



southern lepidopterists' news



CHARTERED
1978

VOL. 11 NO. 2
JUNE 15, 1989

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 SLOTTEN

EDITOR : LEROY C. KOEHN

SECRETARY/TREASURER : TOM NEAL

CASTOR BEANS FOR REARING ARCTIIDS

HERMANN FLASCHKA

The Castor Bean plant (Ricinus communis) is grown in some tropical areas. An oil is pressed from the beans which is used in industry and once found application as a laxative. The plant occurs in the warmer regions of the United States either grown for decorative purposes or in the wild as an escapee. Castor Bean in the deep south is perennial. More northwards it is easily grown as an annual that succumbs to the first frost. In my front yard in Decatur, Georgia, it does very well and grows over ten feet high, develops huge leaves, and goes into seed every year. It hardly ever falls victim to plant diseases, and is rarely attacked by insects.

I was therefore surprised to notice one day that a good sized chunk had been eaten out of one leaf. On the underside I found a caterpillar, unmistakably an Arctiid. However, my taxonomic skills do not extend too far regarding the larval stages, and the adult never came about because of parasites. At the time I had a brood of Eupantharia scribonia feeding on dandelion and plantain. I offered some Castor Bean leaves and they were readily accepted.

A search in Kimball's well-known standard work, "The Lepidoptera of Florida", revealed only three species to be listed as found on Castor Bean. One of them was E. scribonia. This brought about the idea of testing a greater variety of Arctiid species. Over the years I found that all local species I tried accepted the plant. In addition, I have reared solely on this food plant a brood of Arachnis apachea Clarke, from Utah, and one of a Grammia species (so far not identified) from Canada.

The use of Castor Bean is per se not anything overly noteworthy. However, when considering the usual way of rearing Arctiids on low herbaceous plants, some advantages become obvious. The leaves of these plants wilt rapidly, the larvae usually hide under them in their own feces thus creating conditions that require frequent food changes and cleaning of the rearing containers to avoid epidemics.

Castor Bean leaves are very large and thus less time is required to gather food. In addition, the opportunity exists to sleeve the larvae out, which greatly simplifies rearing! Thus Castor Bean offers distinct advantages and should be considered as a welcome alternative. At least one may consider using a small portion of a brood to test the feasibility.

Castor Bean seeds are readily available from seed houses or nurseries. Growing Castor Beans is very simple because the only demand the plant has is sun shine and lots of it. Plant the seed after the danger of frost has passed. To gain time, the seeds can be germinated indoors 6 to 8 weeks before the danger of frost has passed. Then they can be transplanted to a permanent and sunny location.

MOTH RECORDS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAINS

THOMAS M. & LESLIE Q. NEAL

The species listed here were taken at three locations in western North Carolina during the first week of July, 1988. The collecting sites are characterized below:

1. Mitchell, Yancey County, Elevation 6325', 3-VII-88

This site is located in the red spruce (Picea rubens) - Fraser fir (Abies fraseri) forest that once covered the upper slopes of the mountain. Other prevalent trees include mountain ash (Sorbus americana), fire cherry (Prunus pennsylvanica), and yellow birch (Betula lutea). Due to extensive forest die-back in recent years, numerous open areas with second-growth shrubs, herbaceous plants, and grasses also occur.

Pisgah National Forest, Yancey County, N.C. Road 472, 2 mi. SW of Black Mt. recreation Area, Elevation 3400', 4-6-VII-88

Situated along a stream, this locality is largely beech (Fagus) - maple (Acer spp.) forest. Other prominent trees include tulip tree (Liriodendron), sweet birch (Betula lenta), hemlock (Tsuga spp.), and oaks (Quercus spp.). The under story consists primarily of rosebay rhododendron (Rhododendron maximum). Some open areas occur along a gravel road at this site.

Roan Mt., Mitchell County, Elevation 6200', 7-VII-88

This site is located near the summit. This peak is a "bald", that is, one having a treeless summit covered with grasses and sedges. Down slope occurs spruce-fir forest similar to the Mt. Mitchell site. Extensive areas of purple rhododendron (Rhododendron catawbiense) and smooth blackberry (Rubus canadensis) are also present.

Nearly all of the specimens listed were taken at light. A 15 watt blacklight was used at Mt. Mitchell and Roan Mt. 100 watt mercury vapor lamp was utilized at the Black Mt. area. Diurnal species were taken by net while in flight or at their roosting areas in the evening. Species were determined using published literature and by comparison with specimens in the author's collections and the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville, FL. The current material is now housed in these two collections.

The accompanying table lists the species collected. They are presented in the order of the MONA checklist.

