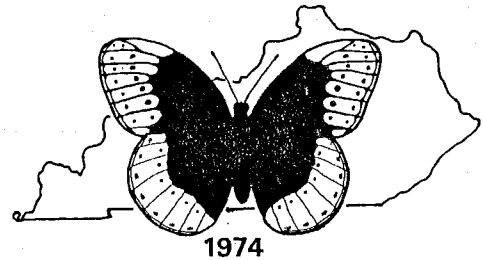


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

The Society of

Kentucky Lepidopterists



VOL. 9, NO. 2

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R. A. HENDERSON, ASSOC. ED.

JUNE, 1983

LATE SUMMER FIELD TRIP SEP. 9-11

WE PLAN TO VISIT THE HENDERSON SLOUGHS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA IN HENDERSON CO., KY., AGAIN THIS SEPTEMBER. LAST YEAR THE CLOUDY WEATHER MADE COLLECTING LESS THAN EXPECTED, BUT GOOD ENOUGH TO TEMPT US BACK TO THE CYPRESS SWAMPS AND WETLANDS HABITATS WHICH YIELDED SUCH DESIRABLE BUTTERFLIES AS: *Poanes yehl*, *Euphyes dion*, *Erynnis horatius*, *Phoebis sennae*, *Hyllolycaena hyllus*, *Lethe anthedon*, *L. appalachia*, *Asterocampa clyton*, and *A. celtis*. The foodplant of *Euphyes dukesi* was also found there, and since the season seems later than normal this year, it might still be on the wing. We also had very little chance to explore the vast wetlands area in the vicinity, so may be able to do more of that this time.

We will plan to meet Friday afternoon or evening at the Frank Sauerheber Unit of the Sloughs Nat. Wildlife Management Area, and collect moths that night. We will collect butterflies all day Saturday, and blacklight again Sat. night. Loran Gibson will coordinate the field trip, and will have maps, motel information, etc. for you after Aug. 15. His phone number is AC 606: 261-4515 in the evenings (home phone). Since our spring trip was called off on account of bad weather, I hope we can get together successfully this time.

REPORT OF THE PERU/ECUADOR TRIP

The fourth edition of the Holbrook Travel Agency's trip to Latin America for lepidopterists took place June 17-26, 1983. Led again by Dr. Tom Emmel, he and 9 other Ky. Lepidopterists made up fully one-fourth of the 40 people who went. Others of us included Dave Ahrenholz, Dave Bigelow, Charlie Covell, Pat and Tom Dooley, Pete Knudsen, Molly Monica, Mark Myers, and Susan Reigler. We met the evening of 16 June at the AeroPeru counter in Miami International Airport, and flew out late at night to arrive safely in Lima for an early-morning visit to the Museo de Historia Natural at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, where fellow Ky. Lepidopterist Dr. Gerardo Lamas gave us a talk about the different collecting regions of Peru, and showed us slides of these places and some of the butterflies characteristic of them. We then returned to the Lima airport and flew to Tingo Maria, a mountain town to the northeast of Lima that is noted for its butterflies. There we settled in at the Turistas Hotel as in 1982, and Sr. Carlos Chavez took charge of our transportation to various sites in the vicinity. Our tour director was the inimitable Mrs. Giovanna Holbrook, of Holbrook Travel Agency in Gainesville, Fla. She took over the kitchen, and acted as chef to produce delicious soups and main dishes for ravenous lepidopterists. She also took care of all sorts of arrangements, trouble-shooting a number of problems that most members of the group never dreamed even occurred. That day, June 17, we had time to do some collecting in the vicinity of the hotel before dark, which occurs year-round in an equatorial area at about the same time: 6:30 P.M. in this case. Moth collecting was not very good around the (to pg. 2)

hotel, although large Castniidae (moth family characterized by butterfly-like, clubbed antennae) flew at dusk and sometimes got trapped in the partially open-air building. It had been fairly dry in the region, and the river nearby was low. All days there were sunny. The next morning, June 18, breakfast of orange juice, papaya, and crepes-like pancakes was served at 7:00 A.M., after which members of the group could sign up for one of 2 day trips out to their choice of collecting spots. Tom led one bus group, and I the other. My group went that day to the farthest spot, the Chinchavito Bridge, 25 km south of the town of Tingo Maria. Tom's bus went to the closest spot, called Cueva de los Pavos, or Turkey Cave, only 8 km south of Tingo. That spot had been dubbed the year before as "Morpho Alley," because Morpho didius, helena, achilles, and deidamia funneled through the deep, narrow canyon there (or flew high above it, in the case of helena) and could be caught by the clever and athletic (or lucky) netswinger. There, also, local people would come out with nets, rags, and blue ski caps to try their luck and perhaps catch some specimens to sell to Carlos Chavez, Mario Rojas, and others who deal in the airborne iridescence to sell around the world. Here, also, one could perhaps buy a few butterflies from a youngster who had them leaved among the pages of a comic book, and somehow had taken species you didn't even see, and also knew how to keep them "scale perfect."

