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SIGNIFICANT RANGE EXTENSION OF *LEPTOTES MARINA* (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) INTO NEW YORK STATEWayne K. Gall and Robert F. Andrie<sup>1</sup>

The Marine Blue, *Leptotes marina* (Reakirt) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae), is resident from the southwestern United States south through Mexico to Guatemala, with strays reported no further northeast than extreme northwestern Indiana and extreme south-central Ohio (Opler and Krizek 1984, Scott 1986, Shull 1987, Opler and Malikul 1992, Parshall 1993). Although *L. marina* may be easily overlooked in the field (Iftner, Shuey and Calhoun 1992), the paucity of published records, e.g., two in Illinois (Irwin and Downey 1973), one in Indiana (Shull 1987), and one in Ohio (Parshall 1993), may truly reflect the rarity of strays in the northeastern portion of its range.

We would like to report a significant range extension of *L. marina* into western New York, and thus the first record of this butterfly in New York State (see Shapiro 1974, and Klass and Dirig 1992, for complete listings of New York State butterflies). This record is approximately 530 km from the nearest published record known to us, Lawrence County, Ohio (Parshall 1993). One male *L. marina* with worn wings has been deposited in the insect collection of the Buffalo Museum of Science, accession number 1993.338, with label data as follows: NEW YORK, Erie County: Town of North Collins, in hayfield 2.3 km NW of Hamlet of Langford, School Street between Route 75 and Jennings Road, elev. 390 m. 25 July 1993, Robert F. Andrie coll. The collecting site was an upland old-field with short grasses (approx. 25 cm high), *Trifolium* sp., *Daucus carota*, and some clumps of *Asclepias syriaca*, near the edge of a woods. Other butterflies observed at the time of collection included *Pieris rapae* (L.) and *Colias eurytheme* Boisduval (Pieridae), *Celastrina ladon* (Cramer) (Lycaenidae), *Basilarchia archippus* (Cramer) (Nymphalidae), *Danaus plexippus* (L.) (Danaiidae), and *Thymelicus lineola* (Ochsenheimer) (Hesperiidae). Since the chronology of the record for New York (25 July 1993) corresponds closely with that of Parshall's record for Ohio (15 August 1993), it is interesting to speculate if the extreme weather patterns in 1993 (hot and dry in the southern US, prolonged rains and flooding in the midwestern US) may have been responsible for a pronounced northward irruption of *L. marina* (and other Lepidoptera?) in 1993 (Robert Dirig, pers. comm.).

Despite the paucity of records for this butterfly in the northern US, lepidopterists in the Great Lakes region should be vigilant for strays of *L. marina* in open areas such as clover and alfalfa fields (Iftner, Shuey and Calhoun 1992). The larval foodplants of this species include *Medicago sativa*, *Lathyrus odoratus*, *Amorpha*, *Astragalus* (and other Fabaceae), as well as *Plumbago* sp. (Plumbaginaceae) (Opler and Krizek 1984, Opler and Malikul 1992, Scott 1986, Shull 1987).

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