White-M Hairstreak

White-M Hairstreak populations are widespread in Alabama, although these butterflies are not commonly encountered. They have at least two flights each year. Oak forests provide typical habitat. White-M’s spend much of their time in the canopy. Both sexes nectar from a variety of flowers including those of trees and shrubs.

• Sexes are similar ventrally. Males have a small black stigma on dorsal forewings. Females are larger; dorsal wings are duller with less blue than males.

• Dorsal wings are brilliant blue with wide black margins. Female margins are wider, limiting the blue. Dorsal wings are seldom seen except in flight when they create electric flashes of blue.

• May be confused with Oak Hairstreaks and Gray Hairstreaks. White-M Hairstreaks have a diagnostic white spot on the ventral hindwing that the others lack.
White-M Hairstreak

Ventral View

- Gray/brown ground color
- Two short tails; two long tails
- Single red spot recessed inward
- Thin white line edged in black forms an "M"
- White spot*

* Reliable diagnostic markers

White-M Hairstreak  *Parrhasius m-album*

Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5 - 3.8 cm)

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Similar Species

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