	Mt. Mitchell	Black Mt. Rec. Area	Roan Mt.		Mt. Mitchell	Black Mt. Rec. Area	Roan Mt.
TORTRICIDAE				<u>Hydrelia inornata</u> (Hulst)		x	
<u>Clepsis persicana</u> (Fitch)	x			<u>Venusia cambrica</u> Curt.	x	x	x
				<u>Trichodezia albovittata</u> (Gn.)			x
THYATRIDAE							
<u>Habrosyne scripta</u> (Gosse)		x	x	SPHINGIDAE			
<u>Pseudothyatira cymatophoroides</u> (Gn.)			x	<u>Paonias astylus</u> (Drury)		x	
GEOMETRIDAE							
<u>Helionota cycladata</u> G. & R.		x		NOTODONTIDAE			
<u>Itame pustularia</u> (Gn.)		x		<u>Peridea ferruginea</u> (Pack.)			x
<u>Semiothisa minorata</u> (Pack.)		x		<u>Synmerista albifrons</u> (J.E. Smith)		x	
<u>Semiothisa signaria dispuncta</u> (Wlk.)		x		<u>Heterocampa biundata</u> Wlk.	x		
<u>Semiothisa fraserata</u> Fgn.	x		x	ARCTIIDAE			
<u>Semiothisa fissinotata</u> (Wlk.)		x		<u>Hyphantria cunea</u> (Drury)	x		
<u>Semiothisa ocellinata</u> (Gn.)		x		<u>Lophocampa maculata</u> Harr.			x
<u>Orthofidonia tinctoria</u> (Wlk.)		x		NOCTUIDAE			
<u>Glena cribrataria</u> (Gn.)		x		<u>Zanclognatha laevigata</u> (Grt.)		x	
<u>Ectropis crepuscularia</u> (D. & S.)		x		<u>Zanclognatha ochreipennis</u> (Grt.)		x	
<u>Epimectis hortaria</u> (F.)		x		<u>Eupartbenos nubilus</u> (Hbn.)		x	
<u>Biston betularia</u> (L.)		x	x	<u>Catocala blandula</u> Hulst		x	
<u>Hypagyrtis onipunctata</u> (Haw.)		x		<u>Syngrapha alias</u> (Ottol.)		x	
<u>Hypagyrtis esther</u> (Barnes)		x		<u>Syngrapha rectangula</u> (W. Kirby)		x	
<u>Euchlaena obtusaria</u> (Hbn.)		x		<u>Lithacodia muscosa</u> (Gn.)		x	
<u>Euchlaena tigrinaria</u> (Gn.)		x	x	<u>Lithacodia synochitis</u> (G. & R.)		x	
<u>Pero morrisonaris</u> (Hy. Edw.)	x	x		<u>Colocasia propinquilinea</u> (Grt.)		x	x
<u>Campea perlata</u> (Gn.)		x		<u>Acronicta innotata</u> Gn.		x	x
<u>Homocladodes disconventa</u> (Walker)	x	x		<u>Acronicta fragilis</u> (Gn.)	x	x	
<u>Metarranthia amyrisaria</u> (Wlk.)			x	<u>Acronicta inclara</u> Sm.		x	
<u>Cepphis decoloraria</u> (Hulst)		x		<u>Polygrammate behraeicum</u> Hbn.		x	
<u>Probole alienaria</u> H. & S.		x					

<i>Probole neoplasaria</i> (Wlk.)	x	x	<i>Apamea amputatrix</i> (Fitch)		x
<i>Caripeta divisata</i> Wlk.	x		<i>Oligia crytora</i> Franc.	x	
<i>Besma endropiaria</i> (G. & R.)		x	<i>Supleria benesimilis</i> McD.	x	
<i>Lambdina pellucidaria</i> (G. & R.)		x	<i>Phlogophora iris</i> Gn.	x	x
<i>Lambdina fervidaria</i> (Hbn.)		x	<i>Hyppa xylinoides</i> (Gn.)	x	
<i>Dysstroma truncata</i> (Hufn.)	x	x	<i>Phosphila turbulenta</i> Hbn.		x
<i>Dysstroma hersiliata</i> (Gn.)	x	x	<i>Polia imbrifera</i> (Gn.)		x
<i>Eulithis propulsata</i> (Wlk.)		x	<i>Polia later</i> (Gn.)	x	
<i>Ecliptoptera atricolorata</i> (G. & R.)		x	<i>Morrisonia</i> sp. (Undes.)	x	
<i>Hydriomena divisaria</i> (Wlk.)	x	x	<i>Protorthodes oviducta</i> (Gn.)	x	
<i>Hydria prunivorata</i> (Fqn.)		x	<i>Pseudorthodes vecors</i> (Gn.)	x	
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i> (L.)	x	x	<i>Euxoa tessellata</i> (Harr.)	x	x
<i>Etephria aurata</i> (Pack.)		x	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i> (L.)	x	x
<i>Perizoma basaliata</i> (Wlk.)		x	<i>Diarsia jucunda</i> (Wlk.)	x	x
<i>Anticlea vasiliata</i> Gn.		x	<i>Xestia adela</i> Franc.	x	
<i>Xanthorhoe lacustrata</i> (Gn.)	x		<i>Xestia dolosa</i> Franc.	x	
<i>Euphyia unangulata</i> (Gn.)		x	<i>Anaplectoides praesina</i> (D. & S.)	x	
			<i>Eueretagrotes perattenta</i> (Grt.)	x	x

NOTES:

The *Morrisonia* specimen is the same undescribed species that has been taken in the hardwood areas of northern Florida on several occasions during April.

Rheumaptera hastata was a rather common day-flier in spruce-fir forest areas. Their flight was direct, rather swift, and about 8 to 10 feet above the ground as they crossed roadways and clearings. In the evening they were discovered roosting in numbers in the small cave-like areas formed by the exposed root masses of windfall conifers. From these locations they would quickly scatter at the sound of our approach. Apparently some predators had also discovered their resting place as the ground beneath the roosts was littered with wings.

Trichodezia albovittata, another diurnal species, remained in the vicinity of its larval food plant, pale jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*) which grow interspersed in the smooth blackberry stands. It also visited the blackberry flowers.

In conclusion, no attempt was made to ascertain whether any of the listed species is a new record for the area. The number of species taken in very limited collecting indicates considerable potential for new discoveries.

NOTE REGARDING TRAPS.

HERMANN FLASCHKA

There have been two articles on bait traps in recent issues of the Newsletter (Koebe, L.C., Vol. 10 No. #2 & MacDonald, J. & S., Vol. 10 No. #3). I am sure that these will cause many collectors to try trapping. However, I am equally sure that many will soon give up because of the lack of immediate success to reward their efforts. Both articles give advice as to the places where traps may have a good chance of being effective. To those collectors who are not successful the first time, may I add some advice.

