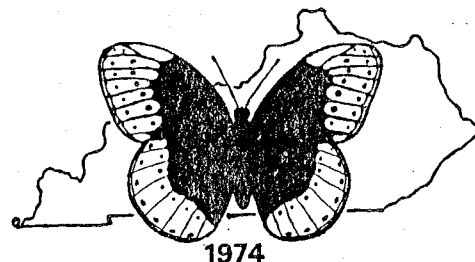


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

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

AUGUST, 1985

PLANS FOR TWO FIELD TRIPS

With an excellent season for both butterflies and moths in progress, we should have good results looking for Underwings (*Catocala* spp.) at Otter Creek Park in Meade Co., Aug. 16 - 18. Various late summer butterflies should also be out in good numbers. Richard Henderson has been collecting at this spot for many years, and it was near here that the only Ky. record for *Calephelis muticum* was taken in early Sept., 1976. Camping can be arranged in the area. For details, contact our Field Trip Coordinator, Loran Gibson, 5505 Taylor Mill Rd., Taylor Mill, Ky. 41015. His phone number is AC 606, 261-4515. Night collecting at bait and light will be featured.

We plan a major foray into western Ky. again for the weekend of Sept. 6 - 8. Headquarters will be the Quality Inn, Fulton, Ky. (where U.S. Rt. 51 meets the Purchase Parkway). For reservations for Fri. and/or Sat. night, call AC 502, 472-2342. Last year rates there were \$27-31 single and \$32-37 double. Some may wish to spend the night elsewhere, or camp at our primary collecting spot in Little Bayou de Chien, 2.5 miles east of Cayce, Fulton Co. This spot has provided fantastic collecting in the past, both night and day, with such butterflies as *Poanes yehi*, *Euphyes dion*, *E. dukesi*, *Panoquina ocola*, *Phoebus sennae*, *Eurema nicippe*, *Hylolycaena hyllus*, *Parrhasius m-album*, *Enodia anthedon*, *E. portlandia missarkae*, *E. creola*, and *Satyrodes appalachia*, to mention a few species. Excellent opportunities to photograph many species should be presented. Again, contact Loran for information (maps, etc.).

OPINIONS ON BUTTERFLY SCIENTIFIC NAMES

Your Editor has for several years been struggling with the problem of acceptance of recent changes in names for North American butterflies. The evolution of scientific names has for me progressed from the point of first learning name combinations as used in Holland's *Moth Book* (1931) and Klots' *A Field Guide to the Butterflies* (1951), through Ehrlich & Ehrlich's *How to Know the Butterflies* (1961), to the nomenclature used in the Miller and Brown (1981) *Catalogue/Checklist of the Butterflies of America North of Mexico*. In general, it has been fairly easy for me to accept and learn slight modifications of scientific naming over the years when not taken in too big a dose, and when reasons were convincing. Some in the *Catalogue/Checklist*, however, came as a pretty heavy dose to many of our fraternity, and reception has been mixed. As Editor of the *Memoirs* series of the Lepidopterists' Society that published this book, I have felt especially sensitive about these names, and have until now declined to say much about my personal acceptance of the names (genus names, particularly). I wanted to hear evidence in each case before making up my mind. While I am undecided still in some cases, here are some that will be reflected in the upcoming work, *The Butterflies and Moths of Kentucky*:

1. Swallowtails placed in *Heraclides* and *Pterourus* will again be in *Papilio*. Dr. Eugene Munroe, who has studied this group extensively, indicated his evidence did not support splitting this group.

(cont'd. p.2)

OPINIONS ON SCIENTIFIC NAMES (cont'd.)

2. Species placed in Artogeia will be placed again in Pieris, though those in Pontia will remain so. Dr. Robert Robbins and Pamela Henson have made a study of the question, and evidence seems to favor a conservative stance regarding the rapae complex (paper presented a Lepid. Soc. meeting, 19 July, 1985).

3. Anthocharis will again replace Falcipica for the Falcate Orangetip, following Opler & Krizek in Butterflies East of the Great Plains (1984). Opler has studied this group of Pierids and I defer to his opinion until convinced to do otherwise.

4. Species moved from Eurema to Pyrisitia and Abaeis will be returned to the former. Dr. Lee Miller indicated at the 1984 Lepid. Soc. meeting that this split was probably not a good idea.

