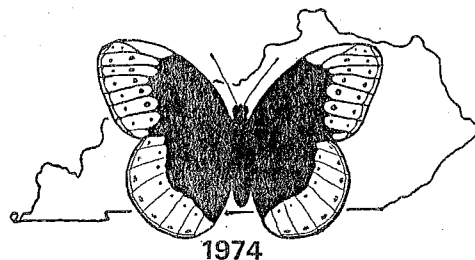


# KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

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C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR

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ASSOCIATE EDITORS: R. A. HENDERSON & M. L. MCINNIS

## COME TO THE ILLINOIS FIELD TRIP

As announced in the previous issue of "Kentucky Lepidopterist," Dave Hess and the Illinois Branch of the Kentucky Lepidopterists are hosting a field trip to Sand Ridge State Forest, Mason Co., west-cent. IL, Aug. 22-24. The habitat is most unusual and butterflies expected there at this time include Speyeria idalia Chlosyne gorgone carlota, Eurema lisa, Phoebis sennae eubule, Libytheana bachmanii, Staphylus hayhurstii, and possibly Hesperia leonardus. Moths "will be a surprise, but we hope for new Catocala." The trip will be in conjunction with the Ill. Entomologists, led by John Bouseman of the Ill. Natural History Survey. Good beetles are expected, including Cicindela formosa. Dave's address is: Dept. of Geology, Western Illinois Univ., Macomb, IL 61455. The group will begin activity late Fri. afternoon, and go through Sun.

