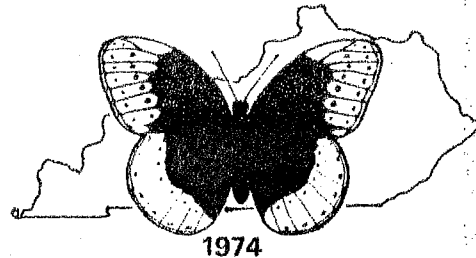


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
The Society of
Kentucky Lepidopterists



VOLUME 3, no. 3

C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR

SEPTEMBER, 1977

JULY FIELD MEETING A BIG SUCCESS!

ERORA LAETA AND OTHER FINE CATCHES REGISTERED BY THOSE IN ATTENDANCE.

A SMALL GROUP OF ARDENT LEPIDOPTERISTS CONVENED AT PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL, IN HARLAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON JULY 8 and 9, 1977. PRESENT WERE LORAN GIBSON, RICHARD HENDERSON, GREG FLORENCE, BRETT BARRETT, JOHN HYATT, JOHN MACGREGOR AND FAMILY, COVELL FAMILY, AL BROWNELL, BLAINE EARLY, SUSAN REIGLER AND FRIEND DIANE, AND MIKE MCINNIS. LODGING WAS AT PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL NEAR CUMBERLAND, BUT THE MAIN COLLECTING SITE WAS ATOP BIG BLACK MOUNTAIN, KENTUCKY'S HIGHEST POINT AT 4,145 ft. elev.

On Friday night Henderson and Gibson black-lighted on Big Black Mountain near the abandoned ski lodge, while Brett Barrett and the C. V. Covells did likewise at Pine Mtn. Settlement School. The next day we collected butterflies near the ski lodge, and around the fire tower, and recorded a number of species including Erora laeta (the target of the trip), Pantheides m-album, Speyeria diana, S. aphrodite, S. cybele (no S. atlantis, as earlier suspected!), S. falacer, Boloria bellona (formerly toddi, and these at Pine Mtn. Settlement School), plenty of Battus philenor; P. glaucus and troilus, and other species. I cannot make a complete list as I have not had a report yet from all in attendance as to what they took.

In moths, some new state records were added to the files at the Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey office, 334 L.S. Bldg., U. of Louisville. While some are not yet determined, we did get 2 Sphingidae: S. gordius and

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ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1977, AT 1:00 P.M.

WE WILL FEATURE A WORKSHOP ON MAKING GENITALIA PREPARATIONS OF MALE AND FEMALE LEPIDOPTERA.

IN ADDITION, TALKS AND PAPERS BY MEMBERS ARE SOLICITED. EVEN A SHORT "SHOW AND TELL" OF A VERY INFORMAL NATURE WILL BE A WELCOME ADDITION. WE WILL BEGIN WITH A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING, FOLLOWED BY THE TALKS BY MEMBERS AND GUESTS. THEN WILL COME THE GENITALIA WORKSHOP, FOLLOWED BY A SOCIAL PERIOD. THE COLLECTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION, AND WE WILL BE GLAD TO HELP IDENTIFY SPECIMENS BROUGHT BY ANY OF YOU.

*****REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED*****

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING RESERVATION INFORMATION FOR THOSE SPENDING THE NIGHT (2 MOTELS NEAR THE CAMPUS), PARKING DIRECTIONS, AND TO INFORM US IF YOU WISH TO GIVE A TALK, PLEASE WRITE:

Charles V. Covell Jr.
Department of Biology
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky 40208

IN ANY CASE, PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO COME, SO WE CAN PREPARE. DEADLINE FOR CONTACTING US: NOVEMBER 11, 1977.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES for 1977 to Al Brownell at the same address as above. They were due July 1. A reminder: Regular member \$3; Assoc. Member, \$1.50 annually. THANKS.

THE BIG BLACK MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP (Cont.)

S. eremitus (the former on Big Black Mtn. by Gibson; the latter at Pine Mtn. Settlement School by C. V. Covell Jr.); Halisidota maculata (Arctiidae) on Big Black Mtn.; Eulithis explanata and a possibly new Semiothisa species (near quadrinotaria Herrich-Schäffer); and some undetermined species of Noctuidae. Other desirable moths were Darapsa versicolor and Sphinx franckii (Sphingidae); Rhododipsa florida, Acronycta fragilis, Catocala andromedae, C. coccinata, C. serena, and Panthea acronyctoides (Noctuidae). Some good Geometridae included Cymatophora successaria, Eugonobapta nivosaria, and Cyclophora pendulinaria.

There were some good color slides taken too, and we hope to have some of E. laeta and of the area in general for you to see at the Annual Meeting.

