



Hot Seens

Spring 2007

by Michael Reese

It is interesting to see how the number of species sighted increases as the season progresses. From the beginning of March the number of species seen in the warmer areas of the country, although not impressive by the early summer lists, still makes the northerners jealous as they search, in sunny fifty-degree weather, for their first overwintered adults of the year. On March 5, fifteen species were sighted in West Feliciana Parish, Weyanoke, LA (C. Marks), on March 15, nineteen species were reported from Sunol Regional Wilderness, Alameda Co., CA (J. Hall, D. Edwards), and on March 24, twenty-eight species were sighted in Goethe State Forest FL on an NABA Florida Regional Conference fieldtrip (Leaders: D. Stillwaugh, B. & L. Cooper). Slightly farther north on March 25, fourteen species were reported from Bladen Lakes State Forest area, Bladen Co., NC (J. Phippen, W. Cook, H. LeGrand) and on March 29, eleven species were sighted in August A. Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles Co., MO (D. Berry).

The number of species reported continued to increase and on April 13, forty-eight species were reported in Colt Creek State Park, FL (B. Bindschadler, J. DuBois, B. & L. Cooper, M. B. Litrico, G. White), on April 19, thirty-nine species were sighted in Box Canyon & Florida Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains, Coronado N.F., Pima County, AZ (J. Snyder), and on May 11, thirty species were reported from Rancho San Antonio OSP, Santa Clara Co., CA (J. Hall, D. Edwards) including 500 Variable Checkerspots. The fifty species mark was topped twice in reports in May with 54 species seen on May 15 in Colt Creek State Park, FL (J. DuBois, B. Bindschadler, D. & M. Cutler, DEP-A. Bard, G. Williams, B. &

L. Cooper) and 53 species being reported in May 28 in northwest Dewitt Co., TX (D. Muschalek). A Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association NABA Chapter Field Trip to Bauer-Brockway Barrens area, Jackson Co., WI on May 19 recorded an impressive 28 species including four species of elfins and duskywings and the first 'Karner' Melissa Blues of the year.

Early sightings included a Question Mark and two Mourning Cloaks on Staten Island, New York City, NY (T. Fiore) on March 4, a Cabbage White and an Orange Sulphur in Baltimore City, MD (J. Wilkinson) on March 14, a Spring Azure on March 14 in Maurice River Botanical Gardens, Heislerville, Cumberland Co., NJ (J. E. DiOrio), an early Banded Peacock on March 18 in Hidalgo, TX (G. Quintanilla), a Cabbage White on March 21 in Central Park, New York, NY (L. Ribeiro), and a Spring Azure on March 27 in Putnam Co., OH (G. Coburn).

Species sighted of note included, a Dotted Roadside-Skipper reported on March 5 from Dewitt Co., TX (D. Muschalek), a Dusky-blue Groundstreak on April 1 in Chihuahua Woods, Hidalgo County, TX (G. Quintanilla), an Arizona Hairstreak on April 1 in Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, Cochise Co., AZ (R. A. Behrstock), Hessel Hairstreaks on April 30 in the central pine barrens, NJ (T. Fiore, E. Lam, K. Wallstrom) and rarely seen in the United States (due to inaccessible habitat) Red-disked Alpines and Frigga Fritillaries on May 17 at the Reilly Lake Wildlife Area, Price Co, WI (M. Reese). Also of interest was an Early Hairstreak seen at Shindagin Hollow, Caroline township, Tompkins Co., NY (C. Wolpert) on May 11 and on May 23 a very early Sachem was reported from New Hyde Park, NY (R. Kelly). Monarchs made an




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earlier than normal appearance throughout the east with two sighted on May 9 in Sauk Co., WI (T. Sima) and ten sighted in the Thunder Bay area out to Kakabeka Falls, ON (N. Escott) on May 23.

Also of great interest is a belated report of an Antillean Daggerwing on Stock Island, Monroe Co., FL (M. Wisniewski). This is only the second substantiated report of this species for the United States.

Whether you see an unusual butterfly, an early or late sighting of a common species, or have a whole list of the species that you have seen, we would appreciate hearing from you. Please send your butterfly sightings to sightings@naba.org. With the advent of the Butterflies I've Seen Web Site, those who record your sightings to that site can also just click on "email trip" and send it to the address above. Your sightings will go into the larger database *and* will be available for others to see on the Recent Sightings web page. 

Top: An Antillean Daggerwing on Stock Island, Monroe Co., FL. Jan 27, 2005.

Middle: A Frigga Fritillary at Reilly Lake Wildlife Area on May 17, 2007.

Bottom: A Red-disked Alpine at Reilly Lake Wildlife Area on May 17, 2007.



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