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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.

REJOINDER TO BRYANT MATHER SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS 5:1

Robert M. Pyle
Swede Park, 369 Loop Road
Gray's River, WA 98621

Thank you for the opportunity to reply to Bryant Mather's "Critique of the Audubon Field Guide" (SLN 5:1, May 1983, page 3). As with the remarks of scores of lepidopterists and others who have communicated with me about the book, Bryant's comments are appreciated and I have duly noted them and forwarded them to the editors for their consideration.

You were correct in your editorial note when you explained that I was working under constraints imposed by the Chanticleer Press series as a whole. I explained this and other exigencies pertaining to the book's production in the News of the Lepidopterists' Society. The fact is that the book was going to be written, and its traits which Bryant finds so objectionable were inevitably to be part of it. I regretted this but accepted the challenge of writing it anyway, hoping to sprinkle it with accurate natural history, pepper it with references to needed habitat conservation, and make it educationally accessible. These aims I largely accomplished.

Looking at Bryant's individual complaints the first related to the use of the term "true butterflies." If there is a better concise English term for butterflies

other than skippers, I would be pleased to know of it. Second, Mather dislikes the arrangement of the photographs. This was out of my hands and often at odds with my suggestions. Third, common (English) names. Again I had no choice but to employ them, and therefore to coin some new ones. I attempted to use names that conveyed something about the organism better than reiteration of the Latin or a patronym would do. If Mather dislikes my choices, that is his prerogative. A joint Committee of the Xerces Society and the Lepidopterists' Society is currently attempting to standardize English names for American butterflies, so a future edition may be able to rely on such a list.

I certainly agree that the sole use of common names as photo captions is highly unfortunate. I argued hard on this issue, but the series style was bound to be followed -- even for insects and fungi! When Mather states that I never give the full name of the butterflies, he apparently means "including the author." Of course the Johnson's (aka Mistletoe) Hairstreak is identified as Mitot johnsoni; but not as M. johnsoni (skinner), because again the editors would not countenance it. Non mea culpa.

I am saddened that Bryant fails to comment on any of the book's virtues, but amused by his final judgement that it will "set lepidopterology back for half a century, at least." You add in your editorial note that it is a useful beginners' guide. I would like to suggest that it is, with all its defects, rather more than that: no other book
(continued page 6)

REJOINDER CONT'D

presents so much natural history of North American butterflies, nor as many useful portraits of butterflies in (mostly) life situations.

Judging from my mail, the guide has made butterflies accessible to a great many people who otherwise might neglect them. Many of these are youngsters who hope to continue the study. Since we all know that youthful enthusiasm and young recruits are the lifeblood of lepidopterology, I like to think that Bryant's droll conclusion is exactly the opposite of the Audubon Field Guide's true impact on the field.

Since this book was far more a labor of love than livelihood, I remain interested in its accuracy and improvement. Should there be another edition, corrections and new facts will surely be included. Therefore I welcome any comments on the book whatever, be they positive, negative, or nearly churlish.

LUCIEN HARRIS, JR. (1899-1983)

A TRIBUTE

Well known to all lepidopterists in the Southeast as the author of Butterflies of Georgia, Lucien Harris, Jr. died on February 22, 1983, in his 84th year, after a long illness.

Although he will be best remembered for his contributions to lepidopterology, Lucien spent a lifetime in the study and conservation of the natural history of his native state, Georgia, and of the Southeastern region of the U.S. He had a keen interest in birdlife as well as butterflies, in botany, and in the geology of the region.

In 1929, he and a group of close friends in various branches of science who shared an interest in natural history and conservation, founded the Georgia Society of Naturalists, which organization he served as president for many years. Among the group's accomplishments was the designa-

tion by the U.S. Department of the Interior of the Okefenokee Swamp as a National Wildlife Refuge. Another was the founding of the Tall Timbers Research Station, near Tallahassee, Florida, which today houses the bulk of the Lucien Harris, Jr. butterfly and moth collections.

Lucien's interest in butterflies developed in his teens and twenties, when his native Georgia was still largely underdeveloped, and the butterflies and other forms of wildlife were abundant nearly everywhere. In 1931, he published A List of the Butterflies of Georgia, which, as the title suggests, was essentially an annotated checklist of the species taken in the state up to that time. A revised edition, edited by Austin H. Clark, was published in 1950 as The Butterflies of Georgia, Revised, with substantial new records and an extensive bibliography by Mr. Clark. Thus, the groundwork was laid for Lucien's culminating work, The Butterflies of Georgia, published by University of Oklahoma Press in 1972, whose usefulness as a fieldguide extends well beyond the boundaries of Georgia to virtually all the Southeast, except the subtropical regions of Florida.

In addition to these accomplishments, Lucien was a charter member of the Lepidopterists' Society and a member of numerous other associations dedicated to scientific and conservationist pursuits, and over the years received substantial recognition for his achievements. Perhaps the greatest recognition was the naming of a new species of Giant Skipper in whose discovery he played a major role Megathynus harrisi by H. A. Freeman in 1955.

Lucien Harris, Jr. will be sorely missed by all who knew him personally, and the many of us who benefited in countless ways from his knowledge and his enthusiasm for the butterflies and other wildlife he knew so intimately.

Irving L. Finkelstein
December 6, 1983

(NOTE: A more detailed tribute to Lucien Harris, Jr., also by Irving L. Finkelstein, will appear in an issue of the Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society in the near future.)

BUY, SELL, TRADE

FOR SALE: Top quality Imperial brand insect pins. \$17 per 1000, with a minimum order of 5000 pins, offering sizes 000 - 7, postpaid and insured. Additional specifics on Elephant brand, stainless and minutiens are available on request. Vernon A. Brou, Rt. 1, Box 74, Edgard, LA., 70049
phone (504) 497-3203

ADS IN THIS SECTION ARE BY MEMBERS ONLY

PAPILIO POLYXENES KAHLI?

I reared 15-20 Papilio polyxenes asterius in 1983 for the fun of it. All of the green pupa emerged in '83 while all of the brown pupa overwintered to 1984.

All specimens emerged as "normal" asterius and were released except for one overwintering pupa which emerged this spring as a yellow banded female identical in all respects to a reared female P. kahli in my collection. I am now checking to make sure that the "kahli" I have are truly such.

I also am interested in what evidence anyone may have to lend weight to the possibility of kahli being a subspecies of polyxenes. I know this possibility has been posed in the literature, but what evidence is there? I find it interesting that a wild caught larvae of asterius reared in a "normal" environment would produce a perfect kahli phenotype, as compared to my alleged kahli.

I got my kahli from a "dealer" in Arctic and Canadian species. If they prove not to be kahli I would encourage others to double check any "kahli" they may have purchased or exchanged for. Someone may be pawning off some atypical Manitoba asterius as kahli.

Ron Gatrell

BECOME A MEMBER

To join the Southern Lepidopterists' Society just send the current dues of \$5.00 to the treasurer TOM NEAL, 3820 NW 16th PLACE, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32605. You will be put on the mailing list for our quarterly news letter and also receive our periodic Bulletin. You will be kept "up to date" on whats happening around the South concerning butterflies and moths. SO JOIN NOW and tell a friend!

LIFE HISTORY NOTES

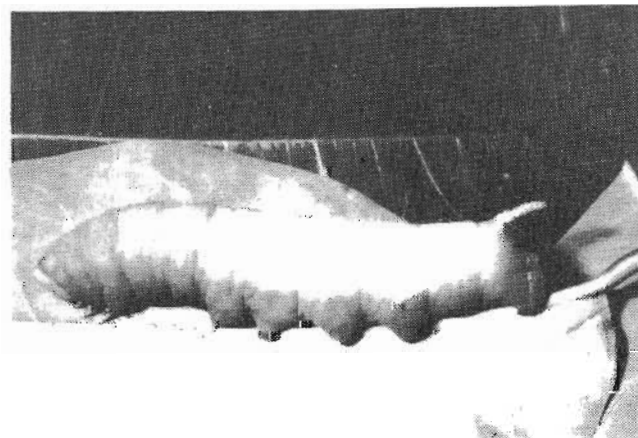
NEITHER OF THESE TWO LARVAE HAVE EVER BEEN ILLUSTRATED BY PHOTO.



