

The Kentucky Lepidopterist

The Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

Volume 48, Number 2, October 2022



Dr. Glenn Crisler photographing one of his first *Speyeria diana* butterflies. (See page 4)



Announcements

2022 Annual Meeting

November 4-5, 2022

University of Kentucky

(See Page 2 for details)

WANTED (Articles/Pictures)

Don't be shy, please send me anything you have no matter how short or insignificant you may think it is!

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KY Record of the *Cydosia aurivitta* [Pg. 4](#)

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2022 SKL Annual Meeting Schedule

Friday, 4 November

9:00-4:00 pm: Insect Museum, Dimock Animal Pathology Building, Building #76, 1081 Veterans DR, Lexington, KY. A campus map can be found here: <https://maps.uky.edu/campusmap/>. The Insect Collection will be open for viewing. Members can bring specimens for identification or to share with others. This is a good time to interact with members and catch up on the collecting activities. Parking on campus is restricted on weekdays so make sure you don't park in a lot that requires a pass. Parking for a small fee is available in the UK Health Care Garage, 110 Transcript AVE.

6:00 pm: Our traditional "Gathering of Lepidopterists" in the Seay Auditorium Lobby of Agricultural Science Center North Building, Building #91, 1100 S Limestone. Food and drinks will be provided, and this year we are not allowed to bring food from home.

Saturday, 5 November

9:00-12:00 pm: Insect Museum, Dimock Animal Pathology Building. A continuation of activities from Friday. The insect collection will be open for viewing.

10:00 am: SKL Board Meeting.

1:00-2:00 pm: SKL Business Meeting, Room N-12 Agricultural Science Center North. The business meeting is open to all SKL members.

2:00-3:00 pm: Keynote Speaker, Dr. Richard L. Brown, "How females of Lepidoptera are courted by males - hair pencils, androconia, and other sex scales."

3:00-5:00 pm: Contributed talks, award presentations, and door prize drawing.

Dr. Glenn Crisler II, "Butterfly Defenses."

Dr. James Adams, "*Dinumma deponens*: updates on the saga of this moth in the U.S."

See you there!!

Kentucky Record of the *Cydosia aurivitta* (Gold Banded Cydosia)

Dr. Glenn B. Crisler II

Kentucky is home to many distinct habitats including bottomland swamps, Appalachian forests, glades, prairies, wetlands, rivers, and caves. Each of these habitats hosts its own unique flora and fauna.¹ According to the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, there are some 2,900 plant species documented in the state as of 2018. These species of flora support the biodiversity of the state in many ways.²

Lepidoptera depend on these plants in a very unique way. Many are monophagous (dependent on a singular type of host plant to support their life cycle). As a result- ecologists have long recognized the monitoring of lepidoptera as a quick way to assess an ecosystem's overall health.³

This also means that many lepidoptera species of note can be observed in Kentucky (143 butterfly species, and 2,493 moth species as of 2018).^{4,5} In many cases, noteworthy plants correspond with noteworthy lepidoptera finds.

I was recently invited by Raymond Little on 12 June 2022, to tour a portion of the Daniel Boone National Forest (DBNF), as I was in quest to observe a specific lepidoptera species. We met in the town of Stearns and navigated our way through narrow windy roads to our destination. Along our way, I noticed Indian Pinks growing wild on the roadside (a plant not noted in Ohio, the state in which I reside).



Kentucky Record of the *Cydosia aurivitta* (Gold Banded Cydosia)

(Continued)

Although these flowers caught my attention, it was not an opportune time stop. Residents who frequent this area are accustomed to navigating the narrow and unforgiving hairpin turns, and therefore do so at high rates of speed- making this a bad location to temporarily pull off. After a productive day of 'lepp-ing' in the DBNF- we passed by the stand of flowers once more. Unable to resist, I decided to jump out the vehicle, take a photograph, and walk back to where the truck (and Raymond) were waiting at a safer location. After taking an initial plant photo, I noticed a most unusual caterpillar munching on the Indian Pink's petals. This caterpillar is depicted in Figure 1. This serendipitous discovery turned out to be a gold-banded cydosia- a state record for Kentucky, and one of the northernmost records of a moth whose usual range is localized and somewhat confined to Texas.^{6,7}

Apart from the singular specimen noted in Johnson County, IL (2020)- the Kentucky record discussed here is the northernmost documentation of this species to date.⁶ Figures 2 and 3 show range maps of records for *Cydosia aurivitta* as submitted to (1) BAMONA and (2) iNaturalist respectively.

