



ALBERTA LEPIDOPTERISTS' GUILD NEWSLETTER FALL 2015

Welcome to the ALG Newsletter, a compendium of news, reports, and items of interest related to lepidopterans and lepidopterists in Alberta. The newsletter is produced twice per year, in spring and fall, edited by John Acorn.



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Additions and Corrections to the Alberta Lepidoptera List, 2015

Greg Pohl, Vazrick Nazari, Jeremy deWaard, & Gary Anweiler

Since the Checklist of the Lepidoptera of Alberta (AB) was published by Pohl et al. (2010) we have been reporting additions and corrections annually here in the ALG News (Pohl et al. 2011, 2012, 2013; Pohl 2014). This year we report 16 new records, and one historical published record that we had overlooked. We also confirm four previously unverified records, and remove three species from the AB list. Vouchers are deposited in the Canadian Forest Service collection in Edmonton, AB (NFRC), The Canadian National collection of Arthropods (CNC), and the personal collection of GRP (GRP), as noted. For species confirmed by DNA barcoding, the collection data, cytochrome oxidase I (COI) barcode sequence information, and an image for each specimen are available in the Barcode of Life Data Systems (BOLD, www.boldsystems.org) (Ratnasingham and Hebert 2007) in the public dataset, "Alberta Lepidoptera List, 2015 Update" at DS-ALL2015 (dx.doi.org/10.5883/DS-ALL2015). The total number of AB species now stands at 2481 reported species.

Gracillariidae

73.5 *Caloptilia melanocarpae* (Braun, 1925). New record.

A specimen in the NFRC, collected in the Kananaskis area by Christi Jaeger on 28 August 2009, has been identified via COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-2014-00493; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:ACR7098). Photo below:



Argyresthiidae

103.5 *Argyresthia quadristrigella* Zeller, 1873. New record.

A specimen of this introduced species was collected in Strathcona County, in a vehicle, immediately after a visit to a tree nursery in the vicinity, by GRP on 24 May 2004. It was identified via COI barcode, and is deposited in the GRP collection (Accession: NFRC-2014-00525; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:AAI4414). Photo below:



Elachistidae

159.5 *Annettenia eremonoma* (Braun, 1948). New record.

A specimen collected near Sherwood Park on 14 June 2010 by GRP was identified by COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-2014-00529; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:ABA4182). It is in the GRP collection.

161.5 *Elachista patriodoxa* Meyrick, 1932. New record.

This species is known from a few specimens collected near Sherwood Park, identified via COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-2014-00527; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:ABA4763). Specimens are in the NFRC and GRP collections.

Photo right:



167.5 *Elachista lamina* Braun, 1948. New record.

Many specimens were collected by the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario (BIO) along the Red Rock Parkway in Waterton Lakes National Park, in June 2012 and 2013. An additional specimen was collected by BIO at Elk Island National Park, in a Malaise trap on the Wood Bison Trail, on 3 July 2012. They were identified via COI barcode. Specimens are deposited at BIO and NFRC.

169.5 *Elachista perniva* Kaila, 1997. New record.

A specimen in NFRC collected at the Onefour Bioblitz on 27 June 2001 by Jason Machney, Doug Macaulay, and GRP was identified by COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-2014-00120; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:ACG7125). It is deposited in the NFRC.

Blastobasidae

232.5 *Asaphocrita aphidiella* (Walsingham, 1907). New record.

This boreal species has remained unidentified in AB collections for many years; an AB specimen was identified recently via COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-P-2012-03401; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:AAC4277). Other specimens are known from Lac La Biche, Wagner Bog, and Sherwood Park, where it is common in midsummer. Specimens are in the NFRC and GRP collections. Photo below:



Gelechiidae

243.1 *Metzneria paucipunctella* Zeller, 1839. New record.

This species was listed as "probable" for AB, but we overlooked the fact that this species was intentionally introduced to the province for biocontrol of knapweed (*Centaurea* spp.) in 1985 (Bourchier et al. 2002). We list it as a stray, as there is no solid evidence that it has become established in the province.

327.5 *Gnorimoschema foliatum* Povolný, 2003. New record.

Several specimens from the AB Rockies have been identified by VN, as follows: 1 male, AB: Kootney plains, Whirlpool point, 26 July 2006, BC Schmidt & JJ Dombroskie; 4 gender unknown, *ibid*; 7 July.2007, M Schwartzfeld (one of the latter is in the Barcode of Life database as Accession: JD4079; Barcode Index Number:AAI5516). They are deposited in the CNC.

331.5 *Gnorimoschema semicyclionella* Busck, 1903. New record.

Three specimens from the southern AB grasslands have been identified by VN, as follows: 1 male, AB: Lethbridge, 20 July 1921, HL Seamans; 1 male, AB: Sandy Point Campground, 24 August 1985, J-F Landry; Tolman Briske, 10 August 2002, GGA (Accession: NFRC-2014-00491; Barcode Index Number:AAI5490); 1 female, AB: Pakowki dunes, 15 August 2006, BC Schmidt. Specimens are deposited in the CNC and NFRC.

334.5 *Tuta insularis* Povolný, 2001. Correction.

The AB record by Nazari & Landry (2012) is erroneous, based on misidentified specimens of *T. elaborata* Povolný, 2001 from Kleskun Hills near Grande Prairie; and from the Lost River Valley near Onefour (CNC). These are the only known records of the genus *Tuta* in Canada. Thus *T. insularis* is relegated to #E010.5 on the erroneous list, and *T. elaborata* is added to the AB list at #334.4.

338.5 *Scrobipalpula sacculicola* (Braun, 1925). New record.

A specimen from Sherwood Park, collected on 17 June 2010 by GRP, was identified via COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-2014-00539; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:ABY8834). It is deposited in the GRP collection. This represents a range extension from ON. Photo below:



Tortricidae

425 *Acleris flavivittana* (Clemens, 1864). Confirmation of uncertain record.

A specimen from Wagner Bog, collected by Chris Schmidt on 12 April 1999 was identified via dissection recently by GRP. It is the first confirmed record for AB. It is deposited in NFRC.

487 *Choristoneura freemani* Razowski, 2008. Name change.

This is a replacement name for *C. occidentalis* Freeman, 1967. The latter was rendered unavailable when an older African species bearing the *occidentalis* name (*Cacoecia [=Archips] occidentalis* Walsingham, 1891) was transferred into the genus *Choristoneura* (Razowski 2008, Gilligan and Brown 2014).

553 *Apotomis paludicolana* (Brower, 1953). Move to erroneous species list.

This species was reported from AB by Pohl et al. (2010). However, AB material has been redetermined as #554 *A. spinulana* (McDunnough, 1938) via COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-P-2004-006006; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:ABZ6958). *Apotomis paludicolana* is relegated to #E018.5 on the erroneous list.

635 *Eucosma vernalana* (McDunnough, 1942). Remove from the list.

This taxon was synonymized with #634 *E. rupestrana* (McDunnough), by Wright and Gilligan (2015). A specimen of *E. rupestrana* from Hailstone Butte can be found in the Barcode Of Life database as follows: Accession: NFRC-2014-00845; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:AAI4584.

730.5 *Epinotia myricana* McDunnough, 1933. New record.

A specimen collected near Sherwood Park by GRP, on 15 Sept 2008, has recently been identified as this species via dissection (a tissue sample did not yield usable DNA for barcoding). It is deposited in the GRP collection. This is a major range extension from ON and QC for this species. It is very similar to the Palearctic species *E. caprana* (Fabricius, 1798), as well as the holarctic species *E. solandriana* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *E. trigonella* (Linnaeus, 1758). There may well be additional western Canadian specimens of *E. myricana* in collections, misfiled under the latter two names.

755.5 *Epinotia septemberana* Kearfott, 1907. New record.

This species was collected by Doug Macaulay and Dave Lawrie, in the Richardson River area south of Lake Athabasca, on a biophysical inventory organised by Alberta Environment in 1999 (Schmidt and Pohl 2000). The

specimens (in the NFRC) had remained unidentified until now. Three specimens were collected on 22 August 2000, at an MV light set up at a lake between the Richardson River Dunes and Athabasca Dunes (58.0725°N, 110.9060°W). A fourth specimen was collected nearby on the same day, at the junction of the Ft. Chipewyan winter road and the Richardson River (58.0585°N, 110.9290°W). These specimens were identified recently by GRP, and represent a western range extension from ON (Brown 1980). A specimen from Rennie, MB has also been identified recently in the NFRC; this species is probably widespread in the northern boreal forest across western Canada.

