



NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

Volume 2 Number 2

James W. Mertins, Editor

April, 1974

EDITOR'S NOTES

It is just about one year since the current editor of the NEWSLETTER assumed his duties. It has been a difficult, but rewarding first year. The format of the NEWSLETTER is now pretty well in order, and compliments and suggestions about it have been most appreciated. Somehow the parts of this issue No. 2 of Volume 2 just seemed to accumulate in the file folder assigned to it, but will it always be so? Once again we solicit contributions and/or suggestions for the upcoming issues. Only with the cooperation and support of the membership can this publication be sustained and even grow in quality.

In regard to the request by Dan Capps for people to accompany him on a collecting trip to Mexico in the minutes of the April 1 meeting, we must announce here that all available seats are filled. Sounds like a good start for a successful trip.

NOTICES

(This column will accept and publish any personal notes from members in regard to specimens or equipment desired, or for sale, trade, or exchange.)

- Wanted. Cockroaches, any species, but especially non-domestic one; live or preserved in alcohol. If possible, location and habitat data on specimens would be greatly appreciated. Ralph Howard, Dept. of Entomol., University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706.
- Wanted. Records by county for all Wisconsin Rhopalocera, Sphingidae, Saturniidae, and Catocala. For more details write Roger Kuehn, 5042 N. 61 St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53218.
- Wanted. Confirmable reports or specimens from termite infestations within Wisconsin. Please contact Glenn Esenther, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, with any information you may have.
- Wanted. Pseudoscorpions - live or preserved in alcohol. Any species. Will accept any specimens you don't want, or have house pseudoscorpion, Chelifer cancroides, for trade. Jim Mertins, Dept. of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706.

The NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published two to four times yearly at irregular intervals. Please send all news, notes, contributions and other items for the NEWSLETTER to the Editor, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

(Please submit items of interest for this column to the Editor.)

Shortly after the publication of the last WES NEWSLETTER an interesting and informative feature article on one of our members appeared in The Milwaukee Journal. Mr. Roy Lukes, Baileys Harbor naturalist and educator, received a most complimentary treatment in the Insight magazine of the January 27, 1974, Journal. Our members should find the article worth looking at.

According to the January, 1974, Newsletter of our sister organization, the Milwaukee Entomological Society, WES member, Dr. Alvin Throne, has arranged for disposition of his extensive collection of Neuroptera. (Dr. Throne has addressed our group on this interesting order of insects.) The accumulation of over 6,000 pinned specimens plus additional liquid preserved material will be shared by the U. S. National Museum (Washington, D.C.), the Milwaukee Public Museum, and the University of Wisconsin Insectarium in Madison. Dr. Throne's extensive library will go to the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Mr. Kenneth MacArthur, Curator of invertebrate zoology at the Milwaukee Public Museum, has recently announced his plans to retire later this year after 37 years at the institution. In the future he hopes to finish a research report on natural hybridization of butterflies and to continue studies on parasitic insects. We wish him our best.

Dr. Gene DeFoliart delivered an invitational address on the "Challenges and Resources in Entomology for Wisconsin" to the annual meeting of the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America at Des Moines, Iowa, the first week in April.

One of our new members, Dave DeSwarte, was recently elected Vice-President of the Milwaukee Entomological Society. His wife, Laurie, was elected Recording Secretary.

New Members

Dan Capps..... 231 Powers Ave., Madison, Wis. 53714

Mr. Capps is interested in collecting and breeding insects; his specialties are the Lepidoptera and Coleoptera.

David H. DeSwarte..... 8718 W. Carmen Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53225

Mr. DeSwarte is a sanitarian for the City of Milwaukee, and is interested in collecting, life history, and biology of the Coleoptera. His specialty is the genus Disonycha, family Chrysomelidae.

Clyde S. Gorsuch..... 722 Watson, Ripon, Wis. 54971

Mr. Gorsuch is a Research Assistant in the

NEWS OF MEMBERS (cont.)

U. W. Entomology Department interested in collecting and life history studies. His research involves biology and behavior of the clearwing moths (Aegeriidae).

Charles Koval..... 3406 Viburnum Dr., Madison, Wis. 53705

Dr. Koval is an Associate Professor and Extension Entomologist specializing in fruit insects and ornamental entomology at the U. W.- Madison.

Kenneth Lange..... 314 3rd St., Baraboo, Wis. 53913

Mr. Lange is Park Naturalist for the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources at Devil's Lake State Park. He is interested in insect photography, aquatic insects, life history, biology, and collecting.

Leslie Lyons..... 2130 University Ave. #85, Madison, Wis. 53705

Dr. Lyons hails from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, where he is employed by the Canadian Federal Government as a forest entomologist. He is currently a Visiting Professor of entomology on the Madison campus teaching a course in forest protection.

Rudolf Tarumingkeng..... 109-H Eagle Heights, Madison, Wis. 53705

Mr. Tarumingkeng is an entomology graduate student from Indonesia working toward the Ph.D. on the biology and behavior of termites. He is also interested in insect photography.

Change of Address

Jacqueline K. Ackerman 1122 South 12 St., Manitowoc, Wis. 54220

Member Resumes

Richard Lillie is a Natural Resource Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR working on insect distribution in the Lake Wisconsin area. His outside interest is in general collecting.

Mogens C. Nielson is currently serving as Executive Secretary of the Michigan Entomological Society, and is interested in insect photography, life history, and biology. His specialty is collecting and taxonomy of Michigan Lepidoptera, and Mr. Nielson is willing to identify Wisconsin specimens for members.

NEWS OF MEMBERS (cont.)

James C. Parkinson enjoys general collecting and studies of life history, biology, and behavior. Most of his collecting is done in Marathon County, Wis.

Kenneth A. Schmitt, Jr. enjoys collecting in general, but deals especially with the Scarabaeidae of tropical South America and the Indo-Australian region.

Walter E. Scott sent along a nice letter with information on his many efforts and activities in behalf of conservation organizations and preservation of our natural resources and wildlife. Mr. Scott is currently Secretary of the Natural Resources Council of State Agencies, and their present efforts are toward an Inventory of Wisconsin's Natural Resources for publication in 1976. "Surely, insects must be included this time..."

Dues

Some members will find enclosed in this issue a self-addressed return envelope for payment of their dues. Only those who still owe for 1974 and/or earlier will receive one this time. Please pay promptly; remember, two years or more in arrears drops your name from the mailing list.

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY - III

Dr. George Peckham was an early Wisconsin entomologist who was educated and licensed to practice both law and medicine. However, he chose instead to pursue a life of public service and a private career of entomological research for which he will be long remembered. The work of his wife and close collaborator, Elizabeth, was an integral part of all of Peckham's laboratory and field observations.

Peckham served as instructor of biology and later principal of Milwaukee East Side High School. He was soon appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Milwaukee Schools, and eventually head of the Milwaukee Public Library. All of the world renowned entomological research of the Peckhams was done during his vacations and the little leisure time left him by the constant demands of his public life.

Peckham joined the Wisconsin Natural History Society in 1876 and served as its president from 1884 to 1900. During this period (1883) the collections and library of the Society were transferred from the Englemann German-English Academy to the city of Milwaukee on the condition that they be suitably housed, cared for, and increased. The Public Museum thus came into being, and largely through Peckham's efforts as president of the Museum Board (1892-1896), the combined Public Library and Museum building on Wisconsin Avenue was constructed in 1898.

Peckham was acquainted with most of the prominent naturalists of the day and served as president of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters from 1891 to 1893. An honorary Doctor of Laws degree was conferred upon him by the University of Wisconsin.

Though his interests in science were broad, he specialized in spider taxonomy and the behavior and psychobiology of wasps. Hundreds of new spider species were authored by Peckham, and in Volume 16 of the Wisconsin Academy Transactions (1909) the Peckhams' monumental 646 page monograph on the Attidae spiders of North America appeared. The landmark publication, "On the Instinct and Habits of Solitary Wasps", appeared in 1898. The result of years of laborious observation, it is probably the epitome of the Peckhams' scientific achievements.

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY - III (cont.)

At the time of his death in 1914 at the age of 68, Peckham's valuable spider collections were housed in the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

WISCONSIN INSECT NOTES

Additions and corrections to the information on Polyphylla hammondi (Lec.) which appeared in the last NEWSLETTER have come to the editor's attention.

The antennae of the two sexes are apparently dimorphic (not similar as stated), with those of the female being much smaller than those of the male, and similar to other species of scarabs.

New member, Ken Lange, called our attention to a recently published paper on P. hammondi in the Coleopterists Bulletin 26:31-34 (1972), which at the time was thought to establish a new state record for the beetle. The specimen in question was taken by Ken in July, 1971, from sandy lowlands north of Spring Green in southwestern Sauk County. Previously collected specimens from LaCrosse County were in the U. W. Insectarium but were not formally reported, and Herb Grimek has been taking specimens for years near Onalaska (LaCrosse County). Members with additional information or records should contact the editor.

PROGRAM NOTES

(Due to space limitations, the full report on what our speakers presented to the Society at the February and March, 1974 meetings was omitted from the monthly "Meeting Notes". More complete information follows.)

February, 1974

Mr. Roger Kuehn, our speaker from Milwaukee, has been interested in butterflies and moths since boyhood. He is presently engaged in collecting state records (see Notices column) and obtaining verifications on old identifications.

Roger presented an interesting discussion of collecting techniques and experiences with photographic illustration of habitat areas in which unusual butterflies may be found. He has uncovered the following new state records which were not included in Ebner's Butterflies of Wisconsin: (1) Lerodea eufala - eufala skipper, Milwaukee and Jefferson Co's. (2) Satyrium boreale - no common name, Iowa Co. (3) Lycaeides melissa ssp. - melissa blue, Eau Claire Co. (two broods, numerous) (4) Polygonia satyrus neomarsyas - satyr anglewing, seven different northern co's. (5) Satyrium caryaevorus - hickory hairstreak, Douglas, Dane and Lincoln Co's.; and the following old state records have been verified: (1) Achalarus lyciades - hoary edge, Buffalo Co. (2) Lethe appalachia - no common name, Jefferson and Walworth Co's.

March, 1974

The Coleopterists' Symposium was opened by Jim Mertins with a few general remarks about beetles and their relative abundance in the biosphere. One out of every five species of living thing is a beetle.

The first speaker of the evening was John Hempel. John is an insurance agent from Janesville with an interest in beetles and some moths. He told of his collecting and trading experiences from his first interest in moths as a young boy to his present interest in beetle collection and display. He told of gaining exper-

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

ience from other collectors he encountered during his travels. John imports some of his beetles but also enjoys collecting his own specimens, especially the fine examples of the impressive beetle, Lucanus elaphus, he brought with him.

Our next speaker was Herb Grimek who told us of his early collecting days at his home near Onalaska, Wis. Herb told how he broke with the family tradition of collecting butterflies and moths to collect beetles. He also told of special habitats near his home area where much of his early collecting was done, and several humorous anecdotes about collecting experiences. Herb also has insects from foreign countries including Central and South America and Africa .

The following speaker was John Baker, the Curator of the Insectarium at the University. John is a comparative newcomer to beetle collection. His first interest began in college where he took his first course in entomology. Part of John's interest could have been sparked by one of the girls in the class who later became his wife. Since his undergraduate days, John has spent time working with the insect collection at the Smithsonian Institutions. Here he and his wife did volunteer work and were able to obtain some exotic and beautiful specimens in return for their labors. John also told of his experiences collecting beetles from ant hills in the sand-hills area of Nebraska.

Following John's presentation, Jim Mertins gave us an idea of the literature available for those interested in the Coleoptera. The books ranged from the general books on insects to those concerned with only beetles, and included everything from extremely technical identification manuals to beautiful picture books. There is also a Coleopterists' Society which publishes the Coleopterists Bulletin.

After the business meeting, the members in attendance were invited forward to examine the many and varied beetle specimens on display from the collections of each of the speakers.

MINUTES OF THE WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 1, 1974

The April meeting of the Wisconsin Entomological Society was called to order by President James Mertins. He introduced our speaker for the evening, John Baker, Curator of the Insectarium. For the evening's topic John presented slides and text on "Flower Adaptations for Insect Pollination". Pollination ecology provides examples of some of the most precise, intricate and amazing adaptations in nature. A blossom-visitor relationship is established by means of an attractant. There are both primary and secondary attractants. Most blossom-visitor relationships are of mutual benefit; the insect receives something it needs and the flower is pollinated. In addition to attractants, flowers also may insure pollination by means of timing mechanisms and traps. The many color slides shown were beautiful and informative.