Happy Lepp-ing!

Glenn Crisler II



Observation date: Jun 12, 2022

Submitted by: chemglenn

Region: McCreary County, Kentucky, United States

Verified by: CA Ivy

Verified date: Jun 17, 2022

Figure 1. Kentucky State Record of a Gold Banded *Cydosia aurivitta* Caterpillar eating petals of Indian Pinks (*Spigelia marilandica*).

Kentucky Record of the *Cydosia aurivitta* (Gold Banded *Cydosia*)

(Continued)

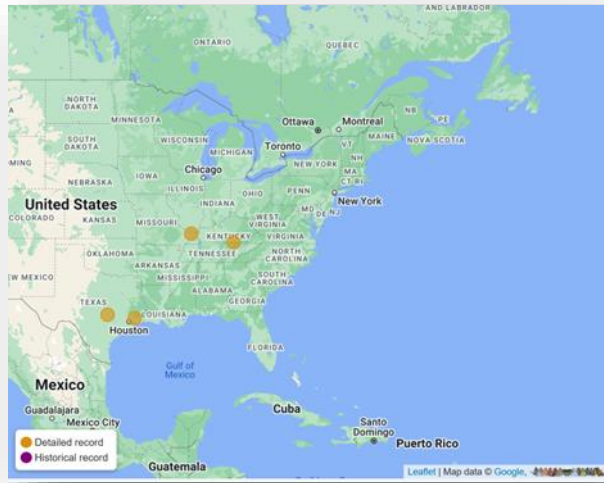


Figure 2. Documented Sightings of *Cydosia aurivitta* in BAMONA

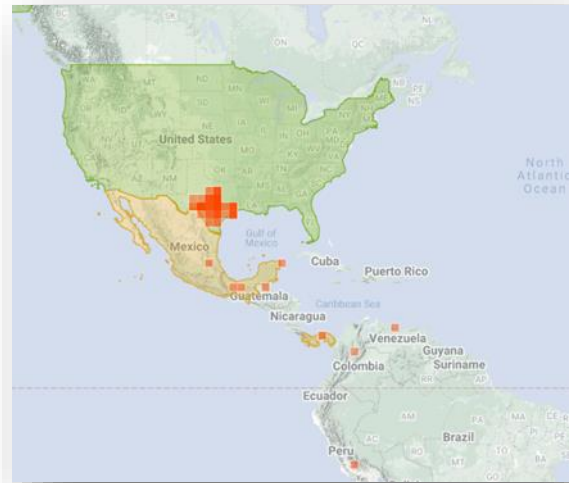


Figure 3. Documented Sightings of *Cydosia aurivitta* in iNaturalist

Works Cited

- (1) Abernathy, G.; White, D.; Laudermilk, E. L.; Evans, M. *Kentucky's Natural Heritage: An Illustrated Guide to Biodiversity*; University Press of Kentucky, 2016.
- (2) *Rare Plant Conservation and Recovery - Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet*. <https://eec.ky.gov/Nature-Preserves/biodiversity/Pages/Rare-Plant-Program.aspx> (accessed 2022-09-15).
- (3) Hilty, J.; Merenlender, A. Faunal Indicator Taxa Selection for Monitoring Ecosystem Health. *Biological Conservation* **2000**, 92 (2), 185–197. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0006-3207\(99\)00052-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0006-3207(99)00052-X).
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- (5) *Regional Species Checklists | Butterflies and Moths of North America*. https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/checklists?species_type=0&tid=45191 (accessed 2022-09-15).
- (6) *Straight-lined Cydosia Moth Cydosia aurivitta (Grote & Robinson, 1868) | Butterflies and Moths of North America*. <https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Cydosia-aurivitta> (accessed 2022-09-16).
- (7) *North American Moth Photographers Group, Cydosia Aurivitta*.
- (8) *Straight-lined Cydosia Moth (Cydosia aurivitta)*. iNaturalist Luxembourg. <https://inaturalist.lu/taxa/143855-Cydosia-aurivitta> (accessed 2022-09-16).

