

Newsletter Name ??????

Volume 1, Issue 1 Fall 1999

Select a Name for Our Newsletter

The following list includes suggestions for naming the Butterfly Monitoring Network newsletter.

- TheNetworkNews*
- The Recorder**
- Field Notes*
- The Antenna*
- The Butterfly Watcher*
- The Onsite Observer**



Counting on you to keep in touch.

To cast your vote, call;
Judi Ann Dore

 Deadline is October 8th.

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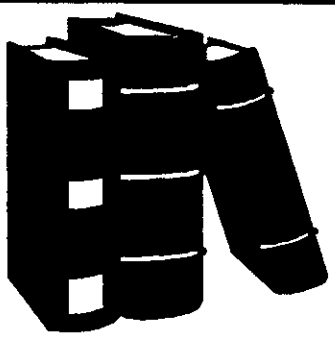
Credits
 Mel Manner
 Editor

 Judi Ann Dore
 Graphics & Layout

Take Time to Read...

How to Spot Butterflies
 Patricia Taylor Sutton & Clay Sutton
 Houghton Mifflin Co. (pap): 1999
 \$17.00

Patricia and Clay Sutton relate their discovery of butterfly habits and habitats in an enthusiastic tone and an easy to read style. Sections on butterfly behavior, activity patterns, record keeping, equipment, gardening and conservation make this book a complement to field



guides. Helpful tips for spotting and getting closer to butterflies are found throughout the book. The full color photographs give candid views of the insects in their environments.

September
 1999

Hello, everyone. This is the first issue of the new BMN newsletter. Our network has grown so much in the last two years, that it seemed more than time to develop a way for all of us to communicate with each other. Judi Dore, Doug Taron, and I hope that you will consider this YOUR newsletter. Please let us know what will be most useful and enjoyable. Send us anything you'd like to share with the other monitors. And make sure to cast your vote for the new name.

The newsletter will come out three times a year, in September, January, and May. The September issue will have instructions on how and where to send in your data. The January issue will have the description of our Annual Indoor Workshop, which is always held in March. May will contain a description and directions for our Annual Outdoor Workshop, held each summer. This will be the only notification for these events, so please mark your calendars! Each issue will also have an instructional article by Doug Taron for use in distinguished closely related species. These articles are intended to be read with your guide book in hand to compare Doug's sketches and descriptions to the pictures.

Many people tell me that they aren't writers, and feel uncomfortable submitting things to newsletters. Don't worry if you're not a writer. This is not a journal; it's a place for us to share our experiences. The important thing is for you to feel free to participate. Judi and I will also be here if you want help. We hope to hear from you soon.



Call for Data

Everyone should be done monitoring for this season. Please copy your field forms for each visit. **DO NOT** send us the originals, in case they get lost in the mail. Make sure your name and site are on each sheet. This year, I would also like you to sketch or draw your route. Don't worry about how good it looks. It just needs to be informative. Please put in major land marks where possible to indicate where to turn, etc. These route maps are needed in case you are ever unable to continue monitoring. We will have some record of your route to help a new monitor continue collecting data. Label the map with the site name and your name. **Send your field forms and route maps to: Doug Taron, Chicago Academy of Sciences, 2430 N Cannon Dr., Chicago IL, 60614.** (If you've already sent your data to Mel Manner, she will pass it along to Doug.) This will fulfill your monitoring requirements for this year. Our next event is the March workshop. Look for the announcement in the next issue. Hope you had a great season!

Request for Photos

We are currently developing a display about the Butterfly Monitoring Network. We need lots of photos of beautiful butterflies and photos of people monitoring. We also need to set up a display committee and a team of monitors willing to man the display several times a year at festivals and conferences. If you would like to join the Display Committee or staff the display at events, let Mel or Judi know. (See Con: , page 1.)

Five Hairstreaks: Secrets on the Undersides

Hairstreaks are some of the most charming butterflies of the Chicago region. Their name refers to the streaks of light color on the undersides of the wings, useful in identification, and the tiny hairlike tails found on most species. These species rarely if ever open their wings when perched, so it is fortunate that the identifying features are all located on the undersides of the wings.

There are over a dozen species in Illinois, if you include more southerly species, rarities, and vagrants. Five related species from the Chicago area can sometimes cause confusion. They are the coral, Acadian, striped, Edwards', and banded.


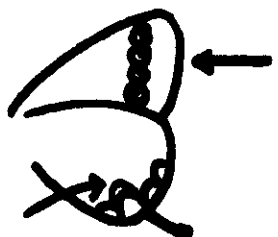



The coral hairstreak is the easiest of the group to distinguish. It lacks both tails and a blue patch at the outer angle of the hindwing. A row of beautiful coral-red spots curves around the outer margin of the hindwing. It is found in prairies, and seems especially fond of taking nectar from butterfly milkweed. Coral hairstreaks have recently been placed in a different genus than the other four hairstreaks discussed here.

The Acadian hairstreak is found in wetlands and mesic prairies with prairie willow. The larvae eat willows, and adults are never found far from these host plants. The undersides of the wings are a lighter gray than its close relatives. On the undersides of the forewings there are large, round white rimmed black spots. The blue spot at the outer angle of the hindwing has an orange cap.

The remaining three hairstreaks are all butterflies of oak woodlands. All are distinguished by the white markings on the undersides of the forewings. The striped hairstreak is the most distinctive of the three. There are multiple rows of white lines forming stripes over most of the surface of the forewing. There is an orange cap on the blue spot of the hindwing. This species is common from the standpoint that colonies are widespread, however they are rarely if ever numerous. They can sometimes be overlooked in large colonies of banded hairstreaks.

Banded and Edwards' hairstreaks are the most difficult to distinguish. There is no orange cap on the blue hindwing spot of either species. Edwards' hairstreaks seem more restricted to high quality oak woodlands. The white markings on the underside of the forewing form a single row of white ovals. The white lines are always distinctly curved in Edwards' hairstreak.

The banded hairstreak is the most common of these five butterflies. It is found in most oak woodlands, often in enormous colonies. There is a single white line on the underside of the forewing. In males, it is a simple dashed line that resembles stitching. In females, these lines are sometimes broadened into a row of rectangles- the markings are never distinctly curved in the Banded hairstreak. When confronting one of these hairstreaks in oak woodlands, the banded should always be your first consideration in identification.

Coral Hairstreak		Acadian Hairstreak	
			
No blue spot, No tail. Curved row of coral-red spots.		Blue spot with orange cap. White-rimmed black spots on forewing below.	
Striped Hairstreak	Banded Hairstreak	Edwards Hairstreak	
			
Blue spot with orange cap. Irregular white stripes on forewing below.	Blue spot-No orange cap. White band on forewing below.	Blue spot-No orange cap. Row of white ovals on forewing below.	

Onsite Overview

Here is an opportunity for all of us to share information about what we do as Butterfly Monitors and where we are doing it. Write something about your Butterfly Monitoring Network site. The history, geography, type of ecosystem, are all of interest to other monitors.

Descriptions of the flora and fauna of your route would be appreciated. Unusual sightings or exciting experiences would also be great to share.

Black and white illustrations are also welcome.

If you do not have access to a typewriter or computer a handwritten piece is also acceptable.

By Welcome Contributor

Please include your name, address and phone number with your piece. The next deadline for submittals will be December 1st.

Send your typewritten contributions for this column to;

Judi Ann Dore

News and Information from the
Butterfly Monitoring Network

Butterfly Monitoring Network
C/O Mel Manper



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