

ALG News Archive - from the ALG website

#2 December 2001

[note historical links are no longer functional]

2001 saw plenty of ALG activity. The ALTALEPS list-server saw lots of talk about databasing. Eventually all the ideas got coalesced into an EXCEL template which was compiled and circulated by [Charley Bird](#). Several members sat down with people from the [Federation of Alberta Naturalists](#) and the [Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre](#), and began work on an official checklist and data recording software for Alberta butterflies. This software, still in development, is intended to help people to keep track of their sightings and observations. This year we decided to have our annual general meeting in the spring. Gerry Hilchie hosted it March 12 at his home in Edmonton; among other things, we re-elected the entire 2001 executive for 2002. By the end of the year we had 42 members. Just when we think all the local lepidoptereists have come out of the woodwork, another one finds out about us and asks to join.

Some ALG highlights of 2001:

Feb. 10

John Acorn hosted the first annual Festival of Feralia, at his home in Edmonton. This ancient festival used to be a time to celebrate our ancestors. Today we celebrate the approaching spring, complete with imminent appearance of early season moths such as the beautiful noctuids in the genus *Feralia*. ALGers and many others came dressed as deceased entomologists and various other entities. A fine time was had by all.

March 30

Gary Anweiler hosted an informal ALG gathering at his home.

April 27-30

Several ALGers attended the annual Spring Vortek trip, a biological odyssey to Tolman Bridge, Steeveville, and Dinosaur Park in south-central Alberta. This bi-annual event organised by John Acorn and Chris Fisher invariably ends up at the Vortek itself, a giant bowling pin, or milk bottle, or perhaps just an aircraft navigation beacon near Wainwright. They asked the supreme Vortek the Big Questions, and Answers were given. If you were there you would understand.

June 2-3

Ted Pike helped organise a Lepidoptera Weekend in Red Deer, which featured butterfly counts and moth trapping and baiting at the Ellis Bird Farm and the Kerry Wood Nature Centre.

June 9

Doug Macaulay and Dave Lawrie hosted a moth observation and collecting demonstration night, at Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park near Lac La Biche.

June 13-14

Dave Lawrie hosted a trap building workshop, where he helped several ALG members put together UV traps and MV lights. [See his detailed park lists and plans elsewhere on this site.](#)

June 23–July 8

The [Biological Survey of Canada](#) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada held a grassland arthropods collecting trip to Onefour in extreme southeastern Alberta. This has long been a favorite Lep collecting site, with some excellent badlands and shortgrass prairie habitat including Alberta's only yucca plants. Several ALGers made it down for a couple of days of collecting with other entomologists from across Canada.

July 14

The Devonian Botanic Gardens hosted a butterfly awareness day, with the help of ALGers John Acorn, Cherlyn Forth, Sandi Robertson.

Sept. 1

Charley Bird hosted a gathering at his home in Erskine, near Stettler, followed by a collecting night at nearby Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park.

Sept. 6-9

The fall Vortek expedition went to Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park. Instead of travelling all over the countryside, this time folks stayed in one place for the entire weekend.

Sept. 8

After doing a bit of homework, Gary Anweiler and Chris Schmidt went to the Edgerton Dunes near Wainwright, and tracked down a great new record for Alberta, the saturniid moth *Hemileuca nevadensis*. This big showy day flier was out in big numbers there, but appears to be restricted to overgrown dune systems.

Sept. 21

"Physics Dave" Lawrie hosted an "Empty Apartment" party at his home in Edmonton, just before moving to Illinois for post-doctoral work. A bunch of us helped him pack his things, and we even took various unwanted odds and ends off his hands.

Oct. 19

Gary Anweiler hosted another fine gathering at his home in Edmonton. A highlight was the amazing multicolored aurora borealis overhead, for those of us who ventured outside.

Nov. 24

John Acorn put together a *Catocala* identification workshop at the University of Alberta. He also showed us how to view UV reflectance of butterflies.

Alberta Shield Survey 2001:

The ALG took part in the Alberta Shield Inventory for the second year. This year the survey sampled La Butte Creek Wildland Provincial Park on the Slave River east of Wood Buffalo National Park, and Fidler-Greywillow Wildland Provincial Park on the north shore of Lake Athabasca. Once again, Alberta Parks and Protected Areas flew people in and provided a fully equipped camp. Rob Hughes and Wayne Nordstrom took part in the early trip (June 6-17); Doug Macaulay, Greg Pohl, and Amanda Roe (July 5-11) and Dave Lawrie and Vanessa Block (July 17-25) took part in the July trip. A total of 295 species in 30 families were collected in the two parks. [See the report.](#)