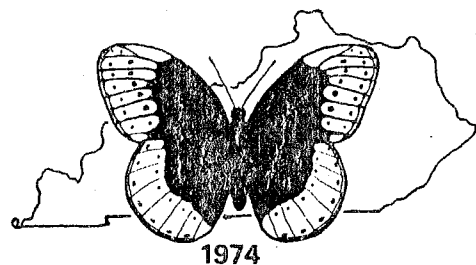


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF
*The Society of
Kentucky Lepidopterists*



VOL. 11, NO. 4

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

OCTOBER, 1985

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE BEST YET!

The 12th Annual meeting of the Society will convene Friday evening, Nov. 8, at the home of Jim and Mary Lou Merritt at 1729 South Third St., just north of the University of Louisville campus. Time, 8 P.M. to 11:00 PM. We will have a slide show of collecting in Ecuador, 1985, at about 9:30. If you get lost, call Jim at (502) 637-3098.

The Saturday activities begin at 10:00 A.M. at the Life Sciences Bldg. at the Univ. of Louisville. The collections will be opened for examination and identification purposes, and you are encouraged to bring part of your collection to show the rest of us. Exchange of specimens can be done at this time. We will have coffee and Heitzman Bakery's famous doughnuts on hand. You can lunch at nearby McDonald's or Hardee's (I have yet to go out for lunch on meeting day!).

At 1:30 we will have our short annual business meeting, with Pres. John Hyatt wielding the gavel. Election of officers, adoption of the constitution prepared by Mike McInnis and Jim Merritt, and plans for future activities will be the main items on the agenda.

Next will come the talk by our featured speaker this year, Dave Baggett from the Univ. of South Florida. Dave has been doing some interesting rearing of Catocala species, and he will tell us of some of the taxonomic discoveries resulting from his work. Dave has generously guided many of us to happy hunting grounds in Florida over the years, and it will be a real treat to have the founder of the Southern Lepidopterists with us for this event.

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A MUDDY FIELD TRIP IN FULTON COUNTY

A small group of Kentucky Lepidopterists met on Friday, Sept. 6 - the same day over 8 inches of rain fell on Paducah as what was left of Hurricane Elena passed our way. Attending were Loran Gibson, Don Wright, Richard Henderson, Troy Payne, Charlie Covell, and (on Sat.) Bill and Will Black, and Christa Anderson. On the way out, Gibson, Payne & Covell stopped in Hopkins Co. and recorded 21 species, none very special, but several new county records.

In the Bayou de Chien spot (Rt. 94, 2.5 miles E. of Cayce), the water was high, but not too much so. The problem was that the fall butterflies were a bit late, so our results were not up to expectations. In blacklight traps set on Friday night, the best catch was one Cypress Sphinx, Isoparce cupressi (Bdv.), a new state record and the 42nd sphingid species for Kentucky. This species was said to range "north into Arkansas" in Hodges' fascicle on Sphingidae in Moths of America North of Mexico (1970), so this extends the range to the northwest.

Among the 42 butterfly species recorded Sat. were Euphyes dion, Eurytides marcellus, Nathalis iole, Hylolycaena hyllus, and Satyrodes appalachia. At lights on Friday and Saturday nights we took a number of good moths, including Parapamea buffaloensis, Spragueia dama and leo, Acronicta connecta, Hyphenodes fractilinea, Schinia arcigera, Pero zallisaria, Munroessa icciusalis, Synclita oblitalis. A good trip, if not a great trip. I think there would have been more members there if the weather had not been "iffy." We made new friends among 3 of the local people, who welcomed us on their land.

(Plans for Annual Meeting, cont'd.)

After Dave's presentation, the floor will be open for short slide shows, talks, and "show-and-tell" presentations by others in the group. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A PRESENTATION (although last minute additions are always welcome). I plan to show some slides of the September field trip to Fulton Co. and the Ohio Lepidopterists' meeting in Cincinnati.

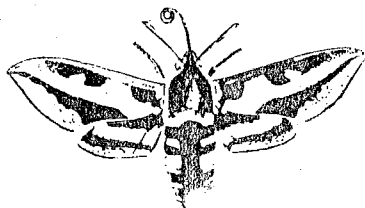
After the talks we will have a drawing for DOOR PRIZES (please bring a contribution for that purpose). When the meeting is adjourned, those who wish to will gather at nearby Masterson's Restaurant for our annual dinner together.

