



Washington Butterfly
Association

*G'nun**

The newsletter of the Washington Butterfly Association

P.O. Box 31317 Seattle WA 98103

<http://wabutterflyassoc.org>

Facebook: Washington Butterfly Association. Instagram: #washingtonbutterflies (anyone can use this hashtag)

*G'nun is the official greeting of WBA. It is derived from the name of common Washington butterfly food plants, of the genus *Eriogonum*.

The group at the top of the Crystal Mountain gondola, photographed by a very kind passing tourist.



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Upcoming Programs by Zoom First Wednesday at 6 PM

December 7: Butterflies (and other pollinators) of the Mountain Loop Highway: How a Project on the National Forest Evolved

In this tag-team presentation, David Droppers, along with Phyllis Reed, North Zone Wildlife Biologist with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, will present updates from his final season of researching butterflies on the Mountain Loop Highway on the Darrington Ranger District. Phyllis will cover how she met David and how the Forest Service's responsibility toward habitat management and pollinators lead to projects such as his. Learn about the various issues concerning pollinators, the goals and challenges that the Forest Service faces in meeting these responsibilities, the importance of citizen science, and how you might be able to help.

January: Winter Party by Zoom, TBA

February 1: Sarah Hanson, executive director of On Sacred Ground Land Trust: the Island Marble butterfly and other butterfly and pollinator initiatives.

International Western Monarch Summit January 20-22, 2023

San Luis Obispo, California. David James will be the key-note speaker for the US. There will also be Monarch experts from Canada, Mexico, Australia, and the Northern Chumash Tribe. Come prepared for an exchange of ideas from across the Western States, Tribal Lands, Mexico, Canada and Australia-all with an interest in our western monarch population! Expand your knowledge and make connections with other Monarch enthusiasts, researchers, and conservation organizations. More information at <https://www.westernmonarchadvocates.com/2023-western-monarch-summit>.

Overwintering Monarchs. (D. James)



President's Message

Greetings Fellow Lepidoptera Enthusiasts! It's a wrap. Another season of watching our winged wonders here in the Pacific Northwest. And how would we describe it? The terms "different", "unusual" and "weird" all come to mind. 2022 were all of these and more. We had a great start followed by an April freeze out, followed by a wet June, followed by a dry summer and followed by a mild but dry October.

As unusual as it was this year, perhaps we need to be aware that this may be the new normal. The cause of the weather shift can be debated at length, but it seems pretty undeniable that it is here. As the weather goes, so go the butterflies. Some species have become rarer than normal, some seem to have gone into hiding only to emerge at different times than expected, and yet others have burst onto the scene.

The Western Pygmy Blue is no different. Since Bob Pyle first reported it in 2004, there have been very few instances where it has reappeared until this year. The Tri-Cities area has seen a remarkable influx this year, a real treat for those of us in the far north of the country. Thank you to David James for monitoring its presence and showing us where they can be found flitting about on Russian Thistle/ tumbleweed.

Next year there will be many people anxious to check if it will make a reappearance (as will I) or not. I would urge us all to get out next spring and check our old haunts as well to see what is actually flying in 2023 instead of just assuming that our good old standbys will be there. Hopefully they will but confirmation is a very good thing. And perhaps they will have some new species keeping them company. It is only by looking that we will know. Get those binoculars, cameras, and nets ready!!

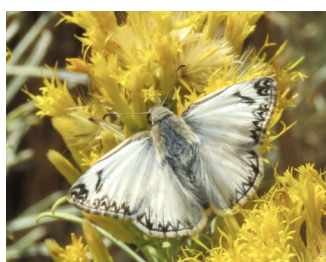
Jim

Watching Washington Butterflies with Bob Pyle

Number Forty-eight

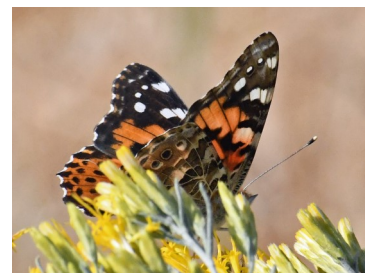
Of Pygmies & Dwarves: Documenting Our Immigrants

While many people know about novelist Vladimir Nabokov's love for butterflies, few are aware of his lasting work on the orange-bordered blues, and fewer yet his other contributions to lepidopterology. Nabokov knew his adopted North American butterflies overall, and at one point contemplated an omnibus work about them, until his literary success took over. It was Charles Remington, his one-time colleague at Harvard and long-time Yale butterfly biologist, who told me about one of Nabokov's particular insights: he was the first to point out that a substantial portion of North American butterflies (north of Mexico) – maybe 15% or more—are not residents throughout the year but annual (or less often) arrivals from the South. These are our immigrant butterflies, who care nothing for borders, and they are neither very well known nor understood. In this column, I hope to sketch in the basics.



