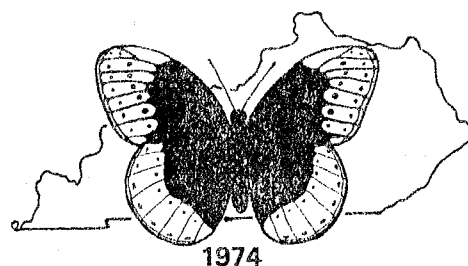


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists



VOL. 5, No. 1

C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR

MARCH, 1979

PLANS FOR SPRING FIELD MEETING

We will try again to have a successful Field Meeting at Big Black Mountain, Harlan County, Kentucky, this April. Last year three members went, though the weather was cloudy and cool. Loran Gibson, our Field Coordinator, has sent in the following details:

DATES: Weekend of April 20 - 22, 1979. If weather is inclement, we will try again the following weekend, Apr. 27-29.

MOTEL: Cumberland Motel, located along Rt. 160 in Cumberland, is a bit expensive but is most convenient. For current rates and reservations, call 606-589-2181. Motels also in Appalachia, Va., and Big Stone Gap, Va.

CAMPING: Primitive camping with flush toilets and water available at Kingdom Come State Park on crest of Pine Mountain at Cumberland. Supplies can be had at several local stores.

FOOD: Several fast food outlets and small restaurants in Cumberland.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: Friday night: meet; collect moths in Kingdom Come St. Park and on Big Black Mountain.

Saturday: 8:30 A.M.; Friday arrivals meet for breakfast in Cumberland restaurant. 10:00 A.M. Meet at fire tower on Big Black Mtn. to search for Erora laeta and other species. Bring lunch.

(cont. pg. 2)

PACKING SPECIMENS FOR MAILING

Whether you wish to send specimens in exchange, for identification, on loan, or whatever, you surely want them to arrive safely. While damage sometimes cannot be prevented even if proper precautions were taken, I have had excellent results over the past 28 years when papered or pinned specimens were packed properly. Most of you do not need these tips; but perhaps some of our beginning collectors will find them useful.

FOR PAPERED SPECIMENS

Assuming you have papered butterflies and moths properly (firmly confined in a paper envelope of some sort), it is possible to send these with less elaborate packaging than in the case of pinned specimens. If you have a strong wooden, plastic, or metal box, line the bottom and sides with cotton or cellucotton. Carefully layer the envelopes in the center of this "nest," and put a firm layer of the packing material on top. A strong cigar box may suffice; but it should be reinforced by gluing or tacking wooden support pieces along the insides of the narrow sides of the box to support the lid. After closing, the envelopes should not be loose enough to slide around when the box is shaken. Next tape the box securely around the top. Then wrap it in wrapping paper and tape that securely. Put on the address label, and you may want to tape that down with transparent tape to prevent it coming off. Finally, many collectors tie the box securely with string to add one more protective detail. Be sure both addressee's address and your own are clear and complete. Also, especially with (to pg. 2)

SPRING FIELD MEETING PLANS (cont.)

Mid-afternoon: Collect Pieris virginiensis and Celastrina ebinina along Rt. 160 on Big Black Mountain. After dinner (place to be arranged) we will collect moths in area to be decided depending on Friday's catch.

Sunday: Morning activities will follow plans made previous day.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND: Contact Field Coordinator as soon as possible for maps, directions, rendezvous points, and additional information you may require.

WRITE OR CALL: Loran D. Gibson
30 Russell Street
Florence, Kentucky 41042

Phone: 606-371-3455

NEW BUG BOOKS COMING OUT SOON

There are some important additions to the literature that you will see before too long. First in importance to North American collectors will be the new "CHECK LIST OF THE LEPIDOPTERA OF AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO," which is published in England by Curwen Press for the Moths of America N. of Mexico project. The manuscript has, I understand, been sent to the publisher and it should be out late this year.

Next we have "BUTTERFLIES OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES" in press at Univ. of Oklahoma Press. Edited by F. Martin Brown and Cliff Ferris, this painstakingly thorough work will provide long-needed detailed data on the butterflies of the area. Ray Stanford has been working long and hard on butterfly distribution maps for the area, one aspect of the study.

D'Abrera's revised "Australian Region" volume of his ambitious "The Butterflies of the World" series is available now from E. W. Classey Ltd., Park Rd., Faringdon, Oxon, Sn7 7DR England. The second volume will cover the "Afro-tropical Region" and should be out later this year. Each now sells for \$85 postpaid (I think).



