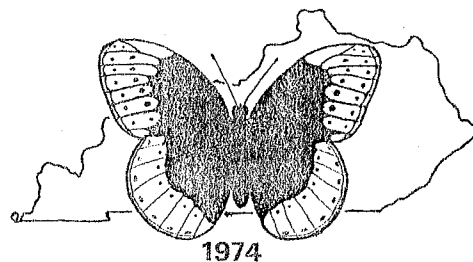


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

The Society of

Kentucky Lepidopterists



VOL. 10, NO. 2

C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR
R. A. HENDERSON, ASSOC. EDITOR

APRIL, 1984

SPRING FIELD MEETING RESCHEDULED

REPORT OF THE BRAZIL TRIP

Because of poor notes taken by your Editor at the Annual Meeting, the spring Field Meeting in western Ky. was scheduled for mid-April instead of the time decided upon. Thus the field trip will be MAY 11-13, with the objective of discovering late spring skippers such as Ambliscirtes carolina, A. reversa, and A. linda. Most records of these species are for the first week in May; but this spring having been rather late, the second week should be a good time to look for them. The extreme west of Ky. has been little sampled in springtime; so many new county records for the Ky. Survey should be possible. In case of rainy weather we will just cancel the trip - again. So pertinent information from Loran Gibson, our Field Trip Coordinator, is as follows:

AGENDA: Sat. morning, 9:30 CENTRAL TIME we meet between the 2 bridges where Rt.94 crosses Little Bayou du Chien, 2½ miles East of Cayce, Fulton Co. We will collect in this area all morning. If you come late just holler for us. Sat. afternoon: At about noon we'll move to Reelfoot Nat. Wildlife Refuge, a few miles to the west. We will spend the afternoon collecting along the roads and canebreaks there. Sat. evening: Some may wish to stay in the Wildlife Area to sample the moth collecting. Others may wish to camp in Columbus Belmont State Park. Sunday morning: Plans for Sunday will be firmed up Sat.; but at least a quick stop at the Kaler locality in Graves Co. would be worthwhile.

(contd. on page 2)

On March 8 a relatively small version of the "Tom Emmel Flying Circus" consisting of 22 people, departed Miami International Airport on a VIASA flight which was the first lap of a journey including Caracas, Ven., and Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Curitiba, Brazil. Members of the Ky. Lepidopterists on this gaggle included Tom and Pat Dooley, Mike McInnis, Tom, and myself. As soon as we arrived in Curitiba -an impressive, modern city- we were met by Dr. Olaf Mielke, a skipper specialist who is a professor at the Federal University of Parana, Brazil. Olaf had arranged to be with us the entire trip as our guide and sponsor. We loaded our baggage and selves into 3 white VW minibuses driven by Tonio, Marcio, and Altamir, 3 fine young Brazilian drivers. We drove to Sao Bento do Sul, a small town not too far from Curitiba, and settled into a small, European-looking hotel from which we took our daily trips to the field. The first afternoon (9 March) we arrived rather late in the field, so did not catch much. Some bait traps were put out, though; and I photographed a large Pepsis wasp and its paralyzed prey, a black tarantula. Moth collecting that night was only fair, but that turned out to be the best mothing of the trip. We were led in the field by Mr. Rank, a local commercial collector who had 15 children. (Later some of us bought some fine Morpho, Prepona, and other butterflies from him at fine prices). The next 2 days were spent at 2 sites near Sao Bento, with only moderately good results because of rain and overcast which spoiled parts of each day. Morpho portis,

(contd. on page 2)

(SPRING FIELD MEETING, contd.)

ACCOMMODATIONS:

MOTEL Quality Inn
 US 51 & Purchase Pkwy.
 Fulton, KY.
 Phone: AC 502: 472-2342
Rates: Single: \$27-31
 Double: 32-37

CAMPING Excellent camping facilities are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Columbus-Belmont Battlefield State Park, located on the west side of Columbus, Ky., on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. It is in the northwest corner of Hickman Co., approximately 35 miles NW of Fulton. Here the struggle took place for Island #10 during the Civil War, and relics can be seen there such as a part of the chain placed across the Mississippi River by the Confederates. The camping area has 38 spaces, full hookups, showers, flush toilets, and is very well kept. The park features include a playground, museum, snack bar, gift shop, and the historical features mentioned above.

Rates: Campers using hookups, \$8 per night. Tent camping for up to 4 persons, \$6.50 per night, \$.50 extra per additional person. Phone: 502-677-2327.

Alternate camping: Hard-core moth collectors may wish to ask for permission to camp in Reelfoot Nat. Wildlife Refuge. No camping facilities are provided, but those accustomed to roughing it will probably find moth collecting better here than at the state park. In the past, permission to collect and camp in the Refuge has been provided by the caretaker.

Note MAP on page 3 to assist you.

