

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

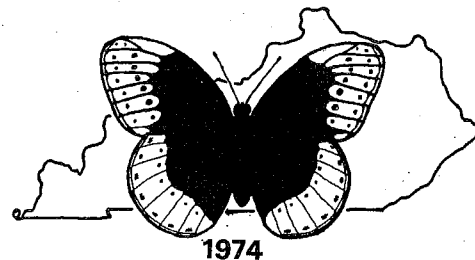
Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

VOLUME 22, NUMBERS 3 & 4: DECEMBER 1996

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Unfortunately, there were few submissions and in order to put out the last two issues for calendar year 1996, and not tie up the new editor any further, the decision was made once again to combine them into a single issue and have the new editor start with the first issue for 1997 (23:1) as if all were normal. This means there was an overlap created. That problem is solved with this issue. We've had a number of edits further increasing the delay. When you receive this, the first issue from the new editor will already have reached you. That said, please keep in mind that this issue is the last for calendar year 1996.

This being the last issue for calendar year 1996 means that it also includes a dues notice for those not paid for 1997. Please check to see if this pertains to your membership. Many of you have already paid through 1997 but need to check the list to make sure the information is correct.

This issue contains articles on the effects of moon phases on moth captures, a field meeting account with the Sothern Lepidopterists, and a Fall Field Trip account in western Kentucky. It also contains meeting minutes from the 1996 Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Lepidopterists as well as a Membership List. The new secretary, John Enz, has taken over the membership database and really needs your help to fill in the holes. We've been trying to do this for some time with little success. John has

jumped in head first and is weeding it out. This list is the 8th I've been submitted for this issue and reflects a plethora of changes by John Enz and Charles Covell. **As of April 1997, this list superceeds all previous lists.** Again, if there is missing or incorrect information, please contact:

**John Enz,
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or email him at the following address:
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He will need your help to make sure the new list will be error-free. It will also be used for mailing future issues of the newsletter. **Please check your entry on the list as well as your mailing label on this issue.** The membership list has blanks for missing information. Please make a copy of the page with your information and send the page with your changes printed on them. There are errors in the list used to mail 23:1 that need correcting as soon as possible.

This is my last issue and again I want to thank everyone who helped during my tenure. It has been fun. As of this issue, all articles, etc., I have received for inclusion in the newsletter have been printed. If you have sent something, and did not see it printed by me (by this issue), I do not have it. Should anyone experience lost mail and care to submit again, please send it to the new editor. All future articles, notes, etc., for inclusion into the newsletter should now go to the new editor:

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It is the membership that is responsible for keeping the newsletter going so let's all get cracking and give Carolyn some newsletter material!

**THE 23RD ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY
LEPIDOPTERISTS**

by John J Enz, Secretary
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The 23rd meeting of the Kentucky Lepidopterists took place at the University of Louisville on November 8-9, 1996. Thirty -six people representing 5 different states were in attendance at the two-day event. Twenty-eight people gathered at Dr. Charles Covell's residence Friday, November 8, for an evening of food and fun. Various lepidopteran videos were shown as everyone shared their year's activities with the group. The party finally broke up around midnight.

The group then met Saturday morning in the Entomology Laboratory at the University of Louisville. As we consumed copious amounts of coffee and donuts, we viewed the U of L lepidopteran collection, obtained identifications, and traded specimens.

The annual board meeting was called to order by President Jim Taylor on Saturday at 10:45 am. The entire 10 member board was

present for the meeting. After the reading and approval of last year's minutes, the election committee announced their nominations for new officers to be voted on during the business meeting. Other new business included:

1) The discussion of a butterfly camp at U of L for school children. The camp would be jointly sponsored by the Garden Club and the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists and would be paid for by registration fees. A motion was made by Barry Nichols to jointly sponsor a butterfly camp with the Garden Club around June 15. The motion was second by Jessica Hutti and passed with the provision that we break even or have no outstanding financial liability to the Society Kentucky Lepidopterists. Dr. Charles Covell and Carolyn Roof volunteered to coordinate the event.

2) The possibility of getting approval for a Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists license plate was also discussed. It would contain our logo.

3) A motion made by John Enz and second by James Adams was passed to authorize the purchase of additional Society decals. Each Society member who pays 1997 dues will receive one (1) complimentary decal. Additional decals may be purchased when they become available. Ordering information will be provided in an upcoming newsletter.

4) Money was approved to reimburse travel expenses for this year's speaker as well as the 4th of July butterfly count.

