

NEW SASKATCHEWAN BUTTERFLY RECORDS

by **Ronald R. Hooper**, Fort Qu'Appelle

During an insect-collecting field-trip for the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History from June 24 to 29, 1968, I collected four new butterfly species for Saskatchewan, three of which are new species for Canada. The collecting was done in the badlands along the Frenchman River in the western part of the Wood Mountains.

The barren hilltops are a semi-desert environment which is the only place in Saskatchewan where the Horned Lizard has been found. The flat areas near the river contain the famous Prairie Dog colonies.

Collecting is difficult on the hilltops because of the almost constant breeze. The best time to collect seems to be on sunny mornings before the sun becomes too hot or the wind too strong. The butterflies congregate on the sunny, sheltered sides of the slopes around the flowers of Yellow Umbrella Plant (*Eriogonum flavum*), *Senecio*, and various Leguminosae. Collecting must be done by careful talking, for once the insect is alarmed there is little hope of following it in such rugged terrain, especially if a breeze catches it. For this reason there are probably many more species new to Saskatchewan yet to be discovered in this type of area.

The day-by-day collecting went as follows—

MONDAY, June 24—We drove to Killdeer, but found it too wet to go into the Killdeer badlands, so we headed toward Val Marie.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25—Collected in morning in badlands northeast of Val Marie, where I took Canada's first record of Oslar's Roadside Skipper (*Amblyscirtes oslari* Skin.). One specimen was taken in this locality and the other specimen was taken in the afternoon on a hilltop southeast of Val Marie. This species has been formerly recorded as ranging north to Nebraska.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26—We drove

to the badlands on the east side of the Frenchman River, east of Rosefield, within a mile or so of the Montana border. The day was cool and windy, and the sun did not shine until late in the afternoon when I went up on a barren hilltop, where I collected Saskatchewan's first record of Alpine (or Colorado) Blue (*Philotes battoides centralis* B. & McD.). The closest former record was a specimen that I took at Elkwater, Alberta in June, 1963.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27—A beautiful day. While on the way up a juniper-covered slope, I netted a small, faded hairstreak on a *Senecio* blossom. It turned out to be a Juniper Hairstreak (*Mitoura siva* Edw.). The closest previous record for this species is western North Dakota. It has not been recorded before for Canada.

Later in the morning I took a single fresh specimen of Simius Roadside Skipper (*Amblyscirtes simius* Edw.). This too is Canada's first record. It has been recorded as occurring north to Nebraska.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28—I collected in the Wood Mountain Regional Park area, but came up with nothing new. This is rather to be expected, as it is on the northern slopes and therefore is not in the Missouri drainage. It seems to be typical parkland in many ways.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29—I collected in the badlands southwest of Killdeer, but the weather was very poor and not much was taken.

These specimens were identified by C. F. Dos Passos of Mendham, N.J.

I should also like to report at this time that C. F. Dos Passos has identified for me as well a specimen of Juvenal's Dusky Wing (*Erynnis juvenalis* Fab.) which I took among the Bur Oak in June, 1967. This is Saskatchewan's first authentic record of Juvenal's Dusky Wing. It brings the list of definitely determined Saskatchewan butterflies to 118 species.