If the trap is at a place where no bugs are attracted, one may have better luck after moving the trap only a short distance. A case in point is the trapping that was done at the Wedge Plantation in S.C. The owner, the late Dr. B. Dominick, originator of the MONA series, had in the area around the plantation about 25 to 30 bait traps set up. These traps were checked and maintained daily (by the use of a A7C) for both day and night fliers. I had the privilege of often being a guest at the plantation and accompanied Dr. Dominick on his trap checking trips. It was a remarkable fact that from several pairs of traps not more than 20 to 30 yards apart, one would be loaded with insects and the other almost empty. This was not an unusual occurrence but one with dependable regularity. At least to our human eyes the environment around the traps seemed completely identical. When discussing the situation the idea came about that the insects may have flight paths, equivalent to the paths known to higher orders of animals like deer. A plan was made to take a large number of traps and place them in a small area of uniform environment and see what the distribution of catches would be. Unfortunately the untimely, early death of Dr. Dominick prevented the implementation of the plan.

Bait trappers should keep this experience in mind and instead of packing up in disgust and going home, they should just move the trap. Due to the short distance of the move, major disassembly and reassembly work would not be required.

Not identical but related to the bait trap situation is my experience with light traps. I have two 40 watt black lights running from a battery in the car. On a trip just to test an area I use the following procedure. A sheet is hung from each side of the car, a net handle is placed across the roof and from each end a light is fastened. In the majority of cases one side of the car has attracted considerably more insects than the other. This was not caused by a difference in lamp efficiency, exchanging the lamps had no effect. It should also be noted there seemed (at least to me) to be no difference in terrain on either side of the car.

It would be of great interest if other 'trappers' would comment on their experiences.

WELAKA MEETING REPORT

JEFFREY SLOTTEN

March 3rd through the 5th, the Southern Lepidopterists' Society held it's annual meeting at the Welaka Research and Education Center in Welaka, Florida. The weather was warm and sunny. Those in attendance were Hermann Flaschka and his wife, David Baggett, Charles Stevens, Leroy C. Koehn, Jeffrey Slotten, Marc, Maria, and Angie Minno, John Heppner, his wife and daughter, Tom Neal, Howard Weems, Rick Gillmore, Anne Chambers, and John Kutis.

On March 4th & 5th, daytime collecting occurred on the Welaka Research Center grounds and in the Ocala National Forest. Dave Baggett and John Kutis collected the larvae and pupae of Megathymus cofaqui in tents on the host plant, Yucca filamentosa, on the Welaka Center grounds. Searching for tents of Megathymus can be very difficult and frustrating, even for experienced collectors. Other butterflies collected and observed included Erynnis brizo somnus, Erynnis juvenalis, Erynnis horatius, Polites vibex, Battus philenor, Papilio glaucus, Papilio troilus, Papilio palamedes, Eurytides marcellus, Eurema lisa, Eurema daira, Attilides halesus, Calycopis cecrops, Incisalia benrici margaretae, Incisalia nippon, Strymon melinus, Vaessa virginianensis, Phyciodes phaon, and Hermeuptychia sosybius.

On Saturday evening a meal of hot dogs and hamburgers were prepared and served to those attending by Leroy Koehn and Jeffrey Slotten. A business meeting followed. Tom Neal presented a financial report (See report below). The financial situation was discussed. The problem was caused by printing five newsletters in 1988 and the loss of membership. However, the membership has been increasing and along with it, the size of the newsletter. The cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter has increased accordingly. Rather than reduce the size of the newsletter, the officers recommended to the membership that the dues be increased effective in 1990. The question was how much of an increase was needed. A lengthy discussion followed that resulted in a recommendation that dues for 1990 be increased to \$10.00. Members who as of March 5, 1989, have paid in advance for several years will not be effected by the increase.

Jeffrey Slotten recommended that we should improve our meeting attendance by providing more advance notice to the members. The date and location of the 1990 annual meeting was announced by Leroy Koehn (See 1990 Annual Meeting Announcement on Pg. # 17). This type of long range planning will be necessary to allow members ample time to make arrangements to attend the meetings. The membership approved of the planning. A fall field meeting will be held in northern Florida at Fall Timbers Research Center. (See Fall meeting announcement on Pg. # 18). It was also recommended that a request for meeting location and host appear in the newsletter.

A nominating committee of Dave Baggett, John Kutis, and Rick Gillmore was appointed to find candidates for the officer positions. The election of officers has not been done in several years.

A proposal to include Arkansas in the Southern Lepidopterists' Society was discussed. Officers and Zone Coordinators will vote on the motion. The results of the vote will appear in the next newsletter.

How to increase member activity outside the state of Florida was discussed. The problem of distance was attributed to be the major problem. However, it was noted that at the summer meeting in Virginia, the only members who were present were from Florida. The issue remains unresolved.

At the end of the business session, door prizes were awarded to everyone in attendance. A special thanks to John Heppner and Charles Stevens for generous door prizes.

Moth collecting followed the business meeting, and to the delight of the schinia collectors, Schinia bina was collected. A late evening thunderstorm brought an abrupt end to collecting.

Unfortunately we have no pictures of the meeting. Either the photographers were looking through the wrong end of the camera, or they forgot to take their lens covers off.

It was a great meeting.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 12/31/88

Beginning Balance	Bank Charges	Awards Expenses	Meeting Expenses	Postage	Printing	Deposits	Ending Balance
\$537.82 JAN							537.82
537.82 FEB			57.44	44.00	128.84	20.00	335.54
335.54 MAR				44.00	137.53	655.00	809.01
809.01 APR							809.01
809.01 MAY				93.82	210.63	130.00	634.56
634.56 JUN							634.56
634.56 JUL		65.00			278.25	120.00	411.31
411.31 AUG		46.74				32.00	396.57
396.57 SEP	2.00					35.00	429.57
429.57 OCT	2.15				266.91	25.00	185.51
185.51 NOV	2.00						183.51
183.51 DEC	2.00						181.51

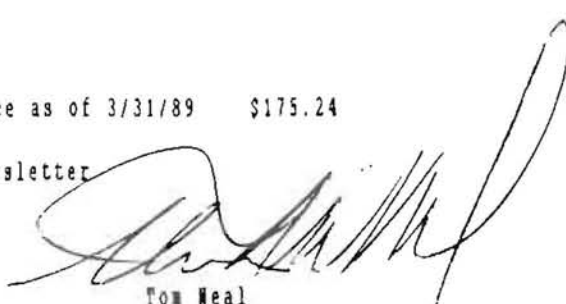
TOTAL 8.15 111.74 57.44 181.82 1,14.16 1017.00

