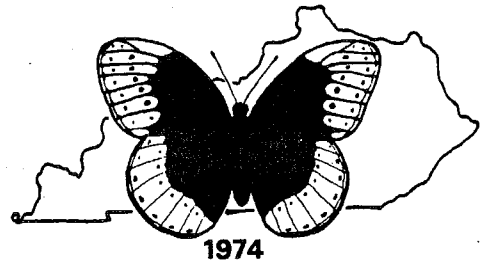


# KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

*The Society of*  
*Kentucky Lepidopterists*

NEWSLETTER OF



1974

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

OCTOBER, 1984

## INFORMATION ABOUT ANNUAL MEETING

The 11th Annual Meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16 and 17, 1984, following the basic format of years past. The social gathering will be held from 8 PM til about 11 PM at the new home of Mike and Debbie McInnis in Floyd's Knobs, IN, just across the Ohio River from Louisville (see map on pg. 2). Saturday's activities will be held in the usual place, Room 321 of the Life Sciences Bldg., University of Louisville. At 10 AM Sat. morning, we hope to have Dr. Bob Robbins, our special guest speaker from the Smithsonian Inst., Washington, DC, give a demonstration of genitalia dissection, with special reference to hairstreaks. The U. of L. collection will be open for observation and identification of material you might wish to bring. You may also bring literature, equipment, or specimens to sell or exchange. Coffee and pastries will be available. At 1:00 PM we will have a short business meeting to elect officers, plan next year's events, and carry out any other business (Pres. Reed Watkins presiding). Then we will have the feature talk on Taxonomy of Neotropical Hairstreaks by Dr. Robbins. Following that will be presentations by members, including show and tell and slide presentations, as in the past. I plan to give a slide program about the Lepidoptera Weeks held at The Nature Place in Florissant, CO, during July, 1984. Also a short presentation on the Venezuela trip in June will be included if there is time. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PART OF THE PROGRAM. After adjournment, those who wish to will dine together at Masterson's Restaurant.

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE FIELD GUIDE TO MOTHS

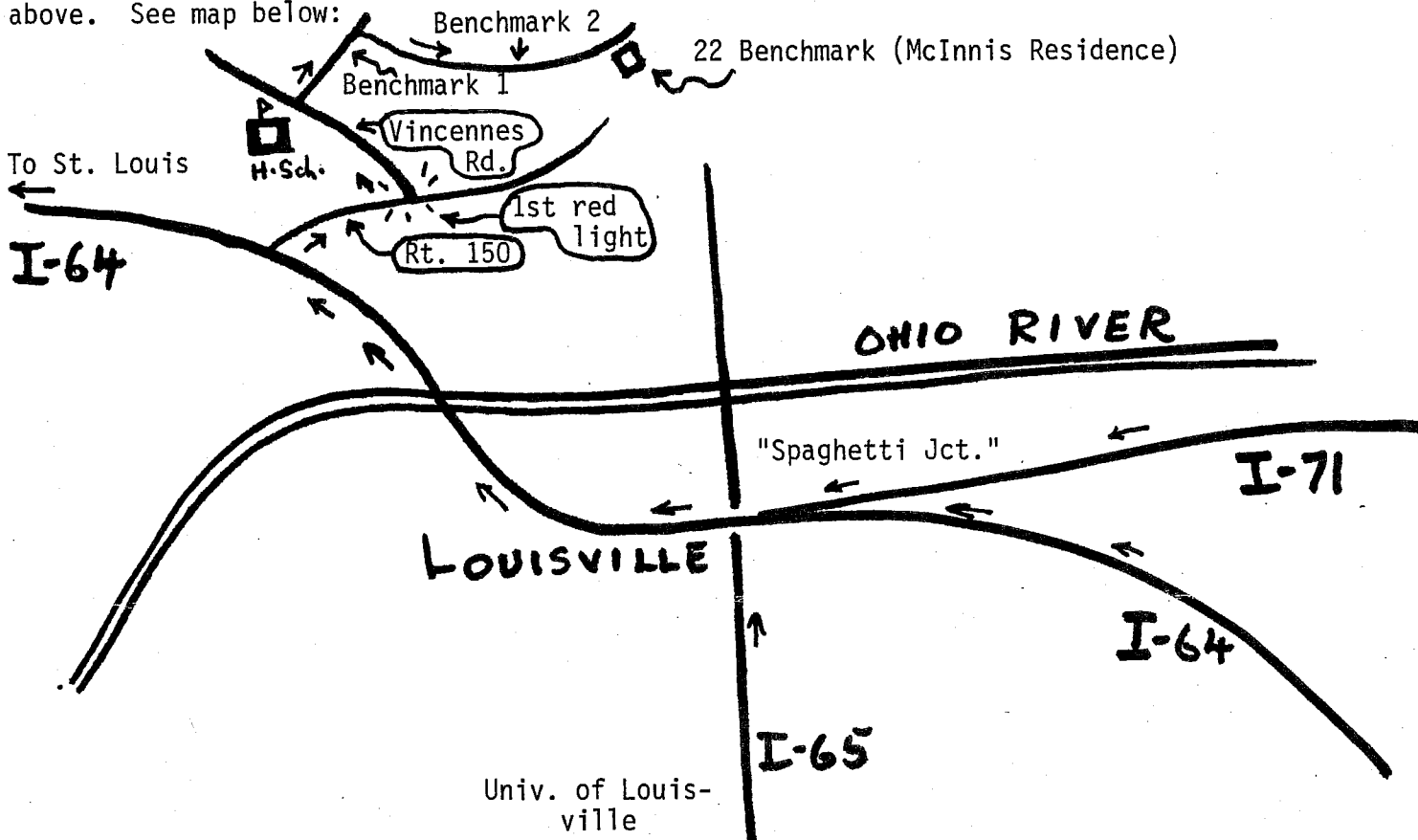
The FIELD GUIDE TO MOTHS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA is finally in print and available at bookstores. The durable (I hope) soft cover version sells for \$13.95, and the hardback copy for \$18.95. I expect to have some copies available at the Annual Meeting in case anyone wishes to purchase one.

