



Washington Butterfly Association - Founded 1999

Volume 2, Number 3 July—September, 2001

New Membership Services:

WBA members can now use our e-mail address (wabutterflyassoc@earthlink.net) for several conveniences. We invite you to take advantage of them:

1. Reporting local sightings which you feel might be of interest to other members. (If you feel that others might have a chance of seeing the butterflies in the same area please be very clear on locations and directions.)
2. Receiving local sightings which might be of interest to you.
3. Butterfly-related questions for which you would like assistance. Your questions may be used in our newsletter (anonymous if you prefer) and/or answered directly via e-mail
4. Requesting that your e-mail be placed on a group list to be notified of special sightings, special WBA program events such as book or tee shirt sales, and room or program changes for our monthly meetings. (We guarantee that this will not be overused.)

All you need to do to be on the receiving end of items 2, 3 or 4 is to send an e-mail from the address to which you would like to be notified indicating which options you select.

Note: This service is a membership benefit and your name will be removed if your membership expires.

Volunteers Needed for WBA Research Project

WBA needs volunteers to help with our first research and conservation project. Volunteers at all skill levels are needed. We're assisting the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to compile a comprehensive list of the butterfly species present in the Colockum Pass area near Ellensburg. Bob Hardwick is leading WBA's effort to visit the site once a month from May through September. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Bob Hardwick at (253) 858-6727.

Seattle Butterfly Exhibits

Two butterfly exhibits are now open in Seattle—one at Pacific Science Center, one at Woodland Park Zoo. Both exhibits allow visitors to stroll through conservatories with free-flying butterflies.

Woodland Park Zoo's "Butterflies and Blooms" exhibit features a walk-through conservatory where visitors mingle with hundreds of butterflies. There are 15 species native to North America, including many species of moths and butterflies found in Washington, in a variety of

habitats. The exhibit also has a 6,000 square foot outdoor demonstration garden of hardy Northwest native plants that are attractive to butterflies. Zoo personnel are on hand to answer questions. The Zoo is offering a related class for 4-5 year-olds called “Flutter by Butterfly”.

“Butterflies and Blooms” is open 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. every day until September 14 when the hours will be slightly reduced. For more information call (206) 684-4800. You can also visit the Zoo’s website at www.zoo.org/events/butterflies for more information about the exhibit and other related information. Look for a beautiful photograph by Idie Ulsh.

The Pacific Science Center has a permanent butterfly house that shows tropical species raised on butterfly farms. New species arrive every week. This exhibit is open year-round at the Science Center at Seattle Center, 200 Second Avenue North in Seattle. Summer hours are 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. every day. For more information, call (206) 443-2001.

WBA Meeting Programs

WBA meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month in 2001. The exception is July when there will be no meeting because of the Independence Day holiday and the Annual Conference.

Meetings are held at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle) and begin at 7:00 p.m. The first fifteen minutes are used for social reception and viewing of displays.

A new feature has been added to the next few WBA meetings—the “Two Three Four Five Book Sale”. Now you will be able to purchase books that have been donated to WBA. You decide whether you want to pay \$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00 or \$5.00 and the book is yours. There is an interesting selection of books about nature, gardening, and unexpected topics. Check it out! Proceeds of the book sale support WBA.

July 4: No meeting.

August 1: Butterflies of Mismaloya Mexico. Richard Lindstrom introduces us to one of the best tropical butterfly spots in Mexico.

September 5: Learning the Coppers. Our great Jon & Dave team will help us polish our identification skill with the Coppers.

October 3: Share the Wealth: Butterfly slides from members. Bring your own slides for show and/or identification. Don't miss this one...it's always fun, informal and informative!

November 7: From Prairies to Mountaintops. Learning the habitats will help us locate the species we want to see.

December 5: Butterflies of Belize. Bob Hardwick will share his superb photos from his recent trip to Belize.

Confessions of a Beginning Butterfliier

by Tom O'Connell

One pleasurable way to catch up with all those more experienced butterfliers we meet is to read and read and then read some more. Fortunately there is lots of good reading material available to us beginners, free of technical jargon or insiders' argot. There are two professionals whose writing I especially recommend: Bob Pyle and Jeffrey Glassberg.

Glassberg is the president of the North American Butterfly Association and editor of the magazine "American Butterflies," which all WBA members receive quarterly. He writes much of the material in that excellent publication. See for example his column - always interesting - at the front of each issue. There's also his peachy little pamphlet, "Enjoying Butterflies More", available through NABA. Finally, Glassberg is writing a series of first-rate field guides under the general title *Butterflies Through Binoculars*. I have his *Eastern and Boston-New York-Washington Region* volumes and can attest to their usefulness in the field (even I can usually identify what I see in the field with those guides in hand.) Shortly his *Western North America* volume will be out.

