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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 HOMESTEAD MEETING ---

In spite of the scheduling change, and with relatively bad weather to contend with, we enjoyed one of our better meetings in terms of member participation and success in the field. Members in attendance included Dr. & Mrs. Hermann Flaschka (Georgia), John Wilkie (Michigan), Richard Boscoe (Pennsylvania), Mr. & Mrs. John Plomley, Mr. & Mrs. Parker Henry, Chuck Zeiger, Charles Stevens, Linwood Dow, Ernie Martin, Paul Crum, George MacDonald, Steve Roman, Rick Gilmore, Dr. Frank Hedges, Dr. Lee (continued inside, page 20)

Presentation of the first John Abbot Award : Tom Neal (right) presents the award to Chuck Zeiger, standing in for Charles Kimball, who has been quite ill. The Abbot Award was developed to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the general knowledge of lepidoptera, especially of the southern region of the United States. It is hoped that the award will help encourage others and stimulate them towards the scientific aspects of studying lepidoptera.

(Photo by Steve Roman)



Adair, Dave Baggett, Tom Neal, John Watts, David Jamieson, Terry Dickel, and John Riggenbach. A few others had indicated their intention to attend, but were caught by the forced schedule change; Leroy Koehn (OH), Harry Darrow (NY), and Mecky Furr (TN) made it down after the meeting anyway, and encountered much more desirable weather conditions and better general collecting than we found. The entire weekend consisted of intermittent rain squalls and unusually high wind conditions, which resulted in poor luck with hairstreaks, but may have been in part responsible for other surprises we did encounter, these to be addressed later in the report.



It may have been pretty damp outside, but spirit and enthusiasm was not dampened: members inside the pavilion building at Camp Owaissa-Bauer on the evening of October 31st. First table at left: Baggett, Neal, and Flaschka. Second table : Adair, Hedges, Dickel, Donna and Parker Henry, Stevens, and Gilmore. Third table : Zeiger, Riggenbach, Wilkie, Dow, and Watts. Who made that coffee, anyway ???

(Photo by Steve Roman)

The business meeting addressed problems related to communications and logistics between staff and coordinators, and were dealt with in positive fashion. In 1982 Richard Gilmore will edit our newsletter, assisted by Lee Adair. No changes were made in current zone structure. The meeting concluded with a financial report from Tom Neal, with a net balance of slightly over \$500.00 as of November 1981. We'd like to apply the excess towards the publication of periodic special bulletins authored by members at large. There obviously appears to be little need to increase dues in the immediate future, in spite of increased postage and printing costs. Those remaining were treated to excellent slide presentations by Steve Roman and John Riggenbach, with topics of Florida butterflies and their habitat. John specializes in photos while nectaring, so we got a treat of wildflowers, too.

Due mainly to the rainy conditions on Saturday, we decided to concentrate on the immediate area and hope for the best on Sunday, which proved to be more of the same thing, unfortunately. On Sunday, we did go on down to Big Pine Key, and in spite of the conditions, fared well in quality if not in quantity. A list of all butterflies and major moths taken during the two days and nights of collecting include :

Papilionidae:Papilio cresphontesDanaidae :Danaus plexippusDanaus gillippus bereniceDanaus eresimus tethysPieridae :Phoebis phileaPhoebis sennae eubulePhoebis agarithe maximaEurema dina heliosEurema lisaEurema दौरा दौराEurema दौरा palmiraEurema nicippeNathalis iolePieris protodiceAscia monuste philetaAppias drusilla neumogeniiNymphalidae :Anaea floridalisLimnitis archippus floridensisPhyciodes phaonPhyciodes tharosMarpesia petreusSiproeta stelenes biplagiataVanessa atalantaPhyciodes frisiaJunonia coeniaJunonia species "A" *Junonia species "B"Eunica tatila tatilistaEunica monima *Anartia jatrophae quantanamoHeliconiidae :Agraulis vanillae nigrorHeliconius charitonius tuckeriDryas juliaHesperiidae :Satyriidae:Hermeuptychia sosybiaLycaenidae :Hemiargus thomasi bethunebakeriHemiargus ceraunus antibubastusLeptotes cassius theonusBrephidium pseudofeaElectrostrymon angeliaCalycopis cecropsStrymon melinusStrymon columella modestaStrymon martialisStrymon acis bartramiPanoquina panoquinoidesCalpodus ethliusPolites baracoaPolites vibexWallengrenia othoAtalopedes campestrisHylephila phyleusCymaenes tripunctusUrbanus proteusUrbanus dorantesCopaeodes minimaPolygonus leoPhocides pigmalion okeechobeePyrgus oileusLerema acciusPanoquina ocolaAtrytone loganOlig. maculataEryn. horatiusE. brunneafloridensisA. capucinusEpargyr. zestosEryn. zaruccoEuphyes arpa

