



southern lepidopterists' news




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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO UNDERSTANDING THE LEPIDOPTERA FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES

CHAIRMAN: JOHN CALHOUN

SECRETARY-TREASURER: TOM NEAL

ACTING EDITORS: TOM NEAL AND JEFF SLOTTEN

WHERE HAVE ALL THE MONARCHS GONE?

DAVE BAGGETT

Many of us with long-term interest in butterflies and moths have noticed the incredible decline in Monarch butterfly numbers this fall. Normally, from mid-to-late September through October hundreds are generally noticed by all with awareness of things like butterflies, whether butterfly watchers, gardeners, or mainstream lepidopterists. The Monarch is no doubt one of the country's most ubiquitous and well-known butterflies, even to those who probably don't recognize any other species.

Last year there were thousands passing through Palatka, where I live. At lunchtime, I would observe 40 to 50 individuals during the 16 to 20 minute round trip drive between work and home. I also commented on the report by Dr. Robert Virstein of a highly unusual aggregation of roosting adults in the large live oaks in his backyard along the St. Johns River in East Palatka. We had hoped to set up a Monarch tagging project in conjunction with our annual meeting field activities, but weather prevented any of us from getting out in the field.

Some of us had already noticed that the local migration was either much later than normal or that there simply weren't many Monarchs around this fall. It now appears that the latter is the actual situation. In NE Florida this fall I have seen virtually NO evidence of a concerted migration. This marks the first time since I was a kid growing up in Jacksonville (I'm 45 now) that I haven't seen the migration moving through the area en masse. Some persist in this region during mild winters and through the years I have witnessed adults in all winter months at this latitude, especially in the warmer areas near the ocean or the St. Johns River.

I began watching for migrating Monarchs in September and saw only two individuals in the Palatka area during that month. Since my job takes me into the field frequently, I also maintained my alert whenever the

opportunity presented itself. I wasn't overly concerned until the end of October at which time I had seen only about a dozen total, despite numerous days spent in the field in NE Florida. I was very surprised to see a dozen or so in the Florida Keys at the end of October. Specimens were observed on Big Pine Key, Long Key, and Key Largo. Normally this species is scarce in the Keys until later in the year when, based on past experience, it can be rather common between late November and January.

After returning home, I saw several others in the Palatka area, but nothing denoting a strong migrational push. Oddly, while conducting aquatic vegetation bed surveys on Lake Griffin on November 11, I counted six Monarchs - all flying DUE EAST across the lake. Later, while conversing with John Calhoun about his experiences he commented that they seemed scarcer than usual and recalled that he, too, had a similar odd experience. While near Treasure Island, Pinellas County he watched 10 to 12 individuals flying in from the Gulf of Mexico on northwesterly winds.

I inquired with Dale Schweitzer, a long-time lepidopterist colleague who is with the EHTF program of the Nature Conservancy, about his observations on Monarch populations. He noted that tagging observers at Cape May, NJ reported only 27 tagged individuals; the lowest total in years. I knew that Lincoln Brower's graduate student, Tonya Van Hook, had been engaged in tagging operations in the Florida Panhandle for several years so I called Tonya to find out how her research was progressing this past season. Much to my surprise, Tonya reported that she, assisted by others, had actually tagged about 1800 Monarchs, mostly in November. This was the most in four years of research and it came as somewhat of a relief after all the dismal reports from many other correspondents.

There are at least several factors that may be responsible for the precipitous decline in Monarch numbers. First, press releases last year have commented on the impact of deforestation at the Michoacan overwintering roosts in Mexico, where illegal logging activities have apparently altered the sensitive microclimate to the extent that it is estimated that as much as 70% of the overwintering adults perished during the winter of 1991-1992. Also, Dale Schweitzer noted that, while a fair number of observers in the northeastern states had seen Monarchs in low numbers during the midsummer months and larvae were relatively common on milkweed plants during July, few of these larvae became adults. Apparently, many of the larvae succumbed to what appeared to be a viral-type infection. Finally, much of New England and the midwestern U.S. experienced excessive rainfall and unusually cold temperatures during the summer of 1992. These factors may cumulatively have impacted the Monarchs' normal life cycle and affected population numbers prior to the fall migration.

If the Mexican populations continue to be impacted by deforestation in their primary overwintering roosts, then we definitely need to start learning a whole lot more very rapidly about the small, but distinct, SE migration which normally overwinters in extreme southern Florida or perhaps Cuba. This is likely the most poorly known of all migratory populations. With the devastation caused by Hurricane Andrew in the Homestead/ Florida City area, I doubt that the SE component will find much in the way of suitable habitat, judging from personal observation. The area has been so heavily sprayed for mosquitoes that it may take some time to evaluate the impact of habitat damage on highly localized butterfly populations.

