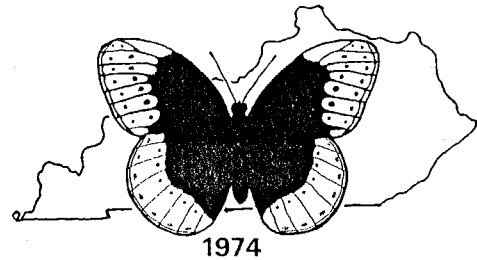


# KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF

*The Society of*

*Kentucky Lepidopterists*



VOLUME 8, NO. 3

C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR  
R. A. HENDERSON, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

AUG. 1982

## PLANS FOR FALL FIELD MEETING

As earlier planned, the fall meeting of our Society will be held the weekend of September 10 - 12 in the Henderson Sloughs area just south of Henderson, Ky., where cypress swamp habitat has been found to merit our attention. We will be looking for the same sorts of butterflies as we have found in Fulton Co.: skippers such as Euphyes dukesi and dion; Poanes yehl; Lerema accius; etc. Also we hope to locate new colonies of Lethe portlandia missarcae, creola, anthonon, and appalachia. General butterfly collecting will also be very useful in establishing county records in the area, where almost no collecting has been done (except one visit by Covell in the early '70s and some collecting by Patricia Liles in the Henderson area proper). Graduate student Paul Hill, working on wetlands ecology at U. of Louisville, has promised some local knowledge; and our Field Trip Coordinator, Loran Gibson, is scouting the area this week.

PLEASE CONTACT LORAN IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US. He will give directions, motel information, and tell you what the place is like. Be prepared for wet hiking, however. Loran's NEW address is: 5505 Taylor Mill Rd., Taylor Mill, KY 41015. His phone number is AC 606, 261-4515. Call in the evening during weekdays. Camping can be done at Audubon St. Park. Sorry further information is not available at this time. SEE YOU THERE!

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## DUES REMINDER

Our Treasurer, Blaine Early, says response has been good to the dues form sent in the last issue. However some of you have not yet responded. His address: Dept. of Biology, Cumberland College, Williamsburg, KY 40769.

## CARL C. CORNETT 1903 - 1982

Carl Cornett, Charter Member of our Society, died in his easy chair on the morning of Wed., Aug. 4, apparently while reading his newspaper. He had been in good health and spirits lately, although his general frailty had kept him from planning any collecting trips to Kentucky State Parks this summer. He had just turned 79 on July 17.

Carl was a Personnel Manager for Reynolds Metals when he retired. Earlier work was with the Boy Scouts of America and several companies. He had an undergraduate degree in Psychology from the Univ. of Louisville, and earned the MBA at Harvard Business School.

His twin passions of education for the young and natural history were best expressed in his long-term activities with the Kentucky Society of Natural History, of which he was a charter member, past president, holder of various other offices, Executive Secretary, and Honorary Life Member. It might be said that he was the embodiment of that Society for many years.

In 1970 Carl, recently retired, began collecting moths for the Univ. of Louisville collection, and added many specimens over the years. He did almost all his collecting by blacklight at various State Parks in Kentucky. Many species are recorded in Kentucky on the basis of his captures. He put much of his time, treasure, and talent in the work of the Ky. Lepidoptera Survey, and I hope the resulting book will bear testimony to his staunch support. He was a warm-hearted, vibrant person who lived his life actively to its end. We will miss him very much. - CVC

## REPORTS OF FIELD TRIPS &amp; MEETINGS

Your editor and others of our group have been very active this summer, and here are a few details.

## PERU '82

After returning from Florida in May with 7 students, there was little time to catch the breath before it was time for the much-awaited trip to Peru with Tom Emmel's group of 64 collectors, photographers, general entomologists, and family. At last June 18 arrived, and I loaded my large suitcase with 2 small battery packs, blacklights, nets, boxes, boots, flashlights, clothes, etc. and flew down to Miami for the night flight to Lima. After a short wait there, we caught another jet out to Tingo Maria, a small mountain town in the eastern mountains, long known as a paradise for the lepidopterist. As we alighted from the plane on the grass runway and waited for baggage loading, I noticed a number of the group already with nets in hand fanning out around the area. The local people shared interest in the crazy gringos with that of Peru's game in the Soccer World Cup which was heard on radios all over town.

