

Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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THE SOCIETY
OF
KENTUCKY
LEPIDOPTERISTS

OFFICERS

President

Dr. Jeffrey Marcus
Dept. of Biology
Western Kentucky University
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576
E-mail: Jeffrey.marcus@wku.edu

Treasurer

Les Ferge
7119 Hubbard Avenue
Middleton, WI 53562
E-mail: ferge@netzero.net

Field Trip Coordinator

Bill Black Jr.
201 Friedland Avenue
Paducah, KY 42001-4744
E-mail: black8808@bellsouth.net

Editor

Kevin Segebarth
250 Riverside Drive
Paducah, KY 42003
E-mail: lepboys@bellsouth.net

Secretary

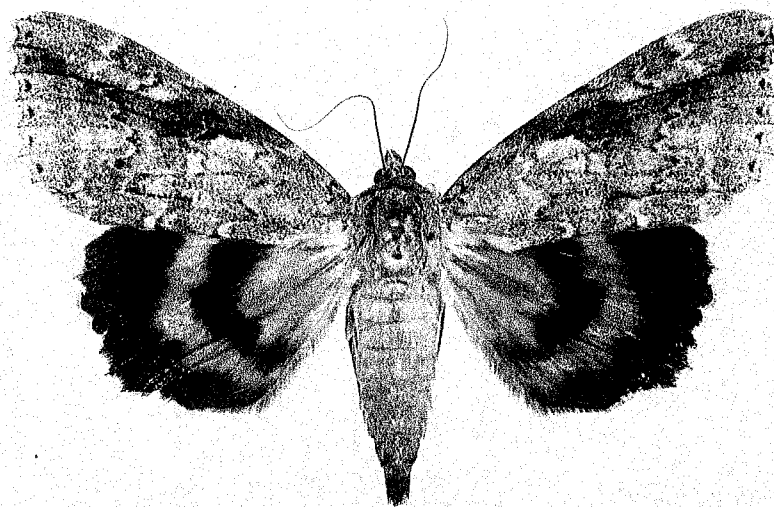
Tony Merkle
1501 Stephenson Rd.
Walton KY 41094
E-mail: jamphoto@juno.com

At-Large Members

Gerald Burnett - 2009*
Loran Gibson - 2008*
Richard Henderson - 2008*
* 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: \$12.00, and can be sent to the Treasurer: Les Ferge, (see above).



Catocala marmorata

Collected by Gerald Burnett, late summer 2007, Ballard County
WMA. Photo by Ian Segebarth.

DISCOVERING CATOCALAS

By Gerald Burnett

I happened to be assisting one of our (Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife) biologists with a mast survey on the area where I work (Ballard County WMA) when they started "jumping right out at us" on almost every tree trunk. They were perched anywhere from waist high to head high and it seemed as if every one was different from the last. They were "Catocalas"! I was familiar with these moths from catching them in my black-light trap, and had accumulated what I thought was a decent collection of them so far in my amateur Lepidoptera collecting career. I can remember one trap night about 4 years ago when my trap had at least 44 specimens of *Catocala* inside after a very good night. I had managed to collect several elusive specimens so far in my 6 years of collecting; among them were *Catocala atocala*, *C. nebulosa*, and *C. insolabilis* along with many more common ones.

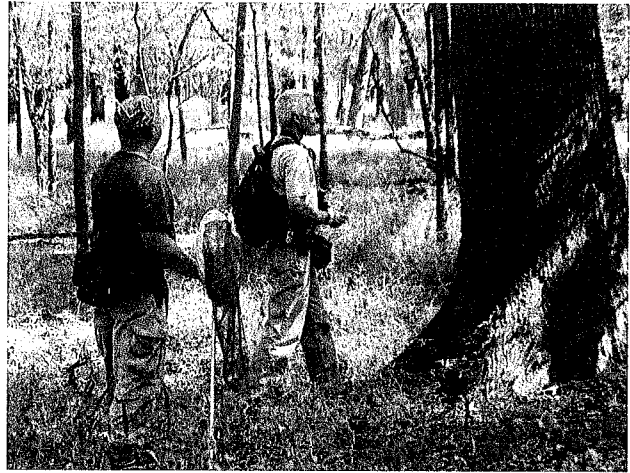
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I was excited about seeing all these moths while doing the mast survey, so I decided to bring my trap the next day and catch some. Surprisingly, my trapping attempt was fruitless - not one single specimen - and I know they were there! I had to try a different angle. I had heard from other collectors that you can catch *Catocala* by walking around in the woods and tapping trees to find them. I tried this but I quickly found out that no tapping was needed. I could see these insects perched on the trees immediately and it appeared that if you did not make them fly when you first spotted them, they were easier to catch. I started catching them with my net, but often this resulted in "scalped" specimens (I did collect a few good specimens this way). I sought advice on collecting methods from my friends in the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. Loran Gibson suggested just sneaking up and putting a killing jar over them before they flushed. To my amazement, this worked like a charm.

