

NATURE IN THE SCHOOLYARD

In North America, thousands of monarchs gather in autumn and migrate southward.

They sometimes travel almost 1,800 miles.

They spend the winter on the California coast or in forests in the mountains of Mexico.

The monarchs begin to return north in the spring.

They feed on nectar along the way. They lay eggs only on milkweed plants. A new generation hatches, matures, and continues the northward trip.



Monarch Butterfly



NATURE IN THE SCHOOLYARD

Caterpillar

10-12 Days

eats Milkweed leaves



Chrysalis

10-12 Days



Butterfly

2-6 weeks

eats nector from
flowers



What can you find?!

NATURE IN THE SCHOOLYARD

American Robin

Robins are prolific birds that adapt well to sharing the environment with humans. They can be found in open grassy areas, gardens, yards and woodlands.

Robins are active in the daytime they spend most of their time hopping around on the ground searching for food.

Robins are one of the first birds to lay eggs in the spring. Females lay between three and five bright blue eggs at a time. Baby robins learn to fly two weeks after they hatch.



NATURE IN THE SCHOOLYARD

Foraging for food



Robin eggs are a
bright blue color



Fledglings in the nest



What can you find?!

ILLINOIS' NATIVE POLLINATOR

PLANTS

Milkweed

Blackeyed Susan

Coneflower

Goldenrod

Holyhock



WHY ARE NATIVE POLLINATOR PLANTS IMPORTANT?!

A native plant is one that grows naturally in a particular region.

Native plants are important for many reasons. They help build and maintain healthy soil and they provide food and habitat for native birds and insects.

Native Pollinator plants are naturally occurring flowering plants that provide necessary food for native birds and insects. These plants grow naturally in open prairies and shaded woodlands.

People can also help support birds and insects by including native plant species in their home yards and gardens.



What can you find?

NATURE IN THE SCHOOLYARD

Purple Finch



Bumble Bee



Common Wildlife



Swallowtail
butterfly



Canada Goose

What can you find?!

NATURE IN THE SCHOOLYARD

Common Wildlife



Raccoon

Chipmunk



Gray
Squirrel



Opossum

What can you find?!