5) Jessica Hutti volunteered to chair a committee to put together a Kentucky Lepidopterist display booth at the 50th anniversary meeting of the Lepidopterist Society.

6) Possible speakers for next year's meeting was also discussed. We welcome any suggestions from you. PLEASE forward any suggestions for

next year's speaker to myself or Dr. Covell. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

The annual business meeting was called to order by President Jim Taylor at 1:07 pm. After approval of last year's minutes, announcements were given. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were given out to two long time members, Drs. Jim Merritt and Bob Gregg. Eric Metzler (President in charge of the 50th Lepidopterist Society Meeting) invited everyone to attend the annual winter meeting of the Ohio Lepidopterist Society on January 18 at Ohio State University. The treasurer's report by Dr. Charles Covell revealed \$802.00 in the treasury. Paul Florence gave a short report on the spring field trip to Bernheim Forest. Ten people attended the event with a total of 15 butterfly species spotted and/or captured. Bill Black headed the fall field trip to Hickman county and Murphy's Pond and had a weekend total of 53 butterfly species. A short board meeting summary was given by President Jim Taylor.

Election of new officers were then held. Results of the election were:

President - Jim Taylor,
Newsletter Editor - Carolyn Roof,
Treasurer - Dr. Charles Covell,
Secretary - John Enz,
Field Trip Coordinator - Barry Nichols,
Member at Large - Jessica Hutti,
Member at Large - Loran Gibson.

Nancy Theiss, Kentucky Department Fish & Wildlife, gave a short presentation on the newly opened Salado Wildlife Education Center and invited all of us to visit.

The annual door prize drawing concluded the business meeting which was adjourned at 2:45 pm. We all then made our way to the auditorium to listen to several speakers.

This year's invited speaker was Dr. Richard Brown, Curator of the Mississippi Entomological Museum. He gave an informative talk entitled, "Moths in the Grasslands of the mid-South". James Adams followed with, "Northwest Georgia Moth Fauna". Dr. Covell concluded with his "Lepidoptera Year in Review".

The weekend concluded with many of us enjoying dinner together at Masterson's restaurant.

WHY THE FULL MOON DECREASES MOTH CATCHES

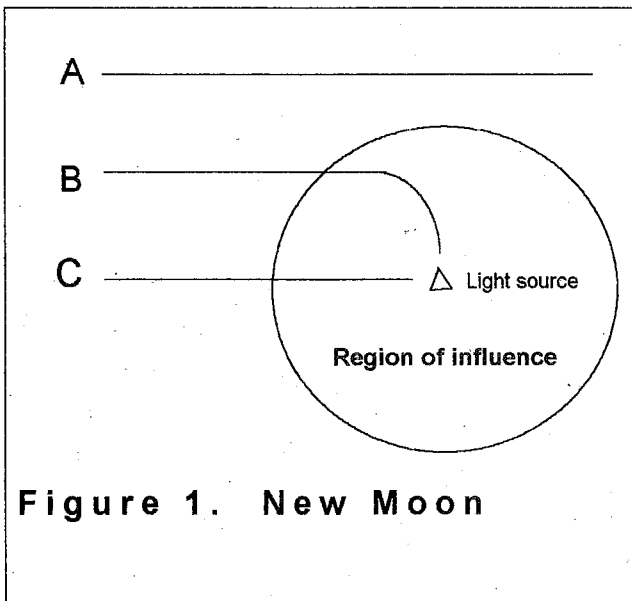
Roy W. Rings
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For the past two years I avoided collecting moths during the full moon because of the statement by Steyskal et al (1986) in their manual of techniques for collection of insects "It should be emphasized that the phases of the moon most profoundly influence the attraction of insects to artificial light. Attraction is inhibited by a bright moon. The best collecting period each month extends from the fifth night after the full moon until about a week before the next full moon." This period of interruption in a busy collecting schedule is frustrating since it means no collections for nearly a half of the month.

With this in mind I was fascinated by re-reading a report of the research of John Bowden, an entomologist employed by the Rothamsted Experimental Station in England. Bowden and a colleague, Marjory Morris, studied the influence of moonlight on catches of insects in light traps in 1975 in Gambia and Uganda, Africa. They found that, for the majority of insect species, the catch at full moon was from 2 to 4 times less than at new moon. In some species of Lepidoptera the largest reduction, 10 times less, was found in *Marasmia trapezalis*, a pyralid

moth. Contrary to popular belief they found that in some species of noctuids (*Spodoptera tritura*), termites and bostrychid beetles there was an increase in catch at full moon as compared with new moon. In general they showed that light-trap catches of individual species varied differently but consistently with nocturnal illumination.

