

The Maine Entomologist

A forum for students, professionals and amateurs
in the Pine Tree State

The Official Newsletter of the Maine Entomological Society

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



by Charlene Donahue

My life has been taken over by the new forest invasive insect in Maine – winter moth (*Operophtera brumata*) – as I know others in Maine are consumed with the small fruit invasive insect – spotted-wing Drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*). Both these pests exploded on the Maine scene in 2012. What I will relate here is the public's response to a request for assistance.

Winter moth flies from November to January. We have native moths that fly in November, but none that fly in numbers any later than that. After the temperature dropped into the teens in late November/early December this year, we at the Lab noted that the native Bruce spanworm and other moths had disappeared from our backyards. I sent out an email to a list of interested people (foresters, arborists, government scientists and regulators, etc.) and asked for reports of moths flying in December and specimens sent to me. I received a few responses.

A reporter picked up on the request and wrote an article that headlined in the Maine Sunday Telegram on December 9th (http://www.pressherald.com/news/experts-destructive-winter-moths-are-spreading_2012-12-09.html). Other media outlets jumped on the bandwagon and by that Wednesday, I had over 100 samples sent in to me and that many reports again of moth sightings sent via email, phone and letter. People called or e-mailed the Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, Board of Pesticide Control, the Maine Forest Service, and the reporter (who recorded the calls and passed them on to me). I asked that people put the moths in a ziplock bag in an envelope and mail it. They did not have to kill the moths, did not have to pad them, did not have to put them in a box and take to the post office or pay extra for hand-canceling. Those moths went right through the canceling machine and were VERY flat but ninety percent of

them could be identified. I think the ones that were not usable had probably been dead for awhile and you know what happens when an old specimen is handled roughly – it falls to pieces.

I am still getting samples that people are just getting around to mailing. I have received 145 samples totaling well over 500 moths from Kittery to Bar Harbor. And yes, all but two of the moths were winter moth (the other two were a Bruce spanworm and a fall cankerworm.) So we went from having winter moth in Harpswell in the fall of 2011 to it showing up along two thirds of the Maine coast. It has probably been here for years in low numbers and the mild weather of 2011-2012 allowed to finally explode.

The reason I wanted samples is that winter moth and Bruce spanworm male moths look exactly the same. Females are different but they are essentially wingless and the size of a fat mosquito so not easy to find. The males on the other hand are attracted to light, including Christmas decorations, and people could easily pick them off their door, window or siding. And in some communities there were 'swarms' of them. I needed to dissect the moths to determine whether they were the native or invasive species. I got the main MFS office to lend me a secretary to log in all the samples. Then I enlisted the help of co-workers and brought in three of the Forest Inventory field crew for a day to help process all the moths.

So, I learned that if there is something new and 'in your face' then people are curious about what it is – even if it is an insect. I learned that if you make the process of submitting a sample easy, people will do it. I learned that timing is everything. By waiting until early December, I weeded out almost all the native insects and just got the invasive. I can't wait to see what winter moth does in the spring...

Stay warm and see you March 23rd at my house!

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LAST CHANCE DUES REMINDER!

M.E.S. dues are payable on a calendar-year basis. If you haven't already done so, please renew now for 2013; Treasurer Dana Michaud's name and mailing address are at the bottom of the last page for your convenience. Dues are \$10 per year, and may be paid up to two years in advance. If the year on your mailing label is "2012", please contact Dana to renew for 2013 or correct the record.

Jugtown Plains Collecting Trip Yielded New State Species!

We had a summary article on the Jugtown Plains collecting trip in last November's issue, and the species list is nearly complete. Leading the way are some 30 spp. of Lepidoptera, 24 spp. of Coleoptera, 19 spp. of Hemiptera, 11 spp. of Hymenoptera, 16 spp. of Orthoptera and 14 spp. of spiders, with Diptera, Neuroptera, and Odonata rounding out most of the remainder.

Just so people can have an idea of how productive such a casual Society jaunt can be, consider that as a result of our modest efforts, the Otisfield Conservation Commission now has a list of some 135 spp. of insects and spiders – things that they didn't previously know were to be found on the grounds. Perhaps most exciting was that the Bolas spider Charlene noted in her November article turned out to be *Mastophora stowei*, identified by Dan Jennings and a first state record for the species!

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Tech Tip:

Banana Bait Feeder by Richard W. Hildreth

Many species of butterflies, as well as many moths, beetles, bees, wasps and flies are strongly attracted by sugary baits. At my primitive cabin in Steuben, I have attracted the following butterfly species with various sugary baits: Question Mark, Red Admiral, Mourning Cloak, Eastern Comma, Grey Comma, Compton's Tortoiseshell, White Admiral, Northern Pearly-Eye, Eyed Brown and Common Wood Nymph (both yellow-eyed and dark-eyed forms).

Just about any sugary solution will attract insects. Hummingbird feeder solution (4 cups of water to 1 cup of sugar) works just fine. Most hummingbird feeders can easily be modified into good insect feeders. The hummingbird feeder manufacturers try to make the feeders insect-proof by making the holes through which the hummers sip the solution as small as possible. I have modified all my hummingbird feeders by drilling out the feed holes to 1/4-inch size. This allows all the sugar-solution-seeking insects to get at the sugar solution. The hummingbirds don't seem to mind (however, there are some interesting hummingbird-wasp battles). I would guess (I haven't tried it) that modified hummingbird feeders filled with "high test" moth bait solution would make great moth feeders.

Besides sugar solutions, sugar in overripe fruit becomes a powerful butterfly attractant. In my earlier days, I used to go frequently on overseas birding trips. These trips sometimes brought me to Amazonian South America and jungle birding lodges. These lodges always had butterfly houses where they raised butterflies for export (mostly to the USA). They always had plenty of live adult butterflies to show their guests.

