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# Southern Lepidopterists' **NEWS**

Official Newsletter of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society

VOL: 18 NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 30, 1996

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

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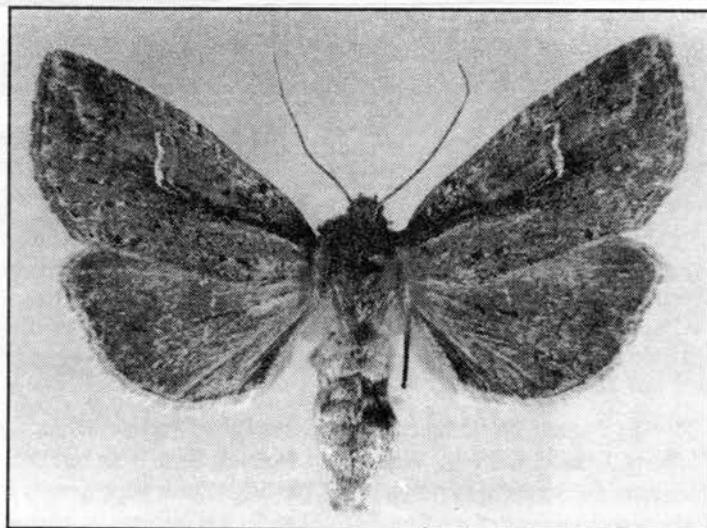
## WESTWARD RANGE EXTENSION FOR *FRANCLEMONTIA INTERROGANS* (WALKER) A RARELY ENCOUNTERED AND LITTLE KNOWN SPECIES BY VERNON A. BROU JR.

**Abstract.** A very brief synopsis of the recent investigation by Douglas C. Ferguson of a seldom collected Noctuidae species, and newly reported Louisiana records.

**Additional key words:** Amphipyridae, grass feeder.

F. Walker (1856) described *Leucania interrogans* from two specimens, but gave no type locality or country of origin. Approximately 85 years later, John G. Franclemont collected a specimen in Dade County, Alabama. Kimball (1965) listed one specimen from Escambia County, Florida. A few specimens were subsequently taken at Charleston County, South Carolina. Ferguson (1992) speculated the types originated from Georgia and surmised the species is univoltine, dates of capture occurring April 5-21. Ferguson stated probably no more than eight to ten specimens have been collected.

For the past 80 years, the species has remained assigned to the genus *Phragmatiphila*. Now it is more appropriately assigned to newly established genus *Franclemontia* Ferguson. One male and two females have been taken in Louisiana, St. Tammany Parish, sec. 24, T6, SR12E, 4.2 miles NE of Abita Springs. Dates of capture: March 16, 24, 25, 1994-96.



*Franclemontia interrogans*

### Literature cited

- Ferguson, D.C. 1992. *Franclemontia interrogans* (Walker), A New Genus For An Old Species (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Amphipyridae) J. New York Entomol. Soc. 100 (2) 257-266
- Kimball, C.P. 1965. The Lepidoptera of Florida. Division of Plant Industries, Florida Dept. Of Agriculture, Gainesville, v + 363 pp., 26 pls.
- Walker, F. 1856. List of the Specimens of Lepidopterous Insects in the Collection of the British Museum. Volume 9. Edward Newman, London, 252 pp.

The butterfly fauna of the twenty-one counties that comprise the Florida Panhandle is poorly known. An exception is Liberty County where a large number of species have been recorded, especially within the diverse habitats of Torreya State Park. It seems that the exotic enchantment of South Florida has lured most lepidopterists away from this region. Although many of Florida's rarest butterflies occur in the tropical southern counties of Dade and Monroe, the remaining species are primarily restricted to the northern counties, including the panhandle. Many of these species are common north of Florida, but here they are true rarities. Such species as *Achalarus lyciades*, *Satyrus titus*, *Everes comyntas*, *Polygonia comma* and *Nymphalis antiopa* can be found in the panhandle. The very fact that more northern species are found in the Florida Panhandle underscores the region's unique flavor. However, I never thought I would so fervently search for these species since they are common in Ohio where I had spent much of my life. While a resident of Ohio, I looked for southern species like *Panoquina ocola*, *Atalopedes campestris*, *Phoebis sennae* and *Eurema nicippe* which are all abundant here in Florida. Oh, the irony of it all!

Botanists discovered the extraordinary quality of the Florida Panhandle two hundred years ago and have been fascinated with the region's flora ever since. Many plants that are associated with Appalachian forests extend into this region along the Apalachicola River and tributaries like the Chipola and Chattahoochee Rivers. Some of Florida's rarest plants occur in these areas. A walk through a hardwood forest bordering one of these rivers may yield a strange mixture of northern and southern plants, seemingly breaking the laws of biogeography. During spring, the serenading melodies of warblers and thrushes envelop the forest canopy while mountain laurel, columbine, may apple, bloodroot, and towering tulip trees combine to remind the visitor of the rich forests of the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee. In some sections, especially in the Apalachicola Bluffs Region bordering the eastern shore of the Apalachicola River in Gadsden and Liberty Counties, impressive hills and valleys enliven the landscape where the terrain can rapidly transform from dry



Habitat of *Chlosyne nycteis*. Jackson County, Florida.

pine-turkey oak sand hills to wet, sweltering tupelo swamps. This area has the greatest topographic relief in the state, where hilltops can reach 150-200 feet above the deep valley floors. In Florida, this is mountainous! I recently stood at the summit of a hill near the Apalachicola River and glanced across an intervening valley to an adjoining hill, immediately transporting my mind to the rolling hill country of southern Ohio. It felt strangely satisfying to imagine myself back in Ohio while standing squarely in the soil of Florida. For this reason, and the possibility of finding species never before seen in Florida, I have developed a growing fascination for the Florida Panhandle. Several years ago, I began surveying this region to learn more about the species of butterflies that exist there.

