



CHARTERED  
1978

# Southern lepidopterists' news

A black silhouette map of the Southern United States, showing the outlines of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. The map is positioned centrally below the title.

VOL. 4; NO. 2  
JUNE 1982

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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.

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SECOND JOHN ABBOT AWARD RECIPIENT : CHARLES V. COVELL, JR.

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Few eastern lepidopterists have not heard of Dr. Covell or read articles authored by him, since he has published extensively regarding leps in Virginia and Kentucky, as well as several articles pertaining to species found in North Carolina and in Florida. Fewer still, however, are aware of his many behind-the-scenes endeavors and contributions to various N.A. entomological societies, for he has given a huge amount of his personal time to aiding many societies with committee work, not to mention all of the personal attention given to other researchers inquiring for information. He has served as CIBA-Geigy Award committee member for the Entomological Society of America; as a journal referee and on the board of directors for the Xerces Society; as editor of the Memoirs series, as First Vice-President, as Assistant Treasurer, as contributing Editor for the newsletter, on local arrangements committees for annual meetings (1977-1980), as chairman of the 1979 and 1980 annual meetings, and as liaison officer between the Society and the Office of Endangered Species for the Lepidopterists' Society; as chairman of various committees involving zoology and entomology and as referee for the Transactions of the Kentucky Academy of Sciences; as founder, principal writer, and editor of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists; and numerous other capacities. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he is the curator for the University of Louisville insect collection and a research associate of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods.



As a member of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society, he has provided news and notes of interest to our members; few persons are so willing to give freely of their valuable time to assist others, or to assist in areas where little recognition is given for the amount of time and effort involved.

Charlie received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1958, then pursued his MS and Ph.D from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1962 and 1965, respectively.) Since that time, he has become a well-published author with regard to the insect fauna of Virginia and Kentucky, and is recognized as an authority on the Geometrid subfamily Sterrhinae. He is working on the MONA fascicle (18) treating these moths, as well as the author treating the Sterrhine Geometrids for the forthcoming Atlas of Neotropical Lepidoptera. Work on his Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America has been completed and is expected in print in 1983, a badly needed update for Holland's Moth Book and something which will find a home on all eastern moth collectors' bookshelves, I'm sure. We can look forward to many other contributions from Charlie in the future, and extend our hearty congratulations to a most worthy Abbot Award winner; Charlie will always be a winner!

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PROJECT PONCEANUS : An Updated Survey from Dr. Covell

On May 18, 1982, Charlie and 7 graduate students from the University of Louisville visited Elliot Key, Biscayne National Park, guided by Linda Dye, Park Naturalist, with the intention of assessing the current population level of Heraclides (Papilio) aristodemus ponceanus and also to document other butterfly species there. Winter and spring rainfall had been up from past seasons, a factor attributed in part to the decline of this popular south Florida butterfly.

The first stop was on the southern end of the island, where they walked down the "Spite Highway" and side trails from a point approximately a mile north of the old Nord house site to an open area just south of that. Between 10:30 and noon, the participants counted 20 male and 5 female H. a. ponceanus; at least two pairs were involved in courtship, and an estimate of 15 different individuals was obtained, since no collecting is allowed and no marking was done.

After lunch, he and Linda made a second survey along trails in the immediate vicinity of the Harbor headquarters on the island, where an additional 11 sightings were made, including another pair in courtship, and at least two of those observed were positively determined to be females. The report is most encouraging, with ponceanus still holding its own on the preserve.

Nineteen species were recorded during the survey, and in addition to the above, he and his students found Battus polydamas, Urbanus proteus, Nastra neamathla, Wallengrenia otho, Appias drusilla, Ascia monuste, Phoebis sennae, P. agarithe, Strymon columella, Brephidium isophthalma pseudofea, Leptotes cassius theonus, Hemiargus thomasi bethunebakeri, Agraulis vanillae, Dryas iulia largo, Heliconius charitonius tuckeri, Anthanassa frisia, Junonia sp. "B", and Eunica tatila tatilista.

