

White Admiral

Limenitis arthemis

-This species belongs to a group of butterflies once known as the Sovereigns, which included the titled members the admirals and the viceroy. They are large butterflies with striking markings that will catch your eye as soon as they flutter into view. Look for pretty, usually red spotted undersides when these butterflies pause with wings closed. At first glance, this butterfly looks deep brown, but you may catch a glimpse of a purple sheen as its wings catch the sun. Strong smelling manure will draw the lovely White Admiral, and the butterflies gather in groups to sip delicately on piles of the pungent stuff.



Wingspan:

2 ¾ to 3 inches

Caterpillar hosts:

Caterpillars of the White Admiral feed on several different trees that are commonly found in Northern Wisconsin, including Birch, Willow, and Aspen.

Adult food:

Unless you want to put a pile of fresh manure in your yard periodically, you can try to create the aphid honeydew that they like to eat. To do this simply combine 3 parts sugar to one part water and spray it on the leaves or bark of a tree. Wet rocks and mud puddles will also draw this butterfly out of its forested haunts.