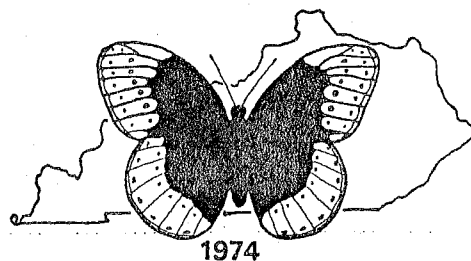


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF
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C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR

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ASSOCIATE EDITORS: R. A. HENDERSON & M. L. MCINNIS

FIELD TRIP & PICNIC JUNE 21, 1986

An early summer field trip to collect butterflies, and make a Xerces Society Butterfly Count, will take place at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary, Oldham Co, KY, on Saturday, June 21, 1986. Those of you who can attend, meet at the general store at Brownsboro, KY, at 9:30 AM, and we will proceed from there. Latecomers can join us by following Old Zaring Road (see map on page 3) into the area and finding us. We plan to eat bag lunches, and also have a cookout with charcoal broiled hamburgers at about 7 PM. I have a grill, but we need one 1-2 more. Plan to chip in for the food. Then we can use bait and lights to collect moths until you want to quit.

If you are interested, call Covell at AC 502, 588-5942 or 6771 (Biology Dept.) during the day, or 456-6122 at home in the evening. Or just SHOW UP unannounced.

Species we should see include several good hairstreaks, such as S. caryaevorus, edwardsii, calanus falacer; H. titus mopsus; C. borealis; S. cybele; Charidryas nycteis; A. celtis; E. marcellus; P. asterias, troilus & glaucus; P. protodice; Megisto cymela and others. Results of count will be submitted to Xerces Society.

We will cancel if completely rainy or cloudy; we will have it if only a few showers alternate with sun. Call Covell if not sure. Sorry for the short notice, but I HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! -CVC

FIELD NEWS AND NOTES

The 1986 season began for some of us with Tom Emmel's trip to French Guiana, March 24 - April 2. There were 35 of us, including other Ky. Lepidopterists Lee Guidry, Pete Knudsen, Bob & Margie Schaum-Teffel, and Giovanna Holbrook. We arrived at the Motel Beauregard in Remire near Cayenne, and after a first day together, split into 2 groups, one of which went south to the small settlement of Cacao, almost entirely inhabited by Laotian immigrants. Later, the 2 groups switched places. Butterflies were rather sparse in numbers and mostly worn, as the previous months had been quite dry. However, we all had chances to net Morpho species such as menelaus and achilles, and a few of the other big ones. Two of the guys entertained us by jumping out of a moving canoe to vie for a Prepona on a tree trunk. Metalmarks were the dominant butterflies; so if one were not too specialized in his interests, the collecting was not bad. We had 2 nights of blacklighting, and got a good selection of Sphingidae and a few other big moths, plus many small ones. Of the night collecting the "highlight" was just that: 5 mercury vapor bulbs mounted on a 40-foot pole, high above the sheet, which had 2 more bulbs. This impressive rig was run by a powerful generator provided by Dominique Bauthville, an entomologist in Cayenne who is surveying the sphingid fauna of French Guiana in addition to his more practical pursuits as a forest entomologist. Philippe Soler, who with his wife provided our meals in Cacao, led

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us to some good spots and became a good friend. Including the historical and cultural features of this former French penal colony, now a departement of France, the trip turned out to be very enjoyable and fruitful - with promise of better collecting if we can go there again.

Upon returning to Kentucky, I found that the collecting season had already begun and that local spring favorites such as Celastrina ebenina, Anthocharis midea, Incisalia henrici, Pieris virginiensis and 5 swallowtail species were already flying in the last week in March. P. virginiensis was more abundant than I have ever seen it in the Bullitt Co. spot we call "Bearcamp Road," and this species was finally added to the Jefferson Co. list by captures in 3 spots in the county: Valley Station (Apr. 7, by student Gregg Miller), River Road area (Apr. 8, by Doug Durbin), and Anchorage (Apr. 13, by Burt L. Monroe Jr.). Eric Metzler visited from Ohio on Apr. 12 to sample the local collecting, and we recorded 27 butterfly species, including Cyllopsis gemma, Anaea andria, and all the species listed above. The season thus started early, and of this writing remains early. Loran Gibson reported taking a Catocala dulciola at Big Bone Lick State Park on 9 June - much earlier than the dates on which he has taken it in the past. The wet, humid weather lately has been excellent for growth of foodplants and the Lepidoptera on which they feed.

