

gray hairstreak

Strymon melinus

FEATURES

The gray hairstreak has a wingspan of about one and one-quarter inches. The upperside of the wings is dark gray, while the underside is a lighter gray. An orange spot with a black dot at the bottom is present at the back edge of each hindwing. The hindwing has two tails. A three-colored line separated into two sections is also present on the hindwing.

BEHAVIORS

This species can be found statewide from April through October. It lives in most open areas. Several generations are produced annually, with overwintering occurring in the chrysalis stage. The larva eats beans, hops and many other species of plants.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Lycaenidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE





Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge