

NOTES ON TEN NEW BUTTERFLY RECORDS FOR THE
STATE OF MARYLAND

by ROBERT S. SIMMONS

For several years the author has been engaged in a concentrated study on the butterflies of Maryland. Many field trips have been planned in detail and made with the specific aim of collecting species heretofore unrecorded or unknown from the Maryland area. Occasionally, such a field trip is successful. The following notes represent ten species that have been captured on such trips and which have not been previously recorded from Maryland.

While on a field trip to western Maryland with Dr. CHARLES J. STINE on June 17, 1950, the author captured six *Hesperia sassacus* Harris and two *Polites mystic* Scudder. Both species were captured at the same two localities in Garrett County, elevation 2000 feet. These locations were Swallow Falls State Forest and an area near Friendsville. All the butterflies were captured along open paths through deciduous woods which were undergoing almost complete stripping by lumbering activities. Although many flowers were present, not one butterfly was seen near them. Of the *H. sassacus*, three were females and three were males. *P. mystic* presented two males. The forewing lengths of *H. sassacus* were as follows: ♀ 14 mm., ♀ 15 mm., ♀ 16 mm., ♂ 14 mm., ♂ 15 mm., ♂ 15 mm. The forewing lengths of both *P. mystic* were 14 mm.

On May 4, 1952, a field trip was planned to Gambrill State Park, near the city of Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland. The area represents the eastern boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Maryland. The result of a day of collecting yielded one new butterfly, *Amblyscirtes begon* Scudder. One specimen, a female with a wing expansion of 12 mm., was captured along a path in a semi-open mixed woods, on the crest of a ridge reaching 1600 feet.

On May 7, 1952, a field trip was made to the highest point in Frederick County, an area near Thurmont, along the Catoctin Ridge, which reaches 1917 feet. Arriving at this locality, the author found multitudes of flowering Spring Beauties (*Claytonia virginica* Linnæus). Careful investigations revealed two *Pieris virginiensis* Edwards feeding on their blossoms. An intensified search was rewarded with the capture of six more specimens. Four were males and four were females. Forewing lengths were ♂ 21 mm., ♂ 22 mm., ♂ 22 mm., ♂ 22 mm., ♀ 18 mm., ♀ 19 mm., ♀ 21 mm., ♀ 22 mm.

The specimens were flying in a heavily wooded area which was semi-open at this time of year since the vegetation had not yet fully emerged. They would not hesitate to cross open fields, however. Feeding was done primarily on Spring Beauty (*C. virginica*) and Wild Mustard (*Brassica*) blossoms. Several females were observed ovipositing on the under-side tips of Wild Mustard (*Brassica*) leaves. Therefore, this is at least one of the food plants of *P. virginiensis* in Maryland.

On July 9, 1952, Mr. FRANKLIN H. CHERMOCK and the writer made an extensive field trip on the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula. Along U. S. Route 13,

just north of the Maryland-Virginia line, we found an extensive open area teeming with flowering Indian Hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum* Linnæus.) A *Papilio palamedes* Drury was spotted and captured. The specimen proved to be a large fresh female with a forewing length of 65 mm. There have been several collectors who have reported sight records of this species in the Maryland area. Such records should be substantiated by a capture.

A field trip was made with Dr. WILLIAM A. ANDERSEN to Flintstone, western Maryland, on May 12, 1955. In a few hours of collecting we bagged four *Euchloe olympia* Edwards and four *Glaucopsyche lygdamus nittanyensis* F. H. Chermock between us. The author captured a lone female of *A. begon* with a forewing length of 13 mm. Every specimen was captured along the crest of a high ridge, elevation 1200 feet, which was composed of mixed woods varying in density. The *E. olympia* and *A. begon* were all captured in flight, while the *G. l. nittanyensis* were all netted on Wild Pea (*Lathyrus maritima*) blossoms. The forewing lengths for *E. olympia* were ♂ 17 mm., ♂ 18 mm., ♂ 20 mm., ♀ 19 mm. Forewing measurements for the *G. l. nittanyensis* were ♀ 13 mm., ♀ 14 mm., ♀ 15 mm., ♂ 14 mm.

