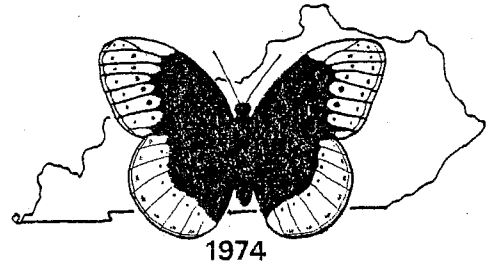


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF
*The Society of
Kentucky Lepidopterists*



Vol. 6, No. 1

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

FEBRUARY, 1980

SPRING FIELD MEETING APRIL 25-27

Get out those nets, killing jars, and light units; it won't be long now! A break in the cold weather this week (Feb. 20) has me looking forward to our first field meeting for 1980. Here are the plans our Field Coordinator, Loran Gibson, has made:

Place: JENNY WILEY STATE PARK, 3 miles N. of Prestonburg, Floyd Co., Kentucky.

Date: April 25-27, 1980 (tentative dates)

Purpose: Look for Euchloe olympia, Pyrgus centaureae wyandot, Pieris virginien-sis, Celastrina ebenina, Glaucopsyche lygdamus, Incisalia spp., and other spring species.

Accommodations: Hotel rooms, cabins, and camping. Rooms are \$28.09 per night for 2; cottages, 1 bedroom, \$30.45/night; 2 bedrooms, \$47.51/night. These fully furnished, incl. TV, telephone, equipped kitchen, sheets, towels, etc. Camping costs \$5.00/night for primitive sites, \$5.50 for improved sites (water & electrical hookups). Park phone: AC 606-886-2711.

If nothing available there, try White Way Motel in Prestonburg, 8 miles from the park: AC 606-797-2465; Holiday Inn in Hopkinsville, 20 miles away, phone 886-4413.

(cont'd. on pg. 2)

HIGHLIGHTS OF 6TH ANNUAL MEETING

The sixth annual meeting of the Society was called to order by President Leland Martin at 1:30 P.M. Nov. 10, 1979, in Room 321 of the Life Sciences Bldg., Univ. of Louisville. The 22 members registering included: Mo Nielsen, Charlie Covell, John Hyatt, Leland Martin, Leroy Koehn, Jim Merritt, Reed Watkins, Charles Watson, Roger Zebold, Blaine Early, Denny Currutt, John Nordin, Brett Barrett, Loran Gibson, Pat Gibson, Carl Cornett, Mike McInnis, Yin-rei Hicks, Richard Henderson, Alan Temple, Richard Cassell, and Richard Fellows. John MacGregor attended the open house at Jim Merritt's the night before, but not the meeting.

Minutes of the 4th Annual Meeting were read and approved. Blaine Early read the Treasurer's Report; the treasury stood at \$423.91 at that date.

Charlie Covell reported as Editor that Richard Henderson is now Assoc. Editor, and he has taken the duty of printing the "Kentucky Lepidopterist." A plea was made for more contributions of material for the newsletter from the members. A reprinted article on rearing Microlepidoptera, by the late Annette F. Braun, will be sent with Vol 6, No. 1 to those who did not pick one up at this meeting. A brief discussion on the progress of the new Checklist of N. American Lepidoptera, the Field Guide to Moths, and the Ky. Lepidoptera book followed.

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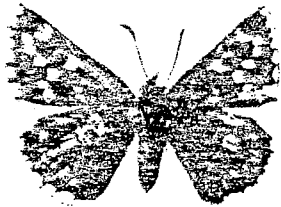
SPRING FIELD MEETING (concluded)

Route: The best route from points west of Jenny Wiley is via I-64 and Mountain Parkway to Prestonsburg; then follow the signs.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, WRITE LORAN GIBSON TO LET HIM KNOW. HE WILL SEND YOU FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING ACTIVITIES, MEETING TIMES, ETC. HIS ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER:

Loran D. Gibson
30 Russell St.
Florence, Ky. 41042
Phone: AC 606 371-3455

Note: In case the weather seems bad, call Loran about alternative plans.

FEATURE BUTTERFLY: *Pyrurgus centaurae wyandot*

The Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrurgus centaurae wyandot* Edwards (Type locality, Washington, D.C.) has yet to be positively recorded in Kentucky, although one or two collectors have thought they have seen it. We hope to get a definite record of this elusive species in 1980.

