



# *Kentucky Lepidopterist*

*Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists*

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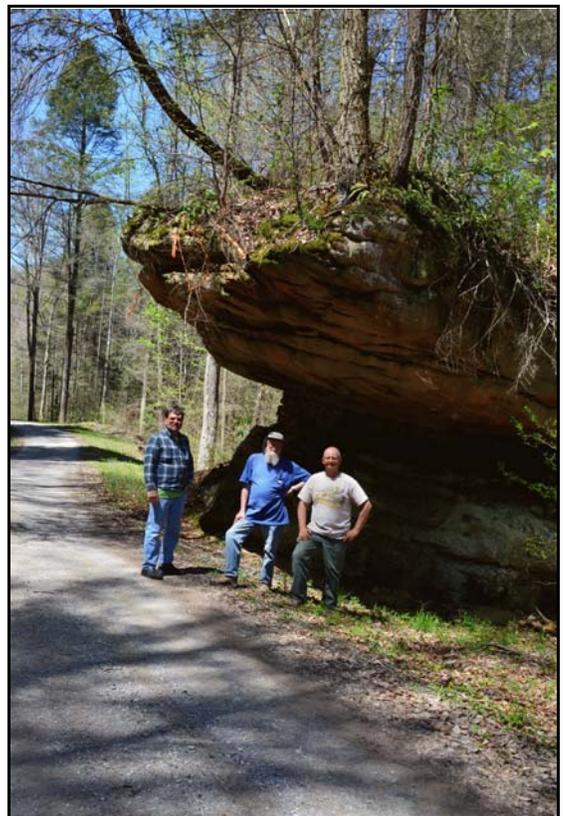
## **SPRING FIELD TRIP REPORT TO REDBIRD WMA BY LORAN GIBSON**

We enjoyed good weather during our field trip last weekend to Redbird WMA in Leslie and Clay Counties in eastern Kentucky. Those present in addition to me were Bill Black, Gerald Burnett, Leroy, Don Tangren, and Charles Wright. Weather was cool on Friday evening, so we saw few moths around Leroy's large sheet apparatus that he set up for the group to collect around. The light traps had collected a few moths when we recovered them on Saturday morning. The best of these were probably Feralia comstocki, Acronicta betulae and Orthofidonia flavivenata.

Saturday's weather was warm and sunny and ideal for our activities. We encountered the following butterflies: Epargyreus clarus, Erynnis icelus, E. brizo, E. juvenalis, Battus philenor, Eurytides marcellus, Papilio glaucus, P. troilus, Colias philodice, C. eurytheme, Anthocharis midea, Pieris virginiensis, Strymon melinus, Cupido comyntas, Celastrina ladon, C. neglectamajor, Glaucopsyche lygdamus, Vanessa virginiensis, V. atalanta, Nymphalis antiopa, Polygonia comma, Phyciodes tharos, and Cyllopsis gemma. A couple of these did not show up until Sunday morning, but this is the complete list for the three days.

Redbird WMA is an impressive place! The habitat is typical of the eastern Cumberland Plateau with high hills and deep valleys with nice clean streams. The lower forest is probably the mixed-mesophytic type with a variety of trees and an amazingly diverse number of plant species. The higher elevations are mostly Hemlock-Mountain Laurel-Rhododendron communities among mixed Oaks. We drove through most of the area on Saturday looking for butterflies. Little was out in the higher elevations. Although the host plants for Callophrys augustinus, C. henrici, and Celastrina nigra were observed, those butterflies were not found. I suspect those early spring species were already gone for the season.

On Saturday evening we had no sheet to collect around because Leroy departed in the afternoon, and no one else brought a sheet light rig. Instead, after the light traps were deployed, we stood around and admired the beautiful night sky with binoculars! The stars were amazing in such a dark place!



The over hanging rock formation in the photograph was one of several that we encountered as we traveled through the Redbird WMA. Don Tangren, Charles Wright and Gerald Burnett stand in front. No one parked a vehicle under this rock formation nor would they stand under it.

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Richard Henderson - 2014\*  
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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

After collecting the traps on Sunday morning we found the Saturday night catch to be much more substantial than on Friday! Another good catch in one of my traps was Nemoria rubrifrontaria. I think this could have been my first time collecting this species! We had more E. comstocki and O. flavivenata. In fact, I had that rare geo. in every trap that I set out! It seems to be fairly common there. Those who had driven long distances departed fairly early on Sunday leaving only Charles and I. I spent some time searching for Olethreutes larvae with fairly good luck and Charles searched for tiger beetles, also with good results.