Schreckensteiniidae

785.5 *Schrecksteinia felicella* (Walsingham, 1880). New record.

A specimen was swept from vegetation along Blakiston Creek in Waterton Lakes National Park, on 17 July 2013, by David Langor and GRP. It was confirmed via COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-2014-00012; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:AAG9109). It is deposited in the NFRC.

Pterophoridae

801.5 *Stenoptilia mengeli* Fernald, 1898. New record.

This is a northern species, collected in AB for the first time at Fidler-Greywillow Provincial Wildland Park, on Lake Athabasca. It was collected at a UV light sheet, on 23 July 2001, by Dave Lawrie. It was identified via COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-P-2004-005330; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:AAF3618). It is deposited in the NFRC .

Pyralidae

924.5 *Homoeosoma oslarellum* Dyar, 1905. New record.

A specimen collected along the Chief Mountain Highway in Waterton Lakes National Park, on 8 July 2005 by GGA, has been identified as this species via COI barcode (Accession: NFRC-2014-00441; Barcode Index Number: BOLD:AAC4058). It is deposited in the NFRC.

Nymphalidae

1176.5 *Speyeria idalia* (Drury, 1773). New record.

This totally unexpected new record came from near Etzikom, collected by GGA. He collected a worn specimen of this species, known as the Regal Fritillary, on a thistle flower in dry prairie habitat, at 49.470°N 111.133°W, on 28 August 2015. This is a species associated with the Tallgrass Prairie of the American Midwest. The nearest record in Canada is from southeastern SK. We are

treating this species as a stray in AB, as it is in MB and SK. The specimen is deposited at the University of Alberta Strickland Collection. Ventral view below, dorsal on front cover (p. 1).



Geometridae

E087.5 *Chlorochlamys chloroleucaria* (Guenée, [1858]). Correction.
This species was added to the Erroneous AB list by Pohl (2014), but was incorrectly placed in the genus *Nemoria* there. It was described in *Nemoria*, but later moved to *Chlorochlamys*.

Noctuidae

1801.5 *Acronicta fallax* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1854). New name.
The species *A. geminata* (Smith) was synonymized with *A. fallax* by Schmidt et al. (2014). Populations in the Prairie Provinces of Canada are larger and darker than more southeasterly populations, but COI barcodes fall within the range of *A. fallax*, so it is considered to be simply a geographic form of *A. fallax*.

1834 *Sympistis umbrifascia* (Smith, 1894). Confirmation of uncertain record.
The record by Crumb (1956) was treated by Pohl et al. (2010) as "unconfirmed." A specimen was located by JdW in the USNM, from "Calgary, NWT" (when AB was still part of the NWT). Photo on following page (p. 9).



1970 *Bellura gortynoides* Walker, 1865. Correction.

All western Canadian records, including AB records reported by Pohl et al. (2010), have been corrected to *B. vulnifica* (Grote, 1873). *Bellura gortynoides* occurs in Canada only in Carolinian Forest habitat in southwestern ON. Thus *B. vulnifica* is added to the AB list at #1970.5, and *B. gortynoides* is moved to the erroneous list at #E141.5.

1979 *Xylena brucei* (Smith, 1892). Confirmation of uncertain record.

The record by Crumb (1956) was treated by Pohl et al. (2010) as "unconfirmed". As in *S. umbrifascia*, an old specimen was located by JdW in the USNM, from Calgary.

2311 *Eueretagrotis sigmoides* (Guenée, 1852). Confirmation of uncertain record.

This was also listed as "unconfirmed" by Pohl et al. (2010) based on the distribution given by Crumb (1956). A voucher was found by JdW in the USNM from "Ft. Calgary, N.W. Brit. Columbia, VII.21.96". This is assumed to be from Calgary, AB. This species is known from SK to NB, but does not occur in BC.



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Greg Pohl, by John Acorn

The Alberta Butterfly Roundup, Season One

John Acorn

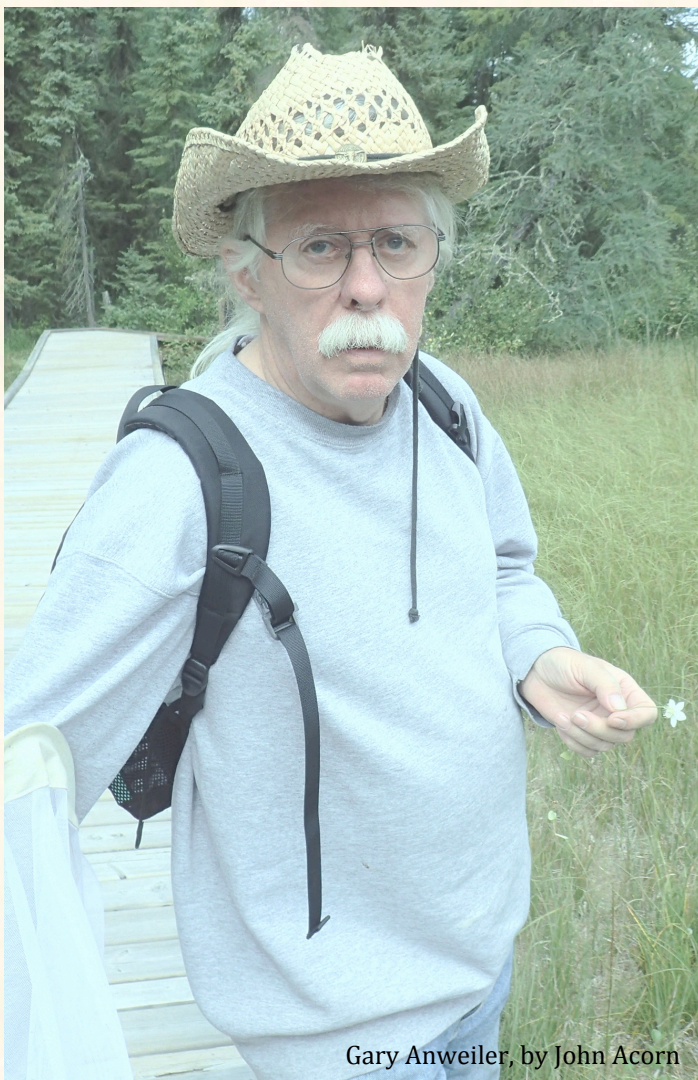
There are 175 species of butterflies known from Alberta, but when was the last time we saw each of them? In some instances, the answer is, “over a century ago.” So why not start fresh, so to speak, and see how long it takes for us to track them all down? At the 2014 meeting of the Alberta Lepidopterists’ Guild, we decided to call this project “The Alberta Butterfly Roundup,” and four of us (John Acorn, Greg Pohl, Gary Anweiler, and Doug Macaulay) volunteered to help coordinate things..

In the spring of 2015, we put out the call, inviting naturalists to submit their records to eButterfly, or to the ALG Facebook Page, the ALG email listserver, the Albertabugs listserver, or the listserver of the Edmonton Nature Club. We also allowed records to be sent directly to any of the four of us. All submissions required photographic documentation, or a specimen.

After the end of the first season, 123 species have been reconfirmed, or 70% of the known fauna, which is– let’s face it– not bad. The results included some rarities (e.g., Rhesus Skipper, Thicket Hairstreak) and range extensions (Dun Skipper), and one new species for the province (Regal Fritillary—see p. 1, 7-8, 25, 27– a major theme of this issue of the News!). So we are off to a good start.



Benny Acorn, Devon Schneider, Jan Scott, and Dave McKenzie, in Medicine Hat, searching for butterflies.



