

Southern Skipperling

Southern Skipperlings occur throughout Alabama. They are multi-brooded, flying spring, summer, and fall. Populations build as the year progresses. These tiny skippers are found in open sunny, often weedy habitats, that include suburban lawns. Flight is low with frequent stops, but they move rapidly and erratically at times. Males perch to search for females. Both sexes nectar from a variety of small flowers. They also visit puddles and damp ground.

- Noticeably tiny—the smallest skipper species in North America.
- Sexes are similar although females are slightly larger and less angular. Dorsally, females have wider dark wing borders and black markings extend beyond “shoulders.”
- Wings are proportionally long and narrow.
- May be confused with Least Skipper. Southern Skipperling is smaller; has longer, narrower wings; lacks significant black on the dorsal surface; and has a distinct white vein on ventral hindwing.





Southern Skipperling

Dorsal Male

White around eye

Smudgy black “shoulders”

Very thin black borders

Stigma very inconspicuous

Pale fringe

Southern Skipperling *Copaeodes minimus*

© Vitaly Charny

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: ½-¾ inches (1.3 – 1.9 cm)

Southern Skipperling

Ventral View



Orange base color

Very distinct white ray runs
length of hindwing*

White underparts

Southern Skipperling *Copaesodes minimus*

© Steve Krotzer

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: ½-¾ inches (1.3 – 1.9 cm)



Southern Skipperling

Male/Female Ventral Comparison

Female slightly larger than male

Male slightly smaller than female.
Wings more angular.

Southern Skipperling *Copaesodes minimus*

© Vitaly Charny

** Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: ½-¾ inches (1.3 – 1.9 cm)

Similar Species

Southern Skipperling



© Lewis Scharpf 9/19/2009

Least Skipper



© Vitaly Charny 9/4/2016