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THE BUTTERFLIES OF WOODBURY COUNTY.

BY A. W. LINDSEY.

As I have been interested in the study of Lepidoptera in and about Sioux City for a number of years, I am undertaking this paper with great pleasure and with the sincere hope that it may prove of interest to other scientists in the state. My work has been somewhat handicapped by a lack of sufficient literature, and the fact that I have been unable to consult any authority on the order, so I have been careful to omit any species of whose identity I am uncertain. I have followed the classification and terminology used by Doctor Holland in his "Butterfly Book," since it is the most familiar to me, though the light in which some entomologists regard the work warns me that many names may be unfamiliar and perhaps objectionable. For greater convenience in treating my subject I will give a short description of the territory included in my researches, in so far as it concerns the distribution of the insects under consideration. Further, before entering upon my discussion, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. T. C. Stephens of Morningside College for the assistance which he has so kindly given me and for the suggestion of this paper.

The territory over which I have worked lies in the vicinity of Sioux City, including a corner of Nebraska and South Dakota, though no butterflies have been found in the latter states which have not also been observed in our own. The presence of shade trees in the city which are not native to this region accounts for the presence of many insects in certain localities, though its bearing on the taxonomy which it is my purpose to set forth is hardly great enough to warrant mention of the subject. Many remnants of the prairie typical of this part of the country which harbor great numbers of butterflies are to be found both in and near the town. The flora of such land is familiar to every student of nature.

One place has been made a favorite in this study, not only because of its great natural beauty, but also for the abundance of insects within its bounds. This is a large tract of timber northwest of the city, which was once known as Talbot's Farm, but has since passed into the ownership of the city under the name of Stone Park. It consists of two long hollows and a multitude of smaller branches draining several hundred acres of land. Most of the ravines are heavily timbered with

small trees, all native species, including the Burr Oak, White Oak, Basswood, Elm, Hackberry, Black Walnut, Kentucky Coffee Bean, Cottonwood, Prickly Ash, White Ash, Hawthorn, and Wild Plum, both *Prunus chickisaw* and *Prunus americana*. The timber is bordered on the hillsides by dwarfed Burr Oaks which blend into the wild grasses with a fringe of Sumac and Snowberry thickets. Near the mouth of the hollows are a number of sparsely wooded, grassy meadows which are the favorite haunt of many species of butterflies. There are numbers of wild gooseberry bushes in these meadows and the woods nearby, and of late years innumerable weeds have sprung up to blot out the former carpet of grass and clover.

The nearest communication with the park from the car line, two miles distant, is by a level road following Big Sioux river, and locally known as the Sioux or River Road. It passes through one and one-half miles of the heaviest timber found here, and runs across each of the two large valleys. Between these and bounded by the road and the river, is a marshy thicket of willows and small shrubs. On a number of pasture thistles by the roadside may always be found hordes of fritillaries during the hot days of August and September. Here too *Papilio cresphontes* always makes his appearance and *Catopsilia eubule* flashes his golden wings.

Family Nymphalidae.

Subfamily EUPLOEINAE.

(1) *Anosia plexippus* Linn. This insect is perhaps the most common of our local species, with the exception of the cabbage butterfly. It is one of the first forms to appear in the spring and among the last to be seen in the fall. The larvæ occur on two of the numerous species of milkweed in the vicinity. Both eggs and larvæ are readily found, and the chrysalids may often be seen on overhanging surfaces of frame buildings.

Subfamily NYMPHALINAE.

(2) *Euptoieta claudia* Cramer. *E. claudia* is among the less plentiful of our butterflies. It is found every year quite widely distributed in the open prairies, but never in large numbers.

(3) *Argynnis idalia* Drury. This beautiful fritillary is found throughout the summer, and is very widely distributed. It is most common in the fields of wild hay, where it apparently breeds.

(4) *Argynnis cybele* Fab. Cybele is the most numerous of the three fritillaries found in this locality. It appears in early summer and is present in great numbers until cold weather. Many haunt the meadows in Stone Park and the thistles along the River Road. Formerly a field of alfalfa north of town offered an excellent collecting ground for them.

(5) *Argynnis alcestitis* Edwards. Small numbers of this species are found every summer. Their habits are more like those of *idalia* than *cybele*, in that they prefer the hot, open fields and roadsides to wooded meadows.

(6) *Brenthis myrina* Cramer.

(7) *Brenthis bellona* Fab. Some years ago a single stroke of my net captured four butterflies which at the time I thought to be of one species. They were in a company of perhaps ten insects fluttering about a flower head, and all presented to the eye the same appearance. On identifying these four it was found that one was a specimen of *B. bellona* and the other three of *B. myrina*. Since that time a few specimens of *myrina* have been seen each year, and at rare intervals one of *bellona*. They have been seen more often in the city than in the country.

(8) *Phyciodes tharos* Drury, is plentiful during the heat of summer along the River Road near Stone Park and in other places.

(9) *Phyciodes batesi* Reakirt, has been seen only in the year 1909, though this dearth of records is probably due to insufficient observation of the genus.

(10) *Phyciodes camillus* Edwards, is quite plentiful throughout the summer, and is widely distributed.

(11) *Phyciodes nycteis* Doub.-Hew., is found during July. It is the most common species of the genus in this locality.

(12) *Grapta interrogationis* Fab., is seen very often, but in small numbers. It occurs in two forms, *fabricii*, Edwards, and *umbrosa*, Lintner. One remarkable aberration was noted a few years ago in a specimen whose wings were a reddish fulvous above and a pronounced cinnamon below instead of the ordinary gray color.

(13) *Grapta comma* Harris, forms *harrisi*, Edwards, and *dryas*, are common. The insect is found in nearly all the timber where its food plant is plentiful. It was once observed in great numbers (1909) about the fallen apples in an old farm yard. The crop was entirely wasted, and the crushed fruit lying about under the trees made a feast for hundreds of these little angle wings and many Mourning-cloaks and Cosmopolitans. Chrysalids were abundant under the eaves of buildings and the rails of a bridge nearby, but most of them were parasitized.

(14) *Pyrameis atalanta* Linn. Another of our early spring arrivals is *P. atalanta*. It appears with the hibernating forms in the first warm days of spring. It may be seen in any kind of surroundings, from the deep woods to open roads. It is very quick of flight, darting hither and thither from one sunny spot to another in a way to tantalize the net of the collector. Though very common, its brightly colored wings, so wonderfully mottled beneath, place it among the most beautiful Lepidoptera, and it can never become tiresome.

(15) *Pyrameis huntera* Holland. This little Hunter's butterfly of Doctor Holland is rather a rare form. A few are seen each year, but they are never numerous. Like *atalanta* it wanders in every habitat.

(16) *Pyrameis cardui* Linn., is a lover of the open. Its larval webs may be seen on thistles in any roadside field. Every stage of the larva and a number of chrysalids have been found on a single plant.

(17) *Vanessa antiopa* Linn., is without doubt the most beautiful of our large butterflies. It hibernates in the adult stage, and with *Grapta comma*, is the first to appear in the spring.

(18) *Junonia coenia* Hubner. This wonderfully colored insect is now less common than in former years. It is found in the hayfields and along the roads.

(19) *Basilarchia astyanax*, Fab. The name of this species is rather doubtful to me. Older works figure the form occurring here as *Limenitis ursula*. Doctor Holland's figure under the name *B. astyanax* varies in a small, though very marked particular, from the specimens at hand, but Doctor Comstock applies the name to just such a form as I possess. The insect is common. In the days when sanitation laws were not as strict as at present a number might be seen flitting about any open garbage box. They are quite plentiful in the woodland meadows of Stone Park.

(20) *Basilarchia disippus* Godart, is also a common form. It is found everywhere in the open, but is more common in the city than in the country.

(21) *Chlorippe celtis* Boisd.-Lec. This is one of the most peculiar and interesting butterflies that I have ever seen. Its quick, darting flight makes it very noticeable in the open woods where it makes its home, though its colors are admirably protective. It possesses one extraordinary habit. This is that it has never failed to alight on the person or garments of some human being nearby in all the observations I have made of it. I once carried one on my hand for some minutes, when it was brushed off by accident, though even then it seemed loth to quit its place. In the meadows of Stone Park and along the River Road *celtis* is very common.