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With the new waterline to the Keys nearly completed (if not by this writing), it was disturbing to see all of the For Sale signs up, especially on Key Largo, Matecumbe, Plantation, and Big Pine Keys, many in prime areas for lepidoptera. Several areas where I have collected successfully in the past are now cleared and posted, but I was enlightened to find the botanical garden on Stock Island still intact; portions of the adjacent golf course have been sold to condominium concerns. Chlorostrymon maesites and Eumaeus atala are now listed by the state as potentially threatened and may only be taken legally with special permits. Strymon acis bartrami, Anaea floridaalis and Eunica tatila tatilista are earmarked as species of special concern as indicator species for specialized habitat in the Keys.

More on the Southern Lepidopterists' Meeting in Kingsport, Tennessee :

Plans for the annual meeting are now pretty well laid. Charlie Watson and John Hyatt have the local arrangements figured out, aside from the specific sites for the field trips--there are so many productive spots nearby that we may resort to a vote on options among those present. One thing is certain : the timing should be good for Speyeria diana females, Enodia (Lethe) anhedon, and some good skipper species, as well as for moths, including Sphingids and Catocala. Bob Cavanaugh is in charge of mailing out general instructions and Kingsport maps, and asks that you drop him a quick line if you are planning to attend so he can get the information to you. We plan to meet not far from John's home for breakfast on Saturday morning, then spend most of the day in the field. Around 6:30 PM we will return to John's home for a cookout, followed by the informal business meeting (which will primarily discuss the proposed charter) and the John Abbot Award presentation. Afterwards, we hope to have some slide programs available and we will present some door prizes in the form of books and specimen selections. John will also have some of his 1981 material from Ecuador, 1982 material fresh from Peru, and his U.S. material on hand to look at. Sunday morning we'll again meet for breakfast and spend more time afield in other areas. Depending on the number present, we may split into two parties for the field trips in order to explore different areas.

Lodging Information :

	single	double	for reservations
Traveler's Inn	\$40.00	\$45.00	(615) 239 9137
Ramada Inn	36.00	48.00	(615) 245 0271
Econotravel Lodge	24.00	32.00	(615) 245 0286
Greenwood Motel	18.00	23.00	(615) 246 6187

Camping :

Warrior's Path State Park with electricity, \$6.50 per night per two persons  
w/o electricity, \$4.50 per night per two persons  
\$0.50 extra for each additional person per campsite.

We plan to use John's home as the base of operations and for the meeting; the Greenwood Motel and the Traveler's Inn are the two closest motels; John's place has easy access from Interstate 81. Head north at Exit 59 towards Kingsport on Highway 36 - also known as Ft. Henry Drive; turn right at the stoplight on Colonial Heights Drive (about one mile from the interstate), go about one-third mile, then go right again on Forest Hills Road; John's address is 439 Forest Hills Rd. If you'd like to inquire for additional information, call Charlie Watson (AC 615, 239 6924) or John Hyatt (AC 615, 246 4456). To facilitate planning for the cookout, PLEASE let Bob Cavanaugh know in advance how many will be in your party! Also, please let John know if you're planning to bring slides. We're looking forward to seeing you there; the dates are firm for August 14-15th. For those camping, Warrior's Path St. Park is only a few minutes' drive from John's home. Also to consider is the fact that the World's Fair is not too far away from Kingsport, so you should confirm reservations ASAP.

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CURRENT ZONE REPORTS :

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

Texas collectors were plagued by bad weekend weather through mid-May, causing some of the seasonal species to emerge several weeks later than normal. Heavy rains in the lower Rio Grande valley might create excellent collecting prospects later on in the season, however. Extensive cultivation in Tamaulipas (northern Mexico) has left little native vegetation near the border, which may cut down on the exotics reaching Texas in the fall period. Collectors visiting Texas should be advised of a tightening of permit requirement policy for state parks and refuge areas; a permit is required for all such areas in Texas.

An apparent new Texas state record is Baileya doubledayi, confirmed by Dr. Poole of the NMNH, taken April 25 at Tennessee Colony. On May 8, Ed collected at Canyon Lake, Comal Co.; moths collected included Eupithecia zygadeniata (Geo.); Neodactylota liguritrix (Gelech.); and Orinympha aetherias (Yponom.) This was followed by an evening of baiting and light collecting at Churchill Bridge, Brazoria Co. on the 9th., where he recorded the following : (Noctuids at bait) Catocala mira, C. minuta, C. alabamiae, C. texarkana, Celiptera frustulum, Arugisa latiorella, Peridroma margaritosa, Acronicta pruni, and A. paupercula. At light, he obtained the 2nd. Texas record for the noctuid Zanclognatha atrilineella, plus Eumorpha vitis (Sphingidae), Euchaetias egle (Arctiid), Lipocosmodes fuliginosalis, Tetralopha militella (Pyral.), Sparganothis diluticostana (Tortricid), Chionodes pereyra (Gelechild), and Glyphidocera lactiflorella (Oecophorid). Other Spring collections follow :

Kerrville St. Park, Kerr Co., May 15th.

