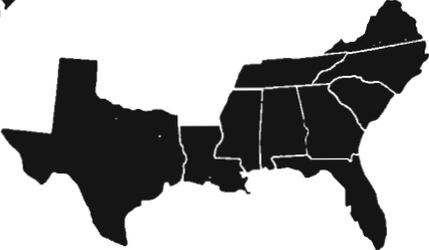




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1978

southern lepidopterists' news



VOL. 3; NO. 2
JULY 1981

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY, ORGANIZED
TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO UNDERSTANDING
THE LEPIDOPTERA FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHAIRMAN-EDITOR : DAVE BAGGETT SECRETARY-TREASURER : TOM NEAL

***** REPORT ON THE 1981 XERCES MEETING *****

The annual meeting of the Xerces Society was held June 5-7 at the Savannah Science Museum, the facility there having been made available to the group by Mr. Charles Milmine. The business meeting and paper sessions were followed by a trip to Ossabaw Island off the NE coast of Georgia, a barrier island accessible only by boat. Jo Brewer Winter worked closely with Hans Newhauser of the Georgia Conservancy to make the meeting and the trip to Ossabaw a success. Hans prepared an excellent slide program and discussion of the barrier island system in Georgia, with explanation of the fragile ecology of these islands and how they are formed as well as the importance of the islands to coastal preservation.

Southern Lepidopterist members present at the meeting included your editor, Jo Brewer Winter (our condolences to Dave Winter, who by now has hopefully recovered from a serious back ailment), Michael Israel (Louisiana State Univ.), Paul Milner and wife Ann (Augusta, GA), John Riegenbach (new member, Melbourne Village, FL, who gave a fine slide presentation of Florida butterflies and a discussion of photographic equipment used in taking pictures of same), and Marvyne Betsch (former opera singer, and patron behind the Madame Butterfly Fund for the Xerces Society and a highly outspoken wildlife conservationist.)

The meeting was chaired by president Karolis Bagdonas (originator of the Bagdonas Flying Circus at the University of Wyoming, the site of the next Lepidopterists' Society meeting), who also gave a fine account of the ecology and life history of the recently rediscovered Spingid, Euproserpinus weisti, a highly localized and specially adapted desert species. Larry Gall of Yale University gave an update on his recently discovered Boloria acrocneema (Uncompahgre Fritillary), and Jerry Powell (Univ. of California, Berkeley) presented an informative paper dealing with the

Antioch Dunes, Contra Costa Co., California, and the characteristic flora and fauna found in this fragile coastal dune ecosystem, including Apodemia mormo langei (Riodinidae). A number of other papers and presentations were made, but these certainly were highlights and were of extreme interest to all in attendance. Bagdonas emphasized the fact that the journal, Atala, will be back on schedule as of November 1981 and completely caught up after several years of intermittent publication. Bob Pyle clarified the position and goals of the society, which now has over 700 members world-wide. Much greater emphasis will be placed on habitat preservation in the future. All present enjoyed the comradeship and inspiration provided by the society, as well as the superb seafood banquet at Ft. Jackson set up by Hans Newhauser, complete with historic reenactments related to the fort, including cannon fire.

For the benefit of those not familiar with the Xerces Society, the group is primarily an arthropod conservation proponent (not to be confused with anti-collecting, as Xerces recognizes the need for scientific and educational collections, taking pro-conservation stands on all threatened and rare localized species.) If you are interested in joining the society or want additional information, write to the Xerces Society, c/o Teresa Clifford, Secretary, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071.

UPDATE ON THE 1981 SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS MEETING

The scheduled meeting for the group this year is 6-10 November in Homestead, FL. Final arrangements have not been settled in terms of whether or not to reserve the facility at Camp Owaissa-Bauer, primarily due to the lack of confirmed interest at this time; since I cannot wait until the last minute to make reservations, please send me a written confirmation of your interest in participation as soon as possible if you have not done so already. Full details will be in the September issue. The business meeting will be held on Saturday morning, and the remainder of the time will be spent in the field, concentrating in Dade and Monroe Counties. So many of the south Florida butterflies are extremely local that unless you are familiar with the area and foodplants, you can leave an area convinced there is little, if anything, on the wing when the exact opposite may be true. This is especially true of Lycaenids such as Electrostrymon angelia, Chlorostrymon simaethis, Strymon acis bartrami, Strymon martialis, and Strymon columella modesta. Also unknown to many non-residents is the fact that late October and early November are prime times to visit the tropical portions of the state, when the fall peaks are being reached by many species - a good time for Phyciodes frisia, Danaus eresimus tethys, Siproeta stelenes biplagiata, Eunica tatila tatilista, and many other species. Generally one can expect to encounter between 50-60 butterfly and skipper species in south Florida at that time during a single weekend. This is also an excellent time for collecting Sphingids over flowers at dawn and dusk. This will without question be the last trip to the south Florida region sponsored by the group for some time, and there will be no better time than this one to consider,

with the rapid development now occurring in south Florida and the Keys, the increase in posted land limiting access to prime habitat, and the new water line being installed into the Keys (the only thing which has thus far prevented development of most of the Keys).

