

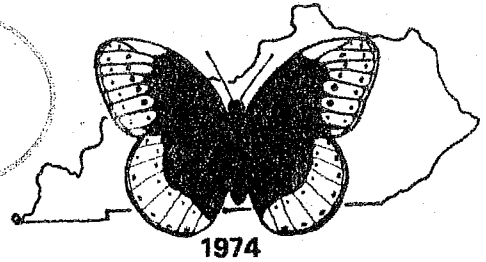
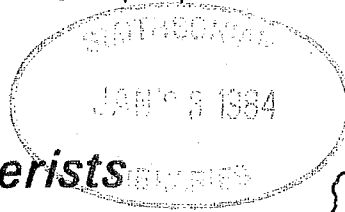
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KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

Louisville, KY: Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists 1969 9999
NEWSLETTER OF THE

The Society of
Kentucky Lepidopterists



VOL. 4, No. 1

C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR

MARCH, 1978

PLANS FOR APRIL FIELD MEETING

Loran Gibson, our Field Trip Coordinator for 1978, has communicated the following plans for the Spring Field Meeting:

"I think we should set up two weekends for the spring meeting: April 15-16, and Apr. 22-23. If weather is bad on the first dates, we can still hold the meeting on the second weekend." SO BE IT. If weather is questionable, call Loran at 606-371-3455 (before about 2:30 daily).

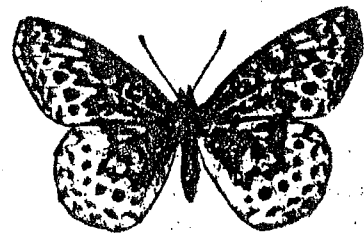
As agreed upon at our Annual Meeting, the focus of the field trip will again be Big Black Mountain in Harlan County. It is Kentucky's highest elevation at 4,135 feet. The objective will be to find spring specimens of Erora laeta and possibly make some discoveries as to its life cycle; to collect other spring specialties such as Glaucopsyche lygdamus, the Incisalias, Anthocharis midea, and Pieris virginiensis. Pyrgus centaureae wyandot is still undiscovered in Kentucky, and would be a big scoop for somebody. Clark & Clark (1951, Butterflies of Virginia, pg. 151) list it for 8 counties in western Virginia, and state: "One brood. In southwestern Virginia the grizzled darter first appears at about the end of March, but in the north not until after the middle of April, at the higher altitudes at the end of April or early in May. It is common for about 10 days or 2 weeks after which its numbers rapidly decline..." The foodplant is not listed; it occurs in "clearings and open places in woods, and in open fields near woods...It is most

(continued on pg. 2)

MORE ON MEADOW FRITILLARY

I was gratified by the response from you all to the bit about the apparent SW extension of Boloria bellona in recent years. Some of the comments include the following:

Leroy Koehn, Dublin, Va.: "I found it (bellona) super common in Whitley and Knox counties on Sept. 3 - 6, 1977. It was also common in both counties in mid-May flying with E. phaeton in lowland areas. It has become very common in Virginia, having several broods and being a pest at times. I also took a specimen in Carroll Co. (KY.) at U.S. Rt. 42, 1/2 mile east of U.S. Rt. 227, Carrollton, next to a medical building in a large vacant lot. I saw several others there also."



Boloria bellona (F.)

Charles Watson Jr., Kingsport, Tenn.: "I have lived in Kingsport, Tenn., since I was about 2 years old, in 1954. In the late '50s and early '60s my father and I collected extensively in Sullivan (Co., Tenn.) and neighboring Scott Co., Virginia, where my grandparents had a farm. Though we kept no records, and most of our collection has been destroyed, neither he nor I have any recollection of an encounter with B. bellona."

(continued on pg. 3)

(FIELD MEETING PLANS, cont. from pg. 1)

commonly noticed resting with the wings partially extended on leaves near the ground, or on the ground itself, or on the flowers of the common creeping Potentilla (P. canadensis). The butterfly resembles the familiar P. communis, but is smaller, and has more dark coloring relative to white, the FW white areas more separated and squarish.