We still know far too little even about this highly studied species

and its migrational miracle. I hope we can learn enough in the near future to ensure survival of the southeastern populations. I would like to see the Southern Lepidopterists actively engaged in tagging operations next fall and propose that we consider this for the field session at the 1993 annual meeting. In addition, all of us should pay very close attention to Monarchs this year and I welcome communications with anyone able to provide observational information during 1993. Finally, I encourage all of you to plant milkweed in your yards. Let's hope that if we provide the right encouragement they will continue to visit in the future.

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**DO-IT-YOURSELF CORNELL SIZE SPECIMEN DRAWERS**
**VERNON A. BROU**

**GOAL:** To fabricate specimen cases for a fraction of the usual purchase price and which are pest and moisture resistant as well as aesthetically superior to those commercially available today.

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:** wood glue wood filler, nail hole filler, masking tape, varnish or polyurethane, white latex paint, coarse, medium and very fine sandpaper, wire brads 5/8" and 1 1/4", nails 1 1/4", brass drawer pulls.

**TOOLS REQUIRED:** table saw, belt sander, electric drill and various bits, hammer, miter saw, nail punch, a good quality plywood or veneer table saw blade.

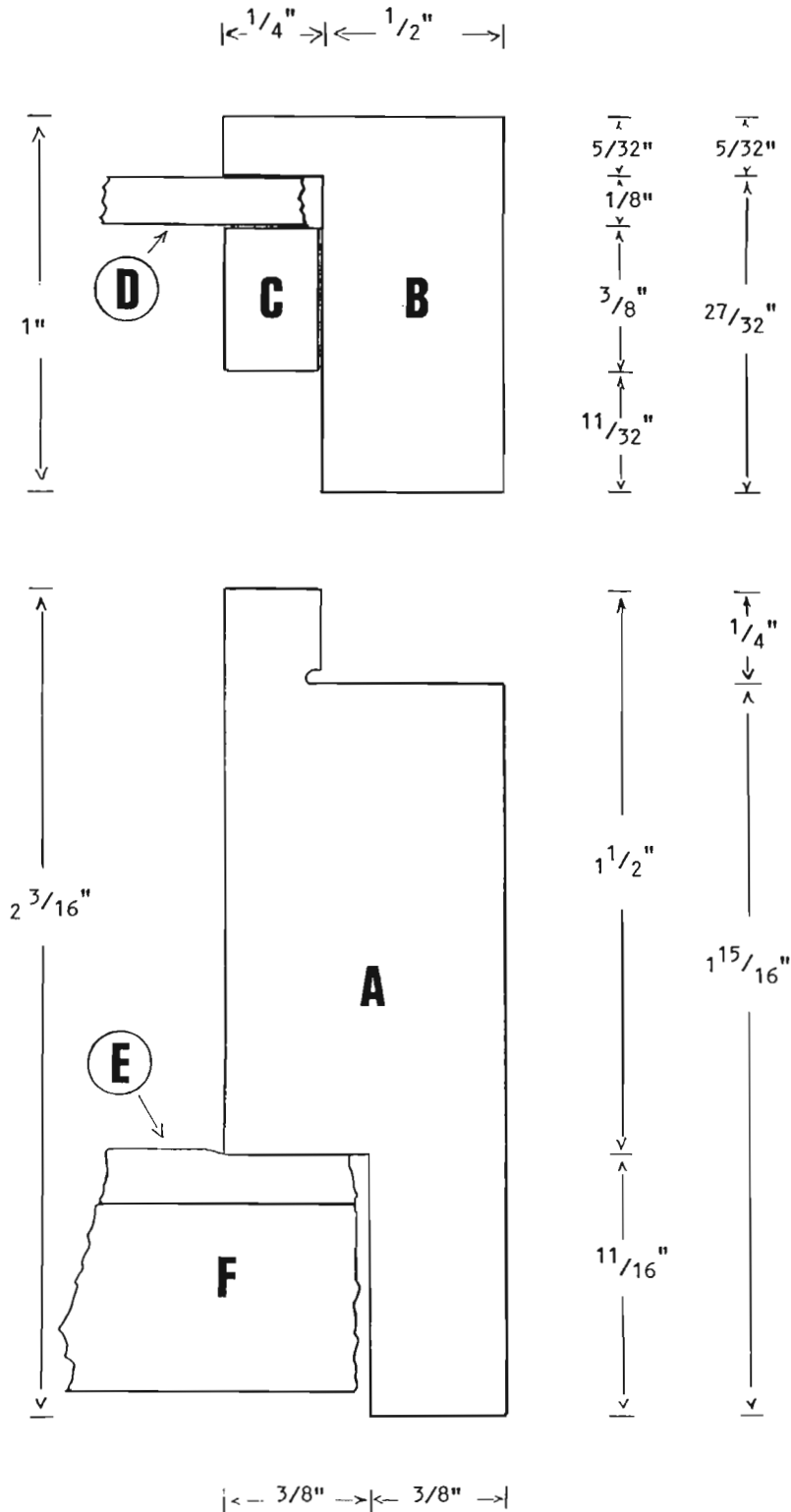
**PARTS REQUIRED FOR EACH DRAWER:**

- A. drawer base 2 @ 19"x 3/4"x 2 3/16", 2 @ 16 1/2"x 3/4"x 2 3/16"
- B. drawer lid 2 @ 19"x 3/4"x 1", 2 @ 16 1/2"x 3/4"x 1"
- C. glass retaining strip 2 @ 16 7/16"x 3/8"x 1/4", 2 @ 14 7/8"x 3/8"x 1/4"
- D. glass, single strength 1 @ 15 5/16"x 17 7/8"
- E. bottom foam sheet 1 @ 18 3/16"x 15 11/16"x 1/8"
- F. bottom bagasse panel 1 @ 18 3/16"x 15 11/16"x 1/2"

Begin by cutting on the table saw, six-foot lengths of 1"x 4" quality pine lumber into two lengthwise strips 6'x 3/4"x 1" and 6'x 3/4"x 2 3/16". keep matching cut pieces together during the entire fabrication process. If building a large batch of drawers at a time, many cuts can be made at a single saw setting. This also standardizes the size of each component for all the drawers in the batch. Further cut or groove pieces to dimensions listed for drawer base (part A) and drawer lid (part B). See drawing.

Mitre cut (90°) matching lid and base 6' strips into 19" pieces for front and back and 16 1/2" pieces for the sides. Form rectangular Cornell size box 16 1/2"x 19". Glue and nail ends of base pieces together using 1 1/4" finishing nails (4 nails per corner of base). Align base pieces using upper 1/2" edge as a level guide. Using two nails per corner, form lid by gluing and nailing pieces together. Align lid pieces by placing upon base when attaching corners.

