
CHRYSALIS

The Occasional Newsletter of the Vermont Butterfly Survey

October 2006

Vol. 5 No. 4

Here's another issue of CHRYSALIS, an irregular e-mail newsletter about the Vermont Butterfly Survey. You're getting this because you have signed on as a VBS volunteer. If you'd rather not receive this newsletter, please reply to this e-mail and asked to be removed from the mailing list. Thanks for joining the survey.

Kent McFarland and Bryan Pfeiffer

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1. Data Time: Getting Your Data to VBS

It is that time of year to box your data and mail it into the VBS office. The sooner we get it, the sooner it is in the database. And this year it is more critical than ever that we get it all in the database quickly so we can assess our block coverage.

Don't forget to fill out your SWG volunteer and mileage form! If you don't have one you can download it on our web page at <http://www.vinsweb.org/vbs/pdf/swgform.pdf>. We use this as an in-kind match for our grant from the state.

2. VerMonarchs: Wow What a Migration!

This year has been easily the best Monarch migration in over a decade or more in Vermont. The last big year was in 1997.

Read a story about it at Times Argus -

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060918/NEWS/609180316/1003/NEWS02>

The Cape May monarch migration count has been found to be highly correlated to breeding productivity farther north in our region. Check out their results so far this year compared to the 14 previous years at

<http://home.earthlink.net/%7Erkwalton/mmp02.html>

Finally, I put all the monarchs that have been tagged in Vermont and recovered in Mexico into a map. Vermont has had 5 tags recovered at El Rosario. You can view the map at <http://www.vinsweb.org/assets/jpg/vtmonarch.jpg>

3. Have you left VBS?

If you don't think you'll be able to do any more survey work (we hope not) PLEASE take a few minutes to gather and return any of your unused voucher cards and glassine envelopes. Drop us a quick email so we don't send you materials for this season. We need them back. You can mail them to:

Kent McFarland
Vermont Institute of Natural Science
27023 Church Hill Road
Woodstock, VT 05091
vbs@vinsweb.org

Thanks.

4. Join the new Vermont Entomological Society Discussion Group on Google.

Here's an opportunity to expand your insect horizons. As many of you may already know, the Vermont Entomological Society is our state's premier organization for the study and appreciation of insects (including butterflies). VES has an awesome newsletter (see <http://www.vermontinsects.org/news.html>), runs exciting field trips and has an abundance of members fascinated with most any kind of invertebrate. (VBS's own Bryan Pfeiffer is the VES president.)

Now VES has its own email discussion group. I'm convinced it will become THE premier electronic bulletin board about insects in Vermont. Even if you're not yet a VES member, you can join the on-line group by visiting <http://groups.google.com/group/Vermont-Entomological-Society>.

But in order to continue using the service, please do join VES. Membership is a mere \$10 per year. You can join by visiting the VES web site at: www.vermontinsects.org.

5. WEB PAGE PICK : Massachusetts Butterfly Atlas

From 1986 to 1990, hundreds of volunteer butterfly enthusiasts spent thousands of

hours in the field in an effort to record the distribution of Massachusetts butterflies-the first systematic statewide butterfly atlas to be undertaken in North America.

Following the five-year data collection period, the project's coordinators (Brian Cassie, Chris Leahy, and Dick Walton, along with a number of volunteers) completed and edited species accounts. They not only summarized the atlas data, but also included status and abundance information, life histories, and other material pertaining to all species of butterflies then known to occur in Massachusetts-including those not found during the duration of MBAP fieldwork. At the same time, the Massachusetts Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (aka MassGIS) undertook the task of converting the computerized atlas data into accurate and legible maps.

This website is an initial effort to bring all of this valuable information on Massachusetts butterflies to a broad public audience. Anyone entering its portals can access not only the distribution maps, which by definition are the heart of any atlas, but also full species accounts and color images of all Massachusetts butterflies.

Visit it at <http://massaudubon.org/butterflyatlas/index.php>

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