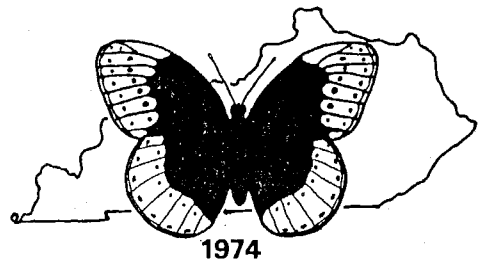


# KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF  
*The Society of*  
*Kentucky Lepidopterists*



VOL. 10, NO. 3

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

AUGUST, 1984

## DETAILS OF FALL FIELD MEETING

The fall field trip this year will again be held in the Fulton-Graves county area known as the Jackson Purchase, where we have enjoyed exciting collecting in past seasons. Of prime interest is adding to the record of Euphyes dukesi, which species is known from one specimen and several additional sightings at Bayou de Chien. Euphyes dion, Poanes yehl, Panoquina ocola, Lethe spp. (portlandia missarcae, creola, anthonon, and appalachia), Hyllolycaena hyllus, Parrhasius m-album, Cylopsis gemma, and good numbers of other species are expected. Excellent moth collecting should also be anticipated, including bait captures of Catocala spp. Loran Gibson, our Field Trip Coordinator, has prepared the following information:

Friday, Sept. 7 - arrive at Bill & Nancy Black's farm to camp for the night. Black lighting for moths there or at nearby Mayfield Bottoms. Or spend night at Holiday Inn, 727 Joe Clifton Dr., Paducah (phone, 502-443-7521; RATES: \$30.50-\$37, single; \$37.50-\$44 double).

Sat., Sept 8 - Meet between 8 & 9 AM (CDT) at Holiday Inn (address above) for breakfast and plans. Leave about 9 AM for spot off Tim Owens Rd., near Kaler, in NE Graves Co. Collect there til about noon, have lunch there, then drive to Fulton Co. spots, first at Rt. 94, 2.5 miles E of Cayce by bridges over Little Bayou de Chien. Later, we will visit the Reelfoot National Wildlife Mgmt. area south of Hickman. Leave traps there overnight. Return to Black Farm about 6:00 CDT for a cookout and gabfest (please provide \$5 per person for food, \$3 for little children for food). Blacklighting.

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## REPORT OF THE VENEZUELA TRIP

On June 21, 1984, a group of 56 lepidopterists met at the VIASA counter at Miami International Airport for a flight to Caracas, Venezuela, where local transportation took us to 2 widely divergent collecting areas. Kentucky Lepidopterist members of the group included Dr. Tom Emmel (Leader), assisted by your Editor, the Danishes (Gap, Teri, and Andy), Tom Dooley, John Glaser, John and Julie Hyatt, Pete Knudsen, Gary O'Shea, and Dr. Roy Rings. Our local guides were Dr. F. Fernandez Yepez and Sr. Francisco Romero Rodriguez. The first stop was a night at the Maracay Hotel, Maracay (reached by bus from Caracas). We then drove the short distance to Rancho Grande, the unfinished curved hotel abandoned in the late 1930's and later made into a biological station. This facility was made famous by Ralph Beebe in his writings - particularly High Jungle. Butterfly collecting was poor there because of rain then but lack of it in preceding months. The exception was nearby Portachuelo Pass, where butterflies flew up over a cleared ridge from the jungle below (but room there for only a few collectors at a time). Moth collecting atop the Rancho Grande building was outstanding, a favorite being the long-tailed Copiopteryx sp. (Saturniidae). Unbelievable moth numbers also appeared at lights atop Portachuelo Pass. I took groups on the 2nd and 3rd days down to an area at lower elevations (Carretera Cum-boto, 60 km N of Maracay). Here, in cocoa groves along a stream we found a fair array of tropical butterflies, including Parides spp., a few Heliconiinae and Ithomiinae, some interesting Riodinidae, and modest numbers of hairstreaks and smaller nymphalids. Pierids and skippers were also

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## (FALL FIELD MEETING PLANS, contd.)