Gary Anweiler, by John Acorn

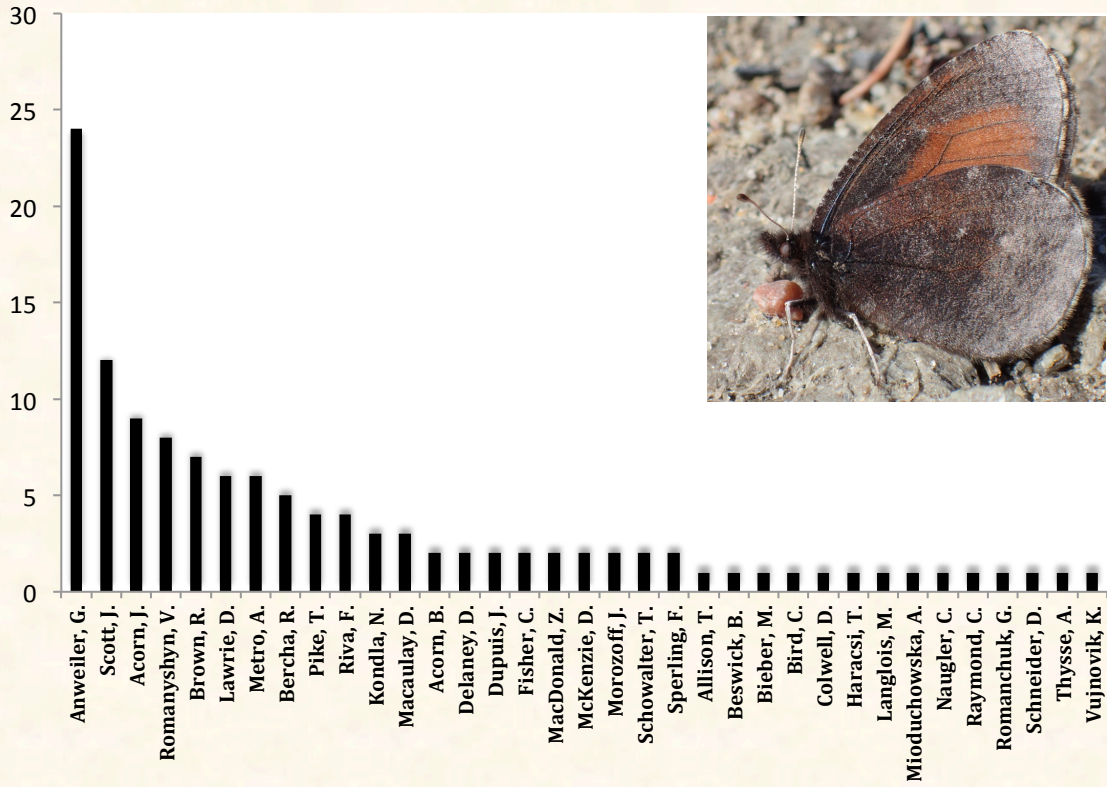
In terms of who found what, the most prolific contributor was Gary Anweiler, with 24 first records for particular species, followed by Jan Scott with exactly half that number. In the shadow of these highly motivated (and retired) lepidopterists, the rest of us took our place down the line (Fig. 1). Things started off slowly, in March, with three species, and jumped up to 14 in April. May, June, and July were the top months when new species were being reported (over 30 species each month), but numbers fell off quickly in August, to one, despite a few late season possibilities.

Perhaps most interestingly, even though we wanted to promote eButterfly, and build the Alberta database, the most popular mode of record submission was the ALG Facebook Page, followed by the

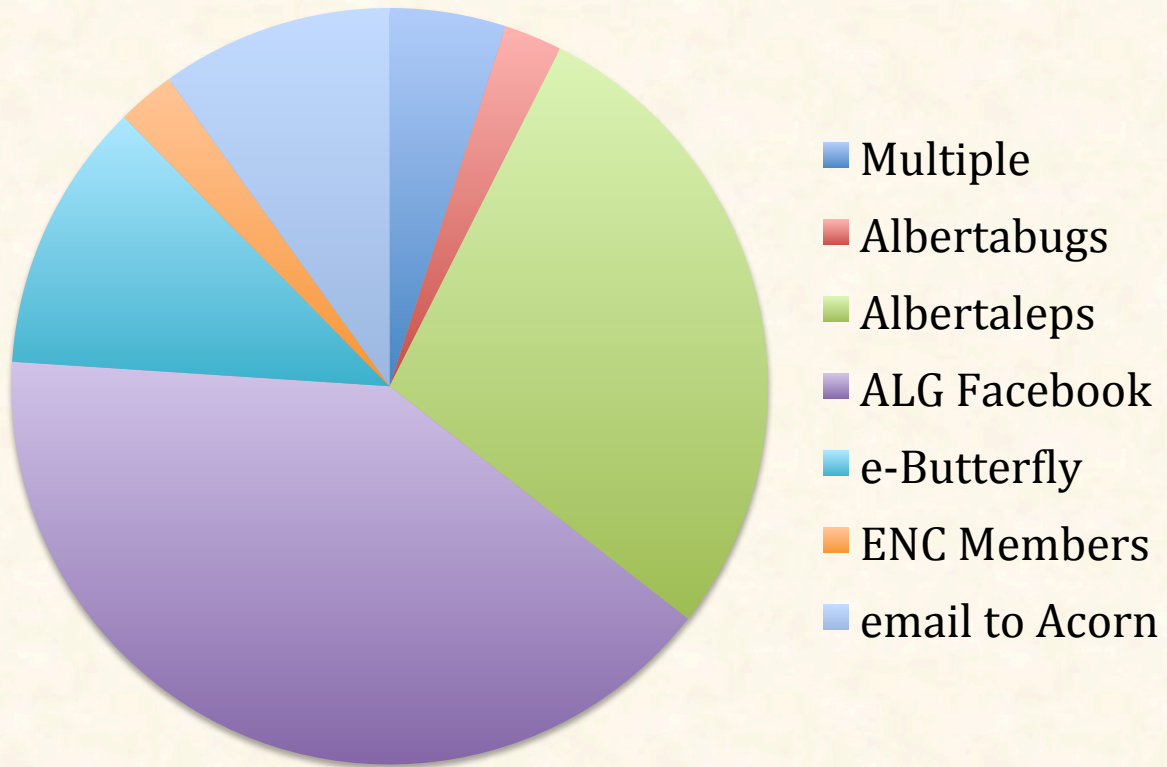
ALG listserv (Albertaleps). eButterfly was significantly less used, about as often as people sent records directly by email (Fig 2). A few records came in through Albertabugs and the Edmonton Nature Club, and a very few people submitted through multiple means simultaneously. After thinking about this pattern, I have two hypotheses. First, I believe that the Roundup did encourage participation in eButterfly (even if some folks preferred to submit records to other places) simply by building a grass-roots “buzz” about the growing interest in butterfly recording. Second, we really need to consider people’s comfort level when they submit records or photographs. Some are afraid to make mistakes, and some are much more comfortable posting to a small community of known friends, and less comfortable posting to a larger community of strangers. Listservers, and of course Facebook, take advantage of these basic human motivators, by creating sub-communities, and it would be great if citizen science projects such as eButterfly could somehow try to incorporate more of these community-building, comfort-enhancing elements as well.

1

Number of First Reports

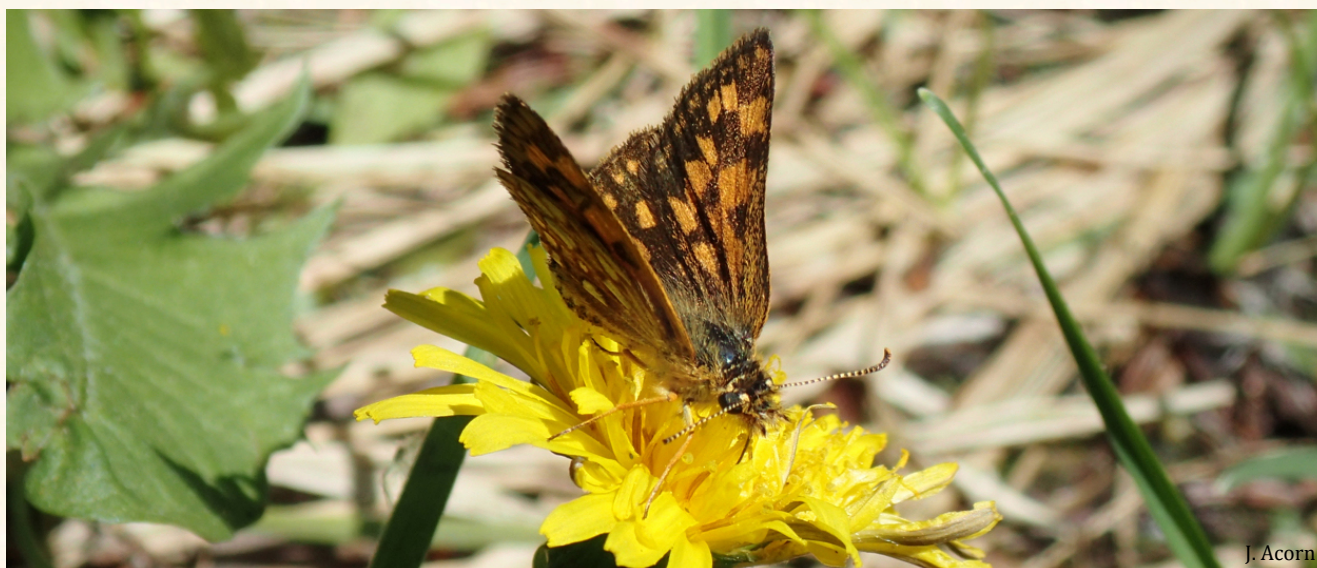


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Looking ahead to the 2016 season, the plan is simple and, I think, fun. As spring approaches, we will provide a list of the species to look for each month, with as much detail as possible about where to go, what habitat to look in, and what dates to emphasize as well. Hopefully, we can inspire some of you (and some of us) to plan expeditions in search of particular, tricky-to-find butterflies, and I'm sure the result will be some heady tales of high adventure (and misadventure). I doubt we can find all 52 of the remaining species in only one more season, so the challenge will certainly spill over into future years, and keep us busy for some time to come.