Bob Pyle is at least as good as Jeffrey Glassberg—he may even be the best nature writer of all. As you may know, he's a resident of Gray's River, Washington and an honorary member of WBA, so we claim him as our own. He's written a number of books that are particularly helpful to us beginners. Best of all is his *Handbook For Butterfly Watchers*. I read it right after I took Idie Ulsh's wonderful butterfly course. It was a perfect next step. Way back in 1974 he wrote *Watching Washington Butterflies*, also very good but a bit dated and hard to find now. With the aid of Idie, Dave Nunnallee and another WBA board member, Jonathan Pelham (the star of so many of our WBA meetings), Bob Pyle will soon have out another field guide which will greatly help you and me to figure out which butterfly species we're looking at. It will be a guide to our Northwest region, referred to by him as "Cascadia."

Keep on reading and keep your eye out for those two new field guides! When I was a beginning bird watcher thirty years ago, my mentor said to me, "Tom, if you want to be a good birder you should spend time studying a field guide or reading about birds every single day."

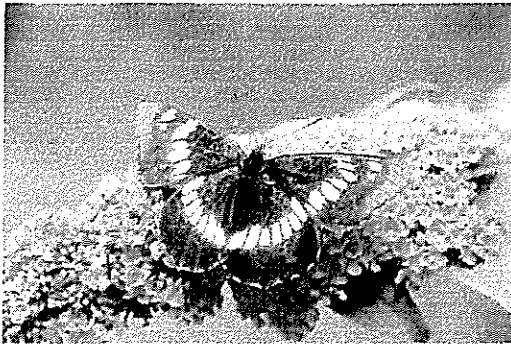
Species Profile: Lorquin's Admiral (*Limenitis lorquini*) by Dave Nunnallee

Our species profile for this issue is the Lorquin's Admiral, *Limenitis lorquini*. The Lorquin's Admiral belongs to the largest butterfly family, the Nymphalidae, which includes the fritillaries, checkerspots, crescents, anglewings, tortoiseshells, ladies, sisters monarchs and admirals, in addition to many tropical groups. The brushfoots are characterized by appearing to have only four legs, the remaining two in the front being reduced to brush-like appendages under the front of the head. In Washington are three species of admirals: the Lorquin's Admiral, the Viceroy and the California Sister—the latter being found only occasionally in southwestern Washington.

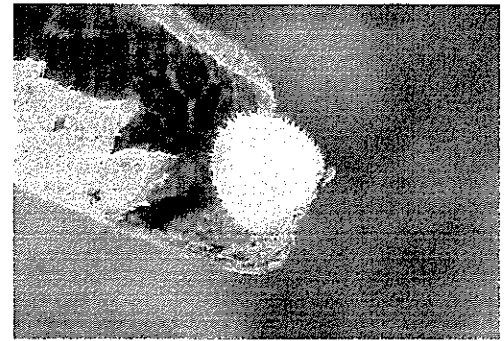
The Lorquin's Admiral is a western North American species, found in central British Columbia and southwestern Alberta, south to Baja California, east to northeastern Nevada and southeastern Idaho. In Washington, Lorquin's Admiral is widespread and common, and has been reported from every county. This colorful species is found in a variety of habitats, including riparian areas, bottomlands, forest margins and open forests. The species is single-

brooded, but emerges at staggered times dependent on elevation and season. Thus it may be seen on the wing from early May throughout the summer, and has been reported as late as early October.

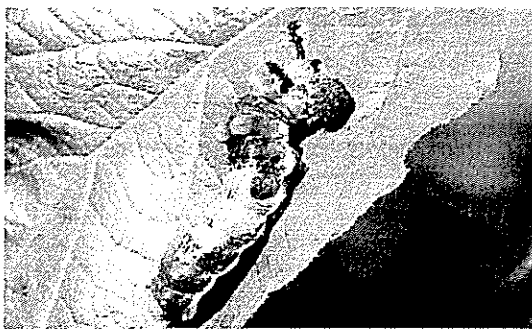
The Lorquin's Admiral has an interesting life cycle. Females deposit eggs singly on the host plant in the spring or summer. The large white egg is spherical in shape, with an unusual and distinctive hexagonal pattern of ridges on the surface and a tiny hair protruding from each intersection of the many hexagons. The eggs are laid on any of a variety of host trees and shrubs, including willow, poplar, apple, cherry, douglas spiraea, chokecherry and serviceberry. The larvae are rather bizarre-looking, with a white "bird dropping" saddle on an otherwise mostly chestnut brown body. Near the head are two large, branched, reddish-brown "horns", and the larva often assumes an arched S-shaped position.



Limnitis lorquini Adult

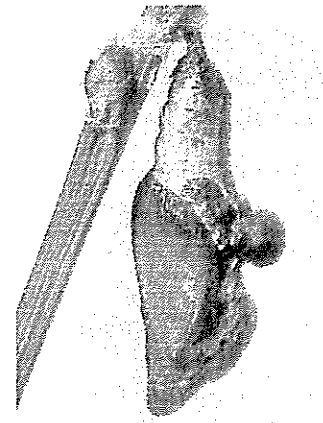


Limnitis lorquini Egg



Limnitis lorquini Larva

All photos by Dave Nunnallee.



