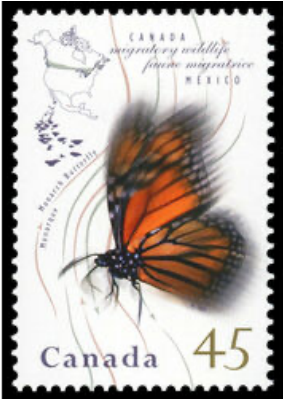


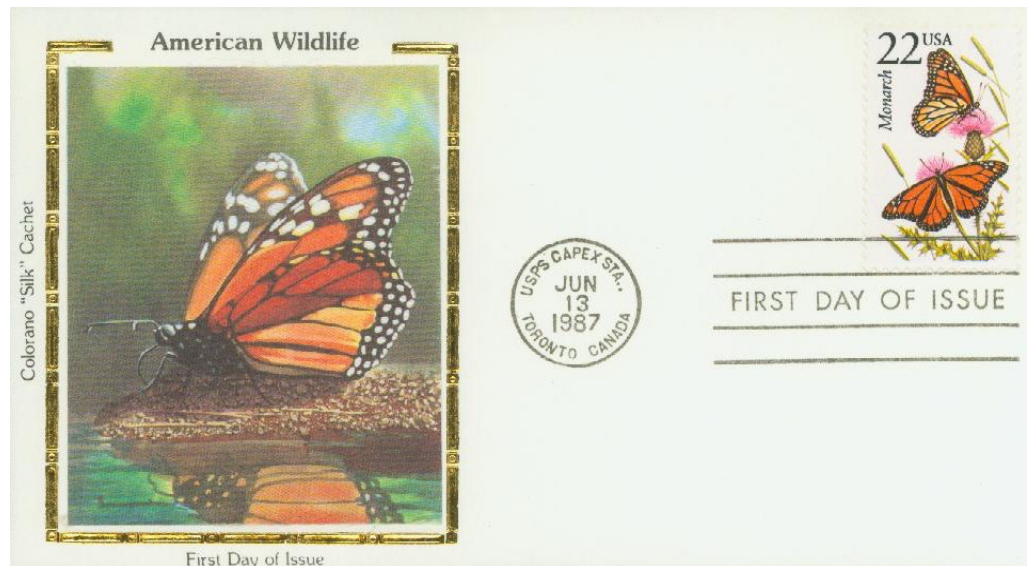
Monarch Butterflies: Mighty Migratory Insects

Mary Redus



Monarch butterflies are part of an amazing migration across much of North America that spans from 1,200 to 2,800 miles. Every autumn monarch butterflies migrate south from southeastern Canada, joining with more monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States. These monarchs from Canada and the United States finally settle in oyamel forests in central Mexico. In these ancient forests, they find the right conditions to hibernate from early November to March.

After mating in March, these monarchs journey back north, seeking milkweed plants on which to lay their eggs. Throughout the spring and summer each new generation ventures further north and east, seeking milkweed, with some ultimately reaching southeastern Canada. When autumn arrives, the migration repeats itself. This time, the migration south will be made by fifth generation monarchs who have never been to Mexico themselves.



The above 1987 USA stamp was first issued in Toronto, Canada.



Monarch butterflies undergo a complete metamorphosis, from egg, larva, and pupa, to adult butterfly.

