

Not R2 SS, consider for other Emphasis Species Lists

Recommendations and Evaluations

Common Name: Tawny Crescent

Scientific Name: *Phyciodes batesii*

Recommendation: Not R2 SS, consider for other Emphasis Species Lists

Recommendation Rationale:

There are 3 or 4 recognized subspecies. The northeastern subspecies *batesii* appears to be nearly extinct and has its own global rank documentation, as does the less rare *P.b.maconensis* from the southern Appalachians. The widespread Canadian and north central US subspecies is *lakota* (not accepted by Gatrell as distinct from *batesii*). Subspecies *apsalooke* has a limited range in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming and probably Montana, and subspecies *anasazi* has a fairly wide range in at least Colorado, Arizona, Utah and part of Wyoming. Declining or (mostly) extirpated in eastern states, and may be further threatened by gypsy moth spraying. Population trend appears to be stable westward and in most of central and western Canada. Habitat varies in different part of the range, with the two western subspecies occurring in canyons. Larvae eat foliage of *Aster* spp., with use of *A.glaucodes* documented for the two western subspecies.

The information does not indicate a viability concern for the two western subspecies. However, since the collapse of subspecies *batesii* is largely unexplained, there is no assurance that other subspecies will not also decline. Therefore we recommend that this species be considered for other Emphasis Species lists in those areas where potential or known habitat exists.

UPDATE (Peter McDonald, April 2015): The Tawny Crescent has not yet been assessed for the IUCN Red List. The butterfly is not currently on the Xerces Society's red list of butterflies and moths. The Natureserve global ranking is G4, Apparently Secure. The Natureserve state ranking for Nebraska is S1 and the state wildlife action plan identifies it as a Tier 1 priority at-risk species. The Natureserve ranking for South Dakota is S2, but the species is not identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the state's wildlife action plan. Natureserve in Wyoming does not rank the Tawny Crescent, and the state does not identify it as a SGCN in their wildlife action plan. Overall, the basic summary and rationale in 2001 appears to continue to apply, although Natureserve points out that the species will likely be facing threats from climate change in coming decades. Collectively there is no obvious substantial new information since 2001 that suggests the Tawny Crescent now warrants addition to the Regional Forester's sensitive species list. However, as pointed out in the 2001 evaluation and applies today, uncertainty remains about widespread declines of the butterfly in the east and potential implications to western subspecies. Applicable R2 forests should continue to consider it for other emphasis in local management.

IUCN Red List (accessed 4/29/15): <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22705156/0>

Xerces Society Red List (accessed 4/29/15): <http://www.xerces.org/red-list-of-butterflies->

[and-moths/](#)

Natureserve profile (accessed 4/29/15):

<http://explorer.natureserve.org/servlet/NatureServe?searchName=Vireo+bellii>

Wyoming state wildlife action plan (accessed 4/29/15):

https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/SWAP_2010_FULL_OCT0003090.pdf

Nebraska state wildlife action plan (accessed 4/29/15):

<http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/review.asp>

South Dakota state wildlife action plan (accessed 4/29/15):

<http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/plans/species-list.aspx>