

Common Sootywing

Common Sootywings are uncommon in Alabama with only a handful of sightings, all in northern counties. There are two flights. Weedy, disturbed areas comprise habitat; this includes agricultural fields. These small skippers perch low with wings open. Males patrol near the ground with a bouncing, erratic flight to look for females; they gather at puddles. Both sexes nectar from a variety of small flowers.



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- Small for a spread-wing skipper.
- Males are slightly smaller; they have a costal fold on the dorsal forewing. Females have more forewing spots and may have a submarginal row of tiny spots on the dorsal hindwing.
- Spotting is variable.
- Underside of palps is white.
- Black wings may fade with wear and appear dark brown.
- May be confused with Hayhurst's Scallopwings. Common Sootywings have more white spots on dorsal wings; they lack gold flecks; they lack the scalloped hindwing edges that are present on Hayhurst's Scallopwings.



Common Sootywing

Dorsal Male



Costal fold

Two curved rows of white spots*

Black

Fringe solid, not checkered

Common Sootywing *Pholisora catullus*

1 - 1¼ inches (2.5 - 3.3 cm)

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* Reliable diagnostic markers

Common Sootywing

Dorsal Female



Two curved rows of numerous white spots

Black

Fringe solid, not checkered

Submarginal row of tiny spots (variable)

Common Sootywing *Pholisora catullus*

1 - 1¼ inches (2.5 - 3.3 cm)

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Common Sootywing

Ventral View



Several white dots

Hindwing is solid black (may be brown with wear)

Palps are thrust forward, giving them a pointed look.

Common Sootywing *Pholisora catullus*

1 - 1¼ inches (2.5 - 3.3 cm)

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* Reliable diagnostic markers

Similar Species

Common Sootywing



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Hayhurst's Scallopwing



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