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Southern lepidopterists' news




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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.

NEW EDITOR: RON GATRELLE

As your new editor I would like to tell you a little about myself. I grew up in the state of Iowa and became interested in moths and butterflies at about 12 years of age.

My early interest was more with the moths but I could not find much literature on them so I evolved into a "butterfly" collector. By 1960 I was a full fledged enthusiasts of Lepidoptera.

After graduation from high school in 1964 I was more interested in girls than anything else and stayed on the trail of the opposite sex until I "caught" my wife, Marilyn, in 1966. Also in 1966 I entered into the Navy. After marriage I became more involved with leps again and began to build my collection into a structured scientific collection.

I spent a year in San Diego, Calif., two seasons in Pensacola, Fla., and then moved to Charleston, S.C., in 1970. I still collect a few moths but I am mainly interested in all North American butterflies especially skippers and hairstreaks.

I have always tried to collect my own specimens as much as possible and keep short series of each subspecies. I have collected in N.C., S.C., Ga., Fla., Ky., Tenn., Ala., Miss., Ark., Mo., Ill., Ia., and S. Calif.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

I would like to touch upon a few things in relation to editorial policy.

FIRST, I strongly encourage each of the zone coordinators to do their job compiling and sending to me the information sent to them by those in the field.

SECOND, I urge each member to please let me know if you are unhappy with any zone coordinator who is not forwarding information you are turning in to them. I say this because I will NOT publish any information that is sent directly to me. You must go through your zone coordinators. I will recommend to the chairman that coordinators who do not coordinate be asked to resign.

THIRD, if the Southern Lepidopterists Society is to endure as a scientific entity, even on a amateur scale, it will have to operate in a professional manner. While many of us are close friends we can not operate as a "clique" of friends but as responsible lepidopterists. Dave Baggett has done a tremendous job in getting this society on its feet! BUT, it will now have to stand on its own feet in a professional way or it will fall.

FOURTH, I plan on publishing issues in April, July, October and January. Coordinators please submit material early.

FIFTH, we are beginning a bulletin series

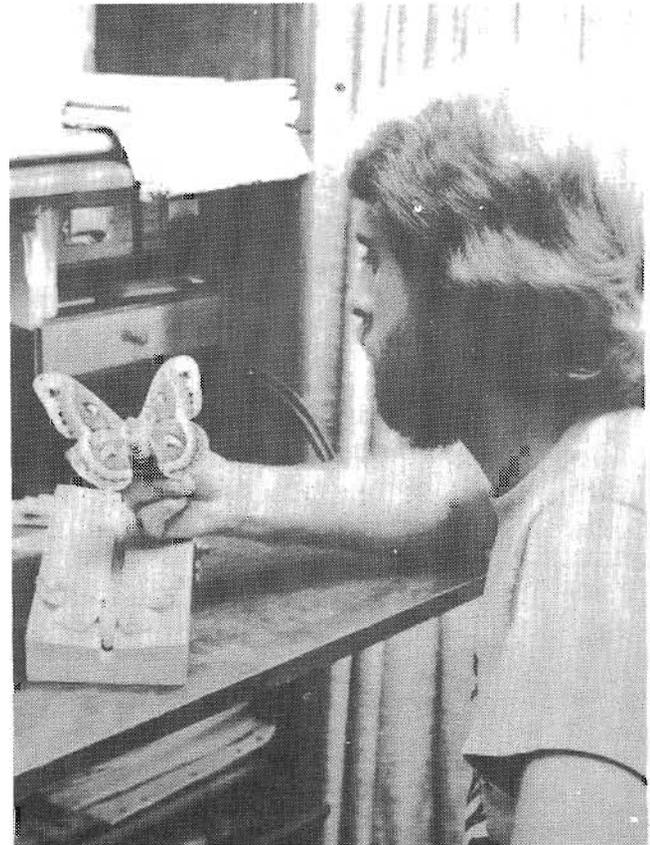
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NEW EDITOR CONT'D

So my collection is heavy in midwestern and southern species.