In Search of Hairstreaks

Tony Merkle

Every year when the month of June arrives and spring begins to give way to summer, I start to look for the tell-tale signs that the hairstreak butterflies in the genus *Satyrium* have emerged and are actively flying about. As you may well be aware, the species in that genus that occur in our state each have only one brood per year all of which generally last about two weeks and occur together in the late spring to early summertime period. In the northern part where I live the flight time is typically right around the middle of June but may begin somewhat earlier or later depending upon the particular year and I suppose the prevailing conditions occurring in it. You may wonder what signs I rely upon to determine whether their emergence has likely occurred. Well, there are several but those that are most significant to me are: 1) the appearance of other butterfly species that fly at about the same time as do these hairstreaks and 2) the development of blooms on the plants favored by them for securing nectar. In particular, the one butterfly species whose appearance serves as a good indicator that the “hairstreak season” is near is the Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*). Because this is a large, showy species that is common throughout the state, whose flight period generally begins about a week or two before that of the *Satyrium* hairstreaks, it is a great species to use as an indicator of their pending appearance.

Regarding the plants favored by these butterflies for securing nectar, there are four species of herbaceous flowering plants that in my experience seem to be especially attractive to them. They are: Hemp Dogbane/Indian Hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*), Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Butterfly Weed/Orange Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). Each seems to have its own appealing aspects and may display them to a greater or lesser degree in any given year but again in my experience, all are generally good at attracting these butterflies and should be considered when one goes in search of them. Of course, there are other species of plants that will attract them as well and any that are blooming at about the time, they are suspected of being active are worth checking-out but the four I've mentioned here, especially when present in relatively concentrated numbers, are the ones that I've personally found to be consistently good at attracting them.



Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*) Photo by Tony Merkle

In Search of Hairstreaks (Continued)

This particular year was no exception regarding my anticipation of the hairstreak season. The only problem was that, like every June, for me it would be extremely busy. Indeed, this one promised to be even busier than normal especially given the fact that our family vacation was scheduled smack-dab in the middle of the month from the thirteenth through the eighteenth. For this and various other reasons, I didn't have high expectations for being able to carve-out some time to get into the field to search for these often-elusive creatures. Nevertheless, as the month progressed, I monitored the situation regarding the appearance of various butterfly species including the Great Spangled Fritillary and the bloom progression of those commonly used nectar sources and noticed that they seemed to be running somewhat later than usual. With that realization, my hopes for being able to get out and find them following my vacation trip increased. "Maybe they'll still be flying for a while after I get back from vacation" I thought, and then continued with, "and maybe I'll be able to go out to look for them one day shortly thereafter." Well, as you may have guessed by now, I did indeed manage one day to go looking for them and thankfully had reasonably good luck in finding a few of the species that are typically able to be seen in our state.

The day that I went searching was Thursday the 23rd of June. It was sunny and warm with a high temperature in the middle to upper eighties. While such conditions might have been welcomed by many, I must say that for me they were not ideal. As one primarily interested in photographing natural subjects I prefer "soft" lighting conditions created by partly to mostly cloudy skies that result in relatively low contrast, evenly lit images. However, since it appeared that it would be perhaps the only opportunity I'd have to go in search of the hairstreaks, I decided to take advantage of it in spite of the apparent drawbacks. And while the situation was not ideal for photography with the unfiltered sun creating harsh, heavily contrasted conditions of light and shadow, it did bode well for giving me good chances of seeing the desired subjects since there would be plenty of warmth available with little or no moisture present from rain or heavy dew all of which would allow them to remain dry and move about freely. So off I went to see what sort of creatures awaited me. My chosen destination was Kleber Wildlife Management Area in north central Kentucky. My reason for choosing it was mostly because it has good habitat for many of the species that I was interested in seeing, is relatively close to my home and has produced good results in my searches for hairstreaks there in the past.

