One definition of fog is “clouds at ground level.” Many of us are in a fog when we encounter cloudywings at ground level.

Six species of cloudywings in the genus *Thorybes* are found in the United States.

One of the limitations of cloudywings is their similarity in appearance, making them difficult to identify. However, Northern and Confused Cloudywings are found throughout much of the United States and Canada.

In this article, we will explore the identification of cloudywings in the East. However, let’s be clear at the outset, because of great variation (not to mention wear) in cloudywings, not all individuals can be confidently identified to species. Although historically most observers mention the difficulty in distinguishing Northern and Confused Cloudywings, I believe that the Southern/Confused Cloudywing separation is more problematic.

Thorbyes may be translated as “Poor Visibility Ahead.”

Before reading this article, please take the CloudyQuizz.

Assign each of the five individuals shown on the opposite page to a cloudywing species. If you get all five right then you may skip the rest of this article and spend more time with your family and/or friends because, obviously, you have been spending too much time with butterflies! Answers are given on page 17.

Southern and Confused Cloudywings are restricted to the East, Drusius, Mexican and Western Cloudywings are restricted to the West, while Northern Cloudywings are found throughout much of the United States and Canada.

In this article, we will explore the identification of cloudywings in the East.