



# Hot Seens

Spring 2009

by Michael Reese

In January and February there are usually not many butterfly sightings but butterflies certainly were flying at the National Butterfly Center (formerly NABA Butterfly Park) in Mission, TX on January 19 where D. Hanson saw 57 species. There were also some butterflies flying in southern Florida where S. Heeter saw numerous species including a Three-spotted Skipper at Bahia Honda State Park January 18 and 2 Atalas and 2 Monk Skippers at Fairchild Tropical Garden, FL on January 25. A February 7 field trip of the NABA South Texas Butterfly Club recorded 37 species at the National Butterfly Center.

Some warmer weather brought in sightings from farther north where J. & R. Payne saw their first Cloudless Sulphur, American Snout and Question Mark of the year at Tick Hill, Bibb Co., GA on February 8 and a very early American Snout was seen on February 8 at Kentucky Manor, Davidson Co., TN (M. Bierly). Over 100 California Tortoiseshells were seen along the Mill Creek Trail, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Whiskeytown, Shasta Co., CA by C. Peck on February 21. The Miami Blue chapter of NABA had two nice field trips, one on February 21 at Bahia Honda and Big Pine Key, FL where 14 participants saw 24 species, and a second trip on February 22 that was even more successful with 33 species at Key West, K.W.Botanical Gardens on Stock Island, Middle Torch Key, FL.

March is typically the month when northerners are itching to get out and see their first butterflies of the season and this year the first reports from March 7 included a Mourning Cloak at Riverside Park, New York, NY (T. Fiore) and an Eastern Comma at Chelsea Center, Nassau Co., NY (R. Kelly &

*Opposite page top left: Common Roadside-Skippers are very rare in Florida. This one was seen on April 11, 2009 in Niceville, Okaloosa Co., FL.*

*Opposite page middle left: West Virginia White barely enter southwestern Ohio. This one was seen on April 23 at East Fork SP, Clermont Co., OH.*

*Opposite page bottom left: Olympia Marbles extend southward into the Appalachians. This individual, seen on April 24, 2009 in Great Smoky Mountains NP, Sevier Co., TN provided a first county record.*

*Opposite page right: Early Hairstreaks are usually rare and elusive. But, a remarkable number were seen this spring.*

*Top: April 17. Cedar Run - White Oak Canyon Trail, Madison Co., VA.*

*Middle: April 26. Pocosin Fire Rd. Shenandoah NP, VA.*

*Bottom: April 25. Great Smoky Mountains NP, Sevier Co., TN*



Mary Ann Friedman



D.H. Cox



Bill Hull



D. Lepkowski



Jeffrey Glasberg



Jeffrey Glasberg