To feed all these butterflies they used bananas. Bananas cut longitudinally were put out, in the tropical heat the bananas were soon overripe. The butterflies all eagerly fed on them. This gave me the idea of trying bananas as butterfly bait in Maine. I cut some bananas and put them out. I was not disappointed: lots of butterflies were attracted. However, various naughty mammals were also attracted: eastern chipmunks by day and raccoons, etc., by night. It soon became clear that I had to do some engineering and construction, and produce a proper banana bait feeder.

The feeder that I designed and built is as follows (see Figure 1). A plywood platform (12" x 12" x 1/2" thick) is fastened securely to a post. A sturdy frame is built with

enough clearance to allow the frame to fit easily over the plywood platform. To the frame is stapled a piece of 1/4" galvanized hardware cloth. Some screw eyes are put in the frame and in the post. Overripe bananas are cut longitudinally and placed cut side up on the plywood platform. The screen-frame is placed over the plywood platform and lowered so the screen rests on the cut bananas. The frame is secured to the post by use of small bungee cords. The bananas will last 2 days to a week, depending how overripe they are, the temperature, how fast they are eaten, etc. Bananas are expensive, so it is worthwhile to look for special deals on overripe bananas which some stores offer. Slices of watermelon can also be used with good results in these feeders. Around the 4th of July, stores often overstock with watermelons and soon the price falls, making them a good source of butterfly bait.

During the day, great numbers of flies, bees, and wasps are attracted to the banana feeder - a great chance to count, collect, and photograph. Some interesting beetles are also attracted. After dark, many moths are attracted, many times species not attracted by my mercury vapor lights. Hummingbirds also occasionally stop to feed on the bananas. So far, the feeders have kept the marauding mammals at bay.

The banana Bait Feeder seems to be one of my "good ideas" that actually works.

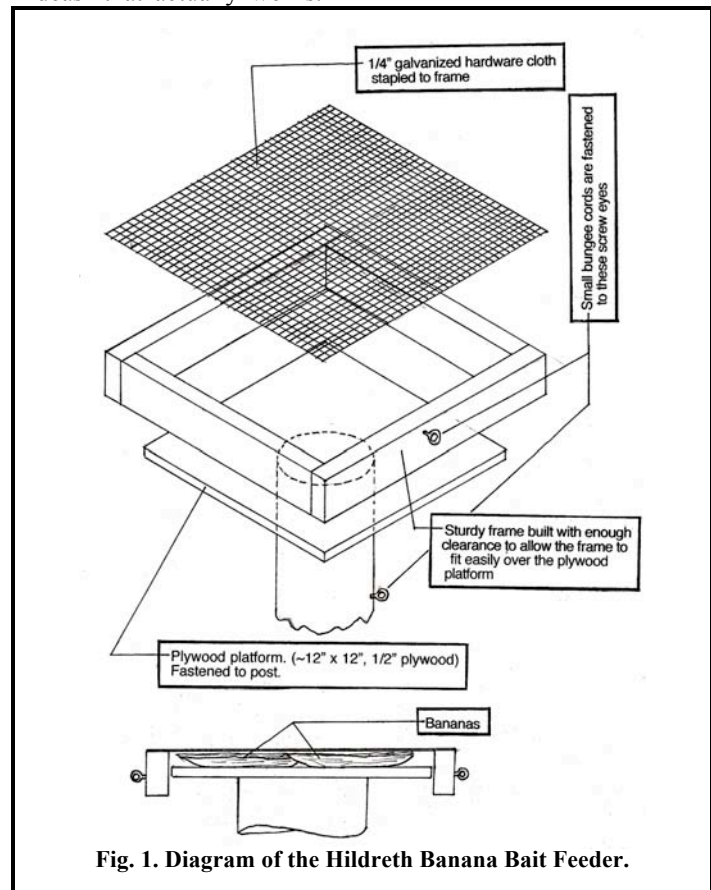


Fig. 1. Diagram of the Hildreth Banana Bait Feeder.

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British Moths in Major Decline

According to a recent report (<http://tinyurl.com/cuqbtcj>), habitat loss and climate change have caused a "calamitous" loss of larger moths in the British Isles. Three species have gone extinct just since 2000, adding to 62 that disappeared in the last century. Much more information will be found in the complete story.

BUG TRACKS!
by Allison Kanoti

If you have not had the good fortune to come across Charley Eiseman's WordPress blog, *BugTracks*, put it on your list of sites to check out on-line when you have a few moments (<http://bugtracks.wordpress.com/>). The blog is rich with gorgeous photos, most often of insects, and interesting tidbits (and bigger bits) of natural history information regarding the featured species and individual(s). Usually there are also links to more information or previous blog entries. Almost always there will be a brief history of how the specimen found itself in front of Charley's lens.

If you do like the site, you might want to subscribe to it. Some may shudder at the word "blog". I am not a complete luddite, nor am I especially techno-savvy, yet I found subscribing to the blog quite painless. There is a button on the right hand side towards the top that says "sign me up". All you need is an e-mail account, enter the e-mail in the bar above the "sign me up" button and hit the button. If you do subscribe, you will get an e-mail when there is an update. You can read the update in the e-mail, but I usually choose to go to the Website. In fact, *BugTracks* is on my Favorites Bar in Internet Explorer.

There are other ways to track the blog. If you are on Facebook, you can "like" Northern Naturalists (at <http://tinyurl.com/a3bvcvh>) and find links to the blog posts there. Then there is a "follow" button on the blog—I'm not sure how that works, as I'm quite happy with my current setup.