Now that it is finally finished, I have a few reflections to share with you. I had thought about such a project for some time before I discussed it with Dr. C. L. Remington at the 1971 Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society in Louisville. He was most supportive, and put in a good word for the project and me as potential author to Roger Tory Peterson. I was delighted that "RTP" was willing to recommend me to the publishers to do the job. During the first few years, I made up preliminary outlines for the book, wrote sample species treatments, and worked on a list of moth species to include. Miss Helen Phillips, long experienced in editorial assistance to Field Guide authors, gave me basic training on how to write for the series. Correspondence began with several of our colleagues to learn more up-to-date information on moth species to be included (particularly range, flight seasons, and foodplants). These major helpers included Richard Heitzman, Bryant Mather, André Blanchard, Dave Winter, Roy Kendall, and John Nordin. Others contributed also, and are listed in the Acknowledgments section. Vital advice and information on the taxonomy of various moth groups came from other colleagues: Don Davis, Jack Clarke, Doug Ferguson, J. G. Franclemont, John Heppner, Ron Hodges, DaTe Schweitzer, Eric Quinter, Julian Donahue,

(cont'd on pg. 3)

INFORMATION ABOUT ANNUAL MEETING (cont'd.)

Directions to Mike McInnis's home are below. His address is: 22 Benchmark, New Albany, Indiana, 47150. His phone number is AC 812, 923-3243. Directions: Take I-64 westward from Louisville (toward St. Louis). Turn right at Exit 119 (Rt. 150). Turn left at first red light (Vincennes Rd.). Turn right at Benchmark 1 (across from high school). Turn right at Benchmark 2. Residence is at Benchmark 22, on right. Call above number if you have trouble. If coming from west, turn off at Rt. 150 and follow directions as above. See map below:

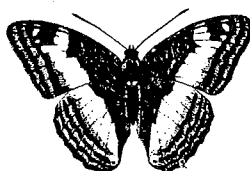


If possible, please let me know of your intent to be at the Annual Meeting, so I can plan for facilities. If you need directions, motel information, or any other information, please write or call. My phone number is AC 502, home: 456-6122; office, 588-5942 (or leave a message at Biology Office, 588-6771). We usually have about 25 at the Annual Meeting, so try to be part of the good times this year. -C. V. Covell Jr.