I ran my own business, a successful dental laboratory, for several years and I am now a full time christian minister. I am a past member of the executive council of the Lepidopterists Society. I co-authored the description of Satyrodes appalachia leeuwi. I am doing research on several southeastern species of hairstreaks and skippers at this time.

Having lived and collected in the south for some 14 years I consider myself fairly familiar with the butterflies of this area and hope to do a good job as your editor.



Ron Gatrell, our new editor

EDITORIAL POLICY CONT'D

and I am here asking for manuscripts to be submitted. We are looking for interesting short papers which will add to the knowledge of Lepidoptera in a meaningful way. These papers should be of the type that are not usually found in the larger professional publications which are bogged down by the large amount of submitted material. In this way we hope to alleviate some of this backlog and also get many of those more amateur, but important, papers published. At times authors may be asked to help defray the cost of a bulletin depending upon length, illustrations desired and, of course, available funds.

SIXTH, I am starting a BUY, SELL, TRADE section in the news letter for use by members only. Please send these adds directly to me not your zone coordinator. Also send me all research requests you want published.

SEVENTH, this is your publication and your society. I hope to do a good job supplying you with a quality and informative publication, but I can only publish what you submit. I would like for each of us to have one key word on our minds in 1984, PARTICIPATION.



RESEARCH REQUESTS

I am trying to collect Texas records of Lepidoptera, especially moths, for a proposed checklist of the Lepidoptera of Texas. I would also be glad to examine undetermined moths from Texas and can, in most cases, determine them.

ED KNUDSON, 808 Woodstock, Bellaire, Texas, 77401

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I have been undertaking direct comparisons of the Old World species of Maniola, Pyronia, Hyponephele and Aphantopus and my preliminary results suggest that I should also look at the Cercyonis- to complete the Maniolidi. I thus need live specimens of Cercyonis (5-10 specimens). For more information write:

GEORGE THOMSON, 30 Tannahill Terrace, Dunblane Perthshire, Scotland, FK15 OAX

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BUY, SELL, TRADE:

I have over 350 species and subspecies of North American butterflies for sale or exchange. Also some moths i.e., Catocala. I am most interested in exchanging for western and arctic species. Price list upon request.

RON GATRELLE, 126 Wells Rd.,
Goose Creek, S.C., 29445

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

The following are in reference to Vol. 5, No. 4.

ZONE IV: FLORIDA. Horama panthelon texana should read H. panthalon texana. (this species has also now been taken by Terry Dickel at Long Key St. Rec. Area, Monroe Co. in January)

Isogona texana should have been I. scindens.

John Calhoun's record of Eurema nice was stated to be the first for that species since Paul Tuskes took one on Plantation Key "several" years ago.

On July 10, 1981 I took 2 fresh male E. nice on upper Key Largo and saw one other. I reported this to the zone coordinator but he failed to pass that information on, along with other unusual records I mentioned in my report. I also wonder if there are not other unreported records of this species. Let us hear from you if you have taken nice recently. R.G.

ZONE V: SOUTH CAROLINA. Paul Opler submitted his report to someone other than Ron Gatrelle, the S.C. coordinator, which resulted in two errors. First, Opler recorded the subspecies of Mitoura gryneus that he took in Georgetown Co. as sweadneri. Sweadneri does not occur in its typical form outside of Florida. The coastal populations of gryneus from Bryan Co. Ga north into S.C. are smilacis (next column)

MOVING ON

With this issue you will notice that Ron Gatrelle will be the new Editor for the Southern Lepidopterists during 1984, and that Ed Knudson will be the 1984 Chairman.

Both are respected and knowledgeable lepidopterists in their own right, and well qualified for their jobs. As I step down from my past leadership role, I hope you will all continue to support them in their new roles as willingly as you have done while I was the Chairman-Editor.

A rotating share of responsibility is critical to the viability of any group. We are pleased to have new leadership, offering new insights and ideas.

Dave Baggett

thus those taken by Opler are either smilacis or a blend zone population with typical gryneus.