Check it out and see if you don't agree that he has done an exceptional job of "*Bringing glory to Earth's small and neglected creatures.*"

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Butterfly Migration in Downeast Coastal Maine (Hancock and Washington Counties) During the 2012 Field Season
by Richard W. Hildreth

Except for five days in June and three days in October, I spent the entire period from 3 May to 31 October, 2012, in downeast coastal Maine involved with butterfly studies. My main objective was to collect specimens and data for the Maine Butterfly Survey (MBS). During my wanderings around Hancock and Washington counties, I followed my usual practice of trying to identify and count all the adult butterflies that I encountered. All these observations were entered daily into what became a very big file: 56 species of butterflies were found and 305 specimens were collected for the MBS.

The year 2012 was a great year for butterfly migrants in downeast Maine (and all over the northeast). All the regular migrant species were on the move through and around in Maine. My file contains 3867 records of migrant butterflies.

Monarch, *Danaus plexippus* (486 Records)

The generally accepted model of northward Monarch migration is that butterflies leave the Mexican wintering grounds early in the spring and fly to somewhere in the SW USA, breed, lay eggs on milkweed and produce a new generation of butterflies. These adults then fly off north. The northern sites are populated each year by successive generations. While this model is probably mostly correct, I don't believe it is entirely so. In a few rare years, Monarchs arrive in Maine and southern Canada in early May, suggesting that these butterflies fly directly from Mexico north.

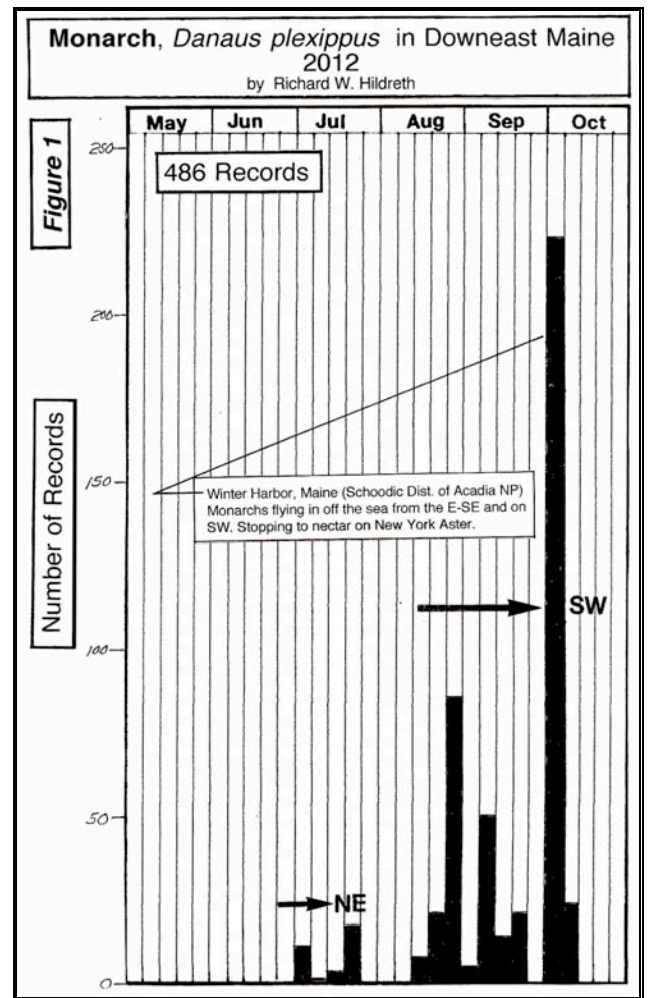
In 2012, the classic model was followed, with a small, but conspicuous, Monarch flight in July. This flight was toward the NE and quickly passed through, with the butterflies only stopping occasionally to nectar (see Figure

1). The autumn movement toward the SW was much larger than the spring movement, suggesting good breeding success to the north and east.

Migrant butterflies spend most of their time and energy on two activities: females searching for caterpillar food plants to lay eggs on, and searching for flowers on which to nectar. The southwest-bound Monarchs, free of the need to look for caterpillar food plants, spent considerable time gathered at stands of flowering plants for extended periods of nectaring.

At the Petit Manan Point Division of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Steuben, Monarchs were nectaring on Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*) and Flat-topped Aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*). At the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park (ANP) in Winter Harbor, the Monarchs were nectaring on Rough-stemmed Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*). Later in the season at the Schoodic District, the Monarchs were nectaring on New York Aster (*Symphotrichum novi-belgii*). These fuel stops are probably critical to the success of the migration.

The big Monarch movement came on 2 October, when I counted 222 Monarchs at Blueberry Hill Parking Area at the Schoodic District of ANP in Winter Harbor. These Monarchs were flying in off the sea from the E-SE (possibly from southern Nova Scotia). The last Monarchs I saw were on 7 October 2012.



Question Mark, *Polygonia interrogationis* (419 Records)

This species flies into Maine every year, in usually small numbers, to breed. There is then an autumn flight to the SW out of Maine. It is unlikely that the Question Mark is in Maine in winter in any life stage. This year was a very high

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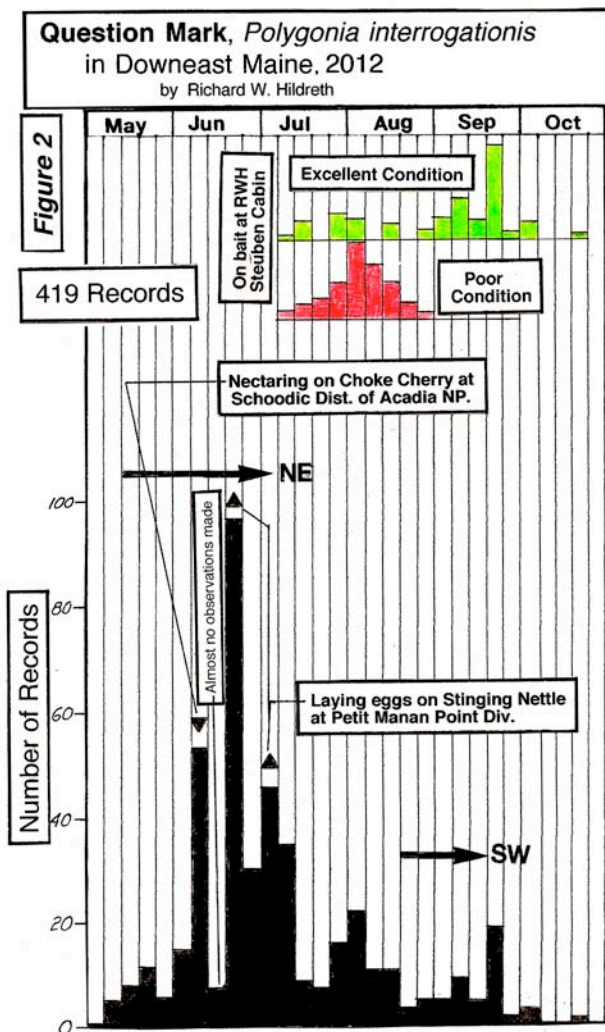
Butterfly Migration Downeast (cont.)