Sun. Sept. 9. Plans will be finalized on Sat. evening. We'll either return to Sat. localities, or try Ballard Co. Wildlife Mgmt. Area NW of Paducah.

DIRECTIONS to Bill Black's farm (address is Rt. 6, Clinton Rd., Paducah, KY 42001):

From Louisville area take I-65 south, then go west on Western Ky. Tpke. at Elizabethtown. Near Eddyville, take I-24 west into Paducah area. Get off at exit 7, and take US 45 south, and pass through the small community of Lone Oak. Just south of Lone Oak, turn right (angle) onto Rt. 339 (signs at this intersection say MELBER and CLINTON RD.). Go exactly 3 miles and look for Bill's driveway on the right (west) side of the road. The house is nearly hidden by trees.

If you need specific directions to other places, please call Loran.

THIS SHOULD BE AN EXCELLENT TRIP FROM A STANDPOINT OF COLLECTING AND FELLOWSHIP. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND.

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## PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16-17. The Friday evening party will be hosted this year by Mike and Debbie McInnis at their new home in Floyd's Knobs, INDIANA, a few minutes over the Ohio R. from Louisville, beginning at 8:00 P.M. The Sat. meeting begins with informal identification, examination of collections, and swap session at Room 321, Life Sciences Bldg., Univ. of Louisville, at 10:00 AM. Formal meeting begins at 1:00 PM with elections and short business meeting. You are encouraged to prepare a short slide show, talk, or "show-and-tell," as we have done in the past. Our special speaker this year will be Dr. Bob Robbins, butterfly specialist at the Smithsonian Institution, who will give a program on his specialty, neotropical hairstreaks. Plan now to attend, and bring your undetermined hairstreaks for identification. Further details will be in the next issue of the Kentucky Lepidopterist.

## (VENEZUELA TRIP REPORT, contd.)

present in moderate numbers. On the evening of June 24, we returned by bus to Caracas, and spent a night at the Hotel Avila. Then we embarked by plane for Puerto Ordaz (Ciudad Guyana) to the southeast. From there buses took us on a six-hour journey to La Clarita, a gold mining camp about 83 km south of Ed Dorado. There we set up camp in tents, a house, a barn, and a circular thatch-roofed domicile owned by "Freddy," a French gold-mine employee who rented out his place as a dining hall and bunkhouse for the gringos. We brought army cots with us, and space and comforts were at a premium. An excellent bait line was put out by Sr. Romero, and some Agrias were caught, along with Prepona species, several Morpho species (menelaus, achilles, rhetenor, and adonis). However, in the immediate area, butterflies seemed still sparse, and rain limited our collecting to some degree. Other spots were nearby: Piedra de la Virgen - a rocky tepui area where moths were so abundant at lights that no room was left on sheets; and the 88 km spot, where we risked run-ins with touchy miners guarding their small digs in the jungle stream bottoms. For many of us, the daily take was limited, until June 28, when I accompanied a group to a dirt road 17 km south of El Dorado, and found Heliconius salvini, puddle crowds of pierids, a few good hairstreaks, Morpho species (listed above), and other groups just emerging. Here at last was ample room for a big group, and exciting diversity and numbers. We returned here the 29th (some went to another spot at 25 km. mark where some exceptional Riodinidae were taken), resulting in the best collecting of the trip on the last 2 days. On 30 June we drove back to Puerto Ordaz (with a stop at the picturesque Cachamaya Rapids on the Caroní River there), flew to Caracas, and spent our last night at a posh seaside hotel, the Miele Caribe, where we had a farewell banquet, slide show, and some humorous accolades. Dr. Fernandez Yopez diligently examined our catches, and asked to retain a few specimens of both moths and butterflies needed for his National Collection. All returned safely to the States with memories of another unique South American collecting adventure provided by Holbrook Travel. Despite spartan living conditions and rather bad weather, I enjoyed the people and collecting immensely. -CVC

