

THE KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

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Charles V. Covell Jr., Editor

THE PINE MOUNTAIN MEETING

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists held its first field meeting at Pine Mountain State Resort Park at Pineville, Bell County, Ky., July 18 - 20, 1975. The following members and their "friends and relations" attended: Jim Ettman (Naturalist at the Park, and our host); Loran Gibson and Rob Campbell, Florence, Ky.; Leroy Koehn and family, Mentor, Ohio; Amos Showalter, Lexington, Ky.; and a Louisville contingent made up of Richard Henderson and his father, Al Brownell, Jack Lesshaft, Ann Osborne, and the Covells. Some of us camped, while others stayed in cabins. The first night brought some good moths to light; Ettman and C. V. Covell Jr. put a light out at the fire tower, and Henderson and Brownell collected at the campground. It was pleasing to see the glow of a blacklight down in the campground as one passed on the road.

The objective of the trip, in addition to the fellowship of getting together and spinning yarns, was to collect Speyeria diana. We found the males somewhat "tired," and only 1 ♀ was taken - a perfect one by Rob Campbell on July 19. We took about 6 ♂ in all, 3 of them in the Lake Chenoa area.

I do not have a complete list of species taken or seen, but some of them are as follows: Erynnis horatius, Wallengrenia otho egeremet, Eparcyreus clarus, Poanes zabulon, Euphyes vestris metacomet, Atalopedes campestris, Amblyscirtes aesculapius (1 by Leroy Koehn; one of few state records, and first from eastern mountains of Ky.) Battus philenor, Papilio glaucus, P. troilus, Speyeria cybele, S. diana, Vanessa atalanta, Cynthia virginiensis, Phyciodes tharos, Chlosyne nycteis, Polygonia comma, P. interrogationis, Calyconia cecropa, Pantheides m-album (fresh ♀ taken by C. V. Covell Jr. near tunnel in Clear Creek Hollow), Everes comyntas, Colias eurhythme, Pieris rapae, Cercyonis pegala, Euptychia gemma, E. hermes sosybius, and Danaus plexippus. If any of you who were there have records of additions to this list, please let me know about them. Of the moths collected, I have found 3 new state records so far.

The most exciting capture was not at Pine Mountain, but on Big Black Mountain, Harlan County, on July 17. Loran Gibson collected a specimen of Eroria laeta on Erigeron annuus. This rare hairstreak has been caught only once before in Kentucky, as far as I know; that was the one recorded by Carl Cook from Crailhope, Ky., on May 6, 1947. Not only is this a great extension of range in Kentucky for laeta; it is the only record of a mid-summer brood. Loran and Rob Campbell recorded S. diana at Lynch, Kingdom Come State Park, and on Big Black Mtn., all in Harlan Co., on July 17, 1975.

All who attended the meeting join me in thanking Jim Ettman for his hospitality and help in making the summer meeting a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

- CVC

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Second Annual Meeting will be held in the Entomology Laboratory (Room 321) at the Life Science Building, University of Louisville, at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, November 22, 1975. I would like to encourage each of you who are coming to plan to give a short talk about either some collecting experience of yours (anywhere), or a rundown on you local area (especially in areas away from Louisville). Write me if you wish to do this, and give me an estimate of time needed (up to 30 min.). I will

provide projectors for any slides or other visual aids you may wish to present. I plan to give you a short talk with slides on some collecting in southern Florida in 1975.

After the meeting, there will be a social hour, during which we can exchange yarns and information. You might wish to bring with you specimens you want identified, material to exchange with other collectors, or things to show us (Amos, how about bringing that bilateral gynandromorph you reared of Speyeria diana?!).

