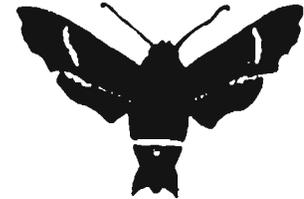




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1978

southern lepidopterists' news

A black silhouette of the Southern United States, showing the outlines of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, positioned in the center of the page.

VOL. 8; NO. 3 & 4
MAY 1987

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.

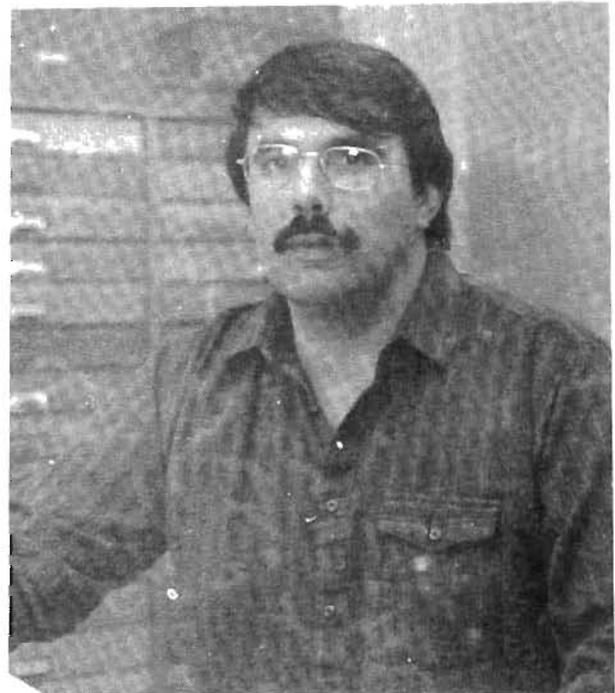
CHAIRMAN: JEFFREY R. SLOTTEN

SECRETARY-TREASURER: THOMAS M. NEAL

EDITOR: RICHARD M. GILLMORE

1986 JOHN ABBOT AWARD RECIPIENT: Ed Knudson, M.D.

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, on June 22, 1947, and lived in South Bend, Indiana for the next 9 years. My father was captain of a freighter on the great lakes and except for winter, when the lakes were ice-bound and summer vacations which we spent on the boat, I was raised by my mother, an ex-schoolteacher. In 1956 we moved to Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, where my parents planned to build a home on the lake shore. However, later that year, my father changed ships and we moved to Manistique in upper Michigan, as this was near his main port of call. It soon developed that the great lakes shipping industry was declining, my dad decided to retire early and go into business in Florida, where we had often spent the winter months. We moved to Florida in 1957 and lived with my aunt and uncle in St. Pete while our new home in Largo was under construction. My dad remained on the Great Lakes as he contemplated what to do in Florida, and his plans for a fishing boat venture were never realized due to his death in 1962 from spinal meningitis. Mother and I remained in Florida (I was an only child), and I graduated from Largo High in 1965, working part time in a supermarket. My mother also worked in a department store in Clearwater at that time. After high school, I attended St. Petersburg Junior College for two years and then moved on to Gainesville, where I completed my undergraduate studies in pre-med. I remained in Gainesville four more years, graduating from the College of Medicine in 1973.



I then left Florida and began my postgraduate studies at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. I completed my residency in diagnostic radiology in 1977 and was invited to remain at Baylor as an assistant professor of Radiology, a position that I held until 1980, when I left Baylor and entered into private practice. I have resided in Bellaire, which is a small town within the city limits of Houston, for the past 9 years.

My interest in entomology began early when I was a child of 6 or 7 in South Bend, and this interest was fostered by my mother, who made nets and killing jars for me. We lived quite some distance from town in a community called Roseland and we had a large lot with a heavily wooded backyard, so I collected a good many insects. My favorites were the swallowtails, giant silk moths, which I reared, stag beetles, and cicada killer wasps. I continued my hobby during our moves and won a blue ribbon for my collection in the Manistique 4-H club. However, when I got to Florida, I collected very little, as I became interested in other things, such as shark fishing, surfing, and general hell-raising. During this time most of my original collection, which I had carefully saved, was destroyed by dermestids.

My interest in entomology was rekindled when I took a zoology course in junior college and found that I could get extra credit for making an insect collection. Unfortunately, by this time, the subdivision in which we lived had been almost completely developed, and I was disappointed with the few interesting moths and butterflies that I could find. During the first two years in Gainesville, I gave little thought to entomology, as I was on my own now and free from restraints of home. This changed in 1969, when I entered med school. Because I had mentioned on my dorm application that one of my hobbies was entomology, I was placed by the computer with Tom Neal, who had just arrived from Pennsylvania.

