



Hot Seens

Spring 2010

by Michael Reese

Throughout the eastern United States and Canada, last year's lack of butterflies and the long cold winter made butterflies long for sun, warm temperatures, and butterflies aplenty. This year's spring was certainly a season to remember as the warm temperatures brought many early records to almost all areas of the northeast and the Great Lakes region. Large numbers of Red Admirals streaming north only added to the excitement for the butterflies still to come.

The first butterfly sighting received from the North was from Central and Riverside Parks in New York on March 8 of two Mourning Cloaks (T. Fiore). On March 16, J. DiOrio saw a Question Mark at Maurice River Botanical Gardens, Heislerville, Cumberland Co., NJ and a Compton Tortoiseshell was

reported from Petroglyphs Provincial Park, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: C. Jones).

Plenty of butterflies were still being seen in the South in March with numerous reports from the National Butterfly Center, where the numbers of species increased throughout the month from 17 on March 7 (S. & K. Heeter) to 50 species reported on March 30 (J. Glassberg). By March 30, ten species were seen on a trip to Blue Wall Preserve mountain trail, Greenville Co., SC (D. Allen), while 18 species were counted at Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, GA on March 31 (F.M. Stiteler, J. & R. Payne).

Early species reported included a Spring Azure on March 16 at Blue Wall Preserve, Greenville Co., S.C. (D. Allen), three Cabbage

Whites on March 16 in Richland, WA (C. Rogers), two Gray Hairstreaks on March 19 at Hook Mt., Rockland Co., NY (A. Gotlib, D. Hannay), and two Sleepy Oranges on March 20 at the North Tract, Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, Anne Arundel Co., MD (W. Gould). Other early sightings include a White M Hairstreak on April 3 at Lakehurst, Ocean Co., NJ (H. Zirlin), two Olympia Marbles on April 5 at Spring Green Preserve, Sauk Co., WI (A. Thering), a Gray Hairstreak on April 7 in Saugerties, NY (S. Chorvas) and an early Sleepy Orange also on April 7 at Forest Hills, Allegheny Co., PA (C. Lehman).

In late April and early May there were many reports of species being seen as much as two weeks earlier than they had previously been seen. In Wisconsin the first notable early report was on April 14 where Freija Fritillaries were seen at Riley Lake Bog, Price Co., WI (K. Johnson) more than two weeks earlier than this species had ever been reported. Ontario also had many early season records including a Black Swallowtail on April 14 at Brander Park, Port Lambton, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: B. A. Mann), a Juvenal's Duskywing on April 20 ten days earlier

than the previous Toronto record (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: B. Harrison), Wild Indigo Duskywings at Eglinton Flats, Toronto, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: B. Yukich) also on April 20, and on April 24 a very early Eastern Tailed-Blue in the west end of Toronto, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: B. Yukich). Early Monarchs were reported from St. Louis Co., MO (J. Ziebol) on April 10 and on May 5 from Rondeau Provincial Park, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: K. Campbell).

Unusual sightings reports included a violet-colored Juniper Hairstreak, rarely seen in the East, on April 9 in Decatur Co., TN (B. Jones), 19 Satyr Commas in Chequamegon National Forest northwest of the town of Clam Lake, WI (R. Brady, M. Reese) on April 11, and a Compton Tortoiseshell, rare on Long Island, on April 24 at William Cullen Bryant Preserve, Roslyn Harbor, Nassau Co., NY (R. Kelly). A White M Hairstreak seen on April 26 along the Bike Trail below Lakeview Restaurant, La Crosse Co., WI (D. Jackson) was only the second Wisconsin record for this species. A Broad-banded Swallowtail and Cyna Blues were at the National Butterfly Center, TX (J. Dauphin, J. Glassberg) on April 27, and on April 29. J. Monroe saw 250 Palamedes Swallowtail at Jericho Lane, Great Dismal Swamp, VA.

Other unusual sightings included two White M Hairstreaks on May 2 in Van Cortland Park, Bronx, NY (T. Fiore, K. Wallstrom), eight Golden-headed Scallopwings on May 8 were seen in a stretch of land about 25 yards in length at a ranch in San Isidro, TX (C. Traylor, D. & J. Dauphin), a Mimic was reported on May 10 from Sleeping Turtles Preserve, Sarasota Co., FL (S. Hills), a Baltimore Checkerspot was spotted on May 17 in Windmill Hill, SC (D. Allen), and seven Macoun's Arctics were seen on May 27 at Laurentian Divide, MN (J. McCormick).



Dan Jackson

This White M Hairstreak, photographed on April 26 in LaCrosse Co., WI, was only the second report of this species from Wisconsin.



Bart Jones

Violet-colored Juniper Hairstreaks are the norm in some western populations of this species, and are occasional even in Arizona, but they are very rare in the East. April 19, 2010. Decatur Co., TN.