## REPORTS FROM AFIELD, SUMMER 1984

It has been a busy summer for many of us, and there is much to report. First, the May trip to western Ky. was attended by a small but dedicated group who met on May 12 at the Bayou de Chien spot, 2.5 miles E. of Cayce, Fulton Co. I drove out with David and Geri Flaim, and just before noon arrived to find Bill Black with his 2 sons; Christa and Roman Anderson, John Nordin, and Richard Henderson. Species recorded there and in fields 1½ miles to the east were: *E. clarus*, *P. polyxenes asterias*, *C. eurytheme* and *philodice*, *P. tharos*, *V. cardui* and *atalanta*, and *H. hyllus*. We then moved to the Reelfoot Nat. Wildlife Mgmt. area off Rt. 1182 below Hickman, about a mile from Tenn. We recorded *P. communis*, *P. zabulon*, *P. viator* (seen), *N. therminier* (seen), *B. philenor*, *P. troilus*, *P. polyxenes asterias*, *C. eurytheme* and *philodice*, *H. hyllus*, *S. melinus*, *E. comyntas*, *P. tharos*, *P. interrogationis*, *N. antiopa*, *V. virginensis* and *atalanta*, *L. archippus*, *A. andria*, and *D. plexippus*. We camped overnight at the service area of Reelfoot, and had rather poor moth collecting due to a full moon. May beetles were a nuisance in the light traps. A couple of moths may prove to be interesting records when identified. As usual, we had fun.

The Lepidopterists' Society Annual Meeting for 1984 was held in Fairview, Alberta, Canada, July 5-8. Your editor attended, and gave a talk on the status of knowledge of the Neotropical Sterrhinae (Geometridae), plus gave out door prizes once again (we have done that each year since the 1971 Annual Meeting in Louisville). The group (55 reg.) was a bit small due to the remote and distant site, but we had a spirited group and all went well. The hospitality of host Ted Pike and his crew was fine indeed, and we heard some good talks on Alberta fauna, studies related to the recent splitting of butterfly genera (particularly *Pieris* and *Boloria*), with discussion of nomenclature presently in use. Collecting was almost nil during the meeting due to storms and wind when the sun shone, but some moth collecting was successful. I do not know of the success of the post-meeting field trips. Lee Miller turned the gavel over to new Pres., Don Davis; Cliff Ferris was nominated as Pres.-elect. The 1985 meeting will be at Urbana, Illinois.

On July 13, an informally arranged field group meet at Harlan Co., including Christa Anderson and John Ward, John Calhoun and Julee Cornett, Leroy Koehn, Vince Lucas, John Nordin, James Bess, Richard Henderson, Don Wright, and Loran Gibson. Some of the group stayed that night in Kingdom Come St. Park where moth collecting was not great; but Leroy and Vince did well on Big Black Mtn., getting new state Noctuid records with *Diachrysia aeroides* (Grote) and *D. balluca* Geyer. On Sat., no *E. laeta* were taken, but 2 seen. *S. diana* males were abundant, and females fairly common. Leroy took an aberrant male, with usual orange-brown coloration replaced by buff-tan. All who had not taken female *diana* previously were rewarded this time. Sat. night the group feasted on watermelon provided by John Calhoun and Julee Cornett. Good moths taken Sat. night were *D. versicolor* and *S. kalmiae* (Sphingidae); and noctuids *D. aeroides*, *A. prasina*, *A. brunneomedia*, and many *Acronicta*, including *radcliffei* and *superans*. Jim Bess and Richard Henderson had good luck Sat. and Sun. seeking *Papaipema* larvae, finding borers in burdock, ironweed, giant ragweed, and other plants. Late on Sunday morning everyone headed for home. The caravan of Kentuckians spent some time along Rt. 119 on Pine Mtn., collecting and photographing more *S. diana*; then they headed back to the real world.