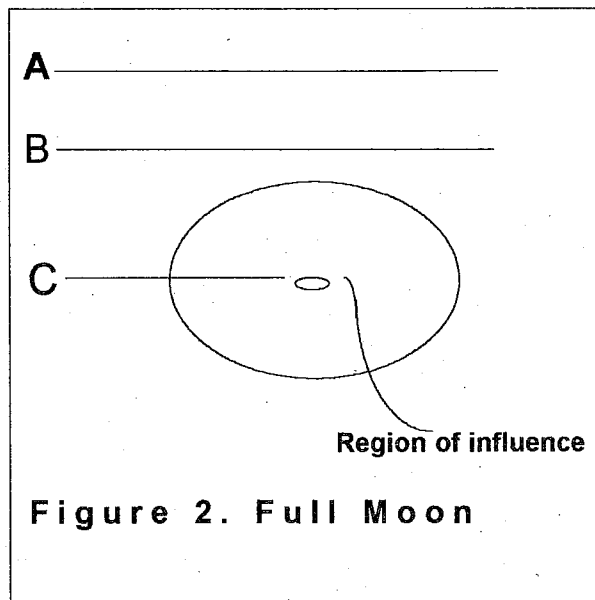
These investigators postulated a circular **region of influence** (Fig. 1) around a light source or a light trap, the boundary of which was determined by measuring the light intensity at the source (2900 lumens) and at intervals from the source until the light intensity did not decrease.



In other words the boundary was a definite distance at which the illumination from a light-trap was equal to that from background sources (moonlight). Theoretically, moths located beyond the boundary of the region of influence are unaffected by the trap light and remain so until their normal movements bring them across the boundary of the region. At full moon the effective radius of the 125-W MB/U mercury vapor light-trap was estimated to be 519 meters (567 yards). This calculation assumes the unrealistic fact that there are no obstacles, such as trees or shrubs, in the region of influence to

block the radiation from the light-trap. The diagram in Figure 1 shows the theoretical flight of three moths from a woodland. Moth A flies in a straight line from west to east and does not enter the region of influence and therefore is not trapped. Moth B flies into the region of influence and is attracted to the light source and is caught in the trap. Moth C flies directly into the region of influence and towards the light source and is trapped.

At full moon the effective radius of the light-trap was calculated to be only 35 meters (38 yards). At this moon phase the region of influence is considerable smaller because of the brighter moon. In other words the point at which there is no decrease in intensity (the boundary of the region of influence) is much closer to the artificial light source than at new moon (Fig. 2).



In this scenario moth A flies from west to east and does not enter the region of influence as it did in Figure 1. Moth B however although flying the same route as in Fig. 1 does not enter the region because this is much smaller. Moth C flies in a straight line to the region of influence and is trapped. This simple illustration shows that twice

as many moths could be trapped at new moon than at full moon.

The above investigations were conducted by using a 125 W mercury vapor light (MVL). Stewart et al (1967) using orientation to a 15-W blacklight source found that the corn earworm, *Helicoverpa zea*, was attracted to black-light from an estimated distance of 65 to 98 yards and the tobacco hornworm, *Manduca sexta*, from a distance of 131 to 148 yards.

Conclusions and discussion

Bowden's research has shown that the flight of African moths is not inhibited by full moon as compared with new moon but that the reduced catch is due to the smaller region of influence at full moon. This finding opens the door to ways of increasing the moth catch at full moon. One method is to increase the intensity of the artificial light source and thus extend the region of influence. For example, one might use two or three mercury vapor lights instead of one at full moon periods. Another, perhaps more efficient method is to use two or more MVL lights located 300 yards apart to greatly increase the region of influence. In sites where there are tall weeds or low bushes the region of influence might be increased by raising the height of the light source without a change in equipment. This, I believe, decreases the moth catch if a collecting sheet is employed.

Many other factors influence moth catch in light-traps such as temperature, cloud cover, moon rise and set, precipitation, and intensity of the artificial light source. In general temperatures above normal increase moth catches. However moths will fly at much lower temperatures than most people imagine. The "winter moths", *Lithophane*, *Pyreferra* and *Eupsilia*, in February and March may fly at F temperatures of 40 to 50 degrees. On October 2, 1995 *Udea rubigalis* was still flying at midnight at Mud Lake at a

temperature of 43 degrees F. Heavy cloud cover, which obscures the full moon, counteracts the effects of decreased moth catch at this phase. One example of how moon rise and set affects catch will occur on July 18, 1996 when the moon sets at 8:40 PM and does not rise until the following day at 8:14 AM (1996 Old Farmer's Almanac). As far as precipitation is concerned my experience has been that a light rain drizzle increases moth catch but heavy rains decrease it.

