



Hot Seens

Fall/Winter 2006-2007

by Michael Reese

Butterflies seen in the time period from November through the end of February in the northern states are not usually measured in quantities; but sixty-degree weather resulted in nine Eastern Commas being seen in southwestern Wisconsin on November 4 (T. Sima). In other northern areas, November butterflies included a Red Admiral in Ogunquit, York Co., ME on November 11 (B. Pfeiffer), two Orange Sulphurs in Pasco, WA on November 20 (C. Rogers), one Clouded Sulphur and a Monarch seen on November 23 at Presqu'île Provincial Park, Ontario (D. Bree), and a Cloudless Sulphur on November 30 in Baltimore, MD (J. Wilkinson). A very fresh Common Buckeye was seen on December 3 at Sherwood State Park, Fairfield Co., CT (A. Baytas), a Clouded Sulphur was observed on December 16 in Brooklyn, NY (A. Block), and a fresh Cloudless Sulphur was observed on December 18 at Maurice River Botanical Gardens, Heislerville, Cumberland Co., NJ (J. E. DiOrio). Usually that is late for a butterfly sighting, but an unusually warm late December and early January brought numerous sightings including a Spring Azure on January 6 in Heislerville, Cumberland Co., NJ (B. & J. Roberts), an Orange Sulphur on January 7 in Mountain Grove, Luzerne Co., PA (A. Gregory), another Spring Azure on January 14 in Maurice River Botanical Gardens, Heislerville, Cumberland Co., NJ (J.E. & J.J. DiOrio), and an amazing sighting of a Monarch on January 13 flying through a yard in Cape May, NJ (C. Vogel) before winter made a more permanent appearance.

While northern state butterflyers were happy to just see a single species, Texas watchers were seeing 85 species on December

6 at the NABA International Butterfly Park west to the World Birding Center at Bentsen S.P., TX (G. Quintanilla, D. & J. Dauphin, R. & M. Snider, J. Booker, P. Schappert, J. Rivera, J. DeLeon, D. Hanson, and others). Although there were no new United States records reported this winter from Texas, there were a variety of rarities nevertheless. Before the end of 2006 these included a Blomfield's Beauty on November 20, in Port O'Connor, Calhoun Co., TX (P. Hockey), a Curved-winged Metalmark on December 10 at the NABA IBP, Mission, TX (G. Quintanilla), a Guava Skipper on December 19 in Penitas, Hidalgo Co., TX (G. Quintanilla), and a Common Banner on December 27 at the NABA IBP, Mission, TX (J. & D. Dowdell, D. Hanson). An Ornythion Swallowtail that pupated on October 31, 2007 emerged on February 7, 2007 in Edinburg, TX (C. Traylor). Pipevine Swallowtails were reported roosting on February 24 in San Isidro, Starr Co., TX (C. Traylor).

A report of twenty species at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Miami-Dade Co., FL on December 28 included 758 Zebra Heliconians (E. Golden, R. Brueckner, E. Nuerhing, U. Vladimir, H. Hokanson). A Miami Blue was at Bahia Honda State Park, Monroe Co., FL on February 2 (B. Wasserman, A. Lewis) and, as readers of this magazine know, major new colonies of Miami Blues were found on Boca Grande, Monroe Co., FL in late November (P. Cannon) and on the Marquesas, Monroe Co., FL on December 3 (P. Cannon).

Hawaii is home to only 16 species of butterflies, but J. Snyder saw 9 species at Koko Crater, Oahu, HI plus a Large Orange Sulphur at a different location for a total of ten but-



Petra Hockey

terfly species in a single day. Not really an impressive total in most states, but if you could see that percent of the total species recorded from Texas in one day you would see 265 species! California had a cool wet winter last year, but this year things seem to be off to a better start with 12 species observed at Sunol Regional Wilderness, Alameda Co., CA on February 16 and 11 species seen on February 17 at Burleigh Murray SP, San Mateo Co., CA (J. Hall, D. Edwards).

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. 🦋



Dave Hanson

Top: A Blomfield's Beauty was found in Port O'Connor, Calhoun Co., TX on Nov. 20, 2006.

Above: A Common Banner, a rare stray, provided the first record for this species at NABA Butterfly Park on Dec. 27, 2006.