Thankfully, my efforts were rewarded with a fairly good day. While I would have liked to have seen more species, I did manage to see three in the genus *Satyrium* including the Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus falacer*), the Striped Hairstreak (*Satyrium liparops strigosa*) and the Coral Hairstreak (*Satyrium titus titus*). Of those, the species of which I saw the most individuals by far was, as one might expect, the Banded Hairstreak. I observed literally dozens of them mostly seeking nectar from the flowers of Common Milkweed where it grew in patches in the lower elevations of the management area close to the creek that runs through it. The Coral Hairstreak, while not nearly as common as the Banded, also presented itself in good numbers. I saw about a half dozen of them all seeking nectar on the flowers of Butterfly Weed (aka Orange Milkweed) at the higher elevations of the management area near the tops of the hills.

In Search of Hairstreaks (Continued)

And finally, I observed only one individual of the Stripped Hairstreak perched on a leaf at the edge of a clearing leading up a hillside. So again, it was a pretty good day for me. I was able to see several of the species that I was hoping to see and altogether observed twenty-one species of butterflies and skippers that I was able to identify all of which were ones that one might expect to find in that place at that time of the year. They were as follows:

Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*)
 Northern Cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*)
 Horace's Duskywing (*Erynnis horatius*)
 Wild Indigo Duskywing (*Erynnis baptisiae*)
 Crossline Skipper (*Polites origines*)
 Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)
 Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*)
 Coral Hairstreak (*Satyrium titus titus*)
 Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus falacer*)
 Striped Hairstreak (*Satyrium liparops strigosa*)
 Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*)
 Eastern Tailed-blue (*Cupido comyntas*)
 Summer Azure (*Celastrina neglecta*)
 Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
 Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*)
 Hackberry Emperor (*Asterocampa celtis*)
 Eastern Comma (*Polygona comma*)
 Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*)
 Northern Pearly-eye (*Lethe anhedon*)
 Carolina Satyr (*Hermeuptychia sosybius*)
 Common Wood-Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala alope*)



Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus falacer*) Photo
by Tony Merkle

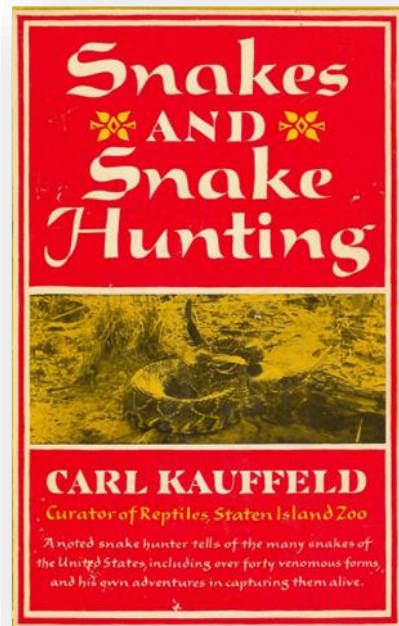
So, while I encountered nothing particularly uncommon or rare, it was nevertheless nice to be able to get out and look for the *Satyrium* hairstreaks and whatever else I could find. I look forward to doing so again next year and for many years to come during the hairstreak season. It's always fun to see what will show up and is especially so when it includes several species of these sometimes-elusive creatures.

“Huachuca Heaven”

Retracing the Steps of a Twentieth Century Herpetologist and Discovering a Nineteenth Century Entomologist

Raymond Little

As a child in the early 90s, I read Herpetologist Carl Kauffeld's 1957 book, *Snakes and Snake Hunting*. Inside, I found myself fascinated by a chapter titled “Huachuca Heaven” which details Kauffeld's 1941 quest to find what he referred to as the “Willard's Rattlesnake”, currently recognized as the Arizona ridge-nosed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus willardi willardi*). From that day, I have longed to travel to the Hauchuca Mountains in the since created Coronado National Forest, to retrace his steps and see what he described. Finally, at age 44 I found myself turning onto Carr Canyon Road and soon ascending the multiple switchbacks into Arizona's Huachuca Mountains. Kauffeld referred to the Huachuca's as a herpetological “Holy Land”. He wasn't wrong.



