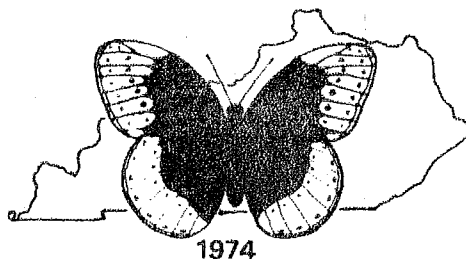


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists



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C. V. Covell Jr., Editor

OCTOBER, 1976

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists will be held at 1:30 P.M. on the afternoon of Saturday, November 13, 1976, in Room 321 of the Life Sciences Building, University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. There will be a short business meeting, followed by an interesting program and then a swapping and identification session in the U. of L. Collection. The SIEGFRIED SCHOLZ collection will be available for your examination, as well as the main collection.

If you can, bring some of your collection to provide a "show and tell" part of our program. Also bring material you would like to exchange with other collectors, and specimens you wish to have identified.

If you would like to give a short talk, please let me know right away so I can schedule it. A slide projector will be available for your use.

AFTER THE MEETING WE COULD DINE TOGETHER at a nearby restaurant. Please let me know if you are interested in this, so I can reserve a room.

In the past, you all have not let us know if you are coming or not. PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN PLAN. If you are NOT SURE, but think you might come, please let us know you might come.

We earlier planned to have the meeting the weekend of the 20th, but the Ky. Academy of Science is meeting that day, so it is impossible for me and maybe some others of you.

WE WILL HAVE REFRESHMENTS AT THE MEETING. THERE WILL BE NO FEES FOR THE MEETING, OR FOR THE REFRESHMENTS. WE JUST WANT YOU TO COME!

For further information, write, or call me at AC 502 - 588-5942 (office), or 458-6148 (home). -CVC

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FIELD SEASON SUMMARY: I will be putting together a summary of interesting captures of Lepidoptera from Ky. for 1976 for the Lepidopterists' Society Field Season Summary. You are urged to send information either to me for inclusion in my report, or directly to the Zone Coordinator in early 1977, as stated in the January NEWS. Either way, please try to participate in this program.

REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 - 12 FIELD TRIP

The following members met at Otter Creek Park, Meade County, Kentucky, for some collecting on September 11 and 12, 1976: Bill Black, Loran Gibson, Richard Henderson, Mike and Debbie McInnis, and Reed Watkins. Rich Henderson made the arrangements, and thanks are due to Park Director John Rowe for special help in providing a key to the gates of Otter Creek Park.

The object of the trip was to collect the fall-flying skipper, Hesperia leonardus Harris. About 12 of these were collected during the two days. However, a greater prize was a metalmark, Calephelis sp., taken by Gibson. He has tentatively identified it as the Swamp Metalmark, C. muticum McAlpine. This would be a NEW STATE RECORD if confirmed. The circumstantial evidence is favorable: the most likely other species would be the Northern Metalmark, C. borealis Grote & Robinson; but this species flies in late June and early July in Ky. (unless Loran's specimen represents either an odd emergence, or second brood). If that species, it would be a new county record, and only August record for Ky. There is an outside chance that it could be the Little Metalmark, C. virginensis Guerin, which I have taken at this time of year (late Aug. to early Sept.) in the Norfolk Va. area. The revision of the genus Calephelis by McAlpine (J. Research Lepid. 10 (1): p. 23 (1971) includes Ohio in the range of virginensis, so it could be that one. I can't wait to see it, Loran!

Other species collected during the weekend were: Ancyloxipha numitor, Wallengrenia egeremet (no longer considered subspecies of otho), Nastra lherminier, Poanes zabulon, Atalopedes campestris, Polites themistocles, P. coras (formerly peckius), Pieris rapae, Speyeria cybele, Polygonia comma, P. interrogationis, Cercyonis pegala, Euptychia (now Cyllopsis) gemma, Lethe anhedon, and Strymon melinus. Positive sight records included: Papilio glaucus, P. troilus, Battus philenor, Epargyreus clarus, Asterocampa celtis, A. clyton, Junonia coenia, Limnitis arthemis astyanax, L. archippus, Vanessa atalanta, Colias eurytheme, C. philodice, D. plexippus, Everes comyntas, and Celastrina argiolus. Moths collected at bait included Catocala amatrix, flebilis, vidua, angusi, robinsoni, and something strange like cara. Hemaris diffinis was taken during the day, and several other moths were collected at light or bait on a rather poor collecting night.

