

Dusky Roadside-Skipper

Dusky Roadside-Skippers are rare throughout their range. They are reportedly multi-brooded, flying at least in spring and summer. Dusky Roadside-Skippers are found in pine savannas, often where wiregrass occurs. They are known for being secretive, and according to some sources, they seldom nectar. These tiny skippers fly very close to the ground.

- Tiny. Generally the smallest roadside-skipper. Approximately the size of a Least Skipper.
- Males and females are similar; male forewings more pointed.
- Ventral forewing “wrist bracelet” may be faint or well defined. More delicate than that of Common Roadside-Skipper.
- Dorsal surface is dark brown, sometimes with purplish sheen. Often a few subapical pale spots on forewing. Sometimes these are very faint or may be absent.
- Wings are edged with dark brown-and-white fringe; sometimes with little brown. Light color is whiter than fringe of Common and Bell’s Roadside Skipper, which is buffy.
- Antennal clubs are blunt, without the tapered extension (apiculus) that occurs on other roadside-skipper species.
- May be confused with Common Roadside-Skipper and Bell’s Roadside-Skipper.





Dusky Roadside-Skipper

Ventral View

*Blunt antennal clubs (no apiculus)

Delicate wrist bracelet

Dark brown-and-white checkered fringe

Frosted with blue-gray scales on dark brown wing color

Dusky Roadside-Skipper *Amblyscirtes alternata*

© MaryAnn Friedman

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: $\frac{7}{8}$ -1 inch (2.2-2.5 cm)

Similar Species

Dusky Roadside-Skipper



© MaryAnn Friedman

Common Roadside-Skipper



© Vitaly Charny

Bell's Roadside-Skipper



© Vitaly Charny