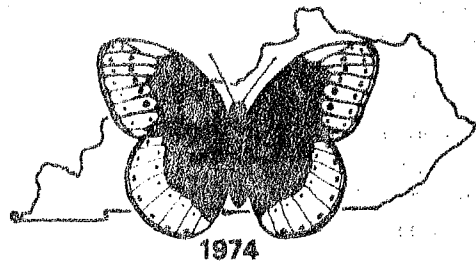


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists



VOLUME 2, Number 3

C. V. Covell Jr., Editor

AUGUST, 1976

JULY FIELD MEETING A BIG SUCCESS FOR ALL

There were about 19 of us who converged on the farm of Bill and Nancy Black on Clinton Rd., 6 miles SW of Paducah in McCracken Co., Kentucky, on Friday, July 23. Members present, most with family along, included Rich Fellows, Loran Gibson, Richard Henderson, Mike McInnis, Brett Barrett, Charlie Covell, Dave Dove, Al Brownell, and Paul Pfenniger. Most of us set up tents or campers in the "back 40" and Nancy treated us to a fine cookout. That night we collected moths around Bill's dual blacklight set-up on his garage, or put out our own lights in the field (some of us spent a little time near a quarry site near Wice Church). Since it was a night combining the dark-of-the-moon with heat and humidity, the bag was rewarding.

On Saturday the mighty hunters set out for a full day in three promising collecting sites. Botanist Raymond Athey acted as our guide as we fought the heat of the hottest day of the summer (102° recorded in Paducah) to find interesting butterflies. Our first visit was to the Kentucky Wildlife Management Area in McCracken County near the Ohio River, where we recorded the following species: P. glaucus, V. virginiensis, C. eurytheme, E. comyntas, L. phlaeas americana, A. numitor, T. bathyllus, another Thorybes sp. (confusus or pylades), P. coras, and E. clarus. Nothing was in abundance.

Our second stop was at the water-flooded Ballard Wildlife Refuge, Ballard Co. This area along the Ohio is famous for duck and goose hunting in season. Although nothing really exciting was recorded during our visit, I suspect that some interesting skipper records can be recorded there in proper season (May and Aug.-Sept.). We saw and/or caught the following: D. plexippus, P. troilus, L. archippus, P. tharos, G. marcellus, P. interrogationis, P. comma, A. celtis, V. atalanta, P. coenia, P. cresphontes, C. eurytheme, P. sennae eubule (several seen), P. catullus, A. numitor, E. cymela, P. rapae, and L. bachmanii.

We lunched on fresh catfish and hushpuppies at the Fin and Feather Restaurant in Oscar, Ky., and then headed for Murphy's Pond in Hickman Co. This spot is renowned among Kentucky naturalists as the best cypress swamp in the Commonwealth, and the northern limit of the Cottonmouth Moccasin. After a walk along Rt. 307 where S. melinus, V. atalanta, and Erynnis sp. were seen, we negotiated a plowed field in our cars and parked in the woods near the pond. In the woods we found a few fresh Lethe anhedon, Euptychia cymela, and Eu. hermes sosybius. P. glaucus, P. troilus, and V. atalanta were also seen here. Then we trudged into the Pond area, where the sight of swampy waters and tall grasses combined to mean but one thing butterfly-wise: a good spot for Lethe appalachia (formerly L. eurydice appalachia). Sure enough, we found some flying around amid the cypress knees, and those of us who were there took about 14 specimens. It was a "first" for

some of us (first in Ky. for Covell, who first encountered it in Montgomery Co., Virginia). So the day was a success after all. P. tharos was the only other butterfly species seen around the edge of the Pond.

All of us except Black and Henderson returned to the Black Farm for cleanup, cool-off, and some evening moth collecting either at Bill's lights, or at a hill-top spot 2 miles farther SW of Paducah overlooking Mayfield Bottoms. The catch was again quite good. C. regalis and E. imperialis were "in season," and some Catocala, A. io, and a few common sphingids were taken.

During the time the "boys" were out collecting, Nancy and the families were enjoying some of the sights of Paducah, and the summer festival there. Sunday morning saw a slow exodus homeward, with a backward glance at the nest sign with our Society emblem on it that Bill's brother, Cliff, had painted and put across the road from Bill's house. It was a mighty fine weekend, especially because of the super hospitality of Nancy and Bill Black - and Will (who shared his toys!).

PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER FIELD WEEKEND

Richard Henderson is making plans for you to attend a collecting weekend at Otter Creek Park in Meade Co., Ky., about 45 minutes from Louisville. The insect we will be after on this trip is LEONARD'S SKIPPER, Hesperia leonardus Harris. This skipper is single-brooded, feeds on grasses, and flies from late August into mid-September. It likes to perch on high flowers like Iron-weed and Joe Pye-weed. Our records are for Meade and Larue counties only, from 30 Aug. to Sept. 15. The butterfly is certainly widely distributed in our state, and should turn up wherever there are grassy fields with plenty of wildflowers.