Over the next four weeks I spent a lot of my afternoons after work patrolling the woods at Ballard County WMA for *Catocala*. I managed to collect 16 species overall including *C. marmorata*, *C. nebulosa*, *C. maestosa* and *C. carissima*. A couple of my friends in the Society, Kevin and Craig Segebarth, accompanied me one afternoon and managed to collect *C. marmorata* and take photos of several other species. I also unexpectedly ran into other friends, John and Ruth Ann Peacock on the eve of our KY Leps meeting. They had heard that I had been collecting *Catocala* at work and just happened to be parked at the Ballard entrance when I left work that day. I talked them into letting me go with them to a spot about 5 minutes away, which turned up several *Catocala* before I had to leave. John spent 2 days tapping trees at Ballard and later sent me an e-mail saying that he tallied 11 species during those two days. Three of those were ones that I had not seen. Counting his numbers we had a list of 19 *Catocala* for the area over a 4-week period.

I will definitely be in the woods again next year to go after these insects. I'm hooked!

I want to thank John Peacock, Loran Gibson, James Adams and all the other Society members for help in identifying specimens. Anyone interested in coming to Ballard County WMA next year to collect *Catocala* is more than welcome and can contact me for information through the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists.



Gerald and Kevin observing *Catocala* at one of the author's "hot spots" in Ballard WMA.

Catocala Collecting

In
North-Central and Western Kentucky
6-10 September 2007

by John W. Peacock

Ruth Ann and I traveled from our home in Marion, OH to Otter Creek Metropark, near Fort Knox, KY on 5 September. After setting up our camper in the park campground, I "tapped" on large hickories, oaks and other trees within a mile or so of the campground, hoping to see and collect species of *Catocala*, including *Catocala robinsoni* "missouriensis", a form of *robinsoni* that had been reported in the past from Otter Creek by Richard Henderson and others. Conditions for tapping were favorable, with high temperatures (85-90 F) and high humidity. Several species were seen in two hours of late afternoon tapping, including
(Continued on page 3)

vidua, *palaeogama*, *flebilis*, *lacrymosa*, *amatrix*, *innubens*, *neogama*, *obscura* and *luctuosa*. Interestingly, there were no *robinsoni*. In early evening, I installed 6 bait traps in an area where numerous *Catocala* were flushed from trees in the afternoon. The next morning, 6 September, I checked the bait traps and recorded only 3 *neogama*, along with numerous Gemmed Satyrs, *Cyllopsis gemma*, and several Northern Pearly Eyes, *Enodia anhedon*. It was cool in the morning, so while we waited for the higher temperatures and humidity required for good tapping, we visited the Patton Museum at Fort Knox—a great experience and well worth the time! Afternoon tapping was not as productive as the day before, despite nearly identical conditions.

The next day, the 7th, we traveled to the Paducah area to participate in a fall field trip with other Kentucky lepidopterists. After setting up camp at Fort Massac SP near Metropolis, IL, we decided to drive to the Ballard WMA near Monkeys Eyebrow (really!), KY, where Gerald Burnett had reported seeing numerous *Catocala* in certain woodlots on the area. As luck would have it, we encountered Gerald as he was leaving the WMA for his home. After we visited for a while on the roadside, he graciously agreed to take us to a woodlot on the WMA where he had seen numerous *Catocala* in previous weeks. He and I tapped trees for an hour or so before he had to leave for home. I continued tapping for at least another hour and by the end of the day had observed/collected 11 species of *Catocala*: *marmorata*, *nebulosa*, *luctuosa*, *vidua*, *robinsoni*, *cara*, *carissima*, *lacrymosa*, *piatrix*, *neogama* and *obscura*. Females of several of the species were placed in paper bags to obtain ova.

On Saturday, September 8, I met up with the rest of the gang and visited several sites where we observed numerous butterfly species (see report by Charlie Covell). While at the Streitman property, I collected *C. carissima* along the Massac Creek.

It was rainy on Sunday morning, the 9th, so the rest of the gang decided to call it quits for the weekend and head for home. Ruth Ann

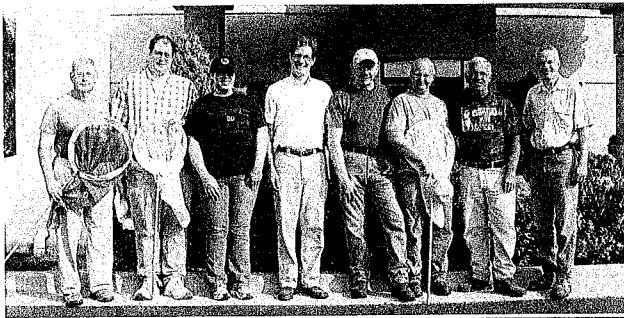
and I decided to stay in the area, and about noon or so the weather improved enough that we headed back to the Ballard WMA for more collecting. I was particularly interested in getting additional female *Catocala* for ova, and still held out hopes for collecting *robinsoni* "missouriensis". *Catocala* were not as numerous on Sunday afternoon as they had been on Friday, but I did record 9 species and the numbers of each are as follows: *luctuosa*—11, *carissima*—10, *marmorata*—1 (despite seeing 6 or 7 on the 7th), *vidua*—3, *robinsoni*—4, *obscura*—1, *cara*—1, and *nebulosa*—2. Almost all of the *Catocala* seen or collected on the 7th and 9th were flushed from large white oaks or hickories.