ENDING BALANCE
12/31/88 \$181.51

Total Expenses \$1373.31
Total income 1017.00
Deficit for year 356.31

Current balance as of 3/31/89 \$175.24

Current liabilitiesPrinting \$154.12 for Vol 11 No#1 Newsletter

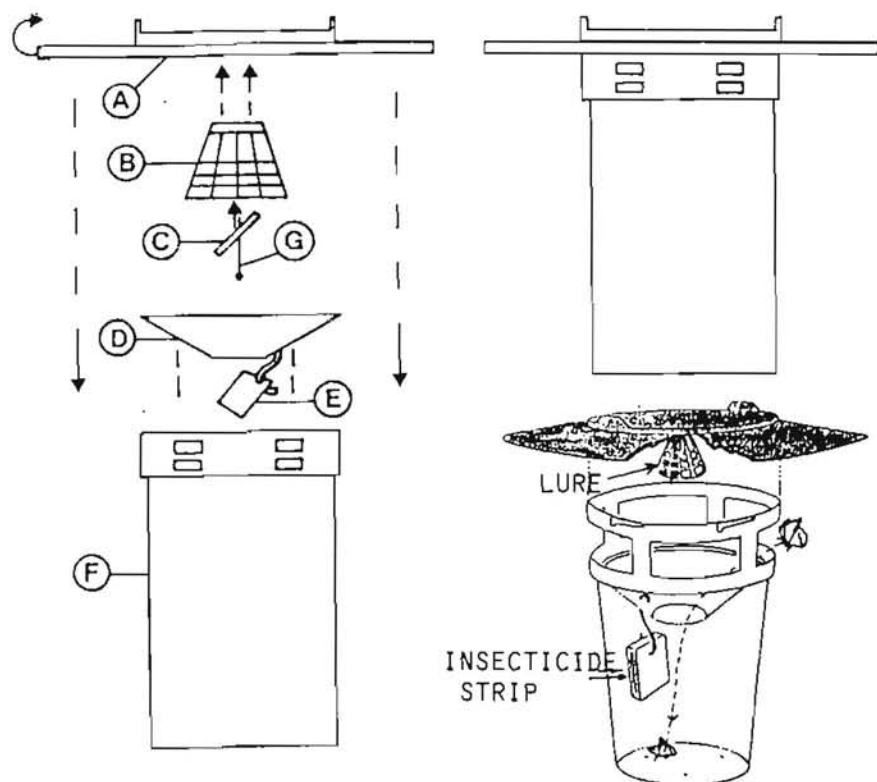

Tom Neal
Secretary/treasurer

EASY TO USE SESIID TRAPS

Collecting sesiid moths has never be an easy task, even after the introduction of pheromones. I tried several time to collect them with rather poor results. I faithfully pinned a pheromone strip to my net and hat before venturing out to collect. This did help me see a few bugs, however, by the time I recognized one as a sesiid, it would vanish instantly. Dave Baggett introduced me to a sticky trap for sesiids. Its principles were similar to a sticky trap for flies and just as effective. (See Southern Lep. News Vol. 8 # 2) I really got stuck on and with sesiids. I became rather frustrated in my attempts to remove delicate sesiid moths intact from the stickum of the trap. Even once removed the moths had to be cleaned in a solvent. Some how after all that, they lost some of their looks and in the end my patience.

While attending the spring field meeting at Welaka, Hermann Flaschka introduced me to a new and easy to use sesiid trap that is inexpensive and readily available from a supplier. This is a kill type trap that leaves the specimens in excellent condition. The traps are made of durable plastic that will last for many years (See Fig. #1). I started using these traps in my yard and to date have collected 11 species, and I live in an asphalt and concrete city. I can't wait to use them in the Keys!

There are two styles of traps available, Multi-Pher and Unitrap. Both are funnel type. The traps and pheromone are available from Great Lakes IPM, 10220 Church Road NE, Vestaburg, MI 48891. Write for a free catalogue.



- 1) Insert pheromone cage (B) into designed space under lid (A) and push lightly until interlocking.
- 2) The pheromone lure (C) is suspended with a needle (G) prick to the bottom of the pheromone cage (B).
- 3) Hang the insecticide strip (E) under funnel (D) with a hook and insert funnel (D) into container (F) up to its place. Make sure funnel is fixed inside.
- 4) Join container (F) to lid (A) by screwing both pieces together.
- 5) Attach wire (H) to lid (A) and hang trap to a tree.

UNITRAP

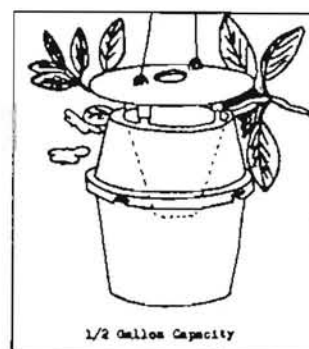


Fig # 1

THIS-N-THAT & OTHER TIDBITS

Several new books of interest have recently been published.

CBI Guides to Insects of Importance to Man. Number One: Lepidoptera, by J.D. Holloway, J.D. Bradley & D.J. Carter. The book can be purchased for \$29.00 from, CAB International, North American, 845 North Park Avenue, Tuscon, AZ 85719. Write for a free brochure.

Florida's Butterflies and Other Insects by Peter Stiling. This book can be purchased for \$22.95 from, Pineapple Press, Inc., P.O. Box Drawer 16008, Sarasota, Florida 34239. Write for their free book list.

Hermann Flaschka of Decatur, GA, underwent surgery to repair an Aneurysm on the abdominal Aorta on May 16 at Emory University Hospital. After the surgery, Hermann will be convalescing at home for 4 to 6 weeks before returning to normal activity. This puts Hermann out of commission right at the start of the season. We wish him the best for a full and speedy recovery.

