



Kentucky Lepidopterist

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 38 Number 2, 4 June 2012

NEW STATE RECORD MIMOSCHINIA RUBOFASCIALIS BY JONATHAN SMITH

Mimoschinia rubofascialis (Steph., 1834) was captured in Kentucky for the first time on 17 August 2010 in Rowan County and its identity confirmed by C.V. Covell and L. Gibson. It was a fresh specimen caught in a UV light trap on the Cumberland Plateau in the northern part of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The site is a mesic hardwood forest dominated by oaks, maple, tulip poplars and a few shagbark hickories. The summer canopy is dense allowing only sparse undergrowth of predominately green briar, huckleberry and intermittent immature trees. In view of the moth's excellent condition and reviewing the insects known distribution and larval plant food, I thought this was an interesting find in Kentucky raising a simple question. Why here in Rowan County, Kentucky?

The moth's distribution appears to be widest and most abundant west of the Mississippi river. As listed on the Moth Photographers Group web site, reports are concentrated in California, the south western states and along the southern border of Texas. There are a few scattered spots in Canada but not uncommon reports from the mid-west. East of the Mississippi there are only spotty occurrences in northern Illinois, Michigan and southern Canada. However, the major distribution site appears to be Florida which may not be unexpected since the reported larval food plants are all in the family Malvaceae (Mallow family) which are fibrous plants including ornamentals, cotton and okra (Barnes and Frances: 2004).



MINOSCHINIA RUBOFASCIALIS

Of the five listed genera in Malvaceae containing known larval plant foods (Abutilon, Gossyplum, Malve, Cienfuegosia and Sida), the last two are western in distribution. Of the first three, Abutilon theophrasti (velvetleaf) is the only species listed as occurring in Rowan County. There are three species of Malve recorded in Kentucky but only M. reglecta (common mallow) occurs in Rowan County and not a known host of Mimoschinia to my knowledge. The most ubiquitous genus Hibiscus, occurs in Rowan County, but is not listed as a known food plant and grows in wet areas which the catch site certainly was not. So why in Rowan County when there appear to be more counties in western Kentucky that have appropriate larval food plants?

Some possibilities might be a greater variety of acceptable larval hosts exist or our knowledge of the host plant distribution is wanting. It may be interesting to see if other specimens are found in some of the western counties where both known food plants and conditions are more common.

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OF
KENTUCKY
LEPIDOPTERISTS**

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THE SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY

LEPIDOPTERISTS is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky. Membership dues are annual: \$15.00. Dues sent to the Treasurer: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

**SUMMER FIELD MEETING
YELLOWBANK WMA
15, 16 & 17 JUNE 2012**

The summer field meeting will be held 15, 16 & 17 June 2012 at the Yellowbank WMA in Breckinridge County.

The species that we will be looking once again for Calephelis mutica (Swamp Metal Mark). Directly across the Ohio River and to the west of the Yellowbank WMA is Perry County, Indiana and the Hoosier National Forest. Within Hoosier National Forest is a large population of Calephelis mutica. In mid to late June Calephelis mutica is very common in woodland areas. These habitats are very similar to those of the Yellowbank WMA. If Calephelis mutica occurs on the Indiana side of the Ohio River, it should occur on the Kentucky side.

The meeting will begin on Friday morning at 10:00AM. We will meet at the Information Center on Route 259 (See Map Insert). The Information Center is well marked and we will have the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists logo visible from the road. We will explore wooded areas and set out some bait traps. If you arrive later, there will be a map posted that will direct you to where we will be.

Yellowbank WMA is in a somewhat remote area of Breckinridge County. You will need to bring food and drink with you for the day. In the late afternoon we will set out Light Traps and then travel to Hardinsburg to check into the Hardinsburg Inn and to have dinner. After dinner we will return to the Yellowbank WMA to set up lights to collect moths.

Hardinsburg is a small farming community just north of US 60. The only Motel is the Hardinsburg Inn just off US 60 as you enter Hardinsburg. All rooms have two beds with a rate of \$52.00 per night for one person. Each additional person is \$5.00 for a maximum of four persons per room. To make a reservation: Tel: 270-756-9234. Rooms are first come first serve. Camping is also available at Yellowbank WMA ½ mile north of the Information Center for \$6.00 per night. There is no electricity, running water or services. Hardinsburg has several fast food restaurants (MacDonald's, Pizza Hut, etc.), a strip mall and several grocery stores.

Saturday morning we will meet again at the Information Center at 10:00AM. We will travel to several areas to search for butterflies. We will set out light traps in the late afternoon before returning to Hardinsburg for dinner. After dinner we will return to the Yellowbank WMA to set up lights to collect moths.