* -- the genus Junonia still appears in a shambles, but Don Harvey at the Univ. of Texas is working on the revision. At present, Junonia sp. "A" refers to the Antillean Buckeye (see Riley, Butterflies of the West Indies), and this appears to be a new U.S. record. Junonia sp. "B" refers to the Tropical Buckeye of prior Florida references. Richard Boscoe was able to confirm that species "A" apparently is breeding here, and has now reared it on Stachytarphete jamaicensis. This new introduction has now been confirmed from Big Pine Key, Plantation Key, several spots on Key Largo, and at two localities in the Homestead area. Tom Neal and John Watts appear to be the initial collectors.

Eunica monima has been considered previously to be an infrequent stray to south Florida. The last prior record for this species which I am aware of is Larry Brown's record from Big Pine Key in 1973, although there may well be a few others floating around out there. George MacDonald took one nectaring along the coast at the SE end of Big Pine Key during the Sunday excursion; later, John Wilkie spotted one feeding on Lantana blossoms in downtown Key Largo, which he managed to photograph before it was blown over a fence by the wind, much to our chagrin. Richard Boscoe then captured a female, which he confined for attempted rearing purposes, at Ross-Castello Hammock. Later, after the rest of us had departed, Richard and John both reported additional sightings and captures, and Leroy Koehn also encountered them, as did Robert Godefroi. Apparently one of two things occurred in 1981: either the stormy conditions we encountered were responsible for blowing a number of them ashore throughout south Florida prior to or during our trip, or sometime earlier in the season there seems to have been a similar occurrence, and we witnessed the progeny of an apparent population boom of an otherwise rare species here. The exact case is certainly far from being clear-cut, but it will be interesting to see if we obtain additional records in 1982 for this fine butterfly. Perhaps here is yet another situation of introduction and establishment in progress.

Also of some interest, we captured several species of butterflies at UV and MV lights during the meeting: Eurema dina helios, Electrostrymon angelia, Junonia coenia, Eurema दौरा, Urbanus proteus, U. dorantes, Oligoria maculata, and Calycopis cecrops. For the record, beginning in 1982 issues, we will follow the nomenclature put forth in the Miller & Brown checklist for all butterfly records; it is always best to follow a current standard, and be aware that revisional changes are still going to occur in the future as well.

MOTHS of interest :

Saturniidae :

Eacles imperialis
Automeris io lilith
Antherea polyphemus

Pericopidae:

Composia fidelissima vagrans

Amatidae :

Syntomeida epilais
Pseudocharis minima
Eucereon carolina
Lymire edwardsii

Arctiidae :

Hypoprepia miniata
Halisidota tessellaris
Ecpantheria scribonia
Apantesis nais
Cycnia insulata
Holomelina aurantiaca

Sphingidae :

Cocytius anteus
Protambulyx strigilis
Protambulyx carteri
Perigonia lusca
Lapara coniferarum
Enyo lugubris
Xylophanes pluto
Xylophanes tersa
Phryxus caicus
Pachylia ficus
Cautethia grotei
Eumorpha labruscae
Eumorpha fasciatus
Aellopos tantalus
Isoparce cupressi
Erinnyis alope
Erinnyis ello
Erinnyis obscura
Paonias excaecatus
Manduca rustica
Agrias cingulata

Noctuidae :

Erebus odora
X. regnatrix
Condica cupentia
Euthisanotia unio
Schinia trifascia
Selenis monotropa
Melipotis prolata
Melipotis januaris
M. fasciolaris
Gonodonta unica
G. sp., probably
sichaeus
Eunystalea eutalanta

Geometridae :

Epimecis fraternaria
Epimecis detexta
Phrygionis argentata
Nepheloleuca floridata
Oxydia vesulia
Racheospila gerularia

Many of the moths were taken at MV or UV, but the majority of the Sphingids were taken over flowers, especially Barleria or Lantana, at dusk. Erebus odora was attracted almost exclusively to fermented fruit baits placed about the camp.
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BUTTERFLY GARDENING : More on the subject from Bob Cavanaugh....

