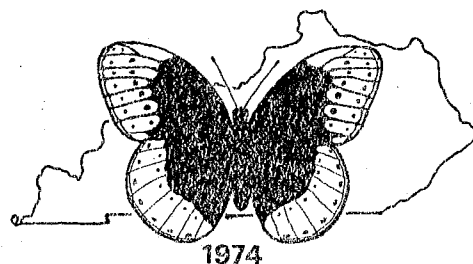


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

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THE EUROPEAN SKIPPER IN KENTUCKY



Thymelicus lineola (Ochsenheimer)

The European Skipper was first reported from Kentucky by Ralph Beebe in Lepid. News 9 (4/5), p. 142, who took it in Rockcastle County on 21 Aug., 1955. Jack Dempwolf reported it abundant in the Lexington, Ky. area on 12 June, 1961 (News of Lepid. Soc. 1962, no. 3, p. 8). On 9 June, 1967, I took it in Montgomery Co. near Mt. Sterling (Jct. I-64 and U.S. 60); and on 9 June, 1971, I killed 2 with a hubcap along New Circle Rd., Lexington, after fixing a flat! They were common along the thickly grassed roadside. Bob Gregg also took the species in the Lexington area, and many specimens were taken in Malaise traps between June 4 and 24 by Dr. Paul Freytag in his insect surveys of the Lexington area (Covell & Freytag, 1979, J. Lepid. Soc., 33 (3): 157. Other collections have been taken around Covington airport by Loran Gibson, and in Whitley Co. by Leroy Koehn. I do not have exact data on these reports.

Recently Richard Henderson and I were on our way back from a rainy field trip down in the Williamsburg area, and decided to try to survey where along I-64 from Lexington back to Louisville the species stopped occurring. It was cool and cloudy, the rain having stopped, and butterflies were flying. We found T. lineola along the highway around Lexington in Scott and Woodford counties, and in Franklin Co. within 1 mile of the Woodford Co. line; and 1 specimen at the Frankfort turn-
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REPORTS OF RECENT FIELD MEETINGS

It has been a busy year already for Kentucky lepidopterists. On April 7 Mike McInnis phoned your editor to say that Celastrina ebenina was already flying at a spot in Bullitt Co. near the Jefferson County line at Kosmosdale. That Saturday, April 11, saw McInnis plus R. Henderson, L. Gibson, J. Merritt, and C. Covell converging on a small hollow out Bearcamp Road from Dixie Highway, and enjoying the fruits of a fine early season. In addition to C. ebenina, catches included the first Bullitt Co. record of Pieris virginensis (taken first by Merritt), extending the known range in Ky. considerably westward. Also taken were B. philenor, P. glaucus, G. marcellus (seen ovipositing on Asimina), A. midea, P. tharos, C. argiolus pseudargiolus, C. henrici, and dayflying moths such as Psychomorpha epimenis (Noctuidae) and Trichodezia albovittata (Geometridae). Then Covell, Gibson, Henderson, and McInnis went down to Meade Co., and tried woods and fields around Camp Sky-hi and Otter Creek Park. We found P. virginensis there, too! C. gryneus was common in a cedar grove, and we also collected N. antiopa, Vanessa virginensis, P. tharos, C. argiolus pseudargiolus, and several other spp. That night the group dwindled to Covell, Gibson, and Henderson, who found blacklighting excellent at "The Overlook" in Otter Creek Park. A. polyphemus was out, along with many spring moths.

McInnis took more P. virginensis, C. ebenina, and other spp. at the Bearcamp Rd. site on 17 April, and Covell did likewise on 18 April. NOW FOR THE SPRING FIELD MEETING
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THYMELICUS LINEOLA IN KENTUCKY, CONT.

off, which is on the westward side of the deep Kentucky River valley. Sampling west of that point brought negative results, although we are not convinced that there could not be pockets of the species there and westward.

This species feeds on Timothy and other grasses, and I do not know what factors have limited its spread in Kentucky. It has not been found around Louisville, to my knowledge; but I suspect some of you have records that I know not of. Would you please forward any information to me of this species in Ky., and be on the look-out for it? Flight season is mainly the last few days in May through about the first 3 weeks of June, but apparently it may also be taken as late as 21 Aug. Grassy roadside habitats and fields seem to be the preferred habitats. Good hunting!

RECENT FIELD MEETINGS, CONTINUED

The planned meeting of the Society at Big Black Mountain in Harlan Co. went ahead despite uncertain weather and possible problems with striking coal miners. During a former coal strike the top of Big Black Mtn. was blocked by non-union mine personnel who feared sabotage of air vents opening on the mountain from a mine deep beneath. However, there were no such problems this time.