Sphinx francikii reared ex ova on Ash (Fraxinus), ex female taken by John Coffman, Timberville, Va. summer 1983.

Photo X 1/2

Photo by
John Coffman



Larvae of Cocytius antaeus (Sphingidae) on Pond Apple (Annona glabra) found at Fakahatchee Strand, Collier County, Florida in November 1983.

Photo X 1/2, by Steve Roman.

ZONE REPORTS:

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

Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge: Paul Tuskes reported conditions at the refuge to be very dry and hot but vegetation was recovering well from the Dec. freeze. Paul took Epiperola perornata and Sphingicampa blanchardi on May 6. Knudson on May 1 took S. blanchardi, Rothschildia forbesi, Neurostrota gunniella, Limnaecia phragmitella (southern range extension).

Cameron Co., southernmost part: Sphingicampa albolineata, Eusceptis flavifimbriata, Acronicta rapidan, June 2 by Knudson

Anderson Co., Engeling Wildlife Man. Area, June 16: Melanomma auricinctaria, Derrima stellata, the following Catocala species at bait; consors, epione, muliercula, amatrix, micronympha, amica; these Catocala at light consors, epione, ultronia, andromedae, texarkana, similis, micronympha, amica. Of the Catocala taken only muliercula and amatrix were fresh, all by Knudson.

Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l Park (by permit), April 1-6: Anacamptodes pseudoherse (NEW US RECORD)(Geometridae), Sosipatra thurberiae (New State Record)(Pylalidae), Homohadena rustica (New State Record)(Noctuidae), Pima albiplagiata, Alucita hexadactyla, Smerinthus saliceti, Semiothisa sirenata, Iripudia inquaesita, Acontia sedata, A. arida, Draudtia ignota, Oxycnemis franclemonti, O. grandimacula, Iridepia nova, Lacinipolia rodora. Conditions were windy, warm and very dry with few butterflies noted. report by Knudson.

Bosque Co., Laguna Park, April 29: Ephesiodes mignonella, Eralea albalineella, Sphinx dollii, Apamea carioca, Schinia cupes, S. roseincta, Stiriodes perflava. All by Knudson.

Brown Co., Lake Brownwood State Park, April 30: Psorosina hammondi (New State Record)(Pylalidae), Stagmatophora iridella, Bucculatrix magnella, Yponomeuta atomocella, Homohadena incommitata, H. badistriga, H. induta, Catocala verrilliana, Sphinx libocedrus. All by Knudson.

Culberson Co., Sierra Diablo Wildlife Man. Area, May 1-2: Bondia comonana (New State Record)(Carposinidae), Staudingeria albipennella (New State Record)(Pylalidae), Cosmopterix montisella, Eucosma monoensis, E. griselda, E. agassizii, Olycella furciferella, Plataea trilinearia, Euxoa pimensis, Egira variabilis, E. curialis tantiva, Sphinx chersis. All by Knudson.

Jeff Davis Co., Ft. Davis, May 3: Phobus incertus (New State Record)(Pylalidae), Oidaematophorus mizar, O. auster, O. longifrons, Synedoida sabulodes. All by Knudson.

Harris Co., Bellaire, May 6-12: Bucculatrix trifasciella (New State Record)(Lyonetiidae), Autosticha kyotensis (New State Record)(Oecophoridae), Tanygona lignicolorella (New State Record)(Cosmopterigidae), Corticivora parva (New State Record)(Tortricidae)(25 April), Ecteodemia obrutella, Stigmella populetorum, Martyringa ravicapitis, Cosmopterix floridanella, Melanocinclis nigrilineella, Ancylis platanana, Goditha bumeliana, Larisa subsolana, Cydia garacana, Argyrotaenia tabulana, Misogada unicolor, Elaphria versicolor, E. exesa, Cucullia speyeri. All by Knudson.

Knudson reported that most of Texas experienced a rather dry spring, except for the southeast coastal section. However, by late May a pattern of summerlike weather with thunderstorms had involved most of the state. Above normal rainfall has been recorded for the Brownsville area, north central plains and the Big Bend area. Most spring butterflies and moths appeared "on time" in eastern sections of Texas.

