

Confused Cloudywing

There are only scattered sightings of Confused Cloudywings in Alabama. Whether this is because the species is rare or because they are so difficult to identify is hard to know. They are multi-brooded, flying spring through early fall. Open, sunny areas provide habitat. Flight is fast, low, and erratic. Males visit puddles. Both sexes nectar from a variety of flowers. Confused Cloudywings are usually seen in the company of one or both of the other cloudywing species. Some lepidopterists believe this species cannot be reliably identified in the field.



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- Sexes are similar. Females are slightly larger.
- Spring individuals are less prominently marked than those of the summer brood; these may be difficult to distinguish from North Cloudywings. Summer individuals are more heavily marked and may have an hourglass-shaped mid-forewing spot; these may be difficult to distinguish from Southern Cloudywings.
- Palps are whitish or light gray.
- Eye is ringed in white.
- The most reliable identifying mark is the trailing dot of the dorsal forewing's outer "bracelet." That dot is offset toward the outer edge, barely touching the other dots, if at all.
- May be confused with Northern Cloudywings and Southern Cloudywings. Confused Cloudywings have white/gray palps and a white eye ring. They lack a white patch at the bend of antennal clubs (Southern Cloudywing). The lowest dot on the dorsal forewing bracelet is distinctly offset—less than half is covered by the spot above it.





Confused Cloudywing

Dorsal View

- No white on top of antennae
- Extensive white eye line
- Upper spot smaller than spot below
- Lower spot offset outwardly; less than half covered by the spot above it*
- Often a narrow bar; well separated from next spot
- Fringes checkered

Confused Cloudywing *Thorybes confusus*

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* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1¼ - 1¾ inches (3.3 – 4.5 cm)



Confused Cloudywing

Ventral View

Small white spots

Dark brown cross bands (very worn)

Slight frosting

White eye line almost encircles eye; (light gray palps not visible due to head angle)

Confused Cloudywing *Thorybes confusis*

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* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

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Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Dorsal Similar Species

Confused Cloudywing



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Northern Cloudywing



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Southern Cloudywing



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Ventral Similar Species

Confused Cloudywing



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Northern Cloudywing



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