Anybody who enjoys planting vegetable or flower gardens knows how easily moths and butterflies can be enticed to visit their yard to nectar or lay eggs. Seldom a year passes without having to contend with the Cabbage Butterfly, Parsnip or Black Swallowtail, and Tomato Hawk Moth caterpillars. For the serious gardener, pesticide is salvation, but for the lepidopterist, he feels fortunate and hopes that the larvae won't eat too much!

Most people would be surprised at the number of species present in the neighborhood on an annual basis; feeding on the grasses and accompanying weeds are Eastern Taile Blues, Clouded Sulphurs, American Painted Ladies, Buckeyes, Carolina Satyrs, Fiery Skippers, Sachem Skippers, and Whirlabout Skippers, to name a few. On the trees and shrubs additional species can be found : Tiger Swallowtails and Giant Swallowtails on the fruit trees; Viceroy's on the willows; Silver Spotted Skippers on the wisteria and Gulf Fritillaries, Zebra Butterflies, and Variegated Fritillaries on passion flower vines along the fence. Many common species like these are easily lured to any yard by the presence of flowers, and an abundance of appropriate flowers is a necessary first step in establishing a butterfly garden.

Of the flowers this writer has grown over the years, the zinnia has to rank at the top of the list. It is a large, showy flower, comes in many colors, requires little care, reseeds itself, and blooms from early summer until after the first frost. For spring blooming, the plants can be started indoors, or arrangements can be made with a local nursery. From hairstreak to swallowtail, few flower-visiting butterflies can pass up a patch of zinnias in the yard.

Butterfly species seen visiting the flowers, but known to be non-resident to the property, can be invited to take up residency by introducing the known larval food plants to the property. Many of these plants are wildflowers, which can be added to the flower garden to serve a dual purpose. Asters, lupines, butterfly bush, senna, milkweed, and passion flower vines are good examples. Many of these plants are perennials and will grow year after year. Concentrate on only a few varieties each season, allowing for higher success rates through more careful attention. Plant at least a half dozen or so of each type, in order to allow the butterflies some selection and allow for greater quantities of eggs to be laid.

Allowing a section of the property to grow wild does not necessarily mean that new species will automatically take up residence. A well-kept, manicured yard can be a highly successful butterfly garden yielding a wide variety of both plants and butterflies. Additionally, if the garden has aesthetic appeal, odds are favorable that the new owners will leave the garden intact when the property is sold.

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Bob Cavanaugh, John Hyatt, and Charlie Watson are in the initial phases of helping plan and coordinate this year's annual meeting. Looks like we may get to visit some spots in both Tennessee and North Carolina. Hope the weather is more cooperative ! I'm sure they would like to hear your input and suggestions in the process; we hope to get things firmed up by June.

***** CURRENT ZONE REPORTS *****

ZONE I : TEXAS. Coordinators, Ed Knudson, 804 Woodstock, Bellaire 77401, and Mike Rickard, 6550 Hillcroft Apt. 201, Houston 77081.