A field trip was made on June 16, 1955, in company with Mr. J. E. SIMMONS to the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula. A low lying area at the edge of a dense deciduous woods was found near Linkwood in Dorchester County. Flowering Indian Hemp (*A. cannabinum*) was everywhere. A fresh female *Atlides halesus* Cramer was observed on a blossom and, after some effort, captured. Further collecting yielded no more. This specimen had a forewing length of 20 mm.

July is usually a good month for hairstreaks in Maryland. It was suspected that if a more virgin territory would be investigated a species which has continually eluded my capture might be found. This butterfly is none other than *Strymon edwardsii* Grote & Robinson. Although some authorities comment on its relative abundance, I have found it exceedingly rare in the Maryland area. Time after time of diligent searching in scrub oak areas has only resulted in the capture of its cohort *Strymon falacer* Godart.

On July 5, 1955, in Frederick County, I decided to try an extensive area of scrub oak which grew on a rocky mountain where the vegetation has been unmolested for years—perhaps centuries. The soil is so poor and rocky that the trees remain dwarfed, thereby never growing large enough to lumber. A day's collecting here yielded ten fresh female *S. edwardsii*. The area was visited again three days later and fifteen more were captured. Ten of these were released after examination. An odd fact about this find was the apparent absence of males. Most of the specimens were netted directly off of the scrub oak trees. They usually rested in the middle of a leaf, six to 8 feet off the ground, rolling their hind wings in typical hairstreak fashion. There were no flowers of any kind in the area. The forewing lengths were as follows: 1—13 mm., 2—14 mm., 5—15 mm., 2—16 mm., 2—17 mm., 3—18 mm.

Since *S. falacer* is a relatively common form, other Maryland collectors might have *S. edwardsii* mixed in with them unknowingly. However, it has been my experience that it is anything but common in Maryland.

On July 26, 1955, a field trip was made by Dr. ANDERSEN and the author to western Maryland. While investigating a small bog beside a hawthorn thicket, we noticed a butterfly which resembled a Crescent while in flight. Upon capturing the specimen, we found it to be a Metalmark, *Lephelisca borealis* Grote & Robinson. A further intensified search yielded a total of six specimens between us. The area was definitely a low-lying bog at the base of a steep hill and quite damp. Continued collecting on the hill itself and on its very crest proved even more fruitful. A few hours time netted a total of fourteen more specimens between us. Most of the individuals captured were in more open areas. However, some were taken in extremely dense undergrowth and many would not hesitate to fly into such places when disturbed. These butterflies were observed feeding on two kinds of wild flowers — the large yellow flower of a composite and the white blossoms of Indian Hemp (*A. cannabinum*).

The altitude of the ridge was 1200 feet. The flight of this butterfly was not very swift, and when once sighted, it could usually be captured. The forewing measurements were: 2 ♀♀—12 mm., 2 ♀♀—13 mm., 9 ♀♀—14 mm., 1 ♀—15 mm., 1 ♂—13 mm., 2 ♂♂—14 mm., 2 ♂♂—15 mm., 1 ♂—16 mm.

Briefly summarized, the records are as follows:

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION
<i>Hesperia sassacus</i>	VI-17-50	Swallow Falls State Forest, near Friendsville, Garrett County, Maryland
<i>Polites mystic</i>	VI-17-50	Swallow Falls State Forest, near Friendsville, Garrett County, Maryland
<i>Amblyscirtes begon</i>	V-4-52	Gambrill State Park, Frederick County, Maryland
	V-12-55	Near Flintstone, Allegany County, Maryland
<i>Pieris virginiensis</i>	V-7-52	Thurmont, Frederick County, Maryland
<i>Papilio palamedes</i>	VII-9-52	Beaverdam, Worcester County, Maryland
<i>Euchloe olympia</i>	V-12-55	Flintstone, Allegany County, Maryland
<i>Glaucopsyche l. nittanyensis</i>	V-12-55	Flintstone, Allegany County, Maryland
<i>Atides halesus</i>	VI-16-55	Linkwood, Dorchester County, Maryland
<i>Strymon edwardsii</i>	VII-5-55	Gambrill State Park, Frederick County, Maryland
<i>Lephelisca borealis</i>	VII-26-55	Flintstone, Allegany County, Maryland

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