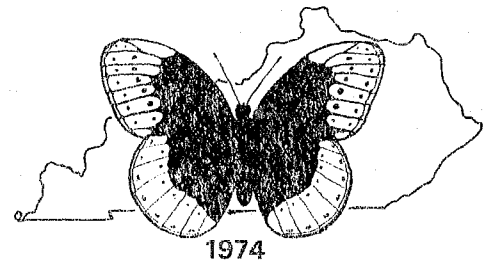


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

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C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR
R. A. HENDERSON, ASSOC. EDITOR

AUGUST, 1981

FALL FIELD MEETING TO BE LABOR DAY . WEEKEND

IN AN EFFORT TO GET SOME OF THE EARLY FALL BUTTERFLIES IN FRESHER CONDITION AND TO ATTRACT SOME OF YOU NET-SWINGERS FROM AFAR TO OUR FALL GET-TOGETHER, WE ARE PLANNING IT FOR THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND, SEPT. 4-6, 1981. BILL BLACK AND HIS WIFE NANCY HAVE AGAIN INVITED US TO CAMP IN THEIR BACK FIELD. WE WILL GATHER FRIDAY NIGHT AND DO SOME LOCAL MOTH COLLECTING AND PLANNING FOR NEXT MORNING. THOSE WHO ARRIVE SATURDAY MORNING CAN MEET US BETWEEN 9 AND 10 A.M. AT THE HOLIDAY INN IN PADUCAH. WE WILL THEN GO TO THE HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS OF GRAVES AND FULTON COUNTIES WHERE WE SHOULD TAKE SUCH GEMS AS POANES YEHL, EUPHYES DION, PANOQUINA OCOLA, LETHE CREOLA, L. APPALACHIA, L. PORTLANDIA MISSARK-AE, ZERENE CESONIA, AND OTHER SPP.

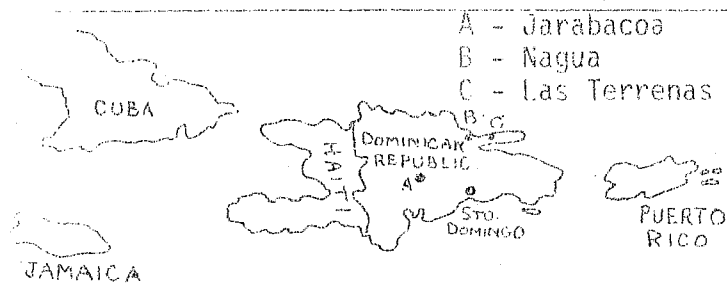
SEVERAL CATOCALA SPP. ARE ALSO GOOD BETS, SUCH AS C. MARMORATA. SEVERAL NEW MOTH RECORDS FOR KY. WERE TAKEN ON THIS TRIP LAST YEAR.

So- plan now to attend. For information on how to get there, motels if you wish not to camp, and other particulars can be had from Loran Gibson (phone AC 606 - 371-3455; address: 30 Russell St., Florence, Ky. 41042). Bill Black's address is Rt. 6, Clinton Road, Paducah, Ky. 4200. His phone, AC 502 - 554-1938. PLEASE LET LORAN KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING. A cookout is planned for Sat. night (each of us will pitch in for the chow). In all, a grand time is planned, and we very much want you to join us. Remember that Paducah is in the Central Time Zone!