Those who wish to camp at Otter Creek Park may do so for a nominal charge. Some of us from Louisville will just go down for the day on Saturday, Sept. 11, and meet at the visitor center complex (museum) at 10:00 A.M. sharp. Others may wish to come Friday and camp overnight. Richard Henderson knows the area well, so contact him for further information (2609 Welford Way, Louisville, KY. 40222, phone AC 502, 426-8799).

TO GET TO OTTER CREEK PARK: Take Rt. 31-W (Dixie Highway) south from Louisville or North from Elizabethtown. Go west on Rt. 1638 at MULDRAGH, KY. toward Brandenburg, and watch for the Park on your right 4 miles from the 31-W turnoff. The visitor center complex is on the right a little beyond the park headquarters and director's home. Park address is RFD 1, Vine Grove, Ky., 40175. Phone is AC 502, 942-3641. HOPE YOU ALL CAN MAKE IT.

NEWS AND NOTES

OUR ANNUAL MEETING will be at the University of Louisville on Saturday, November 20. Details in the next "Kentucky Lepidopterist;" but we hope to have supper afterward.

Congratulations to Loran Gibson for that fine catch of Erora laeta on Big Black Mountain on July 11. Looks like Amos Showalter and Loran have a system for ~~gailing~~ 'em. I understand the visit there by Gibson, Campbell, and Henderson on weekend of Aug. 6 was mostly a bust. Win some, lose some!

NEW MEMBERS: Dr. Richard ("Rich") Fellows, 1812 LaFontensy Ct., Louisville, KY. 40223. Rich has just arrived here from Kansas City, MO.
Jason Weintraub, 6990 Holiday Dr., Birmingham, MICHIGAN 48010.
Welcome aboard, you two!

NEW ADDRESS: Dr. James R. Merritt will be at the following address until July.

1977: Westlake Apartments, 1 Shoal Court #104, Sacramento, CALIF. 95831.

Our society goes international. Jack Lesshaft completed his M.S. degree from the University of Louisville, and has taken a job helping control insect pests of date palm groves belonging to the World Council of Churches in Niger, West Africa. His address: B.P. 107, Agadez, Niger, West Africa. We will miss Jack, whose thesis study was "An Investigation of Soil Arthropod Populations with Special Reference to Collembola in Bernheim Forest, Kentucky." Jack's tour of duty in Africa is to be for a period of 2 years.

RECENT VISITORS to the Covells and the University of Louisville collection were Dave Winter of Dedham, MASS., who stopped by for a day of collecting after the Lepidopterists' Society meeting. On June 30 he and Covell went to the University of Louisville farm (Horner Wildlife Sanctuary) in Oldham Co., and recorded 31 butterfly species for the Xerces Society July 4th Butterfly Count. The best catches included 1 Calephelis borealis, plus some Satyrium edwardsii and Harkenclenus titus mopsus. Dave was able to notch his net for 2 swallowtails he'd not before taken: G. marcellus and B. philenor.

Incidentally, if any of you have July 4th captures to report, write about it to Mary Hathaway, P.O. Box 123, Durham, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03824. Give data on weather, exact locality, numbers of each species seen, and include \$1 for the service. Collection from any date within a week of July 4 is acceptable.

Another recent visitor was Glenn A. Gorelick, specialist on hairstreaks of the genus Callophrys, and teacher at Citrus Community College, Asuza, CALIF. Glenn and a friend spent the night of July 26 with the Covells on his way to Washington, D.C. via N.C.

The campus bookstore now stocks some equipment for insect collecting, including pins (sizes 1, 2 and 3), nets, spreading boards, forceps, and (soon) redwood insect boxes. The store is in the basement of the University Center building on the Belknap Campus of the University of Louisville. Bio-Quip also has a new catalog out now (some of you got one from me at Paducah), which you can get from them, or, to a limit, from me.

Mr. Carl Cornett will be in the field from Aug. 13 to 22, visiting the following State Parks in Kentucky: Rough River (8/13 - 15), Lake Barkley (8/16-17), Mayfield (8/19-20), and Pennyrite (8/21-22). The Covells will be gone Aug. 13 to 24, first to Hendersonville, N.C., then to Washington, D.C. Charlie will be giving a talk at the International Congress of Entomology on the status of Papilio aristodemus ponceanus in the Florida Keys, part of a symposium on endangered and threatened butterfly species.

NEWS NEEDED from our members. Tell the Editor of your collecting trips, captures, observations, and other things interesting to the field collector. This is YOUR NEWSLETTER. Please help make it useful and enjoyable! THANKS.

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST - Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists.
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MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY is open to anyone interested in any aspect of the study of moths and butterflies. Yearly dues are payable as of July 1, for the following classes of membership:

REGULAR MEMBER - \$3.00 per year

ASSOCIATE MEMBER - \$1.50 per year

SUSTAINING MEMBER - \$5.00 per year or more

Make checks payable to "SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS," and mail to Alan Brownell, Secretary-Treasurer, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY. 40208, U.S.A.

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