

## RED ADMIRAL



1. **Red Admiral**, *Vanessa atalanta*, nectaring on Cone Flower. © Dick Harlow

My observational records for this butterfly, this particular species here at EastView, begin as of July 2013 to the present time. We had visits from this species four of those years between 2013 and 2021. The last record was 2019. Even though it has been two years since one was observed here at EastView, I will become more concerned if we do not see one next year. Then that will mean we have gone three years without one being recorded here at EastView. That lack of visual evidence is very concerning.

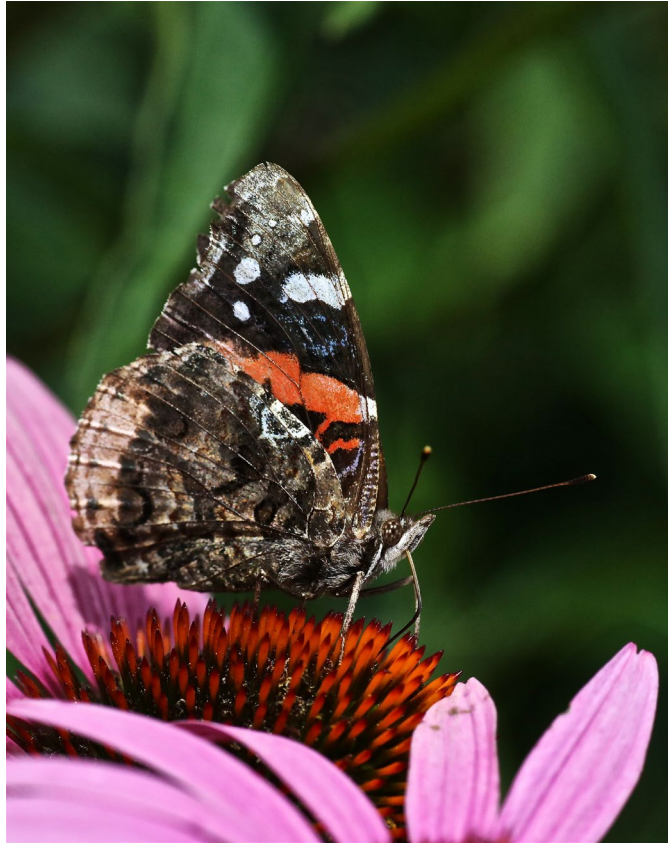
The range of the **Red Admiral**, *Vanessa atalanta*, covers the whole East Coast, inland including all of the states from New York to Florida.

The Red Admiral is a migrating butterfly. It will migrate both north and south. However, its southward migration is not well known; on the other hand its northward migration in the spring and early summer is well known. This species has a tendency to have peak years where there will be large numbers during migration. This is offset with resulting crashes and thus less migration movement the following year.

This butterfly can be found anywhere during its migration. Breeding individuals will usually find fields, gardens, wood edges, anywhere there is open space with a possible food source.

Generally, this species is extremely adaptable or versatile wherever nettles grow, specifically, Wood Nettle or Stinging Nettle as well as False Nettle. According to the references only a single green egg is laid on top of a nettle leaf.

**AUGUST 15- 31, 2021 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES**  
**By Dick Harlow**



2. **Red Admiral**, *Vanessa atalanta*, nectaring on Cone Flower. © Dick Harlow

## **WHORLED MILKWEED**



**Whorled Milkweed**, *Asclepias verticillata*, Flowers.  
© Dick Harlow

This is not the usual milkweed plant one sees in fields and gardens in the East. The long skinny leaves that whorl around the main stem give the appearance of a completely different milkweed plant than we are used to seeing.

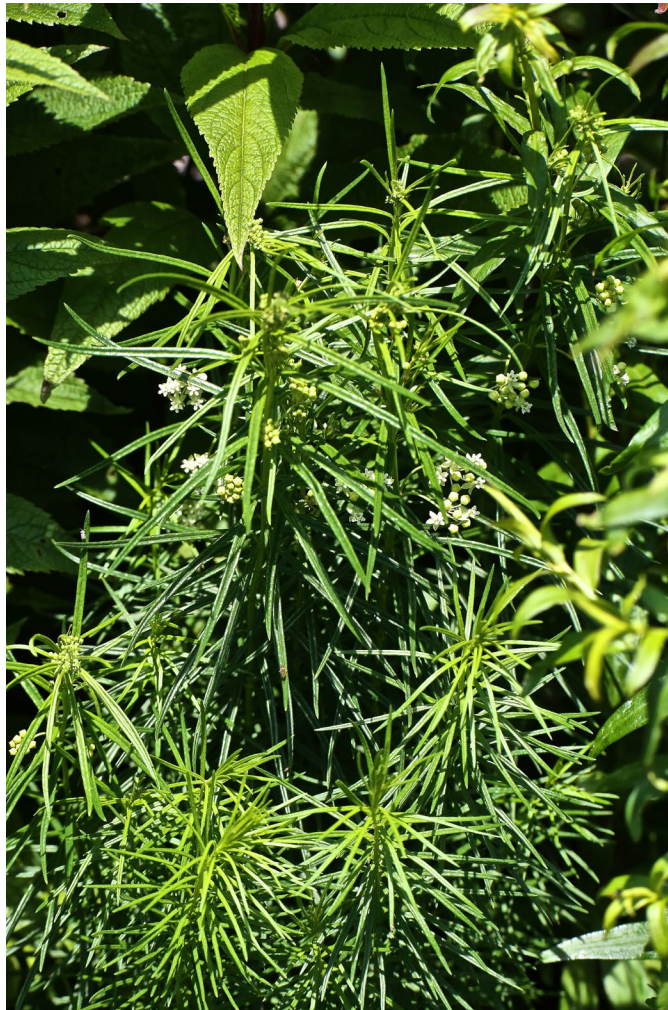
Milkweeds in the fields and gardens have broader, oval-like leaves. But if you look at the individual flowers, they in fact do look like milkweed flowers.

Flowering for Whorled Milkweed is between July and September; it stands only about two feet high. The problem some people have is that the flowers are white rather than mauve, orange or pink. Thus, the plant tends to be overshadowed by the larger more dominant looking plants. However, although this species may be short, it does spread due to it being rhizomatous.



**AUGUST 15- 31, 2021 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES**  
**By Dick Harlow**

On the plus side is its resistance to rabbits and deer due to its toxic sap!



**Whorled Milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*, plant,**  
narrow leaves. © Dick Harlow

If one were to look at a range map for the Whorled Milkweed, the extent of its range will surprise you. The range map shows that it extends from Florida to the northern reaches of Manitoba and Ontario, Canada. In the United States its range extends from Vermont and Massachusetts in the East to Montana and Arizona in the West. The plant is considered a perennial that is hardy in zones 3-9 as evidenced by its range.

**OBSERVATIONS**

**MAMMALS**

White-tailed Deer, Doe  
Long-tailed Weasel  
Red Fox  
Meadow Vole

**REPTILES**

Garter Snake  
Eastern Milk Snake

**AMPHIBIANS**

Bull Frog  
Green Frog  
American Toad

**BUTTERFLIES**

Cabbage White    Yellow Sulphur    Monarch    Viceroy

[All Measurements taken at solar noon \(1230 EST\).](#)

**PRECIPITATION**

**Average August Precipitation for Vermont = 3.9 inches.**

**Total precipitation for August 2021 was 78.4 mm or 3.1 inches. This is a 0.8-inch deficit for the month.**

**Overcast Days August 1-31: We had 21- days, of overcast skies. Of those overcast skies 9 days produced rain. This month almost stayed even but ended with a slight deficit.**