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FIELD TRIP

On June 21 about 70 lepidopterists and kin met at Miami International Airport to fly to the Dominican Republic for a week of collecting. The "Emmel Flying Circus," prompted by the terrific interest in the Ecuador trip of 1980, included the following members of the Kentucky Lepidopterists: Dave Ahrenholz, Brett Barrett, Dave Bigelow, Charlie Covell, Irv Finkelstein, Tom Emmel, Pete Knudsen, Jim and Mary Lou Merritt, Stan Nicolay, Mike and Debbie McInnis, and Chuck and JoAnn Zeiger. We got off the ground almost on time, and soon walked out into the muggy heat of the Santo Domingo airport. Customs were cleared without difficulty, and we got into 4 red-and-white minibus vehicles, ready to drive the 3½ hour trip to the mountain town of Jarabacoa, where we were to spend most of our time. Alas, some baggage was missing; so we waited over an hour to get off. Finally heading out, we passed through the crowded streets of Santo Domingo, where massive churches, buildings and fortress remnants appeared among the more modern buildings. Finally out in the country, darkness overtook us, and soon we had to stop for one bus which had a short in its headlight wiring. After this delay we moved on, when another bus lost its lights. A cop pulled it over, and we ended up man-handling the luggage into another bus, and boarding a large bus sent down to get us. At about midnight we got to the Hotel Pinar Dorado in Jarabacoa (see A on map), where a Latin-style band welcomed us. We had a late dinner of fried chicken "peglegs," salad, bean and rice dish, fried plantains and

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candied orange or guava for dessert. Mighty good after the long trek. And the Presidente cerveza (beer): delicious, though overpriced at the hotel. Well, the baggage for some of us did not arrive until morning but that was all right. After a good breakfast we met Dr. Luis Merion, physician from Santo Domingo and only D.R. member of the Lepidopterists' Soc. He directed our cavalcade of buses to Santiago desert habitats (about where the first N in Dominican is in the above map), where we took some Siproeta stelenes and Hamadryas februa (Haitian Cracker) at rotting mangoes under a big mango tree. I found a good hairstreak spot where I took Electrostrymon angelia, Strymon columella, and a very similar species that might be S. toussainti. On the way down to Santiago we made the first of our several visits to Bayacanes, a small town at the foot of the mountains a few miles north of Jarabacoa. We saw (and a few caught) the fast, elusive, and equally beautiful Prepona amphitoe. My prizes at that spot included 2 big skippers: the Cuban Giant Blue Skipper, Astraptes habana, and the Great Tawny Skipper, Pyrrhocalles antiqua. June 22nd was a very successful day, with many other butterflies taken and photographs made by those who came for photography.

While the whole crowd went on that first trip, we signed up the evening before for 3-4 different options on succeeding days. On the 23rd I was in charge of a busfull heading up into the mountains to a small hamlet calle Manobao. The dirt road was rough, and several bridges had washed away in the hurricane 2 years before. The repairs were rustic and passage was sometimes precarious. We stopped several places up the mountain, collecting many Calisto (small brown ringlet-like Satyridae; not sure yet of spp.) and getting some swings at the big swallowtails such as Papilio aristodemus, machaonides, and androgeus (which occurred around the hotel, so some stayed there all day). Up at the summit I got away into a banana plantation mostly still a field be-

cause the plants were small, and woods along a creek where I saw the False Fritillary and Lesser False Fritillary (Anetia pantherata and A. briarea), and took Anartia lytrea for the first time. After a couple of beers in Manobao, we headed home, with a stop to visit a beautiful waterfall about a mile up the trail from the road.

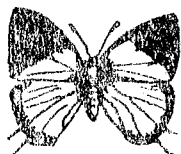
On the 24th my bus went back to Bayacanes where things had looked promising. I had the "help" of a teenaged Dominican, who I wanted only to lead me to the "mariposas grandes." However, he wanted to do the catching - a problem where language is a barrier. Our group recorded these butterfly species there that day: Papilio pelaus, P. aristodemus, P. machaonides, P. androgeus; Danaus plexippus, D. gilippus, Lycorea ceres; Battus polydamas, Calisto sp., Prepona amphitoe, Anartia jatrophae, Junonia evarete, Colobura dirce, Euptoieta hegesia, Phoebis sennae, P. argante, P. philea, Dryas julia, Heliconius charitonius, Agraulis vanillae, Hamadryas februa, Eurema pyro, Dismorphia spio, Melete salacia, Leptotes ceraunus, Allosmaitia coelebs, Marpesia chiron, Astraptes habana, Chiodes ixion (?), Urbanus dorantes, U. proteus, Proteides mercurius, Achylodes thraso, Pyrrhocalles antiqua, Lerodea eufala, Panoquina sp., Pyrgus oileus, Astraptes talus, and Cabares potrillo. Also a small hairstreak sp. or 2 were taken by Andy Brower, but I don't have their identifications to relate. Not a bad day!

