

Edward's Hairstreak

Edward's Hairstreaks are extremely rare in Alabama, and have only been documented a few times in the upper half of the state. They have a single flight that begins in late spring and continues until early summer. Scrub oak thickets and woodlands are typical habitat. Males perch several feet off the ground and aggressively investigate anything that flies. Both sexes nectar at a variety of small flowers.



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- Sexes are similar. Males have a stigma on dorsal forewing. Females are slightly larger and have an orange spot near the tail on dorsal hindwing.
- Dorsal wings are brown. Females have an orange spot near the tail. Dorsal wings are seldom seen since Edward's Hairstreaks perch and nectar with closed wings.
- Variable as far as background color and extensiveness of markings. May sometimes have very short tails in addition to long tails on hindwing.
- Time of year is important. Edward's Hairstreaks fly only in the spring.
- May be confused with Banded Hairstreaks, Striped Hairstreaks, and King's Hairstreaks. Look for Edward's oval spot bands, a blue hindwing spot very slightly capped with orange, and a significant orange mark below the blue hindwing spot.



Edwards' Hairstreak

Ventral View



Cell end bar

Band of white-ringed oval spots*

Row of orange chevrons

Blue spot not capped in orange (or sometimes very slightly)

Occasionally two very short tails

Two long tails

Heavy orange mark

Edwards' Hairstreak *Satyrium edwardsii*

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* Reliable diagnostic markers

Wingspan: 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches (3 - 3.8 cm)

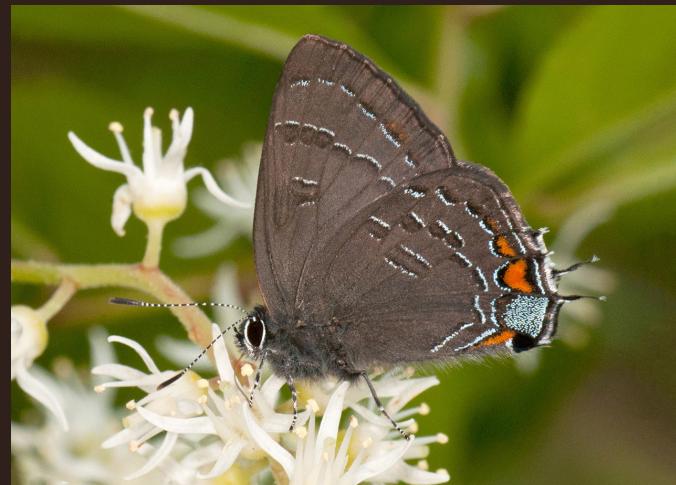
Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Similar Species

Edward's Hairstreak



Banded Hairstreak



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King's Hairstreak



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Striped Hairstreak



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