

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS

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* term expires

The Society of Kentucky

Lepidopterists is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky. Membership dues are annual: \$10.00. Dues sent to the Treasurer: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

THE SOCIETY'S 27TH ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 16-17 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists will begin on Friday 16, November, with a presentation by Dr. Mark Scriber of the Dept. of Entomology, Michigan State Univ., who will give a talk entitled: "A tale of two tigers; hybrid zone dynamics and genetic differentiation in swallowtail butterflies", Friday afternoon, 4:00PM, in Room 23 of the Life Sciences Bldg. Mark has done extensive research on the *Papilio glaucus* complex. If you are planning on arriving for the meeting Friday afternoon, plan on hearing Dr. Scriber.

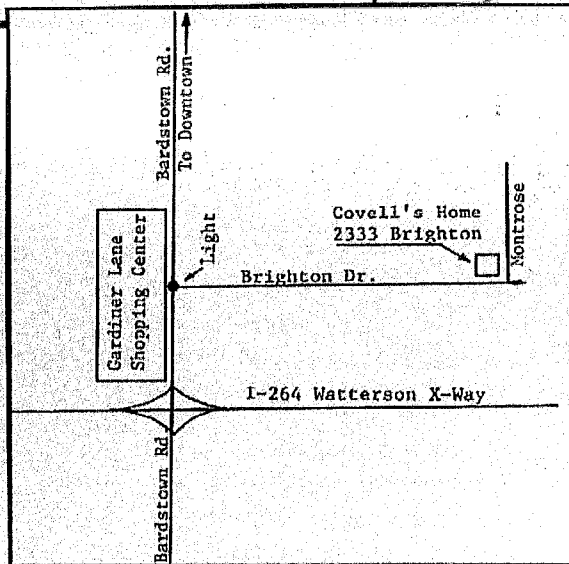
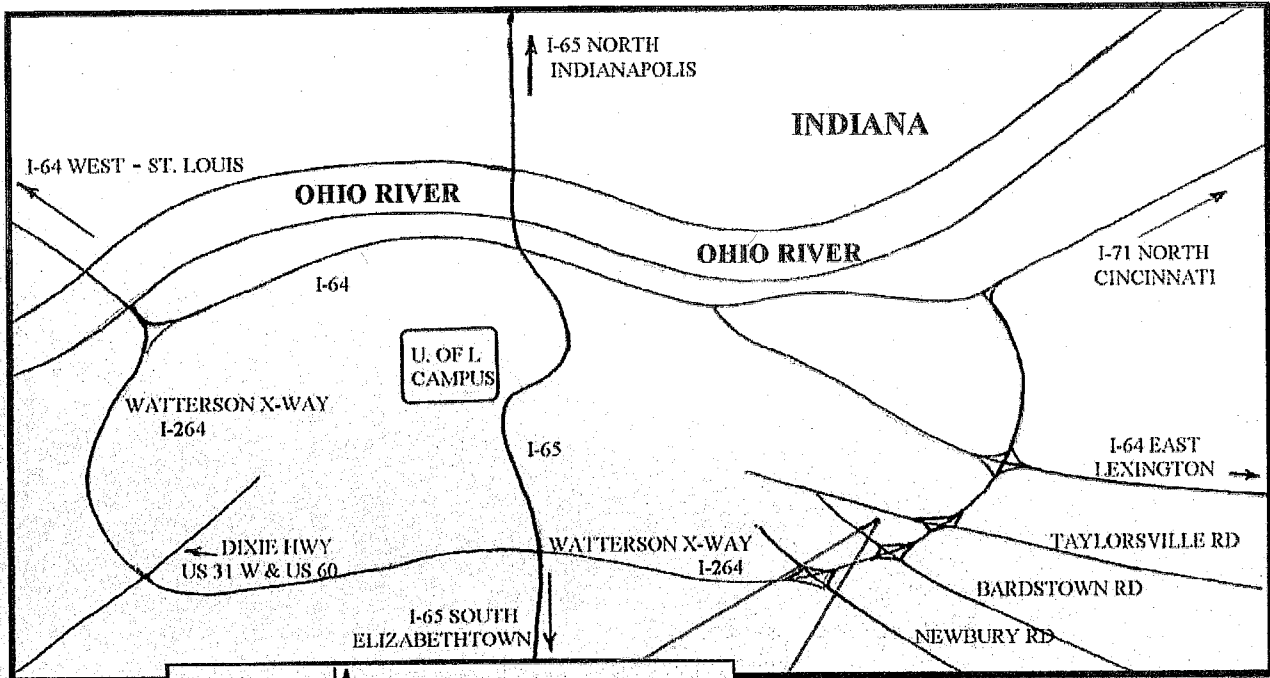
Friday night open house at the Covells', 7-11 PM. For direction to Dr. Covell's home, see map on page 21.

Saturday morning at 9AM the insect collection and entomology lab will be open at Life Sciences Bldg. Room 321, University of Louisville. The rest of morning for visiting, identifying specimens, buy-sell-trade, etc. The annual business meeting will begin at 1:00 PM in the room. There are several topics for discussion: 1.) Field reporting to be added to the newsletter as a means of increasing the data base of the Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey. 2.) Field coordinators to collect the data for the field reports. 3.) Dues increase. These topics need your input. As the Society determines direction, it is extremely important to have the input of the membership. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to express your ideas or suggestions on these topics, please write or e-mail Dr. Charles Covell, Jr., Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292-0001; E-mail: cvcove@athena.louisville.edu

Our key note speaker this year is John Shuey, Director of Conservation Science of the Indiana Office of the Nature Conservancy. The title of John's talk will be: "Conservation Reserves & Lepidoptera Conservation". There will be additional contributed papers, slide series, equipment and specimen displays, etc. If you want to present a paper or talk, please contact Dr. Charles Covell, Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292-0001; E-mail: cvcove01@athena.louisville.edu, to provide time for your presentation.

Dinner together follows at 6:00 PM at the University Club near the Life Sciences Building.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS TO COVELL RESIDENCE



DIRECTIONS TO COVELL RESIDENCE

Take the north exit of I-264 Watterson Expressway onto Bardstown Rd. You will see the Gardiner Lane Shopping Center on your left as you travel north on Bardstown Rd. Turn right at the traffic light onto Brighton Dr. Three blocks to 2333 Brighton on the left. Park in front, along the side on Montrose or in the Driveway. For additional information contact Dr. Covell; Office: 502-852-5942; Home: 502-456-6122, or E-mail: cvcove01@athena.louisville.edu

SUMMER FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM BIG BLACK MOUNTAIN

On Friday, 6 July, Bill Black, Charles Wright, Leroy Koehn, Bob Beiriger, Rick Ruggles and Roger Zeibold all met at 6:00PM on the top of Big Black Mountain to begin the Summer Field Meeting.

Leroy picked up Bob Beiriger at the Lexington airport upon his arrival from Palm Beach, Florida on Thursday morning and the two of them began collecting their way to Big Black Mountain with stops in Frankfort County, Red River Gorge in Powell and Menifee counties, and a spot near the town of Quicksand in Breathitt County. A dead snake (Road Kill) was picked up in Knott County for use in a bait trap. Upon arrival Friday afternoon, Leroy Koehn, Bob Beiriger, and Bill Black set out bait traps and light traps on Big Black Mountain. (Cont. on Pg. 21)

(Cont. from Pg. 20) This included a bait trap baited with the dead snake in hopes of attracting Polygonia progne and Polygonia faunus. A search of the summit of Big Black Mountain was conducted for collecting opportunities on Saturday and for a location to set up Leroy's light rig. The spot for the rig was at a pull off along Route 160 on the summit of the mountain in Virginia, about 100 yards from Kentucky state line. The temperature was 79 degrees as we set up. The spot was at a drop off that overlooked a heavy forested area. At twilight, Leroy netted a Sphinx eremitis from a milkweed bloom. This sphingid has only been reported twice from Kentucky, unfortunately, this one was taken in Virginia. The warm temperature made moth collecting excellent with large numbers of Catocala and Arctiid moths coming to the lights. Species of interest included: Catocala innubens, C.epione, C.habilis, C.judith, C.angusi, C.flebilis, C.residua, C.dejecta, C.nebulosa, C.subnata, C.illecta, C.coccinata, C.micronympha, C.connubialis, Haploa clymene, H.colona, H.contigua, H.lecontei, Spilosoma latipennis, Epantheria scribonia, Grammia anna, Lophocampa maculata, and Euchaetes egle.