Most of the action was on Sat., Apr. 25, when Richard Henderson and your editor drove from Louisville in time to find most of the crowd already resting from their first period of collecting at the "ebenina spot" on the Ky. base of Big Black Mtn. A. midea and P. virginensis were there, but not abundant. Some G. lygdamus was taken, though the patch of foodplant looked much smaller than in past years. C. ebenina was fairly common, and a good number were taken in both morning and again later that afternoon. Just before noon those in attendance went to the top of Big Black Mountain, where hardly any trees were leafed out. Almost nothing was flying up there; Vanessa virginensis and C. eurytheme were recorded. We soon left, some going back to the "ebenina spot" down lower, and some over to Kingdom Come State Park where not much

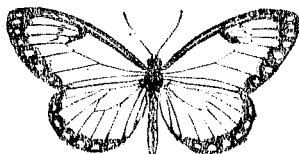
was collected. The absence of elfins was notable. Hesperia metea was taken by Bob Gregg - the most noteworthy catch there. Most of the group camped there in Kingdom Come, and moth collecting was good. Deidamia inscriptum was the most abundant moth. Covell took 1 Caripeta aretaria, which Henderson had taken for the first time there the previous Aug. 9 as a new state record. It was netted before dark.

Next day the group parted company, some going home and other staying on. The total group, however, included the John Coffman family of Timberville, VA., Frank Bodnar of Spring Church, PA., Reed Watkins of Spring Valley, OHIO, Leroy Koehn of Staunton, VA. and Kentuckians Charlie Covell, Blaine Early, Loran Gibson, Bob Gregg, Richard Henderson, Carl Kaster, Mike McInnis, Jim Merritt, and John Nordin. Suann Early and a guest of theirs from Lutz, Fla., and Patty Kaster were also welcome additions. Though not everyone in the group was at the same place at the same time, the total of 19 people made for a fine turnout.

On the way home, Covell, Gibson, and Henderson stopped at Red River Gorge, where the sun was shining and the C. ebenina abounded. Other spp. taken included B. philenor, G. marcellus, P. troilus, P. glaucus, P. tharos, A. midea, P. virginensis, E. nicippe, G. lygdamus, E. comyntas, C. argiolus, Erynnis brizo. We waited for nightfall and collected at blacklight particularly hoping for Feralia comstocki, a lovely green noctuid that feeds on hemlock; we were successful in that objective, and took a number of other spp. including the large Tineid moth, Scardia anatomella Grote. Those staying in the Big Black Mountain area did well too, I hear, but I have not heard details. While the weather was not perfect, we did well on the whole, and I hope all of you who came from afar enjoyed the fellowship and the collecting. The season was well advanced in lower elevations, but we were surprised to see that the crest of Big Black Mountain was disappointingly behind normal development of floral and faunal components.

Also in April, Alan Barron and friend Rosemary Baumann observed an Orange-barred sulfur, Phoebis philea, on 30 April at the Louisville Water Co. along Frankfort Ave., Louisville, Ky. A NEW STATE RECORD.

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FIELD MEETING REPORTS, CONT.

Barron also reported Euchloe olympia from Warren Co. flying April 26.

Carl Cook, of Center, wrote recently of seeing A. midea in his area more abundant than he has ever seen it in early April ("by the thousands"). In contrast, he found E. olympia quite rare. Carl is mostly interested in dragonflies, and especially members of the clubtail family Gomphidae. Any you might put away for him in your collecting would, I am sure, be most welcome to him.

Carl Cornett made 2 forays to state parks in May: Lake Cumberland May 21-22, and Natural Bridge May 27-28. Carl has specialized in collecting moths at blacklight at various state parks since he became interested in moths over 10 years ago. His visits have included stops at 17 of our state parks, and moths collected there include many "firsts" and "onlies" in our Lepidoptera survey. The latest "first and only" was a specimen of Hydrelia albifera (Wlk.) (Geometridae), taken at Natural Bridge State Park on May 27. Earlier Carl would put a blacklight up on the back porch of his lodge room and take specimens as they came in to a sheet. However, in the past few seasons he has used a BioQuip Garbage Can trap, with ethyl acetate in baby food jars as a killing agent. A big wad of cotton provides the wick for the ethyl acetate. More recently, Carl visited Pine Mountain State Park, where he collected on the nights of June 8 and 9. Among the fine captures there were Paonias astylus (Drury) (Sphingidae), for a new southern limit in Ky. and first June record; Chrysonympha formosa (Grote) (Noctuidae), 3rd state record, most south-eastern, and first June record; and Lytrosis permagnaria (Pack.) (Geometridae), 2nd record from same place, 3 males (a rare species he took there for first state record in 1979). Also, though not yet verified, I believe he has a specimen of recently-described Lytrosis sinuosa Rindge. Color and pattern match, but genitalia will verify.

