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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

***** THE KINGSPORT MEETING *****

The 1982 meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists was held the weekend of 14-15 August, with John and Julie Hyatt opening their home to visiting lepidopterists from as far away as Florida and Michigan. Also represented were the states of North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky, and of course Tennessee. Participants included Charles Covell and his son; Jim Merritt and wife; the families of Bob Cavanaugh, John Coffman, and John Hyatt; Tom Neal and nephew; Dick Anderson and friend; Frank Hedges; John Wilkie; John Riggerbach and wife; Paul Milner and wife; Rick Gilmore; Charles Watson; and the Editor. This represents the first time we've had so many from different areas present, due in part to the wide geographic range of the region we provide coverage of.

The efforts of our primary hosts, the Hyatts, will be remembered for some time, and the meeting was truly one of the best yet in terms of enthusiastic support. A number of members met for the first time, and it's always great to get to meet some of those we've corresponded with in the past in person. Hopefully, a few new friendships were generated in the process. As is customary with our meetings, the majority of our time was spent in the field; some had arrived as early as Friday, and those not too tired from the driving even stayed up to blacklight.

We scheduled field trips to Laurel Run, Hawkins Co., Tennessee and to Charlie Watson's grandmother's farm in Lee Co., Virginia on Saturday; on Sunday trips were scheduled to Laurel Run for the opposite party, along with a side trip to Black Mountain, Kentucky. Highlights of the meeting field trips were the capture of Thymelicus lineola - the European Skipper - at Warrior's Path State Park on 13 August by Bob Cavanaugh, which is a new Tennessee state record (Murphy's Law strikes again, as this is practically in John Hyatt's back yard!), and on the 14th Irving Finkelstein took a striking hybrid admiral (Basilarchia = Limenitis arthemis X L. a. astyanax " albofasciata") at Laurel Run. Members were also shown how to find Tarvae and pupae of the Harvester Butterfly among the wooly aphids on alders at Laurel Run; some actually got to see a female ovipositing on the aphids. The experiences in the field added to the comraderie shared by all of us; the only disappointment was that Speyeria diana seemed to be having an "off" season.

JOHN ABBOT AWARD PRESENTATION



Tom Neal (in ceremonial vestiture) presents the plaque to Charlie Covell, while John Coffman (front) and Rick Gilmore (rear) pensively reflect on the day's activities .

(Photo credit -Bob Cavanaugh)

After spending all day in the bush, participants met at John's home for a hamburger cookout, enjoying the food, as well as the chance to slow down and chat with each other. Here we also had the chance to view John's private collection, which has a fine representation of Birdwings and other exotics. Additional bonuses were the

opportunity to look over Charlie Watson's South American material collected on the recent Lepidopterists' Society sponsored expeditions, and to see material from Japan collected by Bob Cavanaugh. Others (Editor included) ogled the reared series of Catocala dulciola and some Sphinx franckii brought in by John Coffman.

The business meeting commenced at dusk, with a presentation on the status of our proposed charter, followed by discussion and selection of the drafting committee who will be responsible for preparation of the final version by the 1983 meeting. Tom Neal presented the annual financial report; discussion was focused on remarks that it will probably be necessary to increase dues for 1984 to take into consideration the proposed bulletin series and to improve printing methods for the future newsletter. The business meeting concluded with the presentation of the John Abbot Award. Charlie Watson then took charge of door prizes, wherein an array of items ranging from reprints and insect pins to photographic artwork and specimen selections were distributed. State checklists were made available to members present in the form of state distribution maps from Paul Opler's eastern butterfly atlas.

