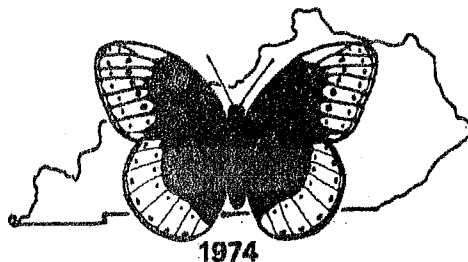


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST.

NEWSLETTER OF

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists



VOLUME 3, No. 2

C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR

JUNE, 1977

BIG FIELD TRIP PLANNED FOR JULY!

Since the April field meeting was rained out, we are planning again to go to Big Black Mountain in Harlan Co. to look for Erora laeta and other desirable species. This area includes the highest point in Kentucky, and is on the Virginia state line. Loran Gibson will lead the trip, and is making arrangements. Call or write him RIGHT AWAY if you wish to attend. Below are the important details:

DATE: Friday, July 8 - Sunday, July 10
PLACE: Pine Mountain Settlement School,
Pine Mountain, Ky. 40864
NOTIFY: Loran Gibson, 30 Russell St.,
Florence, Ky. 41042
Phone: 606-371-3455

As in April, rooms are available at the Pine Mtn. Settlement School at \$4 per person per night. Camping area, \$5 per group, or \$.50 per person. Meals also available at \$5 per day per person. No alcoholic beverages allowed at the school. They have fine general nature and recreation facilities for families; so bring everyone!

YOU MUST NOTIFY LORAN YOU ARE GOING TO STAY AT THE SCHOOL BY JUNE 30 SO HE CAN TELL THE PEOPLE AT THE SCHOOL HOW MANY ARE COMING, WHEN, AND FOR HOW LONG. PLEASE DON'T DELAY!

Plans include a black-lighting session Fri. night at 7:30 P.M., butterfly trip beginning 9:00 A.M. Sat., and another moth collecting trip Sat. night; time to be announced. The plans for Sunday will be made "off the cuff."

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD: BIG CATCHES

Your editor apologizes for the lateness of this issue, but hopes you field collectors will understand. IT HAS BEEN A TERRIFIC SEASON SO FAR IN KENTUCKY, and probably in other areas as well. Spring came early, was a bit dry in May, but has been moist enough so far in June, with late afternoon and evening thundershowers. Moths have been abundant enough to attract the attention of the media, and your editor was interviewed for an article in the Louisville Courier-Journal concerning the abundance of moths in general, and Hyalophora cecropia in particular. There were many calls regarding cecropia in late May and June; and we have quite a few larvae coming along now as a result of females brought to the lab.

Some Kentucky collecting highlights are as follows: Rich Fellows and Covell collected at sugar bait on 9 March and Covell mounted 355 Noctuidae, including several species of Lithophane and Eupsilia, now being determined by Dale Schweitzer of Yale Univ., a specialist in "winter Noctuidae." A specimen of Paaphida thaxteriana Grote, taken in Jefferson Co. on March 5, turned out to be a new state record. Some of the Lithophane and Eupsilia will be, too.

Gibson, Richard Henderson, and Covell used black lights at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary, Oldham Co., on the nights of May 26 and June 14. Moths were abundant, and included some good catches such as Catocala andromedae, micronympha, illecta, and coccinata; Sphingicampa bisecta; several Sphingidae, some Acronycta spp., and (over)

a number of other species. We're still spreading them.

Loran Gibson and Richard Henderson went to western Kentucky to look for some of the expected skippers which we have not yet recorded from Kentucky. In Fulton Co. in swampy backwaters of the Reelfoot Nat. Wildlife Area, each of them collected a male Euphyes dion on May 28, constituting the first known Ky. captures of this butterfly. Others we should find include Poanes yehl, Euphyes dukesi, Ambliscirtes carolina and a few others. We hope to visit that area again in late August or early September.

Burt Monroe Jr. visited southeastern Kentucky last week, and brought back 4 male S. diana from Laurel, Whitley, and Harlan counties, where he found them abundant. They were especially numerous in the first 2 counties, in the Daniel Boone Nat. Forest of the Cumberland Plateau. He noted that fresh males tend to congregate in dirt roads such as fire trails atop the mountains. I noted the same thing in Montgomery Co., Virginia, in 1959 - 1962: freshly emerged males would "hilltop" and rest on forestry roads. They tended to visit flowers more readily after a day or two of activity. Females were not seen by Monroe, which is expected, the females emerging later. His observations were for June 17 through 19, 1977.

Another good butterfly species collected at Reelfoot by Monroe on June 5, and by Gibson and Henderson on May 28 was Poanes viator. All specimens were apparently females.

The Covells (CVC Jr. and III) collected at the Horner Wildlife Sanctuary Friday, June 17, and Sunday, June 19. Actually, the spots visited were between the 2 gates going in. Good catches included Graphium marcellus, Satyrium calanus falacer, S. edwardsii, Harkenclenus titus mopsus, Cercyonis pegala, and Calephelis borealis. Robert Covell, age 5, got his start by catching a G. marcellus.

