



Hot Seens

Winter 2004

by Michael Reese

Butterfly reports from Texas, Florida, and California continued through the winter months, with very few reports from other areas. Florida had reports with 20 or more species seen in all months including 21 species seen on December 12 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, FL (E. Golden, M. Tompkins, R. Diaz, R. Brueckner), 23 species on January 9 at Merritt Island NWR, Brevard Co., FL (B. Benner, J. Wicinski), and 24 species on February 20 at Ocala National Forest, FL (B. & L. Cooper, B. & B. Bratlie).


Extreme southern Texas reported many butterflies including a Mexican Silverspot on December 12 at Santa Ana NWR, Alamo, Hidalgo Co., TX (G. Quintanilla, D. Hanson) and a Pale-banded Crescent on February 6 at Frontera Audubon Center, Weslaco, Hidalgo Co., TX (G. Quintanilla), but the highlight of the winter was a Chestnut Crescent seen on February 27 at NABA International Butterfly Park, Mission, TX (C. Gifford, G. Quintanilla, D. Hanson). There have been less than ten United States records for this species.

A very small Orange Sulphur was seen on December 31 in Belleville, NJ (V. Corsello). This was the last reported butterfly sighting of the winter north of the southernmost states. An American Snout and three anglewings were reported on January 1 at Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Tremont, TN (C. Swafford, B. Swafford) for the first reported butterflies of the year. An Eastern Comma was reported from Leesburg, Cumberland Co., NJ (J. E. DiOrio) on January 13. Other first reports of the year included a first Spring Azure from Burleigh Murray State Park, San Mateo Co., CA (J. Hall, D. Edwards) an Anise Swallowtail on February 3 from San Bruno Mtn. County and State Park, San Mateo Co., CA (J. Hall, D. Edwards).

46 *American Butterflies*, Spring 2005

A Moss' Elfin was reported on February 17 from southeast of Eugene, Eugene and Lane Cos., OR (B. Newhouse), and an American Snout was reported on February 21 from Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area, near Mayflower, AR (T. Lewis), while a Satyr Comma was reported on February 24 from Box Canyon Spring, ID (K. Fothergill). A white phase Monarch was sighted on March 5 at 3,300-foot elevation along the Makahi Trail, Hualalai Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii, HI (J. Snyder).

Other reports of butterflies in the northern states were just started to roll in during the first week in March and included a Cabbage White on March 5 from Richland, WA (C. Rogers), an Eastern Comma on March 6 at Forest Hills, Allegheny Co., PA (C. Lehman), and an Eastern Comma on March 7 at Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County, NE (D. Speltz).

Whether you see an unusual butterfly, an early or late sighting of a common species, or have a whole list of the species that you have seen, we would appreciate hearing from you. Please send your butterfly sightings to sightings@naba.org. With the advent of the Butterflies I've Seen Web Site, those who record your sightings to that site can also just click on "email trip" and send it to the address above. Your sightings will go into the larger database *and* will be available for others to see on the Recent Sightings web page. 

Top: Chestnut Crescent. February 27, 2005, NABA Butterfly Park, Hidalgo Co., TX.

Bottom: American Snouts appeared early in the year. February 21, Bell Slough WMA, near Mayflower, AR.



Dave Hanson



Thomas D. Lewis