

# Eastern Pine Elfin

Eastern Pine Elfins have been documented in the upper half of Alabama, although they probably occur further south. There is one flight in late spring. Habitat consists of open areas that contain sapling pines. Males often perch on treetops. Both sexes may be encountered at nearby nectar sources. Frequent puddlers.



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- Sexes are similar. Male dorsal forewings are brown and contain a stigma on upper edge. Females are slightly larger; dorsal forewings are tawnier with dark borders. Dorsal wings are seldom seen in either sex because elfins perch and nectar with closed wings.
- Hindwings are rubbed almost constantly while nectaring.
- Typically not confused with any other species in Alabama. Other similar elfin species do not occur in our state.



# Eastern Pine Elfin

## Ventral View



\*Brown but strongly marked with gray, reddish brown, and black chevrons and bands

Fringes heavily checkered

\*Banded with reddish brown and black in an irregular pattern

Gray band along margin

No tails

Eastern Pine Elfin *Callophrys niphon*

Wingspan:  $\frac{3}{4}$  -  $1 \frac{1}{4}$  inches (1.9-3.2 cm)

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\* Reliable diagnostic markers