

Viceroy

Viceroy butterflies are widespread and common in Alabama, probably occurring in every county. They are multi-brooded, first on the wing in mid-late spring. They are typically found near water, where their willow hosts grow. Flight is a distinct flap and glide; wings are held horizontally during the glide. Males perch to wait for females. Viceroy butterflies are often found in puddle clubs. They seldom nectar from flowers, preferring non-floral nutrition; they are more likely to visit flowers during summer and fall.

- Sexes are similar. Females are slightly larger.
- May be confused with Monarchs. The black postmedian line across the dorsal hindwing is diagnostic. The black wings borders have only one prominent row of markings rather than two. These markings may be chevrons rather than rounded spots (Monarchs). On the dorsal forewing, they have a distinct dark wedge that contains a few white spots. Viceroy butterflies are smaller, but this may be difficult to assess in the field. Wings are held horizontally during the “glide” portion of their flight pattern rather than vertically (Monarchs).



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Viceroy

Dorsal View



Wedge-shaped black marking with white spots

Orange with prominent black veins

Black postmedian line across hindwing*

Black borders flecked with one prominent row of white marks

Viceroy *Limenitis archippus*

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* Reliable diagnostic marker

Wingspan: 2½ - 3 inches (6.4 - 7.6 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Viceroy

Ventral View



Wedge-shaped black marking with white spots

Orange forewing with lighter orange apex

Black postmedian line across hindwing*

Golden orange with dark veins

Black borders flecked with one prominent row of white marks

Viceroy *Limenitis archippus*

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Similar Species

Viceroy Dorsal



Monarch Dorsal



Viceroy Ventral



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Monarch Ventral



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