Members and participants then relaxed with John Wilkie's excellent slide program of Florida butterflies, including his shot of Eunica monima taken on Key Largo during last year's field meeting activities. Charlie Covell then shared with us his slides of the trip to Peru during the summer, complete with Morphos and other tropical delights, interspersed with humorous accounts of a soccer game play-by-play and a discussion of Charlie Stevens' infamous "butterfly stew." I'm certain we'll all talk of this meeting with nostalgia in years to come, as well as of the super hospitality extended to all of us by John and Julie Hyatt. Incidentally, if others plan to visit the Hyatts in the future, I'm sure that John and Norma Rigenbach will be happy to provide directions, now that they are thoroughly familiar with the town of Kingsport and vicinity. (Both are adept at bagging snipe, along with the Editor.) The evenings were a bit on the cool side in terms of moth collecting; however, John Hyatt had employed a pheromone attractant for borers, the most plentiful of which was the Peachtree Borer (S. exitosa). These moths are rarely seen. A complete list of butterflies and skippers recorded follows.

Laurel Run Field Trip, Hawkins Co., Tennessee. August 14, 1982

Danaus plexippus
Pterourus glaucus
Pterourus troilus
Battus philenor
Eurytides marcellus
Asterocampa celtis
Asterocampa clyton
Polygonia interrogationis
Polygonia comma
Basilarchia archippus
Basilarchia arthemis astyanax,
 including f. albofasciata
Speyeria cybele
Clossiana bellona
Phyciodes tharos
Euptoieta claudia
Vanessa virginianensis
Vanessa atalanta rubria

Feniseca tarquinius
Celestrina ladon
Everes comyntas
Enodia anhedon
Cercyonis pegala
Hermeuptychia sosybius
Artogeia rapae
Colias philodice
Colias eurytheme
Epargyreus clarus
Polites coras
Polites origines
Pompeius verna
Poanes zabulon
Lerema accius
Ancyloxypha numitor
Hylephila phyleus
Erynnis horatius

Additional species were recorded from Warrior's Path State Park in Thymelicus lineola and Amblyscirtes aesculapius on 13 August, and Calycopis cecrops was quite common at Black Mountain, Harlan Co., Kentucky on the 15th. Not bad, considering the time of year, and the fact that it seems to be an "off year."



Our host, John Hyatt (right rear), finally gets a well-deserved chance to sit down for a few minutes

(Photo credits - Bob Cavanaugh)

....while Charlie Watson (front center), co-host, ponders how to draw his name from the hat.

Tentative plans are for the 1983 meeting to be held at Torreya State Park in Liberty County, Florida during late September or early October to explore the little-collected NW counties of the state during peak fall flower display.

----- CURRENT ZONE REPORTS -----

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

Avery Freeman continues his investigations of Catocala in NE Texas, and provided comments on the population changes reversing for C. maestosa and C. agrippina, comparing 1981 and 1982 results from collecting in his Garland back yard; the former was abundant in '81, the latter scarce, but in '82 the situation was the exact opposite. C. alabamae was taken at bait on June 8th., and a single specimen of C. neogama f. loretta was collected at MV on June 17th. Ed Knudson added other Catocala of note with C. frederici and C. verilliana on 11 June at Sierra Diablo, Culberson Co., and C. muliercula at the Engeling W.M.A. near Tennessee Colony on 14 August. Other species recorded at Sierra Diablo included Euxoa immixta, E. simulata, E. terrealis, E. xasta, Nacopa melanderi, Neperigea seitzii, N. costa, N. continens, N. mephisto, Oncocnemis figurata (Noctuids), Pyrausta laticlavata, P. onythestalis, P. nexalis, Acrobasis blanchardorum, Daspygia salmocolor, Cahela ponderosella, Dioryctria ponderosae (Pyralsids), Eucosma morrisoni, E. bobana, E. bolanderana, E. atomosana (Tortricids), and Faculta inaequalis (Gelechiid). On June 19 at Engeling, he recorded Amphipyra pyramidoides, Fagitana littera, Exyra semicrocea, Strenoloma lunilinea (Noctuids), Lophodonta ferruginea (Notodontid), Timandra amaturaria, Sterrhia obfusaria, Mellilla snoviaria, Exelis dicolis, Euchlaena effecta, Metarranthis homuraria (Geometridae), Eudonia strigalis, Nascia acutella, Patissa sordidalis, Argyria argentata, A. critica, Chilo demotellus, Goya stictella, Peoria punctata (Pyralsids), Phaneta verecundana, P. cruentana, Eucosma fritillana, and Pandemis limitata (Tortricids). On his August trip to the same spot, he obtained Sphingicampa bisecta, C. regalis, Anisota discolor, A. stigma, and A. fucosa (Citheroniidae); Acronicta clarescens, A. extricata, A. paupercula, Rynchagrotis belfragei, Schinia lynx, S. crenilinea, Lomanaltes educialis, Heliothis lupata (Noctuids), Datana drexeli, D. integerrima (Notodonts), Scopula aemulata, S. caecuminaria, Semiothisa multilineata, Euchlaena astylusaria (Geometrids), Crocidophora tuberculalis, C. serratissimalis, Actrix nyssaecolella, Macrorrhina signifera, Acrobasis indiginella, A. stigmella, A. muxvorella, A. minimella, A. betulivorella, A. cirroferella (Pyralsids), Exartema merrickana, Phaneta stramineana (Tortricids), Carposina niponensis ottawana (Carposinid), Antaeotricha leucillana, A. humilis, A. mistrella, and A. vestalis (Stenomids). He also remarked that he had taken Parapemea buffaloensis with his new MV light, a Noctuid rarely collected as an adult.

