

## GOLDEN-BANDED SKIPPER

*Telegonus cellus*

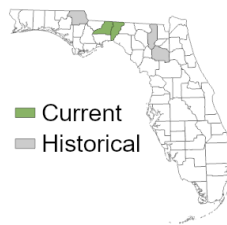
**Order:** Lepidoptera

**Family:** Hesperiidae

**FNAI Ranks:** G5/S1

**U.S. Status:** none

**FL Status:** none



**Description:** Large (40-50 mm), rather distinctive skipper. Dark brown overall with a diagonal orange band and off-white spot on each forewing. Caterpillar pale green with sulfur-yellow stripe down each side, head dark red.

**Similar Species:** The bands on Hoary Edge (*Thorybes lyciades*) and Yucca Giant-Skipper (*Megathymus yuccae*) are usually broken up by black markings between patches of orange/yellow. Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*) has a distinct white patch on the lower surface of the hindwing.

**Habitat:** Upland hardwood forest, usually on slight slope near a river or stream.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Adults present March-August, one record from September.

**Florida Distribution:** Eastern Panhandle in Leon and Jefferson counties. Extirpated from Alachua County and Jackson County.

**Range-wide Distribution:** From the eastern U.S. to Arizona and south through Central America into northern South America.

**Conservation Status:** Florida populations are disjunct from the main range. Although population sizes appear to be small, all occurrences are protected on conservation lands.

**Protection and Management:** Prescribed burns should be conducted with caution where this species is known to occur until a better knowledge of the ecological requirements and role of fire in the survival of this species can be studied.

**References:** BAMONA 2023, Harder et al. 2007, iNaturalist 2023, Jue et al. 2011, Schweitzer et al. 2018



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