(Report courtesy of Loran Gibson)

On July 15 Charlie and Robert Covell flew to Colorado Springs, COLO., and were met by a cheerful young woman representing The Nature Place. Bags were loaded aboard a comfortable van, and with other arrivals we were driven the scenic Rt. U.S. 24 west 35 miles past the Garden of the Gods and Pike's Peak to Florissant, famous for its fossil insects and plants. From there we entered Big Spring Ranch, where The Nature Place shares 6000 acres with a boys' camp, a girls' camp, and a new field station now directed by Dr. Boyce Drummond. Once arrived, we checked into a comfortable room (quarter of a cottage), and soon found Tom Emmel and 23 lepidopterist participants ready to begin a weeklong program of concentrated lepidopterology. We kicked off our program after a swim and a scrumptious dinner at the Lodge with introductory lectures with slides on the collecting sites we would visit that week, plus an introduction to moths. Tom, Boyce, and I provided illustrated lectures all week; and a

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## (The Nature Place, contd.)

highlight was a talk about fossil butterflies and other insects by Dr. F. Martin Brown, of Colorado Springs. For many years "Brownie" has played a large part in the preservation of the fossil beds at Florissant and Creede, in addition to his many other roles, including authorship with Cliff Ferris of Butterflies of the Rocky Mountain States. Boyce Drummond spoke on the "sex life of butterflies," and we learned much from him about the internal anatomy of a female butterfly, and something of the strategies of reproduction in Lepidoptera, including multiple mating. Other topics included techniques of collecting, preparing, and studying Lepidoptera; introduction to family characteristics of butterflies and moths; a history of the Cripple Creek gold camp presented by Nature Place Director, Dave Perry; and slide shows documenting Holbrook group trips to Latin America from 1980-1984. Tom Emmel also gave an excellent short course on butterfly photography. During the days, field trips were made to various spots on Big Spring Ranch itself, and also more distant ones. At Horseshoe Mtn. in Park Co. (elev. 11,00-12,000 ft.) we took Erebia magdalena, Lycaena cupreus snowi, Oeneis chryxus, Boloria titania helena and freiija browni, Colias meadii, and other alpine species. On our visit to Rock Creek Canyon in El Paso Co., elev. 6,400', 4 miles S. of Colorado Springs, we found Hypaurotis chrysalus abundant among the Gambel's oaks, along with some H. titus, S. liparops, S. falacer godarti, S. californica, C. apama, Tharsalia arota, Speyeria aphrodite, S. atlantis, Papilio multicaudata, Neophasia menapia, Cercyonis pegala boopis and C. meadii, and many other species. A trip to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument was also held each of the 2 weeks, and we were taken to some private property near the Monument to excavate some fossils. A few insects and insect fragments were found amid the many plant fossils; but no butterfly fossils appeared.

The first group left on Saturday, and the weekend included assisting Tom Emmel with his sampling on Big Spring Ranch of several populations of Cercyonis oetus charon, which he has been studying since 1962. On Sunday, the second group arrived, including Christa Anderson and her sister, Carol Cook; and Blaine Early. Although a smaller group, this group was not wanting in enthusiasm and knowhow. In addition to the same program given the previous week, Blaine gave a fine presentation on his research using UV photography to study feeding behavior in Phyciodes tharos. This group also went to Cripple Creek Canyon and Phantom Canyon near Cripple Creek for collecting, getting some specimens of Neominois ridingsi and Apodemia mormo in the first of these localities. Another feature of the second week not enjoyed the first was an evening horseback ride of 2 hours over some of the ranch property. Your editor collected many moths at blacklight, and also worked a little on a survey of moths of Florissant Nat. Monument by taking data from specimens collected earlier by F. Martin Brown. We hope a checklist can be published as the information is updated and organized. Blacklighting at The Nature Place was good, though Saturniidae were absent, and only a few common Sphingidae were taken. Dominant were Noctuidae (especially Noctuinae, such as Euxoa spp.) and Geometridae; and there were thousands of adults of the Spruce Budworm Moth, Choristoneura fumiferana (Tortricidae), which is devastating the Douglas firs in the Rockies.

