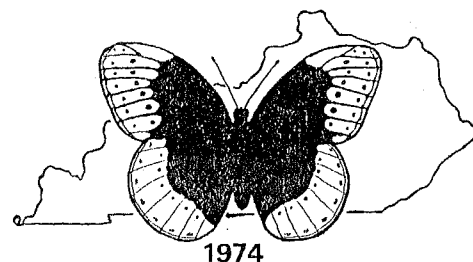


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF
*The Society of
Kentucky Lepidopterists*



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

JUNE, 1980

ALL ABOARD FOR GAINESVILLE AND ECUADOR

On 19 June your Editor and son Chuck will head for Florida, arriving by plane in Jacksonville in time to hitch a ride with Dave Baggett and perhaps Dale Schweitzer of Yale Univ. over to Gainesville for the 31st ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY. Word from Tom Emmel and Dale Habeck, main forces in putting on this meeting, is that over 200 are expected to attend, with about 40 on the program. Symposia on Tropical Lepidoptera and on Lepidoptera Migration are featured. After the meeting ends about 100 of us will fly to Quito ECUADOR for a 10-day odyssey, collecting in 3 localities on Mt. Cotapaxi (alpine habitat), on the western slope (rain forest) around Hotel Tinalandia, and in Amazon rain forest along the Rio Napo or at Limoncocha (depending on the group one is in). Shots, passports and gear are squared away, and it won't be long now. I plan to take many slides and present a program to you at the Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Lepidopterists. Others in our gang who are apparently going are Blaine Early, John Hyatt, and Denny Currutt; also Jo Brewer and Dave Winter, I think. I have not heard from some of you lately, so may not be aware of all who are going. In any case, it should be a blast.

Last year I was wondering ahead of time what Alaska would be like. I thought we would be on very flat tundra, but it was pretty rough and hilly terrain. I thought butterflies would be so abundant that it was just a matter of how fast one could bag them. That was not so, either; at Eagle Summit between 11 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. in perfect weather I took only 55 butterflies, and worked hard for each one (making them, of course, more treasured). So now I wonder about the tropics, since the cl-
(to page 2)

SPRING FIELD MEETING A WASHOUT, BUT P. CENTAURAE TAKEN.

ONCE AGAIN THE SPRING FIELD MEETING WAS RAINED OUT. THE COVELLS WENT TO JENNY WILEY STATE PARK ON SAT., APR. 26, ONLY TO FIND EVERYONE WHO HAD COME FRIDAY HAD GIVEN UP AND GONE HOME. THEY STAYED, BUT TOOK NO MORE THAN 24 MOTHS IN A LIGHT TRAP, NONE OF THEM ANYTHING SPECIAL.

LEROY KOEHN, ON 24-25 APR. HAD BEEN AT BIG BLACK MOUNTAIN, AND TOOK 9 PYRGUS CENTAURAE WYANDOT IN THE SKI LIFT AREA. THESE ARE THE FIRST KNOWN KY. RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES, AND BRINGS THE STATE BUTTERFLY LIST NOW TO 133 SPECIES.

Other captures those dates included 2 Erora laeta, Incisalia irus, Glaucopsyche lygdamus nittanyensis, Amblyscirtes hegon, A. vialis, Erynnis baptisiae and E. brizo in the Big Black Mtn. area; at Kingdom Come State Park he took Mitoura gryneus, Incisalia niphon, and Hesperia metea. Many Celastrina ebenina were found along Rt. 160 at the Ky. base of Big Black Mountain. More common species recorded in the general area were B. philenor, P. glaucus, P. troilus, P. polyxenes asterias, C. philodice, C. eurytheme, Pieris virginianensis, A. midae, C. argiolus, E. comyntas, E. icelus, E. juvenalis, and cocoons of C. promethea, H. cecropia, and A. polyphemus.

A number of the clan had gathered by Fri. or Sat. morning, but the rain came and stayed. We'll just have to try again next year. See next page for further 1980 plans!

(GAINESVILLE AND ECUADOR, CONT.)

osest I have been to Latin America has been a sunset stroll on the waterfront at Key West Florida and a quick dash over the Mexican border to Juarez to pick up a few trinkets on my 1951 trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in N.M.

I am expecting the kind of unbearable heat and humidity I used to be adjusted to in the Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia, and then some. Our feet should be wet most of the time; the biting Diptera should be a constant irritation. I am ready for Montazuma's Revenge, I hope, with tetracycline and Lomotil. The collecting should be great, if not all the time for butterflies, at least for moths. There should be some new species of moths just WAITING to be collected. How to get all the gear there and back, and how to transport the specimens - that is the question! We are advised to travel light; but the list of things to take seems huge. We'll see how it all works out.