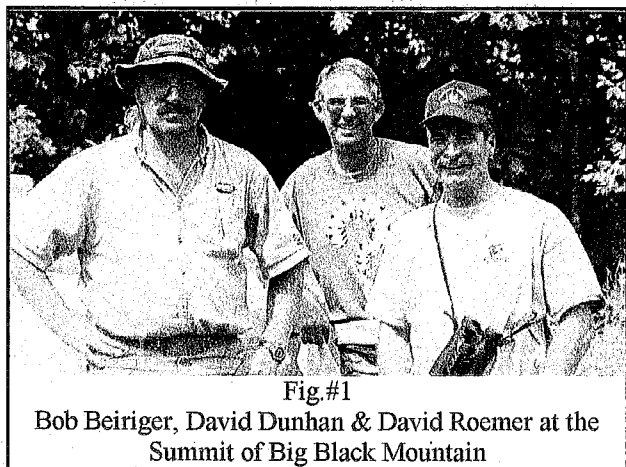


Fig.#1

Bob Beiriger, David Dunhan & David Roemer at the Summit of Big Black Mountain

Saturday morning brought an overcast sky which threatened rain. Light traps collected and sorted before 9AM. We met at 9AM at Kingdom Come State Park and were joined by David Roehmer, David Dunham, Charlie Covell, his son Chuck and his friend Leigh Cowan. We journeyed to the top of Big Black Mountain. We learned that the area where the ski lodge had been located was converted into an 50 acre apple orchard. Although there were numerous "No Trespassing" sign, we learned from the owners of the apple orchard that we could travel the roads of the mountain freely. A searched of the summit for Erora laeta was unsuccessful. The overcast sky hindered our search and slow drizzle began to fall.

Leroy checked his bait traps near the radar station and found a Darapsa versicolor in the trap baited with the dead snake. Some of us traveled over to Virginia and searched for Speyeria diana. However, by 1PM the sky began to clear and the milkweed patches were alive with Speyeria diana & hordes Speyeria cybele (Fig.#2).

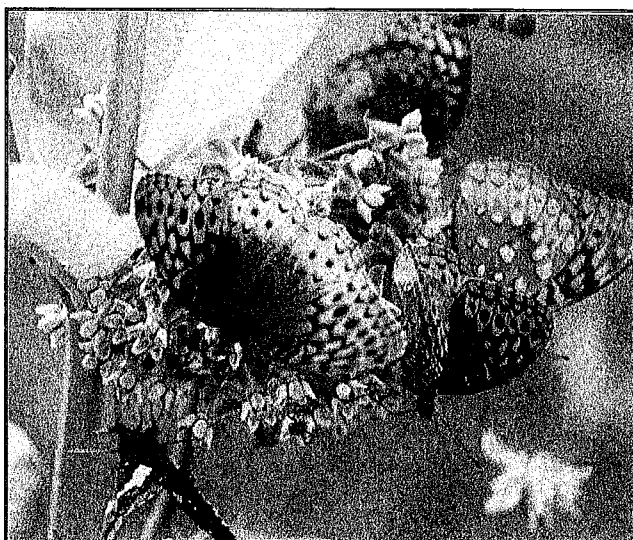


Fig.#2

Males Speyeria cybele on Milkweed

As evening approached, the wind began to increase. The air temperature on the summit of the mountain at 9PM was 58 degrees. The wind increased even more and we decided to go down the Kentucky side of the mountain to find a place along SR160 to set up. The temperature was 71 degrees at 10PM. The number of moths that came to the sheet were far less than Friday night. There were virtually no Catocala moths.

