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THE OHIO LEPIDOPTERISTS

LONG-TERM MONITORING OF BUTTERFLIES

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2008

Highlights

- 2009 Monitoring Workshop (pages 1, 5 &6)
- New Checklist (page 4)

2009 Monitoring Workshop at the University of Findlay

The twelfth annual Long-term Butterfly Monitoring Workshop will be held Saturday March 21, 2009 at the University of Findlay, Findlay, OH. The program will include the standard components of identification, setting up transects, vouchering, season highlights and other topics of interest. The workshop is an opportunity for new monitors to learn from those more experienced, and for veterans to share experiences with one another. Deadline for registration is 7 March 2009. Detailed information and a registration form are on page 5 of this newsletter. We hope to see you there.

- *The LTBM Committee*

The Long-term Butterfly Monitoring project is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, and by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Once again we thank both for their support, without which the program could not exist in its present form.

LTBM Website: <http://www.ohiolepidopterists.org/bflymonitoring/>

Transect Tips #9

At this time of the year with snow on the ground and Christmas lights showing up it is hard to find time to think of butterfly surveys. However, if you are like most folks, you need to make a copy of your data and send it to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) or to me (address on page 4), ideally before the year is complete. Data that you do not send in does not benefit the program. Data sent in three years late is better than never but messes up our bookkeeping.

Barb Coleman and Ruth Chase at CMNH enter your data into the database. They need it soon after you finish monitoring at the end of October. They are good but neither lady is a mind reader. When the copy is too light, the scribbling undecipherable or the hash marks confusing or when some of the data fields are blank, they can't accurately enter the data. The average person spends 30-50 hours a summer collecting the data. You should take another hour or so to review it and make sure it is legible and correct. I always go through my sheets to be sure all of the weather data is filled in and that the numbers are legible before I enter it into the database, and before I copy it and deliver the originals to CMNH. (I enter the data from Lake County myself. If you have Access on your computer, time on your hands and want to do your own data entry contact Rick Ruggles for the data entry file fbrug@sbcglobal.net and for directions on how to get started.).

A couple of suggestions to make the data entry go smoother: Put the time in as military time (i.e. 14:00 not 2 pm). Otherwise the data entry person has to do that and the conversion is one more source of possible error. Print everyone's name out at least the first time. If you learn you have been misspelling it go back and make corrections. It is OK later to use first initials later in the season but do not use nicknames. For example: Use "Linda Cepek" at least the first time each year. "L. Cepek" is OK during the season. "L. C." is never OK. Where there are several monitors, list them on the back of the sheet. You could photocopy the list of regulars on the back and just check them off if present. With multiple people you should underline the name of the person doing the recording in case we need to ask a question about the data. Be sure to do the sunshine by sections. I mark those boxes as I go unless it is a 100% sunny day. Be careful when there are 100% clouds but it is a light haze so you can see your shadow and need to mark the sections S rather than O.

Be careful if you are handling paperwork for 2 or more transects. It is easy to use the wrong sheet and end up with 2 counts in week 10 for one transect and no counts for the other transect. If there are 2 or more counts for a given week indicate the one which is to be entered into the database and list the other one as supplemental information. The exception of course is when you have missed a week and are counting early and late during the next week to compensate. You need to clearly indicate this as well.

Thanks for taking the time to put your data in the best form.

- Jerry Wiedmann

Butterfly Monitoring Kits Now Due

As we plan for the next **Butterfly Monitoring Workshop**, all **Butterfly Monitoring Kits** should be returned as soon as possible so that they can be updated for next spring's new volunteers. Many of you have kept these kits for several years and should now be ready to "fly" on your own.

The Butterfly Monitoring Kits were made available through funds provided by ODNR and The Ohio Lepidopterists to train new volunteers how to design and use a transect, and identify common butterflies. The kits are loaned in the spring then returned intact (we hope) in the fall or winter, to allow time to update the kits and obtain loaner information.

At this time, please send the **original box** and entire contents of the kit (except for the "Instructions for Monitors") to the following address:

Barb Bloetscher
Rm. 110 Kottman Hall
2021 Coffey Rd.
The Ohio State University
Columbus OH 43210

If you have any questions, please call Barbara at 614-292-5902 (work), or email bloetscher.1@osu.edu. Thank you!

A Plea from the Data Entry Folks, with Editorial Comment

Regular monitors have heard this before: (In fact, *everyone* has, if you have read this far, because it's mentioned in Jerry's "Transect Tips.") Please write legibly on the data sheets, and fill in all information to the best of your ability. If you have a count over ten for a species, write the total in Arabic numerals rather than using tally marks (or "hashmarks" as they are sometimes called). Also, please spell out the butterfly names completely and legibly, rather than abbreviate. Check your totals; often the computer's total differs from the total reported by the monitor on the sheet.