So, this is a trip of a lifetime, and I just can't wait to get to Ecuador. I think most of the group going shares my anticipation and inexperience. I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

-cvc

PLANS FOR FALL FIELD MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING

We have just not gotten in gear for the planned midsummer meeting, though individuals might wish to phone Loran Gibson (AC 606-371-3455) to see if a few of the gang are planning to go collecting in late June or early July. We did want to check in western Ky. for Euphyes dukesi. The only Ky. record is for Webster Co., 6 July, 1972. The wet lowlands in that part of the state should yield good colonies of dukesi and other good skippers.

FALL FIELD MEETING: Bill Black's farm, Fri. Sept. 12-Sun. Sept. 14. Tentative at this point, but probably this will be the date. We will visit the Bayou de Chien and Reelfoot Nat. Wildlife Refuge spots for Poanes yehl, Euphyes dion, Lethe portlandia missarkae, L. appalachia, and other desirable species, hoping to get them a bit earlier than last year. PLEASE CONTACT LORAN GIBSON IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, AND DO SO BY MID AUGUST.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF KY. LEPIDOPTERISTS

WILL CONVENE FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 14, 1980, with a social gathering to be announced later. Business and scientific sessions will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15, with dinner afterwards for those who wish to attend. Program has not yet been firmed up, but will include slide presentation of the Ecuador trip, plus the individual presentations by members attending.

FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER, but MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW AND PLAN TO COME.



THE MOTH AND BUTTERFLY CLUB: A LITTLE-KNOWN GROUP BASED IN KENTUCKY

In the year 1946 Mrs. Evelyn G. Williams of Sanitarium, California, began sending out a mimeographed newsletter under the heading, "The Butterfly Club." The newsletters, usually 2 pages long, were filled with notes from members, tips on collecting, spreading, identifying, etc., and information on how or where to get needed equipment and materials. By early 1947, 160 names were on her mailing list. Dues were \$.50 per year. First Ky. reference came when Carl Cook, then of Crailhope (not far from Center, where he now lives) was quoted in Vol. 1, no. 9, May, 1947, from a letter in which he offered to assist collectors in identifying Lepidoptera. Early members included L. Hugh Newman, the famed butterfly farmer in England; Duke Downey, Douglas Ferguson, Frank Rutkowski, and Dr. John Adams Comstock. The full name of the club was "The Howell Mountain Butterfly Club." I have copies of Vol. 1, numbers 3-11. Then comes a gap.

My next issues (copied from files of Mr. W.D. Field at the U.S. National Museum) are Vol. 7, no. 9 (Dec., 1952). The editor is now James Unsel Jr., Gravel Switch, Ky. Members include Dr. James R. Merritt of Louisville and Howard O. Ladd of Elizabethtown. The newsletter, now called "Club

MOTH AND BUTTERFLY CLUB
(CONT'D.)

Notes - Moth and Butterfly Club," continued to consist of miscellaneous notes sent in by members. A checklist of butterflies of Hartman, Colo., for 1951-52 was a feature in Vol. 8 (1953). Want ads were an important feature. In August of that year, James Unseld wrote that he was on his way to Ft. Knox for military service, and a later issue (Vol. 8, no. 9-10, Sept./Oct. 1954) indicated he was in Korea. Clifford Verhoeff of Bristol, Colo., was the Editor after Unseld. After Vol. 9, no. 3-4, March/April, 1955, I have no more issues. What happened to the Club? What became of James M. Unseld Jr.? I would really like to know, and to contact him if he is still with us. Many members of this club are members now of the Lepidopterists' Society, and some are active in the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. Please let the Editor know of any information you have on this organization and its fate.

NEW MEMBERS

Jevetta Florence, Rt. 2, Box 40
Cox's Creek, KY. 40013
Jevetta is continuing to build the collection begun by her late husband, Gregg. She visited the Editor recently, and is very active with teaching and with the 4-H Club entomology program in Nelson County.

John E. Holzbach Boardman Township Park District
375 Boardman-Poland Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44512
John is Superintendent of the Boardman Twp. Park Dist.

Irwin Leeuw 1219 Crystal Lake Rd.
Cary, Ill. 60013
Irwin is an experienced lepidopterist who has contributed much information on N. American butterflies. Lethe appalachia leeui was named after him.

Norma L. Malinowski General Delivery
Sassafras, Ky. 41759
Norma is a Resource Manager, interested in identification and photography of Lepidoptera.

NEWS AND NOTES

NEW ADDRESS: Alan J. Brownell
310 Helm Lane, Apt. D-19
Sulphur Springs, TEX.
75842

Al is working for Ocean Spray Cranberry now, and is involved with setting up a new plant there in Sulphur Springs. Linda and he expect a new addition to the family soon. Al indicates he is getting back into collecting, and enjoys his new digs.

