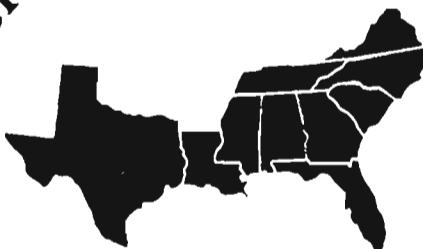




FOUNDED
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Southern lepidopterists' news



VOL. 7 NO. 3
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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.

1985 ANNUAL MEETING
HURRICANED OUT

Hurricane Elena came to the Southern Lepidopterists' annual meeting, uninvited. Those who were invited decided to allow Elena to have the Florida panhandle all to herself!

Evidently she didn't like being alone. In seeking company she followed Vernon Brou, who had made it to the St. Marks area, all the way home to Louisiana. There were probably a few others who felt like they were being followed also.

According to Dave Baggett, the weather on Saturday wasn't "that bad, except it was windy." (Only a true Lepidopterist would say a hurricane was only windy.) Dave said that the state police had the roads to St. Marks sealed off and that evacuation was taking place. The timing looked good as there were swarms of hackberry butterflies and other species were seen, most notably Seminole crescents. A good many tents of Megathymus yuccae were noted and Catocala were observed on buildings.

Hopefully we will have better success at the 1986 meeting which at this time is being planned for the Aiken County, South Carolina, area. That area is another, which like the St. Marks area, offers great potential for discovery of many interesting species. Mitoura hesseli, Megathymus harrisii and Euptychia areolata septentrionalis are a few of the unusual species known to occur in this area.

1985 ABBOT AWARD PRESENTED TO
ANDRE BLANCHARD

Since the annual meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society was cancelled due to hurricane Elena, this years Abbot Award was presented on October 19 by Ed Knudson to André Blanchard, at his home in Houston, Texas.

Space does not permit a detailed description of André's fascinating life story; which includes a distinguished career in the French Navy during which he saw action on a destroyer, and later as an aviator, during W.W. I. He remained in the Navy till 1929, during which time he engaged in research and teaching in SONAR and radio. After this, he became the director of the physics lab. for Michelin Tire Co., working on many interesting projects, some of which led to the development on a revolutionary new steel reinforced tire. On a business trip to the USA during the time of the NAZI occupation of France, he had to remain in the USA for the duration of the war. During this time he went to work first for the War Dept. and later for Schlumberger Ltd., moving to Houston in 1946 and eventually rising to the position of vice president of research and development.

Although André's interest in Lepidoptera began while he was living in France, there was little time to devote to this avocation until after his retirement in 1961. At this time he began intensive collecting of moths throughout the state of Texas,

(continued on page 10)

AWARD CONT'D...

with the goal of developing a catalogue of Texas moths. He designed and built much of his equipment and also originated a novel modification of a standard UV light trap design, which aided greatly in separating beetles and other hard bodied insects from the moths.

As his collection grew, it soon became apparent that the major difficulty would be determination of the species. This was a slow process and a surprisingly large number of species were found to be undescribed. André's interest then turned more and more to taxonomy and he began to build up a large and impressive reference library. He learned the techniques of dissection and mounting slides (he has made over 5800 preparations!) and has become an expert in photography. André donated his collection (over 60,000 specimens representing nearly 3000 species, mostly from Texas) to the Smithsonian Institution about 8 years ago, but until recently had retained most of it for continuing study. He has published over 50 scientific papers (half of which the undersigned was privileged to co-author), mostly appearing in the Jour. Lep. Soc. and the Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash. In these, nearly 90 new species and 10 new genera were proposed in 9 families. In addition, many species have been described from André's material by other workers, including 17 that bear his name.

André is a member of the Lepidopterists' Foundation, The Ent. Society of Washington, and the Lepidopterists' Society, in which he served as president in 1975.