Septis carinosa, Zale galbanata (Noctuids); Schizura badia (Notodont); E. zygadeniata (Geo.); Paraponyx obscuralis, Argyria auratella, Acrobasis muxvorella (Pyralids); and Goditha bumeliana (Tortricid).

Churchill Bridge, Brazoria Co., May 25.

Catocala amestris, C. titania, Zale galbanata, and Leucania adjuta (Noctuids) at bait, plus Elaphria versicolor, Rivula propinqualis, Horisma orciferalis (Noct.), and Horisme intestinata (Geo.) at light.

Bentsen St. Park, Hidalgo Co., May 27th.

Stilbadium spumosum, Elydna gulnare, Bendis fufius, Safia bilineata (Noct.), Parasa chloris (Limaconid), Givaria theodori, G. arboloides, Hemiclara ramuscula (Cossids), and Ethmia prattiella (Ethmiid).

Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, Hidalgo Co., May 28.

Sphingicampa blanchardi (Citheroniidae), Elydna tristicta, Selenis agna, Zale ficulnata (Noctuids), and Samaeopus cantona (Geo.)

Falcon St. Park, Starr Co., May 29th.

Sphingicampa heligbrogtii (Citheroniid), Sphinx chisoia (Sphingid), Tarachidia pusilla, Neptunia pulchra, Schinia tanena, Oxycnemis erratica (Noct.), and Ethmia nodgesella (Ethmiid).

In spite of the weather, some interesting species; Ed will be slowed down a bit during the summer, working with Andre Blanchard on four new species descriptions.

ZONE II : ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, and TENNESSEE. Coordinators, Vernon Brou, Rt. 1, Box 74, Edgard, LA 70049; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Drive, Clinton, MS 39056; Charles Watson, 1337 Watauga St., Kingsport, TN 37660; and John Hyatt, 139 Forest Hills Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663.

Former Florida coordinator Jeff Slotten turned up another Sphinx franckii record for Bryant Mather, this the weekend of June 12 in southern Illinois; Jeff was disappointed because he couldn't find any Euphyes dukesi or E. phaeton ozarkae! One man's junk is another man's treasure - how true among lepidopterists....

Vernon Brou continues to add to the Louisiana Lepidoptera survey (have you crossed the 2000 species plateau yet, Vernon ?) : Tortricids - Sparganothis pulcherrimana, S. caryae, Platynota flavedana, P. rostrana, P. idaeusalis, Archips georgianus, A. argyrospilus, A. griseus, Argyrotaenia velutinana, A. alisellana, Croesia albicomana, Olethreutid - Olethreutes merrickana.

Charlie Watson also complained of unusual spring weather in eastern Tennessee : a warming trend brought out Celastrina and Colias by the third week in March, but snow and rain kept him indoors most of April. He did manage to take a few Incisalia henrici and Falcapica midea on 12-IV in Washington Co.; on 22-IV C. bellona was fairly common at Roan Mt. State Park; Incisalia nippon was taken at Bays Mt. in Sullivan Co. on May 6th. Hope the weather is more hospitable in Peru, Charlie ! Among our members in Peru on the Lep. Society expedition are Charlie, John Hyatt, Charlie Covell, Chuck Zeiger, and Charles Stevens. One of these days .....

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

Irving has helped greatly in confirmation of several earlier records for the Junonia sp. "A" in Florida, previously considered to be potential hybrids : to date it has been traced back to March 19, 1978 on Key Largo. All of you should carefully examine your Junonia material from South Florida; the underside of this bug is especially distinctive -- so check out your series!

Irving again visited the Pigeon Mountain locality several times in May and June, accompanied by Hermann Flaschka and his wife Hanna: on May 30th. Speyeria cybele, Enodia anhedon, Charidryas nycteis, Satyrium liparops strigosum; on June 8th., they found Libytheana bachmanii, Autochton cellus, and Atrytone logan logan. The latter four species represent new Walker County records; the extreme northwestern counties in Georgia have had little collecting.

