

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 24, Number 3 July 1998

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At Large Members

Jessica Hutti

Loran Gibson

Reed Watkins

Eric Metzler

Annual July 4 Count

Homer Wildlife Sanctuary, Oldham Co.

10:00 am-3:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

Gather at the General Store in Brownsboro, 1 mile north of I-71, exit 71, (just east of Louisville) at 9:30 pm.

Let Charlie Covell know if you will attend as a counter, recorder, or learner.

Fall Field Trip

September 11-13, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Saturday gather - Denny's Restaurant, (Pear Tree Inn), Paducah, KY I-24 exit 4, 9:00 pm

Friday - Call Bill Black 1-502-442-9587 or e-mail Carolyn Roof - gardener@sunsix.infi.net for more information. We will figure something out.

Saturday -1. Great Purple Hairstreak site - Island Creek (collect sparingly)

2. Livingston Co., Cumberland River, Bissell Bluff (see Edward Sadler article)

3. Hybrid (Viceroy-Red-spotted Purple) Site, Fulton County, Mississippi River

4. Evening - Nothing

Sunday - Bill said that if anyone wants to go to a special place, let him know.

Meals - To save time, please bring lunch and dinner, drinks, snacks, etc. We will stop at a Minit-Mart type grocery along the way if need be, but will not go to a sit-down restaurant.

Lodging: East side of I-24, exit 4 - Days Inn; Courtyard by Marriott 1-800-321-2211; Drury 1-800-325-8300; Holiday Inn Express 1-800-HOLIDAY;

West side of I-24, exit 4 - Best Inns 1-800-BEST INN; Comfort Suites 1-800-228-5150; Drury Suites 1-800-325-8300; Pear Tree Inn 1-800-282-8733.

President's Message

With the days going by so quickly, our Annual Meeting in November will be upon us before we know it. Now more than ever, our Society needs active participation by a wider range of our membership. Our immediate need is for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee, to come up with candidates for next year's officers. Also, anyone willing to hold office is more than welcome to volunteer. Contact me at the above address.

It seems this year is getting away from us. In my area, many species have emerged earlier than ever recorded, some as much as 10-14 days. Although, a bit too early to tell, 1998 may be a good year for southern migrants. In fact, I just heard that a Snout Butterfly (*Libytheana bachmanii*) turned up in Minn. the last of May. This is very unusual.

Hopefully, you all will have opportunities to find and document something unusual in your area. Please send us a note if you find something interesting. . . Les Ferge

Butterfly First

By Charlie Covell

The big spring butterfly news is that Paul Florence collected the first specimen in over 25 years of the Frosted Elfin, *Callophrys irus*, in Harlan Co., KY, in late April; and Loran Gibson took a spring specimen of the White M Hairstreak, *Pantheides m-album*, at Big Bone Lick State Park, Boone Co., KY, also in late April.

The season has been early, except for the freeze toward the end of March. Plants and Lepidoptera seem to have weathered that winter low temperature (10 and 16 degrees respectively in Paducah and Louisville, KY) fairly well; my butterfly bush canes survived, though I did put a plastic sheet over them that one night.

Bernheim Forest Trip

April 11, was a gorgeous Saturday before Easter, with the temperature in the upper 60s. The group met at 10:00 am, at the front gate of Bernheim Forest, and included Eric Belcher and his parents, Sean Lube, Zack Denbo, Yin-rei Hicks, Natalia Axelrod, Clint Collins, Natalie Wise, Christa Mudd, Shawna Courtney and her son, and Charlie Covell.

Along the Wilson Creek Road, we recorded the following Lepidoptera:

Erynnis juvenalis, *E. brizo*, *Battus philenor*, *Papilio glaucus*, *P. troilus*, and *Eurytides marcellus* (frequently seen and very popular), *Anthocharis midea*, *Pieris virginianensis*, *Colias eurtheme*, *C. philodice*, *Callophrys gryneus* (on cedar trees), *Callophrys herrici*, *Celastrina ladon*, *Everes comyntas*, *Polygonia interrogationis*, *Vanessa atalanta*, *Vanessa virginiensis*, *Phyciodes tharos*, and *Aneaea andria*.

Moths recorded were: *Semiothisa quadrinotaria* and *Melilla xanthometata* (Geometridae) and *Psychomorpha epimenis* (Noctuidae)

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest contains over 1800 labeled varieties with emphasis on hollies and dwarf conifers, and ornamental gardens. Located on 14,000 acres, it is one mile east of I-65 exit 112, (Clermont) just 35 miles south of Louisville.

Book Update

Peterson's Field Guide to Eastern Moths

by Dr. Charles V. Covell

Peterson Field Guides has decided not to reprint Field Guide to Eastern Moths. The book is therefore "out of print", though still available at some bookstores. If you do not have a copy, or even if you do, purchase what you can so that when the

Member News

Paul Florence is working on his PhD research in Harlan and Bell Counties (Southeastern Kentucky) this summer. He is comparing the Lepidoptera fauna of three nature preserve habitats. He is particularly interested in finding the rare and unstudied geometrid moth, *Lytrosis permagnaria*, in Bell County in the first week in June, where and when it has been previously recorded.

JohnEnz, KYLEPS Secretary, is completing his PhD research on butterfly pollination biology at Horner Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary, Oldham County (just east of Louisville) He is writing his dissertation now, and expects to take a position at Alderson Broaddus College in West Virginia this fall.

Charlie Covell was in Cost Rica the later part of May identifying and collecting Geometridae with Roy Mora of INBio. He then went to the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador collecting and photographing Lepidoptera with Lazaro Roque of the Charles Darwin Research Station. They, along with Bernard Landry of Ottawa, Ontario, are working on a field guide to Galapagos Lepidoptera.