Monday morning, the 10th, we headed back to Otter Creek Metropark, where I tapped trees in the late afternoon. I recorded the same 9 species of *Catocala* that I had seen there on the 5th and 6th, though the numbers were somewhat lower.

We returned to Marion on the 11th, with a number of specimens in the freezer and females of several species in bags to obtain ova. The collecting had been good, even though I didn't see any *robinsoni* "missouriensis", the primary target of the trip. The camaraderie with fellow members of the Kentucky Lepidopterists, the collecting and the visit to the Patton Museum made for a very enjoyable trip!



The author (center, bagged female *Catocala* in hand) at the Streitman property with Loran and Gerald.



"Unofficial" Field Meeting, September 2007
Paducah KY

From left: Dr. Charles Covell, Dr. Jeffrey Marcus, Mollie Johnson, Bill Black, Loran Gibson, Gerald Burnett, John Peacock, Kevin Segebarth

Field Notes - Sept. 7-10, 2007

Dr. Charles Covell

Sept. 7. I visited the Biology Dept. at University of Louisville and picked up some equipment. Then Alice and I drove in her car to Paducah, KY, to attend a field trip with Bill Black, Loran Gibson, Gerald Burnett, John Peacock, Jeff Marcus and his student Mollie Johnson, and Kevin Segebarth. We saw *Phoebis sennae eubule* along the way at the following mile markers on the Western Ky. Parkway (Interstate 69 Corridor): Mile 105, Grayson Co.; Mile 88, Butler Co.; Mile 68, Ohio Co. (along with *Papilio glaucus*, dark female); Mile 46, Muhlenberg Co.; and mile 33, Hopkins Co. (along with *Colias eurytheme*). We recorded *C. eurytheme* at Mile 99, Grayson Co., and *P. glaucus* male at Exit (Mile) 58, Muhlenberg Co. We visited the Pennyriple Forest spot just outside the State Park but in the forest preserve where the wooden bridge crosses a stream bed. I caught 1 *Hesperia leonardus* male (fresh condition) on thistle, which was more abundant than usual at this time (flowering plants seem behind schedule, and it was very dry), and I saw another. Also recorded here were *E. clarus*, *A. campestris*, *P. glaucus*, *P. troilus*, *H. cresphontes*, *P. sennae*, *E. nicippe*, *E. lisa*, *S. melinus* (several), *E. comyntas*, *C. neglecta*, *P. tharos*, *S. cybele* (several), *L. arthemis astyanax*, *C. gemma*, *H.*

sosybius. I also saw *Hemaris diffinis* (Sphingidae) here. *J. coenia* and *D. plexippus* were recorded in the field near the fork in the road close to the old fire tower. It was clouded over during this stop. We arrived at the Blacks' home before 6 PM local time and our group dined at the Whaler's Catch restaurant. Traps were put in the "Zip Track Site" overnight, and Loran caught some of a *Eucosma* species he was seeking. Also *Papaipema baptisiae*.

Sept. 8. A cloudy morning in Paducah. I found an *Asterocampa celtis* on the front door of the Black residence, and saw a *P. glaucus* flying in town. Our group rendezvoused and visited the Strietman property at Massac Creek Bottoms, Paducah, and we recorded the following species: *E. clarus*, *E. horatius*, *A. numitor*, *P. yehl*, *P. themistocles*, *P. peckius*, *A. campestris*, *H. phyleus*, *E. vestris metacomet*, *A. aesculapius*, *W. egeremet* female, *P. glaucus*, *P. troilus*, *C. eurytheme*, *P. sennae*, *E. nicippe*, *E. lisa*, *S. melinus*, *E. comyntas*, *C. neglecta*, *P. tharos*, *C. nycteis*, *V. atalanta*, *V. cardui*, *P. interrogationis*, *P. comma*, *J. coenia*, *L. archippus*, *L. arthemis astyanax*, *E. anthedon*, *E. portlandia missarkae*, *E. creola*, *C. gemma*, *H. sosybius*, and *D. plexippus*.



Heading into the woods at the "Littleville Site".

We stopped for lunch at Starns Barbecue, then visited the "Littleville Site," entering a new way behind a church. We recorded some of the same species listed above, plus a good number of *Euphyes dukesi*, *E. marcellus*, and *Satyrodes* (Continued on page 5)

appalachia was also added to our day's list. Then the rain came in earnest and we "headed for the barn," which was Bill Black's house. That night Bill Black put a light trap in the "Littleville site" entrance behind the church, and next day there were 2 *Papaipema baptisiae* in the meager catch.

Sept. 9. A rainy morning in Paducah, KY. Alice and I attended services with Bill and Nancy Black at their church, Grace Episcopal. Chris and daughter Kirby were there, along with David and Lindsay and their cute baby Dawson. Alice and I then went back to Louisville, in rain until we got to Elizabethtown. We stopped at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, Bullitt Co., where I recorded the following butterflies: *E. clarus*, *A. numitor*, *A. campestris*, *H. phyleus*, *P. peckius*, *P. glaucus*, *P. troilus*, *P. rapae* (Park entrance), *E. comyntas*, *S. melinus*, *C. nycteis*, *P. tharos*, *V. cardui*, *J. coenia* and *D. plexippus*. Also there were numerous *Achyra rantalis* and *Atteva punctella* nectaring on *Sedum*.

