

NOTES ON THE MIGRATION OF WHITE BUTTERFLIES.

By MAJOR F. MOYSEY.

Species: *Belenois severina*.

Locality: Mount Elgon, Kenya Colony.

Date: April 29th to May 12th, 1932.

April 29.—I noticed a general drift of white butterflies flying N.E. against a light wind. The flight lasted from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. I counted 100 passing in five minutes.

April 30th.—The flight continued from 10-30 a.m. until 3 p.m. against a strong breeze. Wind N.E. I counted the butterflies passing through a space 30 yards wide at 2 p.m. In 17 minutes 250 passed.

May 1st.—A dull cloudy day with occasional sun. The movement started at 10-30 a.m. Wind was slight N.E. At mid-day I counted the numbers passing through a space of 30 yards. In 42 minutes there were 761.

May 2nd.—A cloudy day. The numbers passing were distinctly less. At 2 p.m. 68 passed in 20 minutes.

May 3rd.—There was two inches of rain during the previous night. There was no movement during this day.

May 4th.—A bright clear day. No movement observed.

May 5th.—The migration continued against a very light wind N.E. at 9-30 a.m. As they are so easily distinguished I thought it would be of interest to compare the numbers of each sex passing. From this date onwards I have counted the sexes separately. (For details of numbers and sexes see table). It became overclouded at 2 p.m. and the movement stopped at 3 p.m.

May 6th.—The migration started at 10 a.m. on a dull cloudy day. The sun broke through at mid-day and the stream of butterflies increased until at times it was nearly impossible to count them passing through the measured 30 yards. At 3 p.m. they were passing at the rate of 60 per minute. They had now become too numerous to count accurately, so I shortened the distance to 10 yards. Even at this, they were at times passing at over 40 per minute. The movement continued in large numbers until after 4 p.m. when it began to slacken off. At 4-50 the day's flight was over. I found a large number resting for the night on bushes and trees.

May 7th.—A bright fine morning. The migration continued at 7-30 a.m. By 8-30 there was a steady stream passing which gradually increased until mid-day. At 3 p.m. it clouded over and the movement dwindled down; it had ceased by 3-30.

May 8th.—A dull cloudy day in which the sun never appeared. There had been rain during the previous night. The movement

started at 10-30 a.m. There were very few passing. I found them passing five miles S.W. of here and they were also noted 20 miles west of this farm. The numbers never became great and the movement had ceased by 3 p.m.

May 9th.—There had been rain during the night. The movement started at 9-30 but was few in number. It clouded over at 1 p.m. and there was slight rain. There was no movement after 3 p.m.

May 10th.—A cloudy day. They were very few flying. No movement after 1 p.m.

May 11th.—A cloudy day. I saw a few flying N.E. at 11 a.m., but by 11-30 there were none to be seen. At 2 p.m. until 3-30 small numbers were flying N.W. This change from their normal direction of flight coincided with a change of wind which had gone round to N.W. The flight was more leisurely than on previous days. The butterflies were taking more interest in flowers and seemed to have abandoned their objective away to the N.E.

May 12th.—There was no migration to-day. I saw a few but they were not moving in any particular direction.

Date.	Time.	Space.	No. Males.	Females.	Average a min.	Direction.	
30/4	2-00—2-17	30 yds.	250	Not observed	14.7	N.E.	
1/5	12-00—12-42	30 yds.	761	Not observed	18.1	N.E.	
2/5	2-00—2-20	30 yds.	68	Not observed	3.4	N.E.	
3/5			No movement.				
4/5			No movement.				
5/5	10-00—10-23	30 yds.	192	Not observed	8.3	N.E.	
5/5	10-25—10-40	30 yds.	91	62	29	6	N.E.
5/5	12-15—12-35	30 yds.	107	56	51	5.3	N.E.
5/5	1-50—2-00	30 yds.	18	10	8	1.8	N.E.
6/5	12-04—1-04	30 yds.	1835	471	1364	30.5	N.E.
6/5	2-30—2-45	30 yds.	555	227	328	37	N.E.
6/5	2-45—3-00	30 yds.	894	349	545	59.6	N.E.
6/5	3-20—3-35	10 yds.	350	158	192	23.3	N.E.
6/5	3-35—3-45	10 yds.	409	186	223	40.9	N.E.
7/5	10-00—10-20	30 yds.	553	240	313	27.6	N.E.
7/5	12-09—12-40	30 yds.	1532	710	822	38.3	N.E.
8/5			No record kept.				
9/5	12-00—12-15	30 yds.	45	24	21	2	N.E.
9/5	2-30—2-45	30 yds.	5	2	3	.3	N.E.
10/5			No record kept.				
11/5	2-45—3-00	30 yds.	17	1	16	1.1	N.W.
12/5			Migration had ceased.				

NOTE.—I netted several on different days to make sure that no other species had joined in the migration. They were all *Belenois severina*.