Soon we were at the Turista Hotel, a sprawling wood structure with rooms off a long veranda, smaller buildings with 4 rooms each, and open-air dining room. Collecting was good right around the building, but our plan was to take small buses out each day for more remote areas where we could spread out and find variety of habitat. These places were usually along dirt roads or trails along rivers and streams up into the hills to the south of Tingo Maria. These places soon earned names such as "Morpho Canyon," "Burro Canyon," and the like. We vied with native collectors who came out with nets and blue clothes to capture Morpho spp., usually around noon. M. didius and M. achilles were dominant; and we could see male M. helena flying high over the canyons. A great variety of butterflies appeared in our daily catches. I guess I averaged about 100 butterflies per day, with Arcas imperialis my best hairstreak catch, and loss of a specimen of "Thecla" imperialis out of my net while I fumbled for a killing jar my biggest disappointment. Another disappointment occurred on the last day, as I swept up a tree-trunk for an Agrius sp. I never even saw that one fly! However, there were two men who had butterflies to sell, and most of us were able to pick up Morphos and Agrius lugens and sardanapolis from Mario Rojas Vallegas, whose house was a veritable warehouse of the larger and more showy butterflies. I am sure he sold well over a thousand dollar's worth while we were there (I bought a few, too, but I was a piker compared to some of our colleagues when it came time to make purchases). Mario would make his rounds of native collectors' areas about 3 times weekly to pick up their catch. I wish I knew how much he paid them relative to what the butterflies sold for!

One day we drove over the mountains to a town on a tributary of the Amazon, Aguaytia. Unfortunately, it was a washout for collecting; it rained ALL day. But we saw some interesting country, and also passed a place called Divisoria where a small power generating station sat on a mountaintop amid an area without electricity. In the back was a screened-in outbuilding containing the fuel tank - and 2 fluorescent light bars. We made 2 night trips there for moths, and found it fabulous the first time. I took many small moths, including a species of Cargolia (Geometridae) I had studied for my MS thesis in the early '60s, but had never seen "in the wild." A few Rothschildia, T. agrippina, and some fantastic sphingids were taken by some lucky members of the group; but there were really too many of us in a small area for those to go around. Moth collecting back at the hotel was not good. Another trip was to the National Park at Tingo Maria, where collecting was not allowed. Dave Ahrenholz returned there the last day, and found that for photography that spot was the best of the trip.

When we returned to Lima for the flight to Miami, some of us went on to Tinalandia, Ecuador for more collecting, and another portion of the group went to Cuzco and Machu Picchu. Blaine and Suann Early were among the latter, and reported a fine time. Beside them, and those mentioned already, Ky. Lepidopterists on this whole jaunt included Jim and Mary Lou Merritt, Chuck and JoAnn Zeiger, Tom and Pat Dooley, Tom Carr, John & Julie Hyatt,  
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## TRIPS AND MEETINGS, CONT'D.

tan Nicolay, and Charlie Watson: 15 out of 64, so a fine representation. Many of the group had been with us in Ecuador in 1980 and/or the Dominican Republic last year. We all got back safely, with minimal problems with gastrointestinal and other problems. My main scrape was getting left by my bus group about 25 km south of Tingo at 4:00, when we were supposed to depart at 4:30. I spent some rather nervous moments before hailing a taxi for the trip down the mountain. As a result of my insecurity in Spanish-speaking countries, I have decided to take an intensive Spanish course here this fall, and hope I can stick with it long enough to develop some savvy. I'll listen to tapes while spreading specimens this winter!

These trips to Latin America with Tom have meant a lot to me for a number of reasons. The fine arrangement work done by Giovanna Holbrook of the Holbrook Travel Agency in Gainesville, Fla., has made it possible to penetrate to fascinating and rewarding areas for what is probably the best possible price. This last trip was \$837 from Miami and back, including all in-country travel, meals, and lodging. The permits, visas, baggage handling, etc., have been taken care of so we can concentrate on collecting. The 10-day periods are perfect for me, as I cannot be away too long from family and job. The large size of the group, with some speaking Spanish, makes it possible to get along in an alien environment. It is possible to either collect with a group, or be somewhat alone (though rarely has anyone gotten dangerously separated from the group). Friends I have met on these trips are treasured; and I have learned from many of them. Dr. Gerardo Lamas, Peru's only "professional" scientific lepidopterist, gave us a talk about the fauna of Peru, and we will hopefully be able to communicate and maybe meet again in the future. The specimens taken have been overwhelming, because of lack of authoritative and easily accessible publications and collections for identification; but I am sure many of us who went on this and the previous 2 trips have in our possession some material of great scientific value. I hope we can get it identified and into the hands of specialists who are working on various groups of neotropical butterflies and moths. Certainly we will be able to add species to the partial list Gerardo gave us for the Tingo Maria area. We hope we can reciprocate by providing information that will further the knowledge of the fauna of Peru and the other countries we have visited. Finally, I for one have appreciated the chance to learn about the culture, language, art, music, and people of Peru, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic. Our unbelievable well-being in the U.S. is brought home as we see disturbing poverty. Yet our faith in human character is demonstrated by the good humor observed in these countries among people who have a very difficult time subsisting. These trips have been experiences of a lifetime. I hope there will be more.