(22) *Chlorippe clyton* Boisd.-Lec. *Clyton* is not a common insect. It was found in abundance in July, 1910, along a limited portion of the River Road, but has never since been at all numerous.

Subfamily SATYRINAE.

(23) *Neonympha eurytus* Fab. In the darkest woods these frail little creatures are always plentiful. Myriads arise before an invasion of their domain, and there is hardly a dimly lighted valley but fur-

nishes them a retreat. Though inconspicuous and probably unknown to the casual observer, it is hardly presumptuous to place them among the most common local species.

(24) *Satyrus alope* Fab., form *nephele* Kirby. This is the only species of the genus which is known to occur here. It is common in all meadows, especially in midsummer.

Family Lycaenidae.

Subfamily LYCAENINAE.

(25) *Thecla melinus* Hubner. Only three specimens of *T. melinus* have been observed. Two of these were found in 1912 on opposite sides of the city, and in view of this wide separation it is probable that they are more plentiful than the number seen would imply. All were found in late August and early September in open prairies.

(26) *Thecla calanus* Hubner. During early July great numbers of this dainty little hair-streak may be found on the Burr Oaks at the edge of the timber in Stone Park.

(27) *Chrysophanus thoe* Boisduval, once plentiful, is now seldom seen. It was formerly taken about weed covered lots in the city.

(28) *Lycaena pseudargiolus* Boisd.-Lec.

(29) *Lycaena comyntas* Godart. The blues are very erratic in their appearance, sometimes frequenting one spot, sometimes another, but always in considerable numbers. Two forms of *Pseudargiolus* have been taken, but neither is constant or common. *Comyntas*, on the other hand, is abundant. In late summer dozens of the tiny creatures hover about every mudhole in the country roads.

Family Papilionidae.

Subfamily PIERINAE.

(30) *Pieris protodice* Boisd.-Lec., is a comparatively common species.

(31) *Pieris rapae* Linn. This costly pest need hardly be mentioned, for here, as everywhere else, hundreds may be seen in every cabbage patch. It is one of the first forms to appear, and the most common butterfly we have.

(32) *Nathalis iole* Boisduval. *Iole* is very common. It prefers the hottest of exposed roads, where it may be seen gathering about muddy spots or over the dusty flowers from midsummer until fall.

(33) *Catopsilia eubule* Linn. The summer of 1913 brought this species to my notice for the first time. These butterflies were seen in late August hovering about the treetops in Stone Park, and later were observed in various parts of the city in considerable numbers until cold

(34) *Meganostoma caesonina* Stoll. The Dog-face may always be found in the warm months, in every kind of surroundings, though it is never a very common insect.

(35) *Colias eurytheme* Boisduval. It need not be said that this species is very plentiful and widespread, when it is known as one of the common yellow butterflies. The form *ariadne* Edwards, and the albino female are occasionally found.

(36) *Colias philodice* Godart, is less abundant than the preceding species, but is always present. Both forms are found in the open.

(37) *Terias lisa* Boisduval-Lec. This little insect has been a subject of much wonder to me in my researches. In 1909 they could be seen everywhere. In 1910 not a single specimen was recorded. Since then the number has gradually increased until in 1913 a considerable number were seen.

Subfamily PAPILIONINAE.

(38) *Papilio turnus* Linn., may be seen in great numbers in the meadows of Stone Park during the spring and summer. It is also quite common in town. The female dimorphic form *glaucus* Linn., is very seldom seen. One dwarfed male is at hand, its expanse being only 2.5 in., .7 below normal.

(39) *Papilio cresphontes* Cramer, has never been seen except near the swampy spot on the River Road mentioned above. Here it makes its appearance every year in small numbers.

(40) *Papilio asterias* Fab., is rather rare. It frequents the woods and has been taken in widely separated localities. Two other species of *Papilio* are known to occur here, but neither has ever been taken.

It was my intention to include the Skippers in this paper but the greater difficulty attending a study of this group, and the limited time which I have been able to give to the work makes it necessary to omit them for the present. The moths offer such a large field of research that they too must remain for a later treatise. At present I have specimens of a few less than one hundred identified species, a majority of which are the only ones of their kind that I have ever seen. It is possible that in the next few years I may be able to bring together enough data concerning them to be of interest, and also add to what I have already done with the other Lepidoptera.

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