



## Monarch Butterfly

*Danaus plexippus*

**Size:** Length: 1.2 inches, Weight: 1/2 gram (equivalent to about one nickel)  
**Diet:** Adults feed on flower nectar. Caterpillars feed on milkweeds.  
**Where it Lives:** Southern Canada and the United States to Central America  
**Reproduction:** Female Monarchs can lay over 400 eggs each.

Migration of the Monarch Butterfly is truly one of the world's greatest phenomenal. Tens of millions of these are the only insects to make a complete round trip migration. Most Monarchs arrive in Texas in large numbers every spring and fall with a small wintering population along the upper Texas coast. Monarchs begin crossing the Red River into Texas in late November the last week of September. Most Monarchs arrive in Central Mexico by late November. They overwinter in Mexican boreal forests at an elevation of over 10,000 feet. They will re-cross the Rio Grande River into Texas heading north in March.



For information on how you can be a Texas Nature Tracker and participate in gathering scientific data on Texas Monarchs, go to our Web site: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tracker](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tracker)