I found the facilities at The Nature Place extremely comfortable and convenient, providing the best possible environment in which to collect and study Lepidoptera. Those who had been there before had built up my expectations to a high level with their raves; and I confess I was not disappointed. The staff did their best to accommodate our needs and desires, and provided superb service. Meals were outstanding. Meeting rooms and support equipment made it possible to do all that we set out to do. And the Ranch was centrally located among a number of diverse and excellent collecting areas. We plan to do it again next year, and if the price is the same for participants as this year, it will be a steal. I hope more of our Kentucky Lepidopterists can go next time.

- CVC

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DUES NOTICE: Please note the dues notice on the inside cover of this newsletter, and please return it promptly to Blaine or me with your remittance. If you are recorded as in arrears for last year, a red mark will appear on that sheet to remind you. If you wish to order back issues, please indicate volumes you need, and send your dues and order to me directly, and I will send the check on to Blaine and fill your order. -CVC

## NEWS AND NOTES

NEW MEMBER: Wayne M. Mason, 925 Park St., Bowling Green, KY 42101. Wayne is primarily interested in moths, but is just beginning. He is teaching and has an MS from Western Ky. University.

NEW ADDRESSES: Dr. Boyce A. Drummond, Colorado Outdoor Education Center, Florissant, CO 80816.  
 Richard Klopshinske, 409 Howard, Delta, CO 81416  
 Anton Littahorsky, R.R. 2, Corkery Rd., Carp, ONTARIO, KOA 1LO, Canada.  
 Randy Robinette, 3926 State Rt. 5, Ashland, KY 41101.  
 Jeffrey Slotten, 2809 Lake Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091  
 Steve Roman, 2454 Wren Hollow Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32303  
 Allan M. Stodghill, 2928-A Woodrich Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32301

FIELD GUIDE TO MOTHS: In the continuing saga of the Peterson Field Guide to Moths of Eastern North America, your editor has been assured that the book will be published late this month, and that distribution to book stores should be prompt. The paperback version will cost \$13.95, and the hardbound version \$18.95. It will have 496 pages, 64 plates (32 color, 32 B & W), 76 text figs., and a few B & W photos of equipment, etc. This is it, for a project that had its first beginnings in 1971.

FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BUTTERFLIES: Bill Tilden's Peterson Field Guide to the Butterflies of Western North America is in editorial stages, now that both manuscript and artwork have been delivered to Houghton Mifflin Co. However, a projected date of publication is not yet available.

FIELD GUIDE TO BUTTERFLIES OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA: Bob Pyle has been contracted to do the revision of the classic Klots Field Guide (1951). We wish him well in this endeavor and hope he will call upon members of the Society to provide information on the eastern butterflies that will be included.

REPORT OF RECENT TRIP TO MEXICO: Richard Henderson and Vince Lucas drove to happy hunting grounds in Jalapa, Catemacho, Ciudad Vallez, Vera Cruz, and related areas of E. Mexico recently (July 24-Aug. 2), and found rainy weather and butterflies a bit disappointing in numbers of individuals and of species. However, massive migratory flights of A. chlorinde and maerula and other Pieridae were seen, and some good hairstreaks such as T. mavors and childreni were collected. Moth collecting was better, with some excellent Sphingidae taken. Another report from Mexico, from George Busby via Mike McInnis, was better, with over 700 Theclinae taken in a 3-day period in the same general area. Finding appropriate nectar sources appears to be crucial in obtaining this kind of success with hairstreaks.

NOTE ON CATOCALA: Loran Gibson writes that Catocala species seem to be on the rebound. On the Harlan Co. trip recently, the following species were taken: C. blandula, similis, andromedae, amica, micronympha, ilia, and ultronia. On 22 July, Don Wright and Loran took the following at bait in Boone Co., KY: C. innubens, obscura, nebulosa, subnata, neogama, ilia, cerogama, mira, and ultronia.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Blaine Early has informed me that we have \$267.16 in the Treasury.