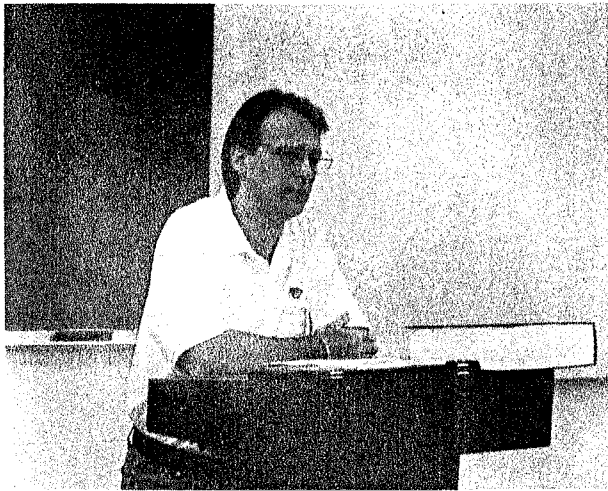
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- Steyskal, G. C. et al. 1986.** Insects and mites: techniques for collection and preservation. U. S. Dep. Agric. ARS. Misc. Pub 1443:1-103.

FUN IN THE SUN WITH THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS

by Charles V. Covell, jr.
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On Sept. 6 I flew to Jackson, Mississippi, where Leroy Koehn and Drew Hildebrandt picked me up at the airport. We drove to Bay St. Louis, seeking vain for a recently described *Euphyes* species, but found the tidal marsh difficult to enter. Lacking waders, I stayed out of the muck,



Photos of the 96 Southern Lepidopterists Annual Meeting by Charles Covell:

Above: John Calhoun presiding. **Top-Right:** Irv Finkelstein and Leroy Koehn on the hunt. **Bottom-Right:** Charles Covell suiting up. **Bottom:** Current KY LEP President Jim Taylor and his wife Pauline. **Opposite Page:** **Top-Left:** Richard Brown. **Top-Right:** Southern Lepidopterist Newsletter Editor Leroy Koehn presenting. **Bottom-Left:** Vernon Brou. **Bottom Right:** Bryant Mather.



Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Membership List: Revised April 15, 1997