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; Charles Watson, 1337 Watauga St., Kingsport, TN 37660; and John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663.

Paul Opler noted an apparent new Alabama state record with Euristrymon ontario from Houston Co., and that Erynnis baptisea was common in association with Crown Vetch at Mt. Cheaha. He added two additional county records for Alabama for Anaea andria in the process of surveying the extreme western counties for new records for his forthcoming atlas, increasing the number of Alabama records by approximately 30%. We badly need more records from Alabama, even for common species. Charlie Watson has been busy, leading an insect nature hike at Roan Mt. in early September, with a planned butterfly slide program for the Bristol, TN garden club in October. He's expecting the emergence of a buck moth (Hemileuca maia) any day now, having found a larvae back in July, noting with chagrin that these caterpillars DO have stinging spines! Ask Rick Gilmore about larvae of Dasychira, Charlie...

Vernon Brou provided the following list of addendums to the Louisiana Lepidoptera Survey : Composelchia coverdalella, C. fullonella, Polyhymno luteostrigella, Dichomeris ligulella, Tricotaphe inserrata, T. flavocostella, T. setosella (Gelechiidae); Phalonia erigeronana, (Cochylidae); Mompha circumscriptella (Momphidae); Petrova comstockiana, Pseudexentera caryana, Cydia lacustrina, C. caryana, Enthodonia microptera (Olethreutidae); Plutella xylostella (Plutellidae); and Glyphidocera lactiflosella (Symmocidae). All except P. comstockiana (Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish) were taken at Edgard, St. Johns Parish.

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

Irving reported that he, Bob Godefroi, Hermann Flaschka, and Abner had good luck with Megathymus harrisi during mid-August. At Pigeon Mt. on Sept. 18th, Abner and Irving noted a third brood of H. crespontes on the wing, and found several Speyeria diana females visiting thistle blossoms. Jim Maudsley reported the capture of a Speyeria cybele on Aug. 5th in Athens, a new Clarke Co. record. No Erora laeta were reported from the Georgia mountain region in July, and Speyeria diana populations seemed down in numbers as well as late in appearance. Others like S. cybele, P. faunus smythi, and S. calanus falacer enjoyed good seasons of abundance. Irving confirmed Enodia (Lethe) anhedon from Cooper Creek, and suspects that there are other records for this species from Georgia residing in collections under the label of portlandia. At Hartley Bridge Rd., south of Macon, Crawford Co. on Sept. 27th, he found Hesperia meskei in fair numbers, in spite of much habitat destruction. Scott Brown, reporting for Dupont, Clinch Co., provided the following moth records: D. hyloeus, C. juglandis (Sphingidae); H. cecropia (there are surprisingly few records for this Saturniid from Georgia); Nigetia formosalis (Nolidae, new st. record); Alypia wittfeldii (Agaristidae); Artace cribraria (Lasiocampidae); Zale perculata, Z. horrida, Chytonix sensilis, Elaphria georgei, Dercetis vitrea, Diphthera fallax, (Noctuidae); Lagoa pyxidifera (Megalopygidae, first confirmed Georgia record); Mono-leuca semifascia (Limacodidae); Yponomeuta multipunctella, and Urodis parula (known previously from four specimens). Baggett, Hedges, and Gilmore found an aggregation of Anisota peigleri larvae defoliating an oak in Irving's front yard, and enjoyed good general moth collecting in the vicinity of Dahlonga, Lumpkin Co. on 17-18th of August; interesting macros included Manduca rustica, C. catalpa, S. jamaicensis, D. versicolor (Sphingidae), Catocala vidua, C. angusi, C. neogama, C. lacrymosa, C. flebilis, Schinia marginata, S. nundina (Noctuidae), and Eacles imperialis.