In order to obtain a high quality end product, special attention to certain often overlooked areas of the drawer is required. Drawers can be greatly improved aesthetically by painting the internal surfaces with a white latex paint. Bright white regular or texture finish indoor paint works best. Two coats are needed, and should be applied before attaching bottom foam covered bagasse panel to frame base.



Before installing bottom panel to frame, glue  $\frac{1}{8}$ " foam sheeting to upper surface of bagasse panel. Apply glue to 100% of surface. Apply uniform pressure over foam sheet for 24 hours and allow to dry at room temperature. Then attach foamed bottom panel to base using  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " nails.

Moisture enters specimen cases by absorption through pinning bottoms. This is especially so when commonly used composition bottoms (bagasse) are used. Sealing these bottoms with a moisture barrier is mandatory. Also external edges of the bottom should be sealed and contoured with a fillet of wood filler, and when dry, sanded smooth. Two coats of indoor latex regular or texture paint should be applied to the external surface of the bottom panel, including overlapping 50% of the width of the bottom  $\frac{3}{8}$ " edge of the drawer base. When dry apply two coats of indoor varnish or polyurethane over the entire bottom surface.

Smooth outer surfaces of drawer with belt sander. For lid areas, hand sand before installing glass. Finish all sanded surfaces using very fine sandpaper or very fine steel wool.

Install glass and glass retaining strips which have been painted white on three sides. Attach retaining strips using one  $\frac{5}{8}$ " wire brad several inches from each strip end.

Moisture entering specimen cases through ill-fitting or loose glass is a common occurrence. Glass tops are best sealed, not by glue as on many commercially available drawers, but rather by applying polyurethane or varnish to the outer lid area at the point it intersects the lid frame. Excess varnish on glass can be easily peeled when dry using a razor blade. Cut varnish film along intersection point of glass and wood frame before peeling film from glass surfaces.

For a completed drawer, the whole process, start to finish, may and should take one to two weeks. All glued parts require overnight drying before painting or varnishing. Each coat of wood filler, paint, and varnish likewise require overnight drying. Some steps necessitate separate positional drying times to coat all six external surfaces. For these reasons, fabricating a large batch at a time is advantageous. Considering the current market value of ± \$45.00 each for these specimen drawers, one can expect to save about 75% by doing it yourself. Also, skilled woodworkers can expect the very finest drawers if instructions are followed.