André's first wife, Marguerite, died in 1958, after a long illness, leaving behind a family which now includes 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. In 1959 he remarried and was extremely fortunate in his charming wife, May Elise, who always accompanied him during many collecting trips throughout Texas. On these expeditions they often enjoyed the company of their good friends, Roy and Connie Kendall and also hosted many other prominent out-of-state Lepidopterista. Although the collection is gone now, André keeps busy with occasional

photographic work, follows avidly new developments in science (especially in astronomy), and enjoys playing chess against the computer. However, he was probably never happier than to be in the field, avidly searching through the night's catch, whooping with delight over each new and unexpected treasure.

-Ed Knudson-

1986 OFFICERS

There is some new leadership for the Southern Lepidopterists Society.

Jeff Slotten is stepping in as the new 1986 Chairman as Dave Baggett steps down. In our next issue I hope to have a profile of Jeff to better introduce him to you. I have only met Jeff a couple of times, while doing some collecting in Florida, but really liked him as an individual. I do know Jeff has a real nack for turning up new species in a given area.

Rick Gillmore will be the new Editor for 1986. Rick is an old friend and I wish him the best of success in that difficult job. It seems the hardest thing is waiting for the membership and zone coordinators to turn in their data, so help Rick out by getting as much information to him as you can. (Rick will take over after the vol. 7, no.4 issue is mailed in January). In the meantime, help me out a little and send me some info for the next issue!

Tom Neal will remain as Treasurer and Secretary. Keep Tom up to date on your address and don't forget to keep your dues up to date also.

Lee Adair is back in Florida and will be not only the new Florida zone coordinator, but will be the ONLY coordinator for that area. (I personally favor only one coordinator per State and think this is a good move).

I have enjoyed my two years as Editor and have tried to do a good job.

-Ron Gatrell-

RESEARCH REQUEST

I am engaged in a study of the Dryas (Heliconidae) and trying to find unmarked males of D. delila which is a native of Jamaica, with specimens showing up in Central Amer., Mexico, Texas, Cuba and Florida. I need a specimen or two from each locality in order to complete my project. They are solid orange except for slight hind wing fringe area. Any help in locating these will be greatly appreciated. I will buy from anyone who has these for sale. Contact: Thomas L. Ashby Jr., 667 Halifax Dr., Mobile, Alabama 36609--Tel. 205-660-0418.

BUY, SELL, TRADE

FOR SALE: Imperial insect pins \$18/ 1,000, minimum order 1,000 pins. Sizes, 000 to 7, insured and postage paid. Elephant and stainless and minutens available also. Vernon Brou, 137 Jack Loyd Road, Abita Springs, LA 70420.

FOR SALE: I am selling nearly my entire collection! Keeping only specific groups of interest to me. Prefer to sell to museum. Many rare species of N.A. butterflies inc. Boloria i. harryi, Euphyes berryi, Problema byssus kumskaka, Incisalia lanoriaeensis, etc. Ron Gatrell, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445

ZONE REPORTS:

ZONE I: TEXAS. COORDINATORS: Ed Knudson and Mike Rickard *

The following records are those of Ed Knudson. Texas has had a good year for Catocala with 28 species observed or collected since April at various locations. Outstanding catches, most of which represent NEW STATE RECORDS for Texas are as follows. Kerrville State Park, Kerr Co., May 16: Catocala herodias (fresh). Gene Howe Wild-life Mgmt. Area, Hemphill Co., May 18: Phaneta olivaceana (Tortricidae). Santa Anna, Coleman Co., May 19: Catocala frederici. Abilene St. Pk., Taylor Co., June 22: C. herodias (worn), C. jair, and 13 others. El Paso, June 28: Dichozoma parvipicta (Pyralidae). Lake Meredith, Potter Co., June 23: Pelochrista argenteana (Tortricidae); Catocala luciana. Martin Dies St. Pk., Jasper Co., Aug. 9 & 17: Tischeria quercitella (Tischeriidae); Eupragia hospits (Oecophoridae); Carposina biloba (Carposinidae); Endopiza lirioidendrana, E. cyclopiana, Endothenia microptera (Tortricidae); Tetralopha scortealis (Pyralidae); Dasylophia thyatiroides, Heterocampa n. sp. (Notodontidae); Macrochilo litophora, Zanclognatha theralis (Noctuidae). On Oct. 13: Isocorypha mediostriatella, Mea bipunctella, Phaeoses sabinella (Tineidae); Idioglossa miraculosa (Oecophoridae); Homaledra sabalella (coleophoridae); Pyroderces albistrigella (Cosmopterigidae); Olethreutes griseoalbana (Tortricidae); Nealgedonia extricalis, Microcrambus biguttellus (Pyralidae); Scopula ordinata (Geometridae). Daingerfield St. Pk., Morris Co., Sept. 1: Catocala nebulosa (sight record), C. vidua, Rhynchagrotis cupida, Protolampra brunneicollis, Abagrotis alternata (Noctuidae). Santa Ana Refuge, Hidalgo Co., Nov. 1: Cosmopterix bendidia, Eralea albalineella, Obithome punctiferella (Cosmopterigidae); Microthyris prolongalis (Pyralidae). Welder Wildlife Ref., San Patricio Co., Sept. 14 & 15: Sphingicampa heiligbrodti (Saturniidae); Stibadium caesium (common) (Noctuidae). East and central Texas has had a fairly normal late summer and fall, with rainfall slightly above normal. Extreme south Texas and much of west Texas has been dry.

ZONE III: GEORGIA, COORDINATORS: Scott Brown and Abner Towers *

Irving Finklestein reported taking a fresh Lethe anthedon just below the Allatoona Dam, Bartow Co., on May 25. On the same date at Beaumont Rd., Kennesaw, Cobb Co., he took a female Euristrymon ontario at New Jersey Tea. This is the first record for this species form that area since 1978! Amblyscirtes alternata was also taken on Beaumont Rd. as a new Cobb Co. record. In July Atlanta, DOWNTOWN Atlanta, was "invaded" by Catocala! They were all over buildings, sidewalks, gutters, some flying in daylight. Species included: C. paleogama, lachrymosa, neogama, paleogama, ilia, residua (possible new state record), obscura and a pair of nebulosa pluss a couple others. Jeff Slotten took two female Megathymus harrisi near Dalton.

ZONE IV: FLORIDA. COORDINATOR: Lee Adair *

Dave Baggett reported a good looking collecting site at Rookery Bay Refuge north of Marco Island and south of Naples. He visited the area this summer and observed P. cresphontes, H. charitionius, P. philea & agarithe, S. milinus, S. columella, L. cassius and Junonia sp. (zonalis of authors). Rick Gillmore took two male Catocala delilah in late May in Seminole Co. in association with oak. This is an eastern range extension. He also took a pair of black witches in May in Citrus Co. On April 26 & 27 Mike McInnis, Loran Gibson and Baggett