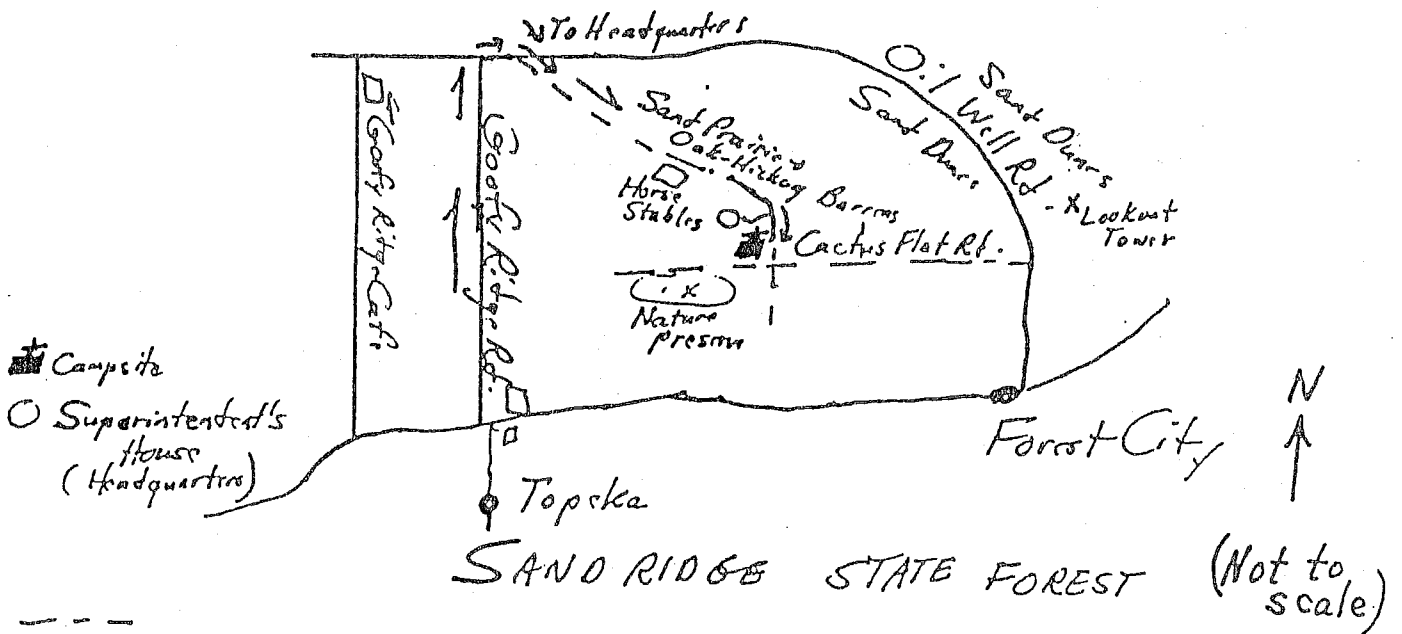
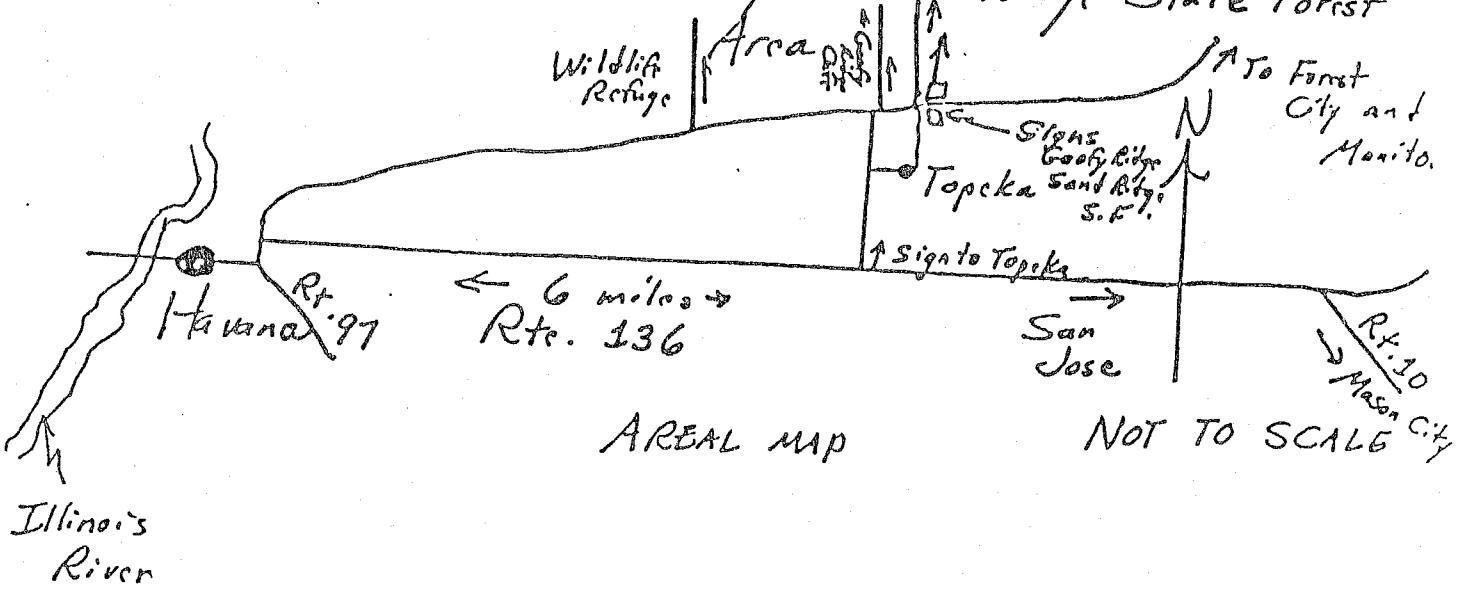
Nearby motels (\$15-\$30 single) are Rainbow Motel, Topeka (309 535-3144) & Red Lion Motor Lodge, Havana (309 543-4454). There are several cafes in a 5-10 mile radius of the forest. Camping for \$3 per night is available in the Sand Ridge State Forest Campground. Collecting is excellent for several miles in every direction from the campground, "but we ask that you do not collect west of the campground, which is partly a Nature Preserve, or on Gleason Nature Preserve near the west edge of SRSF as we do not have permits there."

See map on page 2. I hope there will be a good turnout for this interesting trip.

