

THE KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

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Charles V. Covell Jr., Editor

SUMMER FIELD MEETING

For those of us who can make it, we will have a weekend of collecting and observing Lepidoptera at PINE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK from Friday, July 18, to Sunday, July 20. Jim Ettman, member of the Society and Park Naturalist, will be our host. It will be an informal affair, with periods of moth blacklighting Friday and Saturday nights, and butterfly field trips Saturday and Sunday. Jim would like to invite visitors to the Park to participate, and I will bring extra equipment for those who wish to join in. Jim also hopes to have a session or two discussing plant-insect relationships and other subjects of interest to Lepidopterists. A search for Speyeria diana will be the highlight.

For information on accommodations and any other particular, call Jim at Pine Mountain State Resort Park, Pineville, Ky., 40977. Phone: AC 606, 337-3066. Or write immediately.

I am sorry this announcement has come so late. Although campsites and motel rooms should be available, there may not be any lodge rooms at the Park available at this late date; they fill up pretty far in advance. Next year, we must be sure to appoint a person or committee to arrange for the summer field meeting, so all will be arranged well in advance.

If you have any Lepidoptera needing identification, please bring them along and I will try to identify them for you. SEE YOU THERE! CVC

ANOTHER NEW BUTTERFLY RECORD

Recently Kentucky became richer for the arrival of Amos Showalter from Blacksburg, Va., to work on a Ph.D. in entomology at the University of Kentucky. Amos came to U. of L. recently to get acquainted, and brought a specimen of the recently-described blue, Celastrina ebenina Clench which he took in Kentucky. Check your collection; you may have this species. It looks like the Spring Azure, C. argiolus, on the underside; but males have a dark gray upper surface, and females have the upperside gray basally, but with some blue farther out on the wings. It seems to fly in the eastern part of the state in late April (Amos took it in Breathitt and Menifee counties on Apr. 26 and 27, respectively), and also seems to occur where Glaucopsyche lyzdamus is found. Amos also brought color photos of a gyandromorphic S. diana he had reared in Virginia; that is one striking bug! Amos's address is: Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Ky., Lexington, Ky., 40506.

THE FIRST LIST OF KENTUCKY BUTTERFLIES

Richard Henderson has made Xerox copies of what I think is the first published list of Kentucky butterflies: Hattie Warner's paper, "Kentucky Butterflies," which appeared in vol. 26 of the Canadian Entomologist (1894). A copy is enclosed for your files. Warner did the work as a student at the Univ. of Ky., and followed a year later with a 42-page expansion of the work. Frank M. Wheat covered pretty much the same ground with his longer paper (173 pp.) in 1909. In case you have trouble with some of the archaic names, 27 is now Cynthia virginensis, 30 is L. arthemis astyanax, 31 is L. archippus, 34 is Anaea andria, 35 must certainly be Lethe anthedon (no true portlandia records yet for Ky.), 37 is Eustychia cymela, 42 is Strymon melinus, 43 is Lycaena phlaeas americana, 48 is

Atalopedes campestris, 51 is Polites themistocles, and 60 is Epargyreus clarus.

Thanks, Richard, for making these copies for our members.

DUES-PAID MEMBERS, June 24

As of this writing, the following have paid dues to our Treasurer, Al Brownell, who has set up an account in the name of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists: Bill Black, Alan Brownell, Charles Covell Jr., Loran Gibson, Bob Gregg, Richard Henderson, Bryant Mather (Clinton, Mississippi), Burt Monroe Jr. Jim Merritt, Amos Showalter, and Albert Westerman. Remember, dues are \$5 per year for adults, \$2.50 for students. Please remit if you are not yet paid up.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE KENTUCKY SURVEY

We are still processing material on hand, mainly collected by Al Brownell and Carl Cornett. Carl is visiting the state parks in Kentucky again this year, and we have just finished putting into the U. of L. collection about 2,000 spread specimens from his previous years' collecting. Al is concentrating on microlepidoptera now, and is sure to come up with a number of new records. He recently visited the Smithsonian Inst. in Washington with Jack Lesshaft, and they got a number of specimens identified with the help of workers there (Ed Todd, Doug Ferguson, Don Davis, and Ron Hodges). As of this writing, the state list of Lepidoptera now stands at 1,479 species, with a number of others yet unidentified. Of this number, 125 are butterflies; 360 species are Noctuidae, 170 are Geometridae, 137 are Pyralidae, and 106 are Tortricidae.

This year I have been seeking funds to publish the State List of Lepidoptera in the form of an annotated checklist, but so far there has been no success. Printing should cost about \$3500, and we would like to have about \$1500 more for typing help. If anyone has any ideas of sources for such funds, please let me know. In the meantime, the list continues to grow. We have a long way still to go, though; Richard Heitzman in Independence, Missouri, has been working on a state list for that state, and has over 2,100 species recorded so far!