Richard Henderson did some collecting in Franklin Co. recently, and his prize catch was an Atlides halesus taken June 7 at the junction of I-64 and Rt. 27. Speaking of hairstreaks, Al Brownell has taken 2 S. liparops (May 25 and June 5), 1 S. edwardsii (June 8), and 2 S. calanus falacer or caryaevorus (May 29 and June 8) all AT LIGHT at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt Co., Ky. Gibson got into a good

flight of S. liparops recently in northern Ky., and also may have caryaevorus.

Your editor spent a busy week at the U.S. National Museum in Washington the week of June 6, preparing a section of the new checklist of Lepidoptera of N. America soon to be published by the Moths of America group. Drs. Ron Hodges, Don Davis, and particularly Doug Ferguson and Ed Todd gave considerable time to identifying "U.F.O.'s" from our collections, which resulted in the addition of 36 new species for the Kentucky list. I won't enumerate all the species here; but new moth records are attributed to the following collectors:

Siegfried Scholz, 10 species (Valley Sta.)
 Alan Brownell, 10 species (Bernheim survey)
 Loran Gibson, 7 species (N.E. counties)
 Carl Cornett, 3 species
 C. V. Covell Jr., 3 species
 C. V. Covell III, 1 species
 J. R. Merritt, 1 species
 P. H. Freytag, 1 species

There is more material yet undetermined, and more being processed. The Kentucky survey now numbers 1,720 identified species, with plenty more to discover. Data on any of the species known from Ky. is on cards, and will be published in a faunal checklist in the next few years, if all goes well.

The Arts and Sciences Research Committee of the University of Louisville has provided a small grant for the purpose of providing a typist to help write up the data for the manuscript of the Ky. Lepidoptera survey results. We should begin this work this winter.

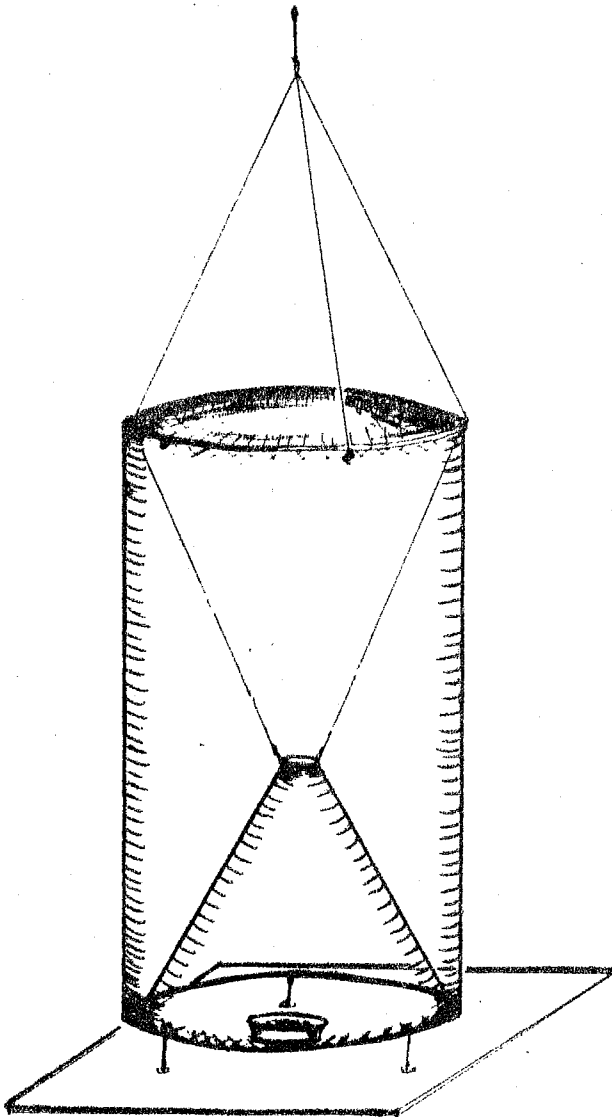
FIELD NOTES FROM MEMBERS OUTSIDE KENTUCKY

Ron Gattelle of Goose Creek, S. C., has accomplished one of his goals: the discovery of Hessel's Hairstreak, Callophrys (Mitoura) hesseli, in South Carolina. He collected a female in a "stand of white cedar in Aiken Co., S. C." on May 21, 1977, extending the known range of the species 180 miles southward from its previously known southern limit, Fayetteville, N.C. Congratulations, Ron!

(FIELD NOTES, continued)

Les Ferge of Wausau, Wisconsin, reported collecting "winter moths," Eupsilia morrisoni and E. vinulenta "as early as 10 March, but it involved trudging through a few snowbanks to sugar the trees. These moths were active in temperatures as low as 43° F."

