



Photo by
Mike O'Brien

On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,
North American Butterfly Association

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Editor: Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org

Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014

Tennessee River Gorge fall seasonal count

Meet: 9:30am at the parking lot of the Bi-Lo on Signal Mountain Road. **Leader:** Bill Haley, wgh@tnaqua.org, cell # (423) 326-9248.

Directions: From Chattanooga, take Hwy. 27 North and get off at the Signal Mountain Rd. exit. (Note that because of the extensive road work underway this exit can sneak up on you, and you access it earlier than previously.) Stay in the righthand lane on exit and turn right onto Signal Mountain Rd. Continue past new WalMart, and get in the lefthand lane. You'll see the Bi-Lo entrance on the left after going around a big lefthand curve. I'll be in the parking lot to the left after you turn in.

Any count done after July qualifies as a fall seasonal count. This will be the third count done in this count circle in 2014 (April 3, June 7, Aug. 9). It is always interesting to see how butterfly populations and species makeup has changed. Dress for hot weather, wear a hat and sunblock, and bring drinks and snacks. There is a **\$3 fee** per participant to help defray NABA publication costs.

Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014

Soddy-Daisy, TN fall seasonal count

Meet: 9:30am at the Daisy United Methodist Church. **Leader:** Bill Haley (see contact info above).

This will also be the third count in this count circle for 2014 and our 9th NABA count in 2014. (Counts in this circle held on May 1, June 12 and Aug. 28.) You may recall the June count was conducted on June 12 as an "add-on" at the front of the NABA national meeting, and we literally had participants from all over the United States, for our biggest group of counters ever.

This one will be a little more laid-back! At present, more counts aren't scheduled for this year, so this will be your last chance to participate in a NABA butterfly count in 2014.

Note that this is another mid-week count - on **Thursday**. If you aren't working and can make it, we can use your help.

Lookout Mountain, GA Count Totals

The 15th annual Lookout Mountain, Georgia butterfly count was held on Thursday, June 26, 2014, with five participants: Bill Haley, Harold Birch, Libby Wolfe, Tommie Rogers and Mike O'Brien. Temperatures ranged from 72-86 F and the wind was very light. We enjoyed sunny skies for most of the day. Two parties put in 12.5 party-hours of effort. Each party found some species that other one didn't locate, and our final total was 36 species. BGest finds of the day were one Yehl Skipper (first time on this count) and Eufala Skipper.

Species and numbers:

Pipevine Swallowtail 3, E. Tiger Sw. 1, Spicebush Sw. 1, Cabbage White 40, Clouded Sulphur 5, Orange Sulphur 26, Cloudless Sulphur 3, Sleepy Orange 1, Coral Hairstreak 2, Gray Hairstreak 1, E. Tailed-Blue 26, Summer Azure 20, American Snout 14, Variegated Fritillary 8, Great Spangled Fritillary 3, Pearl Crescent 54, Question Mark 2, E. Comma 3, Am. Lady 2, Common Buckeye 15, Red-sp. Purple 23, Hackberry Emperor 5, Carolina Satyr 2, Common wood Nymph 8, Silver-sp. Skipper 10, Hoary Edge 2, Horace's Duskwing 3, Least Sk. 6, Fiery Sk. 1, Crossline Sk. 1, Sagem 78, Yehl Sk. 1, Dun Sk. 1, Eufala Sk. 1, Ocola Sk. 2.

Total: 36 Species, 376 individuals.



Yehl Skipper
Poanes yehl

Photo by
Mike O'Brien

Around the Puddle

by Bill Haley

Sometimes Murphy Pays a Visit

My apologies for not getting this August issue of the newsletter out in a more timely manner. I had it almost completed last Friday, August 1, and was looking forward to sending it out before I left work that afternoon.

Unfortunately Murphy's Law kicked in. You know what I'm talking about. Usually I try to disregard Murphy, but sometimes he catches up to me and things go wrong.

I'd been typing away furiously and in my haste I had neglected to save my work every couple of minutes. I'd knocked out two pages like that, when my computer crashed and I ended up not being able to save everything I'd put in that newsletter. I was still hopeful that at least part of my work had been saved, but on top of the issue of losing my last 1 1/2 hours of work, my computer refused to open that file any longer. I went home in disgust and vowed to start all over on Monday, which is exactly what I did. (Saving every three sentences this time around!)

Here is the August issue - all glorious two pages of it. I hope you'll join me for our last two butterfly counts of the year.

Stevenson, AL Fall Seasonal Count Totals:

On Thursday, July 24, the Stevenson, Alabama fall seasonal count was conducted. Participants were Nancy Williams, David Dodd and Bill Haley. Temperatures ranged from 73-86 F, and winds were light. It was sunny most of the day, although we began the count with a thin cloud cover. Herbicide spraying of aquatic vegetation in the lake also affected lakeshore nectar plants, and that, combined with mowing very close to the lakeshore meant we didn't see many skipper species where we usually find an abundance. In fact, we only found eight skipper species all day - somewhat unusual for this time in the summer. Highlights of the day were 5 Northern Pearly-Eyes, 2 Creole Pearly-Eyes, 8 Goatweed Leafwings and 12 of their caterpillars, a Giant Swallowtail, and a preying mantis eating a freshly-caught male Black Swallowtail.

Species and numbers:

Pipevine Swallowtail 18, Black Sw. 3, Giant Sw. 1, E. Tiger Sw. 2, Spicebush Sw. 4, Orange Sulphur 3, Cloudless Sulphur 28, Sleepy Orange 47, Gray Ha. 1, Eastern Tailed-Blue 6, Summer Azure 9, American Snout 6, Gulf Fritillary 3, Variegated Fritillary 5, Great Spangled Fr. 1, Silvery Checkerspot 1, Pearl Crescent 32, American Lady 1, Red Admiral 5, Common Buckeye 6, Viceroy 2, Goatweed Leafwing 8, Hackberry Emperor 8, Northern Pearly-Eye 5, Creole Pearly-Eye 2, Carolina Satyr 4, Monarch 3, Silver-sp. Skipper 92, Swarthy Sk. 1, Least Sk. 2, Fiery Sk. 2, Crossline Sk. 1, Sachem 4, Zabulon Sk. 1, Dun Sk. 1. Immatures: 12 Goatweed Leafwing caterpillars on prairie tea, 3 red-spotted Purple caterpillars on poplar, and 1 silver-sp. Skipper caterpillar on black locust.

Total: 35 species, 318 individuals

Black Swallowtail

male becoming a meal for an enterprising preying mantis. We had just counted this butterfly as it flitted past us on the road, and were surprised to discover a minute later it had been captured. There were wings of at least 8 recent Sleepy Orange "meals" under the flower the mantis was perched on.

Photo by
Nancy Williams



Great Purple Hairstreak

Atlides halesus



I wish we found this one on a count! Mike O'Brien recently added his 50th butterfly species to his yard list, a real beauty. A Great Purple Hairstreak! This seldom seen butterfly's caterpillars dine on mistletoe.