Sunday morning was sunny, our numbers reduced as the rain of the previous day resulted in several heading home early. One of Leroy's light traps produced several Sphinx eremitis, a species only recorded twice from Kentucky. Another search of the top of Big Black Mountain failed to produce Erora laeta. We did find several Speyeria aprodite. Leroy's bait traps produce an abundance of Darapsa versicolor and Sphecodina abbottii. Neither Polygonia progne nor P.fanus were found. Leroy and Bob went to the Virginia side of the mountain where they found John Hyatt working the milkweed patches for Speyeria diana. Several females were taken, but no Speyeria aphrodite were found amongst the hordes of Speyeria cybele and Battus philenor.

Although the target species were not found, all who came found something new. Another field trip to this area will be made in the future.

PRESIDENTS LETTER

CHARLES V. COVELL, JR.

It has been an excellent season for Lepidoptera in Kentucky and neighboring states. And some of us have enjoyed the excitement and fellowship of field trips from farthest east, Big Black Mountain, to farthest west, Hickman in Fulton County. In fact, even the farthest west and detached part of that county, New Madrid Bend, was explored for Lepidoptera by Bill Black for the first time ever. The "fun is done;" now the collection of the data and its entering in our new database at the University of Louisville must be done. I urge all of you to send your records of sightings and collections to me so I can add this information to our database. Katie Shipman is our new student worker on that project, replacing Jennifer Lewis, who is now a graduate student in entomology at the University of Georgia.

Compared with the previous 2-3 seasons, we seem to have had less early incursion of far-south butterflies in Kentucky. We did not find any Gulf Fritillaries in Paducah this year. I know of no Ocola Skipper records, which had become almost a regular in late summer. I saw only one Lerema accius all year, while it was common into October last year. And I did not see any Cloudless Sulphurs (Phoebis sennae eubule) in the Louisville area at all, and fewer than normal during our field trip to the Purchase area in September. On the other hand, Variegated Fritillaries were abundant for the July 4th count in Oldham County. on June 30. We counted 83. Mike Flynn had counted a large number the previous summer in the Lexington count.

In March Brainard Palmer-Ball discovered a colony of the Yucca Giant Skipper, Megathymus yuccae, in Calloway County. His photo and voucher specimen make official the addition of this species to the Kentucky list, and also represent a northward extension of its known range in the Mississippi Valley. Another major event was the discovery by Leroy of the first Regal Fritillaries, Speyeria idalia, in Kentucky for many years. The site was a field in Frankfort. This is a species of great concern as it has nearly disappeared from the eastern half of its range. I hope we can see these on the wing next year, late in June.

It was a "Vanessa Year," too. In the early part of the summer I saw more American Painted Lady (now called "American Lady") than I recall in recent history; and in much of our area the Red Admiral was unusually abundant.

Later, the Painted Lady became common - expected, since there were in clouds of them in parts of the West earlier in the summer. Also the Great Spangled Fritillary, Speyeria cybele, was more common than usual. It was still common at Bernheim Forest in Sept. and the latest records there being Oct. 9. Those in the eastern part of the state reported ample numbers of Diana Fritillary, Speyeria diana, and those of us on the July field trip were not disappointed, in seeking it.

The fall field trip was very successful for those of us who attended. I believe that 61 species of butterflies were recorded, including the new "hot spot" for Duke's Skipper, Euphyes dukesi, discovered by Bill Black the day after our visit with him in Paducah. Thanks, Bill and Nancy, for hosting another wonderful field trip.



Nancy Black: The fabulous host of Paducah

Catocala were common in both diversity and individual numbers in 2001. There has been concern about the low numbers in recent years. What has accounted for the increase? Usually climatic conditions beginning when adults are larvae the previous summer play a part, and the mild summer of 2000 and normal winter of 2000-2001 could help explain the phenomenon.

In the area of Lepidoptera education, we had the opportunity to put out a colorful poster on "Butterflies of Kentucky" in June, thanks to the initiative and support of Touchstone Energy's biologist, Jeff Hohman. The 32 butterfly photos were made by Loran Gibson, Tony Merkle and me, and I wrote the text.

They are being distributed statewide to all who want them, and I will have some to give you at the Annual Meeting. The Louisville Zoo also opened a butterfly house for the summer, and had a "Butterflies and Botanicals Day" in early June where I manned a booth and displayed specimens and talked with people, giving out our nectar source handouts. I also led butterfly walks at Bernheim Forest and Shantuck Girl Scout Camp during the summer.