abundance year for this species in Maine. With 419 records, 2012 was the biggest year for Question Marks I have experienced.

The Question Mark is an interesting species which occurs in at least two forms. There is the "summer" form with the upper hind wings black and the lighter "winter" form with orange upper hind wings. There are two types of underwing patterns: a complex mottled brown pattern and a plain brown or slightly grey plain pattern. The two forms can have either underwing pattern.

Whenever I see any number of Question Marks (at any part of the season) I always seem to find some of all the combinations of form and underwing pattern. In early May when I arrived downeast, the Question Mark flight toward the NE was already going on (see Figure 2). This NE flight increased and continued until at least early July. On 9 June, 2012, at the Schoodic District of ANP, I saw Question Marks flying in over the water from the SW and making landfall at the Frazer Point Picnic Area.

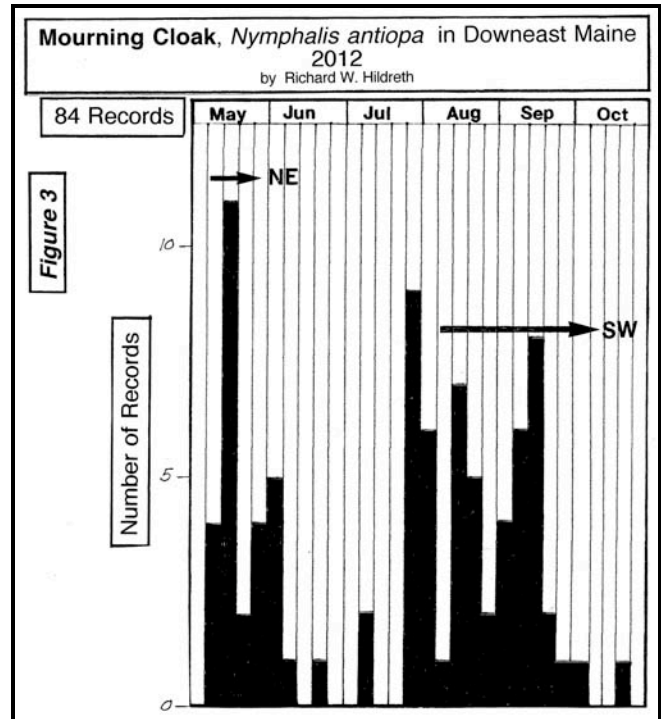
The Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) was in full flower. The Question Marks immediately began nectaring, and I soon counted 20 nectaring individuals. One of the major caterpillar food plants is elm. Early in the spring flight period, I saw Question Marks checking out American Elm (*Ulmus americana*). Later in the flight, when the numbers of passing Question Marks were greater, they began to seek out and lay eggs on Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*).



On 21 June, at the Petit Manan Point Division of the Maine Coastal Islands NWR in Steuben, I saw 23 Question Marks laying eggs on Stinging Nettle; they were jostling against Red Admirals which were also laying eggs on the nettles. By August and early September, both old and worn, and new fresh Question Marks were present. At my banana bait feeders at the cabin in Steuben, I was able to count the old worn and new fresh Question Marks (see Figure 2). The last Question Mark of the season was seen on 23 October at the banana feeder at the cabin in Steuben. This individual was in excellent condition and soon headed off SW.

Mourning Cloak, *Nymphalis antiopa* (84 Records)

The year 2012 was a modest one for Mourning Cloaks in Maine, with 84 records. There was a small spring flight NE. The autumn flight SW began sometime in early August and continued into October. Many passing Mourning Cloaks visited my banana feeders at the Steuben cabin.



Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta* (957 Records)

Although not a record year with 957 records, 2012 was nonetheless a big year for Red Admirals in downeast Maine. Previous big years were 2007 with 1892 records and 2010 with 1025 records (see "2007-The Year of the Red Admiral" by R.W. Hildreth - *Maine Entomologist*, Vol. 12, No. 2, May, 2008, and "Observations of Migrant Insects in Downeast Coastal Maine During the 2012 Field Season" by Richard W. Hildreth, *Maine Entomologist*, Vol. 15, No. 4, Nov. 2011).

