Propertius Duskywing

Western Oak Duskywing | *Erynnis propertius*



A HIDDEN MEADOW LINK

Small wings, *deep connections*

Mottled brown wings blend into spring's oak leaves and warm grasses. This modest butterfly depends on more than a tree: Garry Oak foliage, sheltering leaf litter and nearby nectar flowers all matter.

FLIGHT SEASON

Adults are seen most often in April and May in coastal British Columbia.

A LIFE AROUND OAK

In local oak habitats, caterpillars feed on Garry Oak leaves; developing young shelter in leaf litter.

CONSERVATION IN BC

Provincially Red-listed and S2 (Imperilled; last reviewed 2020). Protecting natural ground cover is important.

FIELD NOTES

RECOGNIZE IT

Brown, grey-mottled wings with small pale forewing spots and subtly hooked antenna tips.

TWO FOOD SOURCES

Caterpillars use oak foliage; adults drink nectar from spring flowers, including camas in some habitats.

LEAVE THE LEAVES

Raking away natural oak litter can remove important shelter for immature duskywings.

Sources: BC Conservation Data Centre; GOERT; Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

Illustration: BC Watercolour Art | Learn more: BCWatercolourArt.com