Board members in bold type

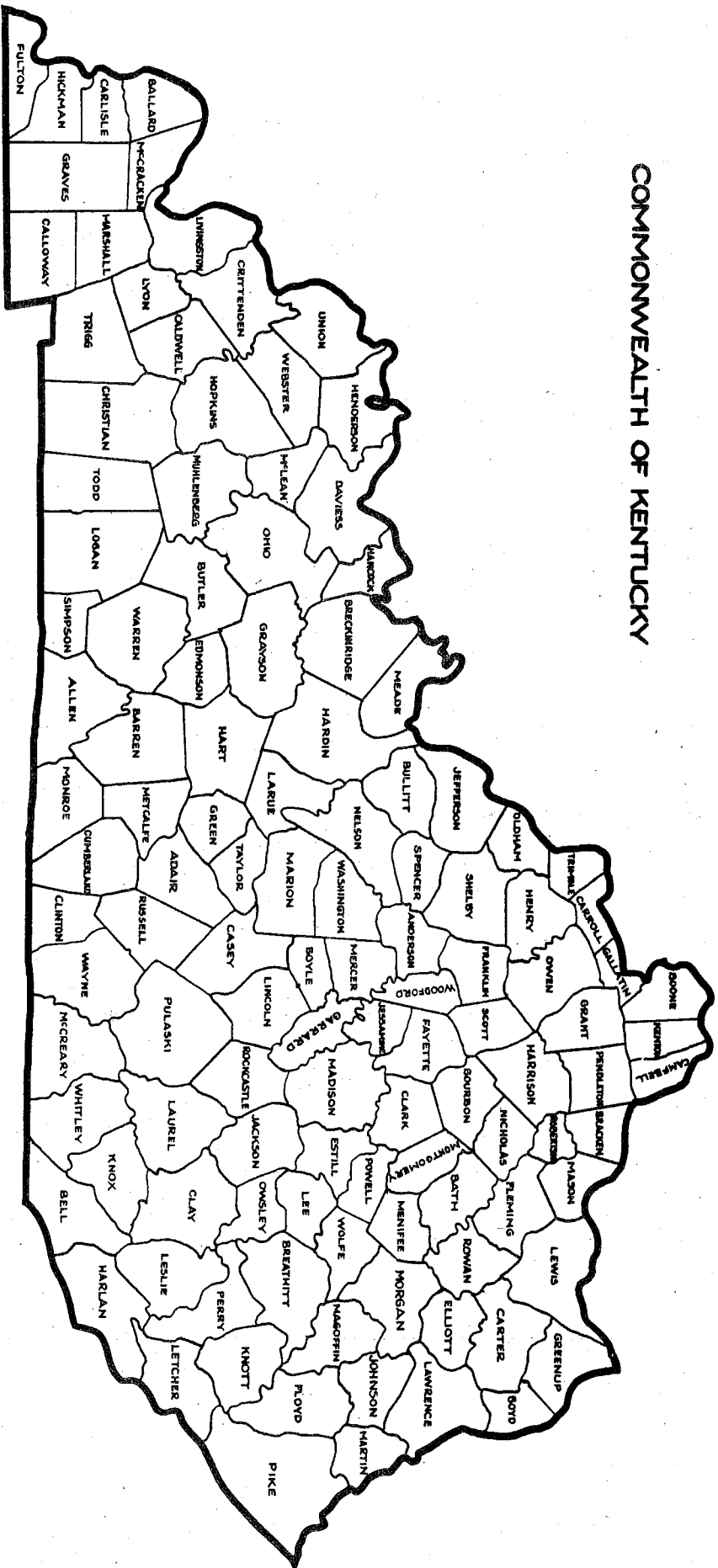
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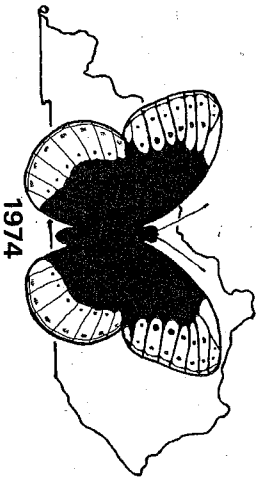
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Harry.	Ziflin,	pd97,	39-60 54th St., #10E.	Woodside NY 11377		
Acquisitions.	Section,	pd85,	Dept. of Library Services, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road	London SW7 5BD England		
BIOISIS	U.K.,	EX,	Garforth House, 54 Micklegate, York,	North Yorkshire YO1 1LF England		
Library.	Acquisitions,	pd87,	Smithsonian Institution, 10th & Constitution Ave.,	Washington DC 20560		
Libraries.	Serails Dept.,	pd95,	Colorado State Univ.,	Fort Collins CO 80523		
Xorces	Society,	EX,	4828 SE Hawthorne Blvd.	Portland OR 97215-3252		
Sociedad	Mexicana,	EX,	de Entomologia, Apartado Postal 63, 91000 Xalapa,	Veracruz MEXICO		
		EX,	Allyn Museum of Entomology, 3621 Bay Shore Road,	Sarasota FL 34234		W-(615)532-0431
			Dept. Env. & Conserv., 401 Church St., 8th floor L & C Tower,	Nashville TN 37243-0447		

