

NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

Volume 19, Number 3

Les Ferge, Editor

October 1992

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 7 IN MADISON

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Entomological Society will be held on Saturday, November 7, at Russell Labs on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Russell Labs is located at the corner of Babcock and Linden Drives (see map on back page) and parking is available behind the building, in the lot entered from Observatory Drive. There will be an open house at the U. W. Insect Museum, room 346 Russell Labs, from 12:30 to 2:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity to view the Entomology Department reference collection and become more familiar with the resources available to us. The formal part of the meeting will begin at 2:00 in room 150. Two presentations are scheduled: Sue Borkin will provide an update of her research on the Great Copper and Swamp Metalmark butterflies, and Bill Smith is tentatively scheduled to speak on Wisconsin Odonata. The annual Photo Salon will also be held. Any members having slides of entomological subjects are encouraged to participate. Each entrant may submit up to five slides. The slides will be judged by the audience, who will vote to select the the winning entry. The winner's name is added to the William E. Sieker Memorial Plaque, and an 8×10 print of the first place slide is added to the photo display located in the Entomology Department office and is also awarded to the photographer. After the presentations, the Insect Museum will be open until 5:00.

Also on the agenda is the election of officers for 1993. The current officers are: Sue Borkin, President; Phil Pelitteri, Vice President; Carol Ferge, Secretary; and Bob Borth, Treasurer. While all are willing to serve another term, other volunteers or nominations will be welcome at the meeting.

1993 DUES NOTICE

Enclosed in this Newsletter is your dues envelope for 1993. Your prompt attention will be most appreciated. Please note that dues are to be sent directly to the Treasurer, Bob Borth, 6926 N. Belmont Lane, Fox Point, WI 53217. Please check the membership list appearing in this issue, and report any errors or address changes when you send in your dues. If you move, please let us know, as the Post Office does not always forward our mailings or give a new address on returned items. Also note the new Family Membership category, providing membership recognition to all family members. Family memberships receive a single set of publications at one address.

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published three times a year, at irregular intervals. It is provided to encourage and facilitate the exchange of information by the membership, and to keep the members informed of the activities of the organization. Members are strongly encouraged to contribute items for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please send all news items, notes, new or interesting insect records, season summaries, research requests etc. to the editor: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

While record high numbers of painted lady butterflies were flying north and east across the United States this spring, record low counts were being reported for monarch butterflies returning from overwintering grounds in Mexico. Dr. Lincoln Brower, from the University of Florida, and colleagues estimated mortality at 75% in some roost sites due to unusually harsh winter weather coupled with logging practices that open the forest canopy exposing the butterflies to the elements. In spring, the peak arrival period for monarchs recolonizing Wisconsin is normally between the last week of May and the first week of June. This year the monarchs arrived when expected, but the consensus from various WI observers was that their numbers were down. Data from an ongoing survey of the spring population at Newport State Park in Door County conducted by Dr. Brower, Susan Borkin, and Ray Sullivan, confirmed that numbers were lower than previous years, but not the dramatic decline anticipated from the mortality in the overwintering colonies. Ann Swengel found a similar trend in the results from the 1992 Xerces Fourth of July Butterfly Counts for the Midwest. However, observers from Eastern states report drastically reduced numbers especially compared to 1991. Preliminary results from Dick Walton, a founder of the Monarch Migration Association of North America, show 12.5 monarchs per hour observed at Cape May Point, NJ compared to 154 monarchs per hour over the same period in 1991. An hypothesis has been put forward by Dr. Orley Taylor, from the University of Kansas, to explain these differences. He suggests the possibility of a different hibernation area and remigration route for monarchs that repopulate the Midwest. He has initiated a tagging project to test his idea this fall, and hopes for some answers this winter. The bottom line is that more comparative census information from different sites within the monarch's range and over extended periods of time is needed to allow us to understand and ensure the survival of the unique monarch migration phenomenon.