Also, those of us who like to burn the candle at both ends will be putting out blacklight and bait to see if we can add some new moth species to the State List as well as to our collections. Last summer's collecting on Big Black Mountain netted about 13 new state records, all of more boreal species than we normally encounter in the Bluegrass State. Some of these, however, are already known similar habitats farther south in the mountains (such as those collected by J. G. Franclemont and D. C. Ferguson in western North Carolina in recent years).

ACCOMMODATIONS: In nearby Cumberland, Ky., Loran has found rooms at the only motel, the Cumberland Motel, are:

Single: 1 double bed: 1 person, \$18.90
 2 persons: \$22.05
 Double room: 2 double beds
 2 persons: \$22.05
 3 persons: 25.20 children
 4 persons: 28.35 under 12:free

Leroy Koehn has checked accommodations in Appalachia, Va., just down the east side of Big Black Mountain. He did not have the name of the place, but singles are \$14.50/night; doubles, \$20.58; and \$3 for each beyond that in a room. In Big Stone Gap, a few miles east of Appalachia, there are these motels with rates comparable to those in Cumberland: the Trail motel, 703-523-1171; and Big Boy Motel, 703-523-3002. In addition, Loran says that although camping is "not formally allowed" in Kingdom Come State Park in the outskirts of Cumberland, "permission is usually granted. Water and toilet facilities are available in the park, but these are often a good distance from where the ranger allows camping." Loran says there are several restaurants (Long John Silver's Seafood, Col. Sanders, etc.) near the motel in Cumberland.

*Write Loran if you plan to attend; HE WILL SEND YOU DIRECTIONS, AND TELL YOU WHERE TO

RENDEZVOUS (BOTH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ARRIVALS). HIS ADDRESS IS: 30 Russell Street, Florence, Kentucky 41042. TRY TO BE WITH US IF YOU CAN POSSIBLY MAKE IT!



(Boloria bellona, continued)

"I started collecting again in May, 1974, while a junior at Washington & Lee Univ., Lexington, Va. (Rockbridge Co.). I did not encounter B. bellona in 1974, and Clark & Clark (Butterflies of Va.) did not list Rockbridge Co. for this species (but several neighboring counties were listed). On 22 June, 1975, I took 2 somewhat worn males in a meadow about 6 miles S.E. of Lexington, but (no more in 1975). In 1976 I first encountered it on July 25; and it was common in many places around Rockbridge Co. at elevations between 1,000 and 1,200 ft." In 1977 he collected it in Scott Co., Va. (June 10, Aug. 29); Montgomery Co., Va. (July 7, in Poverty Hollow); Carter Co., Tenn. (pasture near Roan Mtn., 2,800 ft. elev., June 29); Sullivan Co., Tenn., field beside Rt. 11, 1,300 ft. elev., July 5; and Hawkins Co., Tenn., in pasture between Bays Mtn. and Holston River, 1,200 ft. elev., July 6 and Sept. 11. (The last locality is where John Hyatt has taken bellona previously). Watson also took Euchloe olympia March 26 and Apr. 9 at the Sullivan Co. site; Autochthon cellus May 7 in Campbell Co., Tenn.; Fenisaca tarquinius May 1, Anderson Co., Tenn. in 1977, and says the year was "the best I have experienced to date."

Loran Gibson, Florence, Ky.: "I first encountered B. bellona during a collecting trip to Rowan Co., Ky., on 26 Sept., 1973. On that date there were Meadow Fritillaries everywhere. During the day I saw hundreds and collected several. On my way home that afternoon, I stopped in each county that I came to and collected a few B. bellona. By evening I had specimens from Rowan, Bath, Montgomery, Clark, and Fayette counties. All day I watched the butterflies as they flew low in a southwestward direction. It seemed to be a mass movement of some type. When I think back, I realize I was never far from Interstate 64. The movement could have been following that highway."

(continued on pg. 3)

(Boloria bellona, concluded)

(Gibson continues:) " At that time, I-64 had not been completed for very long. There is certainly a possibility that the highway right-of-way may have broken some unknown natural barrier and allowed the species to move into Ky. from W. Va. A friend who did some collecting in W. Va. in 1973 commented that B. bellona was common around Charleston that spring.