WE HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND THIS FIELD TRIP, AND THAT THE WEATHER AND LEPIDOPTERA WILL BE COOPERATIVE THIS TIME. If you have any further questions, call me at AC 606: 261-4515. -Loran

NEW ADDRESSES:

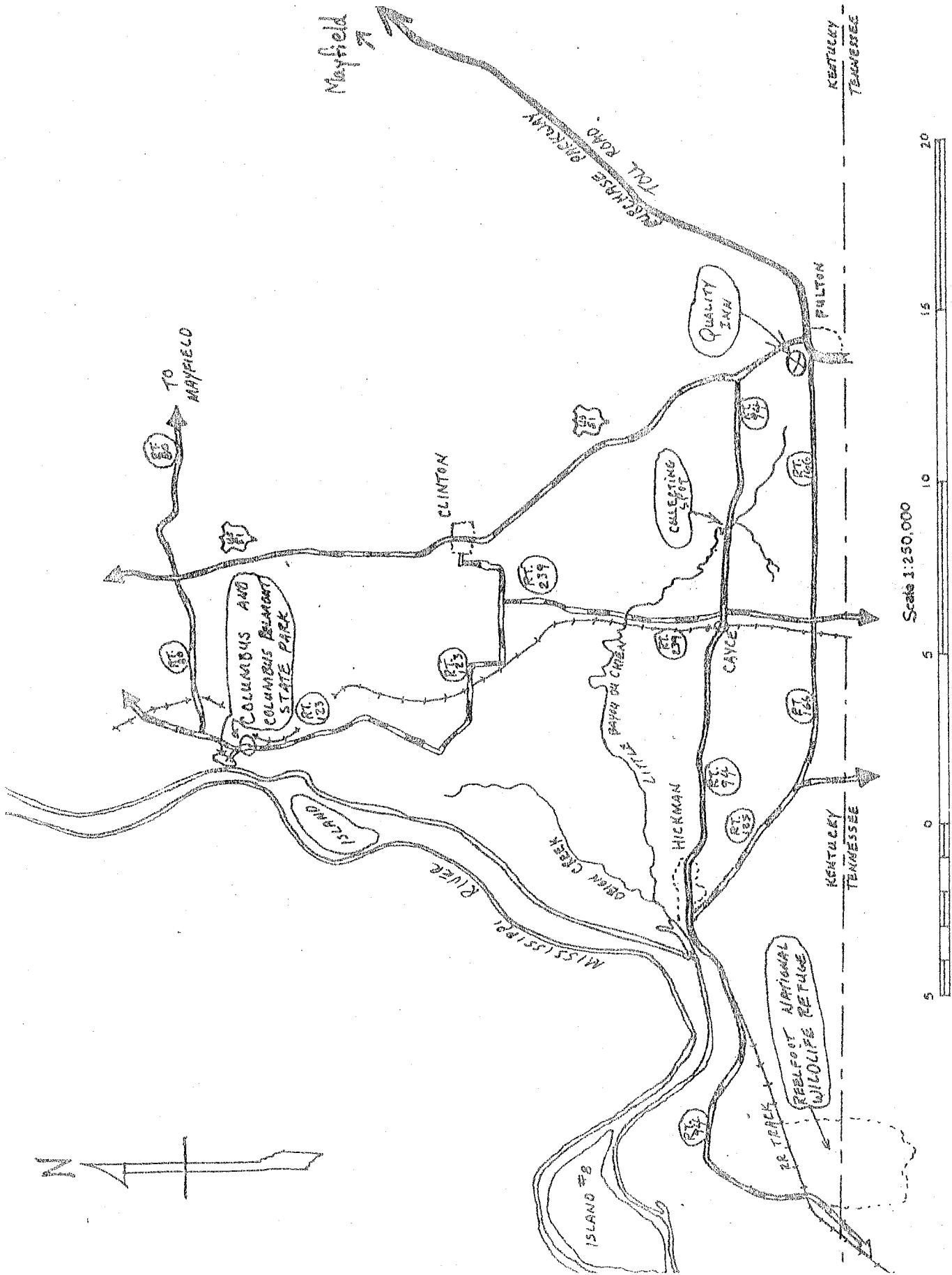
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 Colorado State University
 Fort Collins, CO 80523