My primary goal was to find and photograph the Arizona ridge-nosed rattlesnake (*Crotalus willardi willardi*) and the twin-spotted rattlesnake (*Crotalus pricei*), both listed species in Arizona. Although more common in Mexico, the range of these two small montane rattlesnake species extends into the United States in southeastern Arizona's “Sky Islands” region. The Arizona ridge-nosed rattlesnake is known to inhabit elevations between approximately 5,400'- 7,500' and the twin-spotted rattlesnake 8,000'-10,000'. To add to the difficulty in finding these rattlesnakes, I was not going to lift rocks to search for them due to their protected status, which meant I would have to find them in the open to get a photograph before they retreated into hiding. My secondary goal was to locate the historic Healy Ranch in Carr Canyon, where Kauffeld stayed during his collecting expeditions in the area.



“Huachuca Heaven”

(Continued)

Setting up Camp at Ramsey Vista Campground, which also serves as a trailhead for Carr Peak and Hamburg Mine, I began looking for rattlesnakes. The first morning, I began hiking to Carr Peak (Elevation 9,237') hoping to see a twin-spotted rattlesnake. I quickly found myself struggling with the 8,000' plus elevation, which I blamed on the fact that I was still recovering from the after-effects of COVID-19 and not the fact that I was out of shape. Yarrow's spiny lizards (*Sceloporus jarrovi*), which Kauffeld referred to as Yarrow's swifts, were as abundant on the trail as Kauffeld had described in 1941. These lizards are a known prey item for the twin-spotted rattlesnakes, but as I climbed in elevation, I was soon met by cloudy skies, wind, and cool temperatures, not good

Finally reaching the summit of Carr Peak, I felt accomplished and took in the 360 view, which I knew couldn't be captured or truly appreciated in a photograph, but that didn't deter me from taking plenty of photos. Although no snakes, I found myself amazed by the multiple vegetation changes, beautiful wildflowers, and then even more so by a gorgeous butterfly, an Arizona Sister (*Adelpha eulalia*), which I didn't know existed until I had laid eyes on it!

The following day I hiked to the Hamburg Mine in Ramsey Canyon, the type locality for the Arizona ridge-nosed rattlesnake, first “documented” by Frank C. Willard in 1905. Descending, I walked through some very promising habitat which yielded my first Arizona alligator lizard (*Elgaria kingii*). When these lizards are on the move, their legs seem to disappear and with their long tails, give the appearance of a snake pouring over the rocks. After crossing a small stream, I approached a large patch of American basketflowers (*Plectrocephalus americanus*) with approximately 12-15 white-lined sphinx (*Hyles lineata*) making their way from flower to flower like hummingbirds.



“Huachuca Heaven”

(Continued)

Soon I arrived at Comfort Spring, which consists of a boxed in spring surrounded by semi-open grassland. The Yarrow’s spiny lizards were especially abundant along the trail and by the time I had reached Hamburg I had counted 34. Despite some excellent looking habitat, no snakes of any kind were observed, and I started the ascent back to camp. I was discouraged but remembered that Kauffeld saw no snakes on his first hike to Hamburg Mine.



Yarrow’s spiny lizard (*Sceloporus jarrovi*)

In fact, Kauffeld had incredibly low expectations in finding an Arizona ridge-nosed rattlesnake. He was fully aware that Howard K. Gloyd, with the Chicago Academy of Sciences (CAS), had made several visits to the Huachuca Mountains, as recent as 1940, without finding one of these rattlesnakes. In Gloyd’s account of the CAS Offield-Beaty Expedition in May-June 1940, he wrote the following about this rattlesnake: “To date, my own efforts to collect this snake seem to have been under the auspices of an evil jinn. Literally, I think I have spent more time and lost more pounds in pursuit of this herpetological will-o’-the-wisp than in hunting for any other single species. Why this particular jinx should attach itself to me I can not reason out; but I am not a philosopher”. To add insult to injury on Gloyd’s 1940 expedition, Donald Lowery, an entomologist, returned to camp from collecting spiders near Hamburg Mine, with a live ridge-nosed rattlesnake in a tied cloth bag, to which Gloyd wrote “There ain’t no justice.”