Thanks to Richard Henderson for this report; a map of the collecting area is on file at the University of Louisville with me. - CVC

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE NOW AT U. of L. BOOKSTORE

I have often been asked where one can purchase entomological equipment, and there has been no local source. Now the U. of L. bookstore, located in the University Center Building on Belknap Campus, is carrying a small supply of insect pins, redwood insect boxes (\$6.95), nets (\$8.50), spreading boards (\$5.40, but not recommended), forceps (\$2), and pin holders (\$2.25). Also available there are Peterson field guides to insects and to butterflies. I also have some extra Bio-Quip 1976 catalogs, and Lepidoptera book catalogs from Entomological Reprint Specialists. Write me if you wish a copy of either. -CVC

DUES - If you did not yet do so, please send dues to Alan Brownell, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, Ky. 40208 (same address for editorial matters to me). Dues are: \$3 per year for regular members; \$1.50 for Associate Members (Associate Members receive publications but cannot hold office or vote). ALL ARE MOST WELCOME TO ALL OUR ACTIVITIES!

NEWS AND NOTES

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following to our ranks, and hope this Society will prove a useful and enjoyable adjunct to their interests:

FALES, John H., Ridge Rd., Neeld Estate, Huntington, MARYLAND 20639.
John is a former USDA entomologist who is particularly interested in the butterfly fauna of Maryland, a list of which he recently published.

FERGE, Leslie A., Rt. 5, Town Line Rd., Wausau, WISCONSIN 54401. Les is interested in butterflies and larger moths, and especially the fauna of western Wisconsin. He contributed a lot to the success of the Lepidopterists' Soc. annual meeting in Madison, Wisc. this past June.

HESS, Dr. David F., 320-1 Barsi Blvd., Macomb, ILLINOIS 61455. Dave is an Associate Professor of Geology at Western Illinois University. His interests include Geologic and geographic factors affecting the distribution of Cercyonis pegala, relict species of Lepidoptera, and general collecting. I think he would welcome hearing from any of you on your experiences with C. pegala.

WINTER, William D. Jr., M.D., 257 Common St., Dedham, MASSACHUSETTS 02026.
Dave is a talented rearer of moths which he collects from females taken at light and bait, or as caterpillars on food plants. He is also a general collector of all Lepidoptera, and an officer in the Xerces Society (society devoted to Lepidoptera conservation).

NEW ADDRESS: Dr. Herb Kulman, forest entomologist formerly with the Univ. of Minnesota, is now with the Dept. of Entomology & Nematology, Univ. of Florida, 3103 McCarty Hall, Gainesville, FLORIDA 32611.

LeRoy Koehn, now in western Va., wrote in August that he had taken some good species in Kentucky earlier in 1976: early May: I. henrici, I. irus (second known state record), C. gemma, and a worn P. virginianensis (Whitley, Knox and Bell counties); he found S. diana very common at Pine Mtn. on July 24 and 25 and in Whitley Co.; G. marcellus was abundant, and he took a fresh P. cressphontes male. Another prize was P. m-album, a good female taken on Asclepias syriaca blossoms. F. tarquinus was common at Pine Mtn., Butcher Hollow (Whitley Co.), and Beech Creek and Salt Gum hollows in Knox Co. Leroy also reported 3 spots for Papilio aristodemus ponceanus in the Florida Keys, and said he saw "well over 60," taking only 1. In Virginia, he found abundance of butterflies in Poverty Hollow, the famed Montgomery Co. spot near Blacksburg. His son, aged 4, collected a female S. diana, and may have the early age record for that feat. In the Smoky Mtns. he took S. diana, S. atlantis, P. faunus, P. progne, and Phoebis sennae. He mentioned using bait for diana with success, and has other observations to make on this species.