Most importantly, each and every contributor has been, and will be, essential to this project. I hope I haven't missed any of you in the following list (please tell me if I did, since it ain't over 'till it's over), but here are the names I have assembled: Benny Acorn, John Acorn, Tim Allison, Gary Anweiler, Joe Belicek, Robert Bercha, Matthias Bieber, Charley Bird, Robert Brown, Ann Carter, Dawne Colwell, Don Delaney, Loney Dickson, Julian Dupuis, Doug Faulder, Chris Fisher, Alex Frederickson, Rowan French, Jeremy Gatten, Kevin Gedling, Cris Guppy, Trudy Haracsi, Irene Hildebrandt, Stephanie Holmes, Rob Hughes, Norbert Kondla, Robert Lane, Mathieu Langlois, Maxim Larrivée, Dave Lawrie, Doug Macaulay, Zac MacDonald, Alec McClay, Dave McKenzie, Jen Mesch, Alyssa Metro, Anna Mioduchowska, Linda Morgan, Lee Morley, Jamiee Morozoff, Christopher Naugler, Chuck O'Callaghan, Bob Parsons, Ted Pike, Greg Pohl, Lucy Price, Heather Proctor, Sheila Pugsley, Colleen Raymond, Federico Riva, Gerald Romanchuk, Vic Romanyshyn, Devon Schneider, Tim Schowalter, Jan Scott, Ian Sheldon, Felix Sperling, Jason Straka, Mary Tachynski, Adrian Thyse, Ksenia Vujnovic, George Yanicki, and Conservation Volunteers Alberta.



Alberta Butterfly Roundup

Official List to Date, by date of first report, and using English names for species

Cabbage White; Edmonton; Mar. 31, '15; Z. MacDonald
Mourning Cloak; Edmonton; Mar. 31, '15; Z. MacDonald
Satyr Comma; Edmonton; Mar. 31, '15; G. Anweiler
Western White; Medicine Hat; Apr. 9, '15; J. Scott
Gray Comma; Edmonton; April 9, '15; D. Colwell
Milbert's Tortoiseshell; Edmonton; Apr. 10, '15; G. Anweiler
Compton Tortoiseshell; Edmonton; Apr. 14, '15; G. Anweiler
Olympia Marble; Medicine Hat; Apr. 14, '15; J. Scott
Northern Spring Azure; Muir Lake; Apr. 19, '15; C. Raymond
Western Pine Elfin; Elbow Falls; Apr. 22, '15; C. Fisher
Clouded Sulphur; Medicine Hat; April 27, '15; J. Scott
Old World Swallowtail; Medicine Hat; April 27, '15; D. Schneider
Green Comma; Edmonton; April 28, '15; G. Anweiler
Alberta Arctic; Medicine Hat; Apr. 29, '15; D. McKenzie
Mustard White; Edmonton; Apr. 30, '15; G. Anweiler
Red-disked Alpine; Wabamun; Apr. 30, '15; J. Acorn
Gray Hairstreak; Medicine Hat; May 3, '15; J. Scott
Painted Lady; Edmonton; May 4, '15; A. Thyse
Persius Duskywing; Little Fish Lake Prov. Park; May 4, '15; C. Fisher
Silvery Blue; Edmonton; May 4, '15; J. Acorn
Uhler's Arctic; Medicine Hat; May 5, '15; J. Scott
Red Admiral; Ardmore; May 8, '15; M. Langlois
Common Checkered Skipper; Medicine Hat, May 9, '15, D. McKenzie
Anise Swallowtail; Hand Hills Ecological Reserve; May 10, '15; T. Schowalter
Dreamy Duskywing; Redwater sand dunes; May 10, '15; G. Anweiler
Eastern Pine Elfin; Redwater sand dunes; May 10, '15; G. Anweiler
Freija Fritillary; Redwater sand dunes; May 10, '15; G. Anweiler
Hoary Elfin; Redwater sand dunes; May 10, '15; G. Anweiler
Common Ringlet; Medicine Hat; May 12, '15; J. Scott
Melissa Blue; Medicine Hat; May 13, '15; J. Scott
Rhesus Skipper; Medicine Hat; May 14, '15; J. Scott
Common Roadside Skipper; Edmonton; May 15, '15; G. Anweiler
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail; Misery Mountain; May 17, '15; J. Dupuis
Meadow Fritillary; Battle Lake, May 18, '15; G. Anweiler
Hobomok Skipper; Edmonton; May 19, '15; R. Brown
Western Tailed Blue; Edmonton; May 19, '15; G. Anweiler
Arctic Blue; Mattheis Ranch; May 21, '15; J. Acorn
Northern Cloudywing; Edmonton; May 21, '15; G. Anweiler
Common Alpine; Calgary; May 22, '15; R. Bercha
Mandan Skipper; Edmonton; May 22, '15, G. Anweiler
Macoun's Arctic; J. J. Collett Natural Area; May 23, '15; C. Bird
Frigga Fritillary; Waiparous; May 24, '15; T. Pike
Pearl Crescent; Dinosaur Provincial Park; May 24, '15; J. Acorn