Sept. 10. Seen at Louisville Nature Center, Louisville, KY: *A. campestris*, *P. rapae*, *E. comyntas*, *P. tharos*, and *D. plexippus*. Seen at Alice Covell's garden, 219 S. Hite Ave.: *E. clarus*, *A. campestris*, *P. rapae* (several), and *D. plexippus*.

Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists Annual Business Meeting Minutes November 3, 2007

By Tony Merkle

The meeting was prefaced by a brief announcement by Dr. Mike Sharkey that the University of Kentucky had secured the necessary funds to allow for the hiring of a curator for the insect collections and that the one brought over from The University of Louisville and the one amassed at the University of Kentucky would be combined and housed in a new space yet to be determined. Dr. Sharkey assured the

membership that this was good news in that the collection(s) would receive proper care with adequate space for the foreseeable future.

The meeting was then called to order by president Jeff Marcus. Initial discussion involved having the newsletter being made available to members in electronic form for those who preferred this option in order to help defray the costs of having them printed. It was mentioned that a test of the process would have to be done in order to assure that it could be done. Meeting attendants were asked to indicate if they would be interested in receiving the newsletter in this way by signing a sheet that was passed throughout the room.

Jeff then presented the treasurer's report giving the organization's assets, receipts, expenses and total balance. The report showed a total asset reserve of slightly over \$4,000. At this time the floor was opened for additional comments about the report. None were voiced.

Election of officers then took place. Jeff announced that none of the currently held offices were due to expire and that all individuals holding them had agreed to stay for the coming year. The floor was opened for nominations. None were presented. A motion was made to close the nominations. It was seconded with no dissensions. The existing slate of officers was thus approved for the upcoming year.

The schedule of field trips for the upcoming year was then discussed. Mention was made of two planned trips in addition to the annual 4th of July Butterfly Count at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary. A spring trip to southeastern Kentucky, probably in April or May, and a late summer trip to the Jackson Purchase region of the state and based in Paducah, probably in early September, were mentioned. James Adams addressed the group and presented the idea of a trip to northern Georgia for all to consider. An invitation regarding such was extended to the membership.

At this time, Jeff made mention of the absence of Charlie Covell and read a letter from him to the group. In the letter Charlie expressed his
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regrets for being unable to attend and touched upon various aspects and accomplishments of the society including: a background of its formation and history, the publication of the Annotated Checklist to the Butterflies and Moths of Kentucky, development of the website and database, membership issues, social aspects of membership and unusual/memorable events. Finally, he thanked the members for their contributions and camaraderie. James Adams suggested having the letter printed in the newsletter (*see page 7*) so that those not attending the meeting might have a chance to read it.

Jeff motioned for adjournment. The motion was seconded and passed with no objections.

The business meeting was followed by presentations from various guest speakers, presentation of the 2007 Carl Cornett Award and distribution of door prizes.



Richard Henderson
2007 Carl Cornett Award
Recipient

Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists
Board Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2007
 By Tony Merkle

Present were: Gerald Burnett, Loran Gibson, Richard Henderson, Jeff Marcus, Tony Merkle, Kevin Segebarth.

President Jeff Marcus brought the meeting to order and opened by presenting each officer with a copy of the organization's financial statement for the previous year. Aspects of the report were discussed and it was accepted without objection.

Next the slate of officers for the coming year was discussed. Jeff explained that no officer's term was due to expire and that no one had expressed an interest in stepping down; therefore, if all agreed, the same slate would be presented to the membership for the coming year. All present agreed to remain and that the same slate should be presented.

At this point discussion took place concerning the newsletter. Kevin expressed concerns about aspects of doing it, particularly regarding the amount of time involved in printing it. Various options were discussed including the possibility of using a printing service, reduction in the number of copies needed through use of electronic distribution and utilization of printing capabilities available to other members of the organization. More discussion about the newsletter involved material procurement, deadlines for submissions, release dates and solicitation of articles.

A brief discussion also took place about the website and the database. This centered primarily on securing and displaying more photos on these.

Final discussion was about field trips for the coming year. It was presented and all agreed that three would be officially scheduled with one being held in the spring in the southeastern part of the state and one being held in late summer in the extreme western part of the state. The third would be the annual 4th of July Butterfly Count held at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary.

Meeting adjourned.

Gainesville FL, 11/1/2007

Dear Fellow Kentucky Lepidopterists,

It is difficult to believe that it has been 3 years now since I gave up my life in Louisville for a new one in Gainesville, Florida. Even more hard to grasp is that the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists began its life in November, 1973 with an organizational meeting at the university of Louisville - long the "home base" for our organization. I feel very bad about missing this meeting. However, when my orthopedic surgeon set October 25, 2007 as the date for me to get my new knee joint, I had to put that at the top of my priority list. As I write this letter on Nov. 1, I am recuperating from the successful surgery in our extra bedroom, and have begun a rigorous regimen of rehabilitation. Hopefully I will be able to "take the field" almost good as new after a few months.