Sunday morning we will again meet at the Information Center at 10:00AM. We will travel to the Town Creek Section of Yellowbank WMA which is located 7 miles to the SW. There are several areas we can access at Town Creek. The meeting will officially end around 4:00PM. Those wishing to stay and continue to collect may do so.

Should you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Leroy C. Koehn: Tel: 502-542-7091 or email at: Leptraps@aol.com.

ANNUAL BUTTERFLY COUNT JULY 7, 2012 LED BY DR. CHARLES V. COVELL

The Annual July 4th Butterfly Count at Horner Wildlife Sanctuary in Oldham County, Kentucky, will be held Saturday July 7, 2012. It will be led by Charlie Covell and other members of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. We will meet at 9:30AM at the (now closed) Brownsboro General Store & Restaurant (The only business building) in Brownsboro, one mile east of Exit 14 of I-71. After briefing and assignment of teams, we will count butterflies from 10AM to 3PM. If it is a completely rainy day, we will hold the count on Sunday July 8, 2012 at the same time.

Please wear boots, long pants, long sleeve shirts and a hat. Bring repellent for ticks, chiggers and mosquito's. We will have some nets to loan. You are free to leave whenever you wish.

For additional information, contact Charlie Covell at Tel: 352-336-0127 for further information, or Email: covell@louisville.edu.

We will need some help from Society members. Please contact Charlie Covell if you would like to help.

Beginners and children are encouraged to attend.

MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2012

Summer Field Meeting: June 15, 16 & 17, 2012; Yellowbank WMA, Breckinridge County. Trip leader: Leroy C. Koehn. Email: Leptraps@aol.com; Tel: 502-542-7091. Meeting announcement in this Newsletter.

Late Summer Field Meeting: August 24, 25 & 26, 2012 Slough WMA, Henderson County. Trip Leaders: Gerald Burnett: Email: gdburnett@brtc.net; Tel: 270-559-8214; & Bill Black: Email: black8898@bellsouth.net; Tel: 270-442-9587.

The Great Papaipema Chase 2012: October 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2012; Locations to be announced; Event Coordinator: Bill Black; Email: black8808@bellsouth.net; Tel: 270-442-9587

Annual Meeting: November 9 & 10, 2012: University of Kentucky, Insect Museum, Lexington, KY. The date is planned around the football schedule. UK football game is away this weekend.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

We began this years activities with a field meeting at Red River Gorge. It was a beautiful location and we found a number of interesting species of Lepidoptera. We are returning to the Yellowbank WMA in Breckinridge County. The weather did not fully cooperate last year and the Sunday morning tornado south of Yellowbank WMA added some excitement. That will be hard to repeat this year. Our late summer field meeting will be held at the Sloughs WMA in Henderson County. We last visited the Sloughs area in 1982. Your Editor was looking through his collection and found several specimens of Euphyes dion, Hyllolycaena hyllus and a Catocala marmorata that he collected during the 1982 field meeting. Bill Black, Gerald Burnett and your Editor will scout the Sloughs WMA on Thursday 14 June 2012 prior to the yellowbank field meeting. If you wish to join us. Contact your Editor: Tel: 502-542-7091

We also encourage you to participate in the Great Papaipema Chase of 2012. Contact Bill Black for information and locations where we will be collecting.

The Annual Meeting will be at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky in November. We will have a featured speaker. Do you have a talk to present or a photo essay. Contact Bill Black or your Editor and we will include you in the meeting agenda.

The Newsletter is in need of interesting stories or short articles. Here is a great place to have yours published. Some of you are great photographers, the newsletter could use a photo or two of some of your great shots.

Plan on attending one or more of our activities in 2012.

A BUTTERFLY POEM FOR JIM'S BIRTHDAY

Charlie Covell talked with Jim Merritt's widow, Mary Lou. She gave us permission to print in the newsletter a "Poem for Jim's Birthday" by Joan Kay, former social editor at the Louisville *Courier Journal*. Joan was a friend of Jim's. It is dated April 19, 1990. Jim passed away in 1998 - our much loved dean of Kentucky Lepidopterists.

A BUTTERFLY POEM FOR JIM'S BIRTHDAY
by Joan Kay

Why did the legislature
Choose from all of nature
As state butterfly
--We mutter, sigh--

The viceroy!
Is it truly showy?
Or an arcane ploy?

I guess our solons were a little wary
Of opting for the meadow fritillary.
That sounds too much like wasting time
And, God knows, they're guilty of THAT crime!

Did they make the monarch abdicate
Before it was even coronate?

A painted lady
Sounds quite shady

And the buckeye
Is Ohio, not Ken-tuck-eye.