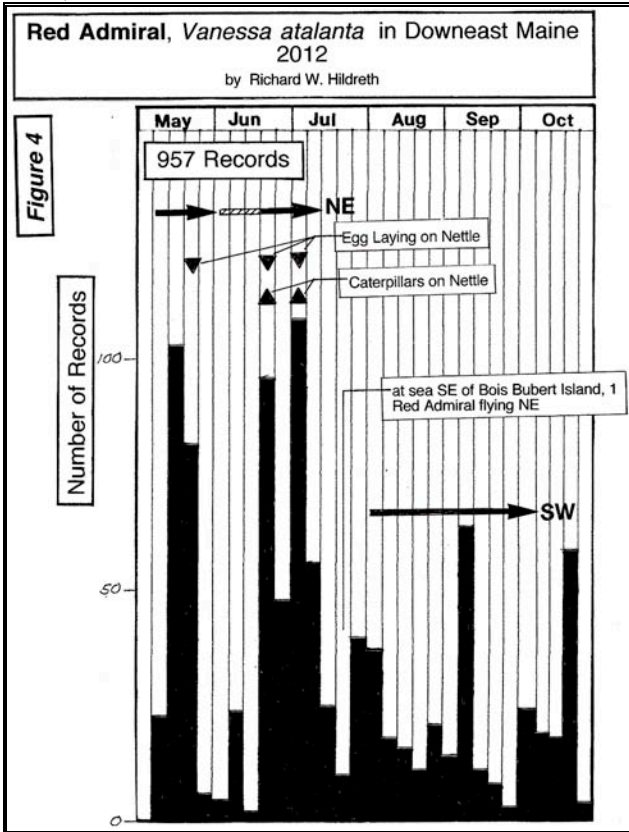
There was a strong spring flight of Red Admirals NE into and around downeast Maine (see Figure 4). At the Petit Manan Point Division of the Maine Coastal Islands NWR in Steuben, the Red Admirals were actively laying eggs on Stinging Nettle by mid-May.

Red Admirals continued passing through downeast Maine until late July. Many were the progeny of the spring migrants. Egg laying on nettles continued until early July at Petit Manan Point.

On 22 July, 2012, I took a boat trip from Milbridge to the waters around Petit Manan Island. At sea, just off Bois Bubert Island, I saw one Red Admiral flying NE. In early August the Red Admirals began to fly SW through Maine.

Butterfly Migration Downeast (cont.)

This flight continued through October. The last Red Admirals I saw were four visiting the banana feeders at my cabin in Steuben on 25 October, 2012. They were in excellent condition, flew in from the E, visited the banana feeders, basked in the sun and flew off to the SW.



Painted lady, *Vanessa cardui* (875 Records)

The year 2012 was an extraordinary year for Painted lady migration in downeast Maine, though even with 875 records, it was not a record year. The really big year was 2005, with 1230 records.

The spring Painted lady migration NE into Maine was very small, almost undetectable (see Figure 5). A small breeding population was active at the Petit Manan Point Division of the Maine Coastal Islands NWR in Steuben. In early July, I found caterpillars at Petit Manan Point feeding on Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*).

In early August, there was a dramatic flight of Painted Ladies into Maine. They appeared suddenly, flying in from the E-NE, surely from Atlantic Canada. They all were in excellent condition. There were Painted ladies everywhere, busy nectaring and drifting SW.

They continued to pass through all through September. By late September, they were mostly in fair to poor condition. This great flight of Painted ladies was noted in Massachusetts as well. They appeared suddenly in vast numbers, flying in from somewhere to the NE.

I ran my mercury vapor lights at the cabin in Steuben on the night of 21-22 September, 2012; one Painted Lady was attracted by the lights on the somewhat foggy night. My last Painted Lady sighting was 10 individuals on 2 October at the Schoodic District of ANP in Winter Harbor. These butterflies, in fair to poor condition, were nectaring on New York Aster.

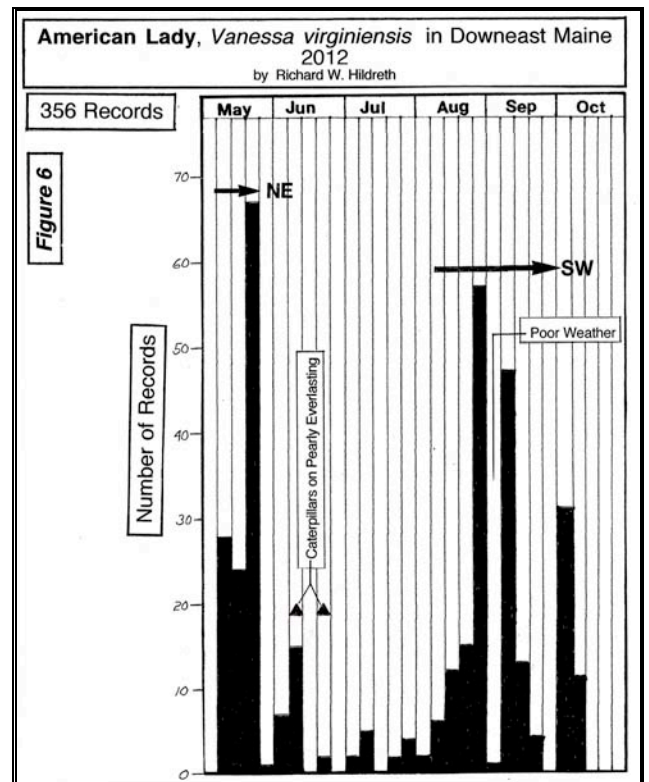
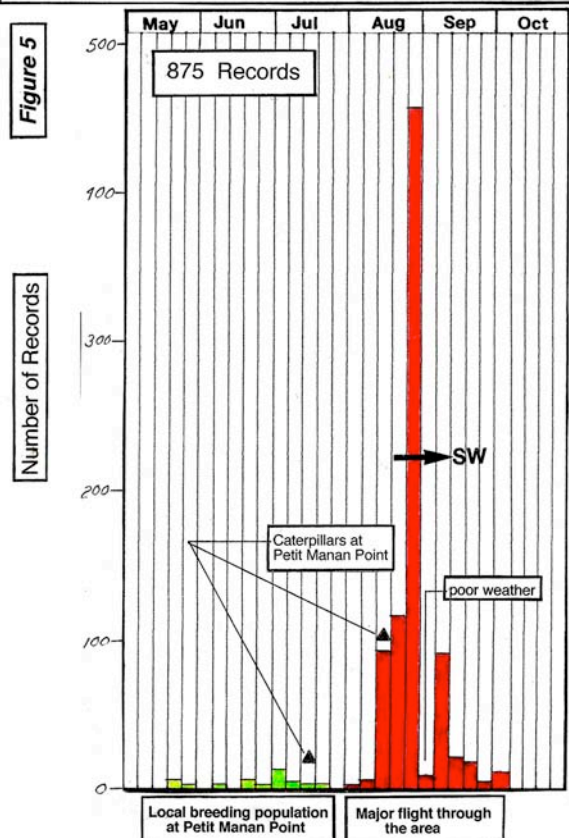
American Lady, *Vanessa virginiensis* (356 Records)

There was a strong NE flight of American Ladies into downeast Maine in May (see Figure 6). Female American

Ladies fly close to the ground searching for the caterpillar food plant Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*).

