

Northern Pearly-Eye

Northern Pearly-Eyes are typically found in the northern two-thirds of Alabama. They fly from late spring through early fall. Northern Pearly-eyes are found in shaded, deciduous woodlands that contain broad-leaved grasses. They often perch upside down on trees. Pearly-eyes rarely nectar from flowers, preferring dung, sap, carrion, and other non-floral sources. They continue to be active on cloudy days and at dusk.

- Northern Pearly-Eyes are sexually dimorphic. Male forewings are more elongated than female forewings.
- Dorsal eyespots are often encircled by wide yellow borders (as Southern Pearly-Eye), but not always.
- Fresh butterflies have a violet sheen on ventral wings.
- May be confused with Southern Pearly-eyes, Creole Pearly-eyes, and Appalachian Browns. The antennal clubs of Northern Pearly-eyes are black with orange tips; Southern Pearly-eyes have yellow-orange antennal clubs. On Northern Pearly-eyes, the ventral forewing's dark, curving line has a cusp (or point); on Creole Pearly-eyes, the line forms the shape of a closed fist. A literature search turns up many suggested ID marks that can be used to separate the pearly-eyes, but few are reliable.





Northern Pearly-Eye

Dorsal View

Antennal clubs black with orange tips*

Dark eyespots forewing and hindwing

Scalloped wing margins

Northern Pearly-Eye *Lethe anthedon*

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* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: $1\frac{3}{4}$ - $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches (4.5-6.7 cm)



Northern Pearly-Eye

Ventral Male

Elongated, pointed forewing

Four or five eyespots in straight line

Forewing has slightly curved dark line with a cusp or point

Antennal clubs black with yellow-orange tips

Northern Pearly-Eye *Lethe anthedon*

© Sara Bright

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -2 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches (4.5-6.7 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org



Northern Pearly-Eye

Ventral Female

Forewing has four or five eyespots in straight line

Forewing has slightly curved dark line with a cusp or point

Antennal clubs black with yellow-orange tips

Northern Pearly-Eye *Lethe anthedon*

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Wingspan: 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -2 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches (4.5-6.7 cm)



Northern Pearly-Eye

Male/Female Ventral Comparison

MALE: Pointed forewing

FEMALE: Rounded forewing

Northern Pearly-Eye *Lethe anthedon*

© Sara Bright

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1¾-2⅝ inches (4.5-6.7 cm)

Similar Species

Northern Pearly-Eye



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Creole Pearly-Eye



© Sara Bright

Southern Pearly-Eye



© Vitaly Charny

Appalachian Brown



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