Northern White Skipper
male. (M. Weiss)

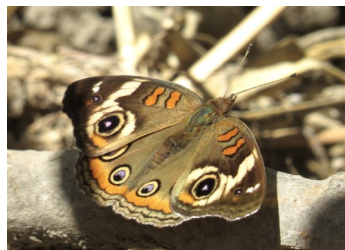
Birders and butterflies, among other naturalists, have long sought to categorize the species appearing on their respective local, state, and regional check-lists in terms of their status. Their terminology has never been standardized, but certain terms have been used repeatedly. “*Resident*” refers, pretty unambiguously, to those species that occupy (let’s say) the state all year ‘round, every year. (For birds, the picture is complicated by the many annual migrants, so now we will narrow down to butterflies.) We assume, no doubt correctly, that these species comprise the largest part of our list, and for the most part we know the life stage in which they overwinter—pupae for swallowtails, eggs for many blues, adults for anglewings, for example. In order to be a resident up here in the seasonal North, these species must possess a winter diapause—the ability to modify metabolism in order to make through periodic freezing temperatures, akin to a winter hibernation, involving antifreeze substances in their cells.



Painted Lady. (M. Schu)

After “resident”, faunists have employed a battery of terms to designate degrees of residence: visitors, vagrants, strays, migrants, immigrants, accidentals, apocrypha, and so on. None of them is entirely satisfactory for all cases, and each carries differing connotations. Our only true, birdlike, back-and-forth *migrant* in the strict sense, involving the whole population every year, is the Monarch, and perhaps the Painted Lady to a lesser and evolving degree. When a Monarch shows up in Western Washington (under its own steam), outside the range of milkweeds, it might fairly be called a “stray.” Purposeful turn-outs, like wedding Monarchs and school Painted Ladies, are dubbed “releases.” Species that arrive by inadvertent introduction, such as a chrysalis on a camper or boxcar, as seems likely with our sole records for the White Admiral and the Zebra Longwing; and lab, hobbyist, and butterfly-house escapees can be called “accidentals,” probably including the recent Atlas Moth found in Bellevue and a cluster of Queens at Tri-Cities. Fortunately, these last two categories usually prove ephemeral. But when species non-native to North America become established, we called them “introduced” or “naturalized.” We have two of these, the Cabbage White and the European Skipperling. All our other species, resident or visitor, are considered “native,” or “indigenous”.

And then there are Nabokov’s 15%: the species that arrive with us annually or less, either in numbers or as ones and twos, that are part of a general northward diaspora undertaken by that species in the early southern spring. These



Buckeye. (M. Weiss)

movements vary greatly in strength and reach depending on both weather and climate as well as traveling conditions and other factors. They tend to leap-frog or hop-scotch in repeating, rapid generations, flying close to the ground and exploiting the wind, and very often following watercourses and other way-routes north, in a process known as *saltation*. Rivers and roadsides are frequently where their weedy hostplants and nectar sources are to be found. I consider the best terms for these incomers to be “immigrants,” for obvious reasons, and “irruptives,” because they burst out of their subtropical or temperate headquarters in a population explosion or mass movement known by biogeographers as an *irruption*. Some of these irruptions, such as those of Snout butterflies and giant sulphurs, can be truly dramatic, involving millions of individuals over days of passage.

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Others are much more subtle—a barely noticed ripple of tiny butterflies over the landscape, building up as they go. These butterflies do not possess a winter diapause, though they can be quite cold-tolerant and last up to serious frosts, and they are generally one-way affairs, as far as we know (though recent radar imaging has revealed much more return flight for Painted Ladies than we had ever imagined). We should note that there are also mass movements among the residents, such as the well-documented (Pelham and James) altitudinal shifts of Coronis Fritillaries, and the unpredictable blast-outs of California Tortoiseshells. These comprise a different subject.