After breaking camp, I descended the mountain in search of the Healy Ranch described by Kauffeld. I stopped at the historic Carr House and met Interpretive Host, Michael Foster. Michael explained that this location was in fact the Healy Ranch and pointed to an interpretive display about Major John and Ila Healy. Their house no longer stood, removed by the U.S. Forest Service after they acquired the land in the 1970’s, but the foundation was still visible a couple hundred yards away. He also told me that there was a local historian who knew about the Healy’s and that she usually came by the Carr House to visit.

“Huachuca Heaven”

(Continued)

To get to the remaining foundation, I hiked down the nature trail to an open field near a stand of trees which shaded a creek. From this location I noticed the great “cataract” on the distant cliff face that Kauffeld described in his book. This is now known as Carr Falls. What a spectacular view! I imagined Kauffeld standing where I now stood, looking up at the falls some 81 years prior and I pondered at the front steps, thinking of the people that walked upon them so many times in their life. How they likely never gave any thought to someone like me driving across the country to learn more about them long after they were gone.

After taking some photos, I walked back up to the Carr House where Michael introduced me to the local historian, Rosemary Snapp, who had arrived while I was out walking. Rosemary was very interested in how I knew the Healy’s. I explained that I had read of them in Kauffeld’s book, which she had a copy of as well. She totally caught me by surprise when she told me that she lives in the house where Kauffeld stayed when he was visited the Huachuca’s. Her property, once owned by the Healy’s, was originally the 1903 homestead of Civil War Veteran, Horticulturist, and Entomologist, Charles Robert Biederman. The Healy’s used it as their guest house, which I later learned was utilized by other visitors doing research over the decades, including Herbert Brandt in his preparation of *Arizona and It’s Bird Life*, published in 1951. Rosemary undoubtedly picked up on my excitement and invited me to see her property.



Historic Carr House



Foundation of the Healy's Ranch home.



Ila and John Healy (Photo Courtesy of The Friends of the Huachuca Mountains website)

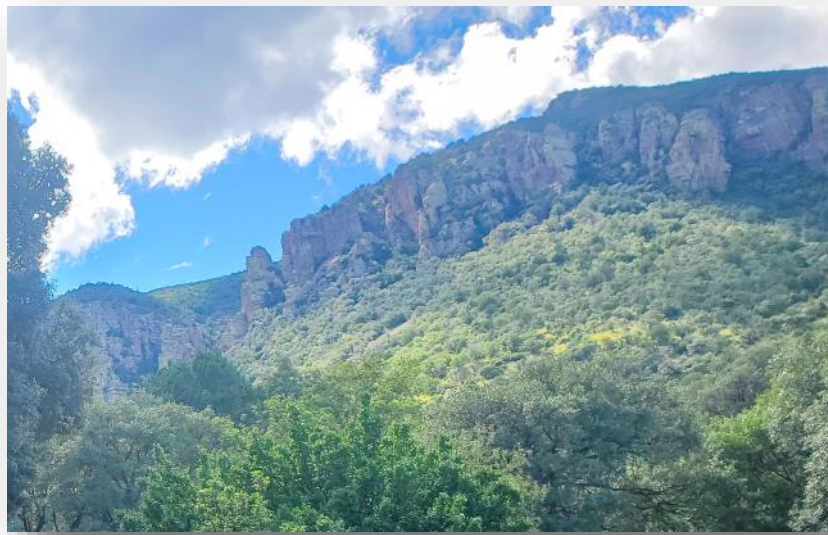
“Huachuca Heaven”

(Continued)

Michael told me how beautiful Rosemary’s property was and as I pulled up in her driveway, I immediately knew what he was talking about. Her lovely home was situated next to a beautiful stream beneath the cliff formation known as the Reef. Rosemary gave me a tour of her property starting with Biederman’s workshop, a small log and adobe structure. Her home was built as an addition to Biederman’s original home.



Rosemary Snapp and Charles Biederman’s workshop.



View of the Carr Canyon “Reef” from the Biederman Homestead now owned by Rosemary Snapp.