At my spot, Chinchavito Bridge, I ran into the little girl who lived in a tiny house by the bridge with her mother and 5 siblings, Amelia. She had followed some of us up the trail and pointed out butterflies the year before. I had taken her some things from home (a doll, some magic markers, a pencil case, etc.), and she was elated. She helped me as I collected along the river which tumbled below, pointing out butterflies, or using my net when I was working with collected specimens. She went her way after a while, and I continued up into the hills. We had to send back to town one of our group, who fell hard among some big rocks, and had a badly skinned nose and a big cut in his thigh from a broken cyanide jar. Luckily, he got no cyanide into the wound, but the cut was deep enough to sever a tendon. Collecting there that day was good but not great. Just about everyone in the group caught one or more Morphos, and the gorgeous fast-flying metalmarks of the genera Ancyluris, Rhetis, and Amarynthis (meneria). Both buses returned to the hotel at about 4:30 (sunshine leaves the canyons early) to clean up and enjoy the large, cold cervezas (beers) in the little bar.

The next day (June 19) my busload went to the "Morpho Alley" spot where I took a couple of M. achilles and, to my great delight, a male M. helena. That species rarely comes within net range, and this one had come to a small treetop about 20 ft. off the ground. I watched it in awe, then jolted to action as it sailed down to a bush about 7 ft. from the ground, then started off again only to end up in my net. Gary O'Shea was with me, and I got him to take my picture with the prize. Still, the "Major League Hairstreaks," Arcas and Evenus eluded me, and that was what I was seeking. Dr. Roy Rings of the Ohio State Univ. (ret.) took pity on me and gave me a beauty (not yet identified), but people were taking Arcas imperialis and I wasn't even SEEING 'em! Still, no matter; I was getting a number of neat riordinids and other species I had not taken before. Also at this spot Charlie Stevens of Fla. and I were working a hillside spot where a horizontal branch oozing sap was attracting Prepona species. Charlie took a beaut, while I wracked on up by getting him in the hindwings with my net as he shot away from his perch. Historis odius and several other neat nymphalids were also coming to that sappy spot, and made for interesting athletic efforts on our part.

The 20th saw my bus group to the Tambillo Grande spot, 11 km. south of Tingo Maria, where one walks uphill along a curving gorge and another tumbling river. More M. achilles, and another variety of good nymphalids, hairstreaks, and riordinids. But nothing terrific. I spent a lot of time at a low spot in the path where last year I had had an Evenus in my net, and lost him! I fully expected to see another there and complete the job, but it was not to be. Dave Ahrenholz, shirtless with a red and white spotted railroader's cap on his head, was nearby, crouching over his bait, photographing butterflies never before put on film. Others went by, to a two-log bridge over the river farther up. Another good day; but for me not a great one. Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves so far.

(Peru/Ecuador Trip, cont.)

The 21st was our last full day in the Tingo Maria area, and I returned to the Chinchavito spot. I left my fold-up net for little Amelia, who was in school, and a few moments later her little sister, about 2 ft. tall, toddled down the path after me with the net folded over. In it was a "98 butterfly", Diaethria clymena Cramer. I took another Morpho achilles, and found myriads of Heliconius and Ithomiidae among the shady coffee trees. I took several nice hairstreaks, but still no superstars. At the end of the day, I had a touching goodbye with my pal Amelia, who met me at the road with 4 butterflies in the net. We jounced down the road to Tingo for the last time, and next day left for Lima after some local collecting around the hotel. It was then that I saw a lovely Arcas imperialis, but could not get to it before it flitted away into the dense brush.

While at Tingo Maria we had one evening trip into the hills to a place 44 miles north of Tingo Maria known as "La Divisoria." It was a sort of continental divide, and was on the road to Aguaytia and Pucallpa. There, at an elevation of about 1500 m, 14 of us visited the microwave station with the screened-in oil tank room behind it where burns the only electric lights for miles around. We put lights out with rather poor results (only a couple Rothschildia forbesi or such were taken); and we all clambered around the tank room to catch the few Sphingidae and other big moths that were trapped inside. Those of us that were interested in Noctuidae, Geometridae, and other medium and small moths did fairly well, but not as well as the first night there last year. We went in Carlos' 15-passenger van this year, and the trip was much faster and more pleasant than last year. I got about 150 moths worth keeping.