Another early report was from "Mo" Nielsen of Lansing, Michigan, who took Eutolyte grandis, Copipanolis cubilis, and Lithophane spp. at bait and UV light in mid-March. Mo uses bait traps (cylindrical, with netting walls and platform base) for Catocala and Nymphalidae, as shown below. He says they "really work well."



Amos Showalter is now living in Nashville, Tennessee (3925 Creekside Drive, zip 37211) and reported collecting March 26 in Warren Co., Ky., as follows: Incisalia henrici the most plentiful butterfly; also common: C. argiolus pseudargiolus, and Polygonia comma. Also collected: Graphium marcellus, Anthocharis midea, and Erynnis juvenalis. He sighted Papilio glaucus, Anaea andria, and Nymphalis antiopa. These are among our first records from Warren Co.

Rod Irwin of Chicago was planning a mid-June trip to southern Illinois for Lethe cteola. Hope we can report success later on. He was also to look for some of the "southern skippers." Those of you who do not know of his paperbound Illinois butterfly book (co-authored with John Downey), you might try writing for a free copy, the details as follows: Irwin, Roderick R. and John C. Downey, 1973. Annotated Checklist of the Butterflies of Illinois. Biological Notes No. 81, Ill. Natural History Survey, Urbana, Ill., 60 pages, 3 figs., 98 distribution maps. WRITE TO: Chief, Illinois Natural History Survey, Natural Resources Building, Urbana, ILLINOIS 61801. It should be available FREE for the asking.

Here's a spring report from John A. Hyatt, Kingsport, Tennessee: "Spring collecting has been fabulous here! P. virginensis and A. midea were abundant! I. henrici, niphon, & M gryneus were taken, and I got my first Erora laeta - 2 males and a female in (Hawkins Co.). One of the laeta males I recovered from a spider web. That arachnid had very good taste!" Note: Can anyone tell us if this is the first Tennessee record of E. laeta? - Ed.

Dave Baggett of Jacksonville, Florida, wrote that he and another of our members, Leroy Koehn of Dublin, Va., got together for some net-swinging in several Florida localities. Some of their catch included E. areolata, E. claudia, B. philenor, G. marcellus, P. glaucus australis, Erynnis zarucco, several Nymphalidae, Sphingidae, Noctuidae (esp. Catocala) and Geometridae at bait trap; Battus polydamas (this in Putnam Co.);

Calycopis cecrops, C. cesonia, A. vanillae, P. palamedes, A. halesus, and P. m-album, in addition to other species. I'm sure Dave will be happy to give dates and localities for these various captures; space forbids doing so here.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members in the Society, and hope you can get to know them at a Field Meeting before too long:

CURRUTT, Dennis A., 7533 Mulberry Rd., Chesterland, OHIO 44026. Dennis is a field lepidopterist specializing in butterflies.

FLORENCE, Gregory, 607 Babs Arbor, Cumberland, KENTUCKY 40823. Greg has been collecting butterflies and macroHeterocera for a number of years, and is teaching vocational education at the high school in Cumberland.

HORN, David M., 1702 Applewood Lane, Louisville, KENTUCKY 40222. Dave is recently acquainted with butterflies, and hopefully had a fruitful trip to Florida recently. He is a versatile businessman, and one of his interests is growing house plants (cacti) for fun and profit.

~~MacGREGOR, John R., 402 Fourth St., Nicholasville, KENTUCKY 40356. John is not a collector, but is into moth photography. We hope he will show some of his slides at a future Annual Meeting of the Society.~~

EDITORIAL

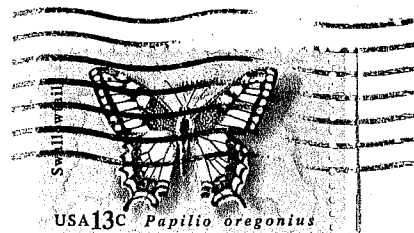
Let me take this opportunity to apologize for the lateness in informing you of the July meeting, and my slowness in responding to your letters. I am much into my work of writing the Field Guide to Moths, which must be completed by the end of 1978. Also, I am busy with my studies of the Geometridae (Subfamily Sterrhinae), and have made some progress toward a subfamily revision. This revision is to be a part of the Moths of America N. of Mexico series; a checklist of N. American Lepidoptera is to be published late this year by the series, and I have been trying to revise the listing of the subfamily mentioned above. The curating of our collection at U. of L. has been going well, but we never seem to catch up. Many, many thanks to those of you who have donated specimens and information; we hope you will feel it well placed. The Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey is successful largely through your assistance.

I want some FEEDBACK regarding this newsletter. Is it filling a need? It is intended to give fairly current information helpful to you field collectors, and be a means of communication. Your short articles are welcome, and sorely needed. We will try to find a way to print longer things such as lists later on. We will probably have a Field Meeting in late AUGUST or early SEPT., and the Annual Meeting here at U. of L. in November. 'Til then, happy hunting! - CVC

DUES are due: \$3 Regular; \$1.50 Associate. Thanks

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST
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FIRST CLASS



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