ZONE II: ALA., LA., MISS., TENN, COORDINATORS: Vernon Brou, Rt. 1, Box 74, Edgard, La. 70049; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, Ms. 39056; Charles Watson, 1339 Watauga St., Kingsport, In. 37660; John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Dr., Kingsport, In. 37663.

Vernon Brou sent in the following. Collecting has been the best in 22 years! Sphingids and Catocala are found in record high numbers. The following list are all NEW LOUISIANA STATE RECORDS by Brou. Matigramma

rubrosuffusa, Lacanobia beani, Meropleon ambifusca, Catocala crataegi, Olethreutes osmundana, Zomaria rosaochreana, Z. interruptolineana, Hedya separatana, Archips magnoliana, Acleris maculidorsana, Metarranthis lateritiaria, Paleacrita vernata, Pyransta inornatalis, Penthesha sacculalis, Atascosa glareosella, Homosassa platella, Peoria bipartitella, Acoloithus novaricus, Pseuderotis obiterella, Antaeotricha unipunctella.

ZONE IV: FLORIDA, COORDINATORS: Steve Roman, 2454 Wren Hollow Dr., Tallahassee, Fl. 32303; Dave Baggett, 14406 N. 22nd. St. #169, Lutz, Fl. 33549.

Catocala collecting early and outstanding in central Fla. Gilmore, Issac and Baggett have recorded 20 speciesto date. NEW CITRUS CO. RECORDS are: Catocala clintoni, C. coccinata, C. andromedae (by Issac), C. messalina (by Baggett). NEW DUVAL CO RECORD: Catocala amestris (larvae, by Charles Stevens). NEW LEON CO. RECORD: Catocala orba (Steve Roman).

Stevens, Zeigler and Cavanaugh found Incisalia henrici margaretae near Eastport, Duval Co. [ED. NOTE: the henrici from extreme northeast Fla. represent the northern limits of the margaretae phenotype. Duval Co. specimens are possibly part of the blend zone population between margaretae and the eastern Georgia, coastal South Carolina subspecies which is in the process of being described]. They also found suitable habitat for Satyrium kingi in Duval Co. Lee Adair used ZZ-pheromone bate with good success for Sessid moths. He used his VW as a trap leaving the windows down and the bait inside! He took S. exitosa (Torreya St. Pk.), S. sapygaeriformis (Hillsborough & Hernando Counties, fairly common), and S. palmii (Hillsborough Co.).

Terry Dickel and Dave Baggett took 12 of the new U.S. record Mocis cubana at No Name Key Mar. 31- April 1, with generally excellent collecting there and at Long Key.

Collier Co., late March: P. carteri, E. Pandorus, E. labruscae, C. antaeus plus other good SpHINGIDAE and ARCTIIDAE by Herman Flaschka and Ben Williams.

Rick Gilmore and Baggett reared Satyrium liparops from Vaccinium arboreum and Crataegus sp. Larvae were taken form the Withlacoochee St. Forest area of Citrus and Hernando Counties.

Hillsborough Co., May 9-11: Atrytone arogos, Atrytonopsis loammi, Euphyes arpa, Problema byssus and others by Bill Grooms. He also took Poanes aaroni howardi near Yankeetown, Levy Co.

Baggett gave the following information. Central and north Florida was hurt by the two severe freezes in December and January, which killed many citrus groves and local Aristolochia vines used by Battus polydamas. However, the freeze seems to have helped the more "northern" species towards a peak year (hairstreaks, Catocala, etc.), but will push some of the propical ones back into the southern part of the state.

ZONE V: S.C., N.C., VA, COORDINATORS: Ron Gatrell, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, S.C. 29445; Bo Sullivan, 200 Craven St., Beaufort, N.C. 28516; John Coffman, Rt. 1 Box 331, Timberville, VA. 22853.
VIRGINIA

John Coffman sent in the following report. Spring blacklighting has been terrible, the nights either cold, rainy or windy. May 31 saw the temperature at a mild 39° and only 31° on the night of May 30! I had Sphinx franckii to emerge form last years rearing. On June 1 two emerging Citheronia sepulcralis resulted in a natural mating... looks like I'm going to have a second go-round with this species.