Limnitis lorquini Pupa

The young larva overwinters in a hibernaculum, a rolled leaf shelter, in the second or third instar, and resumes growth in the spring. The chrysalis is equally bizarre, with a large knob-like protrusion from its belly; this knobby structure has no known function.

Adult Lorquin Admirals are colorful and unmistakable. With a wingspan of 2.5 inches, their wings on the dorsal surface are black with a sharply contrasting band of large white spots along the outer part of the hindwing and crossing near the middle of the forewing. The forewings are

broadly tipped in bright orange. Ventrally the wings are mostly orange, and the big white spot bands of the dorsal surface are equally distinctive on the ventral side.

Adults sip sap, fruit and excrement, and less frequently flower nectar. Males are often seen mudding, sometimes in aggregations. Adult males perch along valley bottoms awaiting females, and aggressively fly out to confront any passersby, including birds and even humans.

Washington 2001 Field Trips

Field Trip Schedule

Date	Location	Difficulty*
June		
June 30	Quartz Mountain (Kittitas County)	1 & 2
July		
July 7	WBA "Big Day"—Table Mountain (Kittitas County)	1 & 2
July 14	Scatter Creek (Kittitas County)	1 & 2
July 21	Table Mountain (Kittitas County)	1 & 2
July 28	Hurricane Ridge (Clallam County)	3
August		
August 4-5	Moses Meadow (Okanogan County)	1
August 11	Corral Pass (Pierce County)	4
August 18	Snoqualmie Pass	1
August 25	Johnson Ridge (Mount St. Helens)	1 & 2

***Notes on Trip Difficulty**

1 – Little or no elevation gain; roadside.

2 – Walking on level ground.

1 & 2 – Car trips with optional walks near the car. The walks may exceed level 2 difficulty.

3 – Some elevation gain or irregular terrain.

4 – Elevation gain and irregular terrain.

5 – Strenuous

- Portions of some trips may be strenuous for some; check with trip leader for more details.
- Walking distances vary, but the total amount of walking rarely exceeds one-half mile.

Notes about field trips:

✿ You can register for field trips by signing up at the monthly membership meeting; or by calling Richard Lindstrom, field trip coordinator, at (206) 842-4817.

✿ The meeting times and places will be announced at the membership meetings, or you can call Richard Lindstrom or contact WBA at wabutterflyassoc@earthlink.net.

✿ Please be flexible. Butterflying is very dependent on the weather—each year is different, so it's difficult to predict when the butterflies will be active at any location. We will review the dates and locations of field trips as the season progresses, and make adjustments dependent on where we expect the butterflies to be.

- ✧ The time and meeting place for field trips may change. If the arrangements for a trip change, everyone who has signed up for the trip will be notified as soon as possible.
- ✧ A donation of \$5.00 per person is suggested for each field trip.
- ✧ Carpooling is encouraged; rides will be arranged at the beginning of each trip. Passengers will be asked to contribute money for gas.
- ✧ Bring a lunch and water or other soft drinks.
- ✧ Wear comfortable walking boots or shoes.
- ✧ Contact WBA at wabutterflyassoc@earthlink.net for the latest information.



Trip leader Jonathan Pelham captivates onlookers with—what?

In addition to butterfly larvae and adults, Jon and the April 21 field trip crew observed a vole, a cuddly snake, a cow skeleton as well as numerous plants and flowers, and were treated to birthday cupcakes.

Photo by Kiyoshi Hiruma

Endangered Mardon Skipper Sighted on WBA Field Trip!

Though it's often said that seeing six species is a good day of butterflying in western Washington, a recent WBA field trip lead by Bob Hardwick produced sightings of 21 species, including the Mardon skipper, *Polites mardon*. According to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the population of mardon skippers in Washington consists of a few hundred individuals present at only nine geographically isolated sites, three in Puget Sound and six in the southern Cascades. It is listed as an endangered species by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is a candidate for listing by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. More information about the Washington listing is available at the WDFW web site

<http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/diversty/soc/status/mskipper/skipxsum.htm>

A Very Special Thank You ...

to Connie Youel, wife of Board member Richard Youel, for making a generous donation to the Washington Butterfly Association. She donated her usual service charge for setting up a trip for several WBA members to Mexico this fall. Although this trip is not sponsored by WBA, all participants are WBA members. Thank you, Connie — we appreciate you!

Officers/Board Members:

Idie Ulsh	President/Programs
Dave Nunnallee	Vice President
Käthe Watanabe	Secretary/Membership
David Branch	Treasurer
Jon Pelham	Science Advisor
Richard Lindstrom	Field Trip Coordinator
Tom O'Connell	Writer/Reporter
Jo Nunnallee	Hospitality
Richard Youel	Member-at-Large
Vivian Gross	Conference Coordinator
Maureen Traxler	Publicity/Newsletter
NonBoard Position: Bob Hardwick is WBA Research Coordinator, organizing WBA field projects. His phone number is.	

Membership Application

Washington Butterfly Association

<https://wabutterflyassoc.org/membership/>