DOS AND DON'TS: Don't be in a rush!! Drill pilot holes for nails and countersink nail heads. Don't use poor quality or inappropriate materials (lumber, nails, coatings, glue, etc.). Don't use shellac. Use a quality varnish or polyurethane, or a combination product, semigloss or high gloss. Be sure lumber is seasoned and dry. Best selections are hard pines, medium to soft pines, and basswood. Poor selections include fir, redwood, and cypress.

#### MORE ON THE FAMOUS ISTACHATTA HAIRSTREAK SITE

DAVE BAGGETT

During the late 1950's the late Chuck Zeiger stumbled across what may be the most impressive spring hairstreak site in the State of Florida. At least eight species occur here, probably the highest number in the state. This is the same site lamented by Rick Gillmore (vol. 14 no. 1, S.L. News) as probably being lost to lepidopterists in the future. Perhaps even more importantly, however, is the attempt to ensure that the site is not lost altogether, precisely because it is such a historically important site for Lepidoptera research. The locality is given brief mention in Harris' Butterflies of Georgia (1972) regarding its importance in resolving some of the questions about such species complexes of regional interest such as those involving Satyrium calanus and Fixenia favonius. Many of these questions still remain unanswered today.

Few, other than lepidopterists, realize the extent of variation expressed in many southeastern hairstreak populations as one travels from the northern terminus of the southeastern coastal plain in the Carolinas to the central Florida peninsula. The most striking and obvious variation is readily seen in Satyrium liparops populations in Florida, but it has mostly been comparative research and life history work by local lepidopterists which has shed light on the complexes. There is high current interest in electrophoretic comparison of some of these taxa to resolve specific and subspecific level taxonomic questions. It is work in this area which has helped define the status of Fixenia favonius and F. ontario. These have long been considered distinct, even in much of the more recent popular literature such as the Audubon Society's Field Guide to N. A. Butterflies (Pyle, 1981) and Butterflies of the Great Plains (Opler &

Krizek, 1984). The latter also discuss some of the inherent problems within the Satyrium calanus complex as noted by Florida workers.

Last April, Baggett, Adair, Slotten, Neal, and Calhoun met with Bob Siefer and Mark Ludlow of the Florida Dept. of Natural Resources to inspect the site, which is being converted from a railroad bed into a hiking, biking and horseback riding trail. As a result of this meeting a mowing strategy is being developed to enhance the annual weeds ( primarily white sweet clover) which serve as important nectaring sources for these butterflies. In addition, an effort will be made to plant more southern red cedars to improve the foodplant resources for Mitoura gryneus swadneri thus encouraging increased populations of this hairstreak. In these ways any effects of the new uses for the site will likely be positive ones. Not only will an important research site be preserved, but also a nearly perfect place for anyone with a love of nature to observe and appreciate these frequently overlooked butterflies.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

There will be a Xerces Society butterfly count on Sanibel and Captiva islands in June of 1993. Anyone interested should contact Jack Heinrich.

Volunteers willing to help work on the Florida State Collection of Arthropods should contact Dr. John Heppner at the DPI.

Cypress Gardens has joined the growing list of butterfly observatories with the announcement of "Wings of Wonder", a huge climate controlled greenhouse. Encompassing over 5000 square feet it will be home to an average of 400-500 living butterflies available for daily observation. Both Floridian species and showy large exotics will be featured. Some minor problems have been reported; all common ones to those who have reared butterflies from egg to adult.

The 1993 Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera will be held April 2-4 in Gainesville, FL. The Association is a non-profit corporation for the study and conservation of tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera of the world. Dr. John Heppner, Chairman and Editor, may be contacted c/o Florida State Collection of Arthropods, P.O. Box 141210, Gainesville, FL 32614-1210; telephone: (904) 372-3505.

Due to a lack of nominees the Abbot Award will not be presented this year.

The following publications may be of interest to our members: Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants (\$6.00 inc. postage), and Planning and Planting a Native Yard (\$3.50 inc. postage), both available from the Florida Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 680008, Orlando, FL 32868. They also publish the Central Florida Happenings Calendar which is a month by month log of native plants in fruit and flower and some of the animals that use them. Another useful publication Xeric Landscaping with Florida Native Plants is available for \$10.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling (Florida residents add 6% sales tax). The address is Landscape Book, Assoc. of Florida Native Nurseries, Dept. C-93, P.O. Box 1045, San Antonio, FL. 33576-1045. In addition, there is a very informative reference book,

Butterfly Gardening for the South by Geyata Ajilvsgi, published by Taylor Publishing Co., West Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75235; list price \$34.95. This book is a comprehensive guide to all aspects of butterfly gardening as well as containing over 200 excellent color photos. Texas members will find this book especially useful, but, as the title indicates, it has widespread application throughout the South. Finally, Callaway Gardens produces a video and accompanying workbook for elementary school children entitled Discover Butterflies!. This program not only teaches children about butterflies, but also uses interest in them to teach basic verbal and mathematical learning skills. These and related materials are available from the Education Department, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA 31822; ph. (404) 663-5153. Cost of the video/workbook package is \$24.95.