Parking on campus is no problem after noon Saturday: you can park anywhere. If you arrive before noon, you might enter from 3rd St. and stop at the information booth. Tell the attendant there where you are going, and you will be given a visitor's parking pass.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. We also hope to have Hattie Warner's second, longer checklist of Ky. butterflies available to distribute to you at the meeting. Those of you who did not get the Xerox copy of her early paper may ask me to send it to you (first article on Ky. butterfly fauna, Oct., 1894, Canadian Entomologist, vol. 26). This 1895 second article is 42 pages long, while the 1894 paper was only 3.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE LATENESS IN ANNOUNCING THIS MEETING. I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY BUSY THIS YEAR, AND HAVE NOT HAD THE TIME TO GET TO SOCIETY MATTERS AS PROMPTLY AS I SHOULD. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

Agenda of Meeting

1:00 - 2:00: Business meeting
2:00 - 2:15: Coffee break
2:15 - 4:00 or longer: program
4:00 or later, on: social hour and informal get-together

NEWS AND NOTES

Finally we are to see the new book, Butterflies of North America, with 2,093 butterflies presented in color paintings by Wm. H. Howe of Kansas. The text was prepared by 20 specialists. You may order directly from Doubleday and Co., 245 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017. Regular editions are \$39.95, but you can buy a special signed edition, along with a special butterfly print for framing by Howe, for \$150. This book should be a "Must" for all serious butterfly aficionados; I hope to have a copy for you to see at the Annual Meeting. -CVC

The super-important project - that of producing the Moths of America North of Mexico - has been slowed down a bit this year by a number of factors. One is the sky-high inflation in Great Britain, where the books are produced, and our own inflation as well. Another problem has been the overwork burdening those who are writing the fascicles (units of this monumental work). To help make each fascicle less costly, Dr. Richard B. Dominick, creator and photographer (as well as chief cook and bottle washer) for the project, has, with his board of editors, formed THE WEDGE ENTOMOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION for the purpose of attracting funds in the form of gifts and grants. Dick, who has joined our fledgling society, tells me that a great number of SMALL GIFTS are badly needed

to support application for tax-exempt status (not to mention need for the \$\$). So won't you send a check or pledge? Write to Dick if you wish; or just to THE WEDGE ENTOMOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, Suite L236A, 230 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017. I believe this is a cause worth the support of all lepidopterists.

I have about a dozen copies of the program of the 1975 Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society, held in August at Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst. If you wish a copy of this program, drop me a line, or pick one up at the Annual Meeting Nov. 22.

The Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey has just passed the 1,600 species mark. I am now seeking sources of funds for publication of the Annotated Checklist based on our data. New additions are being added all the time, and we have a number of species yet without identification tags. I hope to go to the U.S. National Museum in December and get another batch identified. This kind of thing has been done for us by the long-suffering USNM staffers, especially doctors E. L. Todd, Douglas C. Ferguson, Ronald W. Hodges, Don Davis, Don Duckworth, and J. F. G. ("Jack") Clarke. Other specialists have helped us too, especially Dr. Eugene Munroe of Agriculture Canada, the authority on many subfamilies in the Pyralidae, and Dr. Frederick H. Rindge, American Museum of Natural History, New York (Geometridae). Julian Donahue of the Los Angeles County Museum has just returned our Arctiidae (genus Haploa) which he identified; and John Burns (now at the U.S. National Museum) and W. D. Field have helped at times with sticky problems in butterflies.

Our state survey is run on a financial shoestring, with most of our funds coming from the Dept. of Biology, and the Arts and Sciences Research Committee of the University of Louisville. Other state surveys are farther along, but most states are behind us. Some notable efforts including both moths and butterflies are those in Missouri (Richard Heitzman, an amateur collector with a professional's output); Mississippi (new member Bryant Mather; another prolific amateur); Texas (talented taxonomist and collector Andre Blanchard, moths; likewise productive, esp. with rearing, butterflies and moths alike, Roy O. Kendall); Florida (Charles P. Kimball, whose book is probably still available for \$5); Maine (Catocala expert Ed Brower). There are other surveys just for butterflies (Kent Philip's, Alaska; the Emmels work in S. California), and beginnings in other states which include moths (Bo Sullivan, N. Carolina). I have not named them all; these are off the top of the head; but YOU are a great help in producing what I hope will turn out to be an important contribution to the North American faunal knowledge of Lepidoptera.

