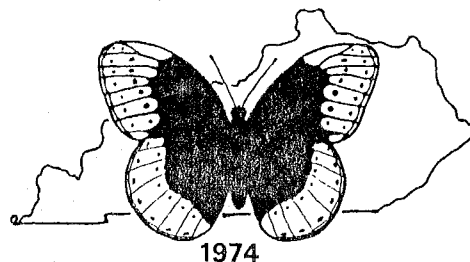


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

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

JUNE, 1985

KENTUCKY SPRING COLLECTING NOTES

After a rather severe winter, with minimum temperature at Louisville recorded at 19° below zero, spring arrived on schedule (though some species seemed absent at times expected). David Flaim reported his first butterfly sighting as Pieris rapae in Louisville on 15 March; and Burt Monroe reported a Nymphalis antiopa at the Univ. of Louisville on 3 April. My first trip out to Bearcamp Rd. in Bullitt Co. near the Jefferson Co. line (with 3 students) yielded small numbers of the following species: E. clarus, Erynnis brizo & juvenalis, P. glaucus, C. philodice, P. virginensis (3 taken), A. midea, F. tarquinius, I. henrici, C. ladon, C. ebenina (1 male taken; female seen), P. comma, V. virginensis, & V. atalanta. Capture of 1 Cyllopsis gemma constituted a first for the site. On return to the same place on 19 April with 3 students again, an additional C. gemma was taken. Other species not recorded on the 18th were P. troilus, B. philenor, E. marcellus, and F. tarquinius. Two more Pieris virginensis were taken as well.

The spring field trip was held on April 12-14, with Otter Creek Park, Meade Co., as the main collecting site. Attending were Loran Gibson, Richard Henderson, Don Wright, Christa Anderson, Jim and Mary Lou Merritt, Dave and Geri Flaim, and John Hyatt (our President this year). While disappointed in not finding some of the expected species (H. metea, M. gryneus, C. gemma, and Pieris virginensis), they did find Incisalia henrici out in greatest numbers of recent years. Anaea andria was
(cont'd. on pg. 2)

SOCIETY PLANS FOR REST OF 1985

The June field trip has had to be cancelled because the property Vince Lucas had in mind for our visit in Caldwell Co. has been sold.

We plan to have another collecting trip to Otter Creek Park, with the emphasis on Catocala collecting, in Aug. The dates will be Fri. Aug. 16 to Sun. Aug. 18. We plan to camp there, and blacklight and sugar for moths each night while looking for butterflies during the day. If interested, contact Loran Gibson for details (call AC 606, 261-4515 in evenings or on weekends; or write him at 5505 Taylor Mill Rd., Taylor Mill, KY 41015).

While earlier we decided to go to Big Black Mountain in early Sept., Loran and I have decided that a return to Fulton-Graves counties in western Ky. at that time (Sept. 6-8) would be more attractive for both moths & butterflies. Please contact Loran also for details. We plan to stay at the motel in Fulton, tentatively. We will be seeking late Amblyscirtes spp., Euphyes dukesi and dion, Poanes yehl, all 4 "pearly-eyed satyrs," and new state records of moths in the swamps of Bayou de Chien. We have had our most diverse and abundant collecting here in past years, so this should be a most enjoyable trip.

The ANNUAL MEETING will be Fri.-Sat. Nov. 15-16, 1985. Jim and Mary Lou Merritt have graciously offered to host our Friday night party; and DAVE BAGGETT, "Father of the Southern Lepidopterists" will be the featured speaker. He will talk on Catocala life histories and taxonomy, resulting from his studies in Fla. Be sure to attend!

Kentucky Spring Collecting (Cont'd.)

also more common than usual. Papilio polyxenes, A. midea, and other more common species were also recorded. Christa Anderson reported C. ebenina at Bearcamp Rd. on Friday 12 April.

Certain species have been more abundant than usual this year. Loran Gibson found Amblyscirtes hegon common in Bracken Co. in April; and Atrytonopsis hianna was common in Meade and Bullitt Co. sites in May (McInnis & Gibson reports). These species had been found as "singletons" in the past, and were taken in series for the first time this year.

Gibson, Henderson, Wright, and Barry Nichols collected at Big Black Mtn., Harlan Co. June 7-9. Butterflies were common; but species not worthy of special note. Moths taken on a windy night included Sphinx kalmiae, Polia latex, Apamea verbascoides, Phlogophora iris (NEW STATE RECORD), and Dysstroma truncata (NEW STATE RECORD). Halisidota caryae, normally uncommon, was common.

