 185 monarchs have been tagged. The average number of butterflies tagged on the Wayne is 31 monarchs per year. During the fall of 2013 only 3 monarch butterflies (Figure 2) were captured and tagged even though extensive efforts were expended in trying to locate the butterfly.



Figure 2. First of three monarchs tagged in 2013.



Figure 1. In 2011 this small ironweed dominated field was a "hotspot" for foraging monarch butterflies. A third of the tagged monarchs came from this field that year.. In 2013, not one monarch was seen foraging in it.

Year Project Initiated: 2008

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures (2008 thru 10/2013): NFWF \$2360.00

FY13 Funding: Wayne National Forest

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