FIELD REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Amos Showalter now lives in Nashville, Tennessee (3925 Creekside Dr., 37211), and expects to be there for the foreseeable future. He visited the Big Black Mountain spot July 2 and 3, and collected some E. laeta, too, both on wild hydrangea (Hydrangea arborescens) and daisy; condition was fresh to worn (as we found them a week later). He also recorded S. calanus falacer and liparops, and the blues C. argiolus pseudargiolus and E. comyntas. Amos tried to get female E. laeta to oviposit on yellow birch, without success.

From Tennessee Amos reports abundant A. midea on Apr. 17 in Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Other good captures have been Atrytonopsis hianna, Amblyscirtes belli and vialis; E. gemma; and Callophrys henrici all from the same place.

John MacGregor of Nicholasville, Ky., has been taking pictures of Lepidoptera this season, and we hope to see a sample at the annual meeting. He tries to photograph moths and butterflies in nature if possible.

(FIELD REPORTS FROM MEMBERS, CONT.)

Loran Gibson and Richard Henderson found a few fresh Hesperia leonardus at the spot in Meade Co., Ky., near Otter Creek Park, where the species was taken last year and previously. This was the Aug. 27 - 28 weekend. No sign of Calephelis muticum, a specimen of which was taken there last Sept. 11.

Rod Irwin and Paul Faber tried in June for some southern Illinois rarities such as Lethe creola, Poanes yehl, Autochton cellus, and Amblyscirtes belli, but came out disappointed. Paul did get a couple of Amblyscirtes aesculapius, and they later learned that Mike Toliver of the Univ. of Illinois had taken belli in Pope Co. on that same June weekend. Sphinx franckii was taken June 11 at Bald Knob, Ill. (Union Co.). I would like to point out that Rod's checklist of Ill. butterflies has in it some interesting S. Illinois records that should give a clue to picking up new records for Kentucky. It helped this summer, when Gibson and Henderson added Euphyes dion to the state list, using flight time from that book.

Dave Baggett of Jacksonville, Fla., wrote of his activities in June. Leroy Koehn of Dublin, Va., visited him, and together they did the collecting reported in the last issue. Leroy has done some collecting in Kentucky this year, as his wife's home is in Butcher Hollow, Whitley Co. I don't have exact data, but one catch of his stands out: Polygonia progne in Kentucky. I'll give more data later on when we get it. He reports that S. diana in the famous Poverty Hollow near Blacksburg, Va. was down drastically when he visited this year, but heard that visiting collectors had taken a heavy toll of the species prior to his visits there. Can overcollecting really be a cause of depletion in diana? One would think not, except on a very local basis.

David Hess of Macomb, Ill., wrote recently of his activities. Some of his records so far

(FIELD NOTES FROM MEMBERS, Continued)

in 1977 include the following: Apr. 9 - 16, Incisalia henrici everywhere; many new county records in west central Illinois.

Apr. 15: A. midea; first record in Pike Co. Ill. (1 male only). First sighting of Boloria bellona in westcentral Ill. (Cass Co.).

May 21 - June 13: Yale Sedman here found a good spot for Polygonia progne.

May 7: Our sighting of Danaus gilippus in Henderson Co., Ill. Early records for C. gorgone carlota here and on May 5 in McDonough Co.

Apr. 27: Possible Erynnis icelus in Calhoun Co.; needs verification.

May 27: Yale Sedman took N. milberti again. Everything two weeks early.

June 10: Colony of S. idalia found in Cass Co.; L. xanthoides dione here and in Pike Co. (Ill.). Eurema nicippe female captured in Cass Co.; our first. Hesperia ottoe female in Scott Co. Huge populations of G. marcellus.

June 14: First B. bellona EVER captured in McDonough Co. Satyrium liparops strigosa and first records for L. xanthoides dione here.

June 15: L. x. dione in Henderson Co., Ill.

June 17: Observation of strange oviposition or other behavior by L. x. dione in Cass Co. S. idalia seen again.

June 18: Forty-six species in one day. L. x. dione at Fandon, McDonough Co.; fantastic melanic aberration of female S. cybele. Very large populations of cybele & P. tharos.

June 19: Problema byssus out and B. philenor with stubby tails. G. marcellus in McDonough Co.; 2nd record. Dwarf L. arthemis astyanax.

June 24: L. bachmanii in Cass Co.; first Vanessa cardui.

June 25: Perhaps 50 species recorded in Xerces Society 4th of July Butterfly Count. First S. idalia in our records in McDonough Co. Another found dead in road! Fresh G. marcellus in McDonough Co.; dwarf C. philodice; early M. gryneus; and still L. xanthoides dione; L. bachmanii, S. liparops strigosa, and a L. arthemis astyanax with white band on FW only (McDonough Co.).

