

Have you seen a...

Mourning Cloak

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: Wing span of 2.25-4 inches

Color: Brownish black body and wings; edges of wings are yellow with blue dots above the yellow border

General: The front pair of legs is much smaller than the middle and back pairs of legs

Usually Found: Woods, parks, backyards, riparian areas, gardens, suburbs



Did You Know?

- The name mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*) derives from its resemblance to a dark cloak that a person in mourning wears.
- The mourning cloak predominantly eats tree sap, especially that of oaks. They also eat rotting fruit and occasionally feed on flower nectar.
- Eggs are laid in a circular pattern around a host plant. Caterpillars pupate and become adult butterflies in June or July.
- Only some adults migrate south for the winter, the rest overwinter under tree bark and become active in early spring.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first appearance of adults in spring

Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this insect is impacted by environmental changes.

How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>
or sent to phenology@lgnc.org

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,
phenology@lgnc.org

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”

(www.usanpn.org)