The plants that they are seeking are usually very tiny, just a few leaves emerging from the soil. When a plant is found,

Painted lady *Vanessa cardui* in Downeast Maine, 2012
by Richard W. Hildreth



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February, 2013

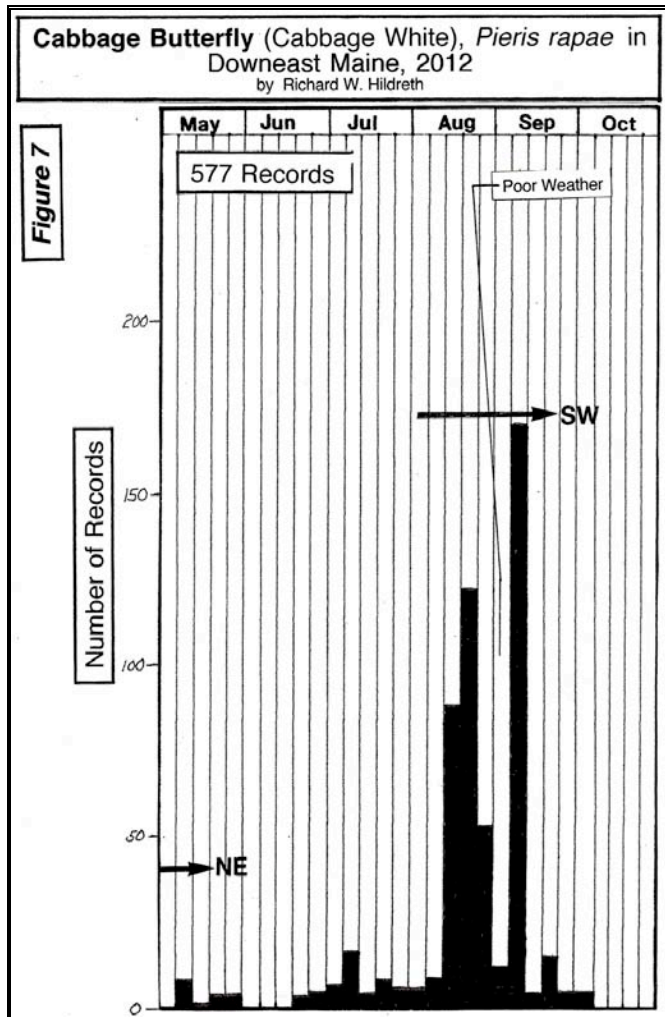
Butterfly Migration Downeast (cont.)

the female lays an egg on the underside of the leaf and flies on NE, looking for more plants. By late May or early June, there are caterpillars everywhere that there are any Pearly Everlasting plants. By August, good numbers of adult butterflies were already on the move SW.

The last American Ladies I recorded were 11 that I saw on 7 October at the Schoodic District of ANP, Winter Harbor. These butterflies, in excellent condition, were nectaring on New York Aster and Fall Dandelion (*Leontodon autumnalis*).

Cabbage Butterfly [Cabbage White], *Pieris rapae* (577 Records)

The spring flight of Cabbage Whites into Maine was very small, almost undetectable (see Figure 7). Cabbage whites were scarce all summer. In August, large numbers of Cabbage Whites appeared in downeast Maine and passed through to the SW all through September. The last seen were five individuals on 2 October at the Schoodic Dist. of ANP at Winter Harbor, nectaring on wild mustard.

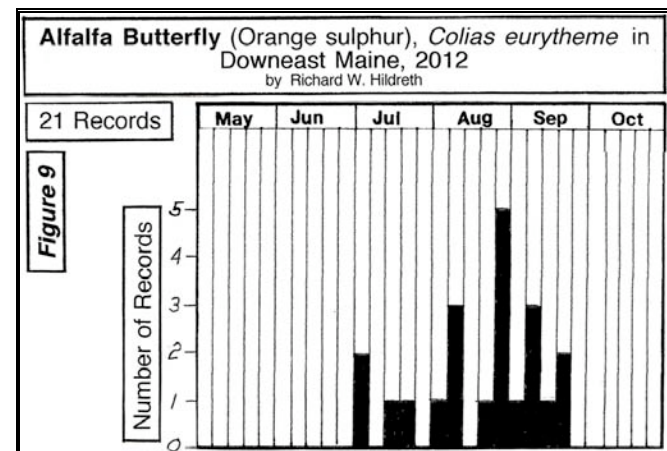
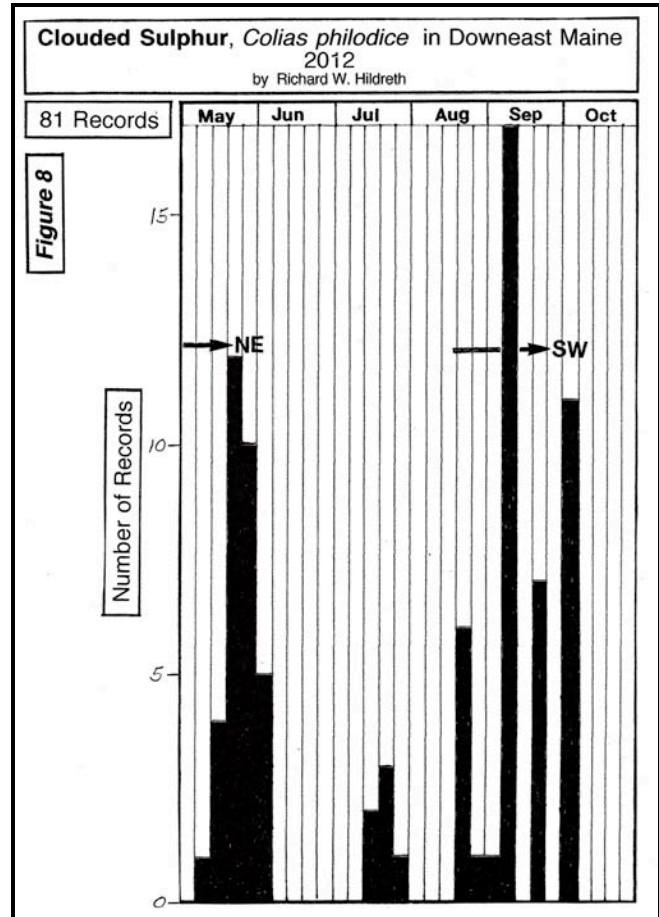