Florida Panhandle Counties I have investigated include Dixie, Taylor, Lafayette, Madison, Hamilton, Jefferson, Wakulla, Leon, Gadsden, Liberty, Jackson, Calhoun, Washington, Holmes, Santa Rosa and Escambia. Many of my observations and captures have been reported in prior issues of the Southern Lepidopterists' NEWS. Three trips have been made to the region in 1996: 14-15 March, 20-21 April and 13-16 June. My ongoing survey of the Florida Panhandle has resulted in interesting surprises and confirmed some of my suspicions about the distribution of several species found there. Highlights of my excursions to the panhandle will continue to be reported in the Florida Zone Report in the NEWS. The most recent trip, 13-16 June, was by far the most productive and included the rediscovery of a species which had not been seen in Florida for thirty-three years.

On the morning of 16 June, while exploring the bottom land forest along the Chipola River near Florida Caverns State Park, just north of Marianna in Jackson County, I encountered a large "*Phyciodes tharos*" slowly fluttering around and basking in a sunlit clearing. I had been to this locality several times since early 1995 and always kept my eye on small orange butterflies, knowing that the silvery checkerspot, *Chlosyne nycteis*, had been recorded in the area. I kept up the search, despite the lack of records since S. V. Fuller collected the only known Florida specimens (two males) in the vicinity of Marianna on 23 and 25 May 1963. This time, I was not disappointed. The individual was a slightly worn male *C. nycteis*, proving that the species still occurs in Florida. Soon after, I located a mating pair of *C. nycteis* among the hoards of *P. tharos* along the forest margins not far from the original capture. Obviously, a population of *C. nycteis* is still present in the vicinity of Marianna and the historical captures were not strays or temporary residents.

The hostplant in the area remains unknown although a number of potential composite hosts were observed in the vicinity, including starry rosinweed (*Silphium asteriscus*) and frost weed (*Verbesina virginica*), a close relative of wing-stem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) which is a commonly reported host of *C. nycteis* in the eastern United States. A known sunflower host, *Helianthus divaricatus*, has been recorded in nearby Florida Caverns State Park.

I departed this locality and headed home via I-10 in the early afternoon that same day. I stopped along the way to pick up a bait trap I had left the previous day in a rich bottom land forest located about 20 miles east of Marianna, just south of the I-10 bridge over the Apalachicola River in northwestern Gadsden County. I did not manage to trap anything of consequence so I decided to do some more exploring along the river. To my great surprise, I found two more (one male and one female) *C. nycteis* flying in similar sunlit clearings near the banks of the Apalachicola and a small tributary stream to the east. The presence of both sexes suggests that the species is established along the floodplain of this river as well. It appears to favor moist, bottom land hardwood forests with frequent sunlit clearings that support lush, low-growing vegetation (see photo). This habitat is similar to that in which *Anthanasia* ("texana") *seminole* is often found. However, *C. nycteis* apparently has a very restricted range in Florida, possibly being limited to only a few relict populations along waterways within the Apalachicola River system.

I hope to continue my survey of the Florida Panhandle over the next several years. Who knows what still awaits to be discovered. I'll keep you posted.

Thanks to John B. Heppner for supplying the data from the historical *C. nycteis* specimens deposited in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods.

### MEET YOUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: DREW HILDEBRANDT

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I was born and raised in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. I always had an interest in the outdoors and in nature, but my interests were mainly in reptiles, amphibians, and fish, although I did have a great interest in aquatic invertebrates. During my senior year in college, I obtained a student assistant position in the Invertebrate Zoology section at the Milwaukee Public Museum and worked with Sue Borkin, Allen Young and others. There I was first exposed to insects and immediately fell under their spell. I also met Maria Ploncynski there and fell under her spell: we have been together for over 17 years, the last 13 of them as husband and wife.



Drew Hildebrandt and Maria Ploncynski.

In 1982 I moved to Cincinnati, Ohio to pursue a Ph.D. in physiology and biophysics. During our time in Ohio, we were extremely fortunate to become members of the Ohio and Kentucky Lepidopterists, and to learn a great deal about collecting and handling both butterflies and moths. Although I was, and still am, a coleopterist, I could not help becoming interested in lepidoptera because of the enthusiasm and professionalism displayed by members of these two groups. Space prevents me from listing all of them, but I would like to mention specifically Loran Gibson and Charlie Covell from Kentucky and Eric Metzler and Don Wright from Ohio. One cannot spend more than a few minutes with any of these people without having the urge to go collect something with scales on it.

In 1987 we moved to Jackson, Mississippi so I could do a Research Fellowship in physiology and biophysics. Here we were lucky to become friends with Bryant Mather and Richard Brown, who continued the lepidoptera "education" we began in Milwaukee. I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Cardiothoracic Division of the Department of Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, and live in Clinton, Mississippi with Maria and our daughter, Emily.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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#### 1997 SPRING FIELD MEETING IN GEORGIA

A spring field meeting will be held in early April in north Georgia and will be hosted by James K. Adams. This will be our first field meeting since Concan, Texas in the spring of 1992. Many of the early spring species will be on the wing. Field meetings are excellent opportunities to learn field techniques and to socialize with fellow lepidopterists. Details of the spring meeting will appear in the next newsletter, Vol.18 No.4. Make plans to attend now!

