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Tortoise-shell butterfly in migration

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TORTOISE-SHELL BUTTERFLY IN MIGRATION

At 1:30 p.m., April 21, 1953, the Tortoise-shell butterfly, *Aglais californica* Bdv., was migrating in large numbers over the BYU campus. In thirty minutes Clive Jorgensen, John Ige, Conrad Head, and the writer, collected 109 specimens which was not more than one-fourth of the number which passed by us flying north. All the specimens of Tortoise-shell which were captured were slightly worn which is evidence of their having passed the winter in hibernation. Associated with *Aglais californica* Bdv. were the following species:

Euchloe creusa lotta Beut.—The Southern Marble Butterfly

Pieris protodice occidentalis form *calyce* Edw.—Edwards' White Butterfly

Pieris rapae L.—The Cabbage Butterfly

Eurymus eurytheme Bdv.—Boisduval's Sulphur Butterfly.

The temperature was about 80° F. at the time of the collections. It is interesting to note that on April 27, 1941, the writer encountered a northward migration of *Vanessa cardui* L.—the Painted Lady Butterfly, as reported in the Great Basin Naturalist, Vol. II, No. 2, p. 104, 1941. Another small migration of *V. cardui* was noted on April 17, 1951, here on the BYU campus. Both recent migrations lasted but a day. In 1941 the migration was of greater magnitude and lasted for eight days. In all these migrations the direction of flight was north. A study of the specimens taken reveals that most of them are gravid females.—Vasco M. Tanner.