I enjoyed joining the NABA July 4th Count at Lexington this year on July, organized by Mike Flynn. He and his wife came to the one we had at the Univ. of Louisville's Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County. June 30. We had good crowds at both counts. The Lexington count resulted in 34 species and 655 individuals; the Oldham County group recorded 733 individuals in 35 species. A first 4th Count at Bernheim Forest on Aug. 3 with Jeremy Bennett and Melanie Hurst brought 33 species and 383 individuals.

More exciting adventures await us next year. I urge you all to come to our annual meeting to share experiences, study collections and hear the talks on November 16-17. On Nov. 16 Dr. Mark Scriber of Michigan State Univ. will give a 4:00 PM seminar entitled "A Tale of Two Tigers: Hybrid zone dynamics and genetic differentiation in swallowtail butterflies." He will tell us about the Canadian and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail studies he has conducted for many years. It will be in Life Sciences Room 23 at the Univ. of Louisville. Then at the Saturday meeting (LF room 321) John Shuey will talk to us about habitat requirements for butterflies he has been studying in wetland habitats so we can better find the elusive skippers and other wetlands bugs. We expect talks from Ken Bliss of NJ, James Adams of GA, and several others. See you here Louisville.!

Cheers,
Charlie

NEW MEMBERS

Edwin C. Schiff, 240 Forsythia Dr., Paducah, KY 42003-901; Phone: 270-575-4830; E-mail: schiff_s_p@juno.com

Craig & Ian Segebarth, 250 Riverside Dr., Paducah, KY 42003-1031; Phone: 270-898-7319; E-mail: kev_segebarth@juno.com.

Stephen J. Stedman, 2675 Lakeland Drive, Cookeville, TN 38506; Phone: 931-528-3820.

NEWSLETTER UP DATE

With this issue of the Newsletter, we are in full color. If you have photographs of butterflies and moths, of Kentucky's Lepidopterists in action, or life cycles, please send them your Editor. They will appear in color.

We had three great field trips this season. Each one was exciting and enjoyable. The Friday night moth collecting on Big Black Mountain will be remember by all who stayed up late, collected some interesting moths, witnessed your Editor break into Charles Wright car after he managed to lock the keys inside with the motor running near the radar station at 2AM. Or, Sunday morning looking for fossil of ancient ferns trees in the road bed after Bill Blacks discovery. Or, getting Bill Black's truck out of the mud at Massac Creek in September. Or, sharing a meal of the greasiest steak and eggs at the Waffle House in Winchester during the spring meeting at Red River Gorge. You missed some great times. We plan to have three field meetings again next year, plan to attend one or all of them.

The newsletter is only as good as you, the membership, make it. Notes of interests, records and collection data and announcements are always wanted and welcome. We need your in put.

Inclosed is a membership application, pass it on to some one you think may be interested in joining us.

See you in Louisville at the Annual Meeting!

NOTICES

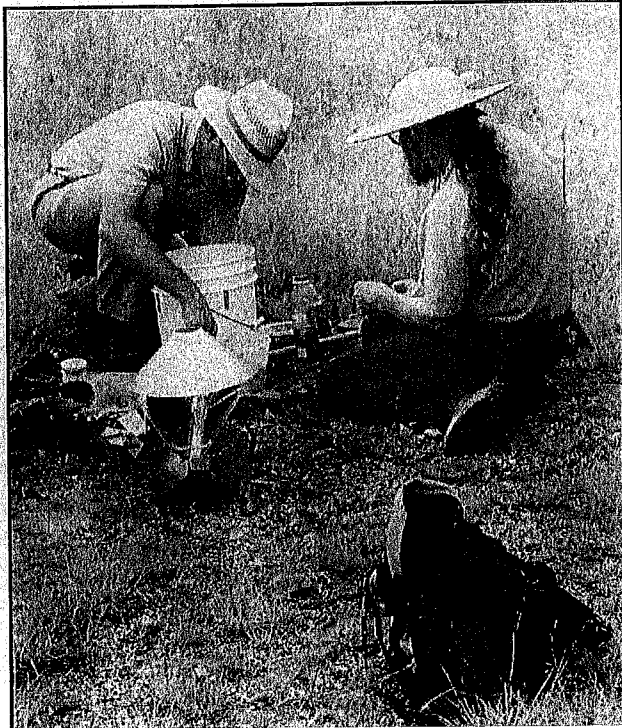
FOR SALE: Copies of the 3 parts of Mariposas del Ecuador [Generos, Arctiidae (part), and Papilionidae (new)]. Cost: \$27 each, postpaid in USA. Order and make checks to Charlie Covell, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292-0001.