#### 1997 ANNUAL MEETING IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

The 1997 Annual Meeting will be held in Gainesville, Florida the first of October. The efforts of the newly elected officers will have a positive effect during 1997 and will have positive results. This meeting will have long term effects on the Society and will help to insure our future. There will be more details in forth coming newsletters. Plan to attend, you could miss out on a great time!



## THIS-N-THAT & OTHER TIDBITS

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Marc Minno completed his dissertation on the United States skipper butterflies. The dissertation contains life history information, photos of larvae and distribution information. A copy of this important work can be obtained from:

UMI, P.O. Box 3146, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346; Tele: 800-624-8991. Order number: AAC 9606828. Author: Minno, Marc

Title: Immature Stages of the Skipper Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae) of the United States: Biology, Morphology, and Descriptions.

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Hermann Flaschka pointed out an error in John Hyatt's article "A New Food Plant Record for *Platynota idaeusalis* (Walker)" in Vol. 18 No. 3. The word "larvum" should have been "larvae". Please correct your copy. The author and Editor must brush up on our latin! Thank you Hermann for pointing out the error.

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The 1996 Annual Meeting was held in Ocean Springs, Mississippi on September 6, 7, & 8. A full report on the meeting will appear in the next issue of the newsletter, Vol. 18 No.4.

## RESEARCH REQUEST & MEMBERS NOTICE

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**RESEARCH REQUEST:** I am actively involved in the preparation of a book which will deal with the biology and ecology of the Sphingidae which occur north of Mexico. This project is progressing at a surprisingly rapid rate, and I have already photographed the larvae of 60 of the 100+ resident species. While I continue to make trips - I plan to be in South Florida and the lower Rio Grande Valley in the fall of 1996 - it is becoming obvious that I will not be able to finish this project without field assistance. I would be interested in hearing from members who have pin point locality data where any of the following species are consistently taken, unpublished larval food plant records, adult nectar sources, and I am especially interested in assistance in obtaining ova/larvae during the upcoming field season. I have USDA permits to ship and receive larvae and will forward copies of the permit where appropriate. Any assistance will be appreciated and acknowledged at publication.

*Argus cingulata*  
*Erinnyis lassauxii*  
*Eumorphia satellitia*

*Manduca brontes*  
*Erinnyis obscura*  
*Eumorphia intermedia*

*Manduca jasminearum*  
*Phryxus caicus*  
*Cautethia spuria*

*Paratreia plebeja*  
*Aellopos titan*

*Paonias astylus*  
*Aellopos clavipes*

Contact: James Tuttle, 3838 Fernleigh Ave., Troy, MI 48083; Please call before sending livestock - telephone number (810) 689-6687

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**FOR SALE:** Light Traps, 12 volt DC or 110 volt AC with 15 watt or 8 watt black lights. The traps are portable and easy to use. Rain drains and beetle screens protect specimens from damage. For a free brochure and price list contact; Leroy C. Koehn, 207 Quail Trail, Greenwood, MS 38930-7315; Tel. 601-455-5498

## NEWSLETTER UP-DATE

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During the annual meeting in Ocean Springs, MS, the purpose of the state coordinators was discussed. James Taylor is to form a committee and determine the purpose and duties of the state coordinators and to prepare recommendations for the 1997 annual meeting. More on the annual meeting in Ocean Springs, MS in the next newsletter (Vol. 18 No. 4).

The work of the coordinators has played an important role in the Society. Our success as an organization is due largely to them. However, we need your input now! Your state coordinators need to hear from you. All of those who get into the field always find something new. The field reports will help future workers who will use these reports to assist them. Records of even common species will add information and increase our knowledge of the distribution and flight periods of adults. The host plants for many species of both butterflies and moths are unknown. Life histories information is lacking from many states on very common species. Your work is important and will be included in the newsletter. Let your state coordinator know you are out there.

We need your input. Have you had a memorable experience in the field, or a funny tale while on a collecting adventure? Short stories are always interesting. Let us have yours and let others enjoy your experiences.

As the officers make the decisions that will help develop the Society, your input is important. They are here to serve the membership and intend to do so. What do **YOU** want from the Society? You can voice your opinions in the newsletter. Please do so.

Nov. 30 is the deadline for Vol. 18 No. 4: Deadline dates will be maintained. The newsletter will be on time. The contents depend on you.

## **CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP**

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### **NEW MEMBERS**

Renee Bielecki, 10755 SW 34th St., Miami, FL 33165; Tele: Hm: 305-226-0774

C. Howard Grisham, 573 Ohatchee Road, Huntsville, AL 35811; Tele: Hm: 205-776-9534; Wk: 205-837-5100

Larry G. Holister, 5725 SE 165th Ct., Ocklawaha, FL 32179; Tele: Hm: 352-625-6157; Wk: 352-873-5295

Jack R. Jones, 304 Robinhood Road, Jackson, MS 39206; Tele: Hm: 601-366-6331

Joann Karges, 2533 McCart, Fort Worth, TX 76110-2228; Tele: Hm: 817-932-8474

Martin Leming, 9961 Lurline Ave., #302, Chatsworth CA 91311

Andres M. Sada, P.O. Box 1124, 64000 Monterrey, N.L. Mexico; Tele: Hm: (8) 338-0759; Wk: (8) 335-1276

Brian Scholtens, Dept. Of Biology, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29494; Tele: Hm: 803-856-0186; Wk: 803-953-5451

William S. Wiedorn, M.D., 1133 Louisiana Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Byron H. Bratlie, 9705 Lake Bess Rd., Winter Haven, FL 33884

### **RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS ON THE LEPIDOPTERA OF THE SOUTHERN REGION**

Neck, Raymond W. 1996. **A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BUTTERFLIES OF TEXAS**. Gulf Publishing Company, Book Division, P.O. Box 2608, Houston, Texas 77252-2608. 323 pages color photographs of many species and black & white line drawings. Soft-cover, 5½ x 8½ inches, ISBN 0-87719-243-X \$21.95.

