

Golden Banded-Skipper

Golden Banded-Skippers are widespread but uncommon in Alabama. They have two flights, the first beginning in mid-spring. They are found near populations of Thicket Bean, which is found in the dappled sunlight of open thickets and woodland edges. Flight is somewhat low and slow. Males engage in puddling behavior. Both sexes are avid nectarers.



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- Large for a skipper
- Sexes are similar. Females are slightly larger.
- The golden band is visible in flight.
- May be confused with Silver-spotted Skippers and Hoary Edges. Golden Banded-Skippers lack a ventral hindwing white patch that is present on the other two species. The golden band on the dorsal forewing is bright and continuous. Golden Banded-Skippers are shaped more proportionally than Silver-spotted Skippers, lacking the elongated forewing.



Golden Banded-Skipper

Dorsal View



Small white patch

Wide golden-yellow continuous band*

Black and white checkered fringe

Dark brown-black ground color

Golden Banded-Skipper *Autochton cellus*

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* Reliable diagnostic markers

Wingspan: 1½ - 2 inches (3.8 - 5.1 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org



Golden Banded-Skipper

Ventral View

Small white patch

Wide, bright golden-yellow band

Two to three indistinct dark bands
(no white patch)

Gray frosting

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Similar Species

Golden Banded-Skipper



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Silver-spotted Skipper



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Hoary Edge



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