Western Pygmy Blue. (M. Weiss)

It so happens that, as I write, we find ourselves at the very climax of one of the most spectacular instances of irruptive arrival in the history of Washington butterfly study. Back in the fall of 2004, following a tip from Neil Bjorkland and a challenge from Andy Warren, I sought and found the first Pygmy Blue recorded in the state (see *G'num* 12 (1) February 2011). Only a couple had been spotted since...until early this September, when birder Chris Linsey photographed one along the Walla Walla River, Mike Denny passed on the news, and a flood of observations followed. David James conducted a field trip on which dozens of observers spotted and photo'd hundreds of individuals flashing their tiny brilliants around their beloved Russian Thistle (aka tumbleweed). D. James has monitored them since, expecting them to crash with the weather around Halloween. This has been a true phenom, greatly raising interest in our immigrants.

So, who are they, and what is their M.O.? Why would they come all this way, only to die off in the cold? Please understand that much of what can be said on this score is only informed speculation, since we seldom possess definitive data and must rely on likelihood. This involves human judgment, so reasonable people are bound to arrive at different conclusions (as RMP and JPP certainly have on some of these issues and species!). My criterion is that if we possess one or more verified, reliable records for a species in the state, and if it is a known, regular irruptive with any known appearances in adjacent or nearby states or provinces, then I count it as such here as well. So here we go:

- Northern White Skipper: Might or might not be resident, known to emigrate out of the South. Showed impressive numbers in certain locations in Washington this year.
- Common Checkered Skipper: Long assumed to be resident, but considered an annual immigrant in the Northeast. Do we know for certain about the Intermountain West?
- Sachem Skipper: Was an irruptive arrival in the nineties; likely resident now—see below.
- Checkered White: rare immigrant, possibly increasing, a cluster of sightings in 2022.
- Orange Sulphur: Dr. Orley Taylor, migration specialist, considers it an annual arrival in the North, with no winter diapause. Invades the high country from the eastern alfalfa fields in summer, then down into western Washington each summer and fall.
- Dainty Sulphur: major northward thrust each year from TX/MX/AZ/SoCal, mostly into the Rockies and Midwest, with some reaching the corners. I found the first in WA in 1975, seven fresh males on Snake/Grand Ronde rivers in Asotin Co. None since, but others in region that year. Long-term study suggests close fidelity to river systems in movements.
- Pygmy Blue: see above. Major movement elsewhere in the West this year as well.
- Reakirt's Blue: One pair caught near Ellensburg in 1993 by Joe Albright. A well-known annual irruptive through much of the interior West, almost as small and easy to miss as Pygmy.
- Variegated Fritillary: Regular and major annual emigrant from subtropical Americas into Rockies and beyond. J. Bauman and C. Rogers had the first WA sight records, RMP caught a voucher in Okanogan Co, in 2017.
- Buckeye: common immigrant in S. Oregon, several recent sightings and photos in Washington; famed irruptive species on both coasts.
- Painted Ladies: All four species probably immigrate each spring, in wildly varying numbers, from road-blocking to nearly none, with also varying survivorship in milder winters.
- California Sister: occasional visitor; as with many immigrants may breed before dying back, but no records of it.
- Monarch: our one actual annual *migrant*, well documented each year by D. James.



Dainty Sulphur, aka Dwarf Yellow. (I. Ulsh)



Common Checkered Skipper. (M. Weiss)

If all these are in fact visitors, and doubtless I have missed others, that would be about 10 % of our known fauna. The number is higher farther south and central, and along the East Coast; at Cape May, New Jersey, the autumn butterfly movement can be almost as impressive as that of the birds. Naturally, fewer venturers reach the far corners of the country than the Heartland.

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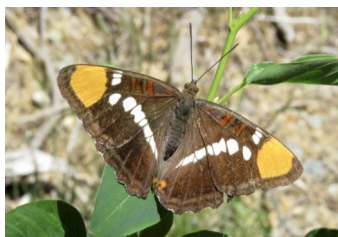
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Exciting to me, as a biogeographer, is the question: what further species might we record presenting their credentials at our state line? Among the regular irruptives that point in our direction and might fetch up here eventually are: the Mexican Yellow, the Sleepy and Tailed Oranges, the Cloudless Giant Sulphur, the Marine Blue, the Great Purple Hairstreak, and the Snout. These and others are regular movers elsewhere in the West and might well appear.