This attractive field guides to the 446 butterfly species recorded from Texas covers distinguishing features, food plants, life history information, flight period, geographic ranges, and short comments. The book is nicely written and well illustrated with crisp color photographs.

Minno, Marc C. & Thomas C. Emmel. 1993 **BUTTERFLIES OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**. A Mariposa Press Edition by Scientific Publishers, P.O. Box 15718, Gainesville, Florida 32604. Hardcover (ISBN 0-945417-88-8; \$24.95) or Soft-cover (ISBN 0-945417-87-X; \$14.95), 22 x 28.5 cm, 168 pages, 29 color plates, 52 color figures and line drawings. Order from publisher (add \$2 postage per copy)

Color plates and text photographs identify all 106 recorded species of the butterflies and skippers from the Florida Keys and southern most Florida. (65% of all Florida species). Many species, especially skippers, have life history illustrated, and there are 8 color plates of larvae. An extensive introduction summarizes the climate, historical perspective, vegetation and plant communities, evolutionary ecology of the butterfly community, and conservation of the Florida Keys. The species account provide information under these headings: Description, Distribution, Natural History, Flowers Visited, and Status. A Check List, References, Glossary, and Index complete the volume.

### **STATE COORDINATOR REPORTS**

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We are in need of a coordinator for Alabama. If you are interested in becoming the state coordinator for Alabama, contact the Chairman: John V. Calhoun, 977 Wicks Drive, Palm Harbor, FL 34684-4656, Tel: 813-785-0715.

**ALABAMA:** No coordinator.

**ARKANSAS:** Mack Shotts, 514 W. Main Street, Paragould, AR, 72450 No Report!

**FLORIDA:** Tom Neal, 1705 NW 23rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32605

John Calhoun continues his survey of the Florida Panhandle, having visited the region three times this year; 14-15 March, 20-21 April and 13-16 June. The following notes are highlights of the data collected. Extreme cold temperatures during the winter of 1995/96 has apparently delayed the season several weeks.

March 14-15. Poor diversity, few species observed. A fresh female Celastrina was collected on 15 March in a rich bottom land forest along the Chattahoochee River in extreme northeastern Jackson Co. Based on his exhaustive research on the genus Celastrina, David Wright has tentatively identified it as Celastrina violacea, a univoltine sibling species that flies only during spring and is different from the multivoltine Celastrina neglecta which is normally encountered in Florida. Until the research conducted by Dave and his colleagues, nearly all Celastrina in North America were considered to represent one variable species. Additional Floridian material is needed, especially males, to confirm the identity of this newly discovered population. This represents a new STATE RECORD and a possible disjunct population of this more northern species.

Incisalia henrici margaretae (not the nominate subspecies as expected) was collected nr. Sanborn, along the Ochlockonee River in Wakulla Co. Also here was Cyllopsis gemma. Found along the Chipola River near Marianna, Jackson Co. was Libytheana bachmanii.

April 20-21. Near Bethel, Wakulla Co., Cyllopsis gemma, Megisto cymela (should not be referred to as "viola") and Enodia portlandia were taken. South of Capps, Jefferson Co., Megisto cymela was common and a single Archalarus lyciades was observed. In the Apalachicola National Forest, nw of Hilliardville, Wakulla County, a single worn female Erynnis brizo brizo was found in a pine flatwoods community. In Leon Co., 3 miles east of Bloxham, Enodia portlandia, Megisto cymela, Cyllopsis gemma, Poanes zabulon and a single female Celastrina neglecta were encountered. South of Chattahoochee, Gadsden Co., Enodia portlandia, Megisto cymela, Cyllopsis gemma and a single female Celastrina neglecta were recorded. Along the Chipola River, at Marianna, Jackson Co., a number of species were found including. Mblyscirtes aesculapius, Poanes zabulon and Megisto cymela. One female Mitoura gryneus gryneus was flushed from a stand of cedars northeast of Marianna, Jackson Co.

June 13-16. Several more Mitouragryneus gryneus were flushed from the cedars near Marianna, Jackson Co. Along the Chipola River at Marianna, Asterocampa celtis celtis (not reinthali) and Libytheana bachmanii were recorded. Asterocampa celtis celtis was also found to be abundant along the Apalachicola River in Gadsden Co. where Atides halesus, Libytheana bachmanii, Asterocampa clyton flora, and a single P. byssus were also found. A population of Neonympha areolata was located in Santa Rosa Co, west of Milton. Enodia portlandia was found at several sites including s. of Chattahoochee, Gadsden Co, along the Choctawhatchee river, w. of Bonifay in Holmes and Washington Cos, and e. of Milton, in Escambia County. A single female Archalarus lyciades was taken n. of Lamont in Jefferson Co.

In several ravines in the Apalachicola River Bluffs Region of nw Gadsden Co, Satyrion kingi was locally common where its host, Symplocos tinctoria, occurs along the slopes. Also within these ravines, strong populations of Celastrina neglecta were found. Here, the second known hostplant of Celastrina neglecta in Florida was recorded; sourwood, Oxydendrum arboreum. The eggs are deposited singly on the developing flower buds on which the larvae feed. Larvae are now being reared on this plant. At the margins of the dry sand hills adjacent to these ravines, several Satyrion liparops strigosum were also found.