Richard Henderson and I got this group going, with the strong support of the late Jim Merritt, with a definite goal in mind. We wanted to bring together friends and colleagues to collect specimens and data on Kentucky butterflies and moths with the idea of someday producing a book in which were listed all species of moths and butterflies that we could get identified. This would be a record of what had been collected to date, with new species and related data added as time went on. The models in my mind were, foremost, THE LEPIDOPTERA OF NEW YORK AND NEIGHBORING STATES, published by William T.M. Forbes in four volumes from 1927 to 1954. It had descriptions and keys. A second model is Charles P. Kimball's 1965 LEPIDOPTERA OF FLORIDA, which came out in one volume and did have some color and black-and-white pictures of species. Others up to 1999, the date of publication of THE LEPIDOPTERA (MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES) OF KENTUCKY covered less than all families, with the possible exception of the Maine Lepidoptera volumes of A. E. Brower (I am not sure whether he covered all families but think not). So this goal has been reached, with 2 additional supplements in the JOURNAL OF THE KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE. The total

number of species included is now over 2,450, with additions already waiting in the wings. A striking example of new species to the state list was the addition by Richard Healy this year of the Pink Star Moth, *Derimma stellata* (Noctuidae). [Kevin, how gorgeous those pictures looked on the front of our newsletter!] The job of surveying the state is far from completed. More new state records await discovery, either in nature, or in the collections of one of us. The data from the survey were always intended to be accessible to scientists, governmental workers, and amateur lepidopterists. While the book and its 2 supplements meet that end, nobody could have imagined in 1973 that computers and databases, websites and on-line images, would exist in 2007 to the extent our "Kentucky Butterfly Net" exists today. What a terrific way to present the results of all the collecting, data-recording, museum searching, identifying, photographing, and rearing than in this extensive, colorful, user-friendly and still-evolving website. While relatively recent in joining the Society, our President Jeff Marcus and his brother Ben, with the help of many of you, has topped the paper publications with one of the best Lepidoptera databases going. I am extremely proud of this achievement, and grateful for the work of all of you who have contributed. Also, while donating time and hours of collecting and preparation work while alive, the late Carl Cornett has contributed invaluable to all our activities since his death in 1982 through the Cornett Endowment, which provides about \$5000 per year to the University of Louisville Biology Department "...for the study of insects in Kentucky." Most recently, much of the work in making the database has been made possible through the use of this funding source. Many other of our activities also have been funded through his largess, including the purchase of the Siegfried Scholz Collection, and travel enabling me to continue the July 4th Butterfly Counts.

A final word on the database: I have lots of records from many parts of Kentucky that need to be entered. Some of you do, too. I hope that in the coming year you and I can submit this
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information and add significantly to the more than 50K data points already in the system.

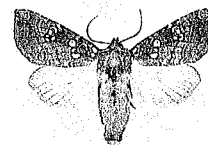
In addition to learning all we can about the occurrence of Lepidoptera species and recording those data, a second major objective of our organization is to foster and encourage new collectors, especially young people, to work in Kentucky lepidopterology. Several young people have been with us over the years, and I hope the fun of our activities has rubbed off on them. There was Roman Anderson, Christa's son; and Jessica Hutti, now an MD, I believe. From Tennessee we had Taylor Paris and his brother, whom I photographed pointing to the second mating pair of Red Spotted Purple X Viceroy at our cherished Bunge Corp. loading facility in Hickman. Then there were Bill Black's Boy Scouts, out with us in 1989 when Gulf Fritillaries were found in Paducah. Maybe some of them will get back to lepidopterology some years up ahead. And finally, there are Craig and Ian Segebarth, and the whole Segebarth family. What contributions they have made in just a few short years! I am very proud of all of you who have encouraged and mentored these and other young people. Welcoming and fostering youth and new lepidopterists of any age are among our most important activities.

Finally, certainly most important to some, is the fellowship aspect - the gathering of two, three or more of us for collecting, rearing, photographing, list-making, and other field and lab activities -- the social aspects of sharing this, the perfect hobby. We have made some indelible memories: the first *Erora laeta* captures for some of us on Big Black Mountain in 1977; black-lighting in the Daniel Boone National Forest as Comet Hale Bopp crossed the skies (that recorded for us by Loran Gibson); various "firsts" of moth and butterfly discovery (my waiting for that first hybrid cross *L. rubidus*) going back and forth on the Mississippi shore; long evenings telling tall tales in the Covell basement rec room on many a November night. Just remember some of the great moments we have shared: helping Paul Pfenniger pull his Cadillac back onto the road in Red River Gorge; giving encouragement to Gerald Burnett as he stood in handcuffs awaiting heaven-knows-

what; nearly stepping on a Diamond-back Water Snake at Willingham Bottoms; and great annual meeting talks by Bob Robbins, Mo Nielsen, Lincoln Brower, James Adams, Rich Brown, J.F.G. Clarke, Stan Nicolay, and many others (including today's guest speaker, John Shuey).

