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Collecting in Sego Canyon, Book Cliffs, Grand County, Utah

by Robert C. Mower

I remember years ago my father telling stories and showing photographs of large deer he and friends had hunted as young men in the Book Cliffs of East Central Utah. These images have remained in the back of my mind for decades. Although I have collected insects throughout the state, I had never ventured into this area. Last year a colleague showed me photographs he had taken during a recent big game hunt into the area. My interest was piqued when I saw the varied plant vegetation along the canyon leading up to the trailhead, a change of more than 2500 ft. in elevation. His interest was big game animals while mine was more along the six-legged variety of game. I determined to visit the area during the 2006 collecting season. I began by doing a "google earth flyover" of the area and planned my attack.



Figure 1. Sego Canyon, Book Cliffs, Grand County, Utah

My first adventure to Sego Canyon (Figure 1) was a three-day spring collecting trip 24-26 May 2006. One particular target was a newly reported arctiid species recently collected in Utah, *Pygarctia neomexicana* (Figure 2). I usually collect with one of my sons and prefer to avoid people and weekends as much as possible since I mostly collect with bright lights. Immediately after work I loaded up the bucket traps, lights and generators and headed out by myself since my son was still in school. From my home in Orem, Utah, I traveled south on I-15 to Spanish Fork and took the Price exit (US 6). I then traveled south on US 6 through Spanish Fork Canyon to Price and continued southeast to I-70. I then headed east along I-70 through

Green River to the Thompson Spring exit, 5 miles past Crescent Junction. It is a three hour drive from my home. The trailhead, which accesses the Book Cliffs, is 16 miles east of I-70 up Sego Canyon, Grand County, Utah.

Upon arrival, I began surveying the canyon for good light collecting sites. In the lower part of the canyon, I observed scattered cattle and obvious grazing impact. After crossing a cattle guard, the abundance and variety of vegetation improved dramatically. Eight to nine miles east of the freeway exit, I found great places to set up generators and sheets. At the first place I got out to investigate, I heard clucking above me

on the hillside. As I continued to listen and watch, the heads of wild turkeys poked out to investigate me (Figure 3). Already, I knew this was a place where I would return. I continued up the canyon to the trailhead where a few folks with horse trailers and tents were camped enjoying time in the higher elevations where I would not be able to stay. I hung around enjoying the beautiful scenery and watching for birds until the sun began to set. I caught sight of some yellow on a warbler flitting through the bushes. It appeared to be a little different than other warblers I was used to seeing. Finally, I spotted it high up in a Ponderosa Pine. It was a Grace's

warbler male (Figure 4), an uncommon bird, and the first one I have ever seen in the wild. I watched it for a while comparing it with the field guide illustrations. The yellow above the eye, yellow throat and breast and streaking on the flanks were all distinct markings. I was really enjoying this canyon!

I left the higher elevations (8500 ft.) and returned to the lower elevations (6500-6000 ft.) consisting of pinyon/juniper/oak vegetation. Half way down the canyon I set up four bucket traps with battery-powered 15-watt UV lights and two generator-powered mercury vapor lights. On this first trip, I collected the following moths. From the Arctiidae, *Lycomorpha grotei*, *Hypercompe permaculata*, *Hyphantria cunea*, *Lophocampa argentata* and *Hemihyalea labecula* (larvae). Representing Saturniidae were *Coloradia doris* and *Hyalophora gloveri*. The Sphingidae were represented by the common species *Manduca quinquemaculata*, *Sphinx chersis*, *Sphinx vashti* and *Sphinx dolli*.

My second trip was a one night quickie with my son Tyler on 13 July 2006. We left after work again and set up lights in a mile section half way up the canyon and headed home after field pinning specimens the following morning. The arctiids that arrived at our sheets and buckets included, *Cisthene barnsii*, *Crambidia cephalica*, *Hypoprepia inculta*, *Lycomorpha grotei*, *Hypercompe permaculata*, *Grammia williamsii*, *Grammia f-pallida*, *Grammia*

proxima, *Hemihyalea labecula*. I was amazed at the abundant numbers of *G. f-pallida* (Figure 5) that came in this night. Four underwings species also came to lights including *Catacola aholibah*, *C. verilliana*, *C. ilia* and *C. desdemona*. The later species was an uncommon prize to collect. One surprise that arrived from the Saturniidae family was a fresh *Hemileuca eglanterina* that must have thought the sun had come up! Worn *Anthereae polyphemus* were also observed but not collected.