PACKING SPECIMENS (cont.)

material destined for foreign recipients, a label or wording should be added with words to this effect:

DEAD, DRIED INSECT SPECIMENS FOR
SCIENTIFIC STUDY; NO COMMERCIAL VALUE.

This prevents payment of duty fees and assures that the shipment will not be confiscated because of agriculture restrictions. Sending of live material is subject to strict legal controls; one must have import permits to bring living insects into a country.

PINNED SPECIMENS

The risk of damage is greater with pinned specimens, and their quality of spreading and labelling is definitely a factor. A strong insect box with deep, thick pinning bottom material is essential. BE SURE THE PINNING BOTTOM AND ALL BOX PARTS ARE TIGHT! Also, BE SURE THERE ARE NO LOOSE OBJECTS IN THE BOX (such as insect pins, fumigant crystals, bits of label card, etc.). I once received a shipment of beautifully prepared material that was virtually shredded because several insect pins had been lodged around the edges of the pinning bottom of a Schmitt box, and had acted as bullets during handling and destroyed the specimens.

When packing, push the pins into the pinning bottom as far as they will go, using a pair of pinning forceps if possible. Space the specimens far enough apart so they will not bump each other if one should become loose. BE SURE TO STEADY ANY SPECIMENS LOOSE ON PINS by crossing extra insect pins over the abdomen or some similar method. BEWARE OF LOOSE LABELS that could swing around and hit neighboring specimens. Watch out, too, for body parts about to fall off; fasten them or remove them and put them in gelatin capsules pinned with the specimens.

After pinning the specimens, add the lid, wrap the box in wrapping paper (to keep packing material out of the box and help secure the box. Nestle this box in excelsior, plastic bits, or some such packing material in an outer carton (to page 3)

PACKING SPECIMENS (Concl.)

of heavy cardboard. BE SURE THAT THERE IS A WIDE AREA OF PACKING MATERIAL AROUND THE INSECT BOX. Also, if you put more than one insect box in the carton, be sure to pad both boxes separately so they will not bang against each other.

Tape the outer carton securely and finish the job as in the case of papered specimens.

There is another touch which I have not used myself but which many museums and individuals employ. Inside the box of pinned specimens a piece of cardboard is placed above the insect pins (if there are enough to support the cardboard sheet securely). Then some cotton, cellucotton, or other soft material fills the space between the cardboard layer and the top of the box. This tends to keep pins from working loose and wreaking havoc. I have had no trouble shipping pinned specimens without this additional step, but there are those who feel it is essential.

There are other points which you may wish to add. Let me know. Some people would not think of sending papered specimens in a single outer box, but would put that inside another box with padding as I have described for pinned specimens. I support this method, too, especially when the specimens are especially valued.

In the case of mailing, cost may be saved and a record kept by using United Parcel Service instead of the postal service. Library rates may be used when sending to a museum or university, if you do use the Postal Service. In any case, be sure the package is wrapped tightly, and labelled clearly and permanently.

NOMENCLATURAL CHANGES IN COPPERS

"Studies in the Lycaeninae (Lycaenidae) 4. The higher classification of the American Coppers" (Bull. Allyn Museum 51 (1979), by L. D. Miller and F. M. Brown has just been published. Hylolycaena Miller & Brown has been proposed for hyllus (Cramer), formerly known as Lycaena thoe. Hermelycaena Miller and Brown is likewise proposed for the western species, Lycaena hermes, making the new comb-

ination Hermelycaena hermes (W. H. Edwards).

Species in other genera in this work are as follows: Tharsalea: arota; Lycaena: phlaeas, cupreus; Gaeides: xanthoides, editha, gorgon; Chalceria: rubidus, ferrisi, heteronea; Epidemia: epixanthe, dorcas, helloides, niv-alis, and mariposa.

"OHIO LEPIDOPTERISTS" IS BORN

On Saturday, March 10, 1979, a new organization tentatively known as the OHIO LEPIDOPTERISTS was formed in a meeting at the Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, with Carl Albrecht and Eric Metzler as hosts. There were 25 in attendance, and the group decided to form an informal organization with goals similar to those of the SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERISTS. Carl Albrecht was elected "President Pro Tem," with Eric Metzler as Treasurer; a newsletter will be issued, the first due in April; Editor is "Buggie" Markham, assisted by Susan Ahearn. Four or five field trips yearly are planned, and another meeting will be held later in the year. Dues will be \$5 per year, payable to Metzler at 1241 Kildale Square North, Columbus, OHIO 43229. All interested lepidopterists are welcome to join. Eric also informed me that the Ohio Noctuidae study he and Roy Rings are working on now numbers over 600 species!

