

West Virginia White

West Virginia Whites are found in a few counties in east Alabama. They are univoltine, flying only in the spring. Typical habitat is comprised of shady, moist, rich woodlands. These butterflies rarely stray far from their caterpillar hosts, toothworts. Both sexes nectar from a variety of spring-blooming wildflowers, including their host plants. They also visit puddles and other damp areas. Flight is low and slow.



© Sara Bright

- Location, time of year, and habitat are important factors to consider when making an identification.
- Sexes are similar, but dorsally, males are whiter and less gray than females. Although there is a great deal of variation in the amount of gray along ventral hindwing veins, males tend to be darker.
- Eyes are blue.
- Antennal clubs are dark with light tips.
- May be confused with Cabbage Whites, female Falcate Orangetips, and male Checkered Whites.



West Virginia White

Dorsal Male



- Gray scaling at wing base
- Body black on upper surface
- *Translucent, whitish wings
Generally whiter than females

West Virginia White *Pieris virginiensis*

Wingspan: 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches (3.5-4.1 cm)

© Sara Bright

*Reliable diagnostic markers

West Virginia White

Dorsal Female



*Translucent, whitish wings with some gray scaling that extends into wings. Often grayer than males.

Body black on upper surface

West Virginia White *Pieris virginensis*

Wingspan: $1\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches (3.5-4.1 cm)

© Sara Bright

* Reliable diagnostic markers

West Virginia White

Ventral View



Yellow spot on costal base of ventral hindwing

*Veins edged in varying amounts of gray or grayish-brown

West Virginia White *Pieris virginiensis*

Wingspan: 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches (3.5-4.1 cm)

© Sara Bright

* Reliable diagnostic markers

Similar Species

West Virginia White



© Sara Bright

Cabbage White



© Sara Bright

Female Falcate Orangetip



© Sara Bright

Male Checkered White



© Steve Krotzer