Another new member, Ron Gattelle of S. Carolina, is working on the fauna of his state and the Southeast. He writes that this Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists might evolve naturally into a Southeastern section of the Lepidopterists' Society. Think about that. Others with whom I have talked think this outfit should broaden into a Kentucky Entomological Society. We might discuss this matter at our meeting.

HAVE YOU A NOMINATION FOR A BUTTERFLY SPECIES TO BE PROPOSED TO THE LEGISLATURE AS KENTUCKY STATE INSECT? It should not be too rare a species, and one that is easy for the public to recognize. Any thoughts on the matter?

OTHER NEW BOOKS: Besides the new Howe book, there are others recently published. One is Butterflies by Thomas C. Emmel (Alfred A. Knopf, 201 East Fiftieth St., New York, N. Y. 10022, \$29.95 until Dec. 31st, then \$35). Contains 317 color photos. Also, two English lepidopterists, Allan Watson and Paul Whalley, have just published The Dictionary of Butterflies and Moths in Colour. There are 344 pages, of which 144 are color plates. The text is set up like an encyclopedia or dictionary, with species, genus and other names as entries. Michael Joseph Ltd., 52 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EF, England. 13 pounds, postpaid.

OUR NEW MEMBERS:

- ALBRECHT, Carl W., 49 East California Ave., Columbus, OHIO 43202. Hesperidae; Ohio butterflies (Regular member).
- BROWN, F. Martin, 6715 S. Marksheffel Rd., Colorado Springs, COLO. 80911. N. American butterflies; taxonomy; special interest in work of Wm. Henry Edwards of Coalburgh, W. Va. (Reg.)
- DOMINICK, Richard B. (Dr.), The Wedge, McClellanville, S. CAROLINA 29458. Moths of America; Lepidoptera of coastal S. C. (Reg.)
- DOVE, David L., 3817 St. Germaine Ct., Louisville, KY. 40207. (Student Member).
- FRANKS, Thomas E., 2 Clark Rd., Box 102, Wellesley Hills, MASS. 02181. Butterflies; other Macrolepidoptera, esp. Noctuidae and Geometridae.
- GATRELLE, Ronald R., 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, S. CAROLINA 29445. N. American Lepidoptera, esp. Hesperioidea. (Reg.)
- KOEHN, Leroy, 6464 Antoinette Dr., Mentor, OHIO 44060. All Lepidoptera; correspondence welcome. (Reg.)
- MATHER, Bryant, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MISS. 39056. Mississippi Lepidoptera (Reg.)
- OPLER, Paul A. (Dr.), Office of Endangered Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240. Lepidoptera, esp. butterflies, microlepidoptera attacking Calif. oaks; butterfly conservation. (Reg.)
- PFENNINGER, Paul F., Box 506, New Castle, INDIANA 47362. (Reg.)
- SHOWALTER, Amos H., Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. 40506. Ecology of Lepidoptera; collecting; rearing (Reg.)
- WESTERMAN, Albert, Thomas Hunt Morgan School of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. 40506. (Student).

WELCOME, ALL OF YOU. PLEASE WRITE FOR NEWSLETTERS 1 and 2 IF YOU DIDN'T GET THEM.

Bio-Quip Co., of Santa Monica, Calif., is now offering kits of spreading boards which you put together yourself. We have tried them, and find them relatively satisfactory for the money. You get parts for 12 boards for \$20. (Cat. No. 1021, Bio-Quip Products, P.O. Box 61, Santa Monica, CA. 90406).

NOTICES

we plan to have a section of each newsletter devoted to inquiries and other notices submitted by members. Won't you please avail yourself of this section? You may also wish to just send in some information to place here. -CVC

WANTED: Records on Kentucky moths and butterflies for publication in Butterflies and Moths of Kentucky. Specimens identified in return for your help. C. V. Covell Jr., Biology Dept., Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY. 40208.

WANTED: News and short articles for the next issue of KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST! Ed.