Hess made other comments, and is especially interested in correspondence regarding localities and notes on the Cercyonis pegala complex. His address: 320-1 Barsi Blvd., Macomb, Ill. 61455.

Mike McInnis of Louisville and his wife Debbie made a trip to Colorado in June, and brought back many butterfly specialties of the Rockies. Paul Pfenninger called not too long ago and reported a little of his travels to Latin America. He said collecting was not too good while he was "south of the border."

The Covells traveled over 5,500 miles to Boulder, Colo., and then on through Utah and Nevada to Los Angeles, Ca., and then back through Ariz., N. M., northern Texas, Okla., and Arkansas. The main focus of the trip was participation in the Annual Meeting of the LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY hosted by Ray Stanford, Don Eff, and others in the area July 21 - 24. Stops were made in Independence, Mo., to visit Richard Heitzman and his son Roger, both ardent and knowledgeable lepidopterists, and in Laramie, Wyoming, to see Clifford Ferris and his collection. The Lep. Soc. meeting was the largest in history for attendance, and there were many interesting talks and enjoyable personal associations. An important item of business was the decision of the Executive Council to accept the invitation to hold the 1978 Annual Meeting in Louisville. The date is not finalized, but is tentatively set for July 7 - 9. I will be needing help from members of the Society of Ky. Lepidopteri to put on the meeting, and may call on some of you to assist. Another decision at the meeting was to publish MEMOIR #2 - a catalog-check list of N. American butterflies by F. Martin Brown and Lee D. Miller, to replace the Dos Passos Check List, almost completely sold out now.

(see page 4)

After the meeting, the Covells did some collecting at Loveland Pass and Vail Pass, Colo., then at the entrance of Bryce Canyon Nat. Park, Utah. While in Los Angeles Covell visited the L. A. County Museum, and selected about 360 moths, mostly western Ctenuchidae, Sphingidae, Arctiidae, and Noctuidae, for inclusion in the Univ. of Louisville Collection, on an exchange basis. Some beautiful desert and other SW species are included. On the way back from California, some collecting was done at Flagstaff, Ariz. and in western Okla. The most productive of all the stops, though, was in the alpine meadows of Vail Pass, Colo., where the only problem was shortness of time and breath.

NEW MEMBERS

WE WELCOME YOU, AND HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THE ASSOCIATION OF OUR GROUP, AND BE ABLE TO COME TO ONE OF OUR MEETINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

BRYANT, Robert S., 522 Old Orchard Rd., Baltimore, MD. 21229. Robert's interests include "All Lepid., esp. Papilionidae, Lycaenidae, Sphingidae, Citheroniidae, Catocala, Pyralidae; rearing, hybridization, zoogeography, taxonomy, ecology, photography, mites on moths, voltinism; Collect, exchange, buy, and sell."

BRING, Dana M., 2631 Strauss Ave., Toledo, OH. 43606. Dana's specialties include: "General Lepidoptera; Diana and Regal fritillaries; raising Saturniidae and other macro-moths."

LOPSHINSKE, Richard, Box 311, Paonia, COLO. 81428. Richard has been collecting for all but 10 of his 35 years, and is improving his collection, making drawers.

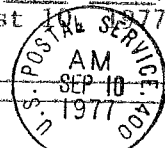
(NEW MEMBERS, Cont.)

WATSON, Charles N. Jr., 1337 Watauga St., Kingsport, TENN. 37660. Special interests include: "All butterflies and skippers; their distribution and variation among eastern U. S. species; also Sphingidae, Saturniidae, and Catocala; breeding and rearing butterflies and moths."

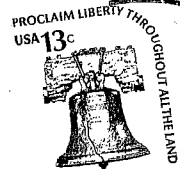
NEWS, NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commemorative Volume of the Lepidopterist Society, bound in blue, is now available from C. V. Covell Jr., and will be sent to those who gave financial support to the project. Other may order, at \$6 per copy for Lepidopterists' Society members, and \$10 for non-members. This is the first announcement, so order now and beat the rush. Blaine Early is assisting me in mailing the copies out. The book is 374 pages, and includes some photos of officers of the Society, plus several valuable sections such as the Cumulative Index for the first 25 years of the Lepid. News/ Journal.

Noctuid moth specialist ERIC QUINTER of the American Museum of Natural History in New York visited the U. of Louisville Collection in July, returning our holdings of the genus Papaipema, which he is revising. His addition of 9 species to our state list, plus other recent additions, makes our Lepidoptera Survey number a total of 1,758 species at this date. Carl Cornett added a lovely Noctuid from Lake Malone State Park: Stiria rugifrons Grote (see Holland's Moth Book, Pl.28, fig. 5), collected August 1977.



FIRST CLASS



KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST
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