

FIELD NOTES

AN ALBINO *LYCÆNA PHLÆAS* IN CONNECTICUT

In August 1960 I had a rather interesting experience while hunting in a field in Portland, Connecticut. I was working in a large open field which had a depression at one end. In the depression grew a heavy mass of a pinkish red flower about 2 feet tall. In this depression and on the flowers were swarms of *Lycæna phlæas americana*. No sorrel was apparent; consequently I stood wondering what the attraction was. While I was still pondering the question, a small *white* butterfly appeared on the scene which I did not immediately recognize. To my amazement it turned out to be a white *L. p. americana*. By "white," I mean *pure white*; I have previously found very light pinkish forms. This specimen is identical with the normal form as to spots, etc.

To me the more interesting feature was the fact that it settled on *the only white flower* in the patch, which makes me ask: did it know it was white, and choose the white flower intentionally? Are butterflies that colour conscious? Further afield there were large patches of the same white flowers, but a search turned up no more white freaks.

The specimen in question is in my collection at Cassadaga.

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A WHITISH *LYCÆNA PHLÆAS* IN OHIO (LYCÆNIDÆ)

One of the more accessible collecting areas near the community of Wellington, Lorain Co., Ohio, is Findley State Park, located two miles south of the village on Ohio State Route 58. The park consists of nearly 900 acres, a large part of which was originally woodlands. In 1954 a shallow valley, through which a small stream flowed, was cleared and an earth fill dam was constructed at the north side of the park. This created an artificial lake of about 90 acres. With access roads, cleared picnic areas, and an artificial bathing beach, the park has become a center of summer outdoor recreation in this area. Plantings of native and introduced trees, made about 30 years ago, are in various parts of the park. These are mostly species of *Quercus* (oak), *Betula* (birch), *Liquidambar* (gum), and various conifers.

The afternoon of August 10, 1961 was sunny with scattered cumulus clouds, temperature in the middle eighties, but with a gusty wind of