"Some additional evidence seems to support your theory. Unless a specific flyway was followed by the butterflies during the original range extension, one would expect B. bellona to have arrived in Owsley Co. long before it reached Jefferson Co. That does not seem to be the case. You (Covell) stated that the first sighting for Jefferson Co. came on 3 Oct., 1973. As you know, I have collected extensively in Owsley Co. for several years. My first sighting in that county was not made until 10 April, 1977, over three years later than the Louisville record. It is of interest to note that Owsley Co. has no interstate highway."

Reed A. Watkins, Spring Valley, Ohio: "I have found it common near Dayton, Ohio, since 1971 when I first started collecting here." He cites dates from early June to Aug. there, and from April to Sept. in Sugar Creek Reserve, Green Co., and in 1977 noted numbers lower than normal, sighting only 4 individuals in 8 visits from Apr. 15 to Sept. 10.

Rod Irwin, Chicago, Ill.: "Apparently the same thing has been happening here in Illinois; it had attracted my attention before the article appeared...I began collecting in the area of Streator, Ill, in LaSalle & Livingston counties in 1941 and have done so continuously to the present. When, in 1968, Michael J. Smith reported taking both B. bellona and B. selene myrina at one of my favorite localities near there, I was naturally quite excited, as I had never taken any Boloria in the area. His observations were made July 21, 1968, at Sandy Ford, about 7 miles NW of Streator in LaSalle Co. He stated that selene was abundant and that he had also taken a single bellona."

Irwin relates that he took selene but saw no bellona there on Aug. 31, 1968, nor on July 19, 1969. But on Sept. 7, 1970, bellona was present in numbers, with selene also present. May 1, 1971, he took bellona along a road a little to the NEW of Sandy Ford. He reports bellona has been taken at Sandy Ford on several occasions since 1971, but that he has not seen selene there since that year. However, in 1977 he discovered the latter near Streator itself on Apr. 26 and 27; and on Aug. 24, 1977, found bellona for the first time in a "long-collected locality 2 miles south of Streator in Livingston Co. where it had never been seen before."

On the same date it was also common at the Sandy Ford spot. Rod points out that the "only old records of bellona in Illinois are from Cook, Lake, Kane, and McHenry counties in extreme northeastern Ill., and there are no downstate records before 1966 (Vermilion Co.). THIS SUGGESTS THAT IT IS EXTENDING ITS RANGE IN ILLINOIS AS WELL, BUT THE OBSERVATIONS AT STREATOR INDICATE THAT SELENE MAY BE SPREADING TOO."

Dave Hess, Macomb, Ill. "...the major colony (studied July 9 - Sept. 18 in Cass Co., Ill.) occurred in a wet meadow, and is well established, associated with Euphyes consociata and an occasional Speyeria idalia. Hence it has probably been there for a while. But the April 15 record was sighted along a major highway (Rt. 15) several miles away, almost at the precise spot where I sighted the female S. idalia Aug. 29, 1976. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT MAJOR HIGHWAYS (INCLUDING INTERSTATES) AS WELL AS DRAINAGE COURSES ACT AS "CONDUITS" OF MIGRATION..."

Note: I think I included all remarks sent me to date, but if I left yours out, I apologize. We can include more later. Let's see if we find bellona farther southwest in 1978!

-CVC

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERA SURVEY REPORT

As of this writing we have records of 1,817 species of Lepidoptera from Kentucky. That is an increase of 141 species from this time last year. MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SPECIMENS AND RECORDS TO THIS EFFORT. We are now typing the manuscript!

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON ERORA LAETA IN KENTUCKY
by Amos Showalter

Adult Erora laeta were taken on daisy, daisy fleabane, wild hydrangea, and an unidentified umbellifer in Harlan Co., Ky. in July, 1977. They were difficult to see when on these white flowers due to their small size and light gray color of the underside. The wings were generally kept folded vertically with the fore wings down between the hind wings presenting a smaller profile than most other Theclinae.

The behavior of the adults on flowers was similar to that of other Lycaenids. One freshly emerged female was found on a daisy with its wings partly opened, displaying the blue upperside. This behavior was also observed with two females that were caged in an attempt to obtain eggs. The butterflies opened their wings to an angle of 45 degrees with the saggital plane. The fore wings partly covered the hind wings exposing only the blue portion. While in this position the butterflies remained completely motionless. This behavior by females may provide a means of recognition by the males.