FIRST ISSUE OUT OF SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS'
NEWS

A fine 6-page issue of "Southern Lepidopterists' News" was mailed earlier this month, and is chock full of interesting information. Congratulations to Editor Dave Baggett for a job well done. We are sad to hear of the death of Joe Patterson in an auto accident. Joe, one of the first Zone Coordinators of the Southern Lepidopterists, was the first to collect Papilio androgeus in the U.S. Recent events and prospects for the 1979 season are well covered in the newsletter. For those of you who still have yet to join this live-wire group, the dues of \$3 may be sent to Treasurer Tom Neal, 1416 N.W. 2nd St., Gainesville, Fla. 32601.

We wish to welcome as NEW MEMBER Rick Gilmore, 35 S. Devon Ave., Winter Springs, FLORIDA 32707. Rick is a general collector with leanings toward Catocala.

THIS REALLY HAPPENED!

BY Leroy Koehn

In June, 1977, I took my family on a vacation to Florida. We stopped at Dave Baggett's in Jacksonville, and he and I swung a net together for a few days. Before we left to head south he gave me some directions to some good collecting spots in South Florida and the Keys.

Upon arrival at Key Largo I made plans to collect next day on lower Key Largo. The next morning was a beauty, and I left American Outdoors Campground heading SW on Rt. ALA looking for a spot to collect Strymon columella. Following Dave's directions I stopped just north of Tavernier and the spot really looked good. I parked along the highway and entered an old field with a few trees here and there. I was busy collecting a few Strymon martialis and an occasional S. columella when a fine officer of the Monroe County Sheriff's Dept. walked out into the field. He was very polite and asked me what I was doing. Of course I explained to him that I was a Lepidopterist. He attempted to know what I was talking about. Then he asked me if I were licensed. I wasn't sure what he was asking, so I said I didn't believe I needed one. I think this really threw him. Waiting a minute or two, I think he was lost as to who and what I was. He told me that I was trespassing, and that this was posted property. I said I did not see a sign. So we looked. Along the dirt road on the opposite side of the field, under five (5) years of growth of vines and nailed to a tree was a sign. Very badly rusted, you could read only "Road No Tres... Pos..." The other letters were rusted away and shot full of holes.

With this I said that I would leave. He, looking rather sheepish, said, "You'll have to come with me until we straighten things out."

I received a very nice ride in the back seat of a police car down the Keys to a sheriff's office. Upon arrival I was escorted to a deputy sheriff, before whom I stood, hat in hand. The two officers had a private conversation, after which the deputy asked me what I was doing there, and if I had trouble reading signs. I begged his forgiveness and told him where the sign was located, and, of course, its general condition. He told me to be seated and it would be a few minutes until they found the property owner to see what he wanted to do. A few minutes dragged on to a few hours and finally I got up and asked him what the hold-up was. He

said the old lady who owned the field was dead and that they wanted to find out what to do. So again I sat, and at last the sheriff came out and said I was free to go.

They drove me back to my car which now had a parking ticket on it. I asked the sheriff if I had to pay it, and he said, "Of course. There's a sign back down this road a piece." Rather than argue, I paid the fine. My collecting day shot, I headed for home.

Several days later my wife and I were going to Key West. Out of curiosity I looked for that NO PARKING sign. We stopped at a vine and weed-covered tree and I was looking for it when another of Monroe County's finest stopped. He asked me what I was looking for, and I explained. He said, and I quote: "Don't nobody around here pay no heed to those signs." I thought to myself, "I wonder if this is the same county!" Three hours and five dollars lost, and "Don't nobody pay no heed to signs."

(Another installment later; that's not all! -Ed.)

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE EDITOR

This winter has gone too fast. I have been on sabbatical, working on completion of the Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern N. America. This has entailed about 1,200 individual species descriptions, with sources of information in various books, lists from colleagues, notes, etc. So it is slow. I am into the Geometridae (Larentiinae) now, if you follow the old McDunnough listing. In addition, I have added to the Kentucky faunal study as I have learned more about moths by working on the Field Guide. We have 1,870 species now from Ky., and a rough draft of the records has now been typed by able assistants, Martha Heeter and Karen Craig. Also, we have "an angel" who has provided a large sum for publication. The book will be called "The Butterflies and Moths of Kentucky: An Annotated Checklist." We can STILL ADD NEW KENTUCKY RECORDS, so please send any important records. I hope our spring trip will yield some more goodies. Also, the article "Six new butterfly records from Kentucky" by L. Gibson, R. Henderson, M. McInnis and me will be published in J. Lepid. Soc. this year, along with an article on Malaise trap as tool of butterfly survey (Covell & P. Freytag). Well, happy netting, and see you soon! -CVC