During these 2 days, other groups went to the Constanza area where the only colony of the only Ithomiidae in Hispaniola was collected (Greta diaphana), or to the nearby Bamboo Hole Canyon leading to a lovely waterfall. Reports by each group were made after dinner at an evening program session. At those evening programs talks were given, too. Stan Nicolay talked on taxonomy of the genus Strymon, and illustrated it well with slides. I gave a slide show and talk on the Ecuador trip of 1980 (Group 1). On a later evening Dave Ahrenholz showed us some of his extremely detailed, sharp slides of butterflies (some of which can be seen in Bob Pyle's new Audubon Soc. Field Guide to Butterflies of N. America). Other evening programs included a briefing on area butterflies the first night by Tom Emmel, a slide program on (page 3)

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butterflies in general by Dave Bigelow, and some great picking and singing by Andy Beck who had also been in our group in Ecuador.

The 25th saw us all (except Irv and about 13 others) get back in those infernal buses and head northeast to the coast. We had 2 nights' reservations at Las Terrenas (C on the map, pg. 2), and stopped in Nagua (B on map) at lunchtime for some collecting along a lovely palm-edged beach. Large sulphurs were flying southwestward along the beach, and lepidopterists were lined up for several hundred yards, swinging at them as they ran the gauntlet. My best catch there was the large yellow Anteos maerula, but the Phoebis sennae, argante, and Kricogonia lyside were abundant, too. Several Eurema spp. taken here and other places have yet to be identified. From here we went over rough mountains to Las Terrenas, where we were glad to settle into comfortable cabins and head for the beach. Snorkeling gear was available at the little palm-thatched beach bar, and the reef life made for a wonderful extra experience. Moth collecting at night was rather poor, and the electricity kept going off and on; but the dining was in a big open-sided building and the food was good enough for a pleasant evening. Next day I went with one group back up the mountainous road for some collecting amid the homes of some of the local people. Naked young children followed us about. Preponas were taken, but not by yours truly (who was beginning to feel snake-bit regarding that prize). Also we got Battus polydamas, the other Papilionids, other species reported in the other area (not much change in fauna from shore to mountains, with a few exceptions). Rotten mangoes were attractive to some good spp. A very few hairstreaks were taken. That night I put my moth light out away from the hotel area, and Andy Brower, his dad Lincoln Brower, and Dave Bigelow came along. We got quite a few moths, including the big Sphingid, Cocytius antaeus, and many others of lesser size. I was happy to get some Geometridae for my research in that family, though I was generally disappointed in the small number of species in that family I saw during the trip (Ecuador was much better).



*Nesiostrymon
celida* (Lucas)

On June 27th a few of us went together to the hills above the Las Terrenas resort, and I had my first experience collecting several more beauties: Colobura dirce, Eunica monima, Lucinia sida, Nesiostrymon celida, and Allosmaitia coelebs. Pyrgus crisia and oileus were among the skippers there. After this very hot and humid morning, we packed up to return to Jarabacoa, arriving for dinner. There were 2 flat tires to slow us, but by now we were used to these things.

The 28th was our last day, so I went to the fabled Bamboo Hole Canyon area, a place where a waterfall had once (before the hurricane) been adorned with a fine stand of bamboo. Dave Ahrenholz and I spent most of the day getting from the hotel to the waterfall, and did not collect there, but at a riverside spot and hillside on the way. We took lots of pictures, and I added the following butterflies to my list of captures: Papilio androgeus and aristodemus, Phoebis philea, Eurema pyro, E. dina, Dynamine egaëa, Archimestra teleboas, Anaea troglodyta, and Hypanartia paullus. A Colias cesonia was seen near the falls, but missed. Calisto spp. and skippers await determination before they can be listed. And, yes, I got my Prepona on the way back, with a ♀ P. androgeus! We got off for Santo Domingo at about 4:30 A.M. on 29 June, and rode those bumpy roads for the last time through the early dawn. My last capture was a sphingid, Protambulyx strigilis taken in La Vega, where we made a short stop. In Santo Domingo we were early for our 12:30 flight, and some of us got a short visit to the market-place to look for amber and other gift items. We has feared the air controllers' strike would maroon us in the D.R., but fortunately we all got home safely (at least to Miami). No problem bringing our prizes through customs, as far as I knew.

There are many specimens to spread and identify, and I hope some interesting new captures were made. One skipper, from the Las Terrenas area, appears to be a Euphyes sp. not reported from the island heretofore. More on that when it is verified.

I hope others in our group can make one of these neotropical trips, since they are life-time experiences. I am waiting to hear a report from the Mexico contingent; hope all went well, and that hunting was good. I hear that Ecuador has now told the SIL to get out by next May, and will not let specimens be removed from the country. So go when you can!

MC

NEWS AND NOTES

- DUES NOTICE: Blaine Early, our Treasurer, notes that we have about \$287 in the Treasury. PLEASE send your dues to him now: \$3 for regular membership, \$1.50 for Assoc. I hope you will help us build the treasury back up by paying for Regular Membership if you feel you can swing it. Many thanks. Full report at Ann. Meeting.
- NEW MEMBERS: J. P. Knudsen, 617 Macon Place, Raleigh, N.C. 27609. Pete is an old friend of your editor's, dating to undergrad days (mine) at U.N.C. He is interested in butterfly collecting anywhere, and is active again after years in diapause.
- Gene Wickham, 3813 Hycliffe Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40207. Gene is a graduate student at the Dept. of Anatomy in our medical school, and recently graduated from the Biology Dept. His interest in insects is developing fast.
- Dr. Lee Townsend, Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Ky., Lexington, Ky. 40506. Lee is replacing Phil Sloderbeck as our "man at U.K. Entomology Dept."
- NEW ADDRESS: Richard Klopshinske, P.O. Box 625; Olathe, Colorado 81425 (formerly Paonia, Co.)
- NEW BOOK: Bob Pyle's Audubon Society Field Guide to N. American Butterflies is now at finer bookstores and nature centers for \$11.95. Chock full of photos (2 by your editor; many more by Dave Ahrenholz, Karolis Bagdonas, Paul Opler, Bob Pyle, Steve Roman, and Ray Stanford). A fine book; and a MUST!
- NEW STATE RECORD: Carl Cornett took 2 Abrostola ovalis Guenée at Natural Bridge State Park, July 7 and 9 (2 specimens) (Noctuidae). State List now: 1,988 species. (Also I have verified that he does indeed have Lytrosis sinuosa Rindge from Pine Mountain State Park, collected 9 June, 1981 - a great catch!
- IDEA FOR ANNUAL MEETING: I will set up an identification test of N. American butterflies for anyone to take, if anyone will donate a prize. Let me know if interested. Specimens will be numbered, and contestants will have to know scientific names.
- ANNUAL MTG. - Nov. 6-7!
- BOOK PUBLICATIONS: Memoirs #2 should be here for mailing any day now. The Moths of America Checklist of N.A. Lepidoptera is in press, due out late this year. The Rocky Mountain Butterflies is also in press, due out soon. Which one will be first?
- NEWS & FEATURES NEEDED: Please send me notes on field trips, short articles, cartoons, or anything suitable for passing on to our colleagues. *THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!*
- NOTES FROM AFIELD: Dave Hess writes that he has been ill, but Pat Conway and George Balogh have new spots for Hesperia ottoe, A. hianna, B. bellona, S. idalia, A. lyciades, & other spp. in west-central Illinois. They are finishing a booklet on butterflies from that area.

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