

WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKYARD?

by WILLIAM H. HOWE

The other day I went through one of my year's field notes which chosen at random happened to be 1955 and I was curious to know how many butterfly species had been taken right here on our nine acre suburban farm on the southeast edge of Ottawa, Kansas. Our flora here both native and introduced include several species of Oaks, Swamp Willow, Pecan, Shagbark Hickory, Soft Maple, White Ash, Chokecherry, Cottonwood, Osage Orange, Elm, and Hawthorne. Also such herbs and vines as *Aristolochia*, *Viburnum*, *Tecoma*, and *Lonicera* and a single *Cephalanthus occidentalis* bush near the creek which bordered our property. Here is the list of 64 species of butterflies taken on this nine acre property:

Lethe portlandia, *Megisto gemma*, *M. cymela*, *Cercyonis pegala*;

Danaus plexippus;

Dione vanillæ, *Euptoieta claudia*, *Speyeria cybele*, *Melitæa nycteis*, *M. ismeria* (gorgone ?), *Phyciodes tharos*, *P. phaon*, *P. texana*, *Polygonia progne*, *P. interrogationis*, *P. comma*, *Nymphalis antiopa*, *Vanessa cardui*, *V. virginensis*, *V. atalanta*, *Precis lavinia*, *Limenitis archippus*, *L. astyanax*, *Anæa andria*, *Asterocampa celtis*, *A. clyton*, *Mestra anyone*;

Tharsalea xanthoides, *T. thoe*, *Strymon melinus*, *S. cecrops*, *S. falacer*, *Feniseca tarquinius*, *Everes comyntas*, *Leptotes marinus*, *Hemiargus isolus*, *Lycænopsis pseudargiolus*;

Battus philenor, *Papilio polyxenes*, *P. glaucus*, *P. troilus*, *P. cressphontes*;

Anthocaris genutia, *Colias eurytheme*, *Zerene cæsonia*, *Eurema lisa*, *E. nicippe*, *E. mexicana*, *Pieris rapæ*, *P. protodice*, *Nathalis iole*, *Phæbis eubule*;

Epargyreus clarus, *Achalarus lyciades*, *Thorybes pylades*, *T. bathyllus*, *Pholisora catullus*, *P. hayhurstii*, *Ancyloxipha numitor*, *Pyrgus communis*, *Hylephila phyleus*, *Polites themistocles*, *Poanes hobomok*, *Amblyscirtes vialis*.

Within a mile of our farm I have collected these additional species: *Eunica tatila*, *Chlosyne lacinia*, *Graphium marcellus*, *Phæbis agarithe*, *Euchloe olympia*, *Strymon titus*, *Incisalia henrici*, *Libytheana bachmani*, *Problema byssus*, *Polites peckius*, *Lerodea eufala*, *Hesperia ottoe*, *Atalopedes campestris*, *Frynnis brizo*, *E. martialis*, *E. juvenalis*, *E. funeralis*, *E. horatius*.

And this does not include some Skippers I cannot positively identify!

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