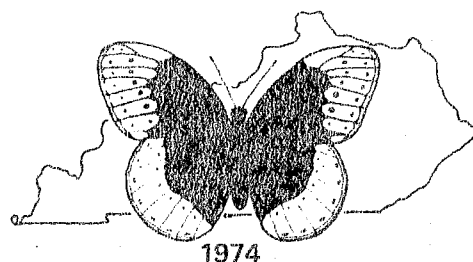


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

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C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR

JUNE, 1979

FOURTEEN MEMBERS GATHER FOR SUCCESSFUL SPRING FIELD MEETING IN HARLAN COUNTY.

Good weather on Friday, April 20, 1979, meant a "go" for our spring field meeting, which had pretty much aborted last year. The following members were there: Tom Carr, Charlie Covell, Denny Currutt, Elaine Early, Greg Florence, Loran Gibson, Richard Henderson, Dave Iftner and wife, Leroy Koenn, Leland Martin, Jim Merritt, John Nordin and wife, Reed Watkins with son and friend, and Charles Watson. Some arrived Friday afternoon, others the following morning. On Friday some of us worked the small hollows at the base of Big Black Mountain 2 miles above Lynch. Pieris virginiensis and Glaucopsyche lygdamus were common, and enough Celastrina eburnina were found to warm the heart. The Tiger Swallowtails, Papilio glaucus, were unusually small in some cases; and in open areas lower down we found some boloria bellona (later found also atop Big Black Mtn.). Remember, this species was unknown from Kentucky before 1970!

That night some stayed in the Cumberland Motel, others in Kingdom Come State Park. Blacklighting was very good in that park, and a fair catch was taken atop Big Black Mountain in a "garbage can" light trap. Two new state records have already been determined from those moth collections: Orthosia revicta Morrison (Noctuidae) and Tortrix afflictana Wlk. (Tortricidae).

On Saturday the whole clan gathered for collecting atop Big Black Mountain, where
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LEPIDOPTERIST COMMUNITY SHOCKED BY DEATH OF HARRY KENDON CLENCH (1925 - 1979).

Harry Clench died suddenly in front of his TV set on the night of 31 Mar., 1979. He was only 53; but he packed into those years a fantastic career as co-founder of the Lepidopterists' Society in 1947, and Assoc. Curator of Insects & Spiders at Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. He wrote numerous articles on butterflies, and specialized in the Lycaenidae of north and tropical America. He had an extraordinarily keen mind, and often gave very thought-provoking talks at meetings of the Lepidopterists' Society. I will most remember him in late-night gabfests with other members during the meetings. He was also the instigator and author of the humorous 4-page FRASS (An Occasional Journal of Paralepidopterology), given out during the Annual Meetings of the Lepid. Soc. from 1973 - 1976. These were unbelievably clever, with articles on Murphy's Laws, series of definitions (Morphologist: Specialist in butterflies of (what else?) genus Morpho), a "put-down" award called the Bryk Bat, cartoons, ads, a crossword puzzle, and limericks, such as:

"I'm worried about F. Martin Brown,"

Said Edwards one day, with a frown.

"He knows me so well

My life is just hell.

I don't dare have a night on the town."

Harry's superb knowledge of the Lepidoptera, his bountiful contributions to our knowledge of butterflies, and his unparalleled wit and good humor endeared him to all of us who knew him. We miss him very much. -CVC

(SPRING FIELD MEETING REPORT, continued)

conditions were surprisingly dry. Not much was flying, but a few good species taken around the fire tower included fresh P. virginiensis, P. glaucus, B. philenor, P. m-album, C. gemma, B. bellona, N. antiopa, P. comma, C. argiolus pseudargiolus, and Amblyscirtes vialis. In the afternoon most members went over to Kingdom Come State Park to collect along Little Shepherd Trail, where Incisalia augustinus was taken in some numbers, along with other species. The total of 29 butterfly species recorded on the trip included the above, plus the following: Erynnis icelus, brizo, juvenalis; E. clarus; Papilio polyxenes asterias and P. troilus; G. marcellus; Pieris rapae; Colias eurytheme and philodice; A. midea; I. henrici; S. melinus; L. comyntas; Vanessa virginiensis; Polygonia interrogationis. butterfly collectors also noticed and took the day-flying moths, Psychomorpha epimenis (Noctuidae) (black with red spot on each FW, white spot on each HW); and Trichodezia albivittata (Geometridae) (black with white bar across outer part of FW). Many other moths taken at light are entered on the record cards and will be included in the work in progress on Kentucky Lepidoptera.

It began to cloud up Saturday afternoon, and while moth collecting was excellent in the hollow at the base of Big Black Mtn. That night, Sunday morning was not good for butterfly collecting. We spent a lot of our time just enjoying the fellowship of a group of people with strong mutual interests. It was a most successful trip, although Prora laeta was not seen, it being too early and dry on Big Black Mountain, we decided. Just about everyone who came for C. ebenina, G. lygdamus, and P. virginiensis went away rewarded with these species.

COMING EVENTS

Tentative Field Meeting: In Sept., to western Ky. for skippers and Satyridae. Drop Loran Gibson a card if you are interested in such a trip. Probably weekend of Sept. 15 - possibly 22.

ANNUAL MEETING - At Univ. of Louisville, Friday night (Party at Covell's), Nov. 9, and Sat. Nov. 10. PLEASE NOW TO ATTEND!

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Dave Hess reports on a visit to Mammoth Cave National Park Apr. 18 - 19. Species taken were C. gemma, P. comma, N. antiopa, I. henrici (only 1), M. gryneus (abundant), A. andria, G. marcellus (common), P. glaucus, B. philenor, A. midea (common), Eu. olympia (fresh specimens Apr. 19; typical of limestone ledges, esp. lower parts, visiting spring beauty, giant chickweed, and bluets). Also several other common species. At Grand Tower, s. Ill., on 17 Apr. Hess recorded D. plexippus, E. claudia, P. comma, N. antiopa, C. argiolus (this at Giant City State Park), I. henrici, and A. midea. G. marcellus was taken that day at Alto Pass and Cave-in-Rock, Ill. At Charlestown, Clark Co., Indiana, he recorded B. bellona. In a later letter, Dave reported B. bellona in McDonough Co., Ill., May 5 and 6. I. henrici, M. gryneus, and D. plexippus were also recorded there on May 5, and G. lygdamus (seen), G. marcellus, E. tarquinius, I. henrici, and other species May 6. All this while on a geology field trip!

Irving Finkelstein wrote that it was a good year already (Apr. 16) in that he and a colleague, Abner Towers, had taken Georgia's first recorded Mitoura hesseli. It was taken April 7 in Taylor County, Ga.

Charles Watson wrote that he had taken C. ebenina in Sullivan County, Tennessee, on Apr. 20 (just before coming to our meeting). Returning to the spot later, he took 2 pairs on 29 April, and found eggs on the foodplant. These records may be the first of the species from Tennessee, he thinks. He also took E. olympia and A. samoset at this spot.

Dave Baggett and several friends visited Torreya State Park, Fla., the weekend of March 31 - Apr. 1, 1979. They took a pair each of N. hesseli, and also such goodies as C. gemma, P. zabalou, A. aesculapius, M. yuccae bucholzi, I. nippon, and some fine moths including Baggett's first Eutelia pulcherrima. He and several colleagues are very active in rearing Catocala species, some of them not reared before.

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(REPORTS FROM THE FIELD, cont.)

Dave Baggett also visited Torreya State Park on Apr. 22, to collect Catocala larvae with Dale Schweitzer. He took his first specimen of Megathymus cofaqui then. He told of exciting revelations on the Catocala species he has been rearing, to be reported later.

Leroy Koehn sent a long account of the big "North-South Open" of collecting in Fla. during May by Denny Currutt, John Hyatt, Dave Baggett, Charles Watson, Charlie Stevens, John Watts, and himself. He listed a total of 87 butterfly species from the whole trip from Jacksonville to Key West. A few of the high spots of collecting were: Hesperia attalus (Jacksonville); Proebis statira (Ft. Lauderdale); Siproeta stelenes & P. cresphontes (Rt. 84 at W. 130th St., west of Ft. Lauderdale); Polites baracoa, Dryas julia, A. capucinus (Frog City on Rt. 41); S. columella, E. zestos, H. ceraunus (N. Key Largo); P. leo, E. zestos, L. tatila, S. columella, W. otho, H. ceraunus, D. julia (Lower Matecumbe Key); S. acis bartrami, Anaea floridalis, Hesperia meskei, P. sennae (Big Pine Key); Chloristrymon maesites, E. angelia, P. frisia, P. puilea, U. dorantes, C. tripunctus, P. leo, E. zestos, P. cresphontes, and H. thomasi bethune-bakeri (Stock Island near Key West); S. martialis, E. zestos, B. pseudofea, S. columella, C. cecrops, A. drusilla (Big Pine Key, 2nd visit); E. angelia, Tmolus azia, E. dina helios, M. petreus, S. stelenes, D. julia, S. martialis, P. cresphontes, P. philea, E. दौरा palmira (Ed. - possibly just white HW form of doura), E. hermes sosybius, P. baracoa (Camp Owassa Bauer, Homestead); P. viator and P. bulenta (near Brunswick, Ga., on way back); S. favonius, ontario, falacer, P. m-album, P. viator, S. calanus, & perhaps S. kingi (Charleston area, S.C., visiting Ron Gattelle on the way home). They were run out of Savannah River Wildlife Refuge by rangers; "no collecting permitted." Leroy closed: "The trip was well, well worth it. A grand time of fellowship and net swinging was enjoyed by all who went. Our nosts were splendid." Leroy also wrote that he is moving from Va. back to Cleveland, O.

NEW MEMBERS

Charles P. KIMBALL West Barnstable MASS.
02668

Charles has long been interested in all N. American Lepidoptera, particularly the fauna of Florida. He is the author of THE LEPIDOPTERA OF FLORIDA, and is still maintaining files on new additions to the Florida records as coordinator for the Southern Lepidopterists faunal project.

Anton Littanorsky 3808 Union Road
St. Louis, Missouri
63125

L. J. Melton III 925 SW 6th Ave.
Rochester, Minnesota
55901

Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. 8207 Old West-
port Rd.
Louisville, Ky.
40222.

We are delighted to welcome these new members, and hope they will enjoy benefits of membership.

NEWS AND NOTES

BOOK: A very useful, color-illustrated book on many of our Noctuidae:

THE CUTWORM MOTHS of Ontario & Quebec.
by E. W. Rockburne & J. D. Lafontaine.
Canada Dept. of Agriculture. \$10.20
U.S., order from: Publishing Centre,
Printing & Publishing, Supply &
Services Canada, Hull, Quebec K1A 0S9,
Canada.

THE EDITOR is now gearing up to attend the Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Soc. in Fairbanks, Alaska. A one-day field trip to Eagle Summit is included in the program. A report will be rendered in the next issue of the Kentucky Lepidopterist (Lord willing).

Dr. Douglas C. Ferguson is on an extended field trip to collect Lepidoptera in the mountains of Idaho.

H. cecropia is astounding people in the Louisville area. Your editor has had many calls from citizens wondering what they had discovered (and how much it was worth!).
(on to pg. 4)

NEWS AND NOTES (continued)

Correction: On the last Membership List Jim Amrine's name was mistakenly spelled as "Armine." Sorry, Jim.

The word caterpillar comes from the Latin catta pilosa, meaning "hairy cat."

PROGRESS REPORTS: Your editor is snailing along on his projects. Of the 1,200 species writeups for Field Guide to the Moths he is down to the last 140, having spent the winter on this aspect of the work. The Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey work continues, with collections from spring now being processed by Susan Heady, Blaine Early, and Covell. There are now 1,885 species in our card file, and Karen Craig has been re-typing the species treatments. Five color plates have been made for the Moths of America fascicle on the Sterrhinae (Geometridae), and the arrangement of genera and species arrived upon (this will be part of the new Check List of the Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico, due out late this year). The Bernheim Insect Survey still lives, but Al Brownell has not been able to work on it with regards to Lepidoptera this year due to his new job. Blaine Early has, however, received a grant from the Isaac Bernheim Found. to pay expenses of his ecological studies on P. tharos.

Susan Reigler is at this time taking her final examinations for the degree at Oxford. We wish her well, and hope to hear from her soon.

WANTED: Notices, notes, and short articles on any subject lepidopterological from YOU. Also, when sending field reports, please organize species lists & information with appropriated dates, localities & names of collectors. Many thanks.

DUES NOTICE. A formal notice will be sent with the next issue. But if you've a mind to, please send your annual dues of \$3.00 (\$1.50 for Assoc. Members) to: Blaine Early, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KENTUCKY 40208. If you wish your phone number put in the next membership list, send that along, too. Mine is: AC502-588-5942 (office): 456-6122 (home). Cheers. -CVC

THE LEROY KOEHN SAGA (Part II)

My father-in-law owns a farm in Whitley Co., Kentucky. Most people are quiet there and slow about everything. While visiting him in fall, 1976, I went collecting along a stretch of State Road 26 about a mile north of Rockholes (that's a town). While in a field I became an attraction for motorists passing by, receiving several cat calls and horn honks, not to mention every one who passed slowed down. I didn't let any of it bother me, so when I finished, I returned to my father-in-law's farm.

That Sunday I went to church with them, the "Tidal Wave Baptist," no less, on Buffalo Creek. After the service we were all standing outside when the preacher came up and began expounding upon the fool catching butterflies in his field. He claimed that he must have been an out-of-state looney and that there "ain't one fool in all of Kentucky who would do that sort of nonsense." Of course I thoroughly agreed. If he only knew that one of the head butterfly catchers resided in Louisville.

Here's another. This past Aug. I was busy poking my 30-ft. net in some Red Cedar trees looking for the third brood of M. gryneus. I was on a dry hillside overlooking Green Valley. Failing to find any, I was preparing to leave when an elderly man approached with an inquisitive look on his face. "Well," I said to myself, "here it comes!" His first question was a beaut: "Are you picking apples?" What ever made him ask that I'll never know; but he had a silly look on his face, so I decided to get smart. "No," I said, "I'm not picking apples, but I'm trying to catch the rare Virginia Seesicker. Yes, that's SEESicker." I told him that I was from the government and was investigating a report that "seesickers" were present in this area. Well, grandpa fell for it, hook, line and sinker. I told him they were very small and only an experienced eye could see one. "What does it look like?" he asked. I told him I had never seen one, but would know one if I saw it. With that the old man began to look around and asked me where I lived. I told him St. Alban's. Now St. Alban's is the local area mental hospital. The look on his face was fantastic, but his hearing was excellent. He heard his wife calling him!

(One more installment, next time. -Ed.)