

NABA News and Notes

7th NABA Biennial Members Meeting

As those of you who read this space know, we had been planning on having the seventh Biennial Members Meeting in Kernville, California in June of 2006. However, the local public school bond passed and the school board has decided to close the school for most of 2006 to renovate it. Since this school was the only venue in Kernville (or anyplace near there) that could host a meeting of 200 people, we have had to change our plans.

We are now planning the 2006 Members Meeting for June 1 through June 4 in the Springfield area of Massachusetts.

NABA Sales Office

The NABA Sales Office continues to increase the variety of its offerings. It is now among the largest butterfly-related sales sites on the web. Find your favorite butterfly-related items — while supporting NABA and the cause of butterfly conservation. As a special benefit of NABA membership, NABA members receive a 10% discount on all items at the Sales Office, including optics. Simply enter in the code “NABA” when prompted as you complete a purchase. You can get to NABA Sales by going to the NABA home page, www.naba.org, or directly by going to www.butterflybuzz.com.

Digital Cameras

A high percentage of butterflyers have, or want to, purchase a digital camera. To help readers decide if a camera might be for them, we plan to initiate a new feature in *American Butterflies* in which NABA members send in photos taken with their digital camera accompanied by a short critique of the camera's pros and cons. All cameras will be considered, from the least expensive point-and-shoot to high-end digital SLR cameras. Please send your 500 word review, along with two images, to naba@naba.org. We might print your photos. We'd love to hear from you!

Swamp Metalmark Survey

On page 4 of this issue, you can read an article about Swamp Metalmarks in Wisconsin and the efforts to conserve them. Swamp Metalmarks have disappeared from Ohio and much of southeastern Michigan and are clearly very rare and local in the northern wetlands that they inhabit in Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana.

In a small area of Perry County, Indiana, along the Ohio River, they are locally common to abundant in disturbed areas using tall thistle as caterpillar foodplants. Reported from a number of sites in Kentucky, there may be other viable populations along the Kentucky/Indiana border and in Illinois as well.

Missouri contains the most extensive area from which Swamp Metalmarks are known. However, the current status of the species throughout this region is poorly known. If there are many viable colonies throughout the range of this butterfly in Missouri, then the species may be secure. On the other hand, if Missouri has only a small number of widely scattered colonies, then Swamp Metalmarks might best be viewed as globally threatened. To help assess the situation, NABA, led by the NABA-St. Louis Chapter, has initiated a survey of Swamp Metalmarks in Missouri. If you would like to participate, write to Yvonne Homeyer, 1508 Oriole La., St. Louis, MO 63144, or email her at homeyer@earthlink.net.

Dues

We would like to remind NABA members that NABA is classed as a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service, and that all contributions to NABA, including membership dues, are fully tax-deductible.

Cover shows a variety of butterfly eyes. All photos on cover by Jeffrey Glassberg. See the article about butterfly eyes on page 34.



Hot Seens

Spring 2005

by Michael Reese

March sightings are always exciting in the northern states as the first butterflies of the year, sometimes after more than 5 butterfly-less months, appear during the first warm days of spring. The hibernators are almost always the first to be reported and this year was no exception as March 22 brought sightings of a Red Admiral seen in Fishkill, Dutchess Co., NY (E. Spaeth) and Mourning Cloaks at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Westchester Co., NY (T. Fiore, K. Wallstrom) and Lincroft, NJ (V. Corsello). An Eastern Comma on March 28 at Wautoma, Waushara Co., was the first butterfly of the year in Wisconsin (M. Reese). An awakening Milbert's Tortoiseshell, very rare in the New York City area, was seen on March 30 on Mt. Ivy in Rockland Co., NY (T. Fiore).

While northern butterflyers were thrilled with sighting a single butterfly in March, 23 species were seen on March 11 in the Sunol Regional Wilderness, Alameda County, CA (J. Hall, D. Edwards), 22 species were seen on March 25 at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve, FL (L. & B. Cooper, M. Reese), 22 species were seen on March 30 at Catalina State Park, AZ (SEABA Field Trip, 22 participants), and 21 species were seen on March 30 at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve, Gainesville, Alachua Co., FL (B. Pfeiffer). An unusually large number of Palemetto Skippers, 18, were seen on March 19 at the Babcock-Webb WMA, Charlotte Co., FL (B. Ahern).

The first sightings of huge numbers of migrating Painted Ladies were on March 13 from Death Valley, CA and northern Clark and southern Nye Cos., NV (S. Potter). Reports of large number of migrating Painted Ladies were also received from Arizona (L. Campbell), Cal-

ifornia, (including one reporting about 10 per minute moving north through Ventura County the week of March 20-27 (D. Campbell) and a report of more than 25 per minute in Oakland, CA on April 1 (S. Weitz)), and Oregon throughout March and into April. On April 10, 41 were reported from Box Canyon Spring, ID (K. Fothergill).

Unusual sightings included a Silver-banded Hairstreak on April 30 on a SEABA's field trip to Garden Canyon, AZ, an Orange Skipperling on May 1 in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, TX (D. Hanson), Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak on May 9 in Big Pine Key, FL (B. & L. Cooper, B. Basham, N. Dobbs, S. Smith), Golden Banded-Skipper and Dusted Skippers from Hohenwald/Columbia, TN (R. Venable), a Creamy Stripe-streak on June 3 from Hereford, AZ (B. Behrstock), a Gray Ministreak on June 5 at Bauer Hammock, Homestead, FL (M. Salvato, B. & L. Cooper, M. A. Friedman), and six Early Hairstreaks seen at Mt. Greylock, Berkshire Co., MA (Massachusetts Butterfly Club fieldtrip) on June 6. An early Monarch was seen on April 15 near Lambert International Airport, St. Louis Co., MO (D. Berry).

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.