Any discussion of immigrants raises the question, how can we be sure a species overwinters or not? And the only answer is, short of finding them in midwinter in one stage or another, we cannot. Even early spring appearance sightings do not prove overwintering, as the exodus from the South can begin in late winter and progress remarkably fast, when weather, nectar, moisture, winds, and other factors are all favorable. Merrill Peterson and others will be trying to determine whether Pygmy Blues will remain with us this winter or not, after so many arrived. Though they have never been shown to overwinter north of San Francisco Bay, to my knowledge, and that fitfully, it is certainly possible, if the '22-'23 winter is mild in Walla Walla. But it is difficult to demonstrate. Scanning the always-increasing iNaturalist reports can suggest whether they are showing up to the south of here or not. But keep in mind: the expanse of territory these insects are navigating is absolutely vast, they are minute, and observers are few and far between. So, it's a classic case of collecting bias: and, as every beginning biogeographer knows, *absence of evidence does NOT suggest evidence of absence*.

So why DO they do it? Why leave the nice warm South, to face cold winds and rain for mile after bleak mile over the vast American land, only to endure a frosty end for your grandchildren in the frigid North? BECAUSE all species always try to push the edges of their ranges, a little or a lot. And while specialists need to keep quite close to home for their particular needs to be met, generalists such as our immigrants—with many weedy hostplants and high reproductive capacity—can afford to absorb a lot of loss along the way. If they manage to expand their year-round range just a little, it will all be worth it. They are betting on the come, as they say in Vegas: you might not have what you want right now, but you are hoping you will when you really need it. Or in Darwinian terms, natural selection will pay off with a jackpot under the right conditions. That's why!

And what are the right conditions? Climate change, for one. In a time of warming climate, species that push the boundaries will be well situated to benefit over time. And, of course, that's where we are right now. While warming trends may push our rare arctics off the mountain tops, they should favor all of these irruptive species, both by permitting them to survive farther and farther north, and in some cases actually to evolve a winter diapause. We have observed this transition in the Sachem skipper. A well-known immigrant in the West for decades, it made its appearance in the Willamette Valley in the mid-60s, Portland in 1986, Vancouver, Washington in 1990, and in Spokane county just this year. And through the research of Lisa Crozier, largely in the Tri-Cities, we know that it has not only followed (even preceded) the warmer temperatures north, but also adapted to overwintering in colder climes—graduating from immigrant to bona fide resident status. Who knows? Maybe Merrill will discover that the Pygmy Blue will be the next such winner.



California Sister. (M. Weiss)

As average temperatures rise even more, we are bound to see an increase in these movements. I predict that we will have additional sightings of each of the irruptive species named above; that they were not "accidentals," but vanguards—advance signs of things to come, showing the art of the possible for these creatures elegantly adapted to take advantage of change. The time will come when Pygmy Blues and Dwarf Yellows are regular members of our fauna, even if Asotin County is largely uninhabitable for humans by then.

Meanwhile, I urge all Washington butterflyers and birders-gone-bad to take themselves down out of the lush mountain meadows and out to the rabbitbrush edges, the tumbleweed hedges, and other uninviting barrens and wastes along our long southern border; and to keep both eyes out for unfamiliar butterflies busting out from their southern realms, up into our latitudes. You just might spot the signs of things to come.

NOTE: None of the rhetoric in this piece is meant to imply any political comparison with humans, though the shared terminology makes such assumptions almost inevitable. Humans cannot fly, and for them, unlike for butterflies, a border is a very real thing.



Checkered White. (R. Johnson)



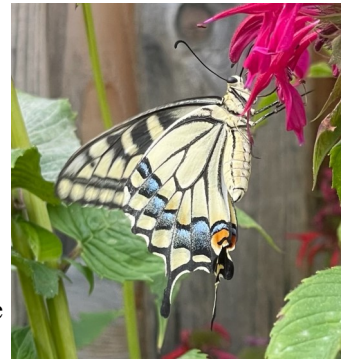
American Lady. (Patrick Coin)

Species Profile: Oregon Swallowtail by Cheryl Bellin

Hill Topping Quandary on Lewis Butte

Photos by Cheryl Bellin.

