



Hot Seens

Winter 2010

by Michael Reese

Opposite page

Top:

Eastern Pine Elfins are extremely rare in central Texas, with only a very few records. This individual, found by Eric Isley and Greg Lasley, may be the farthest west Texas record for this species.

March 11, 2011.

Between Bastrop and Buescher State Parks, Bastrop Co., TX.

Bottom:

Juniper Hairstreaks are uncommon in southern Georgia and have features that are intermediate between 'Olive' Juniper Hairstreaks to the north and 'Sweedner's' Juniper Hairstreaks to the south. This individual, found by Ron Brown, is nectaring at Crowpoison (Nothoscordum bivalve).

March 14, 2011.

Chickasawwhatchee WMA, Dougherty Co., GA.

The National Butterfly Center (NBC) in Mission, TX was still aflutter with plenty of butterflies on December 3, 2010 when J. Glassberg recorded 70 species. Throughout the winter the butterfly activity usually slows down but many of species were still present in January. D. Hanson recorded 41 species, including a Ruddy Hairstreak and two Olive-clouded Skippers, on January 6 at the NBC and J. & D. Dauphin and J. Glassberg observed 58 species there, including a female Common Banner, on January 18.

Two noteworthy butterfly sightings from Texas were a Rusty-tipped Page and an Eastern Pine Elfin. This was only the fourth U.S. record for the page, which was seen on December 11 in Bill Schupp Park, McAllen, Hidalgo Co., TX by C. Gregg. Unfortunately, it isn't clear whether this individual arrived from Mexico of its own free will or was an escape from a Lower Rio Grande Valley butterfly breeder or zoo.

The Eastern Pine Elfin, was observed on March 11 between Bastrop and Buescher State Parks, in Bastrop Co., TX (E. Isley, G. Lasley). This species is a true rarity in this region and this may be the farthest west this species has been reported in Texas.

Most Florida reports included 12 to 17 species. Typical reports include 14 species of butterflies seen on January 6 in Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, FL (E. Golden, E. Hernandez, K. Martinez, M. Watkins, plus 3 new volunteers) including 281 Zebra Heliconians, and 15 species seen on February 28 in Everglades NP, Miami-Dade Co., FL (J. Monroe), including an early Palmetto Skipper. Also on February 28, in Apalachicola NF, Liberty Co., FL, B. & L. Cooper saw a Mourning Cloak, quite an uncommon butterfly in Florida.



Greg Lasley



Ron Brown