The most notable record was the discovery of two relict populations of Charidryas nycteis, along the Chipola and Apalachicola Rivers in Jackson and Gadsden Cos (see note in this newsletter).

**GEORGIA:** James K. Adams, 1702-1005 Crow Valley Rd., Dalton, GA 30720

Records are from James K. Adams and Michael Lockwood. All records represent either newly identified or collected species for NW Georgia, or additional records of uncommon or unusual species. New records are in **bold**; some of these are common species, but simply previously uncollected. Records are from the Dalton/Rocky Face, Whitfield County area unless otherwise specified. "Car." refers to Carbondale (at exit 134 on I-75, south Whitfield Co.); "Mur." refers to the Murray/ Whitfield Co. line on state Hwy. 76/52 (near the Conasauga River); "Coh." refers to Cohutta Overlook, Fort Mountain, Gilmer Co., 2 km. E. of Gilmer/Murray Co. line; "Tay." refers to Taylor's Ridge, north side of state hwy. 136, 8 km. west of Villanow, Walker Co. Numbers in parentheses indicate numbers of individuals collected (if more than one).

**PAPILIONIDAE:** Papilio polyxenes, several records, including one at light. **SPHINGIDAE:** Ceratomia hageni, 9 mi. N. of Dalton, 10 viii. 1996; Sphinx franckii, 10 and 17 viii. 1996 (Mur.); Erinnyis ello, 14 viii. 1996; Manduca jasminearum, several records; Paonias astylus, several records; Eumorphia achemon, 23 vii. 1996. **MIMALLONIDAE:** Lacosoma chiridota (male), 18 viii. 1996 (Mur.). **ARCTIIDAE:** Grammia doris, 23 vi. and 14 viii. 1996 (Tay.); Grammia arge(2), 9 mi N. of Dalton and Car., both 21 viii. 1996. **LYMANTRIIDAE:** Dasychira atrivenosa, 17 vi. 1996. **NOCTUIDAE:** Zanclognatha atrilinea, 6 viii. 1996; Spargaloma sexpunctata, several records; Acronicta innotata(4), 13 and 15 vii. 1996 (Coh.); Harrismemna trisignata, several records; Panthea acronyctoides, 13 vii. 1996 (Coh.); Raphia abrupta, 10 and 19 viii. 1996 (Mur.); Baileya doubledayi, 10 vii. 1996, also 17 vi. 1996 (Mur.); Abrostola ovalis, 15 vii. 1996 (Coh.); Condica confederata, several records; Proterigera tapeta, 10 viii. 1996 (Car.); Callopietria molissima (2), 15 vii. 1996 (Coh.); Callopietria cordata, 15 vii. 1996 (Coh.); Catocala pretiosa (2), 17 vi. 1996; Catocala similis, 17 vi. 1996 (Mur.); Catocala consors, 17 vi. 1996 (Mur.); Catocala insolabilis, several records; Catocala judith, 13 vii. 1996 (Coh.); Catocala luctuosa, 19 viii. 1996; Catocala innubens, several records; Catocala habilis, 14 viii. 1996 (Tay.); Catocala amestris, 23 vi. 1996 (Tay.); Ascalapha odorata, 10 vii. 1996 (Mur.); Spragueia apicalis, 10 viii. 1996 (Car.); Cirrhophanus triangulifer, several records (Mur.); Pyrrhia umbra, 15 vii. 1996 (Coh.); Pyrrhia exprimens (3), 15 vii. 1996 (Coh.); Schinia lynx, 10 viii. 1996 (Mur.); Schinia nundina, 10 viii. 1996 (Mur.); Schinia hina, 8 viii. 1996, also early viii. (4); (Mur.). **LIMACODIDAE:** Monoleuca semifascia (4), 23 vi. 1996 (Tay.). **EPIPYROPIDAE:** Fulgora exiguua, 14 viii. 1996 (Tay.). **SESIIDAE:** Sannina uroceriformis, 23 vi. 1996 (Tay.; female, at lights).



**LOUISIANA:** Vernon Brou, 74320 Jack Loyd Rd., Abita Springs, LA 70420 No Report!

**MISSISSIPPI:** Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MS 39056

Leroy Koehn collected the Malmasion Wildlife Management Area, Grenada County during the summer and found the following:

In bait traps: Catocala innubens, C. piatrix, C. sappho, C. agrippina, C. relecta, C. relecta luctuosa, C. ulalume, C. vidua, C. maestosa, C. lacrymosa, C. nebulosa, C. subnata, C. ilia, C. cara carissima, C. amatrix, C. illecta, C. gracilis, C. ultronia, C. crataegi, C. grynea, C. clintoni, C. similis, C. micronympha, and C. amica. Catocala were very abundant in general this summer. Many traps contained 20 to 40 individuals each day. Leroy used 21 traps in July and was astounded by the number of butterflies and moths he trapped.

Feniseca tarquinius was extremely abundant during the month of July; many individuals were found in bait traps and one was taken in a light trap. Many were seen at mud puddle clubs and visiting feces along dirt roads.

Interesting butterflies were: Phyciodes phaon, Clossiana bellona toddi, Enodia creola, E. anthedon, E. portlandia missarkae, and Achalarus lyciades. Amblyscirtes aesculapius, Calycopis cecrops and several Poanes yehl were taken in bait traps.

