

Bronze Copper, *Lycaena hyllus*

Status:

State: Endangered

Federal: Not listed

Identification

The bronze copper is one of the largest species of coppers (subfamily Lycaeninae), with adults obtaining sizes from 1.5"-1.9" (37-47 mm). The sexual dimorphism exhibited by this species is especially apparent in the patterning on the upper surface of the forewing. In males, the upper side of the forewing is a solid, purple iridescent color. Females have orange forewings



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with several black spots and only the forewing margin exhibits the purple iridescence. In both sexes, the upper surface of the hindwing is purple with an orange margin. The appearance of the underside of the wings is also similar in males and females of this species. The underside of the forewing has an orange base color with black spots and a white margin. The hindwings also have black spots on the under side, but the base color is off-white. An orange margin is present on the ventral, or underside, surface of the hindwings in both sexes.

Habitat

Moist or wet areas including: brackish and freshwater marshes, bogs, fens, seepages, wet sedge meadows, riparian zones, wet grasslands, and drainage ditches.

Status and Conservation

Although widespread, this species often exists in small, isolated populations. From a conservation perspective, it is fortunate that the host and food plants of the bronze copper are also widespread and highly abundant and in many areas.