Please note the membership renewal notice included in this issue of the newsletter. Dues remain \$10.00 annually. Make checks payable to the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and remit them to Tom Neal, 1705 NW 23rd Street Gainesville, FL 32605. If you have previously paid your notice will be marked as such.

CORRECTION: Vol. 14 no. 3, page 49. Paragraph 5 (Saturniidae) should read MALE (NOT female) Anisota pellucida were attracted to a virgin (reared) female. Ed. note: This very embarrassing error must have been Jeff's.

#### RESEARCH REQUESTS AND MEMBER NOTICES

FOR SALE: Light traps. 12 volt DC or 110 volt AC with 15 watt or 8 watt blacklights. The traps are portable and easy to use. Flow-through rain drains and beetle screens protect specimens from damage. For a free brochure and price list contact Leroy Koehn, 6058 Campbell Rd., Mentor on the Lake, OH 44060; ph. (216) 257-0796.

RESEARCH REQUEST: I would like to contact anyone who has experience with or is interested in raising Hemaris spp. in captivity. Also anyone doing videography of butterfly/general insect behavior. Brian Pasby, Biology Dept., Pace University, Pleasantville, NY 10588; ph. (914) 773-3563, Fax (914) 773-3541.

DO BUTTERFLY HIBERNATION BOXES WORK? Marc Minno would like to know. If you have any relevant information please contact him at 303-18 Diamond Village, Gainesville, FL 32603.

WE OPERATE PERSONALIZED ENTOMOLOGICAL, NATURALIST, AND BIRDER TOUR PROGRAMS Latest illustrated 12-page worldwide Lepidoptera catalogue including South America, Europe, and Far East. Latest catalogue \$1.00 or one year's monthly list via airmail \$6.00. Transworld Butterfly Co. Apartado 6951, 100 S San Jose, Costa Rica, Central America.

#### MEMBERSHIP ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

##### NEW MEMBERS:

Debbie J. Beauchamp, Rt. 2 Box 21, Milsap, TX 76066; Texas and N.A.

butterflies, collect, paint and sketch, conservation.

Michael L. Chapman, 213 Brighton Circle, Brunswick, GA 31525; Georgia butterflies.

Kevin J. Cunningham, 3204 E. Park Avenue #195, Houma, LA. 70363-3738; butterflies, Saturniidae, Sphingidae, Catocala of the Gulf Coast states. Gynandromorphs, hybrids, color variants, forms.

Evelyn Dabbs, Wenee Woods, Rt.1 Box 64, Mayesville, SC 29104.

Richard Devine, 9275 SW 9th Street Road, Ocala, FL 34481.

Lana S. Edwards, 3206 Palm Drive, Delray Beach, FL: 33483.

Donald G. Harrington, 502 Hyde Park, Richardson, TX 75080-6920.

John Jordison, 1320 N Street, Lincoln, NE 68508 (reinstated).

Clyde Kessler, P.O. Box 3612 Radford, VA 24143; butterfly gardening.

Richard D. Merkhofer, 39 Parkview Drive, Appleton, WI 54915; Catocala, Geometridae, rearing, butterfly gardening.

Deborah J. Paschall, 608 N. Walnut Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130.

John E. Rawlings, Invertebrate Zoology, Carnegie Museum, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; Lep. esp. biology of immatures, systematics, biogeography, plant-insect interactions.

James M. Taylor, 4 Tangle Tree Lane, Savannah, GA 31411; Noctuidae.

Charline Tinsley, 574 Sean Court, Apopka, FL 32712; butterfly gardening.

#### ADDRESS CHANGES:

Dana M. Gring, 1552 Berkey Road, Swanton, OH 43558-9619.

Parker and Donna Henry, 1777 SE 15th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316.

John B. Heppner, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, PO.Box 147100 Gainesville, FL 32614-7100. CORRECTION

Michael McInnis, 12388 Henderson Road, Clifton, VA 22024.

Michael A. Quinn, P.O. Box 194, Snook, TX 77878-0194.

Richard D. Ullrich, 5308 Affinity Court, Centreville, VA 22020

Tory Vornholt 4504 High Grove Court, Acworth, GA 30101-6431.



John Calhoun presiding. The Chairman thanked John Heppner for arranging the meeting facilities and Jeff Slotten for providing organizational help. The new book, Butterflies of Ohio, was displayed and is available from the Ohio Lepidopterists.

