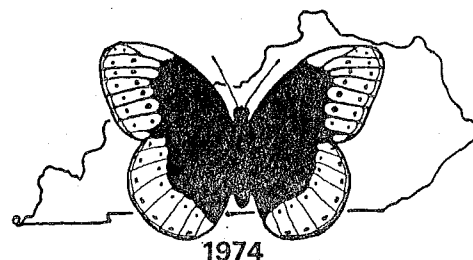


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

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C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR

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

PLANS FOR 13th ANNUAL MEETING

EDITORIAL

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Society will be held as in the past, with the schedule as follows:

FRI. Nov. 14

8-11 PM: Annual party at the Covell home
Slide show on Costa Rica &
French Guiana trips, 1986

SAT. Nov. 15

10AM-noon: Informal open house at Univ.
of Louisville collections;
coffee and doughnuts

1-2 PM: Annual business meeting, with
election of officers

2:30-5: Program session, featuring Dr.
Bob Platt, Univ. of Maryland
Baltimore Co., talking on
"Hybridization and evolution
in North American Limenitis
(Basilarchia)."

As in the past, you are invited to bring a talk, slide show, or some other item of interest for this session. I plan to offer a slide-illustrated talk on the class field trip we took to Florida in May 1986.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING

6:00 PM: Dinner at Masterson's (dutch treat)

If you plan to participate in the program, please let me know by Nov. 1. the title and estimated time it will require.

(more on page 2)

This issue of the "Kentucky Lepidopterist" is my last as Editor. Our first number came out in March, 1975. With this No. 48 the time has come for your new Editor, Mike McInnis, to take the reins. There is nobody I would like more to see at the helm. As you have seen, he has already begun to provide articles. He appeals to you for ideas and for material, and I want to add my voice to his on that score. So please do respond, even if your piece may be brief. His address is 22 Benchmark, New Albany, IN 47150. His home phone number is (812) 425-9457. I do plan to continue to provide Mike with timely items and with information useful to lepidopterists.

It is tough to "let go," but more time for long overdue projects will be most welcome. Work is still progressing on the Butterflies and Moths of Kentucky, with introduction, acknowledgements (a big section!), and bibliography nearing completion. I still welcome Ky. records for inclusion in the manuscript which we are constantly updating.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the meeting, field trips, and correspondence with you during the past dozen years. We have learned a great deal about Lepidoptera in Kentucky and in other states where you are active. Several species new to science have been discovered, and range extensions of many species have been recorded.

There is still much to do in Kentucky, with Lepidoptera of Ohio and other neighboring states now getting organized and much needed attention. I'm looking forward to further collaboration with you all. -CVC

MORE ABOUT ANNUAL MEETING

PLEASE BRING SOMETHING FOR A DOOR PRIZE.

During the meeting we will hold a SILENT AUCTION of books, papers, and perhaps some equipment. You are invited to put out items, with option of donating proceeds to the Society or not. Bring any specimens you might wish to have identified, or to show the group. Exchange of specimens is also encouraged. The University of Louisville collection will be open for your inspection. Yin-rei Hicks will have some of her butterfly prints available for sale.

MOTELS close to the University include Continental Inn (phone 502-636-3781) and Econo Lodge (637-9716) near the University (the latter formerly La Quinta), and Motel 6 (458-3201) and Best Western Admiral Inn (452-1501) near the Covells' on Bardstown Rd.

To reach the Covells (2333 Brighton Drive), get on Rt. I-264 from any direction, and get off at the northbound (downtown) exit of Bardstown Rd. Turn onto Brighton Dr. where it enters Gardiner Lane Shopping Center (2nd stoplight north of I-264). Look for 2333 on left in 4th block on left (stone house; corner of Montrose). Covell phone: 502-456-6122.

While we are providing drinks and snacks for the party, contributions are welcome.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING TO THE MEETING, SO WE CAN PLAN REFRESHMENTS.

Thanks. CVC

NEW MEMBERS

Ron Boender, 3431 N.E. 17th Terrace, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334. Ron rears many Lepidoptera to supply insect zoos.

Kriste Kulmer, 4008 Outer Loop, Louisville, KY 40219. "I became fascinated with the variety of Lepidoptera while preparing an insect collection for Gen. Entomology class at U. of L. This interest has grown and I would like to expand on this knowledge through active participation in a group of people having similar interests."

Gregory A. Miller, 10513 Moonlight Way, Louisville, KY 40272. "My interests in Lepidoptera range from collecting to studying life cycles of many Ky. species."

ADDRESS CHANGE

Wallace & Helen Mullaly, 1920 West Lindner, #116, Mesa, AZ 85202

A CHRISTIAN COUNTY FIELD TRIP

On Aug. 21 those of us who were unable to join Dave Hess and others at Sand Ridge State Forest, Illinois, sought consolation in some Kentucky collecting. Richard Henderson guided us to a locality in Christian Co. near Pennyryle Forest State Park. The collecting was superb, with the following choice species taken:

Amblyscirtes belli (common)

Amblyscirtes aesculapius

Erynnis martialis

Hesperia leonardus

Calephelis muticum (common)

Parrhasius m-album

Special thanks to Richard for sharing his discovery of a thriving C. muticum colony in Kentucky. The only other muticum locality known in the state is Otter Creek Park, Meade Co., where Loran Gibson took it Sept. 11, 1976. Curiously, A. belli, A. aesculapius, H. leonardus and P. m-album also occur at Otter Creek Park. There must be something to this notion of foodplant association!

-MLM

CORRECTIONS

Vol. 12, no. 2, p. 3: in list of Catocala from Withlacoochee St. Forest, Fla., May 18, 1986, delete C. sordida, which was not taken.

Vol. 12, no. 3, p. 4 ("Summer Swelter?"): insert after the words "St. Louis Creek Campground": Oe. jutta, M. spinetorum, A. sara, and C. scudderii. Garden of the Gods, El Paso Co.: H. crysalus, T. arota...

NEW BOOK

Scott, James A. 1986. Butterflies of North America. A Natural History and Field Guide. Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA. 583 p., 64 color pls., 674 text figs. \$49.50.

This is a sumptuously produced book, with fine quality printing and sharp line drawings and range maps. Chapters include "Biology and Ecology," "Identification of (to pg. 3)

(Scott's Butterflies of N. America) Eggs, Larvae, Pupae, and Adults, and "The Butterflies," followed by sections entitled "Appendixes," and "Reference Matter." The first chapter gives general information, such as background on scientific and common names; form structure & movement; molting and metamorphosis; life cycle, life span, and time of flight; diapause (hibernation and aestivation); physiology and reproduction; senses and responses; temperature regulation, resting, and roosting; dispersal and migration; mate-finding and flight patterns; courtship and mating; egg-laying and larval nests; butterfly intelligence; social and anti-social behavior; larval & adult foods; predators, parasites & other enemies; mimicry and other defences; habitats and life zones; species distributions; genetics; conservation and extinction; the butterfly census; and the history of butterfly study. There is much valuable information clearly presented in these 118 pages. Evolution in all Lepidoptera superfamilies is discussed. Black and white pictures of UV reflectance patterns of butterflies and flowers are impressive. A grasp of all the major areas of butterfly study is indicated.

The life history section contains keys to first-instar and mature larvae, pupae, and adults, plus electron photomicrographs and copious line drawings.

The bulk of the book covers the taxa from superfamily Papilionoidea down to species levels with individual entries (except genera). Species are introduced by scientific name followed by common name, but without reference to author. Species treatments concentrate on identifying features, with subspecies introduced in the text. Habitat, foodplants, life history information, flight period, and variably detailed range description follow. Small range maps with reference to color plate for the species appear conveniently in the margins.

The color plates are sharp, with color appearing true for butterflies, larvae, and pupae shown. Some are groups of individual shots of live butterflies; others are formal arrays of pinned or unspread specimens, most with one pair of wings removed. Undersides AND uppersides are

(to next column)

shown - a feature missing from most recent books. Most live butterfly shots were taken by E. Woodbury, and they are excellent. Text figures on larval, pupal, and adult features (including some genitalia drawings) are sharp, and grouped together allowing easy comparisons.

Appendixes include lists of butterflies of Iceland, Greenland, Bermuda, and Hawaii, and also a section on "studying butterflies." Techniques from collecting to genitalia dissection and study are presented, with emphasis on making one's own equipment. Under "reference matter" we have a short bibliography to butterfly and plant sources, a fine hostplant catalogue, a glossary, and the index. Entries in the index are by names of taxa, both Latin and English, without the confusing listing of species under generic categories as in some recent moth and butterfly guides!

There are a few things about the book that some may not like. For example, I disagree with the synonymizing of Papilio joanae under P. polyxenes. Scott says its status "should be studied further." It would seem more prudent to treat it as a distinct species until evidence to the contrary is shown. Also, the innovation of referring to research by citing names of authors without corresponding literature references is double-edged: it permits inclusion in brief form of much valuable information, but at the expense of readers' easy resort to the books and papers involved. The numbering system by which pictures are cross-referenced to text entries is a bit confusing at first, but should work well after a period of adjustment. Blotchy backgrounds in many color plates detracts a bit, but exceptional sharpness of each butterfly makes up for that.

Jim Scott's approach is fresh and individualistic. There is some controversial content; but that is nothing new these days in butterfly study, and is to be positively greeted. Like Opler & Krizek's Butterflies East of the Great Plains, it provides much valuable information for \$49.50. -Ed.

BOOK NOTICE: We eagerly await the Nov. 25 release of Ron Hodges' Fascicle 7.1 of Moths of America North of Mexico (Gelechiidae, Dichomeridinae). \$62 postpaid now \$70 after Nov. 25. Contact the Editor if you did not get a flyer with information.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
(OF BUTTERFLY COLLECTING IN MEXICO)

1. ALWAYS OBTAIN AUTO INSURANCE FROM SANBORN'S. Sanborn's guidebook/travel guide provides more current road and hotel information than any other service that I have found (including AAA).
2. NEVER DRIVE AT NIGHT. Livestock and unlighted vehicles (some mobile, some not) frequent all highways after dusk. For night driving, the question becomes when, rather than if, you will have an accident.
3. ALWAYS TAKE SEVERAL SPARE NET BAGS. Thorny vegetation is the rule rather than the exception.
4. ALWAYS DRIVE SLOWLY IN THE MOUNTAINS AFTER A THUNDERSTORM. Highways in Mexico can be extremely slippery after a brief thunderstorm.
5. ALWAYS STAY IN PLEASANT HOTELS. My suggestions for the Sierra Oriental region of Mexico are: Hotel Valles (Ciudad Valles, S.L.P.); Mi Ranchito (Xicotepec de Juarez, Puebla); Posada Loma (Fortin de las Flores, Veracruz); Hotel Xalapa (Jalapa, Veracruz); La Finca (Catemaco, Veracruz).
6. ALWAYS PLAN YOUR TRIP TO COINCIDE WITH PEAK FLOWERING PERIODS. In the states of Tamualipas and San Luis Potosi, Eupatorium peaks in Oct. & Nov. In Veracruz, Cordia peaks from July 15 to Aug. 15.
7. ALWAYS TAKE AN EXTENDABLE NET. Nothing matches the frustration of standing at the base of a flowering tree watching mysterious butterflies nectaring while you yearn for a ladder or scaffolding.
8. ALWAYS PLAN TO VISIT THE FOLLOWING PROVEN COLLECTING SITES:

SAN LUIS POTOSI:

Xilitla: the "Englishman's Castle," a large incomplete residence and estate famed for rare nymphalids.

Tamazunchale: any orange groves with excessive undergrowth of Bidens, etc.

Tamuin: river bank below the Toltec ruins for Prepona and Astraptes.

El Salto Falls: west of Ciudad Mante, with plentiful blooms of Eupatorium.

TAMUALIPAS:

Galleana Canyon: between Victoria and Mante.

Gomes Farrias: along entrance road to quarry, on left after leaving Hwy. 101.

VERACRUZ:

Cien Escalares (100 steps): a canyon in downtown Fortin.

Coatepec and Xico: immediately south of Jalapa; film "Romancing the Stone" was shot in these sites.

Coyame: hilltop above the town of Catemaco and approximately 12 km east.

Tres Charros: second major dirt road to right after passing La Victoria enroute from Catemaco to Coatzacoalcos. About 8 km from Catemaco.

9. ALWAYS BE COURTEOUS TO THE INHABITANTS. ...and they will be courteous to you.

10. ALWAYS ENJOY THE PEOPLE, THE SCENERY, AND THE BUTTERFLIES OF MEXICO.

Michael L. McInnis

NOTES

You may wish to join the new KENTUCKY NATIVE PLANT SOC., \$3 annually. Write c/o Dept. of Biology, Eastern Ky. Univ., Richmond, KY 40475.

Support THE MONARCH PROJECT with a donation to save roosting sites. For information contact Melody M. Allen, 10 SW Ash St., Portland, OR 97204.

We sadly announce the death on June 28 of John Wilkie, one of our fine Lepidoptera photographers from Michigan. We have lost a good and enthusiastic friend.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR DUES!