This year we will try a SILENT AUCTION of books or any other item, an idea stolen unabashedly from the Ohio Lepidopterists. In this case the owner can either keep the proceeds, or donate them to the Society.

Motel information: Continental Inn, 1620 Arthur St. (just off I-65 southbound near U. of Louisville); phone (502) 636-3781 (prices \$18.95-\$24 single; \$22-\$27 2 people; \$35 2 beds); Econolodge Airport (formerly La Quinta), 317 Warnock St. near U. of L., phone 637-9716, \$30 single, \$34 double.

For further information write or call Covell (AC 502): work, 588-5942; home, 456-6122. It would be helpful if you would let me know if you are planning to attend, so we can project numbers.

These meetings have been highlights of the year for me every year since we began in 1974. We have not changed the format much, except beginning in 1977 we invite a special friend and colleague to be our featured speaker. Such speakers in the past have included Bob Robbins, Stan Nicolay (these 2 may attend this year!), Dave Ahrenholz, Jack Clarke, Tom Emmel, George Godfrey, Mo Nielsen, Paul Tuskes, and Raymond White. All of them gave interesting and enjoyable presentations that added greatly to the enrichment and breadth of knowledge about Lepidoptera among those who heard them. -CVC



NEWS AND NOTES

Loran Gibson and Richard Henderson joined Mo Nielsen for some fall moth collecting in Michigan in late Sept. They collected a number of interesting Papaipema species and other moths.

Tom Emmel has informed me that the planned field trip to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, originally scheduled for Nov., has been postponed until Jan. or Feb., 1987. A trip to Guatemala is planned for Oct. 30 - Nov. 8, 1985. Trips in 1986 are tentatively planned for Mexico (to see monarchs), Jan. 23-27; French Guiana, March 7-15; Tinalandia, Ecuador, May 3-11; Spain & Switzerland, June 14-29; Costa Rica, early Aug.; and Taiwan & Malaysia, Nov. 1-16. If you are interested in any of these, contact Tom or Holbrook Travel Agency in Gainesville.

Blaine Early, our Treasurer, reports that response to our dues notice has been very good, and that we now have \$435 in our Treasury. If you have not yet added your dues to our coffers, please duly do so.

David and Geri Flaim made a trip to Kingdom Come State Park and Big Black Mtn. in Harlan Co., Sept. 2-3, and recorded 30 butterfly species, including A. lyciades, E. horatius, P. zabulon, H. leonardus (county record), B. philenor, P. polyxenes, P. glaucus, P. troilus, Eurema lisa, Calycopis cecrops, Speyeria diana (worn males and fairly fresh females), S. cybele, S. aphrodite, B. bellona, C. nycteis, E. anthedon, C. gemma, and C. pegala.

Brainard Palmer-Ball visited Fulton Co., Ky. on Aug. 11, and observed a large mud puddle gathering of about 50 Pyrgus communis, which is the largest such group I have ever heard of.

Copies of the proposed Constitution will be available at the Annual Meeting prior to the vote on its approval.

Your editor regrets to have to say that a contributor to the Field Guide to Moths was not acknowledged. Vernon Brou of Louisiana provided much useful information, and his name was inadvertently left out of the list of acknowledgments.

NEWS AND NOTES (cont'd.)

The Field Guide to Western Butterflies by Bill Tilden is in press now, although Bill suffered a health setback this past summer and had to be in hospital for six weeks.

The Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society is set for May 22-25, 1986, at Carleton Univ., Ottawa, Ontario. Dr. Bill Miller of the Univ. of Minn. will be the new Editor of the Journal of the Lepid. Soc. beginning on or before Jan. 1.

The Editor has begun collecting data on moths of the family Geometridae for Ohio in cooperation with Eric Metzler. Please send data on Ohio Geometridae to either of us. We have data on 110 species so far, and have only just begun!

Michael Pogue, working on his Ph.D. under Bill Miller on moth family Cochylidae, has recently sent some data on Ky. members of this family. We now have 28 species recorded, although some older records cannot be corroborated. The state faunal list now stands at 2,090.

NEW BOOK. Brower, A.E. 1985. A List of the Lepidoptera of Maine. Part 2, The Microlepidoptera. Section 2, Cosmopterigidae through Hepialidae. Tech. Bull. 114. Maine Dept. Conservation & Dept. of Entomology, Orono. For a copy, write Dr. A.E. Brower, 8 Hospital St., Augusta, ME 04330. This with the previous 2 parts covers Brower's 75 years of Lepidoptera study in Maine, N.H. and neighboring areas. A total of 2,987 species is treated (not all recorded from Maine). A fine overall effort in faunistics.