Black with white spots, it is known to range from "New York south to North Carolina" if you follow Howe's Butterflies of North America, pg. 515. The species is holarctic, occurring in Europe and Asia; and *P. c. freija* Warren is the arctic subspecies in N. America.

Wyandot apparently favors "grassy hillsides" and Klots (Field Guide to Butterflies, p. 215) says it is "a difficult butterfly to see in the field. Though its flight is not particularly fast, I have more than once had a specimen which I was watching close by, in a short grass field, vanish as if by magic to reappear thirty feet away. Southward it is rare and local."

Your Editor has not taken this bug - ever; and it seems to fly from "the end of March" into early May, depending on the locality and seasonal characteristics (Clark & Clark, 1951, p. 151). We hope to get it at Jenny Wiley!

ANNUAL MEETING

The checklist of Rocky Mountain butterflies by Ferris and Stanford was also mentioned.

Under Old Business, Gibson announced that the project of providing field record cards for Ky. butterflies was awaiting publication of the new Checklist to validate names. It should be available late in 1980.

As New Business, Leroy Koehn suggested that the Society create an annual award to recognize individuals who make significant contributions to various aspects of lepidopterology, particularly field aspects. It would be called "Collector of the year award" or something similar. Leroy agreed to form a committee and plan to present a detailed proposal at next year's meeting.

Roger Zebold moved, and Leroy Koehn seconded, a motion that the Society create some form of identification card or such. Early and Covell will look into printing such a card, as the motion passed unanimously.

Officers for 1980 were elected, as follows: President, Bill Black; Editor, C. V. Covell Jr.; Secretary-Treasurer, Blaine Early; and Field Coordinator, Loran Gibson.

The field trips for 1980 were discussed. The Spring Field Meeting will be at Jenny Wiley State Park Apr. 25-27; and a midsummer meeting at Lake Cumberland State Park was tentatively planned; and a fall meeting at Bill Black's farm near Paducah was enthusiastically approved. Any questions or suggestions concerning field trips should be addressed to Loran Gibson.

The business meeting ended at 2:40 P.M.

After a brief recess, the program began. John Nordin presented some ideas on the use of bait traps to collect Lithopane and other moths. Roger Zebold discussed an aberrant Automeris io. Leland Martin talked on some Ohio butterflies. Brett Barrett discussed rearing S. diana and requested help obtaining ova next season. This discussion led to mention of the paper by Amos Showalter and Bart Drees on gynandromorph dianas. The business meeting was

(on to pg. 3)

ANNUAL MEETING (concluded)

reopened and Covell moved, Black seconding, that a sum up to \$100 be granted from the treasury to help defray the cost of publishing color illustrations of these gynandromorphs in Journal of the Lepid. Soc. The motion passed unanimously (making this the first grant approved by the Society). Mrs. Yin-rei Hicks discussed her plans to illustrate Kentucky butterflies, and asked help in the form of papered specimens to use as models for her art. Richard Henderson and Mike McInnis gave a slide show and talked of their collecting trip to Brownsville, Texas- a whirlwind trip in which more time was spent on the road than collecting butterflies. Their success was not too great. John Hyatt gave an illustrated talk on collecting in Tennessee and s. Florida, and presented an unusual color variation of A. midea. Jim Merritt presented an excellent slide show on the Brooks Range and Eagle Summit field trips in Alaska during the Lepidopterists' Society meetings last June-July. Charlie Covell followed with his slides of the same trip, minus the Brooks Range part, which he missed. He also showed pictures of some of the Kentucky Lepidopterists field trips during 1979.

The featured speaker was Mo Nielsen from Lansing, Michigan. Mo is well known as an avid Lepidopterist, Field Season Summary coordinator and net-swinging friend of many seasoned North American collectors, including your Editor. He gave a beautifully illustrated talk on collecting in Michigan, particularly in the "U.P." (Upper Peninsula). He invites any of you to join the Michigan Entomological Society, which publishes a superb newsletter and journal.

After questions and discussion, the meeting was adjourned to a picture-taking session, look at the U. of L. collection and displays brought by members, and, oh yes, the door prize drawing. Later, several members dined together at Masterson's before starting homeward.

We all want to thank Jim and Mary Lou Merritt for a wonderful party on Friday night, and John MacGregor for showing his superb slides of Lepidoptera larvae. In all, the whole weekend was most enjoyable.

(CVC from Blaine Early's minutes)

NEWS, NOTES, AND SUCH

Here are some limericks from Bob Bryant of Maryland, who also invites any of you to join the MARYLAND ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Write him for details (522 Old Orchard Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21229).