Roger Zebold, P.O. Box 3035,
 Southfield, MI 48037

a small mirror-winged species, was abundant at the latter locality on the 11th, and Mike McInnis did pretty well on hairstreaks in the Sao Bento area, using a long-handled net. On the 12th we drove to Joinville, a larger town, where we were put up in a downtown hotel along with the visiting soccer team, Atletico Mineiro (which played to a 1-1 tie with the Joinville team the next night - a game several of us enjoyed watching). In Joinville we met Mr. H. W. Miers, another commercial collector and rearer of butterflies, including Agrias sardanapalus claudina and Siderone nemesis. We enjoyed seeing his setup, and he led us on collecting trips to a hilly area in the vicinity on March 13 and 14. At this spot there were several trails to follow, including a steep, muddy climb to the top of a small mountain where he had cleared the trees a bit to provide means of catching Prepona, Siderone, Ancyluris, Arcas imperialis, "Thecla" regalis, and other butterflies that were hilltopping. At this spot a long-handled net was a must (although a short net in addition for close work was also useful). Mike McInnis ducked rain squalls both days we went to that spot (we could see the storms heading our way); I elected to stay down below the second day and try other. I found big Eurybia metalmarks and Morpho achilles violaceus, plus a modest variety of hairstreaks, to be the best catches. One night out blacklighting with Miers was mostly unproductive, partly because of full moonlight.

We departed on the 15th for Curitiba, making 2 collecting stops in transit. The weather was mostly cloudy again, but one of the spots was fairly productive. I took 2 Morpho aega, a Symmachia metalmark, and other interesting species there. We arrived in downtown Curitiba and checked into the Grand Hotel Candejas. The next morning Olaf and his colleague, Dr. Mirna Casagrande, took many of us on our Tast field trip of the journey, to a productive spot not far from the city. We returned and joined others who had elected to do some shopping, and had a final meal with Olaf and Mirna at a very nice churasscaria (a restaurant specializing in barbecues brought to the table on skewers). Then it was time to start our series of flights home. In all I had 12 different plane flights on the trip, and there were some tiring lay-overs; but seeing the people, places, and Lepidoptera of southeastern Brazil was worth it all, and with the world as it is today, one never knows if such an opportunity might never come again. -CVC

MAP TO FIELD MEETING AREA



NEWS AND NOTES

NEW BOOKS: D'Abbrera, B. 1984. Butterflies of South America. Hill House, Victoria, Aus. 256 p., 700 color illus. Paperback. Includes wide variety of S. American butterflies, excluding skippers, but only a sampling for each family. Pictures are cutouts from his larger works, and design and format a bit sloppy (words cut off edge of pages; tilted legends & photos; typos). A good starter book, but a bit high at \$19.50 (order from BioQuip).

FIELD CARDS: Blaine Early has put together the butterfly field record cards first designed by Loran Gibson, and we will try them at the coming field meeting. We plan to make a supply available to each of you soon.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Barry Howard of Pineville, who is President this year of the Kentucky Society of Natural History. Barry is also editor of the Kentucky Naturalist News, a fine publication, and has just hosted the KSNH Spring Conference at Pine Mtn. State Park where he is naturalist.

Dave Hess writes that his book with Yale Sedman and John Downey on west central Ill. butterflies is now in press. He visited Yin-rei Hicks at her Plum Blossom Studio in Henryville, IN. recently. Remember, she has the Diana Fritillary prints still available (see previous newsletter for details).

1984 FIELD REPORTS to date are sparse, due to the cool, wet weather we have been experiencing. Covell, David and Geri Flaim, and Christa Anderson visited the Bearcamp Rd. spot in Bullitt Co. on 20 April, and recorded 3 C. ebenina males, C. argiolus, 1 F. midea male, 2 I. henrici, 1 P. glaucus, P. comma, V. atalanta, N. antiopa, Erynnis brizo, and E. juvenalis. Richard Henderson found the following at Otter Creek Park on 28 April: F. midea, B. philenor, P. glaucus, and P. troilus. On 29 April, Burt & Mark Monroe found P. virginensis abundant at Jenny Wiley St. Park, and also recorded G. lygdamus, C. argiolus, F. midea, and an interesting Erynnis sp. that might be persius. Brainard Palmer-Ball found P. virginensis common at Pine Mtn. St. Park that same date. Further reports will be most welcome!

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome our 2 Brazilian colleagues to our membership, as residents of the "Greater Kentucky area:" Dr. Olaf H. H. Mielke and Dr. Mirna Casagrande, Depto. de Zoologia, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Caixa Postal 3034, 80.000 Curitiba, BRASIL.

FIELD GUIDE TO MOTHS of Eastern N. America is now being printed - at last. The book should be available in July or August, and will have about 500 pages. I hope most of the "bugs" are out of it - except the over 1,300 moths treated in the text; but there will no doubt be a number of corrections to make. Please bring them to my attention, so the next printing can be corrected. Many thanks to all of you who have helped me with this mammoth undertaking; and thanks for your patience with me regarding correspondence, loan of material, etc. I hope to get back to my revisionary studies on the Geometridae and also the Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey now. Have a fine season; hope our paths cross.

DUES notices will be sent with the next issue. Blaine informs me that many on our membership list have not sent the paltry \$3 for a couple of years now, so unless we hear from you before July, we'll assume you are not interested in further issues and membership, and will trim the list accordingly. Many thanks to all of you who have supported this organization. Please send your news, and let me know what you are doing in lepidopterology.

