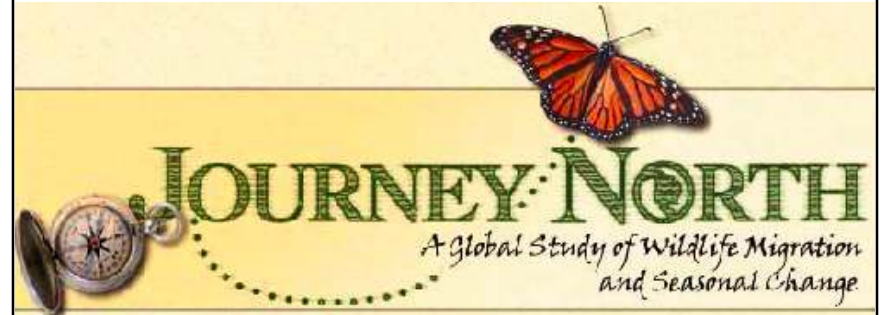




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Layout by Margaret Black

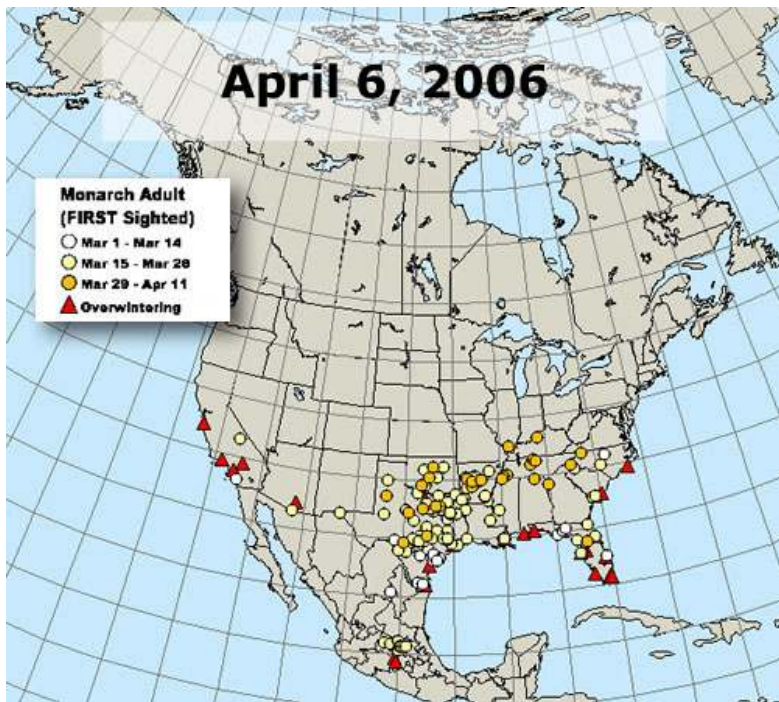


The Life Cycle Continues Waiting for the Next Generation



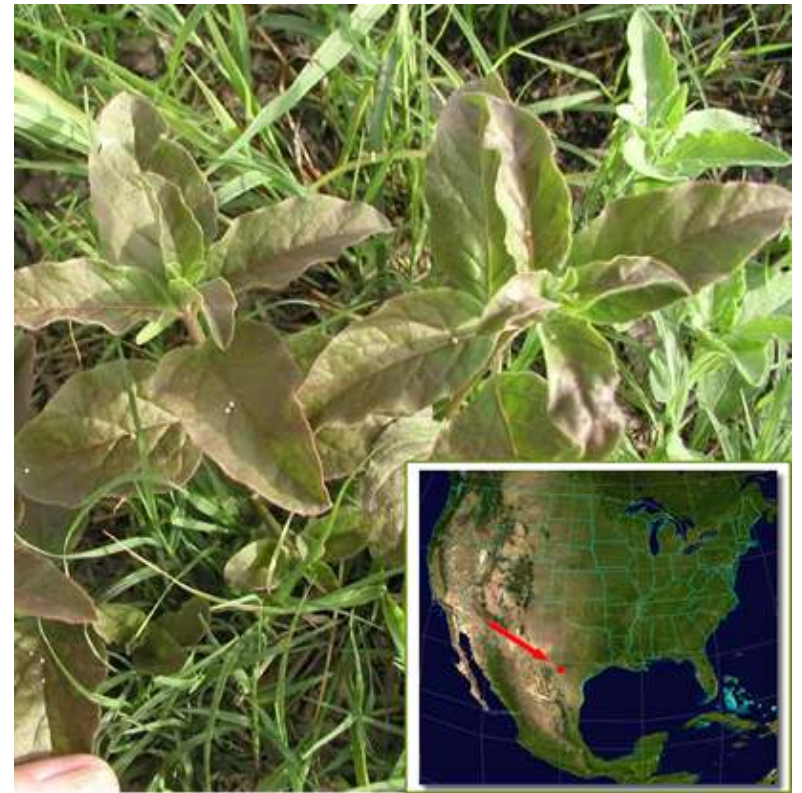
by Elizabeth Howard

Monarch butterflies are laying millions of eggs right now. Each female leaves a trail of eggs behind her as she travels. The monarchs that complete the migration this spring will come from these eggs. They will be the *children* of the monarchs that spent the winter in Mexico.



Where there were monarchs there are now eggs!

"Eggs galore!!" exclaimed Carol Cullar from Texas last week. Her friend found 56 eggs on just 5 plants. She sent this picture. How many eggs can you count here?

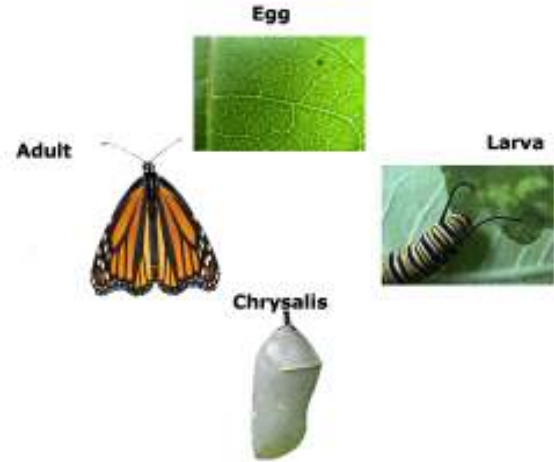


These eggs are important! Without them we would not have monarchs within a few short weeks. This is because monarchs don't live long after they begin to reproduce. This faded, old monarch had probably been alive for 8 months when the picture was taken in April.



It takes about one month for an egg to become an adult butterfly.

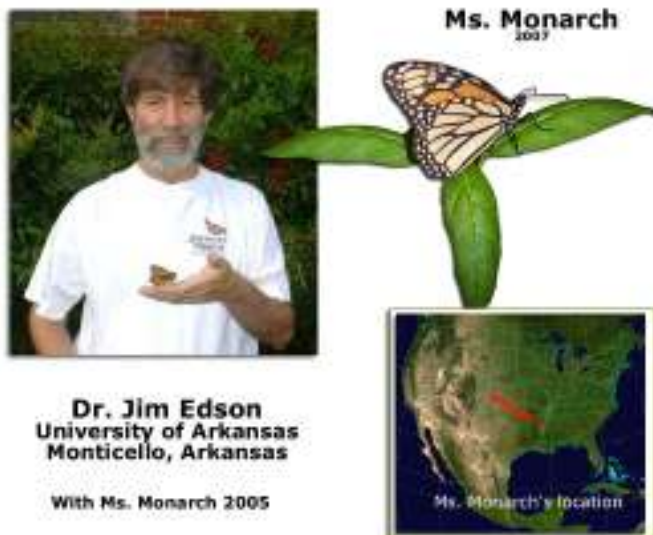
The Life Cycle



The children of the monarchs from Mexico will complete the migration their parents began.



When will the new generation be born?
We have a volunteer who will help answer this question. Her name is "Ms. Monarch."
Dr. Jim Edson of Monticello, Arkansas, caught her on April 2nd. She is spending the last of her days in the safety of his lab, laying eggs. Her life story will give us clues about when and where the next generation of monarchs will appear.



Dr. Edson is counting Ms. Monarch's eggs every day and keeping a record. She laid 161 eggs during her first 24-hour day in the lab! Just think: One of her children may be the first monarch YOU see this spring!

Ms. Monarch laid her first eggs on April 3rd.



These are Ms. Monarch's first eggs. Again, it's unusual to see so many eggs on one plant. Ms. Monarch is laying her eggs on one plant because she is captive.

Make your own predictions:

- How much longer will Ms. Monarch live?
- How many eggs will she lay?
- When will her first child be born and continue the journey north?

Dr. Edson kept track of how she did. Print the calendar to read Dr. Edson's field notes:

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/monarch/GenerationArkansas2007Eggs.html>