

Banded Hairstreak

Banded Hairstreaks are widespread and common in Alabama. They have a single flight that begins in late spring and continues until early summer. Deciduous woodland edges and openings are typical habitat. Males perch several feet off the ground and aggressively investigate anything that flies. Both sexes nectar at a variety of small flowers.



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- Sexes are similar. Females are slightly larger. Males have an oval-shaped stigma on dorsal forewings that is also visible on ventral forewings.
- Dorsal wings are uniformly brown; these are seldom seen since Banded Hairstreaks perch and nectar with closed wings.
- Time of year is important. Banded Hairstreaks fly only in the spring.
- Extremely variable. Background color varies from shades of brown to shades of gray. May appear quite dark. Postmedian bands are typically bordered with white on one side, but may be bordered on both sides, especially on females.
- Blue spot on ventral hindwing is not capped with orange, but in some individuals there may be flecks of orange scaling.
- May be confused with Edward's Hairstreaks, King's Hairstreaks, and Striped Hairstreaks. The blue hindwing spot is not capped with orange; the orange mark below the blue spot is slight, not heavy; ventral wings appear be marked with bars, not stripes.





Banded Hairstreak

Male Ventral

*Band of dark bars edged in white on outer side (occasionally on both sides)

Two short tails; two long tails

Prominent orange chevron

Blue spot not capped with orange

Slight orange mark

Stigma visible near cell-end bar

Banded Hairstreak *Satyrium calanus*

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* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1 - 1 ½ inches (2.5 - 3.8 cm)



Banded Hairstreak

Female Ventral

Cell end bar; no stigma

Band of dark bars edged in white on outer side (sometimes on both sides, especially in females)*

Pair of short tails; pair of long tails

Prominent orange chevron

Blue spot not capped with orange

Slight orange mark (almost hidden in fold in this photo)

Banded Hairstreak *Satyrium calanus*

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Similar Species

Banded Hairstreak



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Edward's Hairstreak



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King's Hairstreak



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Striped Hairstreak



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