Wanted: Distributional information on Boloria bellona in Kentucky, esp. in areas west of Jefferson County. The Editor.

New state records include the following moths: Noctuidae: Euxoa campestris (Grt.), E. scholastica McD., Leucania linda Franc., Gabara subnivosella (Wlk.), Cucullia om-issa Dod, Leucania inermis Forbes, and Lithacodia concinnimacula (Gn.). Pyralidae: Saucrobotys fumoferalis (Hlst.) and Frechinia helianthialis (Murtfeldt). Oecophoridae: Semioscopis aurorella Dyar. Most of these were taken by Henderson or Gibson. CORRECTION: Earlier we thought we had noctuid Diarsia jucunda, but it has been re-identified by Dr. J.D. Lafontaine as D. rubifera (Grote). Locality: Big Black Mountain.

Field Guide to Moths progress: All species descriptions now typed, though some being retyped. Photos and legend pages done. Target date for completion: end of Dec. It should then take about a year to be published.

Catalog-Checklist of the Butterflies of America North of Mexico. Memoir #2 of the Lepidopterists' Society. By Lee D. Miller and F. Martin Brown. Publication anticipated for Oct. or Nov., 1980. Both paperback and hard-bound editions will be available

Checklist of the Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico by Ronald Hodges and others of the Moths of America N. of Mexico group. Publication anticipated late this year. Cost will be at least \$40, I hear. Next fascicle of MONA will probably be D. C. Ferguson's on the green Geometridae.

NEWS AND NOTES, CONT'D.

Susan Reigler is now working on her Ph.D. at the University of Louisville, and will be a teaching assistant in Biology this fall. She is also working on a volunteer basis with the Louisville Museum and Locust Grove. She can be reached at the same address as the Editor.

Eduardo C. Welling M., Aptdo. Postal 701, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, is an old swapping pal of the Editor, dating back to when the former was Eddy Welling of Euclid, Ohio. He moved to Yucatan, married, and set up an insect collecting business which continues today. He asked me to see if any of you would like to exchange Catocala spp. you might have to spare for tropical Lepidoptera. Drop him a line if you are interested.

NEW ADDRESS for Leroy Koehn: Rt. #3, Box 270-H, Staunton, Va. 24401. Leroy is very happy with his new home and job, and has been collecting many fine bugs in Virginia this year. To wit, there is a colony of C. ebenina in a ravine by his house, and he has taken Polygonia progne in bait traps at home, too. In Highland Co., Va., he recently took I. polios, Euchloe olympia, Am. hegon, and possibly Erynnis martialis; at a spot in Augusta Co., E. laeta, C. ebenina, I. irus, H. metea, Atrytonopsis hianna, and Hesperia sarsacus. At the Great Dismal Swamp in May he got Amblyscirtes carolina, alternata, and aesculapius. He has been rearing G. lygdamus on the purple Va. vetch. And in n. Nelson Co

he and son Kris took Am. vialis, I. irus, Am. hegon, and Euptychia gemma.

Mike McInnis collected the first C. ebenina for Jefferson Co., Ky., taking 2 males and a female on May 9 at a spot in the southwest part of the County off Dixie Highway. One male has been donated to the U. of Louisville collection by Mike.

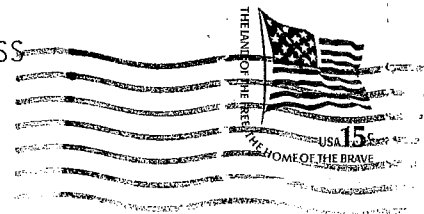
Charlie Watson has been busy in Tenn., and sent in a long report. Highlights include P. virginiensis "common right up until the last weekend in May;" I. henrici almost absent (usually common); I. nippon found in Sullivan Co., Tenn., 20 Apr. and Scott Co., Va., 26 & 27 May; P. m-album, Scott Co., Va., May 10; Hyatt took female E. laeta 26 Apr. in Hawkins Co., Tenn.; Charlie got his 1st G. lygdamus in Scott Co., Va., on 6 & 10 May; C. ebenina in Sullivan Co., Tenn., 20 Apr. (fresh females only) and Scott Co., Va., 6 & 10 May (worn, both sexes). Hyatt got an A. hianna in Lee Co., Va., 24 May; both got A. hegon & vialis in Scott Co., Va., 6 & 10 May; A. cellus taken there 25 & 26 May. B. bellona down in numbers this year. I note from his letter that Charlie will also be going on the Ecuador trip.

DUES NOTICE: PLEASE SEND 1980 DUES OF \$3 (REGULAR) OR \$1.50 (ASSOC.) TO BLAINE EARLY BY 1 JULY. THANK YOU!

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FIRST CLASS



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