May 11 saw the departure for Florida of a group of 5 students, plus Yin-rei Hicks, Chuck Covell, and his dad, on the third "Subtropical Field Entomology" course (the others were in 1978 and 1982). After a first night in Perry, GA, we visited spots where pickerel weed grows along Rt. 82 in Atkinson Co. near Pearson. I had found some interesting skippers there in May, 1974 (written up in J. Lepid. Soc. 29 (2): 129), and we found most of them there again: O. maculata, E. dion alabamae, Poanes aaroni howardi, and Atrytone logan. These, with Papilio palamedes and other species made for a good introduction to coastal plain collecting for members of the class (Pete Coffman, Paul Johnson, Rob Mattingly, Troy Payne, and Rick

Weldon). Yin-rei took every opportunity to set up her camp stool and sketch flowers, usually taking along the flower to use later to complete the job.

Our second night was spent as guests of Dr. & Mrs. Howard V. Weems Jr. in Gainesville, FL, with a visit next morning to the Fla. Collection of Arthropods which Dr. Weems and his staff have built into one of the biggest and best curated in North America. We then drove to Homestead and Camp Owaissa Bauer, where we spent the next 4 nights. While there, we were joined by Dana Gring, Tom Carr, John Rigenbach, and Dr. Frank Hedges, who spent part of the time with us, and part on their own. We also had a visit from Duffy and Patti Bledsoe, former U. of L. students and early members of this Society. They are raising 3 fine kids in the Ft. Lauderdale area, where Duffy has a business managing schedules for a group of 7 physicians. Our Homestead collecting included Camp Owaissa Bauer where we found Papilio crespontes, Eurema dina, Phoebis agarithe, Pontia protodice, Ascia monuste, Eumaeus atala, Electrostrymon angelia, Imolus azia (taken by T. Carr), P. m-album, Calycopis cecrops, Marpesia petreus, Eunica monima, Siproeta stelenes, H. charitonius, D. iulia, A. vanillae, Urbanus dorantes, etc., plus Ascalapha odorata and just a few other good moths at night (it had been very dry). We visited the IFAS station for a tour of the research facilities, and also walked the Gumbo Limbo and Anhinga trails at Royal Palm Hammock in Everglades National Park. We drove down the keys, and saw at least 2 Papilio aristodemus ponceanus on Key Largo, and further down caught Strymon martialis, S. acis bartrami, Anaea floridae, Brephidium pseudofea and Euphyes pilatka among other species on Big Pine Key. A visit to Stock Island was too late in the day for us to catch much; but we recorded Epargyreus zestos, Cymaenes tripunctus, Papilio crespontes, and a few other species before repairing to Key West for dinner.

Leaving Homestead on May 16, we drove to Sarasota for a visit at the Allyn Museum of Entomology, with a tour of the collections presented by Jackie Miller. That night and
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the next was spent on Terra Ceia Island at the home of Mrs. Lucille Leps. On the 17th we surveyed the butterfly fauna of Myakka River State Park, and recorded 22 species, including A. logan, P. vibex, P. glaucus, P. troilus, P. palamedes, P. polyxenes asterius, E. marcellus, D. gilippus berenice, V. virginiensis, V. atalanta, Eurema दौरा, Euristrymon favonius and others. The 18th saw us up early and off to meet Dave Baggett, who led us to McKethan Lake in Withlacoochee State Forest, Citrus Co. We collected there and at 2 nearby localities during the day, and baited and blacklighted for moths that evening at a spot on Forest Rd. M-11 in the same forest. Butterflies taken included Euristrymon favonius, Satyrium calanus calanus, S. liparops liparops, A. halesus, P. m-album, C. cecrops, S. melinus, A. celtis, P. protodice, and the arctiid moth, Dahana atripennis. Best collecting was on blossoms of sparkleberry, which normally are gone by this date. Moth collecting, while not up to Dave's normal expectations, was spectacular to us who had never been to the spot. Rick Gillmore and his wife joined us, and Dave applied his bait with a small insecticide spray tank. Many moths came to bait that I had not found to go to bait in other places, and Catocala spp. collected included ilia, louisae, micronympha, amica, sordida, ultronia, muliercula, and amestris. In all, we had a fine day and night, and we are most grateful to Dave for leading us and showing us special things such as Tegeticula yuccasella moths on yucca blossoms and tents of Megathymus cofaqui. We sped for home early on May 19; and I had one day to wash up for a plane trip to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

My trip to Ottawa was for the double purpose of attending the Lepidopterists' Society Annual Meeting and also collect data on Kentucky Lepidoptera in the Canadian National Collection. The late T.N. Freeman and George Lewis had collected at Morehead in 1962 and 1963, and I needed to gather data for the Ky. Lepidoptera Survey. I spent 3 days in that pursuit, and also talked on the Schaus Swallowtail to the meeting group. We had a fine bunch there, including many Kentucky Lepidopterists. Several of us had

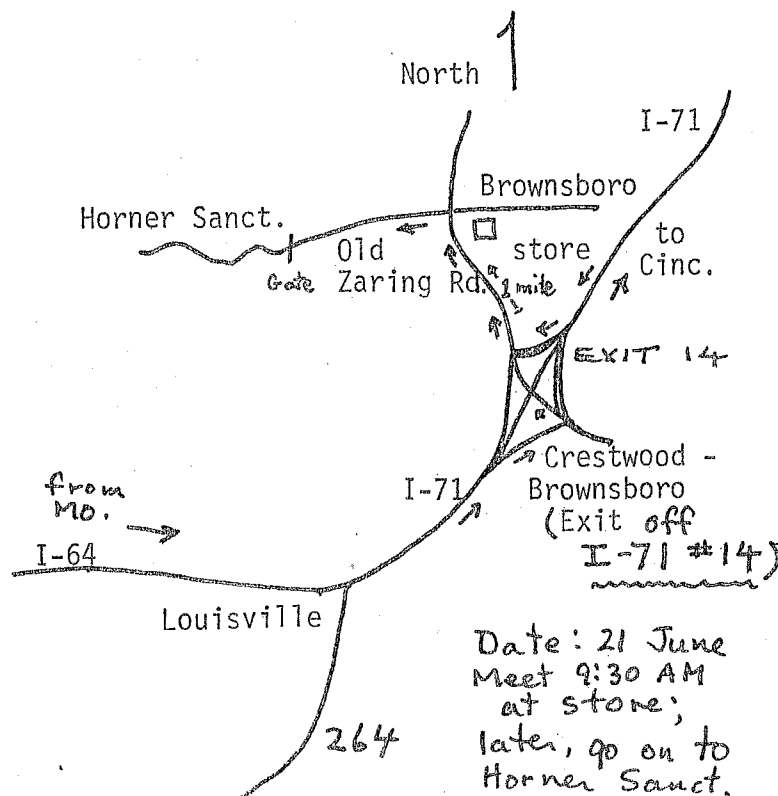
an enjoyable evening blacklighting at Constance Bay on May 26: Mo Nielsen, Leroy Koehn, Eric Metzler, Don Lafontaine, Ron Leuschner, and others.

Since my return from Ottawa, I have been entering data on Ky. Lepidoptera from the notes made there. Five new state records resulted from specimens examined, plus material returned to the Univ. of Louisville collection by Dr. Eugene Munroe. Further data came from examination of our Pyralidae, subfamily Phycitinae, by Dr. Herb Neunzig at N.C. State University. We have 7 new state records (net gain) from his kind contribution. The state list now stands at 2,125 species.

Your editor plans to spend 2 weeks as a visiting curatorial specialist at the Cornell Univ. Insect Collection July 7-21, and also go to Costa Rica the first week in August. We hope to announce a late summer field trip in the next issue, so be prepared for a get together in early Sept.

Also please do not forget the plans to contact Dave Hess if you plan to join him on the Sand Ridge State Forest, Illinois field trip planned for Aug. 23-24. His address is 143 Harmony Lane, Macomb, IL 61455. This is a most interesting site, and I hope you will attend this trip.

Now, below, is the map to Brownsboro, Ky. to help you get to the rendezvous on June 21 for our field trip and picnic:



CORRECTIONS AND OMISSIONS

Ray Stanford provided a correction and an update directed to the last issue's note concerning Hesperia pawnee. The correct name of the endangered skipper is H. leonardus montana. H. leonardus pawnee is a widespread plains subspecies which ranges from Colorado to Saskatchewan. Ray also forwarded an article (Rocky Mountain News; September 11, 1985) which described research to determine the range of H. l. montana. This skipper's range is more extensive than previously thought. More importantly, Ray has found that the Denver Water Board's management of Cheeseman Lake (grazing, camping, and aerial spraying are prohibited) has been beneficial to montana colonies. This research would seem to indicate that the planned dam construction would not decimate the available montana habitat.

A second correction was provided by Bob Robbins. In the "...Key To The Species of Cyanophrys...", I mistakenly stated that C. longula does not have tails. This statement is accurate for males. However, females do have tails. The key to identification of C. longula remains the reddish brown (cinnamon) marginal coloration on the hindwing ventral surface

M. L. McInnis

TROPICAL HAIRSTREAK COLLECTING

In Volume 26:3 of the Journal of The Lepidopterists' Society, Keith Brown Jr. authored a fascinating article entitled "Maximizing Daily Butterfly Counts". My interest in neotropical hairstreaks (Lycaenidae: Eumaeini) and Mr. Brown's article have prompted me

to attempt maximization of daily hairstreak counts in Mexico.

My experiences lead me to assert that there are two successful methods for collecting tropical hairstreaks. The first method involves early morning and late afternoon searches of perching spots. This method is most effective along hedgerows and in coffee fincas. Coffee fincas are productive because tall trees are left in the fincas to provide shade for the coffee trees. From these taller trees, hairstreaks descend to the coffee trees where they are accessible by net (3 to 5 meters). I would consider the observation or capture of thirty to forty hairstreaks in a day to be the maximum normally achievable by utilizing the perching method. Further, collecting is constrained by available sunlight as hairstreaks are rarely observed perching during cloudy weather.

The second and preferred method of hairstreak collecting involves the use of nectar sources. While hairstreaks are voracious nectar seekers at many plants, I would like to focus upon various Cordia species (Boraginaceae). Cordia spinescens is common in the state of Veracruz (Mexico) and is eagerly visited by hairstreaks, metalmarks, and skippers. Its flower is comprised of tiny white blossoms gathered on protruding spikes. A catch of 100 to 150 hairstreaks in a day is achievable within a ten square meter area containing blooming Cordia. More importantly, specimens can be taken on cloudy days or in the rain, while nectaring at Cordia. Valuable collecting time is not lost due to the vagaries of weather. In addition, inconspicuous and rare species such as Erora subflorens, E. carla, I. schausi, (T.) carnica,

and (T.) latagus may be observed at Cordia. These species are difficult to observe perching because of their small size. The observation of Cordia allows a more thorough faunal survey in a limited period of time.

For those of you who might wish to collect hairstreaks by using Cordia as a nectar source, I offer the following table of peak flowering periods.

Country - Mexico, Veracruz
Species - Cordia spinescens
Flowering period - July 15 - August 15

Country - Costa Rica¹
Species - six species
Flowering period - July - August

Country - Trinidad²
Species - Cordia curassivica
Flowering period - September - January

Country - Trinidad²
Species - Cordia alliodora
Flowering period - January - February

M. L. McInnis

¹Opler, P.A.; Baker, H.G.; and Frankie, G.W. 1975. Reproductive biology of some Costa Rican Cordia species (Boraginaceae). Biotropica 7:234-47.

²Barcant, Malcolm; The Butterflies of Trinidad and Tobago. pp 282-83.

New Members:

Geri Flaim, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292
Kevin Thomas, 783 Presidents Blvd., #1, Louisville, KY 40292

New Addresses:

Dave Baggett, 14406 N. 22nd St., Apt. 169, Lutz, FL 33613 (new zip code)
 Bret Barrett, 517 NE 102nd St., Miami Shores, FL 33138
 Graham Jones, P.O. Box 25, George Town, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.
 Lee & Jackie Miller, Allyn Museum of Entomology/Fla. State Museum 3621 Bay Shore Rd., Sarasota, FL 33580
 Paul A. Opler, Office of Information Transfer, Fish & Wildlife Service, 1025 Pennock Place, Suite 212, Ft. Collins, CO 80524
 Paul Pfenninger, 4085 Floral Dr., Boynton Beach, FL 33436

OTHER NEWS:

Jackie Miller has now completed her PhD at the University of Florida. Her dissertation is a revision of the moth family Castniidae. Congratulations, Jackie!

We are saddened to hear of the death on June 7 of Dr. Edward L. Todd, former noctuid specialist at the US National Museum in Washington. Ed was a fine friend and generous colleague whose health problems forced him to retire prematurely. He will be greatly missed.

The Lepidopterists' Society will hold its 38th annual meeting at the Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA, June 25-28, 1987.

The Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Lepidopterists will be Nov. 14-15, 1986, at the University of Louisville. Dr. Bob Platt, Univ. of Md.-Baltimore Co., has tentatively agreed to come as our feature speaker, and will talk on hybridization of Basilarchia butterflies. More details in the next issue of the Kentucky Lepidopterist.

That's it for now. Happy hunting! - CVC

Membership in the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists is open to anyone interested in any aspect of the study of Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies). Annual dues of \$3 may be sent to the Editor, Dr. Charles V. Covell Jr., Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292, U.S.A.

Name _____

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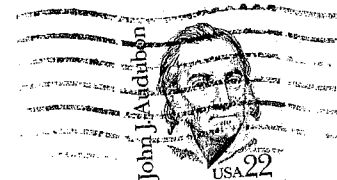
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