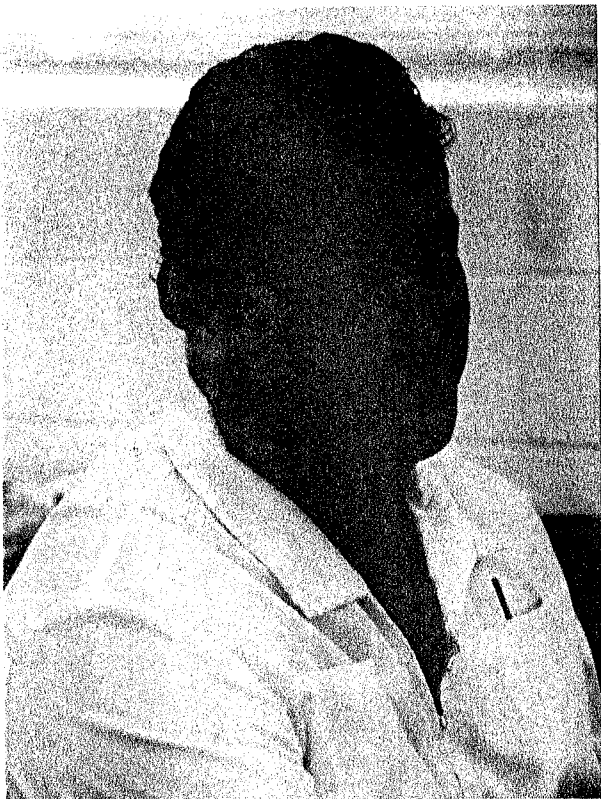
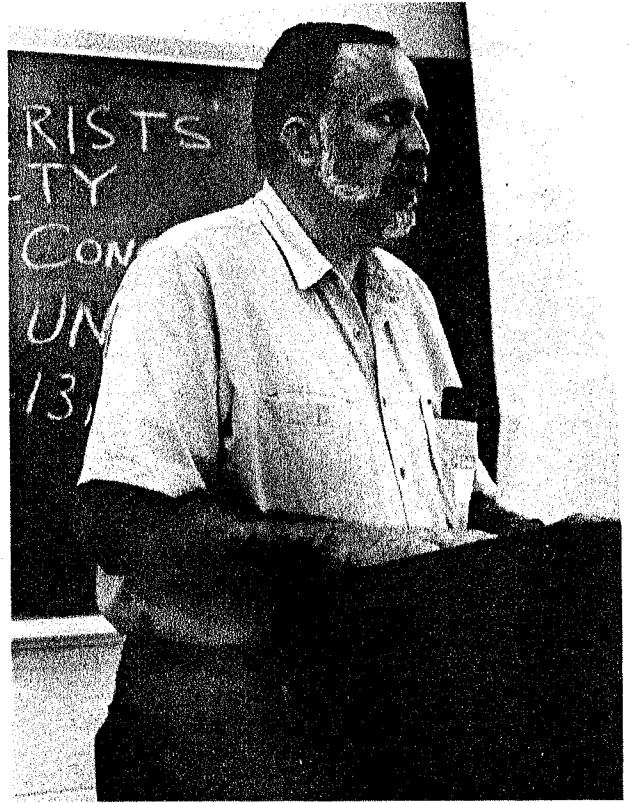
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY



*The Society of
Kentucky Lepidopterists*



This Kentucky County Map is provided for your use in taking field notes. Feel free to make copies.



and recorded the following butterflies: *E. clarus*, *Polites vibex*, *Hylephila phyleus*, *Lerema accius*, *P. glaucus*, *P. troilus*, *Heraclides crespontes* (photographed 2 males courting a female in flight), *P. sennae* (common everywhere this weekend), *Junonia coenia*, and several *Phyciodes phaon*. We then went on to Ocean Springs, passing lovely old waterfront homes in the Biloxi area. We checked into a dormitory at the Gulf Coast Marine Biological Station, the site of the Southern Lepidopterists Annual Meeting. That evening Leroy put out a light, but reported very little there.

The next morning, the meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists was held at the main building of the Station with about 24 members in attendance. It was a very pleasant place. I gave a slide-illustrated talk on Lepidoptera field and research work in a variety of places at home and abroad. After a splendid dinner at a catfish and shrimp house [Ed. Note: *Ictalurus* sp. & *Penaeus* sp. respectively], several of us went to collect moths (Leroy Koehn, Jeff Sloten, Bryant Mather, Ricky Patterson, Drew Hildebrandt, Andy Anderson, Irving Finkelstein, and I). We drove past Pascagoula, MS to a remote area. I took only a few mantispids and other non-Lepidoptera, for there was almost nothing attractive to catch. One *Eacles imperialis* was collected by Ricky.

Sept. 8. After breakfast at the Waffle House we all went to Big Biloxi Recreational Area and collected along a power line amid gorgeous *Liatris* (blazingstar) and other flowers. Species we recorded included: *Epargyreus clarus*, *Erynnis horatius* (?), *Thorybes bathyllus*, *Lerema accius*, *Oligoria maculata*, *Panoquina ocola*, *Polites themistocles*, *Polites vibex*, *Hylephila phyleus*, *Atalopedes campestris*, *Wallengrenia otho*, *Atrytone logan*, *Poanes yehl* (seen), *Eurytides marcellus* (seen by Leroy), *Pterourus glaucus*, *Pterourus troilus*, *Papilio palamedes*, *Phoebis sennae*, *Eurema lisa*, *Eurema nicippe*,

Zerene cesonia, *Atlides halesus* (Leroy and I each took a female), *Calycopis cecrops*, *Strymon melinus*, *Agraulis vanillae*, *Euptoieta claudia*, *Limenitis archippus*, *L. arthemis astyanax* (saw several), *Junonia coenia*, *Cercyonis pegala* (I took one female), *Hermeuptychia sosybius*, *Euptychia areolata* (common in powerline cut) and *Danaus plexippus*.