John reported the following species from rearing efforts and life history work he is doing. Phobetrion pithecium (Limacodidae); Carmenta bassiformis (Sessiidae); Packardia geminata, Parasa chloris (Limacodidae); Metarranthis obfirmaria, Epimecis hortaria, Iatraxis cachexita, Halysidota harrisii (Geometridae); Olceclostera angelica (Apatelodidae); Adita chionanthis, Scolecocampa liburna, Parallelia bistiaris, Apatelia impleta (Noctuidae); Schizura concinna, S. unicornis, Dasylophia anguina (Notodontidae) and a number of other moths still unidentified.

Rockingham Co., spring blacklighting: One night 71 males of Feralia jocosa were taken. Does anyone know where the "ladies" were? H. maia larvae abundant on Oak species in this county. Catocala collecting has been bad again this year with extremely few larvae produced from bush and tree "beating".

ZONE V REPORT CONTINUED.

John joined the Maryland Ent. Soc. on their spring field trip to Soldiers Delight Natural area, near Baltimore where A. midea [annickae], H. metea, I. nippon, E. brizo and a number of Coleoptera [Beetles] were collected. Conditions were very dry there.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Gatrelle reported the following environmental data. The well known collecting site north of Mt. Pleasant on Hwy 17 in Charleston Co., continues to be devastated by developers. Only one very small area remains where the eight endemic species of Theclinae can be found. This small area was burned over two years ago. This burning "opened up" the forest floor enabling new growth of flowers as adult nectar source and young sapling trees and bushes as larval host. This was especially beneficial to Satyrium kingi which is a transitory species which inhabits young secondary forest.

Berkeley Co., May 25: Gatrelle reported Catocala ilia very common in woods behind his house. The only other Catocala taken that night was one fresh male of a small unidentified species. June 16 near Moncks Corner: one male Colias eurytheme, Erynnis zarucco, Calycopis cecrops, Strymon melinus humuli, Basilarchia archippus all freshly emerging. June 27 near Summerville: Cercyonis pegala males just emerging. [Abbotti should be considered a synonym of pegala as it does not differ from topotypical pegala. This is here noted as these specimens would otherwise have to be dubbed "abbotti".]

Charleston Co., near Mt Pleasant, May 26-28: three female Euristrymon favonius, 18 Satyrium liparops liparops, many Satyrium kingi, few S. calanus calanus, one female Parrhasius m-album, Celastrina ladon, Vanessa virgin-iensis, Megisto cymela viola, Oligoria maculata, Panoquina panoquina, ? ecola

ABOUT YOUR CHAIRMAN...

I am always grateful to four people, who had, and still have much to do with kindling and further increasing my interest in Lepidoptera. First, of course, my mother, who noted my interest in "bugs" during my early childhood in South Bend, Indiana. She bought me a net and other equipment, as well as my first butterfly book.

Much later, after moving to Florida, my interest was rekindled by Tom Neal, who was assigned to be my roommate in college at the University of Florida. After finishing medical school at the U. of Fla., I moved to Houston, Texas, in 1973 to continue my medical education at Baylor College of Medicine.

While collecting in Bentsen State Park that summer, I met Mike Rickard who has been my good friend ever since. He took me all over Texas showing me the best collecting areas, and he taught me much about skipper identification.

In 1979, I met André Blanchard and we soon began a close association which continues today. André patiently taught me the techniques of dissection and mounting of genitalia, techniques of photography, and many other things about moths. Together we have published 14 papers, with 3 now in press, describing more than 30 new species from Texas.

There are, of course, many other people who have helped me in trying to master lepidopterology and with whom I have enjoyed correspondence and/or collecting.

My main interest, at present, is moth taxonomy and distribution in Texas. My major goal is to complete an annotated checklist of the moths of Texas, along the lines of Kimball's work on Florida. I still enjoy collecting butterflies also and have collected in Mex., Cal., Alaska, Ia., Nev., and Ariz., as well as in Texas and Florida. I joined the S. Lepid. Soc. as a charter member in 1978. I am deeply honored to have been chosen as chairman for 1984. I will do all I can to aid the continued growth of our group.