Did they find the orange sulphur
Too dull for a state symbol,
Though it be very nimble?

Perhaps the choice of the viceroy was not at all complex.
The legislature flew round the state and made some checks
And found the viceroy topped the list of every
lepidopterist.

DUES REMINDER

Please check your dues status, the year following your name on the address label indicates the last year for which dues were paid. Send payment to Les Ferge whose address is listed on the front cover. Those in arrears after 1 July 2012 will no longer receive the Newsletter.

We recently learned of the passing of a long time member, Roger Zebold. Below is his obituary

ROGER ALAN ZEBOLD 80, of Waverly, Ohio departed this life April 23, 2012. Born June 22, 1931 in Garden City, Long Island New York, to the late Russell & Ida Zebold. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He graduated from Cleveland State University and Miami University. He worked



as a systems analyst for Frigidaire and later worked for General Motors Corporation in 1965 in Detroit, MI. He retired January 1, 1988 from the Engineering staff of GM as a manager of Corporate Information Standards (CISCO). He is survived by his wife Hazel Zebold, now of Montpelier, VA; children Steven Zebold, Suzanne Wade; stepchildren Max Stewart, Deborah Nuttycombe, Rick Stewart & John Stewart and granddaughter Jillian Wade. He was preceded in death by his sister Barabara J, Zebold. A grave side memorial service will be held 11am Saturday May 26th 2012 at Shelby Oakland Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Ohio Lepidopterists, attention David Horn, 37 Arden Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

SPRING FIELD MEETING REPORT

The Spring Field Trip to Red River Gorge began Friday afternoon. At the Rest Area at the Slade exit of the Mountain Parkway. Light Traps were set out in the Red River Gorge in Menifee County and Clifty Wilderness Area in Wolfe County. These locations were all in the Daniel Boone National Forest. We then went to Natural Bridges State Park and had dinner at the Lodge.

Saturday morning we once again met at the Rest Area, some sorted light traps while others looked at the overcast sky and then watched it rain for a short time. Several interesting moths were found: Feralia comstocki, Acronicta noctivaga, Eupsilia vinulenta and Eupsilia sidus.

With traps sorted we traveled into the Red Gorge to search for butterflies. We visited several locations including the East Indian Creek area. Even with the overcast sky we saw and/or collected the following: Erynnis brizo, Erynnis juvenalis, Amblyscirtes hegon, Battus philenor, Papilio glaucus, Papilio troilus, Eurytides marcellus, Pontia virginiensis, Pontia rapae, Anthocharis midea, Colias eurytheme, Calycopis cecrops, Cupido comyntas, Celastrina neglecta, Celastrina nigra, Glaucopsyche lydamus, Phyciodes tharos and Cyllopsis gemma.

Those in attendance Saturday included: Bill Black, Jay Timberlake, Loran Gibson, Tony Merkle, Gerald Burnett, Bonnie Murr, Leroy Koehn and Bruce Francisky.

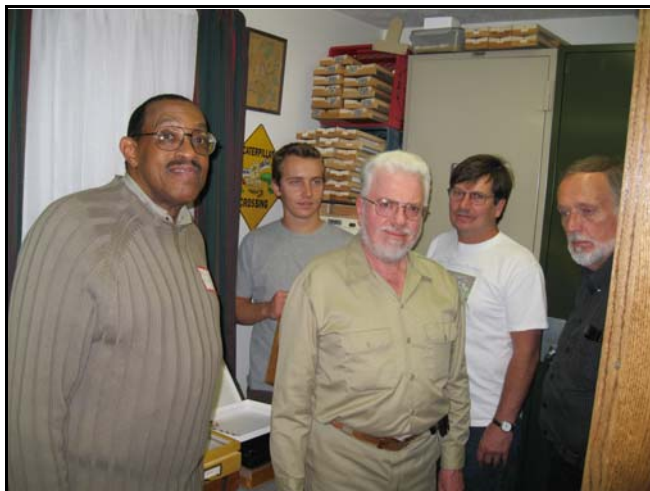
The group dwindled to three participants on Sunday, 15 April, including Bill Black, Tony Merkle, and me. We visited the Spaas Creek area of D. Boone National Forest which is northwest of the "Gorge". We saw and/or collected the following there: Erynnis brizo, E. juvenalis, Battus philenor, Eurytides marcellus, Papilio glaucus, P. Troilus, Colias philodice, Colias eurytheme, Anthocharis midea, Euchloe olympia (first county record), Pieris virginiensis, Calycopis cecrops, Cupido comyntas, Vanessa atalanta, Polygonia comma, Cyllopsis gemma and Hermeuphychia sosybius. We returned home in late afternoon.



