



Hot Seens

Fall 2010

by Michael Reese

In the eastern states and southern Canada, this was a terrific year for seeing immigrants. Point Pelee and southern Ontario could have had a whole article dedicated to the late records and record high numbers of southern immigrants. A Funereal Duskywing was seen on September 5 at Point Pelee, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: A. Worthington, B. A. Mann), only the third record for this species at Point Pelee, but then there was a slew of Funereal Duskywing sightings including three on September 13 (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: A. & R. Hall, A. Wormington), and by October 4 they had recorded the tenth Funereal Duskywing of the year (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: A. & R. Hall)! Another Funereal Duskywing was seen on October 8 at Kelso Conservation Area located near Milton, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: B. Van Ryswyk).

High numbers of southern immigrants included 619 Common Buckeyes and 196 Fiery Skippers observed on September 13 at Point Pelee NP, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: A. & R. Hall, A. Wormington). Late records at Point Pelee included a Black Swallowtail on October 4, a first October record for this species (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: A. Wormington, H. T. O'Neill, S. T. Pike), and 10 Northern Crescents and a Spicebush Swallowtail were recorded on October 24 (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: A. Wormington, H. T. O'Neill, S. T. Pike).

Other southern immigrants that continued to fly into the fall included Little Yellows, which were seen on September 1 in Central Park, New York, NY (S. Saphir, L. Swenson, et al.), on September 23 in Gateway Business Park, Columbia, Howard Co., MD (J. Wilkinson), 12 were recorded on October 8 at Mountainside Park, Essex Co., NJ (J. Hanyak) and many were observed during late August and September in Pike & Ross Cos., OH (R. Schiemann). Other noteworthy sightings of immigrants included three Cloudless Sulphurs at Jamaica Bay & Breezy Point, Queens Co., NY (T. Fiore), a

Sleepy Orange on September 6 at Park Area "D" Sandy Hook Unit Of Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth Co., NJ (V. Corsello), a White M Hairstreak on September 6, for only the third Wisconsin record, in the Library Garden, Whitefish Bay, WI (J. Huf), 8 Checkered Whites flying by a dock jutting out into Lake Superior, Washburn, Bayfield Co., WI (D. Hanson), and 25+ Dainty Sulphurs in Gordon Co., GA (D. Moore, R. Brown) on November 1.

Other exceptional sightings in the east included a Bronze Copper observed on September 4 in Mannington Marsh, Sunset Road, Salem Co., NJ (D. Amadio), a Viceroy mating with a Red-spotted Admiral in the Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles Co., MO (Y. Homeyer), a Brazilian Skipper observed on September 7 on Jericho Lane, Great Dismal Swamp, VA (J. Monroe), a Common Checkered-Skipper on September 11 in Putnam Co., OH (G. Coburn), and three Bronze Coppers on September 19 in the Wallkill River National Wildlife Area, Orange Co., NY (L. Rosenberg, S. Rosenberg, M. Yrizarry, J. Yrizarry). On September 11, 32 species including 27 Leonard's Skippers were recorded at Soldier's Delight Natural Environment Area, Owings Mills, MD (C. Herz, J. Gutsmuth, & D. Amadio) and on September 17, 47 species including 100s of Common Buckeyes were observed at Decatur Co., TN (B. Jones).

Monarchs were reported in larger numbers in the east this year than last year and sightings included 300 on September 2 at Jamaica Bay & Breezy Point, Queens Co., NY (T. Fiore), 500+ on September 4 at Governor Nelson State Park, Dane Co., WI (W. Jensen, B. Bell, R. & R. Bell), 1100+ on September 5 along Mariners Trail, Two Rivers, WI (M. Reese), and 3000+ observed on September 17 migrating in two hours along Riis beach, Queens Co., New York, NY (T. Fiore, E. Katsnelson). More than a hundred Monarchs were still present on October 17 in a backyard butterfly garden, Brooklyn, NY (V. Corsello) and five were still flying on November 2 at High Bluff Island,



Susan Hengeveld

On Nov. 19, Susan and Jim Hengeveld, residents of Indiana, were visiting the National Butterfly Center. Susan saw a skipper that she didn't recognize and thought that it might be a Glazed Pellicia. She called over Phil Kelly, also visiting from Indiana. He also thought that it looked very unusual and suggested that she take a photo. She took the one photo shown above and the butterfly took off, never to be seen again. Examining the photo, it is clear that this is a bentwing skipper, in the genus Ebrietas, no species of which had previously been reported from the United States. It is almost certainly a common bentwing, Ebrietas anacreon, but, in 1974 Steve Steinhauser described another species in the genus, Sappho bentwing, Ebrietas sappho, which occurs in southern Mexico. It is not certain how to separate the two species in the field, at least in part because there are no reliable photos of live Sapphos and few museum specimens. Steinhauser mentioned that there was a dark band at the base of the FW on common bentwings but that sappho bentwings had this area no darker than the ground color. The individual in the photo appears to lack a costal fold on the FW, which would mean that it was a female.

Presqu'ile Park, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: D. Tyerman).

Highlights from Arizona included a Zilpa Longtail on October 4 and a White Angled-Sulphur on October 12 both seen in a yard butterfly garden, Hereford, AZ (R. A. Behrstock). Nice lists of species included 30 species on September 1 in Honeybee Canyon, AZ (P. Kline), 34 species on October 23 in Sycamore Canyon, AZ (H. Zirlin), and 55 species on November 7 in Black Butte, La Paz Co, AZ (SEABA field trip: H. Brodtkin).

Florida sightings of note included 186 White Peacocks on September 12 at John Stretch Park, FL (T. Palmer), 256 Zebra Heliconians on September 18 in Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, FL (E. Golden, E. Hernandez, E. Nuehring,

L. Evans, B. Binkert), 31 species including an Arogos Skipper and a Dusted Skipper on October 1 in Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Osceola Co., FL (B. & L. Cooper), and 27 species including 3 Meske's Skippers on October 3 in Bull Creek WMA East Loop only, Osceola Co., FL (L. & B. Cooper).

Just when the butterflying in the northern states is about finished for the year seems to be when butterflies start flying in in greater numbers in Texas. Interesting butterflies observed included a Giant White on October 7 in a yard in Bryan, TX (R. Wauer), a Golden-headed Scallopwing on October 2, a Red-bordered Pixie on October 13 and a Curved-wing Metalmark on October 25 in C. Traylor's backyard in Edinburg, TX. A Red-lined Scrub-Hairstreak was seen on November 27