He later commented that Incisalia henrici and F. midea enjoyed good flights in north Georgia, especially the latter - "never seen them so abundant before." However, they traveled to Red Top Mountain three different times in search of G. lygdamus nittanyensis without success, making this the third consecutive season that they have not been able to locate any. Feniseca tarquinius, also absent from the area for several seasons, was found, however. Hermann Flaschka reported that he had raised Catocala concumbens last season on Quercus; the eggs had been sent to him and labeled as C. coccinata. The adults were of normal size and coloration -- the host plant used was most unusual !

ZONE IV : FLORIDA. Coordinators : Lee Adair, 810 Gascon Place, Temple Terrace 33617 and Steve Roman, 117 Masters Blvd., Winter Springs 32707.

Florida like every place else in the southeast, had funny spring weather. First, an unusually mild winter, then an early spring, followed by rain, rain, and more rain! Members Mike McInnis, John Riggerbach, and Baggett joined Charlie Covell and his students at Camp Owaissa-Bauer in Homestead May 16-19th. We were fortunate enough to locate an as-yet unidentified leguminous tree in bloom beside the swimming pool at Bauer, which proved to be a boon for hairstreaks - the tree was covered with C. cecrops, Tmolus azia, Electrostrymon angelia, plus a few P. m-album and S. melinus for good measure. I think we all had stiff necks from looking up through the branches and wielding 20-30 foot extension nets to probe the upper reaches, where the prizes tended to keep themselves. We all were quite elated with the results; some will be used as door prizes at the Kingsport meeting. John Riggerbach had a field day as well with his photography project. Mike and I found Strymon columella rather common and fresh at the Homestead IFAS Station on the 19th., but a female Heraclides androgeus spotted flying through the groves eluded us. Moth collecting at Bauer seemed way off from past experience there; Sphingids were scarce, though we did record Perigonia lusca, Cocytius antaeus, Protambulyx strigilis, Cautethia grotei, Darapsa myron, and Xylophanes pluto.

Richard Boscoe keeps up his good work with Lycaenid life histories, this time scoring a major coup by raising Chlorostrymon maesites on Albizia lebbeck. This butterfly's life history has been unknown previously, and life history information is essential to habitat preservation efforts involving restricted species. This host suggests to me that maesites probably uses several other tropical legumes, and certainly does not account for the rarity of this species.

Larry Hill of Inverness reported Catocala delilah (Citrus County record), C. cara, C. carissima, C. louiseae, C. amestris, and C. lacrymosa at bait near his home during May. Lee Adair, running his mercury vapor unit in his backyard, has collected several specimens of Palpudia pallidor, an Arctiid that I've yet to run across here in the state, although widely dispersed from the records. Charlie Covell added more salt to the wound by finding several Didasys belae in Collier County, north of Ochopee; this

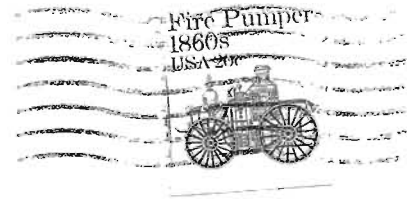
little day-flying moth has also managed to elude me to date. Then again, if all were so easy to come by, the sporting element and challenge would soon be gone.

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

John Coffman reported that he had been successful with the rearing of Catocala dulciola, and that he had managed photos of the larvae as well. The plant used successfully was a variety of Crataegus. Here's another unknown life history for yet another rare species; congratulations, John. John Hyatt reported the capture of a single E. olympia in Lee County, Virginia on May 8th.

Bob Cavanaugh had been in Arizona on a training mission with the USMC, but did get back enough to record Atrytonopsis loammi at Ft. Macon State Park on May 15th. and to locate Hesperia leonardus at Cherry Point, Craven County on May 27th. He's hoping to finish up work on the life history addendums for Calycopis cecrops during 1982.

The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually, with membership dues of \$3.00. The organization is open to anyone with an interest in the lepidoptera fauna of the southeastern region of the U.S.; information about the group may be obtained by writing to the Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Neal, 3820 NW 16th. Place, Gainesville, Florida 32605. Information for the newsletter should be directed to the attention of the respective zone coordinator, or to the Editor.



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