

Zebra Longwing

Zebra Longwings sometimes colonize Alabama, typically in the lower third of the state and usually not until early summer. In some years they are more commonly encountered and more widespread than in others. This species is often present in captive butterfly houses and occasionally escapes, far out of range. Zebra Longwings prefer somewhat shady areas, including woodland edges. Flight is slow and graceful. They readily visit flowers for nectar, including those in gardens. They also roost communally at night.



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- Sexes are similar.
- Unmistakable and unique.





Zebra Longwing

Dorsal View

Long antennae

Very elongated forewings*

Red dots (not always visible)*

Pale yellow stripes and markings on dark base base color *

Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*

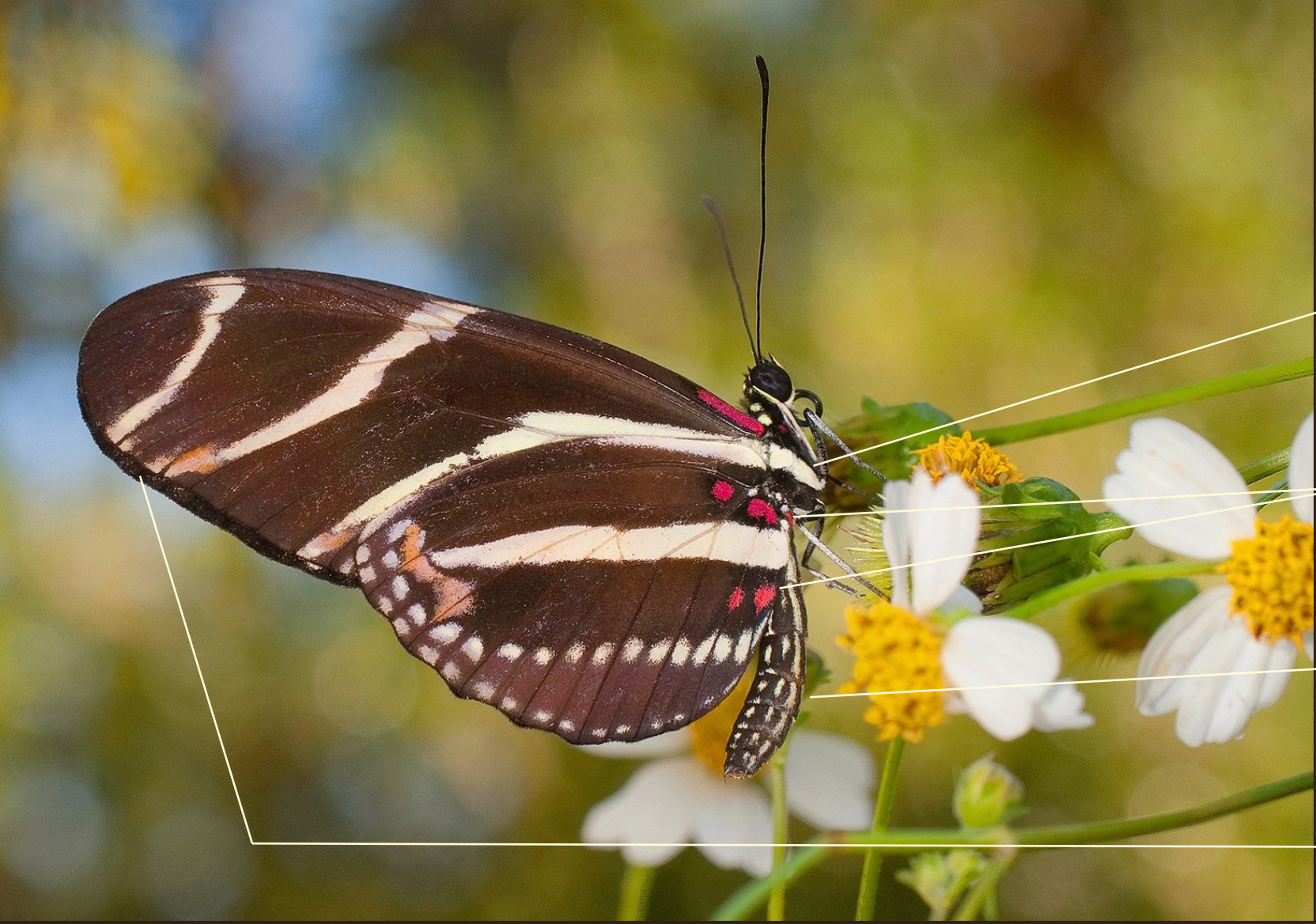
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* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 3 - 3½ inches (7.4 - 8.9 cm)

Zebra Longwing

Ventral View



Yellow stripes on dark base color*

Small red basal spots*

Elongated abdomen

Very elongated forewings*

Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*

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