

BUTTERFLIES of ALBANY HILL, CA -- expected and unexpected

Robert L. Langston, Zone 3 Coordinator

Kensington, CA

From 1996 to 1998, 30 species were recorded:

*Ernnis tilstis, Pyrgus communis, Hylephila phyletus, Polites sabuleti, Ochlodes sylvanoides, Paratrvtöne melane, Battus philenor hirsuta, Papilio zelicaon, Pterourus rutulus, P. eurymedon, Pieris napi venosa, P. rapae, Euchloe ausonides, Colias eurytheme, Strymon melinus pudicus, Celastrina argiolus echo, Glaucoptyche lygdamus incognita, Icaricia acmon, Agraulis vanillae incarnata Phyciodes mylitta, Polygonia satyrus, Nymphalis antiopa, Vanessa virginiensis, V. cardui, V. annabella, V. atalanta rubria, Junonia coenia, Basilarchia lorquini, Coenonympha californica, and Danaus plexippus.*

Unexpected species (in list above):

*Battus philenor hirsuta:* Only a few on the lower slopes, but consistently 1 to 3 males hilltopping at the summit each season (6 males on one day). No pipevine known on Albany Hill, but adults are highly vagile. Found commonly at Point Richmond, Tilden Park and occasional strays in the residential areas of Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito and Kensington.

*Pterourus eurymedon:* Two worn males in 1996 and one male in 1997 hilltopping at the summit of Albany Hill. California Coffeeberry (or other Rhamnaceae) are not presently known on Albany Hill. Pale Swallowtails are common in Tilden Park with strays in nearby residential areas. Never found at Point Richmond

*Pieris napi venosa:* A single female on 10 April 1996 and another female on 26 March 1997, both fresh near Cerrito Creek. They do not appear to have migrated from adjoining areas. The Veined White is known from Tilden Park, but never found at Point Richmond in 40 years of surveys. Milkmaids are present but uncommon on Albany Hill. RLL has observed *venosa* ovipositing on Wild Radish and mustards in Marin County.

*Polygonia satyrus:* Four winter hibernants found on 11 Feb. 1996 on the west slope and one on 28 May 1996 near Cerrito Creek. No Stinging Nettle is known on Albany Hill and other Urticaceae very scarce.

Expected species not found:

*Ochlodes agricola*.- Plenty of suitable grasses present. Populations in Tilden Park and at Point Richmond

*Anthocharis sara:* Masses of Wild Radish and mustards present. Occurs in Tilden Park with strays in nearby residential areas. Never found at Point Richmond.

*Gaei(les.ranchoicies:* Dock and sorrel present. Known from as close as Gill Tract the University Housing and presently common at the Berkeley landfill off Gilman St. & University Ave.

*Pkviodes pratensis.* California Aster present. Common in Tilden Park and Point Richmond

*Euphydryas chalcedona:* Bee Plant and Sticky Monkeyflower present. Common in Tilden Park and Pt. Richmond

*Adelpha bredowii californica:* There are many Coast Live Oak trees on Albany Hill. California Sisters are found in Tilden Park and nearby residential areas. Never found at Point Richmond.

*Cercyonis pegala boopis:* Plenty of suitable grasses present. Very common in Tilden Park and at Point Richmond.

Possible Migrants:

*Nymphalis californica*: Certain seasons this species invades the Bay Area - especially winter hibernants from about October into February or March. None were observed from 1996 through the spring of 1998 on Albany Hill.

*Vanessa cardui*: Only single-digits observed on Albany Hill in recent years. The Painted Lady could be found in migratory numbers in the future.

Extirpated:

*Epidemia heliooides*: Found near Cerrito Creek on 23 Sept. 1954 - 44 years ago!! In the last 4 decades the Purplish Copper has become scarce or non-existent throughout much of the Bay Area. Extant near Sebastopol (Sonoma County), and flourishing further inland in the Delta and much of the Central Valley. -

*Icaricia icarioides pardalis*: With so few lupines, there may never have been a colony on Albany Hill. At present it is common at Point Richmond, and there are populations in Tilden Park and throughout the East Bay Hills.

Presented at the 1998 Annual Meeting of the PACIFIC SLOPE SECTION of THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY,

San Bernardino Mtns., CA, 27 June 1998.