## The Lepidopterists' Society Meeting

Over 100 members of the Lepidopterists' Soc. met at the Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie, from July 15-18. Dr. Cliff Ferris was our host, with able assistance from Dr. Karolis Bagdonas and his wife Sylvia and their family. Dues were not increased; the 1983 meeting will be, as previously decided, in Columbus, Ohio; the 1984 meeting will be in Alberta, Canada; and the 1985 meeting at the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. Your editor was duly installed as President, being crowned by outgoing President Lincoln Brower with a pair of springy play antennae at the final business meeting (I don't get no respect!). Irv Finkelstein, Ab Towers, and I gave a paper on the new Geometrid moth from Ga.; and Dave Ahrenholz and I gave slide shows on butterflies and sights in Peru out at Karolis's "ranch" where we had a feast on elk, deer, rabbit, rainbow trout, and other viands. Collecting was good at lower elevations around Laramie, but there was a late spring and the season was very much behind schedule. Lincoln Brower gave a superb Presidential Address on the Monarch roost situation in Mexico; and members and friends donated about 40 door prizes which were duly distributed by your editor with the help of his 2 youngest children; Robert and Elizabeth Katherine. The Covells made a visit to Fullerton, Ca, after the meeting, and during that time I finally visited the BioQuip Products home office and plant in El Segundo. Owner Richard Fall kindly gave us a tour.

## Southern Lepidopterists

This coming weekend John & Julie Hyatt, Charlie Watson, and Bob Cavanaugh will host the Tenn. Annual Meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists, which will be jointly attended by members of the Ky. and Ohio lepidopterists as well. Here's hoping weather and collecting are great!

## MEXICO IN JULY

Richard Henderson, Denny Currutt, and Mike and Debbie McInnis just returned from a trip to Vera Cruz, Mexico (localities were Fortin, Jalapa, and Catemaco, mainly), where they collected July 26-Aug. 7. Excellent collecting was reported by Mike, who said they took about 600 species of butterflies. Richard had good luck with mercury vapor lamp on rainy or cloudy nights, Mike said. Among the prizes were the "Thecla" coronata, regalis, and cypria, as well as many other hairstreaks. A migration of thousands of Urania was observed. Bait proved successful for Caligo, Prepona, 6 Hamadryas spp., and some other groups. Some Montezuma's revenge was reported, and car trouble; but the bugs will still be there when the memories of the other things pass. Robert & George Busby, David Pinder, and Kent Scott were others on this trip. Again, the people encountered were great, according to Mike.

## NEWS AND NOTES

Our Annual Meeting will be held in Louisville, Ky., on Friday & Saturday, Nov. 12-13, 1982. More information later; but PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. Slides of Peru trip will be presented.

New Members: Tom and Pat Dooley, 145 Sea Park Blvd., Satellite Beach, FL 32937.  
 Jim Pearson, 27801 SE Highpoint Way, Issaquah, WA 98027.  
 Nancy E. Stamp, Dept. of Zoology, Storer Hall, Univ. of California, Davis, CA 95616.

FOR SALE: Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera, vols. 1,2, 12, 13, 14, and 15. \$35.  
 C. V. Covell Jr., Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292.

Carl Kaster has accepted a position in the Biology Dept. at Sienna Heights College, Adrian, Michigan, beginning late in August.

The "MONA Checklist" of Lepidoptera of America N. of Mexico should be published in October, if there are no further hitches.

Terry Dickel, an old net-swinging friend from Homestead, Fla., visited the Editor recently, bringing along his wife Lucie, 2 dogs, and a big catch of western Lepidoptera!

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FIRST CLASS MAIL