The flight of E. laeta was fast and direct almost like that of a small Hesperiid. However, unlike a skipper, E. laeta appeared almost oblivious to everything else when on flowers. Flights were observed from one flower to another. In addition, butterflies assumed to be E. laeta were observed flying from flowers toward the tops of nearby trees and from the ground toward tree tops. The blue color on the upper side of the female was much less apparent in flight than that of Celastrina argiolus pseudargiolus and Everes comyntas males. Thus, both sexes of E. laeta are difficult to see in flight.

NEW BOOK: The fascicle of Moths of America North of Mexico treating Family Lymantriidae has just been published. By Dr. Douglas C. Ferguson of the U.S.D.A. (stationed at the U. S. National Museum in Washington D.C.), Fascicle 22.2 has 120 pages of text and 8 color plates. IT IS THE FIRST OF THE MOTHS OF AMERICA series to include photos of SPECIMENS FROM OUR KENTUCKY COLLECTORS. Cost, \$48 (\$40 for subscribers). Order from E. W. Classey Ltd., Park Rd., Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 7DR, England, or Entomological Reprint Specialists in California.

MILE-BY-MILE COUNTS OF SWALLOWTAILS IN AN EASTERN KENTUCKY ROAD
by Charles V. Covell III

On July 10, 1977, we were driving on Rt. 119 in Harlan Co., Ky., from Pine Mtn. Settlement School to Cumberland to go collecting. We began noticing large numbers of Battus philenor and a few Papilio troilus collecting at puddles, cracks and potholes in the road where rainwater had collected from the previous night. We decided to count how many we saw every mile. The first mile we counted 16; the second, 9; and there were 19 in the third. In the fourth and fifth miles, however, we saw only 1 each. This we noticed was because there was no water in the road, as the storm had not dropped much if any rain there.

We collected some of the swallowtails, and noticed several dead along the road where they had been hit by cars.

NEW MEMBERS

- CARR, E. J. Rt. 2, Box 117, Chenoa, KY. 40925. "Bud" Carr to his friends.
- HOWE, William H. 822 East Eleventh St., Ottawa, KANSAS 66067
- WILSON, Kent H. P.O. Box 1097, Edmond, OKLAHOMA 73034

Welcome to our ranks; we hope you can join us in the field, and enjoy you membership!
- CVC

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

As you may know, the Lepidopterists' Society is holding its annual meeting at the University of Louisville Life Sciences Bldg. Friday - Sunday, July 7 - 9. In addition to the talks, swap sessions, etc., we hope to have a workshop on Scientific Illustration of Lepidoptera, and maybe one on Genitalia Dissection. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH LOCAL ARRANGEMENT JOBS SUCH AS: guarding displays, directing "traffic," meeting people and returning them to public transportation, running projectors, etc. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN HELP, registration fee will be waived (but not banquet cost), and you will have an official badge to wear. (Gee!) Please write Covell if you want to volunteer. IN ANY EVENT, COME TO THE MEETING!

NEWS AND NOTES

Susan Reigler, former U. of L. insect collection assistant, now at Oxford Univ. in England, plans summer research on hedgerow insect life and is working in the University Museum at Oxford.

Leroy Koehn, Loran Gibson, Danny Currutt, and Dave Baggett plan a big collecting trip to southern Florida in May. Covell is also taking a class of biology grad students and seniors to the Homestead area at that time for a field course in subtropical insect ecology. Quite an invasion.

Leroy Koehn is planning to host this Society's late summer Field Meeting in famed locality, Poverty Hollow, near Blacksburg, Va. More on this later, but the tentative date is the 2nd weekend in August. Target butterflies will be Speyeria diana, Polygonia faunus smythi, and P. progne. (Ed. note: It was a search for information on how to get to Poverty Hollow, described in Clark & Clark (1951), that really led to my going to VPI to work on my graduate degrees in entomology. In 1959 I stopped at VPI for directions, and wanted to collect Calephelis borealis there. I did not get borealis that trip, but did later while in residence.)

Rich Fellows and C. V. Covell Jr. braved the first warming nights on March 14 and sugar-baited the beech woods near Hurstbourne Dr. in the Louisville area. There were fairly large numbers of Eupsilia vinulenta out, but very few of the following other species we took: Eupsilia tristigmata, Orthosia hibisci, Lithophane grotesca, and L. unimoda. Phigalia titea, P. strigataria (formerly known as olivacearia), and Paleacrita vernata were taken at light March 13 in the Louisville area.

