

Silvery Blue *Glaucopsyche lygdamus*

Status: State threatened

Iowa Range: Northern 1/3 of the state, most abundant in Dickenson, Emmet Counties

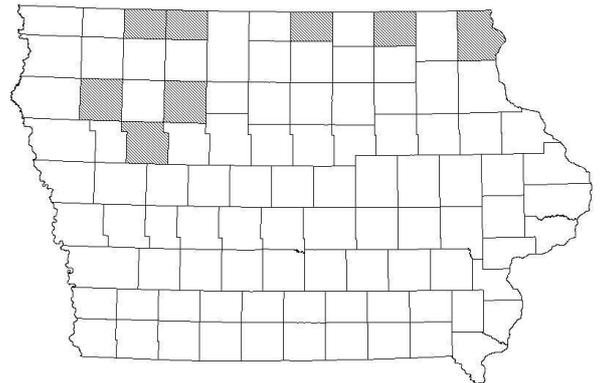
Habitat Preference: Tall grass prairie

Threats:

- Loss of prairie habitat
 - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground
 - tree invasion: shade is detrimental to the success of this species
- Invasion of non-native plants
- Haying early could limit available flowering plants used for food.
- Over grazing will limit available flowering plants used for food.
- Fragmentation could cause butterflies to travel long distance to find the particular plant species on which it feeds.



Photograph by: Michael Reese
www.wisconsinbutterflies.org



Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Prairie preservation
- Reestablish grassland habitat. Caterpillars feed on prairie species in the pea family. Adults feed on nectar. When creating a new seeding consider including forbs that bloom at different times throughout the growing season to create a constant food source. Silvery Blue will feed on nectar from early spring through early summer. Creating grassland areas will not only create more suitable habitat for silvery blues but will also defragment existing habitat.
- Many grassland areas are heavily encroached with woody vegetation. Removing the woody vegetation will promote prairie grasses and forbs essential for Silvery Blue butterflies.
- Fall burnings will be very important to promote forb growth. Area should not be burned more than every 3-5 years. Areas should be broken up into complexes that are burned on a rotational basis to provide refuge for Silvery Blue.