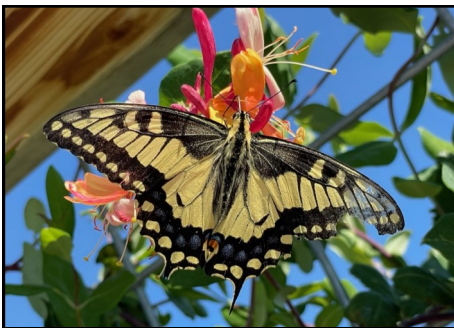
Oregon Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*, ranges from central to eastern Washington but has rarely been observed in the upper Methow valley. On many occasions I've looked at Anise Swallowtails, *P. zelicaon*, trying to find a *P. machaon*. Dale Swedberg led a Sinlahekin Wildlife Area field trip in July 2021, east of the Methow. There, I finally saw my first *P. machaon* in a grassy meadow near Connors Lake. Ever notice once you observe a butterfly, you can finally see what the field guides are talking about?



Oregon Swallowtail, with yellow abdomen.

P. machaon and *zelicaon* can be differentiated by features listed in the table below (see also Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest, <http://northwestbutterflies.blogspot.com/2015/05/species-profile-swallowtails.html>). The yellow abdomen is prominent on *P. machaon* as is the yellow dusting on the leading edge of the forewing. Close inspection shows the pupil or bar uncentered on *P. machaon* while centered in *P. zelicaon*. See photos.

<i>P. machaon</i>	<i>P. zelicaon</i>
Yellow abdomen with thin black stripes on top and sides along its length	Black abdomen with yellow side stripes along its length
Brighter and more yellow on elongated FW	Butter yellow on mostly black shorter FW
Black pupil, bar or spot at the bottom of red, not centered	Round black centered pupil surrounded by red
Yellow dusting over black on the leading edge of the DFW	DFW leading edge mostly black



Oregon on left, Anise on right. Note yellow dusting on Oregon, and the position of the eyespots on the hind wings.

July 25, 2022, after a morning of gardening, I had time for a quick trip to Lewis Butte in Winthrop, WA. I was hoping to see some hill topping skippers. It was 80ish degrees at the start of my walk with water bottle in my pack and net in hand. Given the temperatures and late start I had the trail to myself. Along the way I noted 2-3 Wood Nymph species, Behr's Hair-streak, Western Branded Skipper, and Western Whites flying about and nectaring on the few remaining Yarrow and Tall Buckwheat in bloom. I thought about turning around given the heat and limited butterfly nectar sources but I was hoping the hill toppers would be worth the 2.5 mile one way, 900' hike. On top, I looked closely at many skippers which were all Western Branded, *Hesperia colorado*. As my focus switched to the swallowtails flying about, I thought them to be the more common, frequently hilltopping, *P. zelicaon*. One however, landed briefly enough to see brighter yellow on the wings and a mostly yellow body. Could it be a *P. machaon*? It's subtle but *P. machaon* is slightly larger. It was a good thing I had Lewis Butte to myself. I was not putting on a good netting demonstration. Thankfully my target landed just long enough to get a quick cell phone photo and I surely thought it *P. machaon*. On top of the butte, I had cell signal and sent it Jon Pelham to ensure the photograph was sufficient to verify the observation. He was skeptical but intrigued by the image. He started texting features mentioned

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The Pygmy Blue October Surprise by David James

On September 4, Chris Lindsey photographed a very small brown-blue butterfly near Highway 12 in Walla Walla County. Excitingly, it turned out to be an individual of the smallest butterfly species in North America, the Western Pygmy Blue!

The Western Pygmy Blue (*Brephidium exilis*) was added to the list of Washington butterflies back in 2004, when Bob Pyle found it on the WA side of the Columbia River in Benton County. However, prior to this year, there had only been a handful of records in WA, all close to the Columbia.

As I write in late October, Pygmy Blues have been found in at least 25 locations along the Columbia, Snake and Yakima Rivers as far north as Horn Rapids, more than 30 miles from the OR/WA state border. Currently, there are 34 reports with photos of WA pygmies on the iNaturalist web site and Caitlin LaBar and Jon Pelham have had more than 70 sightings reported to them!

There has been a remarkable explosion of interest in this minutest of butterflies not only from lepidopterists but also ornithologists, botanists and Audubon Society members. In other words, naturalists of all persuasions have joined ranks to find and record this butterfly. A remarkable event indeed! The Pygmy invasion even attracted the attention of the Tri-Cities Herald and NPR who both provided excellent coverage.