## REPORT OF THE OLDHAM COUNTY FIELD TRIP

Off and on, there were 18 of us at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary, Oldham Co, Ky., for our July 4th butterfly count and field trip, June 20-21, 1986. Loran Gibson, Don Wright and I collected some moths during the uncomfortably hot and humid night of the 20th. Some familiar large species seen included Citheronia regalis, Automeris io, Callosamia angulifera, Ceratomia undulosa, C. amyntor, and Darapsa myron. Next day we met as scheduled at the Brownsboro Chevron Station & General Store. At this time the three abovementioned lepidopterists were joined by Christa Anderson, Drew and Maria Hildebrandt from Cincinnati, David and Geri Flaim, Logan Mahaffey, Bob Gregg. There we divided into 3 teams and began our count. Later in the day we were joined by Renee Kelley, a 4-H leader from Bardstown, and her group of 4-H'ers: Rebecca and Jonathan Kelley, Joey and John Greenwell, and Brian Clements). Troy Payne and Barry Nichols made up the last wave, and Troy was the only one to stay for blacklighting that night. The rest of us were too hot and exhausted to stay out after recording 677 individuals of 43 butterfly species. The total list will be in the 1986 Xerces Soc. July 4th Butterfly Count, but some of the most interesting records included: Erynnis baptisiae, Pompeius verna, Poanes zabulon, Battus philenor, Eurytides marcellus, Harkenclenus titus mopsus, Satyrium calanus falacer, S. edwardsii, S. caryaevorum, S. Tiparops, Mitoura gryneus, Libytheana bachmanii, Asterocampa clyton, A. celtis, Enodia anhedon, and Cercyonis pegala. A fine field trip; thanks to those who came!

# Generalized Map - Sand Ridge State Forest



- Dirt road - graded (sand)
- Hardtop Road (Asphalt or Concrete)



## CALIFORNIA DREAMING

During early June, my family and I had an opportunity to visit southern California. We were able to meet with member David Faulkner at the San Diego Museum of Natural History. David's hospitality and patience were extraordinary. He allowed us to view the museum's collection of Lepidoptera, which is current and well-curated. In addition, we saw an extensive collection that featured material from Baja California, including the recently described hairstreak, Habrodais poodiae Brown & Faulkner.

Visitors to southern California should consult The Butterflies of Southern California (Emmel & Emmel, 1973) and The Butterflies of Orange County, California (Orsak, 1977) for flight periods, distribution and collecting tips for the area. The following localities are accessible and were rewarding during my visit:

SILVERADO CANYON, Orange Co.: This site in the Santa Anna Mts. is described extensively by Orsak. The canyon road is subject to fire closure during the summer (it was closed during our visit), but good butterfly diversity exists within walking distance of the entrance gate. This is an excellent spot for Paratrytone melane, Ochlodes agricola, Erynnis funeralis, Philotes battoides, and Satyrium sylvinus.

CAJON PASS, San Bernardino Co. - As described by Emmel & Emmel, here there are large populations of Satyrium auretteorum, which can be located by tapping the oaks.

MT. PINOS, Kern Co. - This is a beautiful site at relatively high altitude (8000') which supports populations of Plebejus neurona and a California Condor viewing area. Access is via Frazier Park, which provides excellent collecting on blossoms of Eriogonum.

MT. WILSON, Los Angeles Co. - In the Angeles National Forest; a good spot for Mitoura nelsoni, Habrodais grunus and Euphydryas chalcedona.

Southern California also presents an opportunity for the entire family to enjoy a collecting vacation. The many ocean

activities, Disneyland, and the San Diego Zoo coupled with beautiful weather and scenery are a far cry from the cypress swamps, kettle bos, and pine barrens of the East, which though attractive to lepidopterists have little allure for the rest of the family.

- Mike McInnis

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## GOING HOME AGAIN

Tom Wolfe wrote, "You can't go home again," and it's true, I guess. But on July 5 I drove into the outskirts of Ashtabula, Ohio, where I had lived from my 2nd into 8th grade years - a very formative period. At that time the area was a bustling coal and ore port on Lake Erie, with a thriving fisheries industry. My dad was minister of St. Peter's Episcopal Church on South Park, since torn down and replaced with a bigger and better building. My old home next door is also gone now. But not the bare spots in the park across the street, where we played softball; nor the brick streets in surrounding neighborhoods. I saw many old sites, lamented the loss of others, and even visited with my 5th grade teacher, who is 87 and still sharp of mind. She told me I had liked natural history back then, even though my passion for Lepidoptera did not catch fire until I moved to Southern Pines, NC, in 1948. She gave me some priceless personal gems, long forgotten by me, but not by her. It was a sentimental journey, to be sure.

The night I arrived, though, I had the pleasure of finally collecting Lepidoptera in Ashtabula Co. While I was directed to a spot in the Ashtabula River valley near the town, I opted to follow the fine directions of Vince Lucas, and tried his spot at nearby Conneaut. I found fair collecting, the best bug being the striking noctuid, Fagitina littera (Gn.). The other records will be passed on to Eric Metzler for the Ohio Survey. I hope there's a good one or two in the batch.