The trip was a very enjoyable one and the location was excellent. We will probably return to the Redbird area at another time of year in the future.

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**IDENTIFYING BIRDS  
BY  
LEROY KOEHN**

The Saturday morning of the Spring field meeting was sunny and bright, but the temperature was in the low 50's. As we waited for the temperature to rise, Gerald Burnett and Loran Gibson began looking for birds. They identified a number of birds with names I was not familiar with. Charles Wright was checking them out in a book.



Charles Wright, Gerald Burnett & Loran Gibson watching birds in the Redbird WMA

As the temperature warmed I began to look for butterflies. Walking up the road I came upon what I assumed was a mud puddle club. After a closer examination, I could see it was not a mud puddle club, but the carcass of a large bird that was evidently killed on the road and crushed by the traffic.

I observed number of Papilio glaucus, Erynnis juvenalis and a small Thyrididae moth, Thyris sepulchralis on the carcass. I could not determine what type of bird. I called for the bird watchers.



Bird carcass with Papilio glaucus & Erynnis juvenalis

Using a stick, Charles Wright probed the carcass and after some discussion, it was determined to be an Owl. There were also some beetles on the carcass. I have found Lepidoptera feeding on many things other than flowers, but a dead bird, this was a first for your Editor.

I visited the carcass several times during the day and found Battus philenor, Erynnis baptisiae, E. brizo, Cupido comytas, Celastrina ladon and a small spring Noctuid moth, Psychomorpha epimenis.



MEETING ATTENDEES  
Bill Black, Don Tangern, Loran Gibson,  
Charles Wright, Leroy Koehn & Gerald Burnett.

## THOUGHTS ON PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION OF LEPIDOPTERA RECORDS

BY  
LES FERGE

The amazing advances in digital photography witnessed in recent years are providing a wealth of images, many of which have great aesthetic appeal, but also can have scientific value in documenting butterfly and moth records.

Although collected specimens are necessary to make positive identifications of many species, a good photograph in many cases can provide sufficient verifiable evidence of a species' occurrence. Websites such as BugGuide and Moth Photographer's Group have become great resources for species identification and distributional data.

In order to maximize the scientific value of photos, the associated data needs to be recorded in the same manner as customary for labels of collected specimens. The minimal information would include state, county, locality, date and name of observer. Although data is often available with web images, there is a danger that the information could be separated from the image and lost. To avoid this from happening, it would be most desirable to insert the data text directly into the image. This can be rather easily accomplished using photo editing software. PhotoPad Image Editor is an easy-to-use program that can be downloaded for free from [http://download.cnet.com/PhotoPad-Image-Editor/3000-2192\\_4-10806811.html](http://download.cnet.com/PhotoPad-Image-Editor/3000-2192_4-10806811.html). Species names should generally not be inserted in the image, as they are sometimes changed or revised. The exception to this would be in the case of a determination made by an authority or specialist on the group in question. Species names, along with checklist or catalog numbers, can be used to name and organize image files.

Another concern is the long-term maintenance and preservation of images and associated information. Unlike museum collections of specimens, which have historically had the greatest permanence, there is no similar organized system to keep photos. It is easy to take the availability of web sites for granted, but if their owners quit maintaining and paying for them, the information is gone. (Cont. on Pg.#4)

(Cont. from Pg.#3) While the simplest and cheapest way to store images is on computer hard drives or CD's, consider making hard copies (prints) to have tangible images not requiring a machine to view. The disposition and preservation of images after their owners pass on also need to be given thought. Specimen collections, often representing the life work of their owner, usually end up being donated to a museum or university, where they are preserved for use by future researchers. Similarly, a collection of photos has future value, and institutional collections need to make provisions to maintain this legacy.

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**MEETING & EVENT  
SCHEDULE FOR 2014**

**Late Summer Field Meeting:**

Otter Creek WMA in early September. Target species is Papaipema leucostigma. A complete announcement will appear in the next newsletter.