Most sightings have occurred in the Tri-Cities area in degraded habitats where tumbleweeds (Russian Thistle) and rabbitbrush are common. The former is a caterpillar host plant and the latter is an important nectar source for all October butterflies in eastern WA.

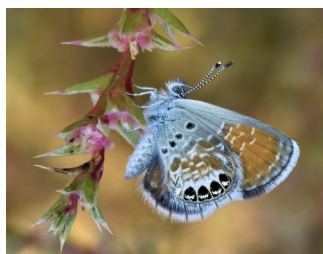
Most Pygmy Blue sites have small populations, less than a dozen individuals, but when I became aware of one site that apparently had a population of hundreds, I knew it was time for an October surprise WBA ‘flash’ field trip.

So, with just a week’s notice, 20 WBA members and a few Tri-Cities botanists and birders, gathered on Friday October 7 near the Yakima River west of Richland. I boldly guaranteed that we would see Pygmy Blues! Such is the draw of this miniscule butterfly that we had people from Seattle and Portland drive many miles to join us!

The Pygmy Blues did not disappoint! They could be seen flitting in their dozens over tumbleweeds in the parking lot, before we even got out of our cars. One tumbleweed in particular, located adjacent to a porta-potty, was the champion in the Pygmy Blue attraction stakes, with maybe 20 or more!

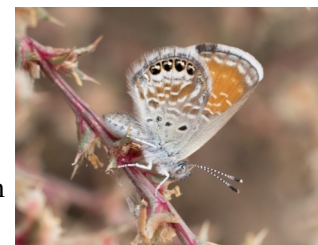
It was a remarkable sight: a dozen or more butterfly people all gathered around a porta-potty with cameras and binoculars looking for this wisp of a butterfly.

W. Pygmy Blue. (D. James)



Now that November is here and winter beckons, what is the future for this tiniest of butterflies in Washington? The Pygmy Blue is a species that extends its range north every summer, then contracts in the winter to more southerly climes. It does not have an overwintering stage with a diapause as all resident Washington butterflies have.

Although it is conceivable Pygmy Blues could survive a mild Washington winter especially in a warmer microclimate near a river, it is unlikely to establish itself as a year-round resident anytime soon. However, it may well become a more frequent late summer/autumn visitor to Washington as its overwintering range extends further north and WA summers be-



Western Pygmy Blue
female. (Liz Kuehn)

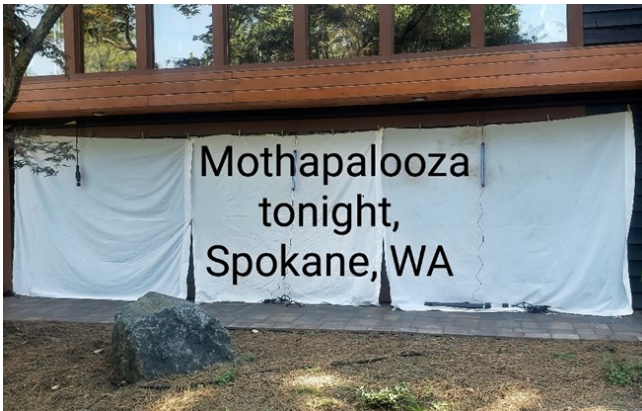


Site of the champion Pygmy Blue
viewing spot. (M. Weiss)

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Moth Report 2022

'Mothman' Carl Barrentine participated in 4 public mothing events during 2022. These include the WBA Field Trip to Dayton, Washington (15 July) and three Spokane area events: a National Moth Week event (29-30 July), a Mothapalooza event (01 September), and an Dishman Hills Conservancy-sponsored Autumnal Equinox Eve Mothing event (21 September). Note: The Spokane County Moth Tally for 2022, the fifth year of inventorying eastern Washington moths is on-track to exceed 515 species this year.