After the visit in Ashtabula, I spent 2 weeks at Cornell University, identifying and putting away Geometridae in their collection as a visiting specialist. After that, I returned to Ottawa to search further for Ky. records in the Canadian National Collection. This trip, plus the visit there in May, yielded Kentucky data on 371 species of Lepidoptera. - CVC

## SUMMER SWELTER?

For those of you that are ready to shed the shackles of oppressive humidity and unrelenting heat, I have a suggestion. Plan to spend a portion of your summer hiking and collecting in the Colorado Rockies. Members Loran Gibson, John Hyatt and I packed up our families and did just that from July 8-18, 1986. Our base of operations was Winter Park, from which we made varied sorties into surrounding habitats. The companionship was great and the collecting was, too. Our group recorded 130 species, the most exciting of which were:

Marpesia petreus - second state record; Garden of the Gods, El Paso Co., taken by John.

Amblyscirtes simius - possible evidence of a second brood; taken in El Paso Co. by Loran.

Collecting spots in Colorado that should not be missed include Corona Pass (Erebia magdalena, L. cupreus snowi, P. shasta), St. Louis Creek Campground (H. crysalus, T. arota, H. viridis, and O. edwardsii). One location that drew mixed reviews was "Brrr Cloud" Pass. On the maps it is improperly labeled Berthoud Pass. Our group ascended the pass on a chairlift in a steady drizzle and moderate temperature (46°). The next thirty minutes were spent huddled under krumholz with excellent interludes of gallows humor. It was the first time that I had ever seen Loran's teeth clenched. Small wonder that the Catocala fear him so. The advent of the sun eventually warmed both the bugs and people, and we were treated to a flight of Oeneis melissa and Oe. polixenes.

- Mike McInnis

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## NEWS AND NOTES

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting, to be held Nov. 14-15, with Dr. Bob Platt of Univ. of Md. (Baltimore Co.) as our featured speaker. His talk is entitled "Hybridization and evolution in North American Limenitis (Basilarchia). We also plan informal talks and slide presentations as usual, including plus on trips to Fr. Guiana and Costa Rica, and other places. You are urged to bring specimens to identify or exchange, and a door prize for the raffle. PLAN TO COME!

## NEW MEMBERS

Tom Callahan, 7919-A Montero Drive, Prospect, KY 40059.

J. Richard Heitzman, 3112 Harris Ave., Independence, MO 64052.

Anthony G. Olinger, 1129 Armstrong Mill Rd., Lexington, KY 40502.

Stanley R. Rehm, 3543 Bates Creek #99, Lexington, KY 40502.

Clyde R. Schlangen, 403 N. 26th St., Louisville, KY 40212.

James M. Taylor, 4 Tangle Tree Lane, Savannah, GA 31411.

Richard & Melody Weldon, 5810A Billhymer St., Ft. Knox, KY 40121.

Welcome to all of you. I hope you will enjoy your membership in "Ky. Leps." -CVC  
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## ADDRESS CHANGE

Dan O'Canna, 121 Iroquois Ct., Lexington, KY 40503

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## PASSAGES

We are sad to have two of our group leaving Kentucky soon. Dr. John Nordin is leaving Lexington for a job either in Laramie, WY, or Portland, ME. He has, as a parting shot, collected a new species of Glyphipterigid moth from Menifee Co., soon to be described and named by Dr. John Heppner.

David and Geri Flaim are leaving us this month for the Univ. of Maryland (Baltimore Co.) where David will work toward his Ph.D. with Dr. Bob Platt. Good luck to all of you; we will miss you! - CVC

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## DUES

Please enclose your \$3 dues with the enclosed form, and send to Blaine Early as early as possible. Since the sum is so paltry, it is often overlooked, except by us, who need them to continue. The treasury is now at \$374.11, Blaine tells me.

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John Hyatt reported Erora laeta present but scarce at the Big Black Mtn. site on July 3 (visit by him, Julie Hyatt & Charles Watson). Nonmembers Bill Grooms and Joe Zelig were there July 5, and recorded 2; but John found none on the 6th. John says butterflies are "in general, exceptionally abundant this summer. S. diana was early, and definitely 'up' from the past few seasons, despite record drought in the area."

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It's official: Mike McInnis will assume the editorship of this newsletter in Jan. 1987. I will continue to provide input. CVC