THIS-N-THAT

NEWS ITEM: Dr. Charles V. Covell, Jr. will receive the Kentucky Academy of Science annual award for Distinguished College/University Scientist at the joint annual meetings of the KAS and Tennessee Academy of Science at Murfreesboro, TN on November 9.

NEWS ITEM: Our Editor, Leroy C. Koehn, has received the John Abbot Award by the Southern Lepidopterists Society. He is being recognized for his many years of service to the Southern Lepidopterists Society. He served as State Coordinator for Virginia for 5 years and as Newsletter Editor for 10 years

MORE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM FIELD MEETING AT BIG BLACK MOUNTAIN

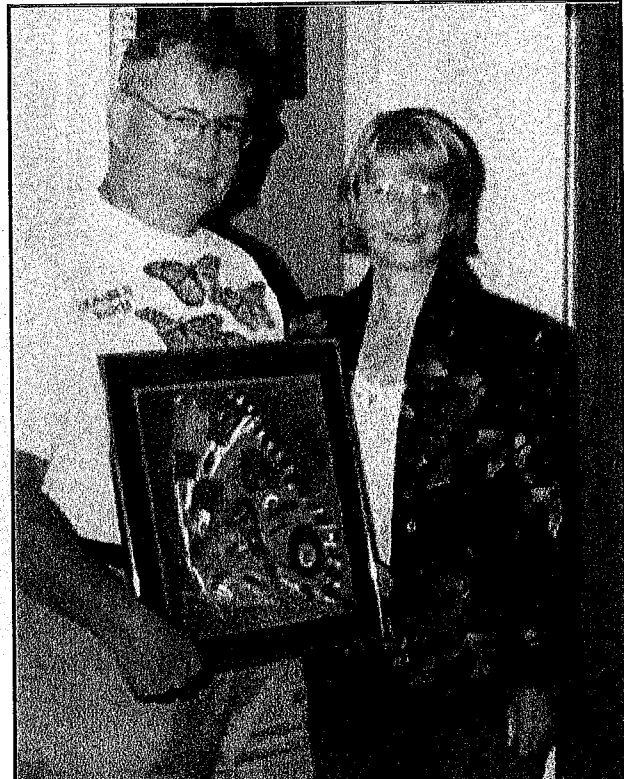


Bill Black and Charles Wright sort out a light trap Sunday morning on the top of Big Black Mountain



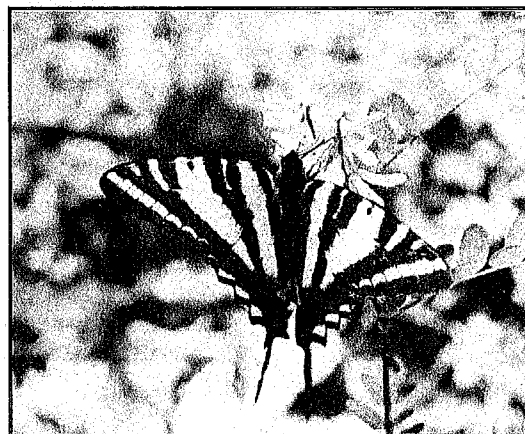
Leroy Koehn nails the "No Trespassing sign" on Friday afternoon on top of Big Black Mountain

CARL CORNETT AWARD PRESENTED TO CAROLYN ROOF



Dr. Charles V. Covell, Jr. present the Carl Cornett Award to Carolyn Roof.

Dr. Charles V. Covell, Jr. presents the Carl Cornett Award to Carolyn Roof in recognition of her service as Newsletter Editor to the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists during the Fall Field Trip to western Kentucky.