John Peacock and Jeff Slotten visited Leroy Koehn on 28 July 1996. They collected in the Malmasion Wildlife Management Area and the Grenada County area and found Achalarus lyciades, Enodia creola and Charidryas nycteis. Jeff and John tapped trees for Catocala moths and found Catocala cara crissima (a first for John in Mississippi), C. maestosa and C. piatrix.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Steve Hall, NC Natural Heritage Program, Div. of Parks & Recreation, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611

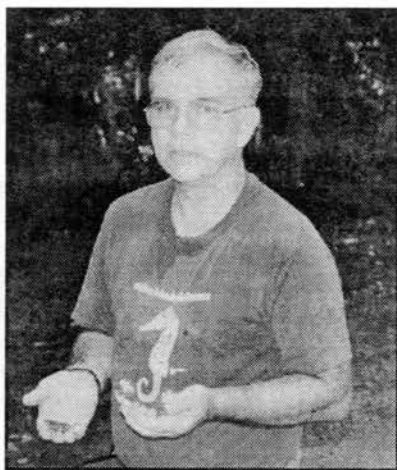
The following butterfly records (all from 1996) were submitted by Harry Pavulaan:

Pterourus troilus: Dare County: 8/18, Buxton (two). Pterourus palamedes: Dare County: 8/18, Buxton (several); East Lake (abundant, nectaring on Hercules club). Currituck County: 8/20, several locations along Route 158 (frequent strays across the road). **CAMDEN:** 8/20 South Mills (one). Pterourus glaucus: Dare County: 8/19, East Lake (one). Currituck County: 8/20, several locations along Route 158 (frequent strays across the road). Camden County: 8/20, South Mills (one). Artogeia rapae: Currituck County: 8/20, Coinjock (several). Camden County: 8/20, South Mills (several). Dare County: None, noticeably absent from barrier islands! Colias eurytheme: Currituck County: 8/20, Coinjock (one confirmed, possibly more common along Route 158 but easily confused with Abaeis nicippe from moving car). Colias philodice: Camden County: 8/20, South Mills (several sighted). Phoebis sennae: Camden County: 8/20, Route 17 north of South Mills (one in flight). Abaeis nicippe: Camden County: 8/20, Route 343 and Route 17 near South Mills (common along roadsides). **CURRITUCK:** 8/20, Route 158 west of Barco (common along roadsides). Calycopis cecrops: Dare County: 8/19, East Lake (one nectaring on Hercules club). Everes comyntas: Dare County: 8/19, East Lake (one). Danaus plexippus: Dare County: 8/17-19, Kill Devil Hills (several); 8/18, Buxton (one). Camden County: 8/20, Route 343 and Route 17 near South Mills (several). Currituck County: 8/20, Route 158 (several seen at several locations). Phyciodes phaon: Dare County: 8/17-19, Kill Devil Hills (several netted, fresh); 8/18, Buxton (abundant, sighted at Cape Hatteras Campground). Junonia coenia: Dare County: 8/17-19, Kill Devil Hills and Nags Head (very few); 8/18, Buxton and Avon (very few). Currituck County: 8/20, Coinjock (one). Cercyonis pegala pegala: Dare County: 8/18, Avon (several seen). Currituck County: 8/20, several locations along Route 158 (several seen). Erynnis zarucco: Dare County: 8/19, East Lake (netted and released). Pholisora catullus: Currituck County: 8/20, Coinjock (closely observed on flowers). Calpodus ethlius: (all records from larvae on Canna plants) Dare County: 8/18, Buxton (several larvae in one garden); 8/17-19, Nags Head and Kill Devil Hills (numerous gardens affected with some defoliations noted). Currituck County: 8/20, Coinjock (several larvae in one garden).

The following moth records were submitted by Steve Hall. All specimens were collected using a 15 w UV bucket trap unless otherwise noted.

Selenia kentaria: Martin County: one male and one female (both fresh) collected at the Devils Gut TNC Preserve in the lower Roanoke River floodplain near Jamesville. The trap site was located on a low ridge within ridge and swale floodplain topography; upland hardwoods, including beech, as well as bottom land and swamp forest species were present in the canopy. Although Covell gives the range of this moth as extending only as far south as Virginia, I have taken it in the Piedmont as well as the Coastal Plain of North Carolina.

Cisthene tenuifascia?: Martin County: 6/25, one female (very fresh) collected at the same site as Selenia. Appears to match the figure given in Covell fairly closely, but ground color of the forewing is nearly black, which matches Forbes' description of Cisthene kentuckiensis; the postmedian is also broad and uncontracted. Both of these species appear to be rare in the North Carolina Coastal Plain (they have not been seen by J.B. Sullivan).



John Peacock with  
Catocala cara carissima.

Catocala lincolnana: Martin County: 5/21, two specimens (very fresh) collected from same site as Selenia; hawthorns are common in the shrub and sub-canopy layers. This moth has previously been collected in North Carolina by J.B. Sullivan, who collected it along the lower Cape Fear River in Brunswick County.

Catocala orba?: Martin County: 6/24, one male collected at bait at same ridge and swale site as Catocala lincolnana. This specimen is larger (forewing length = 26mm) than Catocala miranda (wingspan = 40-45mm -- Sargent), and may represent a new state record for this southern species (J.B. Sullivan has not taken it).

Catocala pretiosa (texarkana?): Orange County: 6/1, 6/5, two specimens (very fresh) collected at back porch light in a residential area in Chapel Hill. This species has previously been collected in Chapel Hill by Charles Horton (see Sargent, 1976). Crabapple's, as well as a number of other ornamental Rosaceous shrubs, grow throughout the neighborhood.