Second, Anthocharis midea was recorded from the "F. M. [Francis Marion] Forest in Dorchester Co." According to available maps there is no Francis Marion Forest in Dorchester Co. S.C. so the record for that county is questionable. If the specimens were taken in the Francis Marion Forest it would have been in either Berkeley or Charleston counties. Midea is known from both Charleston and Berkeley counties.

ZONE III: GEORGIA. Stevens late date for Satyrrium kingi looks like a truly late date for that species especially considering the fact that it was a "fresh" specimen!

In checking my records I noticed that the latest that I had taken S. kingi in the Ga. mountain region was July 23. I also found a specimen of kingi taken August 2, 1969 Escambia Co., Florida in my collection. My Aug. 2nd specimen was fairly fresh but a little tattered. Due to the fact that kingi flies much later in the mountains than it does in Florida I suggest that my Aug. 2 specimen could be considered a late "seasonal" record and Stevens Aug. 18 capture a late "calendar" record? R.G.

ZONE REPORTS:

ZONE I TEXAS. COORDINATORS: Ed Knudson, 808 Woodstock, Bellaire 77401; and Mike Rickard, 6550 Hillcroft #201, Houston, 77081.

All of Texas experienced a prolonged and severe freeze in late Dec., with a week of continuous below freezing temps. in the Houston area. In the lower Rio Grande valley, conditions were only a little better. Much damage was done to vegetation, but there have been above normal rains in Jan., which will help in recovery.

Harris Co., Bellaire, Nov. 3-15: Diasemiopsis leodocusalis (Pyrilidae), Lioptilodes parva, Stenoptilia zophodactyla (Pterophoridae). Feb. 2-3 same location: Orthosia alurina, Sericoglaea signata, Metaxaglaea violacea (Noctuidae). Dallas Co., Garland, Dec. 8, 1983 (H. A. Freeman), NEW STATE RECORD: Erannis tiliaria (Geometridae). In San Antonio (Roy Kendall's Ebony Hill Lab): Acronicta tota (1), A. atristrigata (5), Cissusa mucronata (many), Aon noctuiformis (many) (Noctuidae); Glena nigricaria (2) (Geometridae) all on March 11 in UV/MV light trap. Hunt, Kerr Co., by Knudson on March 12: Acronicta tota (2), Acronicta atristrigata (4), A. extricata (1), Orthosia annulimacula (4), Xystocheilus rufago (5), Euagrotis digna (2), Ulolonche disticha (2), U. orbiculata (3), Euxoa camalpa manca (1), Cucullia speyeri dorsalis (2), Sericoglaea signata (1), Zale colorado (5), Aon noctuiformis (many) (Noctuidae). Eupithecia alpinata (6), E. bolteri (9), E. longidens kerrvillaria (4), E. swettii (3), Holochroa dissociaria varia (5), Glena quinquelinearia (1), Semiothisa californiaria complex (3), S. aequiferaria (2), (Geometridae); Myelopsis conielia (2), M. alatella (9), Diviana eudoreella (1), Pyrausta lethalis (1), (Pyrilidae); Acrolepiopsis leucoscia (1) (Acrolepiidae); Ellabella editha (8) (Plutellidae).

ZONE II: ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, TENNESSEE. COORDINATORS: Vernon Brou, Rt. 1, Box 74, Edgard, La. 70049; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Drive, Clinton, Ms. 39056; Charles Watson, 1339 Watauga St., Kingsport, Tn 37660; John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Drive, Kingsport, Tn. 37663.

Brou reported taking Gonodonta pyrgo (Noctuidae), NEW STATE RECORD, In December of 1983.

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

Alachua Co., Gainesville, late January: Feralia major, Alsophila pometaria BOTH ARE SOUTHERN RANGE EXTENSIONS, collected by Tom Neal. Marion Co., March 17, Isoparce cupressi, Sphecodina abbottii, NEW COUNTY RECORDS, by Rick Gilmore. Near Altoona on road #73 at Lake / Marion county line, mid March, Adair and Baggett found Erynnis brizo somnus males abundant (thousands) with females scarce. They also found 3 tents of Megathymus cofaqui/harrisii population south of Interlachen, Putnam Co.