#### PRESENTATIONS:

Major Jim Stevenson of the Florida DNR thanked the Southern Lepidopterists for their work and said that the State welcomes more help in developing inventories and in approved research projects. With regard to those parts of the Florida Keys under DNR control, permits can be issued for those purposes. A lively exchange of views between Major Stevenson and several members ensued. Dave Baggett stressed the need for cooperation and coordination between the Southern Lep. Soc., other naturalist societies and the State. Everyone agreed that the discussion was very constructive.

Dave Baggett spoke to the group on what lepidopterists should know about Florida law and enforcement agencies. There is, in general, much literature being printed as well as much talk that implies that all collecting is bad. This generates mistaken public attitudes and helps bring pressure on public officials to stop it. The resultant ignorance of what's "out there" and its role in the ecosystem creates huge potential for damage, even by well-intentioned projects. There is a very lengthy list of endangered and threatened species and the regulations that apply to them. This information is available from Dave. Different departments and districts also differ in their interpretation and enforcement of these rules. The delegation of decision-making authority to the nine district biologists has exacerbated this problem. Light traps that indiscriminately kill all insects are not allowed in some areas. The district biologists are now considering asking the Southern Lepidopterists for help in developing inventories.

Leroy Simon made a presentation of his Lepidoptera slides from Costa Rica and the U.S.. The color and clarity were magnificent prompting questions about his techniques.

Lee Adair reported on a trip to the Homestead area after Hurricane Andrew. The perspective from the Florida Turnpike was overwhelming. 90% of the trees in the Homestead area are gone. Power poles were sheared off along U.S.1 almost to Key Largo. Some damage was observed in extreme northern Key Largo. The IFAS station was devastated. All remaining trees were defoliated. Tom Emmel had visited Elliot Key and reported total destruction. The effect of wind and storm surge on the Schaus Swallowtail is not yet known. The impact of an oil spill at Turkey Point, plus the gas and oil spilled from upended boats is likewise not yet determined.

James K. Adams gave an interesting slide lecture on the Defenses of Tiger Moths, including flying maneuvers triggered by bat sonar.

Marc Minno gave a slide presentation on the life cycles, host plants, and distribution numbers of the swallowtails on Elliot Key. This was of particular interest given the dramatic environmental alteration that has since occurred.

#### BUSINESS MEETING:

A letter was read from Leroy Koehn expressing regret at his inability to attend the meeting and stating that he could no longer continue as editor due to his job-related move out of the area. The Chairman commented

on how much Leroy's work had contributed to the strength of the Society and the Newsletter. It was voted to send Leroy a plaque of appreciation, text to be written by the Chairman. Tom Neal and Jeff Slotten were thanked with a round of applause for carrying on with the Newsletter. Tom commented that it reminded him of the ceremonies held for kamikaze pilots before battle. Negotiations are in process for a new editor. The Chairman noted a 33% increase in membership from 143 in 1983 to 195 at present.

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

1. The Bulletin Series is on hold, not dead.
2. It was voted that suggested constitutional changes be mailed to the membership for comment and for consideration at the next Annual Meeting.
3. The objective of getting a Library of Congress number should be pursued.
4. It was voted to continue holding the Annual Meeting at the Doyle Connor Building in Gainesville, FL.
5. It was decided to hold both AM and PM sessions at the next Annual Meeting.
6. It was voted to continue the present slate of officers with the addition of Jeff Slotten as assistant Editor of the Newsletter.
7. The mountains of NW Georgia near Dalton were suggested for a 1993 field meeting. Any zone coordinators willing to host a field meeting should contact the chairman.
8. The John Abbot Award was presented to Dr. Douglas C. Ferguson. He has a long interest in Lepidoptera of this region and is currently at work in the Okefenokee Swamp area. Doug was also very helpful in unsnarling some difficult taxonomic problems for other meeting attendees.

**TREASURER'S REPORT 1992**

**TOM NEAL**

|       | BEGINNING<br>BALANCE | BANK<br>CHARGES | AWARD<br>EXPENSES | MEETING<br>EXPENSES | POSTAGE | PRINTING | BANK<br>DEPOSIT | ENDING<br>BALANCE |
|-------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| J.    | 2026.34              |                 |                   |                     |         |          |                 | 2026.34           |
| F.    | 2026.34              |                 |                   |                     |         |          |                 | 2026.34           |
| M.    | 2026.34              |                 |                   |                     | 104.00  | 257.24   | 608.00          | 2273.10           |
| A.    | 2273.10              |                 |                   |                     |         |          |                 | 2273.10           |
| M.    | 2273.10              |                 |                   |                     |         |          |                 | 2273.10           |
| J.    | 2273.10              |                 |                   |                     |         | 211.03   | 200.00          | 2261.17           |
| J.    | 2261.17              |                 |                   |                     |         |          |                 | 2261.17           |
| A.    | 2261.17              |                 |                   |                     |         |          |                 | 2261.17           |
| S.    | 2261.17              |                 | 76.58             |                     |         | 548.32   |                 | 1636.27           |
| O.    | 1636.27              |                 |                   | 31.02               |         |          |                 | 1605.25           |
| N.    | 1605.25              | 5.00            |                   |                     |         | 230.13   | 305.00          | 1675.12           |
| D.    | 1675.12              |                 |                   |                     | 116.00  |          |                 | 1559.12           |
| <hr/> |                      |                 |                   |                     |         |          |                 |                   |
| T.    | 2026.34              | 5.00            | 76.58             | 31.02               | 220.00  | 1247.62  | 1113.00         | 1559.12           |