At the Jackson MS airport, just after letting me out of his car, Leroy picked up a White-M Hairstreak, *Parrhasius m-album* from the pavement behind his vehicle! Thus ended a most delightful day and trip.

The Southern Lepidopterists have recently become reorganized, with John Calhoun as Chairman and Leroy Koehn as newsletter editor (second time around!). The group will welcome your membership and support. Send dues of \$12 per year to Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Sloten at 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653.

THE 1996 FALL FIELD MEETING

by Charles V. Covell, jr.

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On a sunny Friday, Sept. 13 I took Dr. Charles Bloch (age 85), Vince Lucas, and Jeremy Fraser with me to western Kentucky for the fall meeting of the Kentucky Lepidopterists. We stopped late in the afternoon at Pennyrite Forest State Park at our usual place (bridge over dirt road in woods), and found the following butterflies: *E. clarus*, *S. cybele* (several; on thistles), *P. tharos*, *L. arthemis astyanax* (as many as 8 fresh males at once in road), *Hermeuptychia sosybius*, *Cyllopsis gemma*. On the way out, in a field of wild flowers dominated by *Solidago* and *Ageratum*, we recorded *Pyrgus communis*, *Polites themistocles*, *Hylephila phyleus*, *Everes comyntas*, *Strymon melinus*, and *Junonia coenia*. We then proceeded on to

Paducah and Bill and Nancy Black's home. Next morning the group gathered to visit several spots Bill had scouted out for us. All told, the following participated in some way in the field trip, Sept. 13-15, 1996: Leroy Koehn, Bill Black, Phil Sisto, Carolyn Roof, Danny Howard, Jim Vargo, Charles Bloch, Vince Lucas, Jeff Dembo, Zach Dembo, Rohan Dixit, Jeremy Fraser, Greg Stevens and myself.

Sept. 14 was a sunny, perfect day. We first went to a spot in the outskirts of Paducah, McCracken Co., where I took 2 female *Euphyes dion* and others took *Enodia portlandia missarkae* (new county records). We also recorded: *Epargyreus clarus*, *Erynnis horatius* (?), *Polites themistocles*, *Polites peckius*, *Polites origenes*, *Poanes zabulon*, An *Cyloxipha numitor*, *Wallengrenia egeremet*, *Atalopedes campestris*, *Hylephila phyleus*, *Euphyes vestris metacomiet*, *Battus philenor*, *Papilio polyxenes asterius* (1 male seen), *Pterourus glaucus*, *Pieris rapae*, *Colias eurytheme*, *Eurema nicippe*, *Phoebis sennae eubule*, *Fenesica tarquinius*, *Lycaena phlaeas americana*, *Everes comyntas*, *Strymon melinus*, *Libytheana bachmanii*, *Vanessa atalanta*, *Junonia coenia*, *Euptoieta claudia*, *Limenitis archippus*, *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*, *Speyeria cybele*, *Phyciodes tharos*, *Asterocampa celtis*, *Polygonia interrogationis*, *Polygonia comma*, and *Danaus plexippus*.

We then drove to a spot in Ballard County to a spot where Stovall Creek was accessible from the road. The creek bed was dry, so most of what we recorded was along the road. Species seen or caught here included: *E. clarus*, *Pyrgus communis*, *P. themistocles*, *A. campestris*, *H. phyleus*, *E. nicippe*, *P. sennae eubule*, *E. comyntas*, *L. archippus*, *L. arthemis astyanax*, *P. tharos*, *P. interrogationis*, and *D. plexippus*.

Finally we stopped at Murphy's Pond, Hickman Co., where we saw very little in the way of

Lepidoptera. There was a *Limenitis arthemis astyanax* in Bill's bait trap, and I also saw *A. numitor* and *L. archippus*.

Leroy Koehn, separated from us since the 14th, reported the following from Willingham Bottoms, 2.5 miles on Rt. 94 east of Cayce in Fulton Co.: *Lerema accius*, *Ancyloxipha numitor*, *H. phyleus*, *A. campestris*, *B. philenor*, *Phoebis sennae eubule*, *Vanessa atalanta*, *Limenitis archippus*, *Satyrodes appalachia*, *Enodia anthedon*. At the Bunge Corp. loading facility at Hickman he found *Panoquina ocola*, *Pholisora catullus*, *Polites origenes*, *Atrytone logan*, *Pterourus troilus*, *Pontia protodice*, *Eurema lisa*, *E. nicippe*, *Zerene cesonia*, *Chlosyne nycteis*, *Polygonia interrogationis*, *P. comma*, *Limenitis archippus*, *L. arthemis astyanax*, *Asterocampa clyton*, *Anaea andria*, and *Enodia anthedon*.