**Oak Grove Butterfly Festival:** Saturday 27 September 2013 in Oak Grove, Kentucky. The Festival is a one day, 10 hour event. The Society has been invited to return this year and bring a display of butterflies and moths. Gerald Burnett, Bill Black and Leroy Koehn will organize the event for the Society. If you are interested in participating, mark your calendar for 27 September 2014. There will be more information in future newsletters.

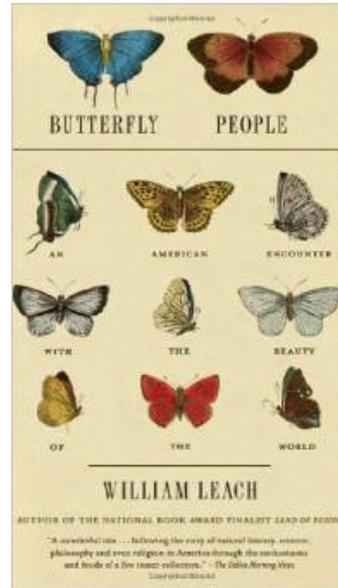
**2013 Annual Meeting:** November 14 & 15, 2014: The meeting will be at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Friday and Saturday November 14 & 15. We will meet in the Insect Museum in the Dimock Animal Pathology Building. There will be the "Gathering of Lepidopterists" on Friday evening. This is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society. Dr. Covell will be attending and he will present a talk on the history of our Society. Plan to attend now.

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Celastrina ladon (Spring Azure) & Celastrina neglectamajor (Appalachian Azure) 18 April 2014 Photograph by Rita Adkins

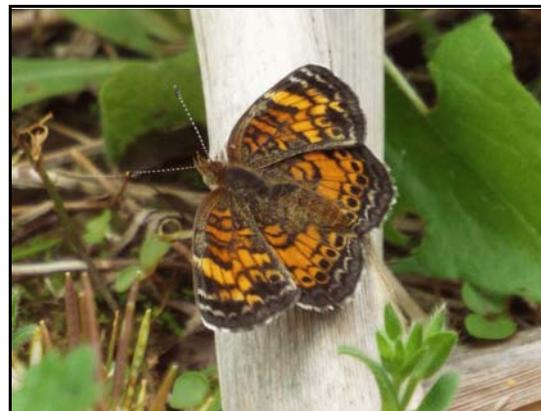
**BUTTERFLY PEOPLE  
BY  
WILLIAM LEACH**



In an extensive book, *Butterfly People: An American Encounter with the Beauty of the World*, William Leach documents this butterfly phenomenon — from its founders and followers, to its eventual fall.

During the mid-19th century, an unexpected craze swept America: butterfly collecting. Eager to move on from the Civil War and driven by Europe's long-standing fascination with the insect, the movement captured the interest of Americans from all ages and walks of life.

Available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other fine book retailers.



Phyciodes tharos (Pearl Crescent) 9 May 2014  
Photograph by Brooke Gilley

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**LIST OF MEMBERS**

The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists publishes a **List of Members** each year. The list is in alphabetical order and includes all current members as of 31 May 2014. On that date there were 90 members. The use of this list by members is encouraged. Report changes of addresses and typographical errors to the Treasurer, Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Ave. Middleton, WI 53562-3231: Email: lesferge@gmail.com

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**NEWSLETTER UP-DATE**

The winter of 2013/2014 was brutally cold. Although your Editor attempted to collect winter moths with bait traps. I had virtually no success. The weather for the spring field meeting was warm, however season was about two weeks late.

This issue of the Newsletter is late, the latest I have ever been. There are a number of reasons, however, I have been extremely busy with life and the faster I went, the the later I became!!

Vol. 40 No# 2 will be on time.

Please remember The Butterfly Festival in Oak Grove on 27 September 2014. If you can participate, we need displays of specimens. We also need members who can answer basic butterfly and moth questions and help promote the Society. The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists need a good presence at the festival. And yes, your Editor buys dinner after it is all over!!

Your Editor needs material for the newsletter, articles of any size, photographs of Lepidoptera and Lepidopterists. Are you traveling this summer. Let us hear about your adventures.

Does anyone other than Tom Payne have a Catocala Collector Device? Earlier this year your Editor sent an

email to the membership with Tom’s video posted on Insectnet.com. This is the link: <http://insectnet.proboards.com/thread/5208/tree-tapping-catocalas>.

It is a very informative and entertaining video. If you have not seen it, take a look. If you have a similar device, please share it with us.



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