- Barb Coleman

True confessions of a monitor: When I'm in the field I write data in a spiral-bound 3" x 5" notebooks available for 79¢ from the supermarket. I use a three-letter abbreviation for each species and tally marks for the number found, so my field notes may read "TSW |||| BSW || | ICW |" When I return home (or to the nearest source of hot coffee) I transcribe the data onto a standard LTBM sheet: "Tiger Swallowtail 4, Black Swallowtail 3, Cabbage White 1." It takes a little extra time but it's really helpful. (So what's "ICW"? Imported Cabbageworm, of course, as only I would know. Worse than that, I'm sometimes monitoring birds as well as butterflies, so "BSW" is also "Barn Swallow." That's why I transcribe "ASAP" as we say.)

- Dave Horn

Revised Checklist of Ohio Butterflies

Dave Parshall and Mike Gilligan have compiled a revised checklist of Ohio's butterflies and skippers. This results from thousands of hours of field work by volunteers for *The Ohio Lepidopterists' Survey* as well as the authors' own considerable "lifetime" field experience. The list includes all species known from Ohio either as a voucher specimen or as a clearly recognizable photo or digital image on file with *The Ohio Lepidopterists' Survey* group coordinator (currently Dave Parshall). Copies of the checklist will be available at the monitoring workshop March 21st.

Frequently we hear of monitors and others reporting a "new county record" often based on the range maps in *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* published by the Ohio Biological Survey in 1992. The Ohio Lepidopterists welcome such reports, but in order to be verified there must be a voucher, either a specimen or an image. We encourage you to forward images or specimens along with your data at the end of the season.

- *Daves Parshall and Horn*

New Director at the Ohio Biological Survey

Speaking of distributional records and the Ohio Biological Survey, I took on the part-time duty of Executive Director of OBS three weeks after retiring from full-time employment at Ohio State. OBS was one of the original supporters of the Long-term Butterfly Monitoring Program in 1998 so I guess what goes around comes around. A close association between the two programs is a good idea.

- *Dave H.*

For more information:

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12th Annual Butterfly Identification and Monitoring Workshop

Saturday **March 21, 2009** at **The University of Findlay**, Findlay Ohio

Sponsored by the Ohio Lepidopterists, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Ohio Biological Survey and The College of Science, Biology Department, The University of Findlay.

The workshop runs from 10 AM to 4:30 PM (registration and snacks at 9:30 AM) on March 21, 2009. Sessions are concurrent so participants can focus on those topics of primary interest to them.

The workshop will be in the Brewer Science Hall: Rooms Frost 219, Frost 221 and the Martin Lecture Hall. Park in any parking area.

Lunch will be in the University of Findlay cafeteria so there will be entrées suitable for everyone and no pre-selection is needed. In order to be assured of a meal ticket, registration must be received by March 7, 2009. University of Findlay students may attend for no charge but should pre-register to be assured of handouts, etc.

The program will include 4 ½ hours of identification training covering every butterfly likely to be seen in Ohio. Other topics will include highlights of the 2008 season, how to do monitoring, habitat for butterflies, population trends, reference materials and more. There will be books for sale, kits to assist beginning monitors, time for networking with other butterfly enthusiasts and lots of good handouts. The workshop is designed to be useful to everyone from the person who just wants to know a few butterflies when they see them to the long term monitor and the professional lepidopterist.

Butterfly monitors watch Ohio's butterfly populations and can notice long term trends before species are gone. Teams of monitors, trained by butterfly experts look at butterflies weekly and they are the first to notice population changes, temporary breeding colonies of subtropical butterflies in Ohio, and perhaps other trends. Just as bird surveys record changing bird populations in response to global warming, butterfly monitoring is equally valuable.

Pre-registration Form: **Registration fee of \$15.00 (\$5.00 without lunch)** includes lunch at cafeteria, snacks, and educational materials. Workshop space is limited. Pre-registration is required to guarantee a lunch. Pre-registrations must be received by March 7, 2009.