JUNE FIELD MEETING TO WILLIAMSBURG AREA

Loran Gibson, Richard Henderson, Carl Kaster and wife Patty, and Charlie Covell met at Williamsburg on the evening of June 5 for a field meeting arranged in the area by Blaine Early. The weather was cloudy and threatening, but the first 3 took a good batch of Thymelicus lineola and some other spp. in Lexington on the way,

and after settling in at the Cumberland College men's dormitory, and filling up on Ky. Fried Chicken, met Carl and Blaine and their wives at Blaine's dad's farm at nearby Goldbug (that's a great label!) for some black-lighting. The weather was muggy, lightening in the distance; just perfect for moths. We got quite a haul, including a new state record in the Geometridae, Idaea eremiata (Hulst) (which Covell is now rearing on clover and dandelion). However, next morning was completely overcast with steady drippy rain. After a tour of Blaine's lab at the college, the trio from Louisville and Florence decided to pack it in, and headed back to Lexington, where Loran took off to the north. Covell and Henderson made the little survey of I. lineola mentioned on pg. 1. That night it was clear in Louisville, and the next day was gorgeous there; but we found out later that rain had stayed through Sunday at Williamsburg, so another one was chalked up to Mother Nature.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE HEARD SOME REPORTS FROM OHIO AND OTHER STATES, MOST ARE INCLUDED IN OHIO LEPIDOPTERIST AND SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERIST NEWS. YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE SOCIETIES WOULD BE both informative and helpful to those groups. Write Eric Metzler for information on the Ohio Leps, and Dave Baggett for dope on the Southern Leps. Also, Molly Monica in N.J. and Levi Phillips in Utah for information about societies in those states. SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LEPIDOPTERISTS!... and those in other parts of the country.

LEROY KOEHN, this year's President, collected in southern and n. Florida recently. Drought made collecting a bit poor in the north, but S. liparops liparops and calanus calanus were goodies he took there. His report from the Keys was most disturbing. The overgrown botanical garden on Stock Island is slated for development into a condominium block very soon; Leroy encountered the developer while there, and nearly started WW III. Much of the rest of the keys, he says, has building permits already issued, and builders are concentrating there waiting for completion of the new 7-mile bridge and water pipeline to begin developing in earnest. A small lot down there costs about \$29,000, he says. Leroy took some C. maesites on Stock Island, S. acis bartrami and Anaea floridalis and H. meskei on Big Pine Key, and other favorites that may soon be out of our reach.

NEWS AND NOTES

The ANNUAL MEETING will be held in Louisville on Friday evening, Nov. 6, and Sat., Nov. 7. PLEASE PLAN NOW TO ATTEND. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Ky. Lepidopterist decals are being sent with this newsletter. They were made up by Leroy Koehn, and paid through the Society budget. If you want more, they will be \$1 each, available from Covell.

NEW MEMBER: We welcome Mary F. Fors, 5616 So. Allendale Dr., Murray, UTAH 84107. Mary's interests include Sphingidae and most butterflies.

NEW ADDRESS: Mary Hathaway has returned to Harvard Univ., and can be addressed at: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA. 02138.

Dave Winter suffered back trouble in May, so No. 3 of NEWS of the Lepid. Soc. has been delayed. Dave is on his feet again, and he and Jo expect to be at the Lepid. Soc. meeting in July at Cocoyoc, Mexico. Glad you're better, Dave!

Memoir #2 of the Lepid. Soc. is at the printer's at last, and should be mailed from Louisville some time in July. Paperback editions will be available about a month before the hardbound version, and will be mailed separately; so if you ordered 1 of each, they will not come together.

The Allen Press in Lawrence, Kansas, is now taking care of all orders for back issues of Lepid. Society publications. Covell hired a U-Haul in May, and trucked about 170 cartons of literature to Lawrence, attended a meeting there, and flew home-relieved.

The MONA Checklist of Lepidoptera of America N. of Mexico is in galley proof and should be issued late in the year. The price to individuals will be \$40, I believe.

A possible Sept. field meeting in the Fulton Co. area is being planned. More on this in our next edition.

An acre of Findlay State Park in Lorain Co., OHIO, has been set aside as a preserve for Euphyes dukesi as a result of conservation efforts by former Ky. Lepid. Soc. president Leland Martin. Tom Seay kindly sent an article from the Hillsboro, Ohio, Press Gazette telling about it, and details are also in Vol. 3, no. 2 of Ohio Lepidopterist.

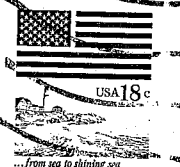
Journal of the Lepid. Soc. Vol. 34 (4) is to be mailed this week. I cannot say when No. 1 of Vol. 35 (the 1981 volume) will be out.

The Kentucky Lepidoptera Survey now totals 1,987 species. That project has been on a back burner recently, as Covell makes final push to finish Field Guide to Moths.

Off to the Dominican Republic for field adventure June 21-29 with Dr. Tom Emmel are the McInnis, the Merritts, Brett Barrett, Covell, and Dave Bigelow. Who else?!

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