The final excursion was another one night experience on the 24 August 2006. Following work I departed solo for the three hour trip to sample this same section of Sejo Canyon. The bugs were waiting for me in great numbers! (See the collecting sheet in Figure 8.) In addition to moths, abundant numbers of Neuroptera and Coleoptera were present. Arctiidae, my major interest, were represented by *Crambidia cephalica*, *Cisthene barnsii*, *Lycomorpha grotei*, *Lycomorpha splendens*, *Hypercompe permaculata*, *Grammia geneura*, *Hemihyalea labecula*, *Arachnis citra citra* (yellow fw w/grey), *Arachnis citra apachea* (pink fw w/grey) (Figure 6). These had a weak pink color compared with specimens I have collected in Uintah County and some of the more southern Utah counties of Garfield and Kane. The sheets were flooded with a huge emergence of *Coloradia pandora* (Figure 7). One interesting observation was difference in flight times between the females, which flooded the sheets

during the early evening hours, and the males, which I didn't notice coming in until about 3:00 AM. Other collections of this species have had males come in much earlier.

A pleasant surprise was the appearance of five *Hemileuca neumogeni*. Three of them were quite tattered indicating they had been on the wing for a few days. Some of the noctuids I made note of were *Catacola aholibah*, the most abundant as expected in this oak environment this time of year. A few ragged *C. desdamonia* were still around. Four species of *Shinia* were collected for Chuck Harp. Two of them, *Shinia errans*, a state record, and *Shinia argentifascia*, a county record.

This canyon is an oasis in the desert. The average traveler on I-70 would have no clue that just a few miles off this desolate looking stretch of freeway, hides a bonanza of bugs. I guess you have to be a few cards short of a full deck to enjoy what we do! Oh, and I did pick up one *Pygarctia neomexicana* on my first trip in a different county!



Figure 2. *Pygarctia neomexicana*



Figure 3. Observe head of turkey in center of photograph



Figure 4. Grace's Warbler male. Photo by Jack Binch



Figure 5. *Grammia f-pallida*



Figure 6. *Arachnis citra apachea* (left) *Arachnis citra citra* (right)