CURATORIAL NOTES: The Univ. of Louisville collection of Lepidoptera has now been completely reorganized and re-labelled according to the Hodges et al Check List (1983), thanks to the assistance of Rozenna Carr, Juanita Watkins, and Chuck Covell. It is being counted now, and should about equal the other holdings of the U. of L. Insect Collection, recently counted as 88,000 prepared specimens of insects other than Lepidoptera. We are grateful for recent gifts, including 250 spread Colo. moths from F. Martin Brown, many papered and spread tropical butterflies from Mike McInnis and Leroy Koehn. We would like to get a specimen of Ornithoptera paradisea for display (need not have labels), if anyone can donate or swap one to us. Further Ky. records and specimens still solicited! -CVC

## STATUS REPORT ON THE KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERA SURVEY PROJECT

Because of work on the Field Guide, your editor has not pursued the completion of the Lepidoptera of Kentucky manuscript with much vigor this year. However, progress has been made. A few new records have trickled in, notably the 2 noctuids collected at Big Black Mountain July 13-14 by Lucas and Koehn: Diachrysia aeroides and balluca. This summer a grant from the Ky. Academy of Science has enabled the hiring of Barbara Bollinger to label and take collection data from the large donation of specimens made last fall to the U. of L. collection by Jevetta Florence. Except for some tough identification problems awaiting attention, that job is done. Further data entries from records and specimens on hand have also been made by Rozenna Carr and Chuck Covell, also working this summer. Chuck did a big job in indexing the over-3,000 scientific and common names for the book. I hope soon to be in contact with Richard Hannan at the Ky. Nature Preserves Commission to plan publication. Here is a family-by-family summary of numbers of species of each family of Lepidoptera currently known from Kentucky, arranged alphabetically:

ACROLEPIIDAE 1	LYMANTRIIDAE 10
AGONOXENIDAE 1	LYONETIIDAE 21
APATELODIDAE 2	MEGALOPYGIDAE 2
APATURIDAE 3	MICROPTERIGIDAE 1
ARCTIIDAE 56	MIMALLONIDAE 2
ARGYRESTHIIDAE 6	MOMPHIDAE 6
BLASTOBASIDAE 6	NEPTICULIDAE 27
CHOREUTIDAE 3	NOCTUIDAE 553
COCHYLIDAE 21	NOTODONTIDAE 41
COLEOPHORIDAE 18	NYMPHALIDAE 28
COSMOPTERYGIDAE 21	OECOPHORIDAE 40
COSSIDAE 5	OPOSTEGIDAE 2
DANAIDAE 2	PAPILIONIDAE 8
DREPANIDAE 3	PIERIDAE 15
DOUGLASIIDAE 1	PLUTELLIDAE 2
ELACHISTIDAE 6	PSYCHIDAE 3
EPERMENIIDAE 3	PTEROPHORIDAE 19
EPIPLEMIDAE 2	PYRALIDAE 211
EPIPYROPIDAE 1	RIODINIDAE 2
GELECHIIDAE 123	SATURNIIDAE 17
GEOMETRIDAE 207	SATYRIDAE 9
GLYPHIPTERIGIDAE 1	SCYTHRIDAE 3
GRACILLARIIDAE 87	SESIIDAE 18
HELIODINIDAE 3	SPHINGIDAE 41
HELIOZELIDAE 8	THYATIRIDAE 4
HESPERIIDAE 49	THYRIDIDAE 3
INCURVARIIDAE 6	TINEIDAE 50
LASIOCAMPIDAE 8	TISCHERIIDAE 19
LIBYTHEIDAE 1	TORTRICIDAE 223
LIMACODIDAE 17	YPONOMEUTIDAE 6
LYCAENIDAE 25	ZYGAENIDAE 3

Total families: 62  
Total species: 2,085

NOTICE: Randy Robinette, 3926 State Rd. 5, Ashland, KY 41101 wishes to exchange or sell cocoons of Saturniids, and specimens of Sphingidae and other species. Write him for a complete list.

(Note: Your notices & announcements welcome, free of charge. -ED.)