



## Butterflies and Moths of North America

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### Hummingbird clearwing

*Hemaris thysbe* (Fabricius, 1775)



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#### Attributes of *Hemaris thysbe*

#### Documented Records for *Hemaris thysbe*

Family: **Sphinx Moths, Hawkmoths** (*Sphingidae*)

Subfamily: **Macroglossinae** (*Macroglossinae*)

**Identification:** Adult appearance is variable; Hummingbird mimic. The thorax is olive to golden-olive in color dorsally, yellow ventrally; abdomen is dark burgundy (sometimes almost black) both dorsally and ventrally, with light olive to dark golden patches dorsally. Wings mostly clear with reddish brown terminal borders and dark scaling along **veins**. While wing maculation is too variable to be 100% diagnostic, *thysbe* typically has thick terminal borders and the discal cell is typically covered or bisected by dark scales. However, *thysbe* can always be distinguished from *gracilis* and *diffinis* by two characteristics: 1) the lack of any banding on the lateral side of the thorax; 2) *thysbe* always has yellowish or pale colored legs.

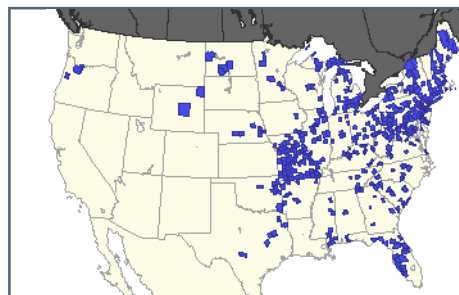
**Life history:** Adults fly during the day, and hover at flowers to sip nectar. Caterpillars pupate in cocoons spun at the soil surface.

**Flight:** . Two broods in the south from March-June and August-October, one brood in the north from April-August.

**Wing span:** 1 9/16 - 2 3/16 inches (4 - 5.5 cm).

**Caterpillar hosts:** Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*), hawthorns (*Crataegus*), cherries and plums (*Prunus*), and European cranberry bush (*Viburnum opulus*).

**Adult food:** Nectar from a wide variety of flowers including Japanese honeysuckle, beebalm, red clover, lilac, phlox, snowberry, cranberry, blueberry, vetch, and thistles.



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**Habitat:** Open and second-growth habitats, gardens, and suburbs.

**Range:** Alaska and the Northwest Territories south through British Columbia to Oregon; east through the Great Plains and the Great Lakes area to Maine and Newfoundland; south to Florida and Texas.

**Conservation:** Not usually required.

**NatureServe Global Status:** G5 - Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

**Management needs:** None reported.

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