Your Editor recently visited the Day Butterfly Center at Callaway Gardens in Georgia. Frank Elia is the manager of the center and a member of the Southern Lepidopterists. I was very impressed with the facility. The large glass enclosure houses a tropical rainforest, complete with butterflies. Frank provided a tour of the entire facility. The crowd of visitors, over 10,000 people visited the center the day I was there, creating a very congested and hectic visit. The people who visit the butterfly attractions are not all lepidopterists, they are just ordinary people with an interest in butterflies. I enjoyed watching and listening to the people as they watched the tropical butterflies flying about the enclosure. One dear old lady, attentively watched an Owl Butterfly glide past her exclaimed; I saw one of those on my roses last summer! Anyone traveling through Georgia should plan to visit the center.

Pat Purdy of Roanoke, Virginia sent your editor a copy of an article that appeared in the magazine, Flower & Garden, on the Day Butterfly Center. Anyone wanting a copy of the article may obtain one from the Editor.

Dr Charles V. Covell Jr. will be presenting a seminar this summer at the Eagle Hill Wildlife Research Station entitled, The lepidoptera: Moths, Advance Techniques, July 2-8, 1989. Dr. Covell is the author of Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America. For information, write or call, Eagle Hill Wildlife Research Station, Steuben, Maine 04680. Telephone 207-546-2821.

The Fish and Wildlife Service recently published a "Notice of Review" that concerns 50 CFR 17, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Animal Notice of Review. The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments as to whether the listed taxa should receive protection pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The list includes lepidoptera. A copy of the notice may be obtained from Paul Opler, Office of Information Transfer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Dr. Mack Schotts, our member in Arkansas reported some *Catocala* collecting activities to the editor. Mack, along with Larry Gall and Dave Hawks travelled into southern Arkansas in search of Hawthorn feeding *Catocala*. On June 6 & 7 at the White River National Wildlife Refuge, Arkansas County, they found *Catocala nuptialis* larvae feeding on lead plant, *Catocala piatrix* and *C. maestosa* on water hickory. Two new state records were taken, *Catocala orba* & *C. pretiosa*. They also collected *Catocala clintoni*, *C. connubialis*, *C. ilia*, *C. minuta*, *C. lineola* and *C. mira*.

On June 8 & 9 at Moro Bay State Park, Bradley County, they reported excellent collecting. *Catocala ultronia*, *C. ilia*, *C. orba*, *C. mira*, *C. micronympha*, *C. pretiosa*, *C. lineola*, *C. amica*, *C. messalina*, *C. lincolna*, *C. andromedae*, *C. gracilis*, *C. connubialis*, *C. alabamae*, *C. innubens*, *C. minuta*, and *C. crataegi*, the later for a new state record.

On June 9 & 10 at the Sulphur River WMA near Texarkana they found the following; *Catocala pretiosa*, *C. messalina*, *C. crataegi* and *C. alabamae*.

Mack also reported taking several *Catocala marmorata* for a new state record in bait traps on Aug. 30 at St. Francis River bottoms, 6 miles east of Paragould, Greene County.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

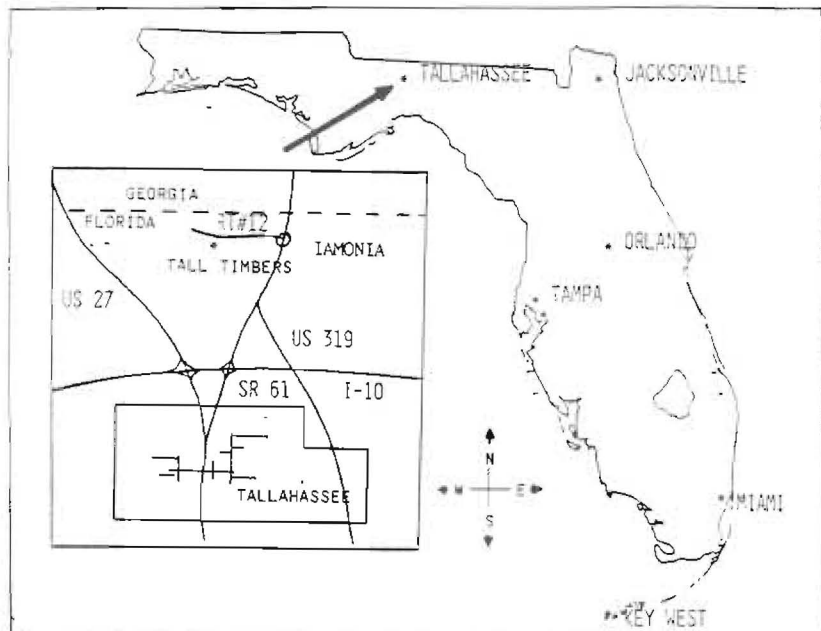
1990 ANNUAL MEETING AT PIGEON KEY IN THE LOWER KEYS

The 1990 Southern Lepidopterists' Society annual meeting will be held in the lower Keys, Monroe County, Florida, May 11, 12 & 13. Our base of operations will be the Pigeon Key Research Station located in the middle of the old Seven Mile Bridge. Collecting should be excellent in the lower keys at this time of the year. Big Pine Key for *Strymon acis batrani*, *Strymon martialis*, *Anaea floridalis*, *Panoquina panoquinoides*, *Hesperia meskei*, and *Euphyes pilatka klotsi*. Stock Island for *Epargyreus zestos*, and *Chlorostymon maesites*. Lodging will be available at Pigeon Key. Plan now to attend.

Make the journey down to the lower keys for a memorable meeting.

