

Great Southern White

To date, there have only been a few documented occurrences of Great Southern Whites in Alabama. They are only known from Baldwin County, however, they could certainly occur in other southern tier counties. In some years, Great Southern Whites emigrate into Alabama from Florida; they establish populations and are most likely be found in summer and fall. Occasionally, as in 2016, irruptions occur and large numbers may be seen. Habitat is typically coastal, but during irruptions, they also move inland into weedy, disturbed areas. Both sexes nectar from a variety of flowers.



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- Great Southern Whites are the largest of the “whites.”
- Great Southern Whites are seasonally and sexually dimorphic.
- Summer/Wet Season females are typically dark, but occasionally some are white.
- To determine whether a white butterfly is a Great Southern White, look for dark, zigzag markings on dorsal forewing and turquoise antennal clubs. GSW’s also have a yellow “eyebrow” and a yellow spot near the base of the ventral hindwing.
- May be confused with Cabbage Whites and Checkered Whites. At some sites, all three fly together





Great Southern White

Dorsal Male and Female
(Winter/Dry Season Form)

- MALE: *Turquoise antennal clubs
- *Dark, zigzagged forewing margins
- White forewing and hindwing
- FEMALE: *Turquoise antennal clubs
- Single dark forewing spot
- *Dark, zigzagged margins that may extend into hindwing
- White wing color with dark scaling along hindwing veins

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*

© Sara Bright

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan 1¾ to 2¼ inches (4.4-5.7 cm)



Great Southern White

Dorsal Male and Female
(Summer/Wet Season Form)