A FOURTH OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNT

This year for the first time there will be a 4th of July butterfly count, sponsored by the Xerces Society - the society dedicated to butterfly habitat preservation. Within a week of July 4, those participating should spend a day covering a distance of no more than $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and make a count of butterfly species and how many of each were seen or collected. If you should participate, send your results and \$1 for handling (charged by Xerces Society) to me, and I will forward your data with mine to the Xerces Society. Just list the species seen or taken, and how many of each, and send with geographical data.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE NOW THE HOME OFFICE OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

The back issues of the Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society, and other publications, are now stored at the Biology Dept., U. of L., under my care. Eventually the Society library will come here, too. By the way, if you need a copy of the Dos Passos Checklist, order it from me soon; only a few copies are left, and only unbound ones at \$5 for members of the Lepid. Society, \$7.50 for non-members. Information on ordering back issues of the Journal will be announced soon in the NEWS of the Lepidopterists' Society.

NEWS AND NOTES

Al Brownell has been accepted for graduate studies in the Biology Dept. at U. of L. working with Covell on Lepidoptera. He has not chosen his project yet, but it may likely be an ecological-taxonomic study of Lepidoptera associated with some tree species. We are glad to have Al staying on, as his help to this Society and to the U. of L. collection will now continue.

Burt Monroe will be taking his wife and 10 nature-lovers on an African safari this summer. While birding will be the main program, we hope he will have time for some lepidopterological pursuits.

We welcome as a member Bryant Mather of 213 Mt. Salus Drive, Clinton, Miss. 39056. Bryant is an expert on concrete, and is one of America's most distinguished amateur lepidopterists. His large moth collection from Mississippi and other parts of the U.S. and world is a rich source of material used by taxonomists for revisionary studies.

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists is tentatively planned for Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Biology Dept., University of Louisville, just as last fall. More on that later.

In April Covell attended the 2nd annual meeting of the Xerces Society at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., and gave a talk on the Schaus Swallowtail of the Florida Keys - a subject of interest to butterfly conservationists. The U. of L. newspaper Potential put in an article about the trip, and said the subject was to be "butterfly conversation." At the meeting Covell received some valuable help in identifying Kentucky specimens of moths from Dr. John G. Franclemont, Prof. of Entomology, resulting in more additions and corrections to the State List. Also at Cornell, an exchange of butterflies was made with Tim McCabe, one of Dr. Franclemont's graduate students, who has collected extensively in Minnesota and North Dakota. Some good additions to the U. of L. collection are the result.

The Covells went to southern Florida to try to introduce ♀ Schaus Swallowtails to Lignumvitae Key from Biscayne National Monument. It was very dry again, and only 1 P. aristodemus ponceanus was seen, so the mission was not accomplished. We did, however, make some good captures of Strymon acis bartrami, Chloristrymon simaethis, Danaus eresimus, Metamorphna stelenes (1 taken by Charles Covell III), Anasa floridalis, Hesperia meskei, and the 3rd known capture in Florida of the hairstrak Imolus azia. We plan to go to N. C., Va., Conn., and Mass. in August, where we will attend the Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society Aug. 21 - 23.

U. of L. graduate students Al Brownell, Jack Lesshafft, and Larry Canterbury have received a grant of \$2,000 for an insect survey of Bernheim Forest in Bullitt Co. The funds, to be used over a 2-year period, were granted May 17 by the Isaac Bernheim Foundation. Al will collect and record species of Lepidoptera; Jack will study soil insects; and Larry will work on aquatic insects. We already have some good data on Bernheim butterflies from past collecting by Bob Gregg, Burt Monroe, and others.

Larry Canterbury, U. of L. graduate student, recently bought a fine 1908 edition of Holland's Moth Book at a sale of unwanted books at the Louisville Free Public Library. Price: \$.40. Bargains can still be had!

If you need information on sources of equipment, books, or other needs for collecting and working with Lepidoptera, write me; I have a file of information from a variety of sources.

GIFTS of specimens donated to the Univ. of Louisville collection will be assessed for tax purposes, and a statement of value will be sent to the donors. We follow the formula for specimen value used by the American Museum of Natural History, as follows:

Lepidoptera: domestic, unmounted (papered) and unnamed, \$.20 each
foreign, unmounted and unnamed, \$.25
domestic, unmounted but identified, \$.40
foreign, unmounted but identified, \$.45
domestic, mounted but unnamed, \$.40
foreign, mounted but unnamed, \$.45
domestic, mounted and named, \$.60
foreign, mounted and named, \$.65

By "domestic" is meant North American (America north of Mexico). Insects of other orders follow the same schedule, but are worth \$.10 less in each category. In case of especially rare or desirable species, special assessment will be made above that stated. Specimens mounted on slides are evaluated at \$1.00 each.

FIELD SEASON SUMMARY

At the end of the collecting season, it is time to send in collection data to the Lepidopterists' Society for inclusion in the Annual Field Season Summary. Data are usually sent to Zone Coordinators, who put together reports for their zones. It would possibly help all concerned if Kentucky data were sent to me, and I can put together pertinent data to send on to the zone coordinator, Mo Nielsen in Michigan. If this seems to be a satisfactory way of doing it, I will be glad to accept your report in early January, 1976, and send it on for inclusion in the summary.

C. V. Covell Jr.

*** Help us enlist some new members in this Society ***