Check one: \$15.00 _____ \$5.00 _____ Student (Free) _____

Name and Organization: _____

Address: _____

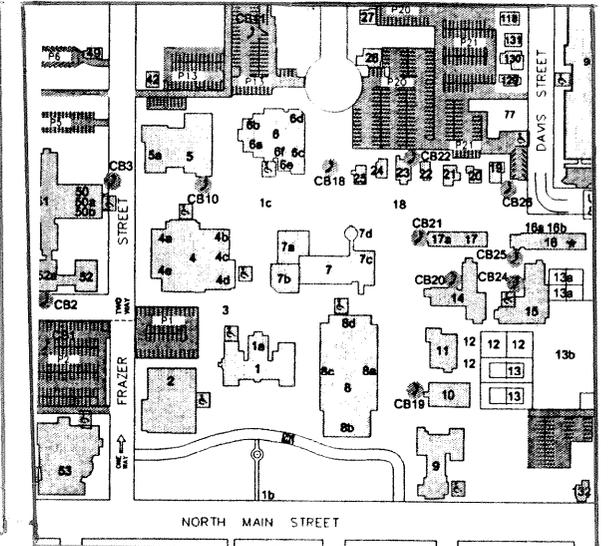
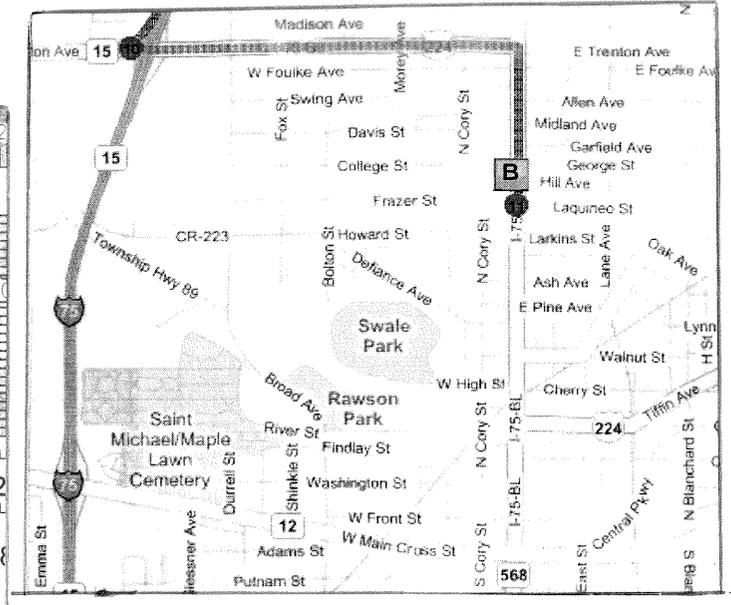
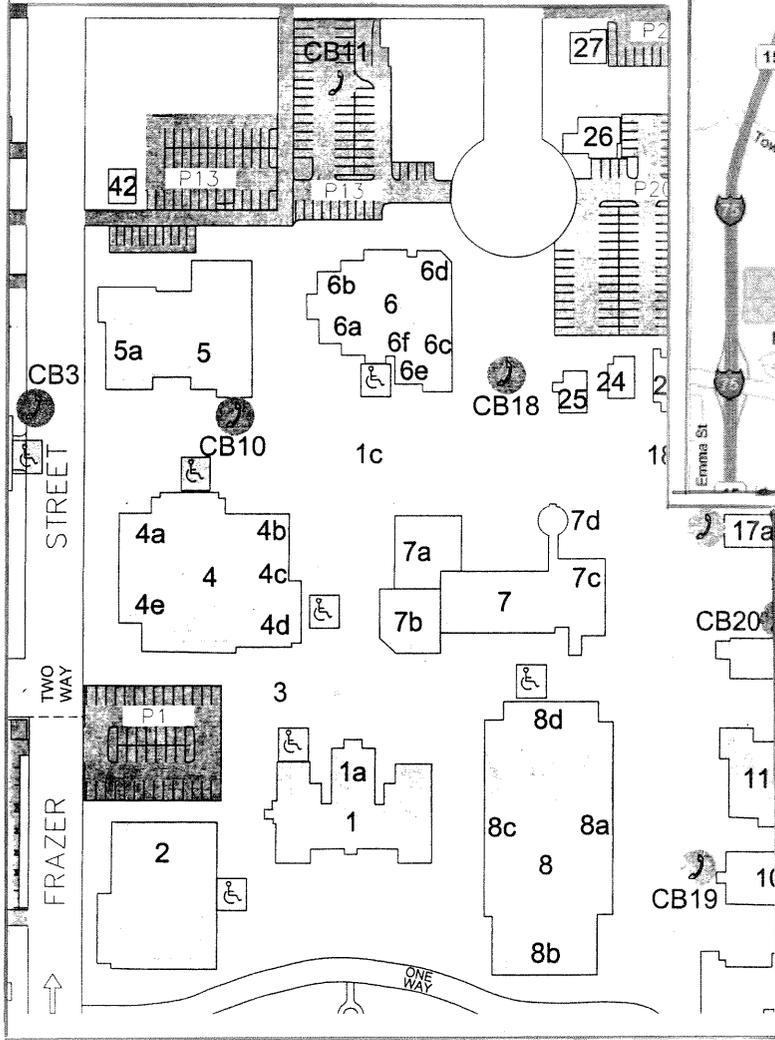
City: _____ **State/Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work:** _____

FAX: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Make checks payable to: The Ohio Lepidopterists. Mail pre-registration to: Jerry Wiedmann, 12764 Huntoon Road, Painesville OH 44077 Phone:(440) 254-4230, **FAX (440) 357-4661** wiedmannb@aol.com Purchase Orders welcome.

Enter Findlay on I-75 (Exit 159 is US 224). Turn East on US 224. Turn right on N. Main Street. University Findlay is located on the right (~1/2 mile). Brewer Science Hall (number 7 on campus map) is closest to Frazer Street Parking.



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