The Hunt
For a Red-Disked Alpine

by Jeffrey Glassberg

I had flown into Minneapolis, Minnesota the previous afternoon, then driven to Crex Meadows in Burnett County, Wisconsin, in the hope of seeing a few butterflies before moving northward to Douglas County, Wisconsin and bog country. Although the weather was dicey on Wednesday afternoon as well, I did manage to see quite a few Olympia Marbles, which, flying near the end of their flight season, were mainly tattered and a little forlorn-looking. A few were fresh enough to still have their characteristic and beautiful rosy flush (see photo on page 38).

By the time I arrived at Milchesky Road in Douglas County, at about 10 am on Wednesday, the patches of sunshine that had followed me northward from Crex Meadows had disappeared, replaced by wide bands of menacing gray clouds. We missed reasonable butterfly weather by perhaps an hour! Oh well. As a consolation, a number of dramatic Bald Eagles were in the area and I managed to get good looks at a number of them, perched against the gray sky.

The next day, Thursday, May 6, was more promising. In the morning I was joined by Dave Hanson and Ann Thering and we excitedly noted that the temperature might hit 50 degrees! When it did, and the sun became strong enough to cast some shadows, we climbed down into the bog and started looking. A few flies created quite a stir — insects on the wing! Soon, some actual butterflies appeared and these were beauties —