“Huachuca Heaven”

(Continued)

Inspired to research further, I learned that Biederman was born in Germany as Karl Robert Biedermann on March 8, 1839 and graduated from Leipzig University. After coming to the United States in 1860, he adopted an English version of his name, Charles Robert Biederman, and was naturalized in 1862. He enlisted in the Union Army on February 13, 1865, and was mustered into Company C, 97th Pennsylvania Infantry as a private. During his service, it was written in his obituary that he also served as a private bodyguard for Abraham Lincoln. He mustered out on August 28, 1865. After the Civil War, Biederman headed west to pursue his interest in botany and entomology. Brandt wrote in his book that shortly after the Civil War Biederman traveled to South America on a collecting trip for the Smithsonian Institution. He homesteaded in Carr Canyon in 1903. His life in Carr Canyon consisted of grafting trees, entomology, and other studies of the natural world. Biederman passed away in the Fort Huachuca Hospital on June 22, 1932.

I also learned that Biederman had collected several moths that were described as new species and named in his honor, as well as describing some new species himself. From reading some of these species' descriptions it was evident that Biederman had a knack for rearing caterpillars. His lepidoptera specimens are distributed among various museum collections.

While Rosemary and I sat outside of her house and talked, hummingbirds and butterflies zipped back and forth. During our conversation, I was surprised to learn that Biederman is buried on the property just uphill from where we sat. In a newspaper article about his passing, it states that men had worked throughout the night with dynamite blasting his gravesite out of the rock on his property.

What had started as a herpetology trip had taken a pleasant turn towards lepidoptery.



Charles R. Biederman (Photo Courtesy of The Friends of the Huachuca Mountains website)



Crinodes biederrmani (Photo by Jim Vargo, MPG)



“Huachuca Heaven”

(Continued)



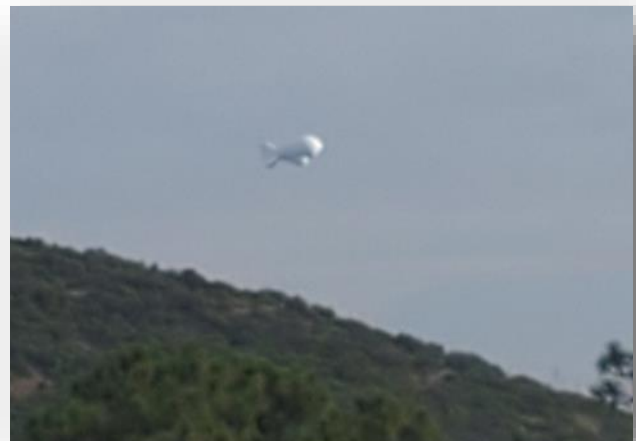
Banded rock rattlesnake (*Crotalus lepidus klauberi*)

The morning after learning about Biederman, I hiked from Ramsey Canyon Preserve into the Coronado National Forest towards Hamburg Mine. Despite the beautiful weather, I had hiked a considerable distance without even seeing a lizard. Dispirited, I stopped at a promising location along the trail littered with rocks and plenty of sunlight. Climbing among the rocks I heard the buzzing of a small rattle and spotted a banded rock rattlesnake (*Crotalus lepidus klauberi*) retreat under a small rock. The banded rock rattlesnake is the third smallest species of montane rattlesnake in the area. These rattlesnakes are spectacularly adapted for the habitat they are found in. Their grey body, covered in speckling, mottling, and jagged banding provides excellent concealment among the rocks. Their color can vary throughout their range, matching the rocks of the area.

On my return hike into the Ramsey Canyon Preserve, I was approached by another hiker warning me to not get off the trail because he had just seen a rattlesnake. I asked him to show me where he had spotted the snake. We walked over to a nearby creek and found the snake, a

Northern black-tailed rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus molossus*). These rattlesnakes are very common in the area and resemble the timber rattlesnake of the east. Its golden yellow body shown bright in the sun and contrasted beautifully with its black banding. A raccoon like mask covered its head and face.

With two species of rattlesnakes for the day, I set my sights on a location on the west side of the Huachuca's for my final day in Arizona and last chance to see a ridge-nosed rattlesnake, stopping for lengua and tripe tacos in Sierra Vista along the way.