This was quite a revelation to me, as I had never met anyone who shared my interests in entomology and especially lepidoptera. Together, with our other two roommates, one of which was another medical student, and the other a friend of mine, we quickly decided that the dorm was not for us; and we left almost immediately to rent an apartment in a place called Summit House, where I lived off and on during the next three years. Tom and I became good friends and spent most of our leisure time collecting moths and butterflies around Gainesville. We met John Alden, who made our cabinets and drawers and we set up a permanent UV collecting station near his house, which was next to a fine hammock. We made frequent trips to the Florida State Collection to identify our catches. Our most memorable trips were to South Florida and especially Key Largo, which was just beginning to suffer from the ravages of development. On the first trip there, I took my one and only maesites hairstreak at the blacklight, but we almost overlooked the abundant Schaus' swallowtails, thinking they were merely cresphontes! We took many trips to the Keys after that and witnessed the inexorable destruction of this unique area.

In 1973, I joined the Lepidopterists' Society and published my first article (on the dorantes skipper), which appeared in 1974. At this time I had met only a few other people who were interested in lepidoptera, and I moved on to Texas. It was the lure of lepidoptera that prompted my coming to Texas, and I have never regretted it.

I met Mike Rickard in 1974, quite by chance, as I was collecting butterflies in Bentsen State Park, and here began a long friendship which has taken us all over Texas, as well as New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, and Mexico. I have not seen such great numbers of butterflies as there were that summer, and I regret that I had so little time then for collecting. I soon was inducted into the circle of butterfly collectors in the Houston area at that time, which included mainly Mike, Bill McGuire, Frank Hedges, John Vernon and Terry Doyle. As my butterfly collection grew, I became increasingly interested in moths, but it was to be several years before I pursued this in a systematic manner.

Although I first met Andre Blanchard in 1975, I was still quite inexperienced and we did not meet again for several years. When I visited Andre the second time, I brought a box of moths along and he must have recognized some potential in my efforts, as he undertook to share with me his great knowledge of Texas moths. He taught me how to dissect specimens and make slide preparations; the finer points of determination and anatomy; photography (which I am still learning from him); and many other things. Unfortunately, we were only able to take a few collecting trips together, as by 1979 he was unable to go on out-of-town trips because of failing health. Andre and I then began a collaboration which resulted in the publication of 27 papers, in which 42 new moth species from Texas were described by us. Andre decided to send his collection to the USNM in late 1985, but he still assists me with photography. Andre's influence has given a clear goal to my work on Texas lepidoptera, that of producing a more or less definitive work on Texas moths, which I intend to take the form of an illustrated catalogue, similar to Kimball's Lepidoptera of Florida. In the meantime, I continue to describe new species from Texas and, hopefully, will eventually be able to tackle some revisionary work as well.

I also enjoy fairly frequent visits with my good friends Avery Freeman and Connie and Roy Kendall, who have done so much to further the knowledge of the Lepidoptera of Texas and Mexico. I enjoy an extensive correspondence with many professional and amateur lepidopterists, and am especially grateful to Richard Brown, Jack Clark, Don Davis, Julian Donahue, Doug Ferguson, Jack Franclemont, John Heppner, Ron Hodges, Don Lafontaine, Bill Miller, Gene Munroe, Bob Poole, Jerry Powell, and Fred Rindge, for all the assistance and encouragement they have given me. I cannot forget Howard Weems, who has done so much to make the FSCA a world class institution, for the assistance he has given. I also cannot close this section without acknowledging the help of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, especially David Riskind and the superintendents and staff of the many beautiful Texas state parks I have visited; Nita Fuller and her staff at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge; and James Flemming and his staff in Big Bend National Park.

I am proud to be a charter member of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and have enjoyed meeting and corresponding with many of it's members, especially Dave Baggett, who is perhaps the most dedicated lepidopterist I have ever known. I was especially honored to have served the Southern Lepidopterists' as chairman in 1984, hosting the meeting that year in Bentsen State Park.

In addition to the Lepidopterists' Society, with whom I have served as zone coordinator since 1984, I belong to the Entomological Society of Washington, The Lepidoptera Research Foundation, and the Entomological Society of Canada. I am also a member of the National Wildlife Federation, the Audubon Society, and Greenpeace.

**A FEW WORDS FROM OUR
1986 ABBOTT AWARD RECIPIENT**

To my friends and Lepidopterists in the Southern Lepidopterists' Society, I offer my sincere apologies that I was unable to attend the meeting this year to accept personally the great honor that you have given me. I am very grateful for this award and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a proposal that I would have brought out in my acceptance speech.