Burt and Mark Monroe have been visiting various counties in Kentucky which have been largely neglected in our surveys. Thus they have added many county records for butterflies. Highlights of their recent trips include, first, in Christian Co., May 5: T. bathyllus, E. icelus, P. hobomok, P. zabulon, A. vialis, A. belli (?), B. philenor, P. glaucus, P. troilus, I. nippon, P. comma, P. interrogationis, V. virginiensis, V. atalanta, and B. archippus. On May 4, they noted S. hayhurstii, A. numitor, E. marcellus, A. andria, and A. celtis in Fulton Co. near Cayce, and H. hyllus at Reelfoot Nat. Wildlife Area near the Tenn. border.

On 8 June in Casey Co. they recorded A. lyciades, T. pylades, T. confusis, A. numitor, P. coras, P. themistocles, P. verna, P. zabulon, E. ruricola, metacomet, B. philenor, E. marcellus, P. polyxenes, asterias, P. glaucus, P. troilus, H. titus, S. calanus falacer, S. melinus, S. cybele, B. bellona, C. nycteis, E. phaeton, P. comma, P. interrogationis, N. antiopa, V. virginiensis, V. atalanta, B. a. astyanax, A. celtis, and M. cymela.

Covell and his class of 9 Lepidoptera students (first U. of Louisville class to be strictly on this subject) went to Horner Wildlife Sanctuary on the evening of 13 May to blacklight for moths. Success was moderate; taken were P. myops, D. myron (Sphingidae); A. luna (Saturniidae), Scopula limboundata, Heliomata cycladata, Euchloena amoenaria, Glena plumosaria, and Hypagyrtis unipunctata (Geometridae), and Holomelina laeta. V. atalanta was common along the road going in at twilight.

On May 15 the same group collected butterflies at the Shelby Campus of Univ. of Louisville in eastern Jefferson Co. Of the 18 butterfly species recorded, the most interesting were T. pylades, S. hayhurstii, P. zabulon, C. nycteis, and M. cymela. At the Belknap Campus, several S. calanus falacer were seen on leaves of a walnut tree at the corner of Gottschalk Hall (first campus records, at least in 20 years).

NEW STATE BUTTERFLY RECORD RESULT OF MUSEUM SLEUTHING

Recently Dave Iftner and John Calhoun were looking through the collection at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History for Ohio records, and came across some interesting specimens from Kentucky. One is a NEW STATE RECORD. The records are as follows:

Hesperia sassacus, one male, Clay Co., Ky., July, 1938. F.W. Case. NEW STATE RECORD.

Incisalia irus, one male, Bell Co., Ky., 5 April, 1938. F.W. Case.

Polygonia faunus smythi, 3 males, "Cumberland Gap, Ky., 26 July, 1937. R.M. Towzley. (John thinks these could be from TENN., but I am inclined to accept them as records).

The new state record brings the number of known Ky. butterfly species to 142, broken down by families as follows:

HESPERIIDAE	50	SATYRIDAE	8
NYMPHALIDAE	28	APATURIDAE	3
LYMENIDAE	25	DANAIDAE	2
PYRROIDAE	15	RIODINIDAE	2
PHALENIDAE	8	LIBYTHEIDAE	1

NEWS AND NOTES

NEW MEMBER: Dr. Gerrit Kloek
Department of Biology, Ken-
tucky State Univ., Frankfort,
KY 40601.

NEW ADDRESS: Roger A. Zebold
30123 Rock Creek Drive
Southfield, MI 48076

NEW BOOK: Ferguson, D.C. 1985. Moths of
America North of Mexico.
Fasc. 18.1, Geometroidea
Geometridae (part). Wedge
Ent. Res. Found., Washington,
DC.137 p., 4 color pls. The
MONA series resumes with this
fascicle, which is dedicated
to its founder, Dr. Richard
B. Dominick. It is published
by Allen Press, and will be
followed soon by another on
the Pyralidae (subfamily
Phycitinae). Ferguson's
treatment of the green
Geometridae in this one is
excellent.