Ed provided a butterfly report from Santa Ana Refuge, Hidalgo Co. on November 30th.: Papilio anchisiades idaeus, Eresia frisia tulcis, Siproeta stelenes, Euptoieta hegesia, Biblis hyperia, Adelpha fessonia, Anartia fatima, Dione moneta, Aguna metaphis, and Corticea corticea. Avery Freeman, who has developed a recent passion for the Catocala moths, provided Ed with records for C. maestosa, C. vidua, C. agrippina, C. lacrymosa, C. amatrix, C. piatrix, and C. subnata, all from the Dallas Co. vicinity between June - October; he also gave records for Faulkner Co. Arkansas between Sept. 4-7 as Erebus odora, C. vidua, C. paleogama, C. ulalume, C. lacrymosa, and C. maestosa. Other mothing excursions by Ed resulted in the following records : Big Bend National Park, Sept. 28-29 : Oncocnemis cottami, Septis relicina, Hydroecia serrata, Oxycnemis franklemonti, Ruacodes tela, Draudtia revellata, Antaplaga composita, A. hachita, Stilbadium aureolum, Grotella binda, G. vauriae, Cobubatha dimidiata, Schinia sexplagiata (Noctuidae); Arcobara multilineata, Eupithecia placidata, Stammnodes frankata, S. seiferti, Hydriomena costipunctata, Grossbeckia semimaculata, Caripeta ocellaria, Semiothisa hypaethrata, Chesiodes polingi (Geometridae); Loxostege kearfottalis, Mohavia achemonalis, Anemosella obliquata, Antagasta catalaunalis, Pyrausta flavibrunnea, Triozosneura dorsonotata, Myelopsis conielia, Sosipatra nonparillela (known from very few past specimens), Eremberga insignis (Pyalidae); Eucosma graziella, Decodes mcswaini (Tortricidae); and Hypopta palmata (Cossidae). At Seminole Canyon, Val Verde Co. on Sept. 27th.: Oncocnemis poliafascies, Antaplaga biundalis, Grotella blanchardi (Noctuidae); Cryptophobetrion oropeso (Limaecodidae); & Ethmia prattiella (Ethmiidae). On Sept. 30th., near Sanderson in Terrel Co.: Hemileuca chinatiensis (Saturniidae); Oncocnemis modesta, Oncocnemis pernotata, & Acopa carina (Noctuidae). At the Santa Ana Refuge on Nov. 14th. : Matiloscis darconis, Ophiuche abjurialis (Noctuidae); Pyrausta aurea & Lamposema baracoalis (Pyalidae); and on Nov. 29th. at Lake Corpus Christi State Park : Erinnyis lassauxii (Sphingidae) and Euxoa serotina (Noctuidae).

ZONE II : ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, and 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., Kingsport, TN 37663; and Charles Watson, 1337 Watauga St., Kingsport, TN 37660.

Among Catocala material forwarded here for determinations from Bryant Mather were Catocala resecta (4th. from the state, first from Warren Co.) and C. subnata, this a new MS state record. Vernon Brou indicated that the following are new LA state records : Pygarctia abdominalis (Fluker, Tangipahoa Parish), Cisthene subjecta (Fluker), both Arctiidae; Acronicta perblanda (Edgard, St. John Par.), Eublemma cinnamomae (Edgard), Pippona bimatrix (Greensburg, St. Helena Par.), Bagisara rectifascia (Weyanoke, W. Feliciana Par.), and a new county record in Parapema buffaloensis (Edgard), all Noctuidae.

ZONE III : GEORGIA. Coordinators: Irving Finkelstein, 425 Springdale Dr. NE, Atlanta 30305; Abner Towers, Box 127, Powder Springs 30073; and Scott Brown, P.O. Box 207, Homerville 31634.

You will notice that Scott Brown has been added to the Georgia staff, and has also been granted charter member status. Scott is engaged in the preparation of a checklist of all moths known from Georgia, and will be glad to hear from anyone with information pertaining to moths from that state, no matter how common, as he tries

to verify the distribution for the species there; he's currently an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Clinch County, and I'm sure he'll be happy to examine any UFO's or LBM's (little bitty moths) you happen across in Georgia. Among Catocala material determined earlier this season for Scott were C. titania, C. texarkana (GA & NC), C. marmorata, C. sordida, and C. nubilis, the latter apparently quite rare in the east. Scott and J.B. Bearden collected Phyciodes texana seminole along Spring Creek (the same creek from which the holotype was collected) in Early County, near the point where it crosses GA HWY 200, about 2.5 miles west of Damascus. This apparently is the northernmost point of capture in Georgia, and is a new county record. Frank Hedges and Richard Gilmore collected in the mountain region near Dahlenega in August, and reported Catocala nebulosa, Catocala angusi, and Cirrhophanus triangulifer (Noctuidae), the latter regarded as a good catch anywhere in the SE. (Tom Neal also took one near Cedar Key, Levy Co. FL, one of few FL records for the species.)