The business meeting will be devoted to establishing formal policies for the group, addressing problems related to administrative responsibilities, and discussion of topics presented by members at large which has direct bearing on the group. We will continue to function as a loosely-knit group in a non-formal fashion, but we need to set forth defined policy expressing goals, administration, etc. for the group at large. Even if you cannot make the meeting, you can express your opinions via letter or phone call to the chairman or secretary.

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TIP : Degreasing Preserved Specimens

Most of us at one time or another have had specimens "ruined" by means of the body fats deteriorating into oily residues which permeate body membranes, causing the abdomen and wings to assume a matted, oily appearance. This is especially true with certain species belonging to families in which the adults do not feed as adults, such as the Megathymidae, Cossidae, or Citheroniidae, and the greasy stains on these specimens are very unsightly.

Fortunately, the problem can be corrected, and even prevented in most situations, by completely immersing the specimen, label and all, in a solvent system which will remove organic oils, such as the commercially available Varsol solution or mineral spirits. The specimen should be soaked for a week to ten days, then removed and allowed to air-dry. The specimen will have some minor matting of scales, especially on the abdomen, but this can be corrected by using any of the "canned air" products on the market used to blow dust out of equipment or camera lenses, etc. This should be done carefully, and at maximum distance, until you gain an appreciation for the air pressure in the can. Occasionally the process may need to be repeated, but under most cases a single treatment is all that will be necessary. The procedure is not recommended for species which exhibit iridescent structural coloration. In this case, the abdomen can be removed, and soaked independently to remove the oils, then reattached with insect cement after treatment.

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Charlie Covell provided a report on the spring activities of the Kentucky Lepidopterists : on the weekend of 24-26 April at Big Black Mt. and Kingdom Come St. Park in Harlan Co., they recorded Colias philodice, Vanessa virginiensis, G. lygdamus, C. ebenina, E. comyntas, G. marcellus, P. glaucus, P. troilus, & P. virginiensis, with most common near the KY side base of the mountain. 18 persons showed up for the meeting, with 13 members of the Kentucky group in attendance. At Kingdom Come State Park, they recorded Hesperia metea and Callophrys henrici.

A number of members made the trip to the Dominican Republic in late June, which turned out to be quite a successful adventure for many. Tom Emmel is compiling the butterfly list for species taken on the trip, and Lee Adair is compiling the moths. As you get your material spread and identified, send them a list for incorporation. Lee has asked that if you have problems with some of the moths, try to send decent color photos of uppers and lowers, with some size scale included, and he will try to get the material identified to the best of his ability. The real problem species will have to be taken or sent to a major museum for additional ID verifications. Lee can handle most of the larger species. At least one new butterfly record was turned up, as Chuck Zeiger reported the capture of Anteos clorinde, along with the sighting of several others. Adair, Stevens, & Zeiger also reported good collecting for Sphingids. Hope we'll get an abbreviated report on the best species taken as the listing progresses!

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CURRENT ZONE REPORTS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES -----

ZONE I : TEXAS : Coordinators, Ed Knudson, 803 Woodstock, Bellaire, TX 77401, and Mike Rickard, 6550 Hillcroft #201, Houston, TX 77081.

Ed has been busy this spring and summer, and has a list of good moth records : 26 April, Davis Mt. St. Park, Jeff Davis Co.: Xylophanes falco (Sphingidae), Ulolonche dilecta, Orthodes inconspicua, Cucillia lilacina, Neperigea costa (Noctuidae), Euphyia swetti, Phaeoura cristifera, Plataea trilinearis (Geometridae), & Eucosma microsignata (Olethreutid). On the same date at 6700' on Mt. Locke, he found Charadra ingenua, Acronicta atristrigata, Ulosyneda valens, Ianius mosca, Synedoida inepta, S. sabulosa (Noctuids), Nemoria arizonaria, Eupithecia pernotata, Drepanulatrix bifilata, Caripeta aequaliaria (Geometrids), Rhyacionia salmonicolor, Eucosma diabolana (Olethreutids), & Argyrotaenia semicirculana (Tortricid). On 7 May, at Matador Wildlife Management Area, Cottle Co. : Euchaetias zella, Pygarctia spraguei, Ectypia bivittata (Arctiids), Scotogramma mutata, Oncocnemis major, Antapлага biundulalis, Grotella septempunctata, Neogrotella confusa (Noctuids), Metanema inatomaria (Geometrid), Phaneta verecundana, P. mayelisana, & Eucosma guttulana (Olethr.). He found Pygarctia neomexicana (Arctiid), Thyreion rosea, Schinia tanena, Epizeuxis intensalis (Noctuids), Eucosma comatulana, Hemimene ocliferia (Olethr.), & Ethmia coranella (Ethmiid) on Palo Duro Canyon St. Park, Randall Co. on 8 May. On 25 April he captured Sphinx ermitiodes, S. istar, & S. libocedrus near Sanderson, Terrel Co. He had provided a number of additional records as well, but space prohibits the complete listing, but a copy of the report will be furnished to anyone asking for it. All determinations were made by Ed or Andre Blanchard. We hope to have some report from John Hyatt & Charlie Watson on their experiences in southern Texas this summer in the next issue.