From left to right: Loran Gibson, Bill Black, Jay Timberlake, Bruce Francisky, Bonnie Murr and Gerald Burnett. Leroy Koehn is behind the camera.

Please join us in June 15, 16, & 17 at Yellowbank WMA for our summer field meeting. Last year we had a tornado during the meeting. That will be hard to top this year.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING



Left to Right: Richard Henderson, Alex Bic, Eric Quinter, Don Tangren and Leroy Koehn



Over the shoulder view of Eric Quinter identifying *Papaipema* moths as Richard Henderson and Loran Gibson look on during the Annual Meeting on Friday.





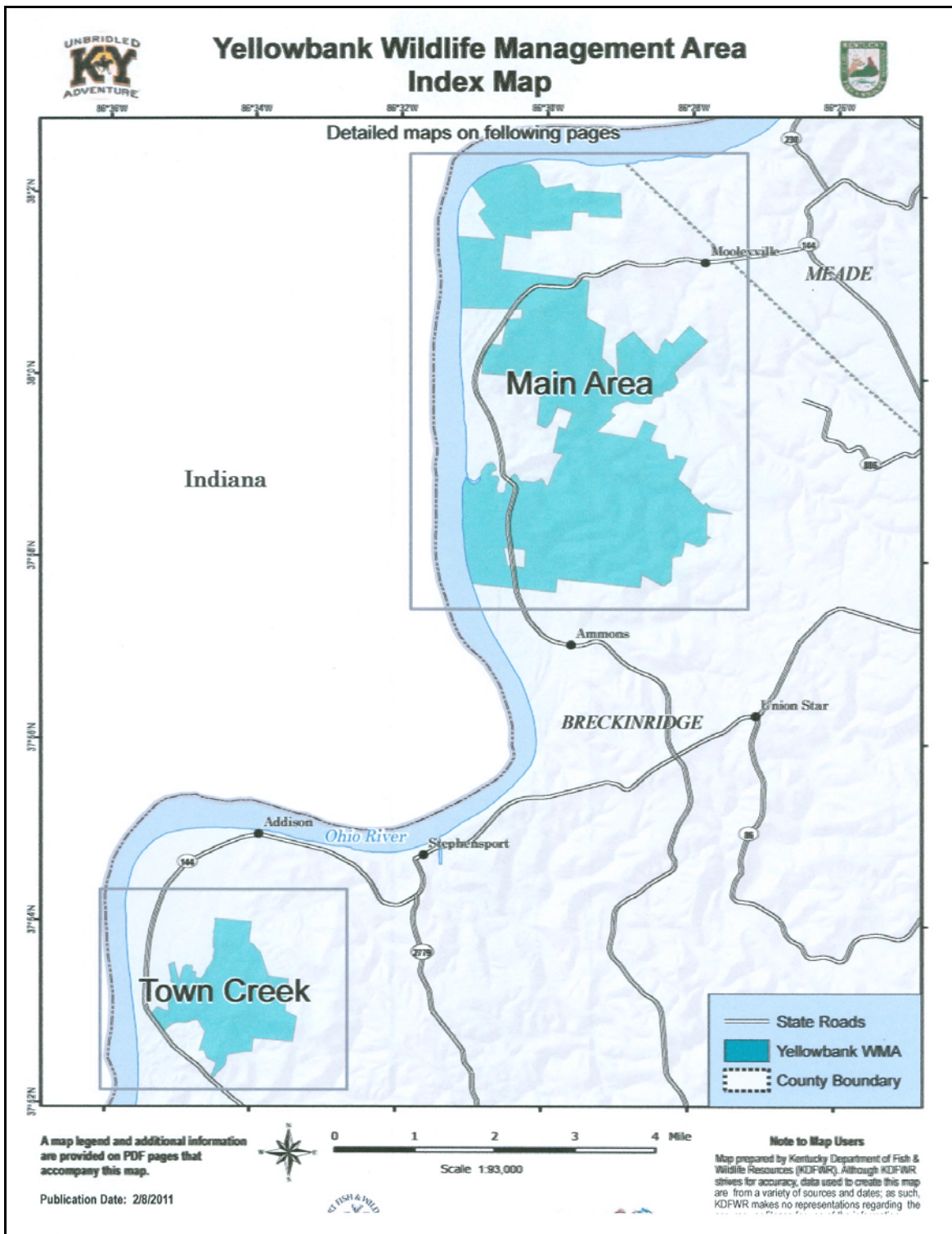
Swallowtails decomposing Scatt
Photograph by Dawn Kincaid



Swallowtails on dung.
Photograph by Dawn Kincaid

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YELLOWBANK WMA MAO



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