

Early Hairstreak

Early Hairstreaks are extremely rare and have only been documented in Jackson County, Alabama. There are at least two broods, but all three sightings have been in April. Habitat is mature beech forests; Early Hairstreaks probably spend most of their time in the canopy. Both sexes take moisture from damp earth, where they may sit with open wings. Both sexes nectar from a variety of small flowers.



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- Ventrally, sexes are similar. Dorsally, male is dark gray; female is dark gray with extensive blue scaling. Females are slightly larger.
- Wing edges are typically edged in orange.
- May be confused with Red-banded Hairstreaks. Early Hairstreaks are mint green, lack tails, and have loose orange spot-bands rather than solid red bands.





Early Hairstreak

Ventral View

Pale minty-green or gray-green*

Irregular bands of red-orange spots*

No tails

Early Hairstreak *Erora laeta*

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* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch (1.9 - 2.5 cm)

Early Hairstreak

Dorsal Male



Dark gray forewings and hindwings

Small patches of iridescent blue at base of hindwing

Early Hairstreak *Erora laeta*

© Ted Wilcox

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch (1.9 - 2.5 cm)



Early Hairstreak

Dorsal Female

Wide dark borders

Iridescent blue

Small band of submarginal spots

Early Hairstreak *Erora laeta*

© Grace Jeschke

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch (1.9 - 2.5 cm)

Similar Species

Early Hairstreak



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Red-banded Hairstreak



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