FALL FIELD MEETING AT TALL TIMBERS RESEARCH STATION

The Southern Lepidopterists' Society fall field meeting will be held at the Tall Timbers Research Station just north of Tallahassee, Florida, the week end of September 29, 30, & October 1, 1989. The Station is located on an extensive track of forest land. This meeting is being dubbed, "the schinia meeting". This is an excellent time for schinia moths and skippers. The area has large tracks of pine woods with excellent skipper habitat. *Hesperia weskei* and *Hesperia attalus* should be found in these areas. The fall flowers, especially the composites, should produce some excellent schinia collecting. General collecting for both butterflies and moths should be excellent. We anticipate a good turn out for this meeting. This should be an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and make some new ones.



To get to Tall Timbers from Tallahassee (See map), take US 319 north 17 miles to Iamonia, turn left on route # 12 (west) and go 3 miles to Tall Timbers. We will have signs out with the Southern Lep. Logo and arrows to direct you to the station. Watch for the signs!

Moth collecting will be available Friday night. We will meet at the Station at 9 AM Saturday morning and break up into small collecting parties with the hour for a full day of collecting. There will be a cook out Saturday night, followed by moth collecting. We will meet again on Sunday morning to collect butterflies. We must vacate the Station by 4 PM Sunday.

The Station has lodging with a fully equipped house that can sleep 25. Showers with hot water, stove, refrigerator, and bunk beds are all part of the facility. For those who do not wish to stay at the Station, there are numerous motels in the Tallahassee area 20 miles to the south. For those who stay at the Station both Friday and Saturday the cost will be \$12.00, for those staying just one night, the cost is \$7.50. Either way, the cook out is included. Anyone planning to attend should contact Jeffrey Sloten at (telephone) (904) 733-9281 evenings before September 15, 1989. Plan now to attend! This should be a great meeting.

THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY 40TH ANNUAL MEETING

The University of New Mexico Biology Department and Richard Holland will host the 40th annual meeting of the Society in Albuquerque, New Mexico from Thursday, July 27 to Sunday July 30, 1989. This will be a joint meeting with the Pacific Slope Section. A preregistration form and more detailed information appears in the News #1, 1989 on page 11. For additional information write or call Richard Holland, 1625 Roma NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106. Phone (505) 842-0126.

CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP

TON HEAL

NEW MEMBERS

Norma J. Brambila, Rt. # 3 Box 502, Alachua, FL 32615. Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera.

Donald E. Burtschi, Rt. # 5 Box 623, Alvin, TX 77511. Roph. esp. Papilionidae, Nymphalidae, heliconiidae, & Rearing.

James F. Collins, 3505 Oaks Way #112, Pompano Beach, FL 33069. Roph. esp. Heliconiidae, caligo; life histories & mimicry.

Yves-Pascal Dion, 3 St. Charles, Pont-Rouge, Quebec, G0A 2X0, Canada. Lepidoptera of N.A. & palearctic, esp. tundra species.

Col. Clyde F. Gilllett, 3419 El Serrito Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84109. Detailed butterfly research & distribution in Utah. Esp. Colias, Lycaena, Polygonia, & Boloria.

Jeffrey D. Hooper, 5397 Paddy Court, Horton, OH 44203. Lepidoptera, esp. Noctuidae, life histories, & rearing.

David V. Holmquist, 8318 Doyle Springs Rd. #12, Little Rock, AR 72209. Butterflies of North & South America; museum butterfly specimen collections.

David C. Iftner, 2161 Heatherfield Ave. Worthington, OH 43235.

Brad Kovach, 1617 N.E. 8th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33305. Roph.: collect, ecology, & commercial rearing.

David Liebman, 929 Quail St., Norfolk, VA 23518. Lep., other insects, spiders: photography, rear, and immature. Correspondence welcome.

Robert C. Mower, 378 W. 650 E., Orem, UT 84057. Arctiidae, Saturniidae, Sphingidae, & butterflies.

Dr. James H. Norwood III, 708 E. Anderson, Weatherfield, TX 76086.

Pete Ritenour, Rt. # 1 Box 1276, Brazoria, TX 77422. Lepidoptera of Texas.

Reed A. Watkins, 9358 Clio Rd., Spring Valley, OH 45370. Lepidoptera: collecting, computerization of butterfly survey data.

Roger A. Zebold, 675 S Sprague Rd., Wilmington, OH 45177. All N.A. Roph., Hetero.; Speyeria, esp. idalia & diana.

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Thomas W. Carr, 6626 Weckerly Dr., Whitehouse, OH 43571. General, rearing sphingidae of N.A. ova & females welcome.

Dr. John Holoyda, 5407 N. Oketo Ave., Chicago, IL 60656. Sesliidae; trap studies involving pheromone isomers which attract these moths. (diurnal clearwing moths)

Steve Roman, Rt. # 12 Box 319, Waco, TX 76712.

Dr. Thomas D. Stebnicki, 5707 Sycamore Dr. Fanglewood East, New Port Richey, FL 34654.

ADDRESS CHANGES & CORRECTIONS

Christa L. Anderson, 5004 Marina Cove, Prospect, KY 40059.

Robert Cavanaugh, P.O. Box 734, Morehead City, NC 28557

Loran D. Gibson, 8496 Pheasant Dr., Florence, KY 41042

Frank R. Hedges, 512 Frank Keasler Blvd., Duncanville, TX 75116.

Michael Israel, 421 East Shore Rd., Great Neck, NY 11024.

W. Levi Phillips, 2835 N. 840 E., Provo, UT 84604.

Jeffrey Slotten, 4083 Sunbeam Rd., #1215 Jacksonville, FL 32257.

Allan M. Stoghill, 831 Laurel St., Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Charles W. Watson, Dept. of Entomology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634.

RESEARCH REQUEST & MEMBER NOTICES

RESEARCH REQUEST: Any butterfly records from the Florida Keys, even for common species. Data for Key Largo and Big Pine Key are rather extensive. For many of the other Keys very limited information on species composition and distribution exists. Any and all information would be greatly appreciated. Contact: Marc Minno, 303-18 Diamond Village, Gainesville, FL 32603.

