

A close-up photograph of a Great Spangled Fritillary butterfly. The butterfly's wings are a rich brown color, adorned with numerous white, irregular spots and markings. It is perched on a cluster of small, light pink flowers, with its proboscis extended to feed. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

**Butterfly Count July 2020**  
**Turkey Creek Nature Preserve**

*Number Tallied*  
*Great Spangled Fritillary -*  
*402*

*Giant  
Swallowtail - 1*



**Turkey Creek Nature Preserve continues to be a haven for butterflies.**

**During this July Count, 25 adult species were identified with a total of 754 individuals.**



*Eastern Tailed-Blue -  
81*

**2019 Butterfly Count on Turkey Creek  
Nature Preserve – 402  
2020 Butterfly Count – 754**



# Monarch Tagging in September 2020



**This year two volunteers had training in tagging so more of Turkey Creek Nature Preserve could be monitored. The morning of the tagging event was damp, cloudy and misty. The monarchs were not nectaring but were flying over the area. In the afternoon, weather improved so there was some success. 43 monarchs were tagged.**



**The number of monarch butterflies that reached their winter resting grounds in central Mexico decreased by about 26% this year, and four times as many trees were lost to illegal logging, drought and other causes, making 2020 a bad year for the butterflies.**

**Over the years, land management has increased species diversity. Turkey Creek Nature Preserve continues to have a higher count than other areas included in the July count.**

**Thanks to the many volunteers who help each year with the count and monarch tagging.**

**Thanks are also due to the UNO students for their enthusiastic participation.**