Once in Lima we went through customs (the agent inspected my mysterious cardboard box filled with moth pinning boxes and envelopes), then checked in at the Gran Hotel Bolivar. After a delicious dinner in elegant surrounding, some of us walked the streets and took in the sights. Next morning some of us went on a tour of the city, and did some shopping in the Indian Market (not enough time!), where one can buy llama and alpaca rugs, sweaters, etc., and other handicrafts of the Andes region. Then we got back to check out of the hotel, eat lunch, and fly from Lima to Guayaquil, Ecuador, where we again went quickly through aduana (customs) and boarded a big bus for the 5.5 hour drive through a rainy night to Tinalandia, just east of Santo Domingo de los Colorados, arriving late. We went right to bed, without even getting our bags off the top of the bus. Next morning was sunny and hot, and we collected around the hotel, either along the golf course above and in the jungle beyond, or over across the road where an oil pipeline cuts along the hill base. Collecting was down from expected levels, but still good. During the 2 days I took several metalmarks and hairstreaks never before in my net, plus Panacea prola, some Anaea new to me, and other goodies. Moth collecting, as expected, was excellent at the top of the hill, despite the full moon. At 3:30 AM on June 26 we got up, boarded the bus, and returned to Guayaquil for the flight back to Miami, and from there we dispersed each to his own home to spread specimens, pore over slides, and reflect on the exciting events. It was basically a good group; very congenial, with minimal friction and "poaching" by collectors on others. Remarkable how we were able to collect by ourselves in these places, if we wished. A few people got the "turista," but health seemed basically good. These trips have been fantastic, and my gear is behind the door ready for the next one. Well, Tom, where will it be next?

-CVC

NEWS, NOTES, AND SUCH

The Lepidopterists' Society Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, July 8-10, will be the best organized yet, with many features new to the Society's happenings. I hope you all will be there for the interesting program, photo salon, field trips, banquet, and door prizes.

The long-awaited Checklist of the Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico was published on May 9, and I received my copy by airmail in mid-June. It is beautifully done in 3 columns on fine paper, and has year of publication for each name of the 11,211 species included. Congratulations to Ron Hodges, Doug Ferguson, Jack Franclemont, Gene Munroe, Jerry Powell, Don Davis, and Tania Dominick for their great efforts. Next comes a fascicle on the Green Geometridae by Doug Ferguson. Publication of the series will now be in the U.S.

(NEWS, NOTES, ETC., CONT.)

The Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey has moved along slowly lately. Mrs. Rozenna Carr has been entering new data on diskettes, with time out to bear her 4th child. The \$100 granted by this Society for work on the project was paid to her in June, as no money was available to the Editor this year for work on the project. We have added a number of new state records to the list, mostly Tortricidae identified by Dr. Bill Miller of the Univ. of Minn. There are now 2,076 species on our state list, 223 of them Tortricidae. Most of the new records were collected by Loran Gibson, with some by Richard Henderson, Al Brownell, and your Editor.

***** CORRECTION: Irv Finkelstein was also with us in Peru/Ecuador. (sorry!) Butterfly collecting this spring in Ky. was hampered by cold, wet weather. However, David Flaim (the Editor's graduate student), and I went out 3 times in April to the Bearcamp Rd. area of Bullitt Co., and got a few C. ebenina, F. midea, P. glaucus, and a few other species. One F. tarquinius was taken there on Apr. 26. Jim Merritt and Dr. Ellis MacLeod (Univ. of Illinois entomologist) went along on the Apr. 28 trip, but no C. ebenina were taken then. I have not heard how any of the others of you have been doing!

NEW MEMBER: Dr. George L. Godfrey, Dept. of Entomology, Illinois Natural History Survey, 172 Natural Resources Bldg., Champaign, IL 61820. George is especially interested in life histories and larval morphology of Noctuidae and Notodontidae, and gave an excellent seminar at the U. of Louisville on Apr. 6.

NEW ADDRESS: David Hess, 143 Harmony Lane, Macomb, IL 61455 (David was married in Jan. for which we congratulate him. He reports the Western Ill. Butterflies work is about ready for the printers)

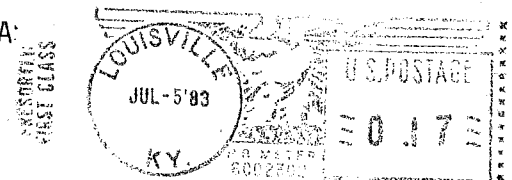
Dr. Ray Stanford has accepted a new position at the Portland, Oregon, VA Hospital, and the Stanfords will be moving there soon.

The Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern N. America, your Editor's main project, is now at "center stage" at the publishers (guides to beetles and stars & planets were ahead in line). It is expected that the book will eclose with spring moth emergences in 1984.

DUES of \$3 per member are solicited, and a formal notice will come out in the next issue. Sorry this is a bit late. I have been pretty busy, and the season here has been a bit discombobulated this year. Hope to see you at the Lepid. Soc. meeting or our Sept. field trip. Happy hunting'. Charlie

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