



Hot Seens

Winter 2008

by Michael Reese

November through mid-January butterfly sightings are usually restricted to south Texas and Florida with the latest northern sightings few and far between and clustered around late season warm spells which get the butterflyers outside and looking for that last one of the year. On November 9, nine Common Buckeyes were seen in Nottingham County Park, PA (A. Loudell), while J. E. DiOrio saw three species including three Cloudless Sulphurs at the Maurice River Botanical Garden, Heislerville, Cumberland Co., NJ, and eight species were seen at the Rockaway peninsula, Queens Co., NY (T Fiore) including three Monarchs. On November 11 the last Monarch reported from the northern states was seen at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Howard Beach, Queens Co., NY (A. Block, M. Schwartz). A late November warm front brought a report of an Orange Sulphur and a Common Buckeye from Barnegat Light State Park, Barnegat, NJ (D. Amadio) on November 29. This looked like the last ones from the northern states but 60 degree temperatures brought out an Orange Sulphur, Eastern Comma, and a Mourning Cloak in Staten Island, NY (T. Fiore) on December 15.

Florida had its share of butterfly reports with 37 species being seen on November 13 at Lake Kissimmee State Park (L. & B. Cooper and others), and twelve species were seen at Tree Tops Park, Davie, Broward Co., FL (K. Keating, E. & C. Gavilán) including two Atalas and two Malachites. S. Heeter reported an abundance of Julia and Zebra Heliconians in Markham Park on December 18, and there were numerous reports from the Everglades and the Keys from J. Monroe including a Miami Blue on January 7 at Bahia Honda State Park.

Texas continued the terrific butterflying that it had through late October. Highlights included 23 Red-crescent Scrub-Hairstreaks on November 8 at the Ranch, San Isidro, Starr Co., TX (C. Traylor), a Mexican Silverspot, Julia Heliconian, Isabella Heliconian, 37 Zebra Heliconian (many roosting together), seven Malachites, and nine Mexican Bluewings at the the National Butterfly Center, Mission, TX (G. Quintanilla). D. Muschalek saw 41 species on November 16 in Dewitt Co., TX, and W. Sekula photographed a West Coast Lady in Wilson Co., TX. G. Quintanilla increased his yard list to 123 species adding a Malachite and a Mexican Yellow on November 29 in Mission, while D. Hanson saw a fresh Telea Hairstreak in Mission on December 3. Another rarity showed up at the National Butterfly Center on December 7 — a Green-backed Ruby-eye spotted by G. Quintanilla.

The highlight of this period occurred on December 20 when D. Hanson, M. Rickard, and G. Toal recorded a total of 98 species from Hidalgo County including a Heliconoid

Opposite page top: This Green-backed Ruby-eye was found at the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Hidalgo Co., TX on Dec. 6.

Opposite page bottom left: A number of Malachites were still flying at Tree Tops Park, Broward Co., FL on Nov. 15.

Opposite page bottom right: This West Coast Lady, seen on Nov. 16, was the first record for this species from Wilson Co., TX.



Gil Quintanilla



Kevin Keating



William Sekula