Clouded Sulphur, *Colias philodice* (81 Records)

There was a modest NE spring flight in May to early June (see Figure 8). A few were seen in July, probably progeny of the spring flight. A modest SW autumn flight occurred from August on into October. The last seen were 11 at the Schoodic Dist. of ANP in Winter Harbor. These butterflies flew in off the sea from the E, and were in good condition.

Alfalfa Butterfly [Orange Sulphur], *Colias eurytheme* (21 Records)

This migratory species is sometime common in downeast Maine, especially during the autumn flight to the SW. This year, very few were found. There were none found during the spring flight period, only 21 records. In the last few years this species has been very scarce in downeast Maine.



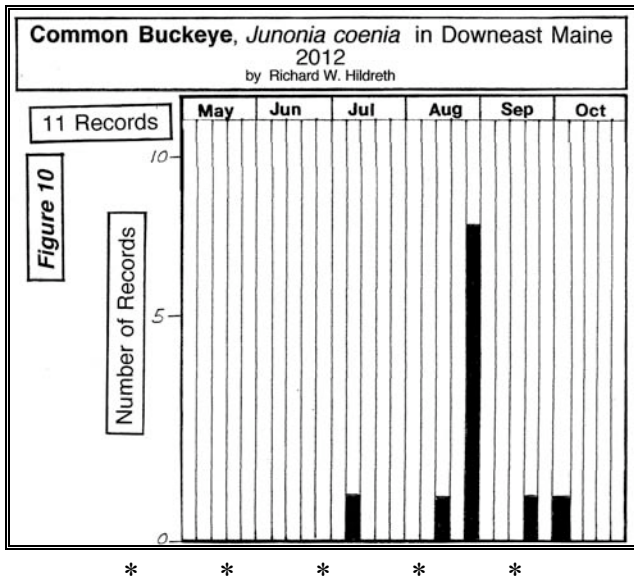
Common Buckeye, *Junonia coenia* (11 Records)

The year 2012 was a very big year over the entire northeast for southern stray species. Massachusetts was invaded by a great number of southern stray species, and not just at the usual coastal locations, but all over the state. Some of these species, e.g. Giant Swallowtail, Long-tailed Skipper, etc., also strayed into Maine.

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Butterfly Migration Downeast (cont.)

Downeast, I only saw one southern stray species, the Common Buckeye. This species was present in coastal areas nectaring on flowers from July to October (see Figure 9); two were collected for the Maine Butterfly Survey.



Saturday, 23 March: 2013 Maine Maple (& Mothing) Field Day

Come join us at 460 Mills Road, in Whitefield (Lincoln County)!

Maple syrup buckets often contain a fascinating assemblage of insects, plus there are insects on tree boles, in the woodpile and tucked in other nooks and crannies this time of year. There is a seep open all winter down near the river, and wetlands across the road.

Come visit a backyard sugar operation, enjoy the company and collect a bug or two or maybe more. Dress for the weather and be sure to wear boots, bring snowshoes if conditions permit, lunch and drinks.

If the sap cooker is running there are usually people hanging out, and it's a laid-back time (until a batch of syrup is ready to come off!) Contact Charlene Donahue if you're planning to attend, by calling 549-7241 or by e-mail at charlene.donahue@maine.gov.

Directions: Take Rte. 17 east out of Augusta. Go 12 miles, turn right onto Rte. 218 (Mills Rd.). Our house is 0.8 mi. down the road, on the right. It's a cream-colored cape, with a garage with rounded doors.

Eagle Hill Schedules Summer Seminars, Courses and Workshops for 2013

The Humboldt Field Research Institute at Eagle Hill in Steuben, Maine, has scheduled a full slate of summer courses, seminars and workshops for this coming summer. Those of entomological focus that may be of particular interest to MES members include:

- July 14-20** Ants of New England, with Aaron Ellison
- July 21-27** Beekeeping and Biology of the Honeybee, with Matthew Scott
- July 21-27** Trichoptera Biomonitoring: Intersecting DNA "Barcoding" with Morphology, with Karl Kjer and Paul Frandsen
- July 28-Aug. 3** Spiders: Identification, Diversity, Ecology and Biology, with Matthias Foellmer

August 4-10 Native Bees as Pollinators: Diversity, Ecology, Conservation and Enhancing Pollinator Habitats, with Alison Dibble and Frank Drummond

The complete summer program, including registration information and downloadable pdf descriptions for many of the field courses, will be found at the link on the MES web site, under "Research Resources, Institutes, Publications, etc."