Bill Howe, renowned butterfly artist and new member of our Society, has been collecting in Mexico this winter. How was it, Bill?

Note that the correct name combinations for some of our eastern butterflies have been

changed in recent literature:

Euptychia cymela is now Megisto cymela
(but hermes sosybius is still in Euptychia)

Euptychia gemma is now Cyllopsis gemma.

Lycaena thoe is now Lycaena hyllus (Cramer)

George Balogh has become interested in Lyciades melissa samuelis and Callophrys irus in Wisconsin, having taken both there in 1977. He wishes to correspond with any of you who can give him information about the two butterflies, and the Lupinus perennis and Baptisia spp. that they feed on. His irus record is the first for Wisconsin!

Irwin Leew, 1219 Crystal Lake Rd., Cary, Ill. 60013, needs material of Glaucopsyche lygdamus from the southeastern region for a research project. He will welcome exchange opportunities, plus information on your experiences in Va., Ky., W.Va., and southward.

We'll put a dues notice with the next issue as suggested by several of our members. However, if anyone wishes to get ahead of the game, it's \$3 per year Regular and \$1.50 per year Associate, payable to The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists, care of Biology Dept., Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY. 40208.

Loran Gibson is working on some field cards for recording data, and we should have some for you before too long.

Anyone know the new address of Douglas Brown, formerly of 821 1/2 Elm St., Delphos, OHIO 45833? His last "Ky. Lepid." came back as not deliverable.

The Field Guide to Moths of eastern N. Amer. is coming along, and a photography visit to the Wedge Plantation is planned for week of Apr. 17. Your editor will breathe a big sigh of relief when it is finally done. I do want to apologize to some of you for my lack of communication. I have been swamped with work. So long for now! - CVC



* EDITORIAL *

WHAT CAN THIS SOCIETY OFFER LEPIDOPTERISTS?

Now that the Lepidopterists' Society has been in existence for some 30 years, it has a membership of over 1,200 members in the U.S. and many foreign countries. It publishes the quarterly Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society with a variety of articles on all aspects of lepidopterology; and it also publishes News of the Lepidopterists' Society 6 times a year. The latter includes notices, lists of members, short articles and notes, the Field Season Summary, poetry, information on new books, etc. But it has NOT been much into personal items and rapid responses on current topics, though there have been attempts at this, and there could be more of this. But that Society is so large that this sort of thing is difficult. So this Society can add a dimension of "intimacy," in which informal comments such as those sent in letters can be shared among our members.

While the original purpose in setting up this Society back in 1974 was to provide communication among those of us collecting and studying Lepidoptera in Kentucky, we find now that our membership contains 85 people from 25 states and the District of Columbia. Some of our members are avid correspondents, and add a much broader scope to what we are doing than the provincial objective originally planned. This is most desirable, and I hope all of you are getting something from being a part of our organization. It has been my feeling that one of

the benefits we all realize, in addition to the fellowship of communication and field collecting together, is the knowledge that we are working together to study the Lepidoptera fauna of a state that was grossly neglected in the past. Little was published about the Kentucky moths and butterflies, and Kentucky has been a blank on the distribution maps of workers revising the different groups of Lepidoptera. Now with the specimens and data you have contributed, we are slowly building an impressive body of knowledge about the Kentucky fauna, and about the species themselves. And, peripherally, we are helping those of you who are working on the faunal studies in other states (particularly Florida, the Carolinas, Tennessee, West Virginia, Ohio, and Illinois).

In return for the help you have given us in the Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey, I hope we have been able to provide some identifications, stimulation, and information of use to you. It looks like regional groups are on the rise, with our companion club in Utah, and, more broadly defined, the Maryland Entomological Society. All these seem to emphasize personal communication and fellowship among their goals.

How long this organization survives we cannot say; it seems mighty healthy right now. But whatever its life span, it has done quite a bit so far to give us some increased state records, some stimulating communication, and some memorable good times in the field. - CVC March 16, 1978

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST
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FIRST CLASS MAIL