

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Ottoe (Prairie) skipper (*Hesperia ottoe*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	The species occurs in all states of Region 2, although it is only a migratory transient in Wyoming. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Occurs in southern Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin, and from western Minnesota west to eastern Montana and south to Texas and Colorado (Opler and Krisek, 1984, Opler, 1998, Opler 1999). Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
3 Dispersal Capability	B	This skipper is fairly mobile. Selby's intensive 1992 mark-recapture study showed that this species moved throughout prairie patches, and also as much as 1,774 m between prairie ridgetops separated by forested slopes and valleys. Dana (1991) also found that Ottoe skippers moved throughout his 63 ha study area. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
4 Abundance in R2	D	There are no abundance data for this species in Region 2. However, populations are small and localized, but can go from rare to common in one year since females can lay up to 100 eggs. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
5 Population Trend in R2	D	In Michigan, over the last 20 years the populations have declined as the amount and quality of available habitat have declined. Populations in Illinois and Iowa are thought to be stable. Good populations exist throughout Loess Hill counties in western Iowa and some populations exist in counties north of Loess Hills. However, there is no information on population trends in the Great Plains. Populations generally small and localized; not a common species throughout its range. Range now fragmented and in many parts colonization may thus be precluded. Often on prairie preserves with non-optimal fire programs. Probably not secure at least long term, but there is doubt about this. Not imminently imperiled now. The species is viewed as imperiled in South Dakota, Colorado, and Kansas, and vulnerable in Nebraska. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	• www.natureserve.org

Species: Ottoe (Prairie) skipper (*Hesperia ottoe*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<p>6 Habitat Trend in R2</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>No specific data on habitat trends, although prairie habitats continue to degrade across the Great Plains.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>The elimination or degradation of prairie habitat seems to be the greatest threat to this butterfly. In addition to outright conversion of habitat, primarily to agricultural croplands, habitat can be degraded for this species by fire-suppression or other management (ie. over grazing) that results in few flowering forbs. The species is also vulnerable to management that removes nectar sources during the flight period from mid-June to early August (e.g., mowing or grazing), or vegetation during the larval leaf-shelter phase in mid-late summer (mowing, grazing or fire). It can also be negatively impacted by overly extensive or excessively frequent fires which in most cases will kill some to all larvae in the burn area.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.natureserve.org
<p>8 Life History and Demographics</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Initial Evaluator(s): John Sidle</p>			<p>Date: 7/13/01</p>

National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)¹ to occur:

<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>		<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>		<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>		<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>		<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>					
Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely				
	L	Cimmaron NG		L	Samuel R.McKelvie NF		L	Black Hills NF		L	Shoshone NF		
					Halsey NF		L	Buffalo Gap NG			Bighorn NF		
					Nebraska NF		L	Ft. Pierre NG			Black Hills NF		
					Ogalala NG		L				Medicine Bow NF		
											Thunder Basin NG		
	L												

References

Dana, R. P. 1991. Conservation management of the prairie skippers H. DACOTAE and H. OTTOE. Station Bulletin 594-1991. Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. 63 pp.

Dana, Robert. Minnesota Natural heritage and Nongame Research Program, DNR, 500 Lafayette Rd., box 7. St. Paul, MN 55515 612/297-2367

Ferris, C.D. and F.M. Brown (eds). 1981. BUTTERFLIES OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. UNIV. OF OKLAHOMA PRESS. NORMAN. 442 PP.

Herkert, J. R. 1992. Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution. Publ. by Illinois Endang. Species Protection Board. vol. 2: Animals.

Layberry, Ross A.; Hall, Peter W.; and LaFontaine, J. Donald, 1998. The Butterflies of Canada. University of Toronto Press. 280 pp. + color plates.

MacNeill, C.D. 1975. Superfamily Hesperioidea. Pages 411-578 in: W.H. Howe, editor. The Butterflies of North America. Doubleday and Co., Garden City, New York.

¹ Likely is defined as more likely to occur than not occur on the National Forest or Grassland. This generally can be thought of as having a 50% chance or greater of appearing on NFS lands.

Opler, P. A. 1981. Management of prairie habitats for insect conservation. *Natural Areas J.* 1(4): 3-6.

Opler, P. A., and A. B. Wright. 1999. A field guide to western butterflies. Second edition. Peterson Field Guides. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts. 540 pp.

Opler, P.A. (chair), J.M. Burns, J.D. LaFontaine, R.K. Robbins, and F. Sperling. 1998. Scientific names of North American butterflies. Fort Collins, CO. Unpublished review draft.

Opler, P.A. and G.O. Krizek. 1984. Butterflies east of the Great Plains, an illustrated natural history. Johns Hopkins University Press. Baltimore. 294pp.

Opler, Paul A., Harry Pavulaan, and Ray E. Stanford. 2000. August 17-last update. Butterflies of North America. Jamestown, ND: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Home Page. Online. Available: <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/bflyusa.htm>.

Panzer, R. 1988. Managing prairie remnants for insect conservation. *Natural Areas J.* 8(2): 83-90.

Scott, James A. 1986. The butterflies of North America: A natural history and field guide. Stanford University Press, Stanford CA. 583 pp.

Sedman, Yale, and David Hess. 1985. The butterflies of West Central Illinois. Dept. Biol. Sci. Western Illinois Univ., 120 pp.

Selby, G. 1992. Dispersal and Recolonization Capabilities in the Ottoe Skipper (*HESPERIA OTTOE*) in the Loess Hills. Final Rpt. Iowa State Univ., Ames, IA. 22 pp.

Selby, Gerald. Director of Science and Stewardship for Iowa Field Office of The Nature Conservancy. 431 E. Locust, Suite 200. Des Moines, Iowa. (515) 244-5044.

Shull, Ernest M. 1987. The Butterflies of Indiana. Publ. by Indiana Acad. Science, distributed by Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington/Indianapolis, 262 pp.

Stanford, Ray E. and Paul A. Opler. 1993. Atlas of Western USA Butterflies. Denver and Fort Collins, Colorado. 275 pp.