We are indeed fortunate in our common interest in Lepidoptera, as it is truly a fascinating hobby or profession. There are many ways to approach Lepidoptera study, aside from acquisition of cabinet specimens. Some of these include Butterfly Watching, Butterfly (& Moth) Gardening, Rearing of Lepidoptera and preservation of larvae, Lepidoptera Photography, and Hybridizing of Lepidoptera (which, I suspect, may catch on in this country eventually), I am not suggesting that collecting is wrong, or harmful, and in many parts of the southeastern USA, collecting, especially of moths, is badly needed. However, I would urge all those who do collect specimens to take the time to learn proper preparation and storage of their material, so that the collection is not neglected or lost.

One of the problems in bringing together all of these varied interests is the lack of common forum in which information can be published, which is mainly of a non-technical nature. The newsletters of our society and of the Lepidopterists Society are fine, but limited to rather brief articles and are generally unavailable for study, except by those members who save them. I suggest that we entertain the possibility of building the Southern Lepidopterists' Bulletin into just such a publication that would help to fill this gap. Such publications were not unknown in years past and one can find many interesting articles of a non-technical nature in old issues of the Journal of the Lepidopterists Society, or much older still, in the Lepidopterist. To make this possible, page charges (to the author) must be subsidized and this means that a source of funding will have to be found. After subtracting the nominal page charges (perhaps \$10-15), subscription charges, and advertising fees, if any, a 30-40 page bulletin might cost \$1000 or more per issue. This is a formidable figure, but perhaps an endowment or institutional help can be found. Our membership base is perhaps too small to produce more than one issue per year.

This brings me to the second part of my proposal, which concerns a possible joint project of our society to inaugurate an expanded Bulletin.

In our region there are few published state checklists of Lepidoptera, notable exceptions being Kimball's work in Florida (which is being updated), Mathers' work on Mississippi butterflies, and Harris' butterflies of Georgia. Unpublished checklists exist for many states and even since the publication of the MONA checklist, a surprising number of new U.S. records, or new species have been discovered in our area. A good project might therefore be a southeastern Lepidoptera survey, which might logically begin with publication of individual state checklists, and culminate in an annotated, distributional checklist (perhaps with illustrations) of the southeastern Lepidoptera. Even if this last goal is not realized, the publication of state checklists would be a significant contribution and perhaps well suited to our Bulletin. It would be of great benefit as well, if a common format were used for all lists, to aid in later correlation. Publishing a good checklist is no easy task and will require careful research. Included species must be based on published records

or on specimens in which the determination is accurate and not open to question. Manuscript (unpublished) names must never be quoted in lists of this type. When possible, major museums should be surveyed for additional records.

If there is interest in this project, a committee should be formed to seek sources of funding, communicate with interested participants, and establish a format. I hope this idea will meet with some support, but I realize it is very ambitious and many of our members are already overburdened with projects of their own. However, this is something to which nearly everyone could contribute something and will benefit all Lepidopterists with an interest in this vast region.

Ed Knudson

MEMBER NOTICES, RESEARCH REQUESTS, ETC.

VERNON A. BROU, 137 Jack Loyd Road, Abita Springs, LA 70420. **For Sale:** **CUSTOM MADE LIGHT TRAPS**, unlike anything else you've seen on the market today, perfected through years of personal research, and guaranteed to offer the BEST collecting efficiency yet developed! Send self-addressed, stamped, business size envelope for complete details and specifications.

CURRENT ZONE REPORTS :

ZONE I - TEXAS. Coordinators: Edward C. Knudson, 804 Woodstock, Bellaire, TX 77401; Mike Rickard, 6550 Hillcroft #201, Houston, TX 77081.

August 20, 1986

Ed Knudson: Coordinator

During most of July, Texas has experienced a heat wave with temps near or above 39§ centigrade. Rainfall has been below normal in many areas including the Houston area.

Butterflies: Ed Knudson spent 3 days at Santa Ana Refuge August 3-5. Conditions hot and humid, with scattered showers. Butterflies fairly abundant, but skippers generally scarce and only 12 species were seen, the best being Timochares ruptifasciatus. Only 35 species of true butterflies observed, the best being nymphalids and apaturids. Hamadryas februa ferentina and Mayscelia ethusa were quite common. Adelphia fessonia and Doxocopa laure were present, but rare. The most abundant butterflies in the refuge were Kricogonia lyside, Dryas iulia moderata, and Asterocampa louisa.