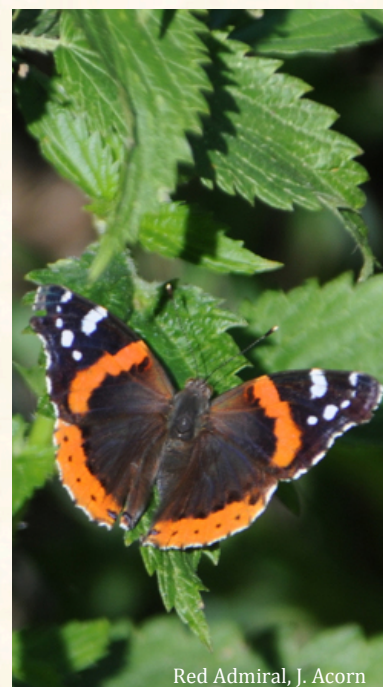


Bob Brown, by J. Acorn



Dun Skipper, J. Acorn

Northern Crescent; Edmonton; May 27, '15; R. Brown
White Admiral (pupa); Edmonton; May 28, '15; G. Anweiler
Brown Elfin; Bragg Creek; May 31; Felix Sperling
Greenish Blue; Sherwood Park; May 31, '15; G. Anweiler
Large Marble; Opal Natural Area; May 31, '15; V. Romanyshyn
Two-tailed Swallowtail; Medicine Hat; May 31, '15; J. Scott
Purplish Copper; Edmonton; June 1, '15; T. Haracsi
Northwestern Fritillary; Peace River; June 4, '15; J. Dupuis
Taiga Alpine; Fort McMurray; June 4, '15; F. Riva
Silver-spotted Skipper; Edmonton; June 5, '15; J. Acorn
Anicia Checkerspot; Willow Creek; June 6, '15; T. Pike
Boisduval's Blue; Willow Creek; June 6, '15; T. Pike
Field Crescent; Willow Creek; June 6, '15; T. Pike
Bog Fritillary; West of Rimbey; June 7, '15; B. Acorn
Silver-bordered Fritillary; West of Rimbey; June 7, '15; B. Acorn
Long Dash; Edmonton; June 9, '15; G. Anweiler
Northern Pearly Eye; Edmonton; June 9, '15; G. Anweiler
Tawny Crescent; Elk Island N. P.; June 9, '15; A. Mioduchowska
Tawny-edged Skipper; Edmonton; June 9, '15; J. Acorn
Lorquin's Admiral; Beauvais Lake, June 11, '15; Bette Beswick
Gorgone Checkerspot; McKinnon Flats (e. of Calgary); June 12, '15; C. Naugler
Garita Skipper; Wainwright Ecological Reserve; June 13, '15; J. Acorn
Northern Blue; Opal; June 15, '15; G. Anweiler
Christina Sulphur; Bow Valley Prov. Park; June 16, 2015; R. Brown
European Skipper; Edmonton; June 17, '15; J. Acorn
Peck's Skipper; Edmonton; June 17, '15; G. Anweiler
Pink-edged Sulphur; Rocky Mountain House; June 18, '15; D. Macaulay
Shasta Blue; Milk River Ridge; June 18, 2015; J. Morozoff
Uncas Skipper; Medicine Hat; June 19, '15; J. Scott
Gray Copper; Suffield, June 21, '15; G. Anweiler
Boreal Skipper; Skogan Pass Trail; June 25, '15; R. Brown
American Copper; Pigeon Mountain; June 27, '15; R. Brown
Thicket Hairstreak; Baldy Pass Trail, Kananaskis; June 27, '15; R. Brown
Chryxus Arctic; Whitecourt; June 29, '15; D. Macaulay
Cranberry Blue; Fort McMurray; June 29, '15; F. Riva
Dorcas Copper; Fort McMurray; June 29, '15; F. Riva
Great Spangled Fritillary; Elk Island National Park; June 29, '15; D. Delaney
Palaeno Sulphur; Fort McMurray; June 29, '15; F. Riva
Callippe Fritillary; Purple Springs; June 30, '15; R. Bercha
Common Wood Nymph; Purple Springs; June 30, '15; R. Bercha
Ruddy Copper; Purple Springs; June 30, '15; R. Bercha
Small Wood Nymph; Purple Springs; June 30, '15; R. Bercha
Atlantis Fritillary; Pigeon Lake; July 1, '15; F. Sperling
Coral Hairstreak; Medicine Hat; July 1, '15; J. Scott
Acadian Hairstreak; Red Deer River near Jenner; July 2, '15; N. Kondla
Aphrodite Fritillary; July 2, '15; J. Scott



Red Admiral, J. Acorn

Viceroy; Milk River; July 2, '15; A. Metro
Weidemeyer's Admiral; east of Milk River; July 2, '15; A. Metro
Giant Sulphur; Elk Island National Park; July 3, '15; D. Delaney
Gillette's Checkerspot; Red Rock Coulee, Waterton N. P.; July 3, '15; A. Metro
Riding's Satyr; Twin River Heritage Rangeland, July 3, '15, A. Metro
Northern Checkerspot; Waterton N. P., July 4, '15; A. Metro
Sagebrush Checkerspot; Dry Island Buffalo Jump P. P., July 4, '15; T. Schowalter
Two-banded Checkered Skipper; Waterton N. P., July 4, '15; A. Metro
Afranius Duskywing; Police Point, Medicine Hat; July 5, '15; M. Bieber
Delaware Skipper; Dry Island Buffalo Jump P.P.; July 5, '15; R. Brown
Striped Hairstreak; Dry Island Buffalo Jump P.P.; July 5, '15; K. Vujnovic
Summer Azure; Donalds; July 5, '15, N. Kondla
Variegated Fritillary; Dry Island Buffalo Jump P.P.; July 5, '15; D. Lawrie
Astarte Fritillary; Hailstone Butte; July 7, '15; D. Lawrie
Labrador Sulphur; Hailstone Butte; July 7, '15; D. Lawrie
Mead's Sulphur; Hailstone Butte; July 7, '15; D. Lawrie
Melissa Arctic; Hailstone Butte; July 7, '15; D. Lawrie
Rocky Mountain Parnassian; Hailstone Butte; July 7, '15; D. Lawrie
Draco Skipper; Wild Horse Mountain; July 8, '15; V. Romanyshyn
Dun Skipper; Wagner Natural Area; July 8, '15; J. Acorn
Mormon Fritillary; Wild Horse Mountain; July 8, '15; V. Romanyshyn
Northern Marble; Wild Horse Mountain; July 8, '15; V. Romanyshyn
Purple Fritillary; James-Wilson Recreation Area; July 8, '15; V. Romanyshyn
Bronze Copper; Elk Island N. P.; July 12, '15; G. Romanchuck
Mariposa Copper; Kleskun Hills, July 15, '15; D. Macaulay
Lustrous Copper; Plateau Mountain area; July 19, '15; V. Romanyshyn
Orange Sulphur; Edmonton; July 19, '15; G. Anweiler
Zerene Fritillary; near Highway 532 summit; July 19, '15; V. Romanyshyn
Monarch; Medicine Hat; July 21, '15; J. Scott
Blue Copper; Waterton; July 23, '15; J. Morozoff
Woodland Skipper; Calgary; July 26, '15; Tim Allison
Plains Skipper; Opal Natural Area; July 29, '15; V. Romanyshyn
Hoary Comma; Limestone Mountain; July 31, '15; N. Kondla
Regal Fritillary; Etzikom; August 28, '15; G. Anweiler



Doug
Macaulay,
John Acorn,
and Greg
Pohl, on a
soggy outing
at the
Wainwright
Dunes.

New ALG Website

After a few years of thinking, planning, and work, the new ALG website is up and running!

Julian Dupuis & Bryan Brunet

History

The original ALG website was debuted at the annual general meeting in 2003 (Figure 1). The website itself was hosted by the University of Alberta, and maintained by various ALG members and University of Alberta employees. Working through the U of A provided valuable server space for the website's data at a time when "internet space" was expensive. However, once the original creator of the website moved away from Alberta it became more difficult to update and add content, as this had to be done by a university employee.

At the 2013 annual general meeting, members began thinking about new options for the ALG website. At this time the website was "showing its age," as it had not had a major overhaul since its creation (Figure 2). I (Julian) volunteered to look into alternative hosting platforms, and promptly forgot about it.



Figure 1. The original ALG website debut, circa 2003.

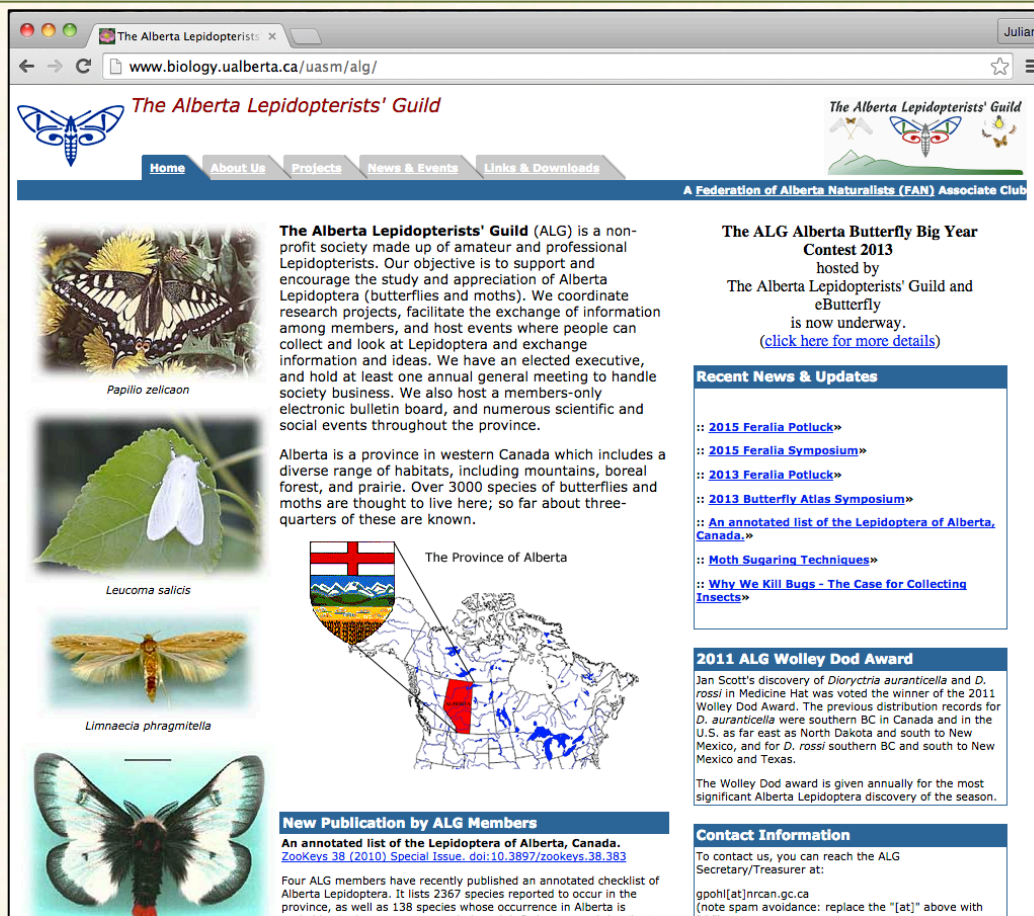


Figure 2. The original ALG website as of 2015.