For more information on the Monarch Migration Association of North America (MMANA) contact: Susan Borkin, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

1992 IN REVIEW

Phil Pellitteri/UW Insect Diagnostic Lab

The first thing that comes to mind about this year was the large number of calls I received about the "flocks" of Painted Lady butterflies that migrated through in mid-May. The numbers were so high that people were calling from the middle of golf courses. Next came the calls about disappearing thistle plants and has the State found a new biological control for that weed. It was fun to see 5-10 butterflies per square yard feeding in a white clover patch. From what I have heard, all our neighboring states also had impressive numbers and up to three strong broods. It will most likely be 20 years before we see this large a population again. I was delighted to see at least an average Monarch flight after the dire predictions made when news of their overwintering problems reached us this spring.

After an "everything is three weeks early" season last year, the "summer that wasn't here" kept everything behind normal calendar dates. The way things were going, I expected a frost at least once a month. The German yellowjackets didn't become pesky until early September. We were getting

calls on Cecropia moth larvae crawling around at the end of September. The cool season in general kept insect numbers from getting out of hand. Deer ticks, European corn borers, and alfalfa weevils were some of the economic critters whose populations were down.

European earwigs had a good year, as did the Norway maple aphid (Periphyllus lyropictus). The aphids can cause premature leaf drop, and we had leaves falling off trees in mass in July in southern Wisconsin. The unusual thing this year was the small number of aphids causing the problem, as few as ten per leaf. Birch leafminers occurred in high numbers and Euonymus caterpillar continued to expand its range. I saw a large number of Sphingid larvae, with the Pandora sphinx (Eumorpha pandorus) topping the list. One of the more interesting host plant records we picked up was for the Buck moth (Hemileuca maia). Rich Henderson of the DNR found larvae devouring purple loosestrife in a Jefferson County wetland. Could this be a partial answer to our prayers?

We discovered the presence of an ant (<u>Hypoponeura</u> sp.) that has never been recorded from North America. It was found under a concrete slab in a Sheboygan hospital, and swarmed all winter long. This ant can sting, and presently remains extremely difficult to eliminate. This may get interesting and could be the second coming of the Pharaoh ant.

I am afraid that the bald-faced hornets' nests and the woolly bear caterpillars are predicting a severe winter. Last season they predicted a mild winter. Although it didn't start out that way, it was a warm one in the end. Over the last ten years the insects have predicted the winter with a 70% accuracy. I hope for once they are wrong.

PRAIRIE INVERTEBRATE MEETING TO BE HELD

The "Second Annual Think Tank on Prairie Invertebrates" is to take place on Tuesday, December 1 at the Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg, Wisconsin. Last year's meeting identified several important needs relating to furthering knowledge and awareness of prairie-associated invertebrates. The upcoming meeting will feature presentations on prairie insect research, as well as an opportunity to discuss invertebrate-related topics. To register or obtain additional information, please contact: Andy Larsen, Director; Riveredge Nature Center, 4458 W. Hawthorne Drive, P. O. Box 26, Newburg, WI 53060.

NEW BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED

The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) has announced its formation. NABA is concerned with field aspects of "butterflying" including field identification, listing, gardening and conservation. A journal, American Butterflies, will be published quarterly beginning in February 1993. NABA will conduct and publish, with the Xerces Society as co-sponsor, the Fourth of July Butterfly Counts, beginning with the 1993 count. Individuals joining before December 31, 1992 will become charter members. Regular dues for 1993 are \$15 (\$25 for families and institutions). To join, or for more information, contact: Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg, 39 Highland Avenue, Chappaqua, NY 10514.

LEPIDOPTERA SEASON SUMMARY CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

1992 Wisconsin Lepidoptera records are wanted for inclusion in the season summary which is to appear in the next W. E. S. Newsletter. Things to report include rare or unusual species occurring in your area, unusually early or late occurrences, unusual abundance or scarcity, rearing or host plant data, flowers utilized by adults, or any other observations of interest. Please indicate locality, county and the date of capture or observation. Also note if voucher specimens were retained, or if records are based on photos or sightings. Specimens whose identities are uncertain may be brought to the November meeting for verification, or arrangements to view specimens or photos at another time may be made individually. Please send reports by January 5 to: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Sarapiqui Chronicle: A Naturalist in Costa Rica by Allen M. Young. Naturalist Allen Young brings vividly close the rain forests of Costa Rica, combining elements of autobiography, natural science, travel and discovery as he seeks to penetrate the maze of species interactions that animate this land. Tracking insects, he tells how science tries to map, and thus preserve, an extraordinary world. ISBN 1-56098-047-8P paperbound \$16.95 plus \$2.25 postage. Smithsonian Institution Press, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294-0900.