Dysgonia smithii: Martin County: 7/18, one male taken at same ridge and swale site as Selenia, which is also where two specimens were taken in May (see previous S. Lep. Newsletter). Orange County one female collected at same back porch light as Catocala pretiosa. What is the host plant of this species? Bo Sullivan and I have also collected it in longleaf pine savannas and other habitats in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina. Is wax myrtle (Myrica cerifera) a possibility? This is the only southern plant common to all areas where I have collected this moth; except for Missouri, where the moth has been reported but wax myrtle is not native, the ranges match quite closely.

Morrisonia n. sp.: Martin County: 5/21, one male collected at the same site as Selenia and the others mentioned above. Moore County: 6/13, one female collected at bait at Weymouth Woods State Natural Area, Southern Pines. This is another southern moth that I have taken in Coastal Plain habitats ranging from sand hills, savannas, pocosins, to brown water river swamps. However, it hasn't yet showed up at my back porch in the Piedmont.

The following butterfly records (from mid-May to mid-August 1996) were submitted by Harry Legrand:

Papilio cressphontes: One seen in Kitty Hawk Woods in Dare County on August 11. Pontia protodice: A surprising count of 45 was made in an alfalfa field in Wake County on July 27 by HL, Tom Howard, and John Connors. Three were seen in Washington County on June 22 by HL and Jeff Pippen. This is a rather rare species in the state. Phoebis sennae: This species and other migrants (such as Pyrisitia lisa) have been very scarce in 1996 compared with the last five years, presumably because of the very cold winter of 1995-96. Satyrus edwardsii: A good count for the Sand hills region was six in Moore County on June 8. The habitat was xeric longleaf pine/scrub oak forest. One was seen to oviposit on Quercus marilandica. Mitoura hesseli: A very worn individual was seen on the late date (first brood) of May 25 in Richmond County. Phycodes batesii: Two very worn individuals, apparently females based on their large size, were seen in Macon County on June 15, and I saw another worn individual in neighboring Clay County on June 16. The habitat at these sites was sparsely vegetated banks of dirt roads, above 4000 feet elevation. Euphydryas phaeton: An excellent total for North Carolina was the 24 tallied by HL, Derb Carter, and Jeff Pippen in several meadows in Avery County on July 5. Asterocampa clyton: Rare for the eastern half of the Coastal Plain were singles observed in WASHINGTON on June 22 and Bladen County on July 30. Hesperia sassacus: One male was observed at the top of Mount Jefferson in ASHE on May 21, at the same locale where I saw two males a year ago. This is a rare species in North Carolina. Atrytone arogos: One photographed in Carteret County, on August 17. This date is apparently at the beginning of the second brood for this exceedingly rare species. Atrytone logan: A very good mountain count was 18 in Ashe County on July 13. Amblyscirtes hegon: The second brood in North Carolina seems to be very scarce; thus, of interest were two seen in Haywood County on July 6 and one seen in Burke County on July 25. Amblyscirtes carolina: Seen in Craven County and Jones County on August 17, with a good count of 11 in the former county. Sites in Croatan National Forest; most nectaring on Prunella vulgaris on road margins at edges of damp woods with cane. Amblyscirtes reversa: Two seen at a single site in CARTERET on August 17, also nectaring on Prunella along a road margin through pine flatwoods.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**: Ron Gattelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445 No Report!

**TENNESSEE**: John Hyatt, 439 Forest Hills Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663 No Report!

**TEXAS**: Ed Knudsen, 8517 Burkhart, Houston, TX 77055 No Report!

Most of the state has had moderate to heavy rainfall during the last two weeks of August and the first two weeks of September. Most areas were very dry before that. Charles Bordelon and Ed Knudson collected the Texas panhandle August 31-September 4, with good results in at least two groups of moths, sesiids and schinias.

At Caprock Canyon State Park, Sept.1-3, 10 species of Sesiids were collected, mostly flying at pheromone baits. Mellitita grandis and M. gloriosa, were both found on the same patch of Coyote Melon, Cucurbita foetidissima. A single dwarf male of Synanthedon rileyana form, austini was also found resting on a leaf of sunflower in the same area. Also collected were: Alcathoe pepsioides, Zenodoxus rubens, Euhagena emphytiformis solituda, Carmentis anthracipennis, Synanthedon exitosa, and another yet undetermined Synanthedon species.



The best catch, however, were two specimens of Vitacea admiranda collected by Charles Bordelon flying near Grape Root Borer lures. This species is very rare in collections and has not been taken previously, north of Austin, Texas. An eleventh species, Mellitita snowi was collected on September 4th in Coryell County, Texas.

Caprocks Canyon also proved to be excellent for Schinia species. 33 Species were collected, including: Schinia reinformis, S. cumatillis, S. hulstii, S. ciliata, S. mundina, S. alencis, S. oleagina, S. gracilentia, S. hanga, S. ultima, S. mortua, S. jaguarina, S. gloriosa, S. regia, S. coecrita, S. bina, S. gaurae, S. tanena, S. bicuspidata, S. petulans, and S. citrinella. Two other species, collected elsewhere, brought the trip total to 35 species.

There were also some interesting Olethreutines at Caprock Canyon, including: Phaneta clavata (a new state record), P. verniochreana, P. linitipunctana, P. argutipunctana, Eucosma raganoti, E. bolanderana, E. perdricana, E. smithiana, and E. albiguttana.

