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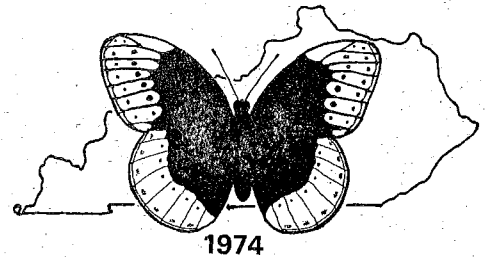
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# KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1: MARCH 1990

BARRY S. NICHOLS, Editor  
7004 Ethan Allen Way,  
Louisville, KY, USA 40272



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## EDITORS' NOTES

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AT LAST! Issue 1 of Volume 16 is finally out! The main reason for its tardy arrival was the lack of membership contributions. I finally received enough to put this issue together as of the last week of February. Since this is about the time that many lepidopterist's daydream of collecting trips, the timing of the issue may serve to encourage some to get an early start. I hope to keep a more regular newsletter schedule but I need the help of my fellow members. Please submit your contributions for 16 (2) by April 21.

The newsletter is now written on an IBM PS/2 using Wordperfect 5.0 (WP5.0). Those of you that own, or have access to IBMs (or compatibles), would help me tremendously by sending your contributions on disk. I would prefer unformatted documents written in WP5.0 or WP 4.2, but ASCII text files (from other IBM programs) are also acceptable. Please inform me of any suggestions or complaints you have on the newsletter format.

### THE 1989 ANNUAL MEETING

by Charles V. Covell, Jr.

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About 40 members, their families and friends gathered on the evening of November 10 at the Covell's in Louisville for the annual open house, and the next day in the Life Sciences Building at the University of Louisville for our 16th annual meeting.

This meeting was special in several ways: it marked the 15th anniversary of the Society, the election of Christa Anderson as our first woman president, and the presentation of three special awards. After the usual morning of examining collections, getting specimens identified, and visiting

the business meeting was called to order by President George Balogh. Reading of the minutes of the 1988 meeting were approved. Reports were made by the officers. Covell (Treasurer) reported expenditures of 649.85 from the Treasury in 1989, and a current balance of \$124.71. Loran Gibson (Field Trip Coordinator) noted the July 4th butterfly count trip and several visits to Red River Gorge and Bullitt Co. prairie remnants in 1989. Discussion ensued regarding problems planning trips. Richard Henderson volunteered to operate a "Field Trip Hotline". Anyone planning a field trip and wishing company, or wishing to join one, can call him at (502) 426-8799. Covell tentatively offered a trip to Bullitt Co., for early April, but plans will be forthcoming, when the season "shows its colors" a bit better. Annual elections were held and the following became the 1990 officers:

President: Christa Anderson  
Secretary-Treasurer: Charles Covell  
Editor: Barry Nichols  
Field Trip Coordinator: Richard Henderson

Next came a special award from the Cornett Endowment Fund, to Loran D. Gibson, honoring the many contributions of records and, especially, new and unique Kentucky records, he has logged over the years.

In old business, the President read information regarding the inclusion in the Zoological Record of taxonomic matter in newsletters such as ours. We are sending our newsletters already to BIOSIS for extraction of any useful data; but our newsletter is not meant to represent a "public record" for important permanent scientific data. He also mentioned that the American Association for Zoological Nomenclature had asked the Society to become a paying member. No action was taken [Ed. note: see "News", this issue].

\$250-325 for the program and all expenses (depending upon accommodations). For information write: Charles V. Covell, Jr., Biology Dept., University of Louisville, KY 40292. Covell also plans to lead a cruise to the Galapagos Islands, July 4-13. Write him if interested.

**MONARCH BUTTERFLY AS NATIONAL INSECT:** An effort to bring this about is being strongly promoted by the Entomological Society of America. House Joint Resolution #411 would make it official. If interested in further information write: ESA, 9301 Lanham, MD 20706.

**VICEROY AS THE KY STATE INSECT:** The bill was proposed and endorsed by the ladies of the Kentucky Federation of Garden Clubs' 5 districts. More on this later. None of the Kentucky Lepidopterists were consulted about this choice!

Drs. Jackie and Lee Miller have informed Covell that they are nearing completion on their book on the butterflies of the West Indies.

Dave Baggett and Irving Finkelstein have both had surgery recently. We hope they are recovering well, and will enjoy better health than ever.

