Summer 2010

by Michael Reese

The warm spring weather in the East may have been an omen for a great butterfly season in that part of the country, and reports from late spring and summer seem to indicate that it indeed was a terrific season for many species.

The general consensus was that Monarchs had a very good year and bounced back from record low numbers at the Mexican overwintering sites early in the year. Good numbers of Monarchs started moving south in late August and 250+ were seen on August 21 at Breezy Point & Rockaway peninsula, Queens, Co., NY (T. Fiore), while 400 were seen at Point Pelee, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: A. Wormington, K. McLaughlin, B. Lamond) on August 27.

In the spring there were many reports of Red Admirals heading north throughout the East. Large numbers of Red Admirals continued to be seen throughout June and into July. By extrapolating from 150 individuals actually counted on one day, 18,000 Red Admirals per day were estimated to be moving north from across the water along a 1 mile stretch of beach at Newport, RI on June 25, 26 and 27 (J. Glassberg). 150+ Red Admirals were also reported on June 25 on Appalachian Trail Lands From State Route 94 To County Route 517, Vernon, NJ (V. Corsello).

Other species that were observed in large numbers included Pepper and Salt Skipper — 100 of them were observed on June 4 in Buzzard Swamp, PA (J. Monroe); Carolina Roadside-Skipper — 21 were seen on June 11 in the Great Dismal Swamp NWR, Washington & Jericho ditch, Suffolk, VA (D. Amadio); and Brazilian Skipper caterpillars — 45 seen on June 12 at Colt Creek State Park and surrounding area, FL (B. Bindschadler, D. Cutler, M. Cutler, J. DuBois, B. Cooper, L. Cooper, T. Palmer).

Other high counts for a single species included thousands of European Skippers on June 15 at Tarbell Road, Smithville Flats, NY (B. Grosek), 166 Northern Cloudywings on June 15 in High Park, Toronto, ON (Ontario Butterflies Google Group: B. Yukich, G. Richardson, B. Harrison), and 322 Baltimore Checkerspots on June 17 in Caumsett State Park.

Opposite page

Top: One hundred Pepper and Salt Skippers, an unusually large number, were reported from Buzzard Swamp, Forest Co., PA on June 4.

Middle left: Little Yellows are having a very big year in 2010, spreading north throughout the East. This one was in Garrett Co., MD on June 25.

Middle right: Red Admirals also had a banner year! This one was one of hundreds at Hudson, Columbia Co., NY on July 4.

Bottom left: Georgia Satyr populations in New Jersey are threatened. It was good to see that on June 17 the population in Klots's bog in Ocean Co., NJ was still healthy.

Bottom right: There have been few reports of Bronze Coppers from Tennessee. This one was at Eagle Lake WMA, TN on Aug. 19, 2010.