Loran Gibson and I represented Kentucky at the Ohio Lepidopterists gathering at the Cincinnati Zoo Sept. 14. Frank Elia had made arrangements for free admission and parking, and the other Covells enjoyed the exhibits while Dad attended the meeting. The insect zoo there is most impressive, and the congenial gathering of about 30 lepidopterists enjoyed short talks, reports, silent auction, swap session, cookout, and slide shows. The faunal study of Ohio Lepidoptera is being carried

out most professionally, with emphasis on selected zones, and enthusiastic participation by a number of members. The group plans a visit to the National Collection in Washington soon.

We welcome the following NEW MEMBERS:

Rozenna B. Carr, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292. Rozenna is working on a Ph.D. in Biology under your editor's direction.

John D. Greenhill, Rt. 2, Box 270A, Grayson, KY 41143. John is a retired teacher, just beginning in an area badly in need of a lepidopterists' attention.

Giovanna Holbrook, Holbrook Travel Inc., 3540 NW 13th St. Gainesville, FL 32609. Phone AC 904, 377-7111. Giovanna has contributed greatly to lepidopterology by offering low-cost tours to exotic collecting areas, enjoyed by many of our members.

Stephen & Sharon Newton, Rt. 6, Box 21 B, Morris Rd., Winchester, KY 40391. The Newtons are enjoying the early stages of the disease of lepidopterology!

Troy Payne, 6422 Black Oak Lane, Louisville, KY 40216. Troy is the new undergraduate curatorial assistant in entomology at the Univ. of Louisville insect collection.

I have just had a phone conversation with Dr. Herb Wagner of the Univ. of Michigan, who may come to our annual meeting. He reports tremendous numbers of moths around fluorescent lights (not the anti-bug type) at a motel atop a hill in Pikeville, Ky., the night of July 14-15, 1985. Next morning there were at least 50 Callosamia angulifera perched, several of them males. Birds soon gobbled them up. He recalls seeing C. promethea females (few), A. luna, C. regalis, E. imperialis, and many underwings and Arctiidae. Your Editor remembers a similar situation on his first night in Ky. way back in July, 1959, when he drove Rt. 460 into Pikeville. That area is badly in need of further investigation!

HINTS ON STORING UNSPREAD SPECIMENS

I learned to "paper" butterflies back when I first began collecting butterflies in 1949. Over the years, I have seen just about all sorts of material used to make triangular envelopes: butcher's paper, wax paper, glassine paper, newspaper, desk calendar pad sheets, and even toilet paper (which is too limp). Some stiffness is needed to protect the specimens. Refinements include folding a bit of absorbant tissue over the body of the specimen inside the envelope to prevent greasing (especially in glassine papers). Also, staples are sometimes used to fasten the envelope, but are sometimes annoying in that they tend to rust in the relaxing box, or are bothersome to remove.

Glassine stamp envelopes have been favorites with me for many years because they can be easily carried in neat packs, and one can see through them. I now use size #1 for most small and medium butterflies, with non-gummed flap along the longer side. Larger specimens go in size #3 or #4. Note address of dealer for best prices, given on p. 4 of Vol. 11 (1).

Use permanent ink or rubber stamps to enter full data on your envelopes.

Antennae break easily after specimens have dried in envelopes, especially when you sort through a box, or send the bugs by mail. Often time is not available to carefully fold antennae against wings to protect them. However, this seems to be the best solution to the problem.

Storage of papered specimens can be a problem, especially if it is long-term. Use of really tight boxes, such as insect boxes, might be the solution; or tins or jars with tight caps. Carl Cook puts his dragonflies in small boxes, then puts the boxes in zip-loc bags. With problems of toxicity, expense, and nuisance of fumigant chemicals, air-tightness is the best way to go. Do any of you have some tips on this?

Keeping track of what you have is also a problem. I've been counting the contents of my boxes and entering the data in a file on my Apple II-e computer. Maybe this winter I'll get it all done.

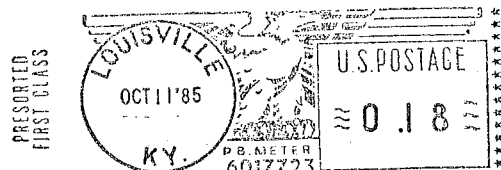
Now let's have some tips from you! Happy hunting, and see you Nov. 15. -CVC

Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists
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