FIELD NOTES FROM RON CATRELLE:

The 1976 season began here in the low country of South Carolina on Jan. 1, when I took a P. s. sennae in my back yard. Things did not really get started though until Feb. 38 when I. henrici began flying in Dorchester Co. I have now taken henrici in Fla., Ga., S.C., and N.C. over the past few years and will have a paper

coming out soon on the study we have made of these populations. Terry Arbogast and I visited the type locality of henrici margaretae on March 6 - 7 and were shocked to find that the area had been logged. A few margaretae were found, but next year may be another story as many Florida Holly trees (the larval host) were dozed down. The spring collecting was good with A. ridea midea having a good year again. M. gryneus smilacis was again taken after its rediscovery last year. My paper on smilacis is running behind, but I hope to have it out this year.

The best results of the season were (and continue to be) from Aiken Co., S.C. On June 12 I was getting itchy feet wanting to find some new collecting spots. So I picked out a state park upstate and loaded the family up and took off. It took us so long to leave the house, however, that half way to the spot I had chosen my wife said that it was too far to go. She quickly looked at the map and suggested Aiken State Park. We stopped at a fork in the road for a minute, then she won and we took the road to Aiken. We drove around the park a bit and finally I pulled over at a likely spot. When I stepped out of the car I noticed a few small yucca plants by the road. Walking over to them I was shocked to see a Megathymus harrisii tent. I found 2 tents, both old ones from last year, but returned every week following until on July 17 I found a fresh tent and got a pre-pupa which emerged Aug. 6th as a beautiful male. On Aug. 14 I found 2 more fresh tents but one was empty and the other had a dead pupa inside. That was a NEW STATE RECORD and extended the range of M. harrisii quite a bit northward. But that was just the beginning. On June 12, 15, 19, and 26, Hesperia meskei was taken there for a NEW STATE RECORD, and other NEW STATE RECORDS are: Euptychia areolata septentrionalis (same dates as meskei); Atrytone arogos (June 19, Aug. 14); Hesperia attalus seminole (June 15, worn female; July 17, 31, Aug. 14); Lycaena phlaeas americana (July 3, fresh male). A total of 30 species were found at Aiken State Park, including these 6 new state records.

On July 23 - 25 I was in Florida with Rick Gilmore, and collected several Electostrymon angelia in a very strong association with Trichella sp., an imported tree of the mahogany family. (E. angelia is a recently discovered addition to the fauna of the U.S. and Fla. -Ed.)

The worst thing that has happened to me this year was on July 11 in Union Co., Ga., at the Cooper Creek game area. On that day I saw and missed an Erora laeta! I wrote Irving Finkelstein about it only to find out that he was in the same area on July 10 and netted a fresh male laeta. The first Georgia laeta was taken at Cooper Creek by Mal Douglas some years ago, but I don't believe he ever published the record. Perhaps the Kentucky leps would like to converge on Cooper Creek on July 9 and 10, 1977. How about it? Other species there at that time are P. faunus smythi, S. diana, A. samoset, etc. A very rustic area with no camper hookups, but does have campsites. Sound worth the trip? (EDITOR'S NOTE: July 10, 1976, is the same date upon which Loran Gibson made his big catch of E. laeta near Big Black Mtn., Ky.!)

All in all this is one of the best years I have had in the field. I have a good many extra specimens for trade, so drop me a line!

Ron Gatrelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, S.C. 29445

One new state record for Ky. collected in the Paducah area during our July Field Meeting is the southern geometrid, Semiothisa punctolineata (Packard), July 24, 1976, C. V. Covell Jr. (collected at Mayfield Bottom spot). Other material from that trip is still under study. A second state record of another geometrid, Thysanopyga intractata (Walker), was also taken that night.

THAT'S ALL THE SPACE FOR THIS ISSUE; SEE YOU AT THE NOVEMBER 13 MEETING! -CVC