Figure 7. *Coloradia pandora*

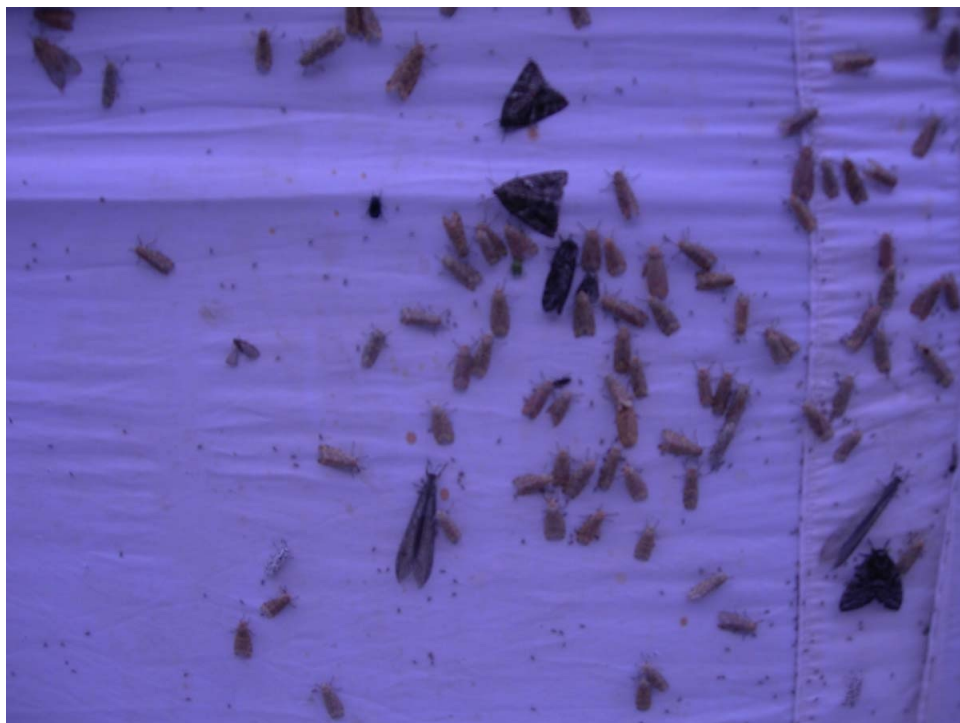


Figure 8. Robert Mower's Light Collecting Sheet in Segoe Canyon, Book Cliffs, Grand Co., Utah

A Letter of Tribute, Recognition, and Remembrance For Ken Tidwell (1923 - 2007) By Clyde. F. Gillette

Kenneth B. Tidwell was born on 26 February 1923 in Hiawatha, Carbon Co., UT. He died of pneumonia on 20 March 2007 at St Mark's Hospital in Salt Lake City. For two months it was known he had a large brain tumor. He spent many of his earlier years in Wellington, Carbon Co., UT, going to North Emery High School in Castle Dale, UT, and later East Carbon Jr College (ca 1946).

Ken served in the 422nd Nightfighter Squadron of the US Army Air Corps in Belgium and Germany during WWII, participating in several very important strategic mission assignments. He also served in the Air Force in the Korean War. The first butterfly of record for KBT is of a male *Pieris rapae* (cabbage white) collected on 7 May 1957 at his home at 969 W. 1860 S., Salt Lake City, 13/42, Salt Lake Co., UT. Ken almost single-handedly kept Utah butterflying alive during those long, very lean years between when I quit actively collecting butterflies in 1949, when John C. Downey moved away from Utah, and when I got very active again on 2 August 1971. He also investigated several new, very productive, Utah butterfly collecting sites, which information he freely shared with others. His regular, eager, animated style of sharing his extensive knowledge of butterflies is what first comes to mind when thinking of Ken.

Ken established eight very significant Utah state butterfly records which are: *Boloria freija* (zigzag bolorian), 4 June 1960, Uintah Co., UT; *Oeneis jutta* (forest arctic), 25 June 1962, Uintah Co., UT; *Colias meadi* (orange alpine sulfur), 12 August 1962, Uintah Co., UT; *Erebia callias* (grey alpine), 12 August 1962, Uintah Co., UT; *Satyrrium fuliginosum* (sooty hairstreak), 24 July 1963, Box Elder Co., UT; *Oeneis taygete* (white-veined arctic) 12 August 1967, Uintah Co., UT; *Papilio coloro* (mojave swallowtail), 24 March 1968, Washington Co., UT; and *Anthocharis pima* (pima orangetip), 30 March 1971, Washington Co., UT. As a result of these discoveries, Ken (as senior author)



with Curtis J. Callaghan had their "A checklist of Utah butterflies and skippers" published in The Mid-Continent Lepidoptera Series, March 1972 4 (51):1-16. Ken Tidwell has actively contributed to butterfly science ever since.

He was foremost among those few lepidopterists who were fortunate in having their wives very actively engage in nearly all aspects of their lepidoptera pursuits. Ken and his wife, Donna, went to many of the national & regional meetings thru the years. Many of the friends they met at those meetings would call on the Tidwells when passing thru Salt Lake to exchange greetings - which often included asking questions about Utah butterfly information. Donna has participated in a large portion of Ken's extensive, worldwide collecting trips.

The Tidwells donated most all of their extensive lepidoptera collection to the Monte L. Bean Museum of Natural History of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. One of the most noteworthy butterfly displays to be found anywhere is the huge single "Tidwell Butterfly" mosaic composed of hundreds of mounted butterfly specimens donated by Ken. This unique, artful butterfly mosaic is prominently featured at the

museum. (Please go see it sometime!)