I think one thing we need to work on is a plan to do needed curatorial work on the Lepidoptera collections here at U.K. I hope Mike and John will offer suggestions as to how you members can participate in that needed work. As with the Lepidopterists Society, the real uniqueness comes from our mutual love of Lepidoptera, and our mixture of amateurs and professionals - each having important gifts to share. Finally, the door prizes: Mr. Cornett gave me the idea to begin doing this with the Lepidopterists Society 1971 Annual Meeting in Louisville, copying the annual gatherings of the Kentucky Society of Natural History. At both the Kentucky Lepidopterists and Lepidopterists Society meeting from 1971 on, thousands of dollars worth of books, equipment, specimens, and butterfly related items have been given and received. Thanks to Mike Sharkey and John Obrycki for hosting our last 4 meetings and opening the collection to us. Many thanks to all of you for donating prizes. Thank you for sharing your specimens and data with the University of Louisville/University of Kentucky collections. Thank you for helping put on meetings and field trips. Thank you for editing our newsletter (Craig and Kevin, especially), and Les, thank you for doing an outstanding job as Treasurer. Most of all, thank you for the warm friendship you all have shown me these past 34 years. I hope I will be seeing you next year and, as Leroy would say, once again "we get among them!"

Cheers, Charlie



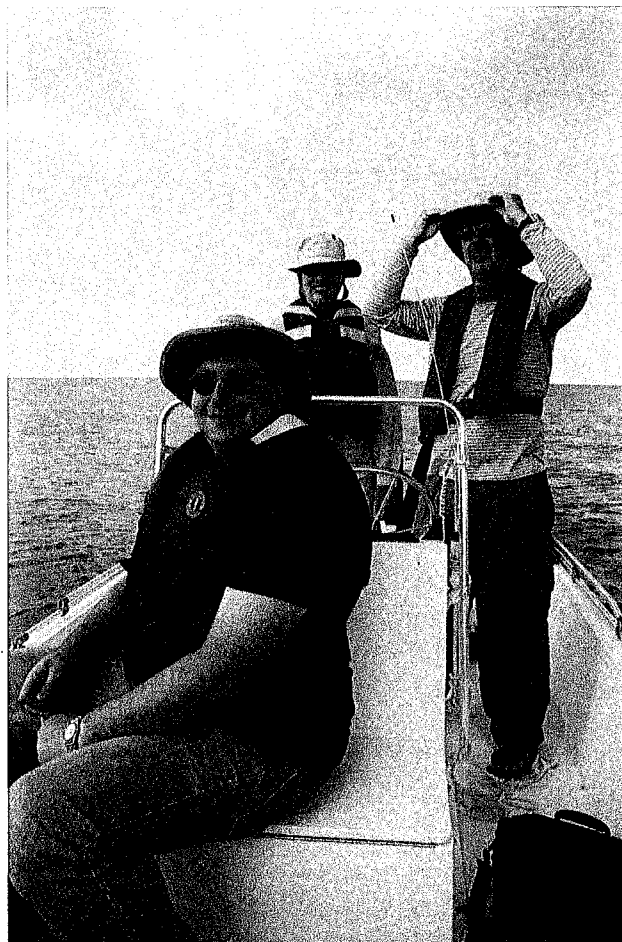
Letter from the President

It was really terrific to see so many of you at the annual meeting in November 2007. John Shuey's keynote presentation on the Butterflies of Belize was particularly noteworthy, as was Richard Henderson's receipt of the Carl Cornett Award for service to the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. Thank you both for your important contributions!

Since the annual meeting, I have been on the move again. Right before Thanksgiving, I went on a collecting expedition to Cape Sable in the Florida Everglades, with Bill and Sue Perry, both of Everglades National Park, and with Marc Minno, coauthor of Butterflies Through Binoculars: Florida. Cape Sable runs along the Gulf Coast of the Everglades and you can't get there except by boat. It is one of the largest completely undeveloped stretches of coastline in the United States, and there have been few Lepidoptera surveys done there. I was there in search of buckeye butterflies (genus *Junonia*—do I ever go collecting in search of anything else?), while Marc was looking for several species of butterflies that have not been seen anywhere in Florida for years and may have been extirpated. We both carried our research permits from the Park Service with us as we climbed into the 14-foot research boat.

It really turned out to be a wonderful day. Mostly sunny skies, only a light breeze, temperatures in the high 80's F, and light chop on the water. We saw a pod of porpoises leaping out of the water on our way out to the Cape. We visited a number of spots along the coast, and I was able to catch several specimens each of two buckeye species: *Junonia coenia* and *Junonia evarete*. We didn't find any of the target species that Marc Minno hoped to rediscover, but we did find a very large colony of silver banded hairstreaks, *Chlorostymon simaethis*, which I had not seen before and which were previously unknown from Cape Sable. Upon our return to Flamingo, we saw an alligator and two crocodiles near the boat ramp. The easiest way to tell the difference: they are different

colors. Why I spent so many years trying to remember which one had the canines that remained outside the closed jaw, I will never know.



Dr. Jeff Marcus with Sue and Bill Perry arriving at Cape Sable.

