Alaska Natural Heritage Program
Alaska Center for Conservation Science
University of Alaska Anchorage

Alaska Natural Heritage Program Conservation Status Report

Erynnis persius - Scudder, 1863

Common Name: Persius Duskywing

ELCODE: IILEP37170	**Taxonomic Serial No.:** 706749

Synonyms:

Taxonomy Notes: A number of subspecies of *Erynnis persius* have been referenced for North America*: Erynnis persius avinoffi* (W. Holland, 1930), *Erynnis persius borealis* (M. Cary, 1906) *Erynnis persius fredericki* (H. Freeman, 1943), and *Erynnis persius persius* (Scudder, 1863). Specimens in Alaska correspond with *Erynnis persius borealis* (Philip and Ferris 2016). The majority of butterfly records were determined only to species. We therefore only treat this butterfly at the species level for conservation assessment while recognizing that currently Alaskan specimens are considered to fall under (name of subspecies) - as treated by Ferris 2016. NatureServe concept reference: Opler & Warren (2002).

Report last updated – 16 May 2017

Conservation Status

G5 S4	ASRS: not yet ranked

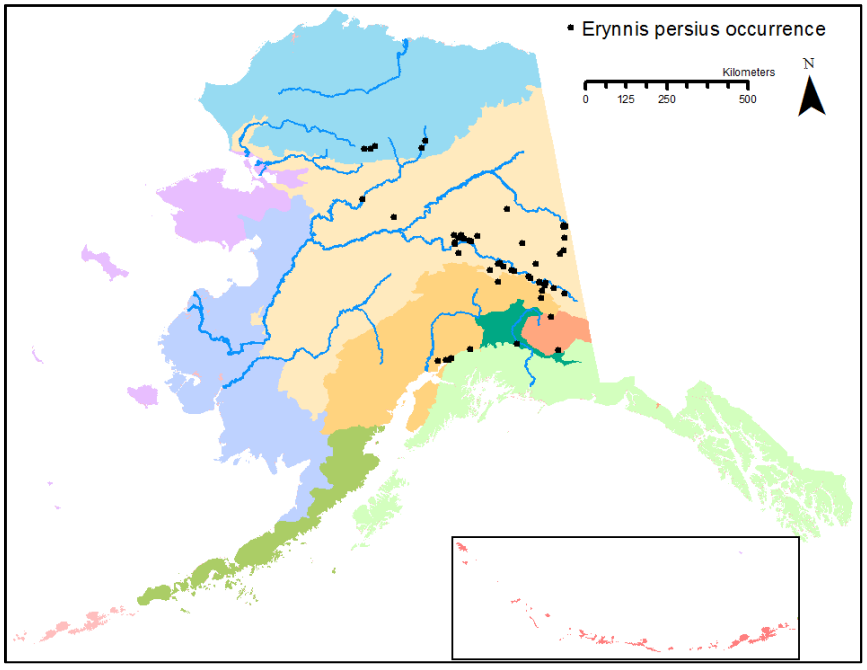
Occurrences, Range

Number of Occurrences: number of museum records: 401 (KWP 2017, UAM 2017), number of EOs: 57. Note this species is likely more abundant than the number of EOs indicates.

AK Range Extent: 294,979 km^2

Occupancy 4 km^2 grid cells: 56

Nowacki Ecoregions: Eastern Alaska: central, southern Brooks Range; Tanana, upper Yukon, Matanuska, and Copper River valleys; encompassing Arctic Tundra,