[The Tidwell family name is printed on the maps of at least three localities in Utah. One is Tidwell Bottom on the NW side of the Green River in Labyrinth Canyon, 5.5 mi S of Bowknot Bend, and 2 mi N of Canyonlands National Park & San Juan Co., Emery Co., UT (E edge near SE corner of Horsethief Canyon 7.5 minute map). There is another Tidwell Bottoms on the San Rafael River at the mouth of Tidwell Draw & I 70, Emery Co., UT (Spotted Wolf Canyon 7.5 minute map). Approximately 10 mi E of Fish Lake on the Forsyth Reservoir 7.5 minute map, Sevier Co., UT, both East & West Tidwell Canyons can be found, with Tidwell Slopes lying in between. Tidwell Pond is also found on that map.]

The Utah Lepidopterists' Society was established Sat, 6 November 1976 at the University of Utah with eight founding members, at which meeting Ken Tidwell served as acting secretary. Ken was elected as the first ULS Sec/Treas at that time. He has served as President and contributed in numerous, various other capacities to furthering the goals of the Utah Lepidopterists' Society ever since. His infectious, wide-eyed, hearty laughter will be greatly missed by all of us.

In Memory of George Andrushko A Very Good Butterfly Friend (1945 - 2006) by Clyde. F. Gillette

George Andrushko, 61, died 8 October 2006 after a well-fought, long-running battle with diabetes. He was born on 30 March 1945 in Ulm, SW Germany on the upper Danau (Danube) River. His parents (Alexander & Julia Kuskovska Andrushko) immigrated to America with George in 1950. He served as a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War from 1964 to 1968. He later retired from his long years at Hill Air Force Base. He married C. Elaine Stimpson in Ogden on 9 February 1968, which was solemnized in the Logan, LDS Temple on 18 November 1968. George was a high priest in the Harrisville 2nd Ward.

He is survived by his wife Elaine & seven children: Julia Medsker, Teresa Graves, Linda Blank; Melissa, Ben, Matt, & Debbie Andrushko, and eighteen grandchildren.

Many happy, unforgettable family memories are reflected by his beautiful watercolor paintings which display his love of nature. [To see some of his paintings, go to the ULS website and click on "Members" then "George Andrushko." The web address is on the back of this issue.] In addition to his interests in rock collecting, model airplanes, & computers - he was heavily engaged in the collecting and raising of butterflies, which he found extremely fascinating.

George became particularly absorbed in the detailed developmental history of *Basilarchia archippus* (viceroy) found on willow family plants fairly near his home in North Ogden. He learned the best ways to successfully overwinter larval hibernacula so that the larvae would readily resume feeding once new leaves became available.

It was very pleasant working with George in obtaining new butterfly distribution records, especially in northern Utah where he was most active. He displayed such an eager, almost



childlike glee whenever he had certain particular butterfly county records that I needed and asked him for. I can even remember his exact mannerisms and excited voice as he said, "Yes, I've got *flavula* from Weber Co." He then jumped up from our discussion table to get the specimen to prove it. GEA's 4 Jul 77 N Ogden Pass 19/62 Wasatch Mts, specimen is the Weber Co., UT record for *Charidryas palla flavula* (colorado northern checkerspot). There are several more Utah butterfly records similar to that from him.

George was particularly pleased to have captured an unspotted and mostly unmarked aberrant male *Parnassius clodius menetriesi* (utah american parnassian) specimen on 21 July 1980 .5rN Ut Hw 39 25/82 v Dry Bread Pd, Cache Co., UT. He published the details of this event in *Utahensis* 1984 Vol. 4, Iss. 4: pgs. 56-57 (Fotoplate 1, Figure 7 & 8). George was Vice President of the Utah Lepidopterists' Society at the time of his writing of the aberrant parnassian paper.

The first names of three of George and Elaine's daughters (Julia, Linda, and Melissa) are used in the scientific names of at least five different North American butterfly species.

They are:

Anthocharis sara julia
(julia common orangetip)

Dryas julia (orange longwing)

Speyeria egleis linda
(linda egleis fritillary)

Plebejus melissa
(common bordered blue)

Oeneis melissa (smoky arctic)

Our heartfelt best wishes go out to all of George's family and his extended family. He was a very pleasant, cheerful, enthusiastic person to be with. We (his buddies) in the ULS will miss him and appreciate his contributions to lepidoptera science.

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Dale Nelson with his Big Net searches for swallowtails in Blacksmith's Fork near Hyrum, Utah