NEW CONSTITUTION: Mike McInnis has
drafted a new Constitution
for the Society, and it has
been checked over by Jim
Merritt. It will be
presented to the membership
at the Annual Meeting for
approval. Thanks, Mike and
Jim.

NEW NET: Your editor recently tried out a
new "tropics net" being
developed by BioQuip Products at
his request. The net has the
same handle and shaft segments
as the current model, but has a
rim with 21 inch diameter,
rather than the 18-inch
currently used. Also, a new
soft white nylon material was
tested to see if damage to fast
fliers such as Morpho and
Prepona species could be
minimized while net size was
maximized. In a nutshell, the
rim worked fine, but the
material was not satisfactory
due to heaviness & slickness.

EDITORIAL MISCELLANY

At this writing, your Editor has just
returned from 3 weeks in Ecuador, the first
10 days of which were spent at Tinalandia,
that fabled collecting spot in Pichincha
Province 16 km east of Santo Domingo de los
Colorados. My group of 25 included some
who were there the previous week with Tom
Emmel, plus another contingent that came
down with me on May 18. Weather had been
rainy much of the first week, and improved
only slightly the second. There were 25 of
us in all, and we had about 18 moth lights
going each night (that shows you how moth
collecting has picked up!). Collecting was
good for those going for the first time,
but we jaded old-timers found novelties and
super-catches few. One collector did catch
a nice specimen of what must be a
subspecies of Agrias amydon (yellow and
blue species) - the first record I know of
from Tinalandia. I did not see a Morpho
until May 25, when all but 5 of us left for
home. That was my best day overall (115
specimens of butterflies), and I caught 3
Morpho peleides, one perfect. The 26th was
"hairstreak day," when I took about 30
Theclinae. Strange how they seem not to be
around except on certain days.

Moth collecting was super, and numerous
Sphingidae were caught, along with many
Io-type Saturniidae, and several species of
Rothschildia. Even a few of the long-
tailed Copiopteryx were taken (not by me).
I did well with small moths, including many
Geometridae. I guess I brought back about
1,500 moths in all. The long-legged Harle-
quin Beetles (Cerambycidae) and gold
scarabs were also favored by our group.

May 27 - June 4 was spent without net or
killing jar (which were not missed too
much) in the Galapagos Islands, where a
group of 14 mostly from the Louisville area
enjoyed the relatively unspoiled wonders of
this evolutionary showcase. We visited 12
of the islands aboard the ship ISABELA, and
were led by a bright Columbian guide,
Eduardo Carriozo. Butterflies seen there
were the diminutive Galapagos subspecies of
A. vanillae and P. sennae, and also the
Galapagos Blue, Leptotes parrhasiodes. A
few moth species came to ship lights in the
harbor at Puerto Ayora. One, a small

(to pg. 4)

Geometrid, might be interesting; but I did not break the rules against collecting. The National Park people there are VERY strict, and we were kept to the paths on the various islands quite consistently.

I took a large number of pictures, and learned a lot about island ecology, evolution, and adaptive radiation. The group was congenial, the boat ride fun, snorkeling among the tropical fish fascinating, and the lobster and fish dinners memorable. I highly recommend this as an interlude from collecting in the tropics. In addition, I enjoyed Quito, Louisville's sister city in S. America. This city is at 9,300 ft. in the Andes, and offers a great diversity of people and architecture in an agreeable climate. I heartily recommend Ecuador for collecting and for other pursuits.

Now I am off to Los Angeles for some work at the Los Angeles Co. Museum, beginning studies for a field guide to western moths (though such has not been authorized yet), and further researching the Geometridae I have long been studying. I will be back on 22 June, then off to The Nature Place in Colo. for 2 weeks of teaching lepidopterology with Tom Emmel and Boyce Drummond. That trip will culminate with the Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society in Champaign-Urbana Ill., July 17-20. After that, I expect to "light" awhile and get back to Ky. Lepidoptera and other pursuits.

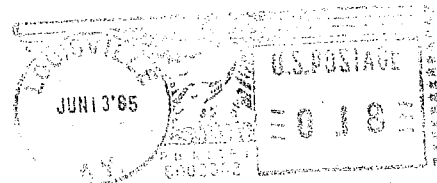
Here's wishing you all good hunting in what is shaping up as a super year for butterflies and larger moths in Ky. and neighboring states. See you in the field, or at the Annual Meeting in Nov. Please send me your news!

All the best, Charlie

PRESORTED

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