

Appalachian Azure

Appalachian Azures are rare in Alabama, only documented in Jackson County. There is a single flight; it occurs in late spring. Habitat is rich, deciduous forest where Common Black Cohosh grows. Males gather at puddles. Females stay near the host plant. Both sexes nectar at small flowers.



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- Ventrally, sexes are similar. Male dorsal wings are blue; forewing has a thin black border. Female dorsal wings tend to be paler with thick dark borders and a row of submarginal spots on the hindwing. Females are slightly larger.
- Ventral and dorsal wings are variable. Dorsally, some individuals have a violet hue, similar to Spring Azures. Some females may have dorsal wings that are almost white. Ventral wing markings are generally scant, but may be absent all together.
- Appalachian Azures are larger than both Spring and Summer Azures, which may be evident if more than one species is puddling together; otherwise, the size difference may be difficult to evaluate in the field.
- Location is important. Appalachian Azures only occur in cove forests in northeast Alabama and do not stray far from their host plant, (except when males visit puddles).
- Time of year is important. Appalachian Azures only fly in late spring: April-May.
- May be confused with Spring Azures and Summer Azures. Appalachian Azures tend to be larger, paler, and plainer than the other azures; however, location, habitat and timing should also be considered.





Appalachian Azure

Dorsal Male

Thin black border

Blue

Hindwing fringe typically not checkered

Appalachian Azure *Celastrina neglectamajor*

© Jeff Pippen

* *Reliable diagnostic marker*

Wingspan: 1¼ - 1½ inches (3.2 - 3.9 cm)

Appalachian Azure

Dorsal Female



Wide black border

Pale blue

Some white scaling

Hindwing fringe typically not checkered

Submarginal spots

Appalachian Azure *Celastrina neglectamajor*

© Sara Bright

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1¼ - 1½ inches (3.2 - 3.9 cm)

Appalachian Azure

Ventral View



Very pale/chalky white

Faint spots and chevrons

Hindwing fringe typically not checkered

Appalachian Azure *Celastrina neglectamajor*

© Sara Bright

* *Reliable diagnostic marker*

Wingspan: 1¼ - 1½ inches (3.2 - 3.9 cm)

Ventral Similar Species

Appalachian Azure



© Sara Bright

Summer Azure



© Vitaly Charny

Spring Azure



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Male Dorsal Similar Species

Appalachian Azure



© Jeff Pippen

Summer Azure



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Spring Azure



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Female Dorsal Similar Species

Appalachian Azure



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Summer Azure



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Spring Azure



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