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

Frank Hedges reported the capture of a Protambulyx carteri in October near his home in Kissimmee, a good northern record for the species, normally confined to the more southerly Florida counties. Richard Boscoe reported Aphrissa statira floridensis at Hugh Taylor Birch St. Park in November; he also found Eunica monima at Stock Island (Nov. 6) and at Ross-Castello Hammock (Nov. 4 & 10), and took Tmolus azia on N. Key Largo at Acacia blossoms, with which he confined a female and obtained ova. Unfortunately, the plants do poorly from cuttings and he was unable to rear it through. Richard's work with butterfly life histories and host plant relationships is exceptional among modern collectors. Leroy Koehn visited in November and December, and was met with excellent general collecting, especially with Sphingids and butterflies; he seems to have an affinity for Chlorostrymon maesites, finding several on both trips on N. Key Largo, the site of which is now in the process of development. The species is under current status review at present due to greatly diminished habitat; the host plant relationship is unknown, and is known now from only two sites in the Florida Keys. I have been advised that the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission will begin their recovery project with Papilio aristodemus ponceanus in 1982; the populations in the Keys have now reached what has been determined as the critical level after two years' worth of field studies. Collectors are advised to regard a moratorium on collecting of this species during the planned recovery operations. A second recovery project is underway with Eumaeus atala florida, due to receive threatened status in 1982. Anyone with information relevant to the studies is urged to contact Don A. Wood, Endangered Species Coordinator, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, 620 Meridian St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. I will also point out some of the following points to collectors: (1) the entire Florida Keys are regarded by the state as a wildlife sanctuary, subject to all state rules and regulations, especially as pertaining to threatened or endangered species, as well as species of special concern. Florida law differs from the federal law in that it prohibits the capture of ANY stage of ANY restricted species, without a special permit. These laws have been in effect for some time, but few people seem aware of them, mainly because of lax enforcement and the lack of educational efforts. In Florida, a permit is required to collect on any state park or state refuge; some areas are off-limits. A change in permitting will go in effect in 1982, primarily because of the lack of feedback from the collectors to whom they have been issued in the past. Permits will not be issued simply for reasons of access for general collecting purposes; they will be issued for research purposes, such as preparation of checklists, study of a certain species or family, or other similar reasons consistent with learning more about the fauna present. You may request a permit from the office of the Chief Naturalist, Maj. Jim Stevenson,

Division of Recreation & Parks, Florida DNR, 202 Blount St., Tallahassee, FL 32304. The ensuing reports can be utilized to evaluate species distribution and faunal changes over time, and to verify the presence of restricted species. If you are granted a permit, remember that this is a privilege, not a right, when you are on state lands, and do your part to comply with stated restrictions and to assist in the manner in which the permits are intended. If compliance is not met, the privilege may be revoked in the future. I will be glad to assist anyone interested in preparation of a park checklist. If you are granted a permit, a report on your activities on parks, etc. is not only requested, but REQUIRED.

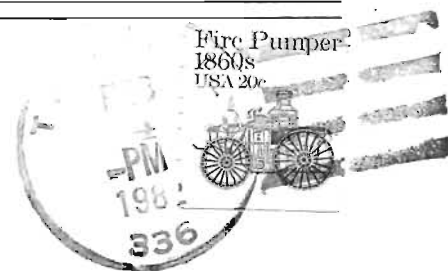
ZONE V : VIRGINIA, NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA. Coordinators, Ron Gattelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445; John Coffman, Rt. 1, Box 331, Timberville, VA 22853; Bob Cavanaugh, P.O. Box 489, Newport, NC 28570.

Leroy Koehn has moved to Cleveland, OH, and we will miss his reporting in 1982 for Virginia. John Coffman reported on the following from his home in Rockingham Co. : he took several Catocala dulciola this season, including a female taken on July 10, which was saved for ova. He was rewarded with 36 eggs, and perhaps we will know a host plant relationship by this time next season! Three other Catocala species were new to John in 1981; C. parta and C. miranda, both in July, and later, he took his first C. unijuga in October. Hemileuca maia was found out on Oct. 17th., though John had to work hard in cloudy, rainy conditions to find them, with the majority clinging to white pine needles; a mating pair was found on a 7" oak sprout.

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The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually, with membership fees of \$3.00; the organization is open to anyone with an interest in the butterflies and moths of the region. Information about the group may be obtained by writing to Tom Neal, 3820 NW 16th. Place, Gainesville, FL 32605. If you wish to contribute to the newsletter, you should provide the information to the appropriate coordinator, or send it directly to the Editor. Dues renewal information is provided with this issue.

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