The Kentucky Lepidopterist is now on the shelves of the Allyn Museum/Florida State Museum, British Museum, Colorado State Museum, Colorado State University, Mexican Entomological Society, Milwaukee Museum, Smithsonian, and the University of Louisville. We are grateful to these subscribers.

Many of you have donated to the "Identification Fund", which now holds \$364 to be expended in getting KY Lepidoptera identified. Your response to this drive has been most gratifying. Those contributing include: George Balogh, Rozenna Carr, Robert Crawford, Ted Enterline, Richard Fellows, Ken Frank, Roland Girardet, Don Harrington, Pete Knudsen, Leroy Koehn, Logan Mahaffey, Bryant Mather, Jim Merritt, Bob Schaumleffel, and Roger Zebold. We plan to use some of the

funds soon to have W.E. Miller dissect and identify some tough specimens of Tortricidae, mostly collected by Loran Gibson and Don Wright.

Dues have been paid for 1990 by most of you, and at present our account holds \$811.99 (this includes the \$364 in the ID fund). Check your NAME LABEL on this newsletter to see through which year your dues are paid.

The West Virginia Entomological Society publishes a newsletter. Annual dues are \$1 for students, \$3 - regular, \$5 - family, \$50 - life membership, and \$75 - family life membership. They also sell patches for \$1.25 and T-shirts for \$5.50. For further information write John Hall, 648 Vista Place, Morgantown, WV 26505.

The Idaho Entomology Group publishes a bimonthly newsletter. Annual Dues are \$5 (US) for US and Canadian residents, \$10 (US) for overseas members. For more information write Russell C. Biggam, Division of Entomology, University of Idaho, Moscow ID 83843.

**PUBLICATION FOR SALE:** Buggy Books: A Guide to Juvenile and Popular Books on Insects and their Relatives by Gary A. Dunn. This unique reference provides information on 736 of the most significant "bug books" written for youth. The guide is invaluable to teachers, parents, naturalists, librarians, and entomologists. It includes titles, authors, publishers, dates, number of pages and illustrations, ISBN, price, age-appropriateness, contents, and quality/usefulness ratings. The titles are cross referenced by age-appropriateness, author, and subject. Cost is \$12.95, plus \$2.00 S&H. Make checks payable to the Young Entomologists' Society. Write Y.E.S., 1915 Peggy Place, Lansing, MI 48910-2553.

The Lepidopterists' Society will hold their 41st annual meeting June 14-17, 1990 at the Milwaukee Public Museum. For further information write Dr. Allen Young, Invertebrate Zoology Section, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53233 or call (414) 278-2758.

The American Association for Zoological Nomenclature is badly in need of funds to support American systematists for work in The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. Just over 1/3 of their workload deals with the Class Insecta. Since the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists is a small organization, we can support the AAZN as a society for \$50. We really don't have the funds for such an expense. Donations towards the \$50 would be greatly appreciated. It is important that we support those who have contributed so much to the knowledge of the Lepidoptera. Write or call (before 10 pm) Barry Nichols (502-937-4733) for more information or send your donations to Covell (addresses elsewhere in this issue).

Chris Ward (address in "New Members") makes and sells fine bait traps. She has two types, a "normal" type with a cone and a "tropical" type with a wide lip instead of a cone. They are 3 ft. high, 15 in. in diameter, and have a 22 in. access zipper and a 16 sq. in. plywood base. Those with cones have a cone opening of 4 inches. They are extremely reasonable at \$35.00 (plus \$1.80 shipping).

#### BOOK REVIEW

by Charles V. Covall, Jr.

Florida Butterflies, by E.J. Gerberg and R.A. Arnett Jr., Natural Science Publications, Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1989. 90 pp., 137 color pls. \$9.95. Order from Sandhill Crane Press, Inc., 2406 N.W. 47th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32606.

This paperback features sharp color photos of butterflies and some skippers of Florida, with text below each picture giving "Description", "Habitat", "Flight" (time of year and how common), "Larvae", "Distribution", and "Notes". Other sections include a Florida map with counties and regions marked much as in Kimball (1965), and sections entitled "What are Butterflies?", "Butterfly Life Cycle", "Butterfly Migration and Strays", "Where to Look for Butterflies", "Butterfly Walks", "Butterfly

Conservation", "Butterflies and Skippers", "Butterfly Names", "Butterflies in Florida" (the main body of the work), "Skippers in Florida", "How to Rear Butterflies" (with subsections on collecting, preserving, arranging, displaying, and exchanging specimens), "Books, Magazines, and Societies", "Where to Get Supplies", "Glossary", "Checklist of Florida Butterflies", and "Index". There is a great deal of information in this small book. John Heppner and Dave Baggett are acknowledged, and I suspect, provided a great deal of the updated information.