Bordelon and Knudson collected in the Big Thicket area at T.N.C. RE Larsen Sandyland Preserve, Hardin County on September 14th. Fourteen species of Schinia were collected, the best being Schinia regia and S. crenilinea. Two new state record were Pyralids, Loxostegopsis merrickalis and Argyria rufisignella.

We look forward to seeing some of you in Texas this fall.

**VIRGINIA:** Harry Pavulaan, 494 Fillmore Street, Herndon, VA 22070

Counties listed first. Note, new county records are in all-caps. New independent-city records (equal to county status) are listed similarly. Following the county/independent city listing, are: date; name of (nearest) community and/or locality (if given); reporting person's initials; means of identification in parentheses; and any observational notes.

Key to contributors: HP=Harry Pavulaan JB=Janet Bruner MA=Margaret Abbott RL=Robert Lyon SP=Sandra Pavulaan

Butterfly species emerged generally about 2-3 weeks later in spring, than in a normal year throughout northern Virginia, due to extended winter conditions. Frost and morning ice were present on auto windshields as late as Memorial Day. Most species were in very low numbers throughout the summer, though some were unusually common. Common species such as Colias philodice and Colias eurytheme were nearly absent all season, while Pieris rapae was virtually absent in spring but present in low numbers through summer. Atalopedes campestris, after two explosive seasons during which the species was recorded as far north as Massachusetts for the first time on record, was virtually absent all season, only appearing in small numbers by late August. Pterourus glaucus remained at a consistently high level in two broods, as over the previous 2 years.

Epargyreus clarus: CAROLINE: 8/20/96, Port Royal, HP (sight), nectaring on Joe Pye weed; GLOUCESTER: 8/20/96, Ark, HP (sight), nectaring on Buddleia. NORTHAMPTON: 5/21/96, Bayford, MA (sight). Urbanus proteus: ARLINGTON: August 1995, JB (observed). Thorybes bathyllus: LOUDOUN: 8/13/96, Purcellville, RL (observed); 8/25/96, Ashburn, HP (captured). Thorybes pylades: LOUDOUN: 5/24/96, Purcellville, RL (photo). Erynnis juvenalis: NORTHAMPTON: 5/1/96, Bayford, MA (sight). Erynnis brizo: NORTHAMPTON: 4/22/96, Bayford, MA (observed). Pholisora catullus: NORTHAMPTON: 4/22/96, Bayford, MA (sight). Wallengrenia otho: LOUDOUN: 6/21/96, Purcellville, RL (multiple photos). Poanes hobomok: CLARKE: 5/24/96, RL (photo). Pterourus glaucus: NEWPORT NEWS city: 8/20/96, Route 664, HP (sight). YORK: 8/20/96, Yorktown, HP (sight), nectaring on Joe Pye. Artogeia rapae: NORTHAMPTON: 3/20/96, Bayford, MA (sight). Falcapita midea: Northampton: 4/22/96, Bayford, MA (sight), common. Colias philodice: NORTHAMPTON: 4/18/96, Bayford, MA (sight). Abaeis nicippe: GLOUCESTER: 8/20/96, Ark, HP (captured for rearing). Pyrisitia lisa: NORTHAMPTON: 4/18/96, Bayford, MA (sight). Insicalia augustinus: NORTHAMPTON: 4/4/96, Bayford, MA (sight). Insicalia henrici: NORTHAMPTON: 4/18/96, Bayford, MA (sight), associated with Ilex opaca. Everes comyntas: NORTHAMPTON: 4/4/96, Bayford, MA (sight). Celastrina ladon (Ilex opaca-associated coastal taxon): NORTHAMPTON: 4/10/96, Bayford, MA (observed). Celastrina neglecta: Fairfax: immature stages on 6/2/96, Great Falls National Park, HP (field determination). Adults not present. Numerous ova shells and characteristic first-instar larvae found on host plant Cimicifuga racemosa on steep slopes near Difficult Run. Interestingly, this is only the second time the species was ever recorded in Fairfax County, an outer-Piedmont locality near sea-level, first being found in 1994, but apparently absent in 1995. Vanessa virginiensis: NORTHAMPTON: 5/1/96, Bayford, MA (sight). Basilarchia arthemis astyanax: Fairfax: 8/26/96, Herndon, SP (captured, released), nectaring on Purple Coneflower. Asterocampa clyton: FAUQUIER: 8/4/96, RL (sight). Danaus plexippus: YORK: 8/20/96, Yorktown, HP (sight). Enodia anthedon: FAUQUIER: 8/11/96, RL (sight). Cercyonis pegala pegala: YORK: 8/20/96, Tabb, HP (net/release); 8/20/96, Yorktown, HP (observed).

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**ATTENTION!!!**  
**1996 DUES ARE PAST DUE. THIS COULD BE**  
**YOUR**  
**LAST NEWSLETTER!!**

A past dues notice appeared in the last newsletter, several members claimed they did not notice it. This will be the last notice. If your address label on this newsletter does not have the year 1996 on it, you owe for 1996. Those who have not paid their 1996 dues by 31 October 1996 will be removed from the membership and will no longer receive the Society's publications. This includes the newsletter. Some members have not paid their 1995 dues as well. You have received the newsletter in 1995. Please take the time to get caught up and send your 1995 and 1996 dues NOW! Dues are \$12.00 per year. If you have any questions about your dues or changes to your mailing label, please contact: Jeffrey R. Slotten, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653

Your society is undergoing many changes. The future is bright and we need your support. Look what you will be missing if you leave us now!

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