

Wild Indigo Duskywing

Wild Indigo Duskywings are widespread in Alabama, although records indicate they are more common in the upper two-thirds of the state. There are three flights. Habitat is varied; it includes woodland edges that support baptisias and roadsides that are planted with Crown Vetch. Males perch but also patrol to find females. They engage in puddling behavior. Flight tends to be low to the ground. Both sexes nectar at a variety of flowers.

- A small duskywing
- Sexes are somewhat dimorphic. Dorsally, males are darker. Females are more mottled. Males have a costal fold.
- Variable
- May be confused with almost any duskywing in our area. Wild Indigos typically have a dorsal hindwing cell-end marking that others usually do not. They typically lack the dorsal forewing cell-end dot that is present on Juvenal's, Horace's, and Zaruccos. They have a dorsal forewing spot "bracelet" that Sleepy DW's lack. Wings are not as narrow and pointed as Zarucco. Wild Indigos have a finger-like dark marking on dorsal forewing; Zaruccos have a dark band that crosses the forewing wing. Look also for host plant choice.



Wild Indigo Duskywing

Dorsal Male



Very dark base with costal fold

Indistinct forearm patch

Three or four very small hyaline spots in zigzag pattern

Black "fingers" pattern

One–three very small white spots; usually lacks a cell end spot

Faint cell end marking

Hindwing dark with small pale dots

Wild Indigo Duskywing *Erynnis baptisiae*

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* Reliable diagnostic marker

Wingspan: $1\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches (3.2-4.45 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Wild Indigo Duskywing

Dorsal Female



Irregular forearm patch

Three or four very small hyaline spots in zigzag pattern

Dark “fingers” pattern

One–three very small white spots; usually lacks a cell end spot

Faint cell end marking

Hindwing dark with small pale

Wild Indigo Duskywing *Erynnis baptisiae*

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Wild Indigo Duskywing

Ventral View



Ventral forewing spots mirror dorsal forewing spots

Dark with two rows of small white spots

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Similar Species

Wild Indigo Duskywing



Juvenal's Duskywing



Mottled Duskywing



Horace's Duskywing



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Similar Species continued

Dreamy Duskywing



Sleepy Duskywing



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Zarucco Duskywing



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Funereal Duskywing



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