



Hot Seens

Spring/Summer 2006

by Michael Reese

Two new state records highlight this season's reports. On June 18, 2006, a Long Dash was seen in Alleghany Co., NC (T. Wilcox, W. Cook) and, on July 4, 2006, a Large Orange Sulphur was seen and photographed in the Foster Botanical Garden in Honolulu, HI (J. Snyder).

Monarchs moved northward somewhat earlier than normal this year and also moved farther north, especially in the East. Five were seen on March 12 in Kisatchie NF, Grant Parish, LA (C. Marks). On April 2 two Monarchs were seen at Couchville Glade Natural Area, Davidson Co. TN (S. Scott, R. Connors) and on April 14 one was seen in Iowa City, Johnson Co., IA (C. Edwards). Along the east coast one was reported on April 15 from Elk Neck State Park, MD (A. Loudell) and on April 20 another Monarch was reported from Sandy Hook, Gateway NRA, Monmouth Co., NJ, (K. Keating). The first Monarch to reach Canada was reported on May 10 in Toronto, Ontario (C. McLaughlan). A Monarch was seen on August 1 at Avalon Peninsula, Chance Cove Provincial Park, Newfoundland (K. Chappell) where no native milkweeds grow. One was even seen on July 31 on North Rock, an island between Maine and New Brunswick, flying amongst 200+ seals (D. Ingersoll)!

Cool and rainy spring weather in California resulted in fewer species and individuals especially early in the year (J. Hall, D. Edwards). The East, however, was generally warmer and many species were seen earlier than normal. Highlights were early dates for an Eastern Pine Elfin on March 30 at Mount Ivy, Rockland Co., NY (T. Fiore, K. Wallstrom) and on April 2 an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail was reported from Hook Mt., Rockland Co., NY (R. Cech, E. Peyton).

Florida had its share of great butterfly sightings starting with fresh Berry's Skippers on March 18 at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve, FL (B. & L. Cooper) and a Dotted Skipper on April 6 from Riverside Island, Ocala NF, Marion Co., FL (D. Powell, B. Ahern). An Arogos Skipper in Osceola Co., FL on July 21 (B. & L.. Cooper, S. Clendenin) was a welcome reminder of this species' presence in north Florida. A Gray Ministreak seen on July 16 on the NABA Okeechobee Count was a new county record for Okeechobee County (B. Cooper et al.).

Other interesting sightings include a Silvery Checkerspot, reported from Vernon, NJ on May 30 (V. Corsello) that was the first NJ sighting of this species in years, a Cloudless Sulphur in Madison, WI on May 28 (G. Deniston), and a Pepper and Salt Skipper on June 7 from Grant Co., WI (T. Sima). A colony of Crimson Patches near Austin, Travis Co., TX, seen and photographed on June 12 (W. Spitz) was possibly the farthest north this species has ever colonized. Broad-banded Swallowtails appeared in the Lower Rio Grande Valley for the first confirmed sightings in years. Both males and females were seen on July 15 at NABA Butterfly Park (G. Quintanilla).

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.

Will Cook, Carolinature.com



Gil Quintanilla



Top left: North Carolina state record Long Dash. June 18, 2006. Alleghany Co., NC.

Top right: Hawaii state record Large Orange Sulphur. July 4, 2006. Foster Botanical Garden, Honolulu, HI.

Bottom left: Broad-banded Swallowtails are rare strays to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. July 15, 2006. NABA Butterfly Park, TX.

Middle Right: The first known sighting of a Gray Ministreak for Okeechobee County, FL. July 16, 2006.

Bottom Right: Perhaps the farthest north established colony of Crimson Patches. June 12, 2006. Austin, Travis Co., TX.

Jim Snyder



Linda Cooper



W. Spitz