ED KNUDSON

UPDATE ON 1984 MEETING
BENTSEN STATE PARK, TEXAS
OCTOBER 20-21, 84

CURRENT CONDITIONS

As of June 1st the native vegetation in the lower Rio Grande Valley has recovered nearly completely from the effects of the freeze in December. Butterfly populations have remained well below normal, but are expected to increase with summer rainfall, which is predicted to be above normal. This should mean that the usual species represented in the area will be out in good numbers.

COLLECTING PERMITS

A group permit for those attending the meeting has been approved for Bentsen State Park. Those who desire to collect in the Santa Ana Refuge should write to Dr. Howard Weems, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, in Gainesville, for inclusion on a group permit. This should be done immediately.

VISITING MEXICO

As mentioned previously, no organized collecting activity in Mexico has been planned, or is contemplated. Those who wish to visit Mexico for collecting or other purposes should bring proof of citizenship (voter registration, Passport or Birth Certificate). If planning to drive in Mexico, Mexican Auto Insurance must be purchased (Sanborn's is recommended) and **PROOF OF OWNERSHIP OF AUTO IS REQUIRED.** (Car title and current registration). The border towns may be visited without any of the above, but it is best to take a taxi or walk over the bridge to do this. Of course, no live insects may be brought out of Mexico.

CAMPING AND OTHER ACCOMODATIONS

There should be plenty of available campsites in the park. Some members will be arriving Friday, Oct. 19 and a number of campsites will be reserved in the AREA NEAR THE PAVILION. RV sites are located about 1/4 mile from the meeting site. Depending on response to the preregistration form [see last issue] these can be

reserved. SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AS SOON AS YOU CAN. A new motel, located at the intersection of US 83 and loop 374, is nearing completion and should be ready for the meeting.

AIRLINES

McAllen, Brownsville and Harlingen have air service from Houston and other cities, McAllen being by far the most convenient. Continental, Emerald Air and Southwest are among the airlines flying to this area. McAllen is about 8 miles from Bentsen State Park.

GENERAL

This is a great opportunity for us to get together with old friends and a time to make new ones. The memories one has of such get-togethers go far beyond that rare species that was finally captured. Memories of late night chats where collecting yarns were told and became a bit far fetched. Memories of seeing a Schmidt box full of rare specimens that someone brought to show off. Memories of information learned from a talk with an "expert" on a certain genera.

The Southern Lepidopterists' Society invites "ya all" to come on out to Bentsen State Park in the great state of Texas on October 20-21 for some great collecting and fellowship. Ya'll come now, ya hear.

MONA NEEDS HELP!

Some of us may not have noticed the announcement in the last issue of the News of the Lepidopterists' Society regarding the financial problems of the Moths of America North of Mexico project. It comes as no surprise, since nothing has been published since 1980 (the checklist not being published by the Wedge Foundation).

Also the last two fascicles published were on the micros and unfortunately were not of much interest to the majority of amateur lepidopterists! Consequently, the publication of new fascicles is dependant upon contributions and advance sales.

continued on page 12

MONA CONT'D

There are several fascicles ready to go to press, including the Geometrinae (green geometrids), the genus Euxoa of the Noctuids, and the genus Acrobasis of the phycitine pyralids. Others are in advanced stages of completion. In the opinion of this writer, all of the fascicles published so far represent the finest work published on the Lepidoptera on North America and it is in the interest of all lepidopter-

ists to get this project moving again. To those who are in a position to contribute, I strongly urge that you do so. The contribution is tax deductible, of course.

Contributions should be made out to the Wedge Entomological Research Foundation and addressed to: Dr. R. W. Hodges, Managing Director, Wedge Ent. Res. Foundation, C/O National Museum of Natural History, MRC-127, Washington, D.C., 20560.

-ED KNUDSON-

Send all collecting and related data to the zone coordinator over the zone your data is taken from. Addresses are listed inside under the zone report headings.

Send all research requests, buy, sell and trade items to the Editor. Send all articles and scientific papers for publication in the News or the Bulletin to the Editor.

The next issue of the Southern Lepidopterists' News will be at the beginning of October. Please send all information to the zone coordinators in time for them to compute your data and forward your information to the Editor. Good collecting and watch out for ticks, I hear they are having a "good year" too. Don't collect micros off the bumpers of moving vehicles. ~~~~~

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THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS
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