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

Lee reported on some interesting captures at Sanibel Island, Lee Co. on June 25-26: Manduca brontes (several records between June and August), P. strigilis (the most common Sphingid species present, conspicuously absent from Dr. Hugh Brown's checklist made in the early 1970's), Euleptidotis metamorpha (a tropical Noctuid resembling a S.A. hairstreak, complete with tails !), Ophisme tropicalis (apparent new st. record), and Itame particular (Geometridae, known previously from Florida from the type.) Bob Godefroi commented on the continued presence of Eunica monima in south Florida during 1982, and Steve Roman reported that he and Richard Jackson found Appias drusilla and Dryas iulia largo established at Apollo Beach, Brevard Co. on July 24th, good northward extensions for these butterflies. Zeiger, Baggett, and Stevens found Hesperia meskei, H. attalus, P. yehl, E. arpa, and S. appalachia on the UNF campus in Jacksonville on Sept. 25th. Perhaps some of you noticed the two articles on butterflies

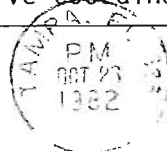
in the Sept. issue of the Florida Naturalist, one by Tom Emmel and Jim Nation, the other by John & Norma Riggenbach - two good introductory articles to Florida butterflies. Dennis Profant has completed his butterfly checklist for Ravine Gardens St. Park in Palatka, and continues to provide many moth records. For those interested in N.A. Pieridae, there is an excellent treatment of Eurema daira and the status of palmira in Florida in the Bulletin of the Allyn Museum, No. 70, by David Smith, Dennis Leston, and Barbara Lenczewski. A list of moths collected by Ed Knudson will be utilized in the next issue.

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

On our return from Kingsport, Frank Hedges, Rick Gilmore, and I stopped overnight at Fontana Village, NC on Aug. 15th; we found things late in general, but collected Callosamia angulifera, Catocala andromedae, C. connubialis, C. paleogama, C. resecta, C. flebilis, and E. nubilis. Bob Cavanaugh indicated that in the last report, the record for H. leonardus is in error for H. attalus, but this still represents a new county record. On the evening of Aug. 16th, Hedges, Baggett, and Gilmore collected along the Savannah River in Edgefield Co., SC; among the macros collected were Callosamia angulifera, E. imperialis, Anisota stigma, Sphingicampa bicolor, Citheronia sepulchralis, Manduca jasminearum, C. catalpae, and Pachysphinx modesta. Bob Godefroi collected at the Savannah River Wildlife Refuge, Jasper Co., SC on Aug. 30th, where he found P. viator and Problema bulenta; near Hardeeville along US 17, he also found Poanes yehl -- some excellent skippers.

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The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually, with annual dues of \$3.00. The organization is open to anyone with an interest in butterflies and moths of the region. Information about the group may be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Tom Neal, 3820 NW 16th. Place, Gainesville, Florida 32605. Reports for the newsletter can be forwarded to the respective coordinator or to the Editor

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