Photo by Marc Minno

I came home in time to have Thanksgiving with Joanne and a couple of other "Thanksgiving Orphans" in Bowling Green, taught a couple of classes the next week, and then I was off again. This time it was to go to the Gulf Coast of Texas. A number of people offered advice about where to find buckeye butterflies in Texas, including Bill Dempwolf, son of former Kentucky Lepidopterists President Jack Dempwolf. Bill went so far as to draw me detailed maps of where to find buckeyes on South Padre Island. X definitely marked the spot, because he led me right to a
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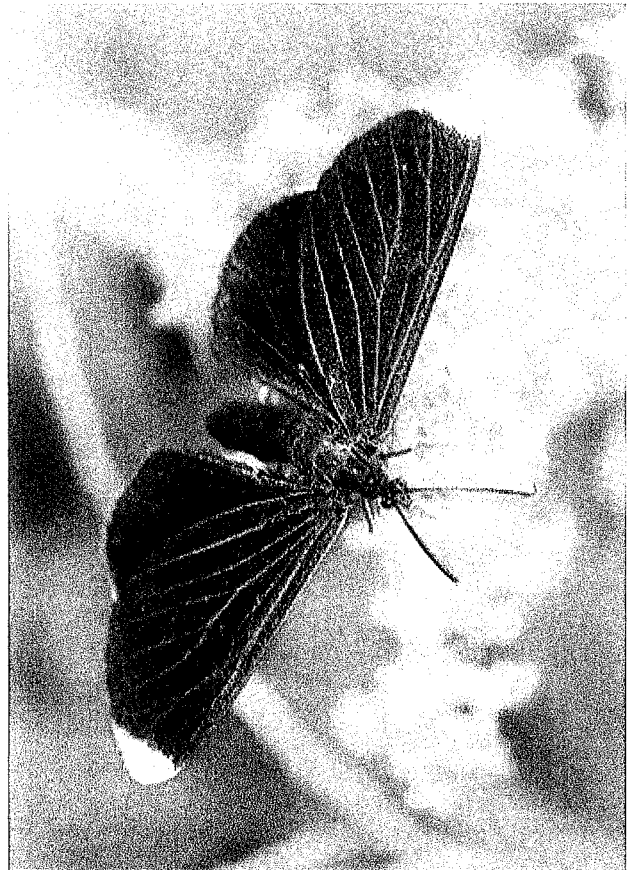
wonderful spot right next to the South Padre Island Convention Center. Where I saw, photographed, and caught my first live dark buckeye, *Junonia "nigrosuffusa"*. I had seen them pinned before, but as you all know, seeing them for yourself in the wild is both different and special.

After leaving deep South Texas, I headed up to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, where I have a permit to collect butterflies. While I didn't see any whooping cranes (they often hang out near Matagorda Island, out of sight of looky-loos like me), I was able to catch some buckeyes. Between what I caught and what Refuge Biologist Chad Stinson had caught in the previous weeks in anticipation of my arrival, I will have plenty of material to work with to begin to sort out the buckeyes of Texas.

Now I'm settling in for the winter and I'm going to start working more intensively on Kentucky Butterfly Net, among other things. As of this morning, there are now photos associated with most of the species in the database, thanks to Jim Vargo and his collaborators at the Moth Photographers Group. There are still some species missing, so if you have a good specimen of a species that lacks a picture, let me know so we can arrange to get it photographed and posted to MPG—it will become part of a resource used by many people. I've got a stack of records to enter into Kentucky Butterfly Net, and I hope to get through most of them during this slack period in my teaching schedule. I want get my slate clean so that I'm ready "to get among them" this spring!

Happy Holidays one and all!

Jeff Marcus



White-tipped Black Moth

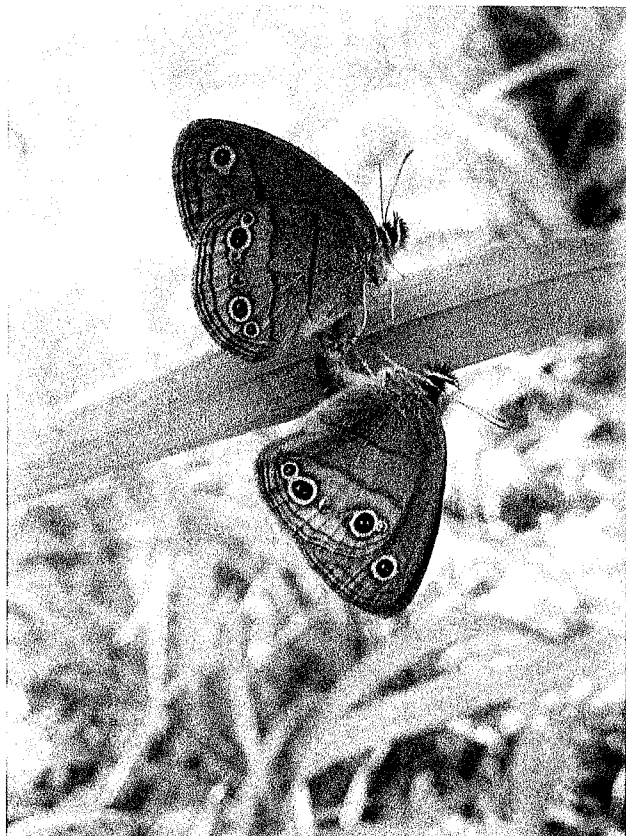
Kentucky Lepidopterists member Todd Wiley took this photo of *Melanchroia chepise* on 31 October, 2007, in Randolph County, IL, two miles south of Sparta. Todd wrote: "the Tall Goldenrods in this old fallow field had been mown just prior to blooming. This is why these are flowering now. The wind was out of the south all day on the 31st, and for a number of days before that."