Brainard Palmer-Ball spotted a Giant Swallowtail in Webster Co., May 19; Mourning Cloak and Goatweed Butterfly, Christian Co. May 30; Coral Hairstreak on dogbane in Lyon Co. June 3; and Common buckeye June 4 in Trigg Co. All counties mentioned are in western Kentucky.

His new e-mail is: palmer-ball@nrepc.nr.state.ky.us

Drop us a line or e-mail about what you are doing. It's nice to know what our members are doing.

New Members and Changes

The following are new members:

Sean M. Lube, 136 Paddock Drive, Versailles, KY 40383, phone 1-606-873-6578 (h), 272-0024 (w). "I am 20 years old and have been interested in Lepidoptera for four years now. My main interest in collecting is to look for variations in size, color, pattern and distribution, and the affects of the latter on these. I'm particularly interested in looking for gynandromorphic specimens, and night moth collecting."

Leroy C. Koehn, 6085 Wedgewood Village Circle, Lake Worth, FL, 33463, phone 1-561-966-1655 (h), 1-954-429-9155 extension 3003 (w).

Frank R. Bodnar's phone is: 1-724-478-3824

See page 9 for Bill Black's e-mail & above for Dr. Palmer-Ball.

Edward Sadler Visit

ed. note: On May 28, Edward Sadler visited Bill Black. The following is Mr. Sadler's write-up of that visit.

We arrived at the Black's residence on Tuesday May 26th to be received with much affection and courtesy by our dear friends Bill and Nancy, for this our 6th visit to Kentucky. Unfortunately, that night was clear and cold so no collecting could be done; his did, however, leave Bill and me fresh for our efforts on the 27th.

The day dawned bright and warm and by late morning Bill and I were collecting at the Streetman Site in Massac Creek Bottoms near U. S. 60 in Paducah, McCracken County.

Butterflies were scarce; we must have been between broods on most species. I was pleased to take several specimens of a white Haploa, as yet unidentified, on islands of grass surrounding bushes on the cut aild, this eng a new species to Kentucky collection.

Also, to my delight, 3 specimens of *Eudryas grata* two of which were mated. This species is new to me this trip, having just encountered 3 specimens in Alabama 3 days previously.

We then moved on to Bissell Bluff in Livingston Co. and the disused limestone quarries shown as Franklin Quarry on old topographical maps. (Bill Black notes that this is totally disturbed, but revegetated habitat hosts a variety of flora ranging from cacti to cat-tails.) Here we investigated, finding more Haploas in a grassy clearing which varied from white to black marked specimens. Here a *Papilio cresphontes* was seen but not taken. Goatweed butterflies were severally seen, and cicadas were in great numbers. Pairing flight were plentiful of both species of cicadas.

Spayeria cybele was flying in fair numbers visiting dogbane and other flowers. Specimens of alfalfa butterfly and silvery checkered spot and pearl crescent were also seen, and a few of the silvery checkered spot taken. Some hop merchants, norther pearly eye and little wood satyrs were also seen. Hckery butterflies were a usual nuisance and sil spotted skipper and a Red Admiral were spotted.

During this time we were appraising the locality with a view to running my mercury vapor light later. So after finishing the meal, so kindly provided by Nancy black, we put up a mothing sheet, fired up the generator and light and waited for the onset of dusk.

At 8:45 pm the light was running, and we were instantly assiled by a hoard of small brown caddis flies (species unknown) whose continual presence and arrival throughout the next 3 hours ade collecting the lepidoptera, which eventually arrived, a messy business. (Bill said that Edward kept

swipping the sheet with his net and then wringing the flies in the net. Edward's hands were wet at the end of the night.]

Undeterred, in spite of huge numbers of *Malacosoma americanus* adding to the hoard, we managed to obtain some interesting specimens. *M. disstria* arrived at 10:30 pm but in smaller numbers. Four *Acronicta lepusculina* arrived to be shared between us. A new species for me was a single specimen of *Spilosoma latipennis*. Also a single specimen of *Misogada unicolor* was taken. Two *Euparthenos nubilis* were seen and two *Actias luna* were present.

Several smaller moths in the bird dropping and other families waded into the bag by the time we switched off, ending an interesting pleasant trip to this part of Kentucky, which my wife and I left the lowing morning heading for Muhlenburg County.

ed. note: Bill and Edward met through KYLEPS. Edward is an english lepidopterist, ornithologist, and taxidermist. All of which he has done professionally. He was worked professionally as game keeper for large English estates. During the 1950s, as a member of the RAF, he served in Malaya.

He and Jan, his wife, were in Kentucky on vacation. She is a fan of country and western music, especially of the Everly Brothers, whose childhood home is in Central City, Mulhenburg County.

Edward Sadler can be reached at : 30 Mylen Road, ANDOVER, Hampshire SP10 3 HD, U.K.

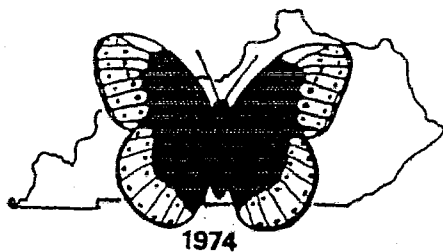


The Kentucky Lepidopterist Newsletter is published quarterly - January, April, July, and October.
Annual membership dues of \$10.00, are payable at the Annual Meeting in November or by mailing to the Treasurer.

Calendar of Events

June 13 - Pine Creek Nature Preserve
July 4 Count - Homer Wildlife Sanctuary
September 11-13 Fall Field Trip - Paducah
November Annual Meeting - Louisville

Charlie Covell
Charlie Covell
Bill Black



MAIL TO:
ALWAYS USE
ZIP CODE



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