What Kauffeld didn't see in 1941 was the tethered U.S. Customs and Border Protection surveillance blimp that greeted my view every morning above the mountains and the newly constructed border wall which terminates on either side of the Huachuca's funneling foot traffic directly into the Miller Wilderness of the Coronado National Forest. Evidence of immigration, in the form of empty water bottles, clothing, and blankets were present on and near the trail, especially at higher elevations. As I struggled to breathe, it was hard for me to imagine the journey these people had already endured, then facing climbing nearly 10,000' peaks!

“Huachuca Heaven”

(Continued)

On the final morning, the sun started to peek over the Hauchuca Mountains slowly illuminating the location for my search. I soon set out on foot, hiking down a path for approximately 15 minutes before finding a promising looking open swath of grasses bordered by semi-open forest, consisting of small trees. Leaving the trail, I walked approximately 20 yards when I saw a smallish brown snake moving from right to left directly in front of me. I immediately recognized it, an Arizona ridge-nosed snake! The time was 07:51 am, and though I was looking right at the snake I had wanted to see for decades, I was in disbelief that I was really seeing it! In the previous days I had sweat, bled, ached, logging at least 25 miles on foot looking for this snake and now here it was. The snake slowly crawled up to the shaded base of a small tree and coiled, briefly giving a quick buzz of its rattle as I began taking photographs.



The Arizona ridge-nosed rattlesnake (*Crotalus willardi willardi*) found on the final day.

The coiled snake’s tail extended well above and to the left of its head. The eyes blended with the coloration of the body and head, only given away by small black elliptical pupils and a brow ridge. The “face”, beautifully painted in white enamel and the scales along the side of the tail appeared especially detailed, being faintly outlined in white. It is easy to see similarities to the facial markings of these snakes and the face paint of the Apache Tribe who once called these mountains their home.

“Huachuca Heaven”

(Continued)

I don't know if it was the beauty of the snake, it's small size (15"-16"), or both, but it seemed so fragile. Or maybe it was because I know all too well the potential threats these snakes unknowingly face with climate change, wildfires, and illegal collection.

With photos taken, I slowly turned around leaving the snake in place and worked my way back to my truck, feeling completely elated. I had found my rattlesnake, walked in Kauffeld's steps, found a Civil War Veteran entomologist, and more importantly, I had made some new friends.



Special thanks to the staff of the Chiricahua Desert Museum, Bob Ashley, Zack Hughes, Michael Foster, Dwight Hoxie, Brittany Murphy and especially Rosemary Snapp, Co-founder of the Friends of the Huachuca Mountains group.

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Membership in the Lepidopterists' Society

The Lepidopterists' Society is open to membership for anyone interested in any aspect of lepidopterology. The only criterion for membership is that you appreciate butterflies and/or moths! To become a member, please send full dues for the current year, together with your current mailing address and a note about your particular areas of interest in Lepidoptera, to:

Kelly Richers, Treasurer
 The Lepidopterists' Society
 9417 Carvalho Court
 Bakersfield, CA 93311

The dues rates are as follows:

- Active (regular) \$ 45.00
- Affiliate (same address) \$10.00
 (this is for relatives living at the same address as the primary member)
- Student \$20.00
- Sustaining \$60.00
 (outside U.S., for above add \$5.00 for Mexico/Canada, and \$10.00 for other countries)
- Life \$1800.00

Students must send proof of enrollment at their educational institution (this can be at any level – grade school, high school, college). We encourage advisors/professors to sponsor students, and for students to seek sponsors if you don't have one. You may also inquire if we have any open student sponsorships to Chris Grinter at cgrinter@gmail.com. Please add \$5.00 to your dues if you live in Canada/Mexico, \$10.00 for any other country, outside the U.S. to cover additional mailing costs. Remittances must be in U.S. dollars, payable to "The Lepidopterists' Soci-

ety". All members receive the **Journal** and the **News** (each published quarterly). Supplements included in the News are the Membership Directory, published in even-numbered years, and the Season Summary, published annually. Please visit <https://www.lepsoc.org/> for more information.

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Want to Join the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists?

We welcome anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the State of Kentucky.

Membership is \$12.00 annually. (Electronic Newsletter Only)

Sustaining Membership \$25.00
Please send payment to SKL
Treasurer:
Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Ave,
Middleton, WI 53562

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Disonycha sp.? (Cochise County, Arizona)