

Common Roadside-Skipper

Common Roadside-Skippers have been documented in the upper half of Alabama. There are local colonies; due to lack of reporting and ID issues, how common these colonies are is not known. There are two flights, spring and summer. Habitat consists of open woodland edges, often in rocky areas. Flight is low to the ground. Males perch to wait for females. They regularly engage in puddling. Both sexes nectar from small flowers.



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- Very small and easy to overlook.
- Sexes are similar. Females are slightly larger.
- May be confused with Dusted Skippers, Bell's Roadside Skipper, and Dusky Roadside Skippers. Common R-S are smaller than Dusted Skippers. They have checkered wing fringe that Dusted Skippers lack. Common R-S lack a white line above the eye that is present on Dusted Skippers. Common Roadside Skippers lack the extensive white spots present on Bell's Roadside Skipper ventral hindwings. Common R-S has more extensive ventral frosting and stronger wing checkering than Dusky Roadside-Skipper.



Common Roadside-Skipper

Dorsal View



Tiny white flecks on brownish black wings

Cluster of small white spots

Checkered black and tan wing fringe

Common Roadside-Skipper *Amblyscirtes vialis*

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* Reliable diagnostic marker

Wingspan: $\frac{3}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches (2.2 - 3.2 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Common Roadside-Skipper

Ventral View



Cluster of small white spots forms wedge shape

Faint violet gray frosting all the way to apex

Checkered black and tan fringe

Faint violet gray frosting outer half of hindwing

Striped body

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Similar Species

Common Roadside-Skipper



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Dusted Skipper



© Dusted Skipper

Bell's Roadside Skipper



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Dusky Roadside Skipper



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