Book review:

A World of Insects, edited by Ring T. Cardé and Vincent H. Resh. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2012; 404 pp.

Reviewed by Dana Michaud

A World of Insects, edited by two well-known professors from the University of California, Ring T. Cardé from Riverside and Vincent H. Resh from Berkeley, is a literary collection of over 20 articles and essays written over the years by various entomologists. In their brief 2-page introductions to each chapter, the editors present a preview, and end each with a listing for "Further Reading."

The first chapter, "For the Love of Ants," is by Bert Hölldobler and Edward O. Wilson (who also contributed Chapters 4 and 7, also on ants), who together have added hundreds of new species of ants to the known fauna of the Western Hemisphere alone. Together, they are in a race with time to catalog as much as possible, before the ever-growing tide of humanity obliterates so much more of the remaining biodiversity. The notion that 25% of all species on planet Earth may perish in the next 30 or 40 years, of which only 10% have been described and named, adds incentive to their race to catalogue.

In Chapter 4, "The Origin of Cooperation," the evolution of the colony is analyzed, whereas in Chapter 7, "Army Ants," the colony as a discrete unit is evaluated and described. The *Eciton* (Army Ant) bivouac, numbering upwards of over a half-million individuals, when on the move is a deadly threat to any living creature in its path. What isn't carried off intact, or flees, is killed and dismantled, and brought back as food. The queen, well-protected by her legion, lays upwards of 300,000 eggs during the static (rest) period. It is little wonder why these social insect colonies are referred to as a "Superorganism!"

The late Tom Eisner contributed Chapters 13 and 14, both from his wonderfully written book, *For Love of Insects*, the chapters he had titled "The Love Potion" and "The Sweet Smell of Success." Both articles deal with insects' chemical arsenals, both repellants and lures. Chapter 13 explores the bean beetle *Epilachna* and the blister beetle *Epicauta*, which both produce repulsive compounds that render them unpalatable.

Chapter 14 deals with the beautiful Ornate Moth, *Utetheisa ornatrix*, that acquires its distasteful qualities from the larval host plant, *Crotalaria* (in the pea family, Fabaceae). Eisner studied the chemical defense of this moth for 30 years, finding that spiders upon "smelling" or "tasting" individuals of this species would cut it loose from their own web, realizing quickly that this pretty little morsel would be anything but "tasty!"

The remaining chapters are written by many various authors on entomological subjects so varied that there's something of interest for everyone, be it Monarch Butterflies, insects in amber, bumblebees or Hemiptera. The subject matter of each has much to do with discoveries and knowledge both recent and relevant.

For \$19.95, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this soft-covered collection of essays and articles. Should Cardé and Resh decide to edit another volume, I'll be waiting to buy it!

Winter Workshop Crowded Success

Some 30 people turned out despite the prospect for potential snow, to gather in the Bolton Hall Facility of the Maine Forest Service in eastern Augusta on January 19th, filling the facility to capacity. Don Chandler showed us the easy way to "Gestalt" beetles to family without spending countless hours laboriously going through keys designed to include every family, including its weird members, from every part of the continent, only to discover that we're at an impossible dead end!

Don's focus was on the 30 or so families most likely to be encountered on the Entomological BioBlitz at Acadia National Park next July, and as usual, made the vast complexity of the target group (in this case, the Coleoptera) look like something as easy as making cookies.

Everyone agreed that it was a great learning experience, for "newbies" and old hands alike.

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SHOULD We Continue M.E.S. Calendars?

January ended with over a dozen 2013 M.E.S. calendars still on hand, from an original press run of 100 copies. The question now facing us, shall we continue to produce them if they're not going to sell? Some people have commented that the cost (\$12) seems rather steep, since one can get calendars for a dollar or two at any of the discount retailers in the state.

However, NO other calendar you can find will have high-quality photos of Maine insects, along with events of specific interest to M.E.S. members and other entomophiles.

No one is paid for producing the calendar, other than the printer; photographers whose photo or photos are used receive one (1) complimentary copy. Mailing costs of \$3 barely cover the price of the envelope and postage. So the M.E.S. isn't making significant money on these – a few cents per calendar, after \$1 that goes to the scholarship fund, **if** we sell them **all**.

The bottom line is that unless we sell all or virtually all of the calendars, the M.E.S. will lose money, unless we raise the price even higher – which is not likely. **Please let a member of the Executive Board know whether you would like for us to continue producing an annual calendar!**



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Please visit our website at <http://www.colby.edu/MES/>

Katahdin Spider Checklist Available!

An Annotated Checklist of the Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) of Mount Katahdin, Baxter State Park, Maine, USA, by Daniel T. Jennings, Charles D. Dondale and James H. Redner. Published October, 2012, in Augusta, Maine, by the Maine Department Of Agriculture, Conservation And Forestry, Forest Health and Monitoring, Maine Forest Service. Technical Report No. 45; 30 pp. It is available online at <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/idmpubli.htm> or you can contact me for a print copy (only a few of these are available.) This is a compilation of spiders found on Mt. Katahdin and provides baseline information for future studies.

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COMING M.E.S. EVENTS in 2013:

19 January	Winter Workshop, Augusta
23 March	M.E.S. Field Day – Maple Syruping, North Whitefield
1 June	M.E.S. Field Day, Winter Harbor
22 June	M.E.S. Field Day, Embden
12-15 July	Annual Entomological BioBlitz, Acadia National Park (focus on Beetles on M.D.I.)
3 August	M.E.S. Field Day, Norway
11 September	Bug Maine-ia, Maine State Museum, Augusta
14 September	M.E.S. Annual Meeting, Clinton

(See <http://www.colby.edu/MES/> for more detailed information; new information on any event will be posted as it is received.)

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