

# Queen

Queens are uncommon in Alabama and have only been found in coastal counties. They are multi-brooded; sightings in Alabama typically begin in mid-summer and continue through late fall. Habitat consists of open, sunny areas that support milkweed, including suburban yards. Flight is slow and graceful. Queens nectar from a wide variety of flowers. They usually perch and nectar with closed wings.

- Sexes are similar. Males have a prominent scent patch that is visible on dorsal hindwings and subtly visible on ventral hindwings. Females are larger.
- May be confused with Monarchs. Queens are mahogany in color rather than orange. They are smaller; lack dark veining on forewings; the tops of their bodies are orange rather than brown (Monarchs).



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# Queen

Dorsal Male

Dark wedge-shaped marking

Scattered white spots on forewing\*

Chestnut brown/mahogany\*

Orange on top of body

Black scent patch

Dark borders with two rows of white spots

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

© Sara Bright

\* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 2½ - 4 inches (6.7 - 9.8 cm)





## Queen

### Dorsal Female

Dark wedge-shaped marking

Scattered white spots on forewing\*

Chestnut brown/mahogany\*

Orange on top of body

Dark borders with two rows of white spots

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

© Loret T. Setters

\* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 2½ - 4 inches (6.7 - 9.8 cm)





## Queen

Ventral Male

Chestnut brown/mahogany\*

Scattered white spots\*

Black borders of both wings have two rows of white spots

Black veins outlined in white\*

White spot within black vein on lower hindwing

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

© Sara Bright

\* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 2½ - 4 inches (6.7 - 9.8 cm)





## Queen

Ventral Female

Chestnut brown/mahogany wing color\*

Scattered white spots\*

Black veins outlined in white\*

Black borders of both wings have two rows of white spots

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

© Sara Bright

\* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 2½ - 4 inches (6.7 - 9.8 cm)





# Queen

Ventral Male and Female

FEMALE: Larger

MALE: Smaller

White spot in black vein on lower hindwing

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

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\* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 2½ - 4 inches (6.7 - 9.8 cm)

# Similar Species

Queen Dorsal



© Sara Bright

Monarch Dorsal



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Queen Ventral



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Monarch Dorsal



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