

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.



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- 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).



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*

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

© Sara Bright

* Reliable diagnostic markers

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*

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

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* Reliable diagnostic markers



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*

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

© Sara Bright

* Reliable diagnostic markers



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*

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

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* Reliable diagnostic markers

Queen

Ventral Male and Female



FEMALE: Larger

MALE: Smaller

White spot in black vein on lower hindwing

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

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

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* Reliable diagnostic markers

Similar Species

Queen Dorsal



Monarch Dorsal



Queen Ventral



Monarch Dorsal



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