

Ladybugs of South Dakota

All across North America certain species of native ladybugs are disappearing! In just the last 20 years some of these beneficial predators of farm and garden pests have become extremely rare. This rapid decline is of great concern. If we can find where the rare Nine-spotted, Two-spotted, and Transverse ladybugs still live, we may learn why this has happened and still be able to save them. From the Lost Ladybug Project website (lostladybug.org) you can learn how to catch, photograph,

and send images of ladybugs and be part of the database. Every ladybug you find (over 400 species in the United States), rare or common, native or exotic, is important. Even if you collect 20 of the same species we would like to see them all because that tells us how common those ladybugs species are in your area and how rare other species are. The project will continue for years to come. Collections from the same locations over the years will be especially useful.

The Lost Ladybug Project gives kids (and adults) a chance to be real citizen scientists. The pictures you send will contribute to ongoing scientific inquiry and will help us find out where the ladybugs have gone and why they have gone. At lostladybug.org you can find educational materials ranging from poetry, games, and instructions for homemade sweep nets, to data surfing and mapping. Parents and youth leaders will find this a fun way to convey concepts of biodiversity and conservation.



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