

**Sleepy duskywing**

***Erynnis brizo brizo***

**Family - HesperIIDae**



**State Status:**

Threatened

**Federal Status:**

**State Rank:**

S2

**New England Rank:**

**Global Rank:**

G5T5

**Reason for Rarity:**

Sleepy duskywing is listed as threatened in Maine because of its very limited distribution and marked population fragmentation. Its vulnerability is intensified by the rare and specialized nature of its habitat in the state, significant documented declines in available habitat, northern range limits in Maine, characteristically low population numbers at most sites, and lack of adequate existing regulations to protect its upland habitat.

**Threats:**

This butterfly is strictly associated with scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) and black oak (*Q. velutina*), rare host trees restricted mainly to southern and coastal Maine. Pitch pine-scrub oak barrens are a very rare natural community in the state, apparently restricted to 7 locations in southern Maine. Habitat alterations from land development, sand and gravel extraction, and timber harvesting have likely been influential. Furthermore, some barren communities require periodic burns or other disturbance to maintain appropriate successional structure. Previous and on-going insect control programs (mainly for gypsy moth) may also have negatively influenced the distribution of this species.

**Habitat**

Habitat for the sleepy duskywing includes pitch pine-scrub oak barrens and dry oak woodlands.

**Range:****State Distribution:**

Sleepy duskywing is known from only four modern localities, all in York County.

**Global Distribution:**

G5T5