

Checkered White, *Pontia protodice*

Status:

State: Threatened

Federal: Not listed

Identification

Similar in size and appearance to the much more common cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*), adult checkered whites reach sizes of 1.75 in.-2.4 in. (44-62 mm). Both sexes have a similar chalky white base color on the wings. The black spots on the upper surface of the wings are restricted to forewings in the males, but extend onto the hindwings in females. Although the number of spots differ between the sexes, both males and females of this species have a greater number of spots on the upper surface of the forewing than cabbage whites, which only have one (male) or two (female) spots present. A characteristic black patch exists along the bottom front margin of the forewing in both sexes of checkered whites; the under surface of the hindwing is a solid off-white color.



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Habitat

Mainly restricted to open areas such as savannas, old fields, vacant lots, and power line right-of-ways, checkered whites can sometimes be found along forest edges (especially in the spring).

Status and Conservation

This species has decreased in abundance in many northeastern states despite the fact that it is still quite common in many southern and western states. The fact that New Jersey falls along the northeastern periphery of its range could partially explain the low occurrence of this species in the state.