The photos are very sharp and the color superb; those for some species give the best or first color shots usable for identification yet to be published. However, they are not presented to scale, nor is a scale measure included. Consequently, hairstreaks are presented as large as swallowtails. There are a few "split images" of underside on right, upperside on left. However, this is not done for all species for which it would be very useful (e.g., Chlorostymon maesites, S. liparops, T. azia, C. cecrops, Leptotes cassius, and Hemiargus thomasi). Further, both sexes of sexually dimorphic species, such as the latter two mentioned above, are not shown. Another disappointment with the pictures is that some specimens are rubbed, chipped, poorly spread or poorly positioned (pp. 37, 40). All in all, the pictures are still quite useful. I found a few errors; some names misspelled include Anthocharis, Phoebis (for statura), simaethis (subspecies name), mopsus, Hermeuptychia, and lyciades. I disagree with some statements ("Fortunately butterflies do not fear humans." on p. 7); and some of the name combinations selected, apparently from a variety of the more recent checklists and manuals. For example, Libytheana bachmanii is listed as a subspecies of carinenta!

The book is excellent for starting collectors and the general public, probably the target audience. The checklist has boxes for one to check species seen or collected - a useful feature.

NOTICES

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Wish to EXCHANGE for specimens of Calephelis muticum, particularly females. Can offer numerous species in return. Ronald R. Gattelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445.

NEW MEMBERS

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Clyde R. Baldwin  
1612 Dewey St., Apt. #, Unit 3  
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Roseland, LA 70456  
(504) 748-8569, (day)

Dr. Benjamin H. Landing  
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Woodland Hills, CA 91364

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USDA/APHIS/PPQ  
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Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Galen & Michael Rasche  
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Joseph Van Fleet  
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Chris and William Ward  
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Girard, OH 44420  
(216) 539-5374  
Interests: Lycaenidae

Anthony DiKeith Wood  
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Paducah, KY 42001

NEW ADDRESSES

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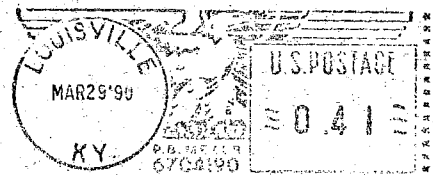
Gregory A. Miller  
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Louisville, KY 40291

Roger A. Zebold  
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Wilmington, OH 45177

**KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS**

Barry S. Nichols, Editor  
7004 Ethan Allen Way  
Louisville, Kentucky USA 40272

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS



**FIRST CLASS**

Loran D. Gibson  
8496 Pheasant Drive  
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pd90

Charlie Covell said he would check with Steve Loftin in Tennessee regarding the possibility of having T-shirts made.

June Preston announced the push to make the Monarch the National Insect, and urged us to write our Senator and Congressman to support House Resolution 411 which would effect that action. She also spoke of the forthcoming birth of the *Idalia* Society of Mid-American Lepidopterists, which was to have formed at a potluck supper meeting on Dec. 3, 1989 in Kansas City, MO. (We wish them good fortune).

After the conclusion of business, Mark Sawyer Monroe of Ballard High School, a National Science Fair award winner with his project, "A Possible New Species of the Genus *Erynnis*", gave a talk on his project. At the conclusion of his presentation he was presented with a special plaque recognizing his achievement. It was a good time for such a presentation, as this meeting was unique in that we had about eight young members (5 from Paducah with Bill Black) present.

Next came our main event - a talk illustrated with slides by Dr. Don Harvey of the U.S. National Museum in Washington. He did his Ph.D. research on the taxonomy and life history of neotropical metalmarks (*Rhiodinidae*), and told us of some of the fascinating relationships between metalmarks and ants, as well as other interesting habits of several genera. Sound production by myrmecophilous metalmark larvae was especially interesting. The talk was most enjoyable.

