

THE KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

VOLUME 1, No. 1, March, 1975

Charles V. Covell Jr., Editor

FORMATION OF THE SOCIETY

In response to letters sent to lepidopterists in Kentucky, a meeting to organize a Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists was held in Room 322, Life Sciences Building, University of Louisville, at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, November 23, 1974. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Carl C. Cornett, Louisville, Ky.
Mr. and Mrs. Loran Gibson, Florence, Ky.
Mr. James Ettman, Naturalist, Pine Mountain State Park, Ky.
Mr. Carl Cook, Center, Ky.
Mr. Bill Black, Paducah, Ky.
Mr. Richard Henderson, Prospect, Ky.
Mr. Siegfried Scholz, Valley Station, Ky.
Mr. Forrest Bledsoe, Student, University of Louisville, Ky.
Mr. Alan Brownell, Student, University of Louisville, Ky.
Mr. Kevin Bryant, Student, University of Louisville, Ky.
Dr. Robert Gregg, Dept. of Anatomy, University of Louisville, Ky.
Dr. Charles V. Covell Jr., Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Ky.
Mr. Charles V. Covell III, Louisville, Ky.

After a period of getting acquainted, a business meeting began at 2:00, C. V. Covell Jr. presiding. Discussions ensued regarding the name, purpose, and other aspects of society establishment. It was decided that the name of the society will be The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists, but that membership will be open to anyone wishing to join.

Covell offered to write a Constitution and submit it to the membership for their approval at a later date. The purpose of the Society was agreed to be to provide communication among those interested in any aspect of lepidopterology, and to foster research on the Lepidoptera fauna of Kentucky. Sentiment was expressed that the Society would also bring about a climate of fraternity among lepidopterists in Kentucky.

After a discussion of needed Officers, it was agreed that there would be 3 offices, President, Secretary-treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. These officers would act as an Executive Committee to transact business on behalf of the Society. Elections were then held, with the following results for the 1975 calendar year:

President - Richard Henderson
Secretary-treasurer - Alan Brownell
Newsletter Editor - Charles V. Covell Jr.

The subject of dues was discussed. Funds will be needed for mailing costs and Newsletter preparation, as well as other activities. On a motion by Carl Cook, seconded by Bob Gregg, it was agreed that the dues structure for a calendar year would be:

Regular Membership - \$5.00
Student Membership - \$2.50

It was decided that there would be two meetings each year: one in midsummer for collecting and comradeship somewhere in Kentucky, and an annual business and informational meeting at the University of Louisville in November. Tentative agreement was made for

the first mid-summer meeting to be held in the Pine Mountain State Park area in July, with Jim Ettman as host.

Opinion was expressed that the Constitution include a positive statement concerning conservation of Lepidoptera. It was so ordered.

Covell stated that he would try to put out 4 newsletters a year starting in 1975, and would also try to make copies of short papers on Ky. Lepidoptera and send them out with the newsletters. Richard Henderson was to make up membership blanks to send out.

The meeting was adjourned to Room 321 where the film "Patterns for Survival" was shown. The film deals with protective devices in tropical butterflies. Refreshments and a period of conversation and examination of the collections followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Brownell, Secretary-treasurer

FROM THE EDITOR:

I was really pleased with the turnout and success of our first meeting. Sorry it has taken me so long to get this first issue of the KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST out to you. I forgot to state in writing up Alan's minutes that an expression of gratitude was voted to Richard Henderson for sparking the formation of the Society. He and I had talked about forming this organization several years ago, but I had just not gotten around to doing anything about it. Then last summer Richard got things in gear, and laid all the groundwork himself. He was properly elected our first President.

Enclosed is an application blank made up by Richard, with extras included in case you have friends who would like to join. Regular membership of \$5 is expected for everyone except students, who include anyone up to and including college graduate students. Please try to get checks to Alan Brownell right away, to defray costs of producing the newsletter and mailing. We will set up a bank account when some checks arrive.

I have not made up the Constitution for your examination as yet, but will get it to you when I can. We should shoot for final approval at our November, 1975, meeting.

You will be informed of arrangements for the mid-summer meeting when we get it worked out with Jim Ettman. While we are going to Pine Mountain State Park, I feel it best that we do our collecting in nearby areas outside the Park, since we should be able to find adequate areas. I hope that we can find Speyeria diana in that general region. We will try to time the meeting to coincide with diana peak period.

Unless there is reason to change it, the fall meeting of the Society will be at the University of Louisville at 1:00 P.M. Saturday, November 22, 1975. More on that at a later date.

I am soliciting designs for a Society emblem. It could be circular, or some other form in outline. Perhaps an outline of Kentucky could be included. A male diana might fit nicely into the design. Send a sketch to me, however rough, if you have one in mind.