Moths: More interesting Catocala species were taken by Knudson and Freeman. Freeman collected a fresh female of C. sappho on June 21, in his backyard in Garland, TX. He also collected a specimen of C. insolabilis at the same locality on May 28. Knudson took one male sappho, resting on a tree at Martin Dies Jr. State Park, on June 29. Other species collected there included C. piatrix, neogama, carissima, and nebulosa. On July 7, at Caddo Lake St. Pk., Knudson took another nebulosa along with 9 other species, including lacrymosa, ulalume, neogama, and carissima. The records of nebulosa may well be the first for Texas, and sappho, which was described from a single Texas specimen, has not been recorded again until now!

The trip to Santa Ana also produced some interesting moth records, including: Elymiotis notodontoides (Notodontidae); Phobolusia duomaculata, Mursa sp., Ephyrodes cacata, Latebraria amphipyroides, Lesome formularis, and Bagisara oula. L. amphipyroides was an especially interesting catch, as it had been mistakenly reported by me in the 1984 season summary. That specimen, which was collected by Tom Kral after the 1984 meetings, turned out to be the somewhat

similar Letis xylia. Two amphipyroides were collected during the afternoon as they were resting under a shaded porch.

One extremely interesting noctuid moth was collected by Knudson in his backyard in Bellaire. This was a perfect specimen of Neophaenis respondens, collected at light on July 15. This is apparently the second Texas record for this species. The moth was illustrated by Blanchard in the J. Lepid. Soc. (vol. 27 p. 104).

November 18, 1986

Several trips to the lower Rio Grande Valley, in late August by Knudson and Rickard, and in late October by Knudson were somewhat disappointing with regard to butterflies. The main problem may have been inadequate spring and early summer rainfall. Nectar sources were sparse, especially in October, in Santa Ana Refuge and Bentsen State Park. Hamadryas februa was common in both Bentsen and Santa Ana in late August and a few were seen in October. Papilio ornythion was not rare in Santa Ana in August. Strymon bebrycia was seen by Knudson in Santa Ana in October, but escaped the net! Charles Sekerman collected Lerodea dysaules in Brownsville on October 10 and 11, and Hesperia woodgatei at the usual spots near Austin on October 8 and 9. Knudson and Sekerman found Poanes yehl abundant at Lake Houston State Park on October 2.

Some interesting moth records by Knudson are as follows:

Inks Lake State Park, Sep. 27, 28: Anacampis levipedella (Gelechiid); Cosmopterix chalybaeella (Cosmopterigid); Archips georgiana very abundant (Tortricid); Surratha indentella common (Pryalid).

Kirbyville (Jasper Co.) Oct. 6: Eucosma quinque maculana (Tortricid); Caripeta aretaria (Geometrid); Phalaenophana pyramusalis, 1st Texas rec? (Noctuid).

Big Bend Nat'l Park, Oct. 13-15: Marasmia trapezalis (Pryalid); Lithostege deserticola (Geometrid); Syntomeida melanthus (Arctiid); Iscadia aperta, Polenta hachita, Cucullia lilacina, Scotogramma gatei, Hydroeciodes auripur-pura, Schinia argentifascia (Noctuids).

Southmost (7 miles SE Brownsville), Oct. 25, 26: Euprora argentineella (Lyonetid); Homaledra sabalella (Coleophorid); Parasa chloris (Limacodid); Atheloca subrufella (Pryalid); Synchlora irregularia, Ptychamalia dorneraria (Geometrid); Sphingicampa albolineata (Saturniid); Cauthetia spuria (Sphingid); Cerura rarata (Notodontid).

Santa Ana Refuge, Oct. 27: Helvibotys freemani, Synclera jarbusalis, Hoterodes ausonia, Marasmia trapezalis (Pryalidae); Heterusia atalantata (Geometrid); Poliopastea (Horama auct.) clavipes new U.S. rec. (Arctiid).

ZONE II - ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, and TENNESSEE. Coordinators :
Vernon Brou, 137 Jack Loyd Rd., Abita Springs, LA 70420; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MS 39056; John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663.

Over the Fourth of July, Charles Watson with John and Julie Hyatt collected Erora laetus at Black Mountain, Harlan Co., KY.

C. Watson reports during July 7-20, 1986 at one place in Lyon Co., KY finding a marshy area with a large stand of buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and took a *Wallengrenia* sp. In Trigg Co., KY took *Anaea andria* and *Amblyscirtes vialis*. In the Southern part of LBL. Stewart Co., TN took *Satyrodes appalachia* and *Cyllopsis gemma*, *Basilarchia arthemis*, *Asterocampa celtis*, *Libytheana bachmanni*, and *Polygonia* spp. were common throughout LBL. On the campus of Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN collected about a dozen fresh males of *Catocala lacrymosa* from walls and tree trunks. On July 26, 1986 in Greene Co., TN Watson saw *Enodia portlandia* and *Aperyeria diana*. August 6, 1986 Watson found a colony of *Parrhasius m-album* at Bays Mountain Lake, Sullivan Co., TN.