FEMALE: *Turquoise antennal clubs

Single dark forewing spot

*Dark, zigzagged forewing margins

*Smoky, gray-brown wing color

MALE: *Turquoise antennal clubs

*Dark, zigzagged forewing margins

White forewing and hindwing

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*

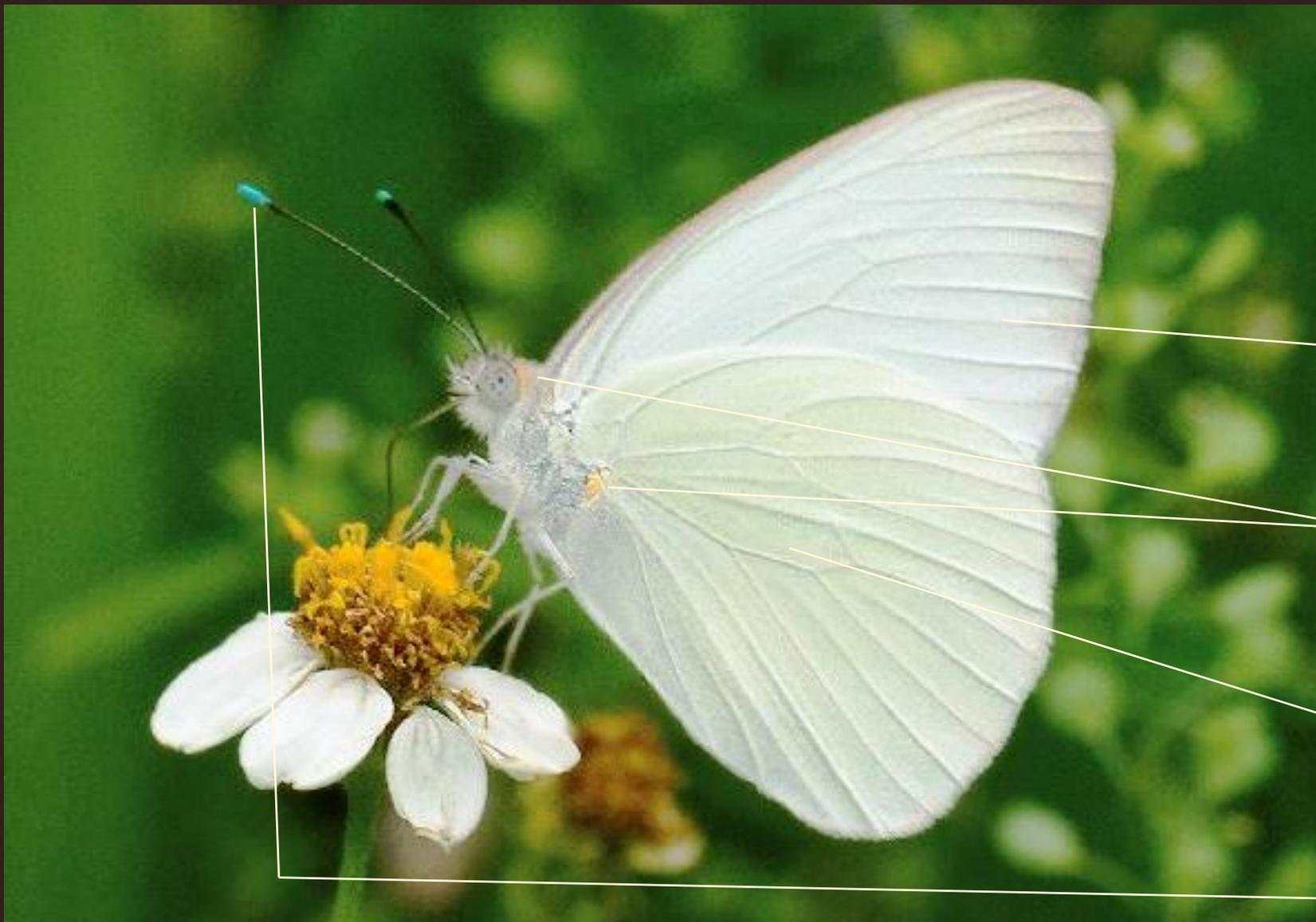
© Sara Bright

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Wingspan 1¾ to 2¼ inches (4.4-5.7 cm)

Great Southern White

Ventral Male
(Summer/Wet Season Form)



White forewing

Yellow at "eyebrow" and at wing base

Slight yellow wash on hindwing

*Turquoise antennal clubs

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*

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Wingspan 1¾ to 2¼ inches (4.4-5.7 cm)



Great Southern White

Ventral Male
(Winter/Dry Season Form)

*White forewing with yellow brown scales at apex

Heavy yellow wash on hindwing

Yellow at "eyebrow" and at wing base

*Turquoise antennal clubs

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*

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Wingspan 1¾ to 2¼ inches (4.4-5.7 cm)



Great Southern White

Ventral Female (Winter/Dry Season Form)

Dorsal forewing spot and marginal markings visible through wing

Variable amount of dark scaling along hindwing veins

Yellow at "eyebrow" and at wing base

*Turquoise antennal clubs

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*

© Sara Bright

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Wingspan 1¾ to 2¼ inches (4.4-5.7 cm)



Great Southern White

Ventral Female
(Summer/Wet Season Form)

Heavy dark scaling along wing veins

Yellow at "eyebrow" and at wing base

*Turquoise antennal clubs

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Wingspan 1¾ to 2¼ inches (4.4-5.7 cm)



Great Southern White

Ventral Male/Female Comparison (Winter/Dry Season Form)

MALE: *White forewing with yellow brown scales at apex and yellow wash on hindwing

FEMALE: White wings suffused with yellow; more dark veining than male.

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Great Southern White

Ventral Male/Female Comparison
(Summer/Wet Season Form)

MALE: White with slight yellow wash on hindwing

FEMALE: *Smoky, gray-brown wing color

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Wingspan 1¾ to 2¼ inches (4.4-5.7 cm)

Dorsal Summer/Wet Season Similar Species

Great Southern White



© Sara Bright

Cabbage White



© Sara Bright

Checkered White



© Steve Krotzer

Ventral Summer/Wet Season Species

Great Southern White



© Sara Bright

Checkered White



© Sara Bright

Cabbage White



© Karen Chiasson

West Virginia White



© Sara Bright

Ventral Winter/Dry Season Similar Species

Great Southern White



© Sara Bright

Cabbage White



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