Other contributed talks followed: "A colony of the Gulf Fritillary in Paducah, KY" by Bill Black; "Hybridization of *Limenitis archippus* X *L. arthemis astyanax* in Hickman Co., KY., 1980 and 1989" by Charlie Covell; and "A New Light Trap Design" by Les Ferge. Leroy Koehn presented information on activities of the Southern Lepidopterists, and Eric Metzler announced activities for the January meeting of the Ohio Lepidopterists. The meeting ended with the traditional door prize drawing. Also, for the first time, boxes of common or second-quality papered

specimens were opened for the young collectors to go through and select from for their collections. About half of the group gathered at Masterson's Restaurant for the Dutch treat dinner after the meeting.

#### BAITING FOR "WINTER MOTHS" IN SOUTHEASTERN KENTUCKY by Loran D. Gibson

October 28, 1989 was a beautiful fall day. I had planned to spend it attending the Ohio Lepidopterists' fall meeting; but I begged off in favor of a field collecting venture into southeastern Kentucky. To my knowledge, no one had ever sampled "winter moth" populations in autumn, along Kentucky's highest mountains in Harlan County. I had long wanted to try baiting for these fine noctuids there, but until this particular weekend, I had not been free at a time when the weather was just right. This day seemed to be the precursor of a good night, so I went nothing!

After an interesting four-hour drive, which included a 25 minute stand-still on Interstate 75, I finally arrived in the city of Cumberland at 3:00 p.m. I drove directly to the summit road on Big Black Mountain, and placed three bait traps in what seemed to be good-looking "moth spots". The elevation there is about 4100 feet. The flora contains several typically northern species of trees and shrubs. There are no conifers. However, trees such as Yellow Birch, Red-Berried Elder, Northern Striped Maple, and others occur there.

After hanging the traps, I hurried back down to Cumberland and grabbed a quick hamburger. I then rushed off to Kingdom Come State Park. Kingdom Come is along the Pine Mountain Ridge, where the higher elevations run roughly 2500 to 2700 feet. The flora is typical of the Cumberland Plateau, with a few northern species thrown in.

Time became precious as I drove into the Park; so I was happy when the first person I saw was Chuck, the Park Ranger (Often, one must spend time hunting for park

rangers). After letting Chuck know what I was up to, he suggested that I come to the Ranger Station later, and check for moths on the building, around the newly installed mercury vapor lights. I said "Ok," but was thinking to myself that the only good moths to be taken tonight would be attracted to the fine peach puree bait I was about to paint on the park trees! As Chuck drove off, I prepared to apply the bait. I baited five different areas, trying to cover as many diverse habitats as I could before dark. About 20 trees on the Overlook Trail were baited. At least twice that many received the "goop" along the Amphitheater Trail. The smallest spot included only five or six trees around the perimeter of a little picnic area. I worked at baiting and re-baiting these areas until dusk.

As the sun disappeared, I checked the temperature. It was 64 degrees Fahrenheit. There was no wind. The moon would be new the following night. As I had hoped, conditions were nearly perfect. At first I was concerned about the lack of cloud cover and humidity; but it did not seem to matter. Moths began arriving at the bait before sundown.

As darkness fell, I started checking the baited trees in earnest. The first locality checked was the little picnic area. Upon approaching the first tree, the flashlight beam revealed a virtual hoard of "scaled sippers". These cold weather noctuids rarely fly when disturbed. When startled, they usually drop from the tree trunk into the fallen leaves. Rather than risk losing good specimens by trying to pluck one at a time from among the masses with a killing jar, I brought up a cardboard box I carry for this purpose. One wall of the box was pressed against the tree trunk, just below the lowest moth. A sharp rap on the tree caused all the moths to drop into the box. This method allowed the keepers to be selected out without fear of losing them. The others can be dumped back into the leaves unharmed.

One of the specimens on the first tree was Lithophane patefacta. This represented a first capture for me, and provided the

second known locality for this species in Kentucky.

I repeatedly worked the trails until about 8:00 p.m. By this time most of the moth activity had ended. I made ready to leave. After packing up my gear, I remembered that I had to say good-bye to Chuck. I found him in the Ranger Station watching the World Series. I thanked him for his cooperation, and told him of a great night of collecting. He said "Good," and suggested once again that I check the lights around the building. I was tired, but I said "Ok". I did not expect to find anything of interest; but there, on the wood siding, high up on the wall, sat a perfect Xylotype capax. This is a rare species which I had never taken. I could not reach high enough to capture the specimen, so Chuck brought out a rickety wooden chair for me to stand on. From this precarious perch, I took another fine moth. This was only the third known Kentucky locality for this species. A quick survey of the building produced one more of the same. This was like icing on the cake.