5. I prefer to restore the use of Lycaena more broadly for coppers, as reflected in Opler & Krizek (1984). I am not convinced that evidence used to justify splitting, explained by Miller & Brown at the 1977 meeting of the Lepid. Soc., really justify the split.

6. Boloria will be used in its broad sense, as argued by Dr. Ted Pike at the 1984 Annual Meeting of the Lepid. Soc. in Fairview, Alberta. Clossiana and Pro-clossiana seem better to be subgenera.

7. Chlosyne will be used again in its broad sense, as in Opler & Krizek (1984).

Other recent changes seem to me to be justified, including the splitting of the satyrs by Miller, who has done much work in the world (especially neotropical) fauna of this family. Also, the use of Basilarchia in place of Limenitis (type is populi, a rather different Eurasian bug) will probably hold up.

In higher categories, I plan to go along with Heliconiinae and Apaturinae as subfamilies of Nymphalidae, until more data compel wider acceptance of these taxa as families.

These rather conservative usages follow Opler & Krizek (1984) for the most part, although that work uses Limenitis instead of Basilarchia. It may be that some of the unpopular but newer generic placements will prove justified, and attain acceptance. The work on which they are based generally reflects WORLDWIDE butterfly taxonomy, not merely the insights of those who work only on the North American fauna and cannot get a more cosmopolitan picture. Miller has never claimed that the nomenclature and classification of this list should be considered as final - etched in stone; rather, he has stated that it reflects the "state of the art" when the manuscript was prepared.

Questions of priority and taxonomic decision should be studied and discussed. Decisions on acceptance should be based on knowledge of the facts; and disagreements need airing with less of the emotional heat that has accompanied reactions to the Catalogue/Checklist. I think most of the controversy has generated interest in such study and discussion, and perhaps lepidopterology is the better for it.

While I tend to favor conservative nomenclature of the butterflies for the sake of "uniformity and stability," I do feel the Catalogue/Checklist reflects fine scholarship (look at the notes!), and has made a generally positive contribution.

-C.V. Covell Jr.

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE NOV. 15 - 16

As mentioned earlier, the 12th Annual Meeting will be held Fri.-Sat., Nov. 15-16. We will have our annual party at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Jim Merritt, 1729 South Third St., Louisville, Ky., from 8 - 11 PM Friday and the meeting proper from 1 - 5 Sat. in Room 321, Life Sciences Bldg., Univ. of Louisville. The Univ. collection and Room 321 will be open for informal use at 10 AM Saturday. Our featured speaker this year will be Dave Baggett, founder of the Southern Lepidopterists, who will speak on exciting new discoveries in the biology and taxonomy of Catocala (Underwing moths). We plan to have informal presentations, a door prize drawing & dinner, as in the past. More information in the next Ky. Lepid.!

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

It has been a very busy summer, and your Editor has spent the last 2 weeks trying to catch up on things neglected due to absence in Ecuador May 17-June 6, in California June 12-22, in Colo. at The Nature Place July 6-17, and in Ill. at the Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Soc., July 18-21. Here are some news items since my last report in the previous issue.

I spent several days at the Nat. History Museum of Los Angeles Co., with colleague Julian Donahue, identifying and curating moths of the subfamily Sterrhinae (family Geometridae). I also brought back some western N. American Geometridae from that museum for the U. of L. Collection, and left some moths there in exchange.

The two Lepidoptera weeks at The Nature Place, Florissant, Colo., were most enjoyable, though we had to leave early for the Lepid. Soc. meeting. A tentative total of 107 butterfly species were recorded in the various collecting localities we visited. Weather was generally good, although very dry at the beginning and very wet by the end of the second week. Members of the Society of Ky. Lepidopterists who participated as "faculty" included Tom Emmel and Boyce Drummond; but we also had lectures by Marc Minno, Bill McGuire, and F. Martin Brown. Participants in the program included David and Geri Flaim (Ky.), Tom and Pat Doolley (Fla.), and Gary O'Shea (N.J.). While overall numbers of butterflies were down, some species such as Erebia magdalena and Neominois ridingsii were more common than last year. Two species I had not caught before were Papilio bairdii and P. eurymedon. Moth collecting was about as last year, with several fine Schinia species taken, plus a lovely Arachnis species (Arctiidae).

The Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society was most enjoyable, the result of excellent planning by hosts George Godfrey and Tim Cashatt. Many of our club were there, including Boyce Drummond, Les Ferge, Leroy Koehn, Dave Hess, Rod Irwin, Stan Nicolay, Mo Nielsen, Paul Pfenninger, Bob Platt, John Prescott, Floyd and June Preston, Bob Robbins, Jim and Peg Tuttle, Dave and Jo Winter, and Todd Young. There was a fine and stimulating program, and

the British Lycaenid specialist, Col. J.N. Eliot, was the Karl Jordan Medal recipient. Next year's meeting is to be at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, late May; and the 1987 meeting will be in Berkeley, Calif. Cliff Ferris assumed the Presidency; and Dr. Wm. E. Miller is to become the new Editor of the Journal of the Lepid. Soc. by the end of this year.

Mike McInnis has just returned from a very fruitful field trip to Catemaco, Mexico, and neighboring localities. He was accompanied by Dave Pinder and Bob and George Busby of Texas. They collected about 1,400 hairstreaks! Some were common that are normally rare (such as Ipidecla schausi). They got a good series of Evenus regalis and Arcas cypria; and also 7 species in the Atlides group. Flowers of the shrub Cordia spinescens proved to be the big attractant, as in the past. They took 9 species of Riodinidae not seen there before; and Nymphalidae and Ithomiinae were out in good numbers.

John Nordin has been collecting with light traps in the Red River Gorge area, and has reported some exciting records. Best of all was the first report of a Swift (Ghost) Moth (Hepialidae) from Ky. - a specimen of Sthenopsis auratus Grote taken on June 15. Other good records include Abrostola ovalis Gn. (Noctuidae), July 19, and Eudeilinea herminiata (Gn.) (Drepanidae) June 22. He took 2 Parrhasius m-album in the Lexington area June 23. John collected in Ariz. and Nev. July 2-16 and took lots of Catocala and other moths.

Dave Hess and Yale Sedmon have published their book The Butterflies of West Central Illinois. It has color illustrations and 118 pages. Congratulations, Dave.

Richard Henderson recently took Kentucky's second record of the purple noctuid, Schinia gloriosa, in a light trap at Otter Creek Park, July 20, 1985. He also had 1 Schinia gaurae emerge from a series reared last season from that area.

Loran Gibson and visitor Bob Borth collected in Red River Gorge over the weekend of July 9-11, and took Speyeria diana, Sphinx franckii, Citheronia regalis, and Eacles imperialis. It looks like a fine season for big moths (Sphingids, Catocala, etc.).

Max Medley brought in 2 moths found in the flower of a Lady's-slipper in Scott Co., TN, on May 24, 1985. The moths were Polychrysia morigera (Edw.) (Noctuidae), which is rare in the East (we have Ky. records). A paper on this new state record is planned.

An updated errata sheet for the Field Guide to the Moths will be sent you free if you will send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope. -CVC.

NEW MEMBERS:

Arland & Doreen Hotchkiss, 2500 Longest Ave., Louisville, KY 40204. "Hotch" is a retired U. of Louisville botany professor; Doreen teaches entomology at Indiana Univ. SE.

Graham Jones, P.O. Box 35, Northside, Grand Cayman, B.W.I. Graham would "welcome any contact with fellow lepidopterists in the Ky. region..."

Rymon R. Kilgore, RR #3, Box 315, Corydon, IN 47112. Rymon is a biology

major at IUSE, and an ardent collector.

Dr. Michael E. Toliver, Div. of Math & Sciences, Eureka College, Eureka, IL 61530. Mike has specialized in all aspects of butterfly biology, esp. those of New Mexico.

NEW ADDRESSES:

Richard L. Klopshinske, 61958 Carnation Rd., Olathe, CO 81425.

Mike McInnis, 22 Benchmark, New Albany, IN 47150.

Randy Robinette, 7302 Midland Trail Rd., Ashland, KY 41101.

DUES NOTICE: Please send in your \$3 annual dues promptly with the enclosed notice, as we have a tight budget on which to base our publications and Annual Meeting expenses. Thank you! Ed.

Addendum: I forgot to mention: Leland Martin was also at the Lepid. Soc. meeting.

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