ZONE III - GEORGIA. Coordinator : Scott Brown, P.O. Box 207, Homerville, GA 31634.

Irving Finkelstein reports *Glaucopsyche lygdamus* which has been absent for some five years at its only known Georgia locality in recent years, at the Allatoona Dam area, Barton Co., reappeared this spring with two fresh males taken there March 24, 1986, and one more March 26, 1986.

Megathymus harris which had something of a population explosion in the 1983-84 seasons, at Arabia Mountain, DeKalb Co., was back to being rare with just one sighted on August 3, 1986, and two (male and female) collected on August 7.

A rather sad update on one of our members. Abner Towers died after being admitted to an Atlanta nursing home. Abner had a rare form of leukemia, had reached a point where he had to have blood transfusions once or twice a week. Abner's complete collection of butterflies and moths was donated to the University of Florida about two years ago.

Irving reports a month collecting trip with Tom Dooley to eastern Mexico, June 15-July 16, 1986. He would be happy to correspond with any members interested in this area, species collected, etc.

ZONE IV - FLORIDA. Coordinator : Lee Adair, 810 Gaston Place, Temple Terrace, FL 33617.

Dave Baggett and Jeff Sloten were at Torreya St. Park August 16-17, 1986 and found *Amblyscirtes vialis* and *Eriynnis baptisiae* in the campground, and *Anthanassa seminole* along the Appalachian River at Bristol, Liberty Co., FL, plus *Pompeius verna*, *Problemma byssus* and *Enodia portlandia*. Moth collecting in general was not good due probably to a full moon, but did get five *Paonias astylus*, several *Catocala ulalume*, *Euchaetes egle*, *Euerythra phasma*, *Acronicta morula* and the sesiids *Synanthedon arkansasensis* and *Synanthedon acerni*, both at lights.

Lee Adair reported that he saw *Phoebis statira floridensis* in fair numbers in Hugh Taylor Birch St. Pk., Broward Co., FL, August 17, 1986.

Dave Baggett reports *Poanes yehl*, *Poanes viator*, *Euphyes arpa*, *Euphyes pilatka*, *Euphyes alabamee*, and *Euphyes berryi* from Liberty Co., FL, September 27, 1986.

Dave Baggett and Woody Dow collected Schinia arcigera, Schinia sordida, Schinia lynx, Basilodes pepita and Acronicta betulae (plus a bunch of micros) at light at Aspalaga Landing on the Appalachicola River, Gadsden Co., FL, Sep. 27, 1986.

Jeff Slotten and Woody Dow collected a couple of Catocala vidua in Torreya St. Pk., Liberty Co., FL, Sep. 27, 1986.

Lee Adair and Dave Baggett collected at Highlands Hammock St. Pk., Highlands Co., FL, Oct. 13-14, 1986, finding the following Schinia species: lynx, petulans, sanguinea, sordida, tuberculm, saturata and trifascia. Also, they got Protambulyx strigilis and Dolba hyloeus. The sesiids found were Synanthedon alleri at Archbold Research Station, Highland Co., FL, Podosesia areocincta at Sebring, Highlands Co., FL and Highlands Hammock St. Pk., and Synanthedon acerni (at light only) and Synanthedon sapygaeformis Highlands Hammock St. Pk.

Rick Gillmore found one fresh female Schinia lucens on a yellow flower head near McKetham Lake area, Hernando Co., FL, Nov. 9, 1986.

ZONE V - VIRGINIA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA. Ron Gatrelle, 126 Wells Road, Goose Creek, SC 29445; Bo Sullivan, 200 Craven Street, Beaufort, NC 28516; John Coffman, Rt. 1, Box 331, Timberville, VA 22853.

John and Julie Hyatt with Charles Watson on their way back from Black Mountain, KY, took a number of Speyeria diana on milkweed near Inman, VA.

Charles Watson reports collecting in two North Carolina areas: Swamps just south of Bolton in Columbus Co. and a stretch along the coast from Supply to Wilmington in Brunswick County. The former area yielded Satyrrium kingi, Poanes yehl and Problems byssus. While the latter yielded Poanes yehl, Poanes viator, Problema byssus, and Euphyes dion.

The SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS
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