Following the presentation the business meeting was called to order. A motion was made by Rosemary Fleming and seconded by Barney Fluke to accept the Secretary's report; passed by the Society.

There was no old business.

New Business: Jim was asked to make an announcement for one of our members, Dan Capps. He is planning a collecting trip to southern Mexico in early June for three weeks. If anyone is interested in going along, they are asked to contact Dan via Jim Mertins, who has his address and phone number.

Our speaker for the next meeting will be Dr. Leslie Lyons, a Visiting Professor from Canada. His area of research is forest insects.

Jim next told us about some interesting dermestid beetles found in Russell

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

Laboratories lately. They are commonly called odd beetles. The male beetle resembles a small fly. The female is larviform. Jim and John Baker are trying to begin a culture. There is one known culture in England. They presently have several pupae and males and females. Some of the females have begun to lay eggs. Specimens were displayed in a small culture dish for members to examine.

There was no further business, so Barney Fluke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Harry Coppel and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Duehn, Secretary

MISCELLANEOUS

Members might be interested in a couple of informational items distributed at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America last November in Dallas. The first announced progress on the production of a new synoptic catalog of the Hymenoptera of North America, giving sample page proofs. For the first time a sophisticated computer-based system will be used in the production of a catalog of any group of the world's biota. A magnetic tape record will set the type and allow periodic updating and easy incorporation of new data for new editions. This catalog will replace that produced in 1951 which was supplemented in 1958 and 1967. No publication date has yet been announced. Additional information on the catalog appears in the Bulletin of the E.S.A. Volume 20(1):24-29.

The second item was a copy of a "Guide to the Orders of Insects" reprinted from Insect World Digest. The illustrated list of 38 modern and extinct insect orders gives nine columns of basic information about each on a folded 11 x 15 inch sheet. Additional copies are available at 25¢ each from World Digests, Inc., P.O. Box 428, Latham, New York 12110. By the way, the quarterly publication, Insect World Digest, itself is to be highly recommended. Members might well ask for subscription information.

As long as space permits, we will pass along a request from the November 6, 1973, issue of the Newsletter of the Michigan Entomological Society for information on endangered or threatened species of butterflies in any area of North America. Information and data is especially desired on specimens of the Karner blue (Lycaeides melissa samuelis) from the Northeast, the Xerces blue (Glaucopsyche xerces) from California, the atala (Eumaeus atala) from Florida, and the Shaus' swallowtail (Papilio aristodemus ponceanus) from Florida, taken during the past 30-40 years. Contact Robert Dirig, 315 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850. Also any other North American butterflies that are endangered in our area would be of interest to Mr. Dirig, as well as information on threatened or now-extinct species from other continents.

One more member's notice just discovered in the Editor's file:

Wanted to trade. Native or exotic foreign beetles; have numerous perfect mounted Catocala moths (mostly duplicates) for exchange. John Hempel, 1602 N. Concord Dr., Janesville, Wis. 53545.

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print:

Last Name First Name
Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Organization represented (if any) _____

Title or Occupation _____ Phone: (include area code) _____

- _____ Individual membership (\$2.00 per year)
- _____ Organization membership (\$10.00 per year)
- _____ Sustaining membership (\$25.00 or more per year)

General Interest Area

- _____ Aquatic Insects _____ Collecting and/or Taxonomy
- _____ 4-H or Scout Member _____ Insect Photography
- _____ Extension Worker _____ Physiology
- _____ Life History, Biology, & Behavior _____ Apiculture
- _____ Other _____ Specify _____ Pest Control

Specific Interests (Order, Family, Genus) _____

If you are an authority for certain insect taxa, would you be willing to identify Wisconsin specimens for members? Yes _____ No _____

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Entomological Society and mail to the Treasurer, William Hilsenhoff, Dept. of Entomology, 237 Russell Labs., U. Wisc., Madison, Wisc. 53706.

Wisconsin Entomological Society
Department of Entomology
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Address correction requested