Eurytides marcellus
Red River Gorge, 21 April 2001

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Leroy C. Koehn collected an aberrant Erynnis juvenalis (Fig.1) during the spring field meeting to Red River Gorge. Menifee County, 21 April 2001.

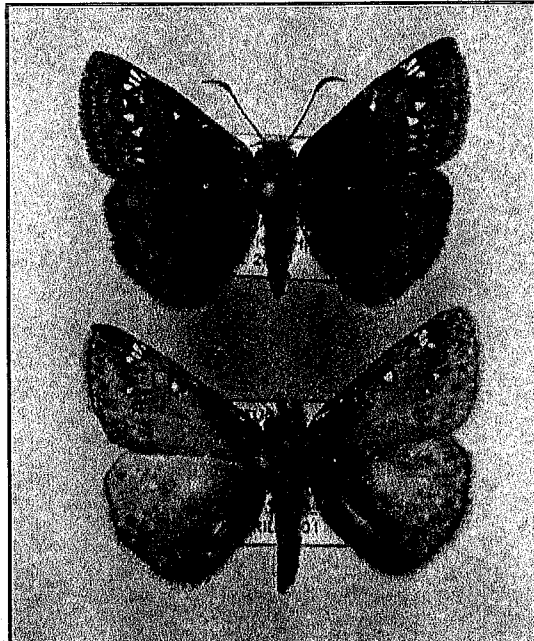


Fig. 1
Erynnis juvenalis
Top: Typical male
Bottom: Aberrant male

Jackie B. Elmore of Bowling Green, Warren County photographed an Long-tailed Skipper (Fig.2) Urbanus proteus in 23 September 2001 while visiting buddleia in her garden.

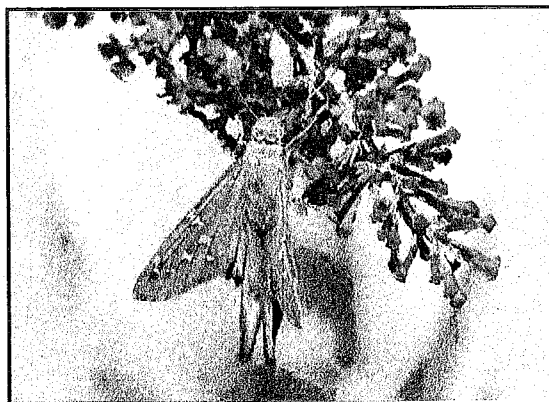


Fig. 2
Long Tailed Skipper; Urbanus proteus

David Roemer of Bowling Green photographed the Heliconius charitonius (Fig. 3) on 21 Aug 2001. This is a state record for this species.



Fig.3
Zebra Longwing; Heliconius charitonius

Bill Black reported collecting four male specimens of Euerythra phasma (Fig.4) in a light trap in the New Madrid Bend, the extreme tip of western Kentucky in Fulton County on July 21, 2001

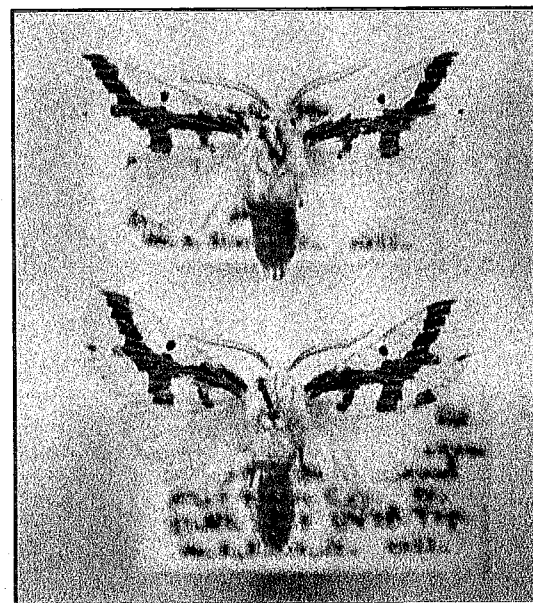


Fig.4
Euerythra phasma

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