I bid Chuck a final good-bye, and drove off to check the traps on Black Mountain. I did not wish to submit my Kingdom Come catch to the rigors of Route 160 (up and down Black Mountain). Hairpin curves too-numerous to count could be a scale raising experience. In lieu of this, I stopped at a convenient pull-off near the base of the mountain and hid my jars of moths under a pile of leaves.

As I continued up the much curved blacktop, I began to imagine traps crawling with rare northern noctuids. These images turned out to be fantasy. The only interesting catches in the traps were several specimens of Pachypolia atricornis. These represented a new county record, but this species can be fairly common in the Ohio River Valley, in northern Kentucky.

Although Black Mountain collecting was a disappointment, I drove home that night with the satisfaction of knowing I had taken a nice list of species in Kingdom Come State Park. My catch included: Lithophane patefacta; L. innominata; L. petulca; L.

hemina; L. bailey; L. querquera; L. tepida? (I think); L. antennata; L. grotei; Eupsilia cirripalea; E. morrisoni; Metaxaglaea viatica; M. semitaria; Epiglaea decliva; Chaetaglaea sericea; Eucirroedia pampina; Sunira bicolorago, and Xylotype capax.

## NEWS AND NOTES

Maria Plonczynski and Drew Hildebrandt are the proud parents of a baby girl, Emily Katherine, born Sept. 18, 1989 - their "new little entomologist".

Barry and Margarita Nichols were married on Sat., Nov. 25, 1989. We wish them long life and much happiness together. [Ed. Note: Pheromones DO work. No larval eclosions are expected.]

Some familiar moths have new name combinations of which you may not be aware. The noctuid known previously as Nola sorghiella Riley (MONA #8991) is now Nola cereella (Bosc), and the pyralid Clydonopteron tecomae Riley (MONA #5563) is now Clydonopteron sacculana (Bosc). This results from application of the Law of Priority in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature to names described by an obscure author in 1800 from a paper overlooked until recently. [S.E. Miller and V.O. Becker (1989) in their paper "North American Moths Described by L.A.G. Bosc d'Antic (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae, Pyralidae). Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 91(1): 22-25].

New state records for Kentucky have been added since the last newsletter, bringing the total of known, named species to 2,265. The additions (preceded by Hodges Checklist numbers) are:

## TORTRICIDAE

3174.1 Epiblema luctosana Blanchard - Big Bone Lick State Park, Boone Co., July 26, 1989, L.D. Gibson.

3203 Epiblema brightonana (Kft.) - Markland Dam, Gallatin Co., June 22, 1989; Bullitt Co., Pine Creek Forest,

0.5 miles N Rt. 480, 4.5 miles E of Rt. 65, July 22, 1989; both L.D. Gibson

3204 Epiblema tandana (Kft.) - Markland Dam, Gallatin Co., June 22, 1989, L.D. Gibson.

3226 Gypsonoma haimbachiana (Kft.) - Markland Dam, Gallatin Co., June 11, & Aug. 17, 1989, L.D. Gibson.

3464 Cydia lacustrina (W.E. Miller) - Markland Dam, Gallatin Co., May 25, 1989, L.D. Gibson.

## PYRALIDAE

6044 Poeria tetradella (Zeller) - Bullitt Co., 1 mile N of Rt. 480 on Pine Creek Forest Rd., 4.5 miles E of Rt. 65, July 22, 1989, D.J. Wright.

## NOCTUIDAE

8428 Dyspyralis nigella (Stkr.) - Tunnel Ridge, Red River Gorge, Powell Co., July 8, 1989, D.J. Wright.

10812 Euxoa bostoniensis (Grote) - Otter Creek Park, Meade Co., Oct. 14, 1988, R.A. Henderson.

A new butterfly house, L'Insectarium de Montreal, opened in connection with the Montreal Botanical Garden, Montreal, Quebec, with a special ceremony on Feb. 9, 1990. We wish them luck.

## SUMMER WORKSHOPS 1990:

"Biology of Butterflies", offered by Tom Emmel and Boyce Drummond at the Colorado Outdoor Education Center, July 1-7. Cost: \$595 for adults; \$451 for children 5-15; free to children under 5. For information write: Boyce Drummond III, The Nature Place, Colo. Outdoor Education Center, Florissant, CO 80816, or phone, (719) 687-6596.

"The Lepidoptera - Biology and Techniques" offered by Charles V. Covell, Jr. at the Eagle Hill Biological Research Station, Steuben, ME, June 24-30. Cost: