



The Antenna

News and Information from the Butterfly Monitoring Network

Onsite Overview: Illinois Beach State Park

Illinois Beach State Park extends for six and a half miles along Lake Michigan's shore near the city of Zion, Illinois. The park covers over 4,000 acres, a portion of which was dedicated as the first Illinois Nature Preserve in 1964.

Within this dedicated Nature Preserve you will find a dedicated Butterfly Monitor, Melissa Pierson diligently watching for butterflies as she's been doing for nine years. Melissa told me she began monitoring in 1991 at Peoria Robinson Park Hill Prairie "with a butterfly guide in hand and a baby strapped to my back". In 1996 she began monitoring at Illinois Beach.

Melissa describes her site with the joy of a nature lover and the concern of an active environmentalist.

Within the site an ecological succession can be observed. Creeping Juniper and Bearberry cling to the sand dunes where Hoary Elfyn can be spotted. Both the Aphrodite and Great Spangled Fritillary can be seen among the Black Oak forests and pines that top the dune ridges.

Savannas blooming with Joe Pye Weed and Blazing Star attract Dogface Sulphurs and Checkered Whites. The Sedge Meadow where Tawny Skippers abound, was included in a Skipper Survey done by Ron Panzar.

An unusual bio-system within Illinois beach State Park is the "Dead River". The river is blocked by sand bars causing it to form a long pond. The water eventually rises enough to get through the sand bars and drain the surrounding Marshes.

The site managers are very concerned that these unique and fragile environments be preserved. Illinois Beach State Park is the only beach ridge shoreline left in the state. It is hoped that someday the Karner Blue will again flourish within this park in areas maintained to sustain a population of the endangered butterfly.

Through Melissa Pierson's work for the Butterfly Monitoring Network at Illinois Beach State Park we can all share a part of that hope.

Judi Ann Dore
With Thanks to Melissa Pierson

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Credits

Mel Manner: Editor
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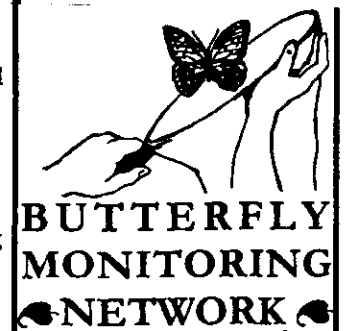
Take Time to Read...

Butterfly Gardening

The Xerces Society and
The Smithsonian Institution
Sierra Club Books: 1998
Softcover \$24.00

If you've ever wanted to try and attract some of the butterflies we see in the field into your own backyard this book may help. Some common species such as Black Swallowtail, Monarch, and Red Admiral can be enticed to feed and lay eggs, if you provide the right plants. The instructions for designing and planting gardens are simple to follow.

Also included are tips on watching butterflies, personnel essays, listings of the butterflies you may attract and a resource section.



Time to send in 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. Do not send in summaries. We need copies of each field form for each visit! Make sure your name and site are on each sheet.

If you have not sent in a route map, 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 on major landmarks 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:
Mel Manner***

(If you've already sent your data to Doug, that's fine.)

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!

Illinois Grant Awarded!

Illinois Department of Natural Resources approved our grant application and awarded the Butterfly Monitoring Network a grant through the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund - Small Project Program. We have been given \$835. When we add that to our other funding and support through The Nature Conservancy, The Audubon Society, and the Chicago Academy of Sciences, we have almost \$1800 for this year's projects.

Top of the list of projects is updating the Butterfly Monitoring Guidelines for the Chicago Region. It has not been updated from the original written by Ron Panzer, Don Stillwaugh, and Doug Taron in March 1992. We now have a lot of new information that can be incorporated into these Guidelines. If you have any suggestions of what would be useful to monitors, please contact Mel Manner. (See front page: Contacts.) For example, a chart showing flight times for each species will be one appendix.

Next on our list is creating and distributing a brochure about the BMN. This brochure will be directed at educating the general public about butterflies and our network. We'll distribute it at festivals and through nature centers throughout the state. It will also let people know how they can become monitors. This brochure should make outreach for the network a lot easier.

The rest of the grant will be applied to our ongoing costs. These include workshop costs, mailings, and publishing this newsletter. These costs are all relatively small, but they sure add up quickly. Without The Nature Conservancy, who helped Ron Panzer and Doug Taron start up the network, we never could have developed our Beginning Packets or published *The Antenna*. Having The Audubon Society and Chicago Academy of Sciences join with us last year made our March Indoor Workshop the success it was. Now with this grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund, we can further improve the network materials and take our public outreach to the next level.