Editor's note: I would like to say thank you to Todd Wiley for sending along the above photo, and while I'm at it, make an appeal once again for others of you all to do the same.

**Spring Field Meeting
April 4-6, 2008
Led by Loran Gibson**

I think that we should meet on the first weekend in April (4th-6th) because the moon is dark then. That is earlier than we usually meet, but with the climate changes that we have witnessed recently, I am hoping that the weather will be 'ok' that early. I am leaning toward meeting in the Morehead area. I know of several good spots there in the Daniel Boone National Forest for spring specialties and there are good accommodations. There are two large Forest Service camping areas as well as many primitive camping sites available. There are also several motels and restaurants. There are loads of locations for moth traps and sheets in a variety of habitats. *If weather happens to be poor that weekend we can have an alternative date on the first weekend of May.* There are good things in the Morehead area then as well.

-- Loran



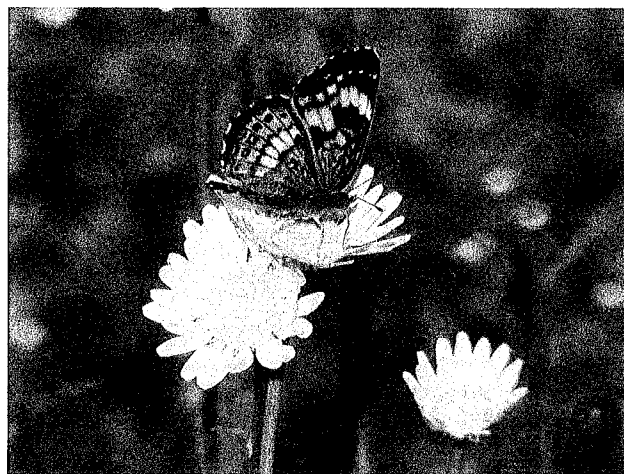
Hermeuptychia sosybius

Photo by Craig Segebarth, 12 May 2007, LBL, Trigg County, KY



Staphylus hahurstii

Spotted and photographed by Kevin Segebarth in his front yard, 3 Sept. 2007.

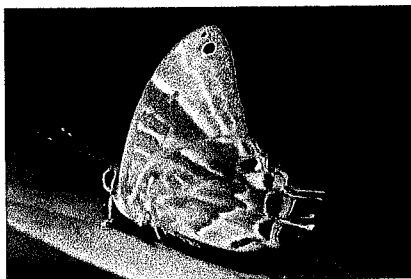
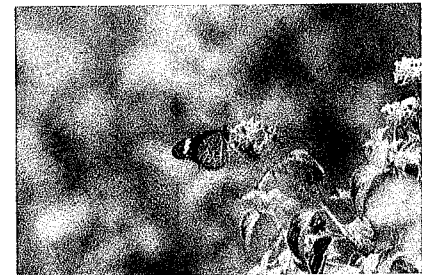
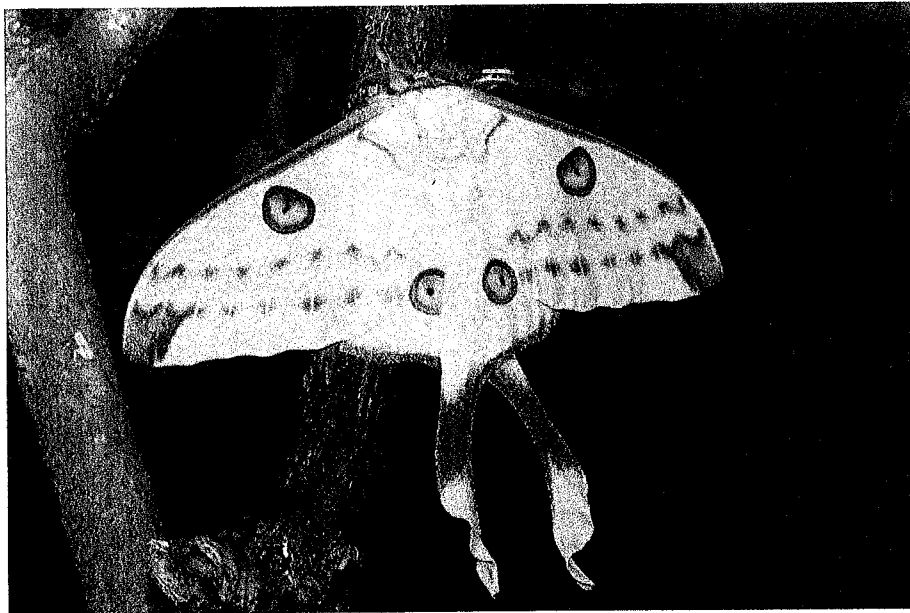


Chlosyne nycteis

Photo by Craig Segebarth, 19 May 2007, Pennyrile State Forest, Fire Tower Road, Christian County, KY.

Malagasy Lepidoptera

Following are a few of the images that Ian Segebarth captured on a recent trip to Madagascar with Dr. Tom Emmel and the Expedition Travel Company.



Clockwise from top left: Comet moth (*Argema mittrei*); Pieridae sp.; *Danaus chrysippus*; *Papilio antenor*; larvae of Saturniidae sp; Riodinidae sp., genus *Saribia*.

All photos by Ian Segebarth