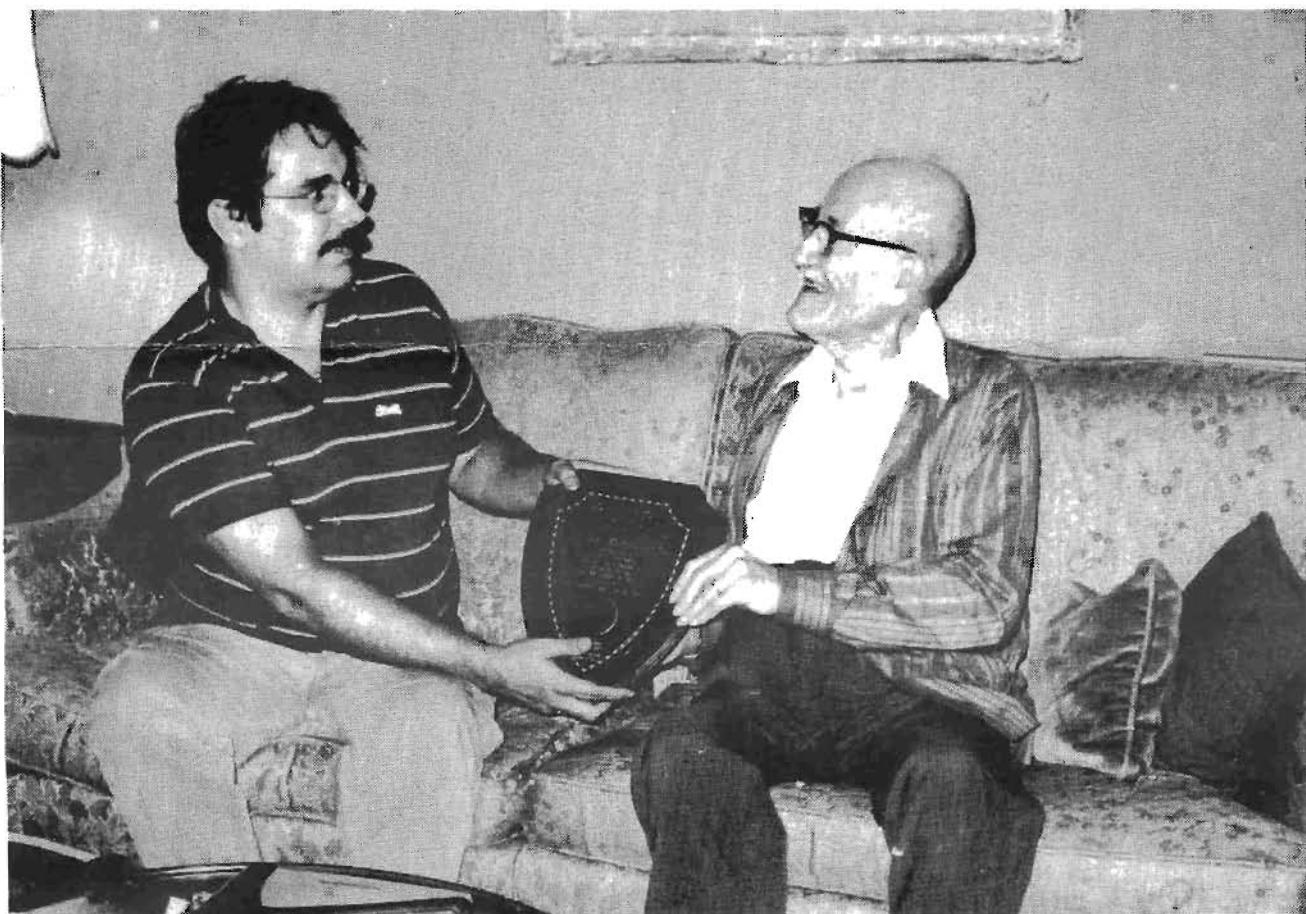
found several Satyrodes appalachia at Crystal Springs, Pasco Co., then took Satyrium liparops, S. c. wittfeldi, P. m-album, A. halesus and E. favonius at McKethan Lake, Hernando Co.

ZONE V: SOUTH CAROLINA, N. CAROLINA, VIRGINIA, COORDINATORS: Ron Gatrell, Bo Sullivan, John Coffman *

SOUTH CAROLINA:

Gatrell reported a very wet summer and fall following the very dry spring. Butterfly species seemed to be out in normal numbers with no noted decline or increase in population observed for any species. The most unusual thing that occurred was the sighting of a very fresh female Anthanassa texana seminole sunning herself on the front porch of Gatrell's home! After going inside to get a net and returning to the porch she was still there but was not netted as she flew up the side of the brick house. This was on Sept. 3rd and is a new Berkeley County record. A search was made for a colony near the house but none was found.

* SEE A COPY OF THE MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR ADDRESSES. Membership list may be obtained from Tom Neal, 3820 N.W. 16th Place, Gainesville, FL 32605.



ANDRE BLANCHARD RECEIVES THE 1985 ABBOT AWARD FROM ED KNUDSON

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