Trip Report: North Cascades Visitor Center/ Newhalem Campground by Melanie Weiss

WBA members led by David Droppers met at the North Cascades Visitor Center/ Newhalem Campground for a June 1 field trip. We were greeted upon arrival by a freshly eclosed moth, *Aplectoides condita*, resting on the side of a map board. It seemed like a good omen for the day ahead. Along a trail leading down to the Skagit River, David pointed out that some of the western hemlock trees were parasitized by hemlock dwarf mistletoe, *Arceuthobium tsugense*. According to the Forest Service, hemlock dwarf mistletoe infests 21% of the western and mountain hemlock trees in the Pacific Northwest. Trees infested with mistletoe often have deformed branching patterns, called “witch’s brooms”, and were easy to spot once we knew what to look for. We were advised to be particularly alert in this area, as mistletoe is the food plant for the elusive Johnson’s Hairstreak. As vigilant as we were, unfortunately, the species remains undetected at this location. Given that we had a late spring this year, David suggested that we were probably too early for the Johnson’s if they were in the area. And he added that just because we didn’t see this species, it doesn’t mean that they are not present in the area. On our visit the Visitor’s Center and roadsides, rather than trails, had more flowering plants and were the most productive areas for butterflies. Eleven species were detected including the Satyr Comma, Green Comma and Hoary Comma. Dreamy Duskywing was the most common butterfly for the day, and we all enjoyed seeing them in such abundance. A Persius Duskywing was seen, a new county record! Cedar Hairstreak and Gray Hairstreak were also present. A red-breasted sapsucker delighted everyone, along with the hole-boring handiwork in the trees. A grand day was had by all. The stunning scenery in the area was an added bonus and, along with butterflies, placed this location on my 2022 favorite new sites list.



Green Comma.

All photos by Melanie Weiss.



Aplectoides condita



Perseus Duskywing.



Dreamy Duskywing.

Field Trip Season Comes to an “Uplifting” Close

Melanie Weiss

WBA’s field trip season ended with a trip to subalpine areas on Crystal Mountain and included a stunning gondola ride. 15 WBA members led by me and Regina Johnson left the gray skies of our westside cities behind and arrived to blue sky and a temperature of around 60 degrees. The enclosed gondolas carried our group up 2,500 ft. to an elevation of 6,800 ft. and an in-your-face view of Mt. Rainier. The summer sun soon warmed the area, and butterflies emerged in good numbers. Yarrow, pearly everlasting and Cascade aster were the common nectar sources. Subalpine daisy, fireweed and several buckwheats were also present. Clark’s Nutcrackers and Canada Jays put in appearances. Our enthusiastic group readily shared netted butterflies and information as we made our way along the trail. 14 species were detected including a large number of *Coronis Fritillaries* poised to return to the shrub steppe for egg laying. Also present were Mormon and Hydaspe Fritillaries. Flashes of blue along the trail delighted some of the newer members as they learned that the male Anna’s Blue has a blue dorsal, while the female’s dorsal is brown with orange scallops or chevrons along the marginal edges. Several Milbert’s Tortoiseshells were seen nectaring on a large patch of pearly everlasting. And a very worn Hedgerow Hairstreak was netted. It was grand end to the butterfly season.

We were delighted to have Al Wagar join us on this trip. Once again we have one of his creative video recaps of a WBA trip. Video link: <https://youtu.be/gpPO-nlw9IM>



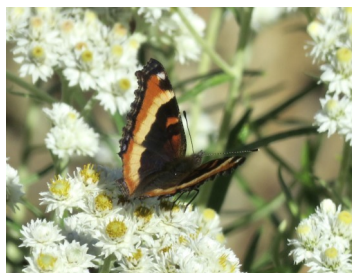
Blue Copper. (M. Weiss)



Fritillary party on Pearly Everlasting. (M. Weiss)



Anna's Blue. (M. Weiss)



Milbert's Tortoiseshell. (M. Weiss)



Halfmoon Hairstreak. (R. Johnson)



Lori, Lori, and Mary (one of two). R. Johnson



Lori, Carolyn, Stewart and Al. (R. Johnson)

(Continued from page 7)

come warmer and longer.

I will be monitoring the porta-potty population of Pygmies for the remainder of the fall then will check the location in spring to see if any did actually survive the winter. Perhaps we will be able to have another field trip in 2023, if you missed out on seeing this princely pygmy butterfly!

(Continued from page 6)

above. Yellow body... Yellow dusting... Yes, I “know”. I was hoping to document it “was” *P. machaon*, so I sweated it out in the heat for another half hour, spinning this way and that trying to get a bead on one of them or hoping one would land again. I finally was able to net, photograph, confirm and end Jon’s suspense. Next time, I’ll arrive a bit earlier, take a second bottle of water and possibly bring a second netter, photographer to help. Little did I know then, that Oregon Swallowtails would show up at my home on 3 occasions later in the season (August 7, 19, and 29). I’m still looking nearby for the host plant Wild Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*) which is found on Methow Valley hillslopes further south.

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