Conception & development

Fast-forward 11 months, and Bryan and I were sitting in the Portland, Oregon, airport enjoying some malty beverages after the 2014 Entomological Society of America conference, waiting for our flight back to Edmonton. One of the main themes of the conference, from our perspectives, was online collection database monitoring and entomology in social media, which stirred up an ancient memory in my brain... “didn’t I agree to look into new website options for ALG...?” With Bryan’s new job as the natural sciences collection management advisor for U of A museums and collections, it seemed appropriate to get him involved as well.

So, sitting at the pub in the Portland airport, we planned our thoughts for a new ALG website, and looked into options for hosting and getting our own web domain. We decided on the WordPress platform, which provides a user-friendly environment for creating websites, and tons of potential functionality through community-developed plugins. We spent several months developing our prototype site on Bryan’s personal web domain, and pitched this prototype to the ALG executive in April of this year. They approved, and www.albertalepguild.ca was born (Figure 3)! Thanks to Greg Pohl for

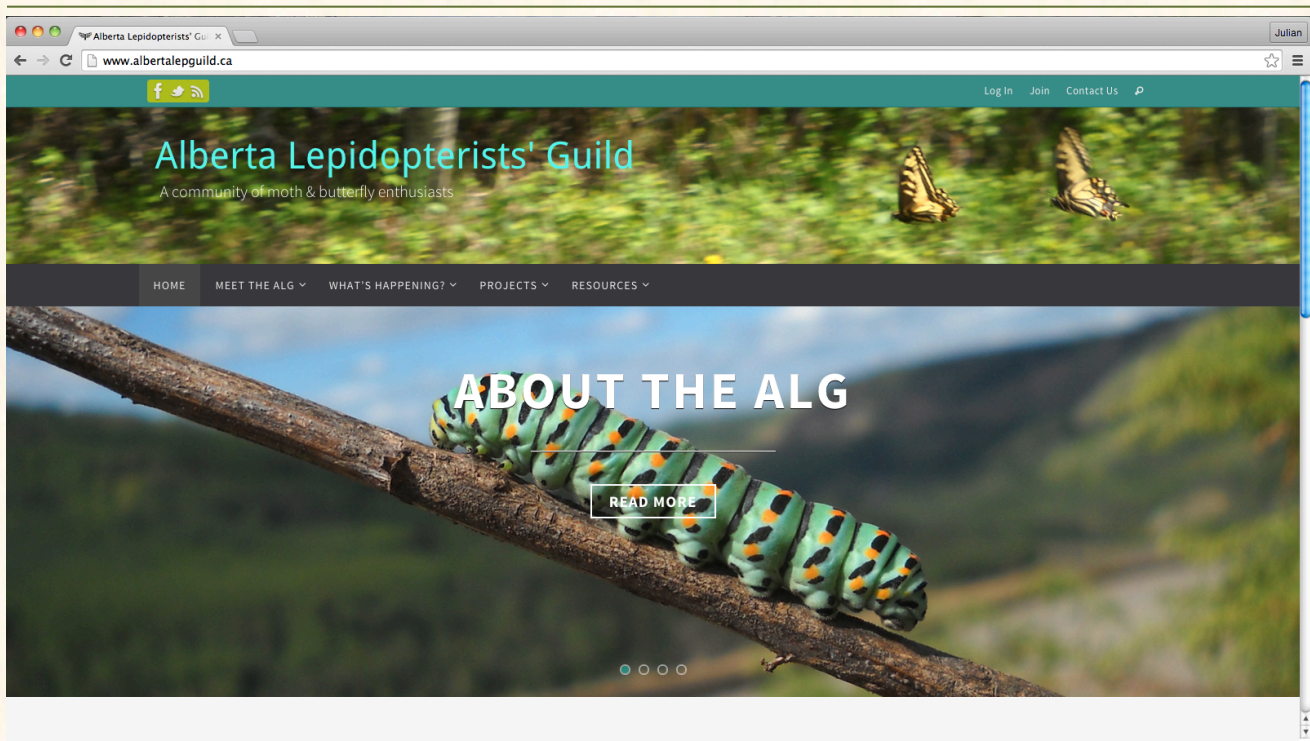


Figure 3. The main page of the new ALG website.

arranging the purchase of the new domain name for the ALG, and the GoDaddy web hosting service for the new site.

The new site

The new ALG website combines all of the information storage and sharing of the original website, with almost unlimited potential for cutting-edge web functionality. We have currently incorporated an events calendar, blog, and newsreel to the site (Figure 4), so that ALG members can stay up to date with lep-related stuff. The site is fully connected to social media platforms (facebook, twitter, etc.), and most aspects of the site have a “comments” feature to share your thoughts (Figure 5). To access this functionality, ALG members will need to register an account with the website, with a username and a valid email address, or using an existing social media login. We hope that some of the more prolific ALG members can be recruited as “official ALG bloggers” and granted access to the blog portion of the website. Finally, the new website is fully dynamic, for viewing on all manner of portable electronic devices (Figure 6).

Additionally, we have plans for several other functions on the site. First, we would like to incorporate a photo sharing area on the website, where registered users can upload photographs of their best lepidopterous finds, or look for assistance with IDs. The main page of the website has a scrolling

Alberta Lepidopterists' Guild
A community of moth & butterfly enthusiasts

HOME MEET THE ALG WHAT'S HAPPENING? PROJECTS RESOURCES

What's Happening? > News

News

This is where ALG news is posted by the administrators. To post a news item, contact the administrators.

A new website for the ALG!

Julian Dupuis 2015-11-27 News 0

Archives

- November 2015 (3)
- April 2015 (3)

Upcoming Events

- Winter Bug Count 2015-16
2015-12-01 - 2016-03-01
- ALG AGM 2016
2016-11-26 @ 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Figure 4. Overview of the “News” section of the new website.

Leave a Reply

Logged in as **Julian Dupuis**. [Log out?](#)

Congrats Gary--A great find!

Post Comment

Figure 5. Commenting functionality of the new website.

banner of photos, and so we would like to hold annual or semi-annual “photo contests”, with the winners getting spots on that scrolling banner.

We are still in the process of migrating all of the old website’s content to the new site, but if you have suggestions for new content or functionality, let us know by emailing us at admin@albertalepguild.ca (also available through the “contact us” link on the new website).

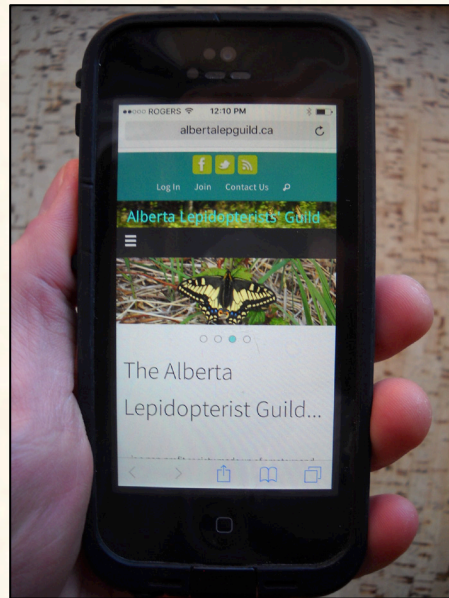


Figure 6. The new website is fully dynamic and usable on all portable electronics.



ALG Notices

Congratulations Charley! Charley Bird Receives Alberta Parks and Protected Areas Achievement Award



If he isn't chasing butterflies, he's leading groups of keen-eyed nature lovers through waist deep shrubbery. Dr. Charles Bird, or "Charley" as he is known in the field, eagerly donated his time, efforts and passions to Alberta Parks over the past sixteen years. His ongoing devotion to citizen science projects, like the Dry Island Buffalo Jump Annual Butterfly Count, has led to the collection of reliable and highly

valued butterfly and moth species counts in the area. A retired University of Calgary botanist who now resides in Erskine, Charley regularly conducts guided walks and species counts of vascular plants, fungi, birds, and butterflies in many of East Central Alberta parks located in the Counties of Red Deer, Stettler, Kneehill, Starland and Paintearth. This dedication to research and education within numerous protected areas, has proven invaluable to staff and visitors and has no doubt contributed to the future preservation of these places. Charley's love of nature and desire to share it with others drives him to continue to support Alberta Parks research and education initiatives.

