

Why Butterflies Are Dying or Moving North.



Over the last thirty years, warmer temperatures brought on by climate change have forced a dramatic shift in where butterflies live and breathe.

Many species of butterflies are shifting their ranges northward to avoid a warmer climate.

Some butterflies, slow to migrate, can't keep up with the rapid pace of climate change and are facing extinction.

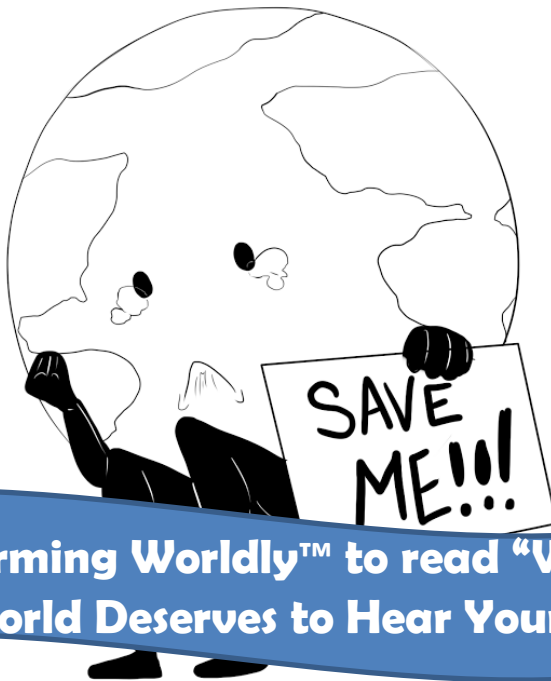
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Each species of butterfly lays its eggs on a particular host plant.

Warmer temperatures, however, are causing host plants to dry up faster than usual.



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A rise in greenhouse gases has caused Earth to retain more heat. Over the next 100 years, scientists say the earth's temperature will increase 3 – 7 degrees Fahrenheit or 2 – 4 degrees Celsius.

Heather M. Kharouba, lead author of the paper *“predicting the sensitivity of butterfly phenology to temperature over the past century,”* says:

“With warmer temperatures butterflies emerge earlier in the year, and their active flight season occurs earlier. This could have several implications for butterflies. If they emerge too early, they could encounter frost and die. Or they might emerge before the food plants they rely on appear and starve.”



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Phresh Philly is a cohort of teens and millennials who promote environmental advancement through social entrepreneurship training and high school activism.



5 Fast Facts about Butterflies!

1. **Butterflies pollinate plants, add to the biodiversity of the planet, and for scientist, provide vital information about climate change's impacts on our environment, as they are good indicators of a healthy ecosystem.**
2. **Butterflies are very responsive to temperature in a way comparable to flowering time, leafing out time, and bee flight times.**
3. **Butterflies respond to climate change by northward or elevated range shifts.**
4. **Extreme weather in 2002 killed nearly 80% of the monarch butterfly population in Mexico.**
5. **There are between 15,000 and 20,000 species of butterflies worldwide.**

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