ZONE II : ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, & TENNESSEE : Coordinators, Vernon Brou, Rt. 1, Box 74, Edgard, LA 70049; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MS 39056; John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Dr., Kings-

port, TN 37663; Charles Watson, 1337 Watauga St., Kingsport, TN 37660.

Vernon reported the following as new for Louisiana : Poanes aaroni howardi, May, Little Chenier, Cameron Parish; Eumacaria latiferrugata, Tacparia zalissaria, Euchlaena effecta, Metarranthis duaria, Glena plumosaria, Itame coortaria (Geometridae), Ogdoconta tacna, Acronicta modica, Pticodes bistrigata, Cerastis tenebrifera (Noctuidae), Schizura apicalis, Notodonta basitriens (Notodontidae), Geshna primordialis, Hypopygia costalis, Herculia olinalis, Blepharomastix ranalis, & Sameodes albiguttalis (Pyralidae), with the records for the moths coming from a number of LA localities. Vernon also has a large stockpile of insect pins, standard sizes 0-7, minutiens 0.15 & 0.20, obtained in quantity from the late Clair Armin. He will provide members with pins at \$15.00/1000 in standard sizes and at \$8.50/1000 for minutiens, post-paid.

ZONE III : GEORGIA : Coordinators, Irving Finkelstein, 425 Springdale Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305, and Abner Towers, Box 127, Powder Springs, GA 30073.

Scott Brown's list of moths for the state continues to grow, and was helped along greatly by the 4-month survey of the Okeefenokee Swamp by Eric Quinter. Among the catches are three new state record Catocala, C. messalina, C. louiseae, and C. jair, plus a fine series of the rare endemic Noctuid, Zale perculata, the largest N.A. member of the genus and one of the most striking, both as larvae and adult. Eric was kind enough to bring several larvae and adults down to Florida on a visit for me to examine. The latter had been previously known from 2 specimens, one from Billy's Island in the Okeefenokee, the other from near Monticello, Florida, both over 50 years ago. Eric also reported excellent sedge skipper collecting at Pontedaria blossoms in May, with Euphyes dukesi, E. dion alabamae, and others of note. Irving and Hermann Flaschka have enjoyed exploring Pigeon Mt. Wildlife Management Area in Walker Co., and I am sure will have some interesting records before the season ends.

ZONE IV : FLORIDA : Coordinators, Lee Adair, 810 Gascon Pl., Temple Terrace, FL 33617, and Steve Roman, 117 Masters Blvd., Winter Park, FL 32792

Lee found a small area north of Tampa which was very productive for Atrytonopsis loammi, Euphyes arpa, and Atrytone arogos in early May, and he and Larry Brown independently discovered a colony of Lethe apalachia near the USF campus golf course in April, the southernmost limit for the species. John Coffman captured a male Callosamia securifera in morning flight three miles north of Tampa in May, and both he and Leroy Koehn found their first Megathymus cofaqui at the Withlacoochee St. Forest at the same time. Mothing at Torreya State Park provided the editor with three new Sphingids from the state for the personal collection with Eumorpha intermedia, Sphinx kalmiae, and S. jamaicensis; David Ivey and Rick Gilmore also added E. intermedia to their Florida collections. Roman and Baggett each took Xylophanes pluto at MV light at the Withlacoochee St. Forest in May, farther north than normally encountered

in the state, as well as Catocala jair.

ZONE V: VIRGINIA, NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA : Coordinators, Leroy Koehn, Rt. 3, Box 270H, Staunton, VA 24401; John Coffman, Rt. 1, Box 331, Timberville, VA 22853; Ron Gattelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445; Bob Cavanaugh, P.O. Box 489, Newport, NC 28570.

Bob commented on the unusual abundance of Nymphalis antiopa this spring, an observation shared by other members in FL, GA, and SC as well. Hermann Flaschka visited the Charleston, SC area in late May and found Satyrrium kingi on the wing, but the other hairstreaks down in numbers from previous seasons. Your editor had hoped to pay Ron a visit prior to the Xerces meeting, but car problems prevented the opportunity to look for S. kingi and others on the chinquapin blossoms (Castanea). Jeff Ingraham of NY found Phyciodes texana seminole on June 4 near Grover, Dorchester Co., SC for a northward extension. Leroy Koehn and Richard Boscoe were planning to attempt rearing of Erora laeta pending capture of gravid females, but at last word they were experiencing a lot of rainy weather at prime time. In the near future someone will clarify the life history of this rare hairstreak.

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The 1981 membership list will be prepared for distribution along with the September issue of the NEWS; Tom Neal has reminded me that several of you are behind in your dues, so double-check and make sure you are current, or you may be left off the mailing list. Dues are retroactive to January in the calendar year one joins.

The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published quarterly, with annual membership fees of \$3.00, open to anyone with an interest in the lepidoptera of the region. Information about the society, back issues of the newsletter, or dues should be brought to the attention of the Secretary, Tom Neal, 3820 NW 16th. Place, Gainesville, FL 32605.

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