LATEST 12 PAGE WORLDWIDE LEPIDOPTERA SPECIMEN CATALOG! Specialist in Papilionidae, Morpho, Paruassius, Etc. Special Morpho list includes females of M. rhetenor, M. godarti, M. insularis, M. titei, and M. adonis. Books, insect pins, moth lights. Catalog \$1.00 sent airmail. TRANSWORLD BUTTERFLY COMPANY/ SL Apartado 6951, San Jose, Costa Rica.

LEPIDOPTERISTS' EXPEDITIONS PROGRAM IN COSTA RICA: Just over 2 hours from Miami, Costa Rica, a country the size of West Virginia, has over 1500 species of butterflies. Collect, photograph or study lepidoptera. Fly direct from Miami, New Orleans, Houston, Los Angeles or New York. We obtain collecting and export permits. Reasonable rates including accommodations in Naturalist lodges in lowland, montane rain forest, and cloud forest locations, meals, transportation, local guide, field trips and more. \$.50 stamp for brochures. TRANSWORLD BUTTERFLY COMPANY/SL Apartado 6951, San Jose, Costa Rica (TEL +506-284768, FAX +506-281573).

WANTED: The following books: Butterflies of the West Coast by W.G. Wright; Monograph of the Genus Erebia by B.C. Warren; Birdwings of the World by D'Abrera. State price and condition to; Leroy C. Koehn, 2946 N.W. 91st Ave., Coral Springs, FL 33065.

CURRENT ZONE REPORTS

ZONE I TEXAS: Coordinator, Ed Knudson, 808 Woodstock, Bellaire, TX 77401

Ed Knudson reported that after an unseasonably warm January, Texas had a week of cold weather in February and another cold spell in March, both with below freezing temperatures in south east Texas. Rainfall has been above normal.

Knudson visited Double Lake camp Ground in San Jacinto County on January 7 with relatively poor results, except for one Chaetagnathia sericea, which appears to be the first recorded from Texas.

Steve Williams reported the following from Cleveland, Liberty County on February 28; Cleora sublunaria, Melanolophia canadaria, Phigalea titea (Geometrids); Phoberia atomaris, Eutolype electilis (Noctuids).

Knudson collected at Sixmile, Sabine County on March 13 & 14 with excellent results. A total of 85 noctuid species were seen or collected, and of these, 35 species were observed at bait (indicated by -B in the list below). It may be worthwhile noting that the air was quite smokey due to a nearby forest fire.

Sigela eiodes, S. penumbra, Quandara brauneata, Zale aeruginosa-B, Z. minerea-B, Z. confusa-B, Z. squamularis-B, Dysgonia smithii-B, Nola triquetra, Baileya n. sp?, Acronicta vinnula-B, Elaphria georgii, Lithophae querquera (new state record), L. innominata-B, Pyreferra pettiti-B, P. hesperidago-B (new state record), P. ceromatic, (new state record), Xystopplus rufago-B, Sericaglaea signata-B, Egira alternata, Orthosia rubescens-B (new state record), O. alurina-B, and Cerastis tenebrifera.

Williams reported the following from Houston, Harris County on March 15: Lithacodia synochitis and Metaxaglaea inulta (new state record). On March 19 he collected Ostrina nubilalis and Lomographa vestaliata.

Williams also reported that Colias eurytheme was very common in Houston in late February. Capaeodes minima, Papilio polyxenes, Phoebis sennae eubule, Strymon melinus, Junonia coenia, and Danaus plexippus were seen on March 17-19.

Knudson noted Danaus plexippus larvae on ornamental Milkweed in his yard in January with few adults appearing in late January.

James Norwood visited your coordinator in March, bringing many interesting moths. Notable noctuid species included: Selicanis cinereola (new state record), collected Nov. 1, 1988, Euxoa immixta, collected May 4, 1988, and Xestia bollii, collected Oct. 23, 1987. All from Weatherford, Parker County.

ZONE II ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, & TENNESSEE: 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 37662.

No reports!!

ZONE III GEORGIA; Irving Finkelstein, 425 Springdale Dr. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30305.

Richard L. Waldrep of Baltimore, MD, collected at Patterson Gap, along Patterson Creek, Rabun County on April 16, he collected Celastrina ebenina for a new STATE RECORD. He also collected Glaucopsyche lygdamus lygdamus, Pieris virginianensis, and Amblyscirtes heggen. He collected along the Tallulah River near Tate City in Townes County and found the larvae of Celastrina ebenina on Aruncus diocis for an additional county record.

ZONE IV FLORIDA; Dave Baggett, 110 Husson Dr. #3, Palatka, FL 32077

Dave Baggett has assumed a new job as wetlands biologist for the St. Johns River Water Management District in Palatka and has moved to the above address, his new telephone number is 904-325-0537.

Elaine Krueger reported the capture of Eunica monima, Papilio andraemon bonhotel, and a Hamadryas ssp. from north Key Largo on October 8, 1988.

Yves Pascal Dion of Quebec, Canada visited Florida in October of 1988. He reported finding conditions excellent and general collecting being very good in Marion and Dade Counties, and in the Keys. He found Vanessa atalanta very abundant in Dade County. On Key Largo he found Phyciodes tharos, P. frisia, and Junonia evarete evarete.

Rick Gillmore and John Kutis reported numerous moth records for the end of 1988 and early 1989:

Kutis records of note: Datana robusta, 21 Aug. 1988; Autoplasia illustrata, 7 Aug. 1988; Sphacelodes vulneraria, 8 Sept. & 5 Nov. 1988; Chytonix sensilis, 1 Nov. 1988; Amphipoea velata, 8 Oct. 1988; Scopula umbilicata, 6 Dec. 1988; Glena plumosaria, 28 Dec. 1988 & 23 Jan. 1989; Glena cognataria, 2 Oct. 1988 & 14 Jan. 1989; Nycteola frigidana, Zale calycanthata, and Eudelinia luteifera, 31 Jan. 1989; Acronicta noctivaga, 30 Jan. 1989; Eutolype grandis, abundant late Jan. & early Feb.; Idia gopheri, 9 Jan. 1989; Zale galbana & Z. phaeocapna, 7 Feb. 1989; Nemoria nimosaria, 3 specimens in Feb. (3rd county record); all from Marion County. Ceratomyx satanaria 30 Jan. 1989 (a Marion County record for a rare geometrid), and also taken by Gillmore in Flagler County on 12 Feb. 1988 for another new county record.