That night we black-lighted in a parking lot along the canal linking the 2 lakes in Land Between the Lakes, Lyon Co., where we caught *Catocala vidua*, *C. piatrix*, and *C. robinsoni*, *Nomophila nearctica*, *Semiothisa continuata*, *Anacamptodes defectaria*, *Thysanophyga intractata*, *Scopula limboundata*, *Pleuroprucha insulsaria*, *Grammia* sp., *Cisthene plumbea*, *Hypoprepia fucosa*, *Cisseps fulvicollis*, *Platyphena scabra*, *Idia americana*, *Idia lubricalis*, *Caenurgina erechtea*, *Spodoptera ornithogalli*, *Pseudaletia unipuncta*, *Galgula partita*, *Erastria grata*, and others. In a light trap not far away from this spot, Leroy Koehn caught *Schinia nundina* and *S. arcigera*. Those in the group from farther south commented that this has been a banner year for underwings (*Catocala* species).

Sept. 15. A cloudy day (rained after noon). After breakfast at Denny's in Paducah, Bill Black led our group first to the Willingham Bottoms spot mentioned earlier. There were not many plants in bloom, and not many butterflies. I took one female *Poanes yehl*, and there were plenty of *Satyrodes appalachia*. I also saw lots of

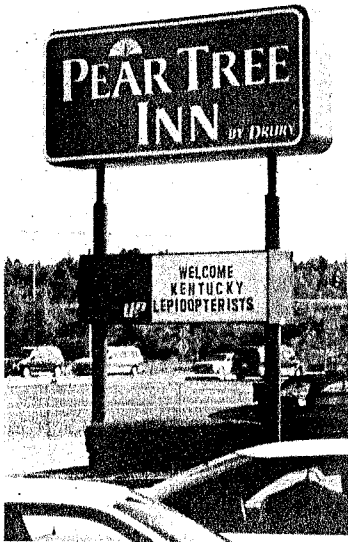
Photos of the SKL Fall 96 Field Trip by Charles Covell:

Top-Left: Pear Tree Inn welcome sign.

Top-Right: (Right to Left) Phil Sisto, Jeremy Fraser, Leroy Koehn, Bill Black, Charles Block, and Vince Lucas.

Bottom: A field in Pennyryle Forest State Park.

Opposite Page: Top-Left: Vince Lucas stands ready to flush a caterpillar. Top-Right: Vince's Quarry, the larva of *Citheronia regalis* (F.) (Royal Walnut Moth) or Hickory Horned Devil. Bottom-Left: Bill Black en regalia. Bottom Right: Leroy Koehn at one of his bait traps.





Ancyloxipha numitor, and few *E. comyntas*, *P. tharos*, *P. interrogationis*, *L. archippus* and *L. astyanax*, *Speyeria cybele*, and *D. plexippus*. Leroy Koehn had a couple of *Enodia portlandia missarkae* in his bait trap. We then drove out to the Bunge Corp. grain loading facility at Hickman, and recorded *E. clarus*, *H. phyleus*, *C. eurytheme*, *C. philodice*, *Eurema nicippe*, *E. lisa*, *P. sennae eubule*, *Z. cesonia* (Vince Lucas took one male), *E. comyntas*, *S. melinus*, *S. cybele*, *P. tharos*, *P. comma*, *L. archippus*, *L. arthemis astyanax*, *E. anhedon*, and *D. plexippus*. Departing after about 1:00 PM local time, we drove home (mostly in rain). The weekend yielded butterfly species with a number of new county records.

NEWS & NOTICES

The Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute will host the Invertebrates in Captivity Conference in Tucson, Arizona, July 31-August 3, 1997. Copies of the 1996 Proceedings can be obtained for \$20 postage paid in the U.S. For further information contact Steve Prchal, Director, Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute, P.O.Box 5624, Tucson, Arizona 85703. You may also call (520) 883-3945 or email arthrostud@aol.com or go to their website at <http://www.azstarnet.com/~sasi>. (BSN)

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Remember, **BACKISSUES** of the **KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST** can be purchased at the following rates:

Volume 1-18	\$1.25 individual issue/\$5.00 per volume
Volume 19	\$2.50 individual issue/\$5.00 per volume
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