The Scarab Beetles of Nebraska by Brett C. Ratcliffe is a 333 page identification manual for the 197 species of Nebraska Scarabs, containing 337 illustrations and eight color plates. Topics covered include descriptions of the adult and larval stages, biological and ecological notes, identification tips and economic status. \$27.00 plus \$2.00 postage. Museum Publications, W436 Nebraska Hall, Univ. of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, NE 68588-0514.

Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio by David C. Iftner, John A. Shuey and John V. Calhoun is the most thorough and complete treatment of a regional fauna yet published, resulting from more than a decade of effort to survey the butterflies of every Ohio county. The treatment for each species carefully documents its status through time, and includes detailed distribution maps and innovative charts of the seasonal flight periods for each species. Ohio Biological Survey Bulletin New Series Volume 9, Number 1, 212 p. + 40 color plates. \$40.00 plus \$5.00 postage. Send order to address in next item.

The Owlet Moths of Ohio by Roy W. Rings, Eric H. Metzler, Fred J. Arnold and David H. Harris treats the 708 Noctuid moth species recorded from Ohio. This is a valuable reference for midwestern moths, with brief summaries of the status, history and host plants for each Ohio species. Many recent and significant taxonomic revisions have been made since the appearance of the MONA Checklist in 1983 and these have been incorporated into this publication. References to color illustrations in several generally available publications are given, and eight color plates depict selected species that have not been illustrated at all or in color previously. Identification tips for difficult species are included. Ohio Biological Survey Bulletin New Series Volume 9, Number 2, 219 p. + 8 b/w plates + 8 color plates. \$20.00 plus \$3.00 postage. Make checks payable to and mail order to: Ohio Biological Survey, Museum of Biological Diversity, 1315 Kinnear Road, Columbus, OH 43212.

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST - 1992

LAST NAME	EIRST NAME	INSTITUTION	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIF.
1717".	DAVID		707 E WILSON ST	BATAVIA	T. L.,	60510-2201
ABLER	ELAINE L		3142 VIEW RD, R R 3	MADISON	WI	53711
ANDREWS		•	BOX 105	BLUE RIVER	OR	97413
APPELBECK	KEITH		6275 LITEOLIER	PORTAGE	1*1 T.	49002
BALLOGH	GEORGE		15050 VERA CRUZ	NEW BERLIN	WIL	53151
BARINA	TOM ANNA THRELFALL	•	ROUTE 1	KENNAN	WII	54537
BAUM			2970 MILWAUKEE ST	MADISON	WIII	53704
BEHNKE	CHARLES		1656 CHADWELL DR	SANTA MARIA	CA	93454
BENJAMIN	DANIEL	DEPT OF ZOOLOGY	S ILLINOIS UNIV	CARBONDALE	XL.	62901
BLASCZYK	MARTIN	DEED OF SOCIOOD	1096 PERRY CENTER	FUT HOREB	WII	53572
BLESER	CATHY A		3934 MANITOU WAY	MADISON	WI	53711
BOLLES	J CRAIG		1026 PORTAGE ST	STEVENS POINT	WII	54481
BORCHARDT	MARTHA AND MARK	RECH	800 W WELLS ST	MILWAUKEE	WI	53233
BORKIN	SUSAN S	MILW PUBLIC MUSEUM		FOX POINT	WI	53217
BORTH	ROBERT		6926 N BELMONT LN		WI	53095
BOSSERT	FREDERICK		3392 SILVER LAKE DR	WEST BEND		
BRANDT	FREDERICK W.		11525 88TH AVE NO	MAPLE GROVE	MS	55369
BRYANT	ROBERT		522 OLD ORCHARD RD	BALTIMORE	MD	21229
BUCHLI	EYRON		6 GOODLAND AVE	DEERFIELD	WI	53531
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WIS. ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY Middleton, WI 53562