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SPECIAL INVITATION

Eric Metzler, on behalf of the Ohio Lepidopterists, invites all Kentucky Lepidopterists to participate in the special field trip to Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History to see the Lepidoptera collection there. This will be on Sat., Nov. 10, beginning at 9:00 AM and lasting all day. Special rates are available all weekend at the Blackstone Motel near the museum. If you wish to be included, contact Eric IMMEDIATELY at AC 614, 888-3642 or 265-6774.



## REFLECTIONS (cont'd.)

Tim McCabe, Tim Cashatt, Don Lafontaine, Eugene Munroe, Ted Sargent, Barry Wright, Ron Leuschner, Bill Klots, Eric Metzler, Clayton McGuffin, Mo Nielsen, Dave Baggett, the late Charles Kimball, and others. There was a lot of correspondence, collating of data, and selection of suitable specimens for photography before the "main" writing and plate photography could begin. In selecting specimens, Doug Ferguson at the U.S. National Museum was my greatest source beyond the U. of Louisville collection. His superbly spread moths from Nova Scotia, Md., N.C., and other areas are copiously represented in the 62 plates. Other specimens came from the Wedge Plantation collection, and those of several colleagues mentioned above. Each specimen has a green label on it telling which plate and figure of the Field Guide it represents. The borrowed specimens will soon be sent or taken back to their owners. Color slides of larvae for Pl. 1 were made by Bill Klots and John MacGregor, plus one by John Nordin. Dick Dominick had agreed to make the color and black-and-white plates on his camera outfit at the Wedge Plantation, and samples were made in 1973. However, his death in 1976 created a setback later allayed by the agreement of Mrs. Tania Dominick and camera shop owner Harold Norvell to do the job. I made furtive trips to S.C. in 1978-81 to set up the plates for them to photograph. The tiny micros proved the biggest problem to set up on the paraffin blocks, as they had to be pinned in wax-filled, cut-off hypodermic needles to provide more length to the minuten pins. Angling of these pins to avoid shadows and parallax problems was tough, and you can see that some pins showed anyway. There were several instances in which the tiny moths came apart in handling, and I had to glue them carefully back together, using a dissecting microscope. Several of the plates had to be re-photographed, for one reason or another, adding to the cost and work.

Writing the book first took the form of hand-written manuscript, after which a preliminary typed draft was made. This was done on an IBM selectric typewriter, and later on a correcting selectric which made corrections easier. There were many pages of half-written copy that became scratch paper for the Covell kids. Editorial personnel changed during the years, with first Denny Ehrlich, then Jim Thompson, succeeding Helen Phillips. Finally, Harry Foster was in charge, and Barbara Stratton became his assistant who actually worked closely with me on the editorial aspects of the Guide. Each of these editors made changes in format which were sometimes annoying. For example, after the book was written and submitted, the editors decided to abbreviate states and provinces, not write them out in full as earlier agreed upon. Also, I thought it was agreed that I would use common names for species that already had them, and not make up any new ones. Since the series features common names, I later was told I had to make up new ones. A compromise was struck, however: I would not have to coin them for micros - only macroheterocera. Thus from pg. 391 on, common names appear only for species that had them before the book was written.

There were 2 reasons for the long delay in the appearance of this book, other than the Dr. Dominick's death and the author's naturally lazy lifestyle: names and organization were to follow the Check List of the Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico. The Field Guide could not be published prior to the appearance of that list, because many new combinations of scientific names were to be applied in the latter which should not be introduced in such a work as a field guide. The Check List was delayed at least 2 years and finally came out in 1983; so the Field Guide had to come later. Also, when I sent in the manuscript to the editors in 1982, they informed me that they were producing 2 others (Pacific Coast Fishes and Beetles), and had to put my project on the back burner for a year.

When we finally went into gear, the manuscript sent back to me for revision was well marked with colored pencil, and I virtually rewrote much of the book. I had earlier planned to use the wing venation drawings made by Dick White for Field Guide to the Insects, but had to produce additional ones for families not so illustrated in that work; so I finally decided to do them all myself. I also had to supply some other artwork to go along with the wonderful anatomical drawings loaned to the project by Elaine Hodges and the Wedge Entomological Research Foundation. I wanted the Field Guide to be a stepping stone to the Moths of America publications, which I hope more people will support.