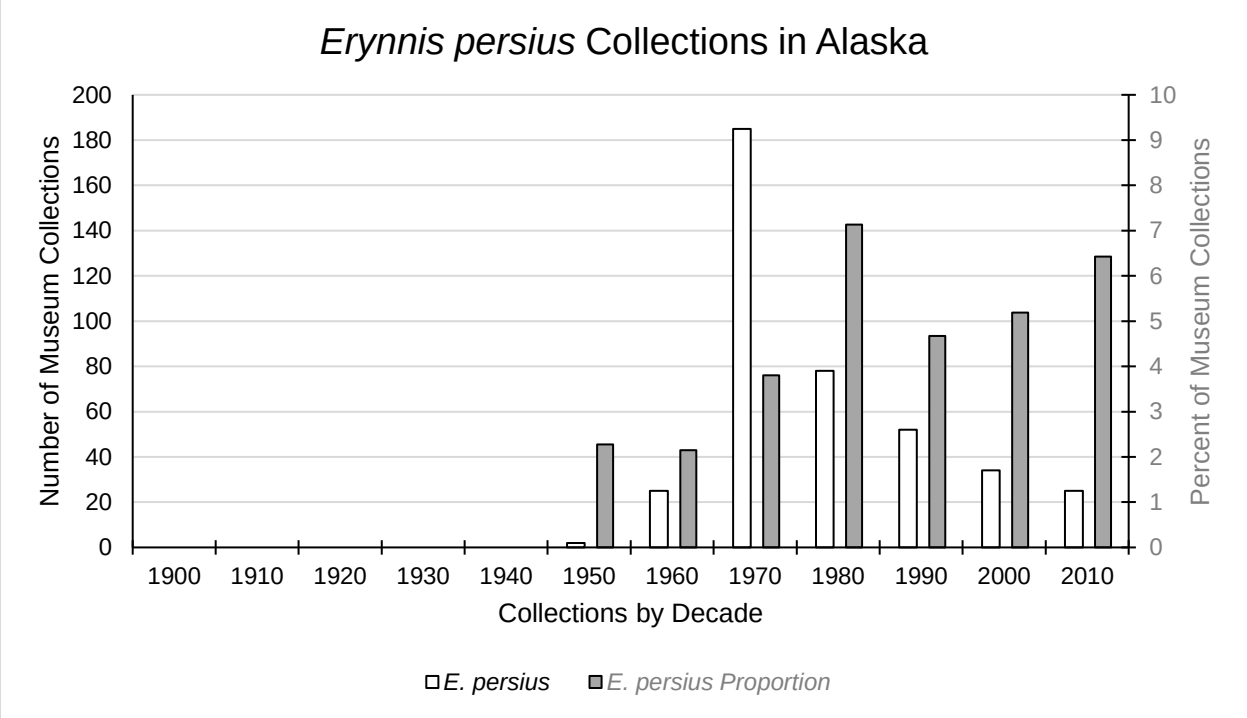
Intermontane Boreal, Alaska Range Transition, Copper River Basin, and Coast Mountain Transition Ecoregions.

North American Distribution: Alaska east to Manitoba, south through the western North American mountains to California and New Mexico. This taxon also occurs in eastern North America from Wisconsin to New England and south along the Appalachians to Virginia.

Trends

Short-term: Proportion collected has remained stable (<10% change).

Long-term: Proportion collected has remained stable (<10% change).



Threats

Scope and Severity: Most threats (including development, pollution, biological resource use, etc.) are anticipated to be negligible in scope and unknown in severity. This species is often associated with anthropogenic openings in forests such as powerline cuts and roadsides (Philip & Ferris 2016) and may benefit from some degree of development. Climate change and severe weather has the potential to affect populations; however we cannot anticipate the scope or severity of such impacts.

Ecology

Habitat: Open areas (e.g., roadsides, powerline cuts) in boreal forest in Alaska (Philip & Ferris 2016); more broadly the taxon is found in open woodland and mountain grasslands, as well as marshes, sand plains, seeps, and streamsides (BAMONA 2017).

Host Plants: Fabaceae, including *Astragalus*, *Lotus*, *Lupinus*, and *Trifolium* (BAMONA 2017).

Life History: Flight from mid-May to mid-June (Philip & Ferris 2016). Males seek females on hilltops, typically sitting on the ground. A single egg is laid under host plant leaves. Larvae feed on leaves in shelters of rolled or tied leaves and the fully-grown caterpillars hibernate (BAMONA 2017).

Intrinsic Vulnerability: Unknown

Literature

BAMONA. 2017. Butterflies and Moths of North America. Attributes of *Erynnis persius*. http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Erynnis-persius. Accessed 16 May 2017.

KWP, Kenelm W. Philip Lepidoptera Collection. 2017. Date Accessed 24 April 2017.

Opler, P. A., and A. D. Warren. 2002. Butterflies of North America. 2. Scientific Names List for Butterfly Species of North America, north of Mexico. C.P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity, Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. 79 pp.

Philip, K. W. and C. D. Ferris. 2016. Butterflies of Alaska: A Field Guide. Second Edition. Alaska Entomological Society. Clifford D. Ferris. Laramie, Wyoming.110 pp.

Scott, J. A. 1986. The Butterflies of North America: A Natural History and Field Guide. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 583 pp.

UAM Arctos Museum of the North 2017. Date Accessed 24 April 2017.