ZONE V: VIRGINIA, NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA. COORDINATORS: Ron Gattelle, 126 Wells Road, Goose Creek, S.C. 29445; John Coffman, Rt. 1, Box 331, Timberville, Va. 22853; Bo Sullivan, 200 Craven St., Beaufort, N.C. 28516.

Berkeley Co., S.C., Artogeia rapae was on the wing by Feb. 14. Edisto Beach, Colleton Co., S.C., Strymon melinus humuli Feb. 25. Aiken Co., near Aiken St. Park on April 21: Papilio palamedes (several), Mitoura hesseli (13 of the southern undescribed subspecies), Lethe portlandia portlandia (several). All reported by Ron Gattelle as the more interesting spring catches. Gattelle also reported finding only one of the very rare Incisalia irus arsace this spring.

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The SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS
C/O the Editor, Ron Gattelle
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Dr. JACQUELINE Y. MILLER
ALLEN MUSEUM
3701 BAY SHORE Rd.
SARASOTA, FLA. 33580



ANNUAL MEETING—OCTOBER 20, 1984—Bentsen—Rio Grande State Park, Mission, Texas

PRE-REGISTRATION and INFORMATION

This year, the annual meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' will be held in Bentsen—Rio Grande State Park, Texas on October 20. This park is located in the southern tip of Texas, on the Rio Grande, about 5 miles SW of the town of Mission. This meeting will follow the same format as previous meetings. A brief business session, followed by presentation of the Abbott award and several slide presentations will be held in the evening, preceded by a cookout, at the park pavilion (open group shelter). The participants will be permitted to collect in the park, under terms of a group permit, to be issued later. Field trips to other nearby collecting sites will also be arranged during Oct 20 and 21. There are no plans at present for a group field trip to Mexico. Those wishing to collect in Mexico, should bring proof of citizenship, voter registration will do, and should plan to purchase Mexican auto insurance, before driving in Mexico. Brief visits to the border towns can be made without tourist visa, but it is better to walk, or take a taxi for this. Depending on the response to the registration form below, an adequate number of campsites will be reserved in the park. There is an entrance fee of \$2 per vehicle; regular campsites (water, picnic table, grill) are \$3 per night; Trailer hookups are available at \$5 per night. Modern bathrooms with showers are provided in the park. For those not wishing to camp, many motels are available in McAllen, along US 83, 7-8 miles away. A separate article will appear in the Newsletter with other details regarding collecting in southern Texas. SEE MAPS ON REVERSE

Bentsen State Park is one of a very few remaining islands of undisturbed vegetation remaining in the lower Rio Grande Valley. This vegetation consists of thorny scrub, for the most part, but along watercourses, there is rather dense subtropical forest, which occupies a large portion of the campground area. Over 250 species of butterflies have been taken in the park and nearby areas, though nearly half of these are rare strays from Mexico and 3/5 are skippers. There are well over 1000 described moth species known from the park and nearby areas. The timing of the meeting was chosen to coincide with the blossoming of Eupatorium odoratum, which is highly attractive to many butterflies. Extension poles are recommended, especially for those interested in hairstreaks. Bait traps are very useful for nymphalids and apaturids. Moth collectors should bring their own power sources for lights, if possible, though a limited number of electrical outlets are available. ACCURATE RECORDS OF COLLECTIONS MADE IN THE PARK MUST BE KEPT!!

The weather during October is usually quite warm, but cold fronts may pass through the area and the nighttime temperatures could drop to around 50 degrees. Venemous snakes are quite rare in the park, though they may be common elsewhere, particularly in more open areas.

For additional information, call or write Ed Knudson (phone: 713-665-8990)

Please fill out and clip the registration form below and mail to Tom Neal
3820 NW 16th Place, Gainesville, Fla. 32605

PRE-REGISTRATION—BENTSEN St. Pk. 1984 MEETING

NAME _____ NUMBER IN PARTY _____

HOW ARRIVING _____ DATE ARRIVING _____ DATE LEAVING _____

NEED CAMPSITE _____ TRAILER SITE _____ MOTEL _____

SPECIAL INTERESTS OR NEEDS _____