-- Alberta Parks

Edmonton Area Land Trust Releases Butterfly and Moth Identification Guides (With Help From ALG!)

Along with a Species at Risk in Alberta Guide, and a Childrens' Activity Booklet, the EALT has recently released guides to the common butterflies and moths of the Edmonton area. Development of the guides involved the efforts of many familiar ALG personalities, including Colleen Raymond, Gary Anweiler, Bruce Christensen, Betty Fisher, and Andrea Jackson. You can read more about them, and see the finished guides online at:

<http://www.ealt.ca/news/2015/nov/09/ealt-releases-educational-resources/>

ALG Notices, continued

News From the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Thanks, everyone who managed to come out to our AGM, at the Lumley/Doucette residence near Edmonton. And a big thank you to Lisa and Jason and little Ava for opening up their home and putting on a great dinner party for us all. Our new executive for 2016 is:

Vic Romanyshyn - President
Lisa Lumley - Vice President
Greg Pohl - Secretary-Treasurer
Bryan Brunet - Director
Jamie Dupont - Director
Dave Lawrie - Director
Jan Scott - Director

Thanks to last year's executive for serving the society.

The Wolley Dod Award this year went to Gary Anweiler-- his discovery of a stray *Speyeria idalia* in southern Alberta, the first one this side of southeastern Saskatchewan, was such a shoo-in that nobody else even got nominated to be in the running against it. Congratulations, Gary, and thanks for sharing the story of how you found it.

Finally, Felix Sperling reminded me that some of you might not know about a new publication that may be of interest to ALGers - I co-authored a checklist of the Lepidoptera of BC, which is available here as a free download:

<http://journal.entsocbc.ca/index.php/journal/issue/view/Occasional%20Paper%20%233/showToc>

Greg Pohl



ALG Notices, further continued

John Acorn Recieves Loran L. Goulden Memorial Award

This year, Nature Alberta has awarded the Loran L. Goulden Memorial Award to founding ALG member John Acorn. Nature Alberta is an umbrella group of natural history clubs and societies, of which ALG is an associate member. This award is named for respected Alberta naturalist, Loran L. Goulden, and is presented annually to an exceptional individual in recognition of his or her outstanding contributions to natural history in Alberta. The award recognizes both specific and long-term aggregate contributions to any field of Alberta natural history. Recipients' accomplishments follow the example set by Loran L. Goulden to foster amateur natural history study, contribute to our knowledge of Alberta natural history, support conservation of Alberta's natural heritage, show leadership and be willing to share one's knowledge. As a dedicated teacher, scientist, author and broadcaster, John has had a huge impact on the naturalist community in Alberta and beyond. John had the honour of meeting Loran Goulden when he was a budding naturalist.

Congratulations, John!

-- Greg Pohl



Alberta records for the Rhesus Skipper *Polites rhesus*.

1. Medicine Hat	1928 v1 02	Ken Bowman
2. Milk River	1977 v 22	T. Thorman
3. Medicine Hat	2000 vi 06	J. Acorn
4. Hilda - 30 mi N.	2000 v 19	C. Schmidt
5. Jenner Bridge	2003 v 31	C. Schmidt
6. Sandy Point P.P.	2004 vi 04	G. Anweiler
7. Medicine Hat	2015 v 14	J. Scott



Rhesus Skipper - Alberta Data as of 2015

Gary Anweiler

A Serious Gooder

Gary Anweiler

As the butterfly season started to fade this past summer, I decided to hit the road one last time in search of a few more species for my personal Roundup. I had pretty much exhausted the local species, and decided that my best chances to add some species would be in the the arid grasslands down near the American border. Not only would I have a chance to find some of those grassland species that can be found only along our southern border, one of Judy's favorite places to camp is Writing-on-stone Park. The fact that Doug Macaulay had included my name on his permit to collect in Writing-on-Stone clinched it.

The weather was HOT and sunny and the country was dry... but I was happy to find there were still a lot of native plants in bloom, and good numbers of butterflies on the wing: Common Checkered skippers, Acmon Blues, Pearl Crescents and Woodland Skippers, and best of all a Variegated Fritillary which I excitedly mistook for a Monarch until I got close.

After three days in the park we left for Medicine Hat where we were due for a family wedding on the weekend. I was hoping for a new species or two along the roadsides; maybe one or two of the *Speyeria* species that are most common down that way.

A couple of miles short of Etzicom (a tiny settlement and a major windmill museum!) we encountered a piece of native pasture with some flowers still in bloom. Not much was flying, but in the distance there was a small dugout-dam, still holding a bit of water. And best of all, a clump of big purple thistles, a few still in bloom. On one of the few blossoms there sat a large Fritillary with spread wings. Although I have never seen one before, I knew immediately what it was-- *Speyeria idalia*, one of the biggest most distinctive fritillaries. One quick swoop and it was mine. What an adrenalin rush!!!!

I knew this was a serious "gooder" but did not know just how good 'till I got home and had a chance to look at the books. The closest Canadian record is the lone Saskatchewan record from from Big Muddy Lake, over 400 km east. Steve Kohler is aware of only one Montana record, a female specimen collected at Miles City, by C. A. Wiley on August 21, 1893-- over 100 years ago!

The Alberta specimen is a male, which appears to have had a close encounter with a bird that sheared off the tip of both forewings. We came that close to never meeting. It now resides in the Strickland collection.

Gary Anweiler, November 10, 2015

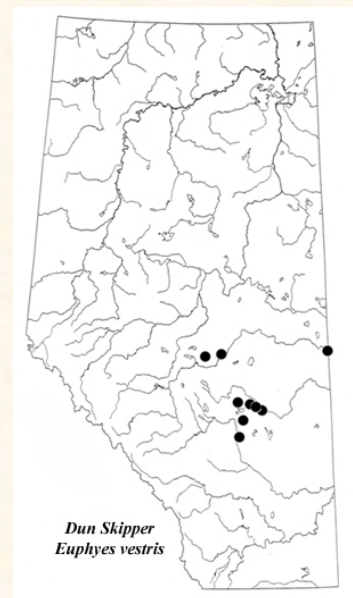
The Recent Appearance and Spread of the Dun Skipper in Alberta

Gary Anweiler

The first report of the Dun skipper in Alberta is an iffy one.... a specimen record in Butterflies of Canada for Lloydminster, which sits upon the Saskatchewan-Alberta boundary. Furthermore, no date is provided for this record, although we know that it must have been prior to publication of the book, in 1998. The second record I am aware of is a specimen collected by Charley Bird at Erskine, July 7, 1999. After this there is a hiatus, until August 3, 2013, when Mary Roy collected a specimens at Sittingstone Lake, in east central Alberta. After this things start to pick up. On July 14, 2014, a single specimen was found on the Dry Island Butterfly count. This year, 2015, produced by far the most records. Nobert Kondla found Dun skippers at three sites in the Donalda-Big Knife area, and John Acorn photographed one at Wagner Bog west of Edmonton, on July 8. John photographed another (or the same) individual at Wagner a day or two later. The most recent record is for a single male I collected in Goldbar Park here in Edmonton on July 18. It will be interesting to see what this admittedly drab little butterfly will do in the coming years.



Dun Skipper in Edmonton, Gary Anweiler





Dry Island Butterfly Count

Charles Bird

Location: Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park, Red Deer River Valley, east of Huxley.

Folks gathered at the Upper Viewpoint/Parking Lot and the Count started at 10 AM. We had blustery, overcast weather and a cold NW wind up there. Needless to say, no butterflies were seen in that area. After introductions and a short talk, we drove down to the picnic area. We had scattered cloud with a light NW wind throughout the Count and the temperature ranged from 18-24 C. We roamed around the picnic area, then, had lunch at noon. After that we had a discussion period where participants talked about the importance of the Park, and various natural history topics. After lunch, we had the traditional group photograph (thanks Drajs). Then because of the large number of participants, we divided up into three teams, one lead by John Acorn, one by David Lawrie and Vic Romanyshyn, and one by Charley Bird; each group checked out a different area. We were lucky to have two sunny breaks as the butterflies

started flying whenever that happened. Wildflowers put on a good show inspite of the dry conditions. As usual, tiger lilies putting on a favourite. Mosquitoes were seldom a problem. Kilometers on foot estimated to be over 10. This count has been held annually since 1999.