(cont'd. pg. 4)

## REFLECTIONS (concluded)

There were changes and corrections made late in production that never got included. Captions for equipment on p. 16 were not completely or correctly given (figs. A and B); and first names for Arthur G. Butler and Dru Drury (p. 467) never got in. Five non-illustrated micros were chopped off the end of the body, and the glossary and bibliography had to be drastically reduced to fit everything in the allotted pages.. Finally, improvements in contrast in some black-and-white plates and removal of some blemishes were not done. In the final book, the chopping off of wingtips at the tops of some plates came as an unpleasant extra surprise. However, all in all, I think the production came out well. One mistake recently discovered was my reversal of characteristics and photos of Cisthene kentuckiensis and C. tenuifascia (Pl. 12 & p. 60). Other errors will surface I am sure, and I intend to correct them in later editions. It was a bigger project than I imagined, but I am glad I did it. I am hoping the publishers will let me do a companion guide to western moths. Sales of this one will apparently be the determining factor in their decision. Anyway, to all who helped, THANKS! -CVC

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## NEWS AND NOTES

DUES: Annual dues of \$3 per person were requested in the previous issue. Please remit between now and the annual meeting time if you wish to remain on our mailing list. Send them either to Covell or to Blaine Early, Dept. of Biology, Cumberland College, Williamsburg, KY 40769. Funds are used mainly to finance the newsletter and meeting expenses.

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Congratulations to Blaine Early, who was named a Distinguished Faculty member this past academic year at Cumberland College, is Acting Chairman the Biology Dept., and recently completed his written and oral preliminary examinations for the Ph.D.

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NEW MEMBERS: David Albaugh, 9 Columbia Ave., Jamestown, RI 02835. James is interested in rearing Papilionidae (esp. Ornithoptera), Nymphalidae, Sphingidae, and Saturniidae. He also enjoys drawing and writing about insects - especially Lepidoptera.

George O. Krizek M.D., 2111 Bancroft Place NW, Washington, DC 20008. George photographs butterflies, and did those in Butterflies East of the Great Plains, written by Paul Opler. He and the editor became well acquainted on the Brasil and Venezuela trips this year.

Robert LeBlond, 6812 Wunderly Ct., Louisville, KY 40291. Robert is a student in Biology at the Univ. of Louisville, generally interested in insects.

Mark S. Monroe, P.O. Box 23447, Anchorage, KY 40223. Mark is an enthusiastic young lepidopterist who has been spending a lot of time in the field in Ky. with his dad, Burt Monroe Jr.

Todd Young, 806 S. Buchanan, Monticello, IL 61856. Todd was one of our young Lepidoptera Week participants at The Nature Place, Colo., this past summer.

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FALL FIELD MEETING. The following met at Bill and Nancy Black's on Friday, Sept. 7, 1984: Loran Gibson, Don Wright, John Calhoun, Barry Nichols, Jim & Mary Lou Merritt, and your Editor. Moth collecting was poor, as it was cool and very windy. Next day we were met by Reed Watkins at the spot along Little Bayou de Chien, off Rt. 94, 2.5 miles east of Cayce in Fulton Co. Collecting was fair, with few of the more desirable species seen. Some of the best catches were Euphyes dion, Poanes yehl, a worn P. zabulon, Phoebis sennae, Satyrodes appalachia, Enodia creola and E. anthedon. We went on to the Reelfoot Nat. Wildlife area where routes 94 and 1282 meet. There we found Eurema nicippe common along Rt. 94, E. lisa, Pontia protodice, Hylolycaena hyllus, and Celastrina ladon. A short stop at the bank of the Mississippi River at Obion Creek in Hickman brought one good record: Amblyscirtes belli, collected by Covell. We blacklighted at the Cayce spot that night after dinner at the Moonglow Inn. Covell took a new state moth record, Cutina distincta (Noctuidae), a southern species. Some Catocala amatrix and piatrix were taken at sap on an oak tree, as were some E. creola.