**CURRENT ZONE REPORTS**

ZONE I TEXAS: Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhart, Houston, TX 77055

Ed reports that he did little field work last fall revisiting the Guadalupe Mts. 25-26 Sept. with little of interest to report. He also visited Neal's Lodge at Concan on 3 Oct., but it was too cold for good collecting. The most interesting things were an unknown Hypenine noctuid and a good series of Pyrausta napaealis. The butterflies Siproeta stelenes and Chlosyne janais were seen there the next day.

He collected a few specimens of the attractive tineid Monopsis monachella in his yard in Houston, the last on 13 Dec.. Charles Bordelon also has taken this in Beaumont. One other moth that has been turning up in Ed's backyard is Cosmopteryx molybdina, a species that apparently cannot be told from the common pulchrimella with the naked eye.

Dr. James Gillaspay brought by some interesting material that he collected in Austin. Among these were some notable catches including a beautiful specimen of Chaetagnaea tremula, taken 18 Nov. and a nearly perfect example of Euclystis guerini taken 30 July. The latter is a tropical Catocaline noctuid apparently never taken in the USA before. It looks a bit like Massala obvertens and Ed identified it by comparing it with Guenee's original plate and description. Ed reports that he was forced to appropriate the above specimens for the good of science. Gillaspay also had large series of Xestia badinodis and Cecharismena abarusalis taken Oct.-Nov..

In the last newsletter Ed reported catching the pyralid Sameodes albicuttalis, in Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, Hidalgo Co. TX. Ed states that Bryant Mather was good enough to remind him that this species is an exotic, apparently introduced from Argentina into Louisiana to help control aquatic weeds. The presence of this moth in south Texas may be an indication that it will eventually spread throughout the Southeast.

ZONE II ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, TENNESSEE: Vernon Brou, 74320 Jack Loyd Rd., Abita Springs, LA 70420; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr. Clinton, MS 39056; Mecky Furr, 7926 Cross Pike, Germantown, TN 38138

Brou collected at Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish 19 Sept.. This beach area, usually accessible by vehicle, was changed remarkably due to Hurricane Andrew. Two to three feet of freshly deposited loose sand covered the 100 to 300 foot wide beach area for a distance of about 20 miles. This unique dune habitat is normally highly productive for half the known Schinia species in the state. The area is usually blanketed with millions of colorful blooming plants summer and fall especially. On this visit most plants were dead or nearly so, probably as a result of salt water covering the area during the hurricane. Only a few dozen Schinia were seen along with 180 sphingids on an extremely windy night. Vernon and Jeff Slotten had planned to collect there the following weekend, but instead visited Red Dirt NWR, Natchitoches Parish. This upland forest habitat yielded only a dozen Schinia that night despite two high voltage traps operating.

From Lafourche Parish Mike Lefort reported the pyralid Agathodes designalis feeding on Erythrina crista-galli. He noted butterfly collecting was poor all season long in his coastal area.

Jeff Slotten and Mack Shotts collected Catocala marmorata and C. carissima at bait 7 miles W of Paragould, Greene Co., Arkansas on 28 June. They also found last instar larvae of C. nuptialis on Amorpha at the same

locality.

ZONE III GEORGIA: Irving Finkelstein, 425 Springdale Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305

Below is a list of most recently collected new and unusual 1992 records from James Adams. All were collected in the Dalton, Whitfield Co., GA area. Also included are species that he has recently received determinations on.

Saturniidae: Anisota peigleri (not senatoria as previously reported), Aug.

Sphingidae: Enyo lugubris, 6 & 9 Oct.

Arctiidae: Crambidia uniformis, common summer; previously confused with C. pallida and C. lithosioides, also both commonly taken here as previously reported. Grammia figurata, G. parthenice intermedia, G. virgo, G. arge, and one G. doris were collected during September and October.