Gillmore records of note;

Kennedy Space Center, Brevard County: Cantethia grotei & Eupseudosoma involutum floridum, 4 Feb. 1989 (good northern records for both). Elaphria georgei, 4 Jan. 1989, Sanford, Seminole County (also taken as county records from Flagler County on 12 Feb. and by Kutis in Marion County on the 14 Jan. 1989, a rarely taken moth in Florida, and a southward range extension.). Physala albopunctilla, 13 Jan. 1989, Sanford, Seminole County (new county record and northward extension of range)

Gillmore and Kutis collected at San Pelasco Hammock, Alachua County on 28 Jan. 1989 and reported finding Pyreferra pettiti (common at bait), Zale calycanthata, Peralia major, Ceratomyx satanaria (male abundant at MV light), Eutolype grandis, Comachara cadburyi, Orthosia alurina, Metaxaglaea australis, M. violacea, (at bait), Sericaglaea signata (at bait), Chaetoglaea tremula and C. sericea (at bait). The above are all excellent moth records in Florida.

Kutis reported several other records, including a bilateral gynandromorph of Macophora quernaria taken 4 Feb. 1989 in Belleview, Marion County. (Editors note: lets have a photograph of this for the next newsletter!)

Until February 22nd, most of Florida had experienced virtually no winter conditions, and moth collecting was excellent on many of the warm nights as evidenced by the records noted. A severe late freeze, with snow reported from Jacksonville and Gainesville on Feb. 23rd, will no doubt have some effect, since many plants had already gone into full spring bloom (cherry, plum, etc.) by late January in the northern counties.

Baggett visited Matanzas Inlet, St. Johns County on 6 Jan. 1989 and found Danaus plexippus, Vanessa virginianensis, Junonia coenia, and Urbanus proteus. Just north of Ponte Vedra Beach along the Intercoastal Waterway a large colony of Brephidium isophthalma pseudofea was located on 13 Jan. 1989. In Palatka, Putnam County Danaus plexippus, Vanessa atalanta, V. virginianensis, Phyciodes tharos, Phoebus sennae eubule, Pontia protodice, Calycopis cecrops, Atliodes halesus, and Urbanus proteus (including a number at MV lights at night) were seen in January.

Baggett also reported a field trip to Melbourne, Brevard County on 15 Feb. and found Nathalis iole, Eurema nicippe, E. daira, Phoebus sennae eubule, Heliconius charitonius tuckeri, Agraulis vanillae nigrior, Junonia genoveva (abundant small individuals in salt marsh near mangroves), polite vibex, Hylephila phyleus, Wallengrenia otho, and Urbanus proteus. Although many of these are common species, it is unusual to see so many in northern counties in January, and several of the species represent previously unreported from Brevard County. This is mentioned because records for common species are often overlooked.

11
Leroy Koehn reported an abnormally dry winter and spring in south Florida, as a result these conditions caused extensive brush fires in the everglades and large areas of Broward, Dade, Collier, and Palm Beach counties. However, collecting for spring species was excellent. A large colony of Strymon acis bartrami, Anaea floralis, and Hesperia neskei was located in a large area of slash pine in central Dade County in Feb. Skipper collecting was also excellent in Dade, Broward, and Collier counties in the spring. Euphyes pilatka (on the wing in numbers from mid Jan. until the end of April), E. arpa, E. vestris metacomet (Collier County), E. berryii, Polites aaroni howardi, and Erynnis funeralis. Several trips to the Keys in February produced very little due to the extremely dry condition. However, a large population of Siproetia stelenes biplagiata has developed at the old botanical garden on Stock Island. During a visit on the 24 March, hundreds of individuals were seen.

Koehn reported that the old botanical garden on Stock Island is owned by Monroe County and is currently being leased to the Key West Garden Club. The club is making a great effort to clean up and maintain the garden. Many native species of plants occur there and an attempt to re-introduce some native species is underway. The garden club also wants to stop the collecting of any plants and animals, including lepidoptera!

ZONE V VIRGINIA, NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA; John Coffman, Rt. # 1 Box 331, Timberville, VA 22853; Bob Cavanaugh, P.O. Box 134, Morehead City, NC 28557; Ron Gattelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445.

No reports!!!

CATOCALA CAPERS

DR. FRANCES ANNE ECKER

(Editors note: Jeffrey Slotten, the creator of Catocala Capers, has found an outstanding artist to assist him. Dr. Frances Anne Ecker, a dentist who practices in the same medical building with Jeffrey. He may even make a lepidopterists of her. Jeffrey has done an outstanding job, his ideas and creative abilities have contributed greatly to making this a better newsletter.)

Frances Anne Ecker is a small, brightly colored specimen native to South Dakota. She spent a brief time pupating as a physicist in Indiana before metamorphosing into a dentist and migrating south to Florida.

The subject matter of Catocala Capers notwithstanding, she is not a fly-by-night cartoonist.

CATOCALA CAPERS

FEATURING WART

by ECKER



NEWSLETTER UP-DATE

The deadline for the next issue of the Newsletter is August 15. All articles and zone reports must be in the hands of the Editor before that date for inclusion in No# 3.

Beginning with the next Newsletter there will be a new feature called "Parting Shots". Anyone who has photographs of unusual specimens of lepidoptera or lepidopterists are invited and encouraged to send them in for inclusion. Send a copy of the print and the negative. All negatives will be returned after a half tone negative is produced for the printer. Open up those photo albums, lets see some great shots!