



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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The Pink Streak

Dargida rubripennis

NOTE: Formerly *Faronta rubripennis*

State Status: **Threatened**

Federal Status: **None**

Description: The Pink Streak (*Dargida rubripennis*) is a noctuid moth with a wingspan of 32-37 mm (Covell 1984). The forewing is light tan in color, with a bright pink streak that is narrow at the wing base, gradually broadening across the median area, and further broadening to encompass the entire outer margin of the wing; the streak is longitudinally bisected by a whitish-tan line along the cubital vein. The forewing has an additional pink streak along the outer one-third to one-half of the costal margin. The hind wings are a tan shade of white. The head, thorax, and abdomen are tan in color; the front of the thorax is frosted with white.

Habitat: In Massachusetts, the Pink Streak inhabits xeric sandplain grasslands and dunes, and occasionally similar anthropogenic habitats such as airports and power line cuts on sandy soils.

Life History: In Massachusetts, the Pink Streak flies in late July and early August. The preferred larval host plant is Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*). Larvae feed primarily on the developing seeds of this grass, reaching a length of about 30 mm by late August or early September. The pupa overwinters beneath the surface of the soil.

Geographic Range: In Massachusetts, the Pink Streak is currently only known to occur on Cape Cod and the island of Martha's Vineyard. Its range extends south to Florida and west to Minnesota and Texas (Covell 1984).



Dargida rubripennis • Specimen from MA: Dukes Co., Chilmark, larva collected 29 Aug 2007 by M.W. Nelson and T. Simmons, adult emerged 6 Aug 2008

Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts

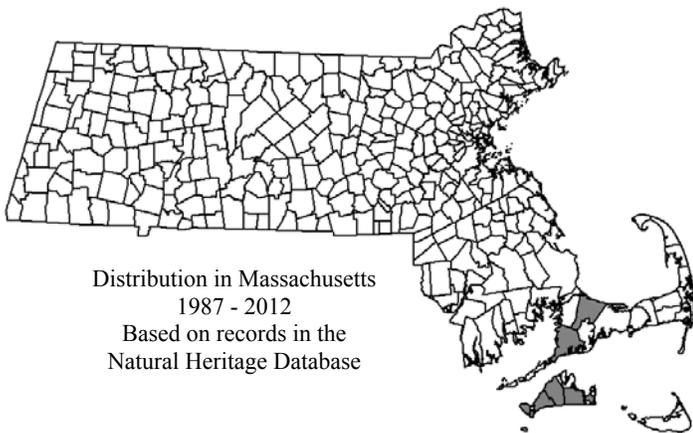
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Status and Threats: The Pink Streak is threatened by habitat loss and suppression of fire, which is needed to maintain the open structure of its habitat and promote growth of its host plants. Other potential threats include invasion by exotic plants, introduced generalist parasitoids, insecticide spraying, off-road vehicles, and light pollution.

Literature Cited

Covell, C.V. 1984. *A Field Guide to Moths of Eastern North America*. Peterson Field Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts. 496 pp.

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