Noctuidae: Callopietria floridensis, 3 Oct.; Papaipema inquaesita 23 Aug.; P. nebris, Aug.-Oct.; P. impecuniosa, 1 Nov.; P. cerussata, Oct.; P. polymniae (STATE RECORD?), 19 Oct.; P. lysimache, Oct.; P. furcata, Sept. & Oct.; Rhodoecia aurantiago, 23 Aug.; Catocala carissima, Sept.- early Oct.; C. maestosa, Oct.; Raphia abrupta, June; Trichordestra legitima, Sept.; Cirrophanes triangulifer, 16 Sept.; Idopepla u-album, 23 Sept.; Also, Merolonche dolli, a probable STATE RECORD taken March, 1991, but not previously identified.

Geometridae: Orthofidonia exornata, April.

Cossidae: Givera francesca, previously reported as Givera sp.

ZONE IV FLORIDA: Dave Baggett, 403 Oleander Drive, Palatka, FL 32077

From Gainesville, Jeff Slotten reports taking two specimens of the tropical geometrid Sphaecelodes vulneraria at light last fall. He also took Papaipema stenocelis at Putnam Hall, Putnam Co.. Tom Neal reports a notable lack of winter moths in his bait trap, probably due to the lack of a winter. Erinnyis alope larvae are still attacking his papayas and he has resorted to feeding them to his soon-to-be world record broad-headed skink. All you yankees eat your heart out!

John Kutis mentioned that in January he started getting adults of the large gelechiid, Gnorimoschema gallaesolidaginis (what a god-awful name for any poor creature!), from goldenrod galls he had gathered last fall. While checking these out he discovered that the Hemileuca maia pupae he had reared from larvae had emerged and flown away, much to his chagrin.

John Calhoun reported that in November Andy Anderson had found both Ministrymon (Tmolus) azia and Electrostrymon angelia at flowers in his backyard in Pinellas Co. - new county records for both. Andy commented that Lee Miller reported angelia from Manatee Co. in 1992 and Bob Belmont also produced a new Collier Co. record for E. angelia, May 1992 -- more evidence of the spread of exotics while the natives decline.

Jack Heinrich, who has been engaged in surveys for the DNR in Lee

and Collier Cos., provided a copy of his list for Mound Key, Lee Co. made 9 July 1992. Among the notables: Phoebis philea, Staphylus hayhurstii, Anthanassa frisia and Phocides pigmalion okeechobee. Moths of interest include Eumorpha vitis, Syllectra erycata, Gonodonta unica, Paectes "arcigera", Dirades infans, Catabena vitrina, Azeta repugnalis (apparently the first outside of the lower Keys) and Diataga leptosceles.

William Nix sent two reports. Species of interest include Phryxus caicus, Jonathan Dickinson S.P., 7 Nov.; Euchromius ocellus (pyralid) and Pachylia ficus Palm Beach Co., 14 Nov.; Electrostrymon angelia and Melanchroia cephise Palm Beach Co., 28 Dec.. He also reported that local colleague David Fine found Pseudosphinx tetrio larvae on frangipani in his yard in Delray Beach. William has done a very good job in surveying his home county and has been passing on many important records.

Marc Minno and Dave Baggett have made a number of discoveries while mucking around in swamps for the St. Johns River Water Management District. They recorded Libytheana bachmanii and Staphylus hayhurstii along Lake Apopka near Ferndale, Lake Co., 9 Oct.; they also found several larvae of hayhurstii in tents on Irsine diffusa. Earlier in the day they had seen a number of Poanes aaroni howardi at Bidens mitis at Grasshopper Lake in the Ocala National Forest. At Lake Harris near Leesburg, Lake Co. Dave found a single P. a. howardi and a male Euphyes dukesi, 6 Oct.. At Deer Island in Lake Dora, 4 Dec., Marc found several larvae of what are believed to be E. dukesi in shelters made on the sedge, Rynchospora, in standing water in the small remaining tract of hardwood swamp on the island. Loads of Danaus gillippus were actively visiting Bidens flowers in the groves.

Interesting records from Dave's home in Palatka include Darapsa versicolor, 21 Aug. (first he's seen there) and Xestia dolosa, 28 Sept. (one each in his yard during the last three years!).

In the DPI circular, Tri-ology ( Vol. 31 No. 5), Eacles imperialis larvae were reported to have caused moderate to severe defoliation of Leyland Cypress, Cupressocyparis leylandi, at a Christmas tree farm near Milton, Santa Rosa Co. This is a new host record.



Cirrophanus triangulifer  
in its normal daytime resting  
position on a Bidens flower.  
October, Leon Co. FL

The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually. Membership dues are \$10.00 annually. The organization is open to anyone with an interest in Lepidoptera of the southern United States. Information about the Society may be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Neal, 1705 NW 23rd Street, Gainesville, Florida 32605.

The SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWSLETTER  
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