The participants (41) were John Acorn, Tjarda Barratt, Curt Bagdan, Elizabeth Bagdan, Emily Bell, Megan Bell, Brian Biggs, Ann Bird, Charley Bird (Compiler), Jim Brohman, Lori Brohman, Robert Brown, Shannon Brown, Wayne Brown, Erika Droessler (Parks), Anthony Eagles (Parks), Isabella Hodson (Parks), Allison Ireland, Andrew Lensink (Parks), Debra Jungling, Margot Jungling, Wayne Kinsella, David Lawrie, Mary Lawrie, Shirley Lawrie, Claudia Lipski, Doug McKay, Shirley McKay, Brian Orr (Parks), Colleen Raymond, Vic Romanyshyn, Tim Schowalter, Colin Scragg, Darcy Stuart, Sharon Stuart, Cheryl Tebby, Brodie Vale, Brooklyn Vale, Tracy Vale, Dragomir Vujnovic (Parks), Ksenija Vujnovic (Parks).

SPECIES OBSERVED – The names and order follow that of G.R. Pohl et al., 2010, An Annotated List of the Lepidoptera of Alberta, Canada (ZooKeys 38, 1-549, Special Issue).

Pyrgus communis (Checkered Skipper) - 2
Oarisma garita (Garita Skipper) - 6
Thymelicus lineola (European Skipper) - 4
Polites themisticles (Tawny-edged Skipper) - 1
Polites mystic (Long Dash Skipper) - 1
Anatrytone logan (Delaware Skipper) - 2
Euphyes vestris (Dun Skipper) - 1
Papilio machaon dodi (Dod's Old World Swallowtail) - 6
Colias philodice (Clouded Sulphur) - 46
Pieris rapae (Cabbage Butterfly) - 7
Satyrium liparops (Striped Hairstreak) - 1
Glaucopsyche lygdamus (Silvery Blue) - 1
Plebejus melissa (Melissa Blue) - 1
Aricia shasta (Shasta Blue) - 1
Limenitis arthemis (White Admiral) - 7
Euptoieta claudia (Variegated Fritillary) - 2
Speyeria cybele pseudocarpenteri (Great-spangled Fritillary) - 8
Speyeria hesperis (Northwestern Fritillary) - 18
Phyciodes cocyta (Northern Pearl Crescent) - 8
Phyciodes batesii (Tawny Crescent) - 3
Phyciodes spp. - 10

Coenonympha tullia inornata (Common Ringlet) – 5

Four dragonflies were observed: *Aeshna interrupta* (Variable Darner), *Ophiogomphus severus* (Pale Snaketail), *Leucorrhinia intacta* (Dot-tailed Whiteface) and *Sympetrum internum* (Cherry-faced Meadowhawk). Two damselflies were noticed: *Enallagma annexum* (= *cyathigerum*) (Northern Bluet) and *Lestes unguiculatus* (Lyre-tipped Spreadwing).

General Comments: An excellent turnout with 41 observers. Twenty-one species of skippers and butterflies and 141 individuals were seen (last year 22 species and 214 individuals). This year's highlights were the skippers *Thymelicus lineola* (first time for the Park), *Anatrytone logan* and *Euphyes vestris*; and the hairstreak *Satyrrium liparops* (first time for the Park). Not observed was a *Chlosyne acastus* which Tim Schowalter photographed (Sagebrush Checkerspot) the day before.

Many participants had nets. The Count being in a Provincial Park, was catch, identify and release. All agreed that this Park is one of the most beautiful in Alberta and all hoped that, with continued good management, it will remain so. Lots of scenery and flower photos were taken.



Charley and some enthusiastic butterfly counters



Dave Lawrie (left) and John Acorn (right, with helper) at the Ellis Bird Farm Butterfly Count

Ellis Bird Farm Bug Jamboree Charles Bird

Myrna Pearman and team once again organized a Bug Jamboree at the Ellis Bird Farm, southeast of Lacombe. Over 250 adults and children attended. Authorities in various entomological areas are invited to attend and to setup displays in their various areas of interests. Representing the Alberta Lepidopterist's Guild were John Acorn, David Lawrie and myself. Ken Fry dealt with garden insects and Charley Bird had a display of Alberta butterflies and moths as well as literature relating to both groups. David Lawrie had a display of various butterflies. EBF Head Gardener, Cynthia Pohl, set up a very popular leaf-cutter bee hotel, which families could help add to. Rob Longair had a display about wasps. Adrian Thyse had a display of insect photographs and gave a short workshop on macrophotography. Representatives of the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, Joey Temple and Jeanessa Mathew, were at the ever-popular pond dipping station at the pier. Benny Acorn was a roving entomologist, catching butterflies and showing them to visitors. He also oversaw the release of butterflies at the end of the day. In addition, children could have their faces painted with insects or spiders and each family could build and take home their own bumblebee box.

John Acorn introduced the event with a selection of "Acorn – the Nature Nut" songs. Large numbers of youngsters, accompanied by their parents and/or grandparents attended. There is nothing more thrilling than having "bug-eyed" children with oodles of questions come up to look at your display of books and

specimens. The purpose of the event is to introduce children to the wonderful world of entomology. The event started at 1 PM and was followed by a Butterfly Count at 3 PM that ran for over half an hour. Many children had, or were loaned, EBF nets and followed “catch and release” protocol.

The leaders for this year’s Butterfly count were Charley Bird, David Lawrie and John Acorn; while Cheyenne Knight of the Ellis Bird Farm was Recorder. Participants were: Benny Acorn; Lavonne Baehl and grandchildren Taylor and Brooke; Azariah and Izayah Hargie, Bryhn and Jennifer Bodhi; Hannah and Ellen Blankenship; Elisabeth and Kirsten Bouwsema; Colin Davenport; Servita, Isla and Cedar Demise; Anastasiya Paulin; Leanne and Rebecca Silva; Brooklyn, Brodie and Tracey Vale; Ariana, Sabrina and Doda Wayne; Felix, Will, Eden, Laurette and Kayleigh Woodward; and Rune Yee .

The butterflies encountered in this year’s count were: European Skipper 25 (first appeared in 2004, we had 45 on last year’s count); Cabbage White 13 (51 were seen last year), Meadow Brown or Common Wood Nymph 6; Inornate Ringlet 5; Clouded Sulphur 4; Western White 2; Bronze Copper 1; Great Spangled Fritillary 1, Northwestern Fritillary 1 and Northern Crescent 1. We also saw Cherry-faced Meadowhawks, the Variable Darner Dragonfly, the Spotted Spreadwing (*Lestes congener*) and Boreal Bluet (*Enallagma boreale*). It was one of the best, if not the best, Bug Jamborees that I have had the pleasure of taking part in.

Four Skippers on a Thistle

*Was out for a walk when I stopped with a whistle,
for there I beheld four skippers on a thistle.
As they sipped away on nectar so sweet,
side by side, t’was an eye-candied treat!
There were bees buzzing around and nectaring too
beneath a sky of sunshine and blue.
For a moment in time I felt not a care,
as my vision took in this butterfly fair.
How it pulled me out of life’s day to day gristle
as my heart opened up to four skippers on a thistle...*

Annie Pang



A Lorquin's Song on a hot day

*Beneath the shadows I retreat
to find respite from scorching heat
before the day is far from done,
I hide myself from too much sun.
My wings are dark, my wings are frail,
I must protect each tiny scale
for life is short and life is rough,
and for a butterfly, it's tough.
We fight for mates so we can breed
so we'll live on in next year's seed,
But in this heat today I hide
and in the shadows I'll abide
until I'm cool enough to sun
before the day is all but done...*

Annie Pang



A November Cabbage White

On the morning of November 6th this year, I was just getting my coffee brew when I turned around and saw this lovely flawless Cabbage White on the inside of the kitchen window. The previous day had been pretty mild, and I wonder how it got into the house, perhaps on a log for the fireplace. November 6th was somewhat chilly but I decided to place the butterfly in a warm and protected nook against the house and in full sunshine. It settled down among some leaves. I'm certain it was too chilly for it to take flight. November 7th was a very mild and sunny day, and I went out to see if it was still there. There was no sign of it, and given the warmth of the day, I am pretty sure it must have taken flight.

Ian Sheldon





On a sunny day in June, while watching a group of peacefully coexisting European and Tawny-edged Skippers sharing some sweet clover blossoms, when I spotted this poor creature: a European Skipper, caught by the proboscis, by a Goldenrod Crab Spider (*Misumena vatia*). No matter how the butterfly fluttered and struggled, the spider would not let go. -- John Acorn

Ian Sheldon