THOUGHTS CONCERNING A STATE INSECT FOR KENTUCKY

Next year when the legislature again meets it might be a good idea to submit for legislation the name of a butterfly as STATE INSECT. I am not certain what has been done along these lines in the past; I have heard that there was some move afoot to have some kind of insect (not Lepidoptera) established as a state insect. In recent years at least two other states have had butterflies named as state insect: The California Dogface, Colias eurymedea Bvd. for California, and the Baltimore Checkerspot, Euphydryas phaeton (Drury) for Maryland. It seems to me that a good candidate for a butterfly as Kentucky state insect would have to be a species that is widespread and fairly common, so people are likely to see it. It should be a fairly large species; and it should be a rather pretty one. Perhaps one of the swallowtails would be appropriate; P. troilus seems to me to be the commonest in the state, with P. glaucus quite common as well. What are your ideas on this?

CVC

THE 1974 COLLECTING SEASON IN KENTUCKY

Each year I submit to the Zone Coordinator of the Lepidopterists' Society the results of my collecting activities in the previous season. This year I sent to Mo Nielsen a run-down on my activities, plus what I feel are important records some of you told me about. I hope I was not out of line contributing such information in your names (each collector's name was included with the record). I do not know how much of the material will be used this year, but my report was made up of 1 page, double spaced, of general weather information, butterfly records, and 3 moth records. There are other things which I omitted.

With regard to the Preliminary Checklist of Kentucky Butterflies which I published in the Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society (1974, Vol. 28, no. 3, pp. 253 - 256, there are 4 corrections to make: p. 254, change Amblyscirtes to Amblyscirtes; p. 255, change Papilio polyxenes asterias to asterius, and add a "c" in Satyrrium acadia to make acadica; p. 256, change the genus of Euptychia gemma to Cyllopsis - a generic change resulting from a revision by Lee D. Miller, 1974.

Since publication of that list, Richard Henderson has added Amblyscirtes belli Freeman, and has written a note on the subject for the Journal of the Lepid. Society. I have been informed of a record of Panoquina ocola (Edwards) collected at Cadiz, Ky., by L. P. Grey of Lincoln, Maine, on Sept. 26, 1972. And another visiting collector, Gerald Straley, reports 2 captures of Erynnis lucilius (Scudder and Burgess) in Ky. in 1974. That one has to be verified before lucilius can be placed on the State List. All three of these species are skippers (Hesperiidae).

I reported 3 moth records to Nielsen, all of which are new for Kentucky: Paonias astylus (Sphingidae) from Boyd Co., collected by William Watkins (date unknown); Thysania zenobia (Noctuidae), collected in McCracken Co. by Bill Black, Aug. 23, 1974; and the pretty small Geometrid, Lophosis labeculata ♂, 2 from McCracken Co., Bill Black, Aug. 24, and 1 from Jefferson Co., Alan Brownell, Aug. 19. There are many other new state records of moths on file here at the University of Louisville, which will go into the book on Kentucky Lepidoptera which I am preparing with your help.

If you are agreeable, I will formulate each year a summary of all Kentucky collecting results and submit it to Nielsen on your behalf. This will save extra work on your part, and help Nielsen in that it can be put together concisely for him.

THE KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERA SURVEY

Records of new as well as known species of moths and butterflies keep coming in, and I now have a total of 1,420 on file. I am going through material from the Univ. of Kentucky collection, and know that there will be a fair number of additions when the specimens are identified. I also have some undetermined specimens in the hands of several specialists who are identifying material for us. There are other specimens from various sources which we have not yet worked up.

THIS IS AN APPEAL for information on Kentucky butterflies and moths to help make the book as complete as possible. I will try to identify, or have identified by specialists, whatever moths you can submit. You will get specimens identified, and the Survey will benefit by having more useful information. Of course, any donations of material to the University of Louisville Collection (now numbering over 20,000 prepared Lepidoptera and much additional unspread material) will be welcome, and can be itemized as a contribution in your income tax return.

We especially need material and data on collections from eastern and western Kentucky. Jefferson Co. is best covered, with Fayette a close second (many old records from Univ. of Kentucky). Carl Cornett has contributed a great deal from various State Parks, which he visits systematically each summer for medium-sized and larger moths. Any information on Microlepidoptera is especially needed, though identifications are most difficult to make in this group. Dr. Annette F. Braun of Cincinnati, Ohio, has contributed heavily in providing information on micros.

Thanks in advance for any help you can give us; your assistance will be acknowledged in the book.

CVC

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CHARTER MEMBERS

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OTHERS UNABLE TO ATTEND FIRST MEETING

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PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES RIGHT AWAY TO: Al Brownell, Biology Dept., U. of Louisville, Louisville, Ky. 40208. Thank you.