*If moth collecting's your bent
No doubt you'll be quite content
For males by the score
Will come to your door
When a female releases her scent.*

*I wish I had had the foresight
To do all my collecting at night.
From the time I was little
With diurnals I'd piddle
And now my moth collection is slight.*

*If you collect on a choice piece of land
There's something you'd best understand
Or you may be wishin'
You'd gotten permission
From that farmer with shotgun in hand!*

Leroy Koehn has settled down at last, and his new address is: Rt. 3, Box 270H, Staunton, Virginia 24401. He has 8 wooded acres outside Staunton, and will be out sniffing out the good bug spots very soon now.

The status of the Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey is 1,906 species recorded with others on the way. Noctuidae is represented by 529 spp so far. Recent additions, from identifications done during Covell's trip to the U.S. National Museum, include 5 Noctuidae, 1 Geometridae, 2 Pyralidae, 6 Tortricidae, 3 Cochylidae, 1 Gracillariidae, 2 Tineidae, and 1 Nepticulidae. Thanks to J.F.G. Clarke, Don R. Davis, and D. C. Ferguson for their help on the determinations.

Amos Showalter wrote in Nov. that he had taken Poanes yehl at Cedars of Lebanon St. Park, Tenn., in June, 1978. He got what might be the first Tenn. record, and farthest south, of Hyllolycaena hyllus (thoe). He got S. diana in 3 Tenn. counties in 1979.

NEWS, NOTES & SUCH (Cont'd.)

The Ohio Lepidopterists will meet at 10:00 A.M. March 15 at the Ohio Agr. Research & Development Center, Fisher Auditorium Bldg. Conference Room. David Parshall will talk on Arctic Collecting, and there will be a tour of the OARDC facility. This will be in WOOSTER, Ohio

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NEW MEMBERS: A big welcome to Linwood C. DOW, 803 Sullivan St., Ocoee, FLA. 32716. "Woody" is interested in micros, Le-the, Cercyonis, Boloria, photog. & distrib. He welcomes correspondents re. micros.

Dana M. GRING, 6126 Harvest Lane, Toledo, OH-IO 43623. Dana's interests include Saturniidae; he'll be visiting here March 21-22.

The UTAH LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY has been going strong, and numbered 21 members at the end of 1979. Dues are \$5 per year. Write to Col. Clyde F. Gillette, 3419 S. 2850 East, Salt Lake City, UTAH 84109. W. Levi Phillips has been a member of both organizations for some time, and so is "our man in Utah." Good Luck to the ULS during the 1980 season, Levi!

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And don't forget the SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS, who are going strong and already in the field. Their first Annual Meeting was held Oct. 27-28 at Jacksonville with 14 members present. They have refined their zone system, and plan to be out in force at the Lepidopterists' Society Annual Meeting to be held at Gainesville, Fla., June 19-22. I hope all of you can get to that meeting. There is also the possibility of a charter trip to collect in Ecuador for about 8 days after the meeting - for only \$500 complete

EDITOR'S NOTES

Your editor has been trying to keep pressure on the big project, the Field Guide to Moths, so has not been the best correspondent. The photography and species accounts (all 1,200 or so) are done, and the rest is in the works. Both this book and the "Lepidoptera of Ky." must await the new Check list of Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico to be released, hopefully, this year. Memoir #2 of the Lepid. Soc., a new Catalog of the N. American butterflies by L.D. Miller & F. M. Brown, should also be finished about mid-1980. The next issue of the Moths of America N. of Mexico will probably be the fascicle on the Green Geometridae by D. C. Ferguson; another on the Sesiidae should be along before too long.

It is a year of much happening. The Lepid. Soc. meeting in Fla., with trip to Ecuador, is exciting. I hope also to cross the U.S. to Vancouver, B.C., in July, to attend the 2nd International Congress of Systematic & Evolutionary Biology. The field work in Taiwan I had hoped to do with Dr. Don Davis will not be in the works for me this time, but maybe I can do it another year. Anyway, I hope to see as many of you as possible, and URGE YOU to communicate with your fellow members via this newsletter. We will be looking for new state records this year, plus more of the rarer species in Ky. We want to add to the 1 tenuous record for Euphyes dukesi, and look for other expected skippers like P. centaurae wyandot.

Here's wishing each of you a very productive and enjoyable year of collecting and/or research in your area of interest in lepidopterology! Charlie & Richard

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FIRST CLASS MAIL