Species Profile: Satyrs

Doug Taron

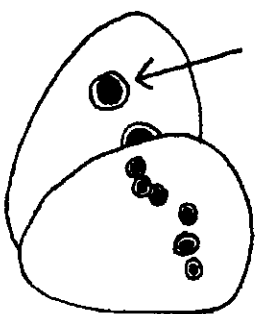
The satyrs are a group of butterflies that can be extremely difficult to identify in other parts of the world. Even in the Chicago area, with only five species, there are still some difficulties. In general, North American satyrs are drab brown or gray butterflies with prominent eyespots. Many are found in wooded areas, and they often fly at dusk or during cloudy weather - though, as we shall see, there are a couple of prairie species.

The Wood Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*) is, despite its common name, a prairie species in Illinois. It is the darkest brown of all of the satyrs, and fresh individuals are a rich, chocolate brown. The color may be so dark that the eyespot in the tip of the forewing is difficult to see. There is a second eyespot on the forewing that is often covered up by the hindwing. In other parts of the country - and in some field guides - there is a prominent orange patch on the forewings. This patch is missing in Illinois populations, although some individuals may show a lighter yellow patch in this area as the ground color of the wings fades.

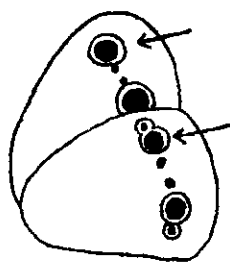
The Little Wood Satyr (*Megisto cymela*) is both the most common and the smallest satyr in Illinois. It has rounded gray wings and prominent yellow-rimmed eyespots on all four wings. On each wing, two small eyespots separate two larger ones. The little wood satyr prefers shrubby areas at the edge of woodlands.

The remaining three species - the Pearly Eye (*Enodia anthedon*), Eyed Brown (*Styrodus eurydice*), and Appalachian Eyed Brown (*Satyrodus appalachia*) - all have five eyespots of about the same size on the hindwings. The Pearly Eye (some references say Northern Pearly Eye) is a true woodland species. It is easily distinguished from the other two species by the more contrasting colors on the undersides of the wings, and by the fact that the outer margin of the hindwing is much more strongly scalloped than either eyed brown.

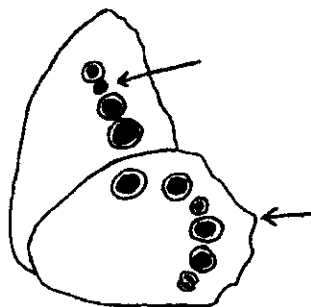
Both of the eyed browns have more rounded wings than the Pearly Eye and are a more uniform light buff color, particularly beneath. These two species are very difficult to distinguish from each other, and were not even recognized as separate species until the 1960's. They are best separated by habitat. The Eyed Brown flies in open, sunny sedge meadows and wet prairies. The Appalachian Eyed Brown flies in wet woodlands and savanna.



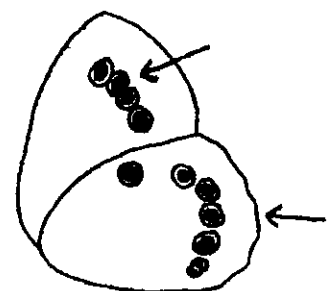
Wood Nymph
Darkest color
2 eyespots on forewing



Little Wood Satyr
Smallest satyr
2 large eyespots
on each wing



Pearly Eye
Scalloped edge
Eyespots uneven sizes



Eyed Brown
Rounded wing
Eyespots evenly sized

Appalachian Eyed Brown (not shown)
Very similar to Eyed Brown. Separate by habitat.

Network News Cont.

Doug Taron Talk - October 8th

Doug Taron is giving a slide show hosted by Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and the Pilcher Park Nature Center of the Joliet Park District. The talk will cover basics of butterfly identification and a preview of Doug's soon-to-be-published paper. His paper is comparing and contrasting the controlled burn program, spring weather conditions, and butterfly populations of Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve. He has been monitoring there for more than a decade since 1987. It will be exciting to see what his data and analysis can tell us about the correlations between these possible factors and the trends in the populations of several different species, both remnant reliant and non-remnant reliant.

The program will be held on Sunday, Oct. 8th at 1 pm at the Pilcher Park Horticultural Center in Joliet, Will County. There is no fee, but registration is required. For more information and directions, call Midewin at 815-423-6370.

Pilcher Park is also hosting a pancake breakfast in the morning at the Nature Center. Everyone is invited to make a day of it with the breakfast and Doug's talk. For more information about the pancake breakfast, call the Nature Center at 815-741-7277.

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