

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

LEROY C. KOEHN: EDITOR

MARC MINNO 1999 JOHN ABBOTT AWARD RECIPIENT

As a kid, I spent a lot of time outside. We had a large vegetable garden in the summer and the back yard was full of fruit trees – many kinds of apples, pears, and cherries. The village of Vinco in Cambria County, Pennsylvania had a few main streets lined with houses, but there was also a lot of open land to poke around in. Most of the people either worked in the steel mills in Johnstown or the coal mines scattered around the countryside. My dad was a crane operator in the mills for over 30 years.

My two older brothers and I used to find wild strawberries, blackberries, and teaberries to pick in the fields. Aspens, locust, wild cherries, and maples usually invaded the edges of the fields, but back over the ridge top you could find mature forests of beech, red oak, tulip poplar, linden, birch, and hemlock with impenetrable thickets of rhododendron down in the valleys. In the fall, we harvested baskets of mushrooms from cut-overs in the woods. You could split chunks of shale along the roadside and find fossils of ferns. We used to wander along the small cricks (creeks) in the woods. By turning over the rocks you could find crayfish, mayflies, and salamanders. Sometimes we encountered clusters of Baltimore Checkerspot caterpillars on turtlehead in the little fens along the streams. We left our foot prints in the mud next to those of deer and raccoons.



Marc Minno

We had kids' books around the house, including some from the Golden Press. There, along with the *Pokey Little Puppy* and the *Saggy Baggy Elephant* were a few books on insects, butterflies and moths, and wildlife. I used to enjoy looking at the butterflies. In the first grade a classmate brought a large *Cecropia* caterpillar into the class and proudly showed off his "poisonous larva."

I didn't think it was poisonous, but I didn't touch it to find out. Several years later he brought in some tomato hornworms with braconid wasp cocoons. We thought they were eggs. By fifth grade I discovered a copy of Holland's *The Butterfly Book* in the bookmobile and spent hours pouring over the plates and wondering where he had found all these butterflies. I had only seen a few kinds around my home. During recess in eighth grade I saw a black swallowtail lay an egg on a leaf of Queens Anne's Lace. I harvested the egg and raised it up, experiencing the mystery of metamorphosis for the first time. One spring day we were outside for some school exercise and a Mourning Cloak rose from a mud puddle and soared around the gravel parking lot. It was so exquisite! My net was a converted fishing net. It was always in the hall closet or in the corner by the door. I didn't have much of a collection, and had a hard time preparing the specimens. One summer my brothers and I collected some live butterflies at milkweed blossoms. We tied harnesses with trailing leaders of sewing thread around each thorax, then flew our butterflies around the yard. The Silver Spotted Skipper was incredible. Unlike the more delicate species, this was a powerful beast. It flew in circles over our heads while tethered to a little boy's hand by that long leash. My dad often made wine and threw the waste in a pile in the garden or piled up fallen apples from the yard. I would occasionally find Red Admirals, Mourning Cloaks, Question Marks, and Commas visiting the fermenting fruit in the spring. In the wintertime I learned how to collect *Cecropia* and *Promethea* cocoons. The first time I saw a Bumblebee Moth sipping nectar from *Prunella* blossoms in the garden, I was fascinated by how it managed to hover over the flowers. At dusk, I'd see White-lined Sphinx moths coming to the petunias along the walk. Some of these creatures ended up in my collection.

My library was beginning to grow as well. I acquired the Golden Guide to Butterflies and Moths for \$1.00, Klot's Butterflies of the Eastern U.S. for \$5.00, and a reprint of Holland's *The Moth Book* through Dover Publications. I found an ad for the Butterfly Company in the back of some magazine. They sold butterfly specimens from around the world as well as collecting equipment and butterfly jewelry. I ordered 100 butterflies for a few dollars. Most of these were beautiful, exotic butterflies from Taiwan. I had to learn how to relax and pin butterflies. Many of the specimens didn't survive the ordeal, but I got a lot of practice.

In High School, I started collecting more, and I often set an ultraviolet light and sheet in my backyard for moths. I heard about an entomology group at Cornell University from a friend in 4H and became a member of Teen International Entomology Group or TIEG. Their newsletter, edited by Coleen Sealy, had interesting articles about butterflies and other insects. In the summer of 1971, I spent a month in France with my mom (who is from Nice) visiting relatives. We bought a tiny net on a long handle that worked reasonably well. It was very exciting to see different butterflies, especially in the alpine meadows of the French Alps. During the summer after my junior year, I spent five weeks at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana in a National Science Program sponsored science course. It was wonderful to be away from home with 30 kids my age, half of which were girls. Although my project was on the sensitivity of German Cockroaches to pyrethrins, I would sneak down to the basement and look at the butterflies and moths in the insect collection. During my senior year, I found some information on the Lepidopterists' Society and joined.

After graduation from High School, I applied to Purdue University and began studies in entomology. They gave me some work study money, so I went to Dr. Patrick McCafferty, Director of the insect museum, and I ask if I could work for him. He signed me on, and launched me into aquatic entomology. His specialty was the Mayflies. I got a lot of good experience out of that internship. I collected aquatic insects all over Indiana, especially with Arwin Provonsa, the scientific illustrator for the museum. During slack time, I was able to collect butterflies and moths, and made many weekend trips on my own. I began corresponding with other lepidopterists' such as Ernie Shull, Mo Neilsen, John Burns, and Harry Clench. They kindly identified specimens that I wasn't sure of. By the time graduation rolled around, I had found several new butterfly records for Indiana including *Celastrina ebenina*, *Incisalia nippon*, *Amblyscirtes hegon*, *Amblyscirtes belli*, and *Thorybes confusus*. Pat McCafferty also named a new species of mayfly that I helped collect - *Siphonurus minnoi*, one of the minnow-like mayflies. I published my first paper with Pat on the aquatic and semi-aquatic Lepidoptera of Indiana in 1979. That summer I also attended the Lepidopterists' Society annual meeting at the University of Louisville, in Louisville, Kentucky, hosted by Dr. Charlie Covell. There I met Lincoln Brower, Paul Opler, and many others Lepidopterists.

I decided to go on to grad school and continue studying butterflies after receiving my Bachelor's Degree in Entomology from Purdue University. Dr. Art Shapiro at the University of California was publishing a lot of interesting papers, including faunal surveys. So I wrote to Art and asked if I could work with him on my Master's Degree. He enthusiastically agreed, and I moved to Davis, California. Art had an exciting opportunity, a grant for me to study the population biology of checkered skippers in Columbia, South America and in California. I lived with the Rodrigo and Diego Torres family in Buga, Columbia while collecting data. It was great place to explore. California was equally grand, and Art and I made many collecting trips into the Sierra and northern California. I took all kinds of university jobs to survive, including mapping rare plants for the California Native Plant Society, picking asparagus, cleaning rat cages, working on a soil survey, and digitizing soil maps.

After graduating from UC-Davis with my Master's in Entomology, I worked briefly for the California Department of Fish and Game, then landed a permanent job with the University of Florida at the Agricultural and Education Center in Davