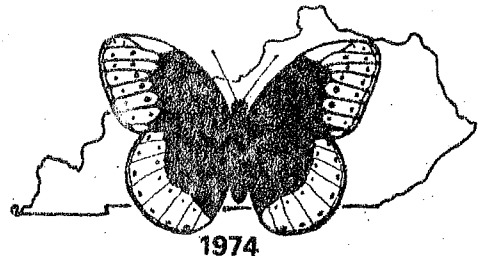


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists



VOLUME 3, Number 1

C. V. Covell Jr., Editor

MARCH, 1977

WELCOME THE NEW SEASON, 1977

As I write this first newsletter for 1977, the sun is shining and the temperature is heading for the upper sixties. After the slugging we got from the Winter of '77, I am sure you are feeling a little unsure that good weather can really be on the way, and that the "leps" will be flying. In fact, they are already flying. Rich Fellows and I tried a little black-lighting and sugaring for moths at Horine Boy Scout Res. in Jefferson Co. last Sat. night (March 5), and took about 20 specimens of the following "winter moths:" Noctuidae: Eutolype rolandi, Lithophane unimoda, and Eupsilia morrisoni; Geometridae: Paleacrita vernata (the most common species) and Phigalia olivacearia.

These winter-emerging species are often overlooked by collectors, who think there is no reason to look for moths during the period from November to mid-March. But a number of interesting species are found only during this period. One trick to catching them is to be ready with bait or lights EARLY in the evening, as their activity ceases as temperatures drop.

We badly need records of some of these winter fliers, and will be glad to identify what we can of the species you have caught.

On warm days now you will probably find the hibernating butterflies circling around in the woods, looking for trees with sap coming out of wounds. This sap provides a food source after the long winter. Some of the species to expect are Polygonia interr-ogationis, P. comma, Nymphalis antiopa, Vanessa atalanta, and Anaea andria. Early emergers that are not hibernators are Pieris

rapae, Colias eurytheme, and C. philodice. When it's your first collecting trip of the season, these common ones seem worthy of collecting; and you can sometimes get some interesting aberrations and forms in early spring, such as very small specimens, or those with lots of black suffusion on the wings.

SO HAPPY HUNTING!

SPRING FIELD MEETING PLANS

A field weekend is planned for April 22 - 24 for the purpose of seeking Erora laeta and other spring treasures in the Big Black Mountain area of Harlan County in eastern Kentucky. We should also expect the Incisalias, swallowtails, Pieris virginensis, perhaps some late Antho-charis midea, Celastrina ebenina, Glaucopsyche lygdamus, Erynnis species, and maybe Amblyscirtes aesculapius -essentially the kinds of butterflies taken last year near Natural Bridge.

Accommodations will be available at Pine Mountain Settlement School, Pine Mountain, Ky. 40864. Steve M. McKee is the Coordinator there, and says we can sleep in a dormitory for \$4 per person per night. Families will be able to room together. Camping is available at \$5 per group, or \$.50 per person, whichever amount is larger. No hookups, though; but there is a flat area for tents & campers. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITTED; and no pets in the dormitories.

Meals are available at \$5 per day per person. Probably cheaper if we omit lunch and take it in the field.

If you can attend, PLEASE DO THIS RIGHT NOW:

(over)

WRITE IMMEDIATELY to Loran Gibson, and let him know when you wish to arrive (Friday evening, or Saturday), what nights you will stay, how you wish to spend the night (camp or use dormitory room), how many in your party, and what meals you would want. HE HAS TO KNOW IN ORDER TO MAKE RESERVATIONS with Mr. McKee, and AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. And we want to know who is coming, too. So please let us know if it is either definite OR TENTATIVE that you will attend; you can cancel if you have to.

PROGRAM

Friday night: dinner, followed by brief meeting and collect-moths at light and bait

Saturday: meet at the school by 9:30 A.M. for all-day butterfly collecting trip to Big Black Mountain area, led by Gibson. Plan to bring your lunch.

About 6:00 P.M. - supper at School, followed by re-cap of day's catch, and moth collecting for those who wish to do so.

Sunday: morning activities to be arranged pending results of Sat.

IF YOU PLAN TO COME FOR THE DAY Saturday, make arrangements with Loran to meet us at a given location. We will try to accommodate everyone's schedule as best we can, but the above general plan is necessary to give a basis for meeting successfully.

NOTE: Family members not planning to go on the collecting trip will find the Pine Mountain Settlement School an interesting nature preserve and conference center. Founded in 1913 on 800 acres, it has library, nature trails, playground (note that, Moms!), caves, and a gift shop.

IF WEATHER IS COLD AND WET, WE'LL CANCEL. Call Covell at AC 502-588-5942 (office) or 458-6148 (home) if you are unsure. Loran's address is: 30 Russell St., Florence, KY., 41042. I HOPE THIS COVERS ALL THE IMPORTANT DETAILS, AND THAT YOU WILL BE WITH US!

NEWS AND NOTES

Covell sent a Field Season Summary report to the Lepidopterists' Society Zone Coordinator, Mo Nielsen, reporting our captures of 1976. I hope you like the way it was done. Comments are solicited.

Jack Lesshafft finished his M.S. last summer and will publish his checklist of springtail insects (Collembola) in Entomological News this year. He is working on ladybird beetle ecology relative to date palm insect pests in an oasis in West Africa. He reports few Lepidoptera, but seems to be getting along well. They have had a warm winter there, with few dust storms. Jack is hoping to come stateside next year to work on his Ph.D. He would appreciate a line; address: B.P. 107, Agadez, Niger, West Africa.

Jim Ettman, naturalist at Pine Mountain State Park, published "An Annotated Checklist of the Orchidaceae of Bell County, Kentucky," as Vol. 3 of Annals of Kentucky Society of Natural History, Apr. 30, 1976, 7 pp. Congratulations, Jim!

Carl Cornett is off "nothing" at Lake Malone State Park this week (March 7), in Muhlenburg County. He plans a number of park visits again for 1977.

Susan Reigler has won the Humphrey Scholarship for 1977 to attend Oxford University in England. After her graduation here at U. of Louisville this summer, she will head across the Pond and study ecology and other subjects for a second degree in zoology there, specializing in hedgerow ecology. We hope that Lepidoptera will be strongly represented in her interests.

We are working on a folding card on which will be a check list of all butterfly species one would expect in Kentucky, to use as a record of field trips. All members will get a supply.

(NEWS AND NOTES, continued)

Charlie Covell attended the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 26 - Dec. 3. He spent the first 2 days on the "Big Island" of Hawaii, driving around with colleagues Bob Silberglied of Harvard and Ted Radcliffe of U. of Minnesota, taking pictures of active volcanoes, plants, and insects. A few butterfly species were collected, including Danaus plexippus, Pieris rapae, Strymon bazochii gundlachianus (introduced purposely in 1902 to help control Lantana), and Lampides boeticus, the Bean Butterfly. Seen but not collected were the lovely native Vanessa tameamea and the recently introduced Aisian swallowtail, Papilio xuthus. Later, just before leaving, Covell caught 2 Vaga blackburni on Mt. Tantalus above Honolulu on Oahu. This lycaenid with green underside is the other native Hawaiian butterfly species. In a snack shop on Waikiki Beach, 13 recently discovered sphingids named Macroglossum pyrrhasticum were collected where they got in at night but could not find their way out at daylight. A fantastic trip in every way.

PROGRESS REPORT ON KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERA SURVEY

Most of the pinned moths from the Siegfried Scholz collection, purchased last April, have been assimilated into the Univ. of Louisville collection. Several people have been a great help in re-labelling the specimens and recording data: Lillian Rossini, Al Brownell, Susan Reigler, Carl Cornett, Duffy Bledsoe, and Leroy Isaacs. Although a lot of fine material was included, there have been only a handful of new state records from this collection. As of this writing, we have 1,676 species recorded from the Bluegrass State, 407 of them Noctuidae. Some new records have come to light as a result of close studies Covell has had to make for the Field Guide to the Moths project, most recently in the genus Acronycta.

The Catocala collection has been improved and enlarged greatly as a result of the

addition of the Scholz material. We have 45 species recorded from Kentucky now, and the collection takes up about 22 Cornell drawers, many of them full.

We need more moths especially from eastern and western Kentucky, and especially from special areas such as the highest points of Big Black and Pine mountains, Murphy's Pond, the southern border, etc. So help us when you can with data and specimens.

-CVC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Please don't forget your dues, the paltry sum of \$3 per year for Regular Members and \$1.50 for Associate Members. Send the money to Mr. Alan Brownell, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY. 40208. He reports our balance now at about \$232.00.
2. Covell will be happy to send you any back issues of "Kentucky Lepidopterist" you may not have but would like to have if you have not received them. There are 4 issues in each of volumes 1 and 2. Also, if you wish a Xerox copy of the old Hattie Warner butterfly check list of 1895. This rare publication is historically useful. Copies free for the asking.
3. If anyone has a good idea for a midsummer field meeting place, or would like to host it, please let Covell or Gibson know. We will discuss the matter at the April meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our fold, and hope they can join us in person for one of our field or annual meetings:

AMRINE, Jim, College of Agriculture and Forestry, Div. of Plant Sciences, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, W. Va. 26506. Jim specializes in skippers.

BAGGETT, David, 1246 Holmesdale Rd., Jacksonville, FLA. 32216. Dave is a tech-
(over)

nologist at the Univ. of North Florida, studying the St. Johns River system, and collects butterflies when he can get the time. He would like some correspondents and exchange opportunities.

BORUM, Dwight, 2224 Lower Hunters Trace, Louisville, KY. 40216.

CARR, Thomas W., R.F.D. 4, Box 403, Swanton, OHIO 43558.

FINKELSTEIN, Irving L., 822 North Indian Creek Rd. E-8, Clarkston, GA. 30021. Irving is a history professor at Georgia State Univ. in Atlanta. He has some fine butterfly collecting experience from Georgia and Florida and would probably welcome exchange opportunities.

GATRELLE, Rev. Donald C., Keswick, IOWA 50136. Welcome to Ron's dad, and our first Iowa member.

GREY, Paul, Rt. 1, Box 216, Lincoln, MAINE, 04457. Paul is known as "Mr. Fritillary," as he is N. America's prime expert in the genus Speyeria, in which he specializes.

RUGGLES, Frederick, 5529 Corkhill Drive, Dayton, OHIO, 45424.

SCRIBER, J. Mark, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, 45431. Mark specializes in Papilionidae and Saturniidae, esp. host plant relationships.

PLEASE SEND SOME NEWS ITEMS TO THE EDITOR!

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST, Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists, is published quarterly. Home office: Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY. 40208. EDITOR: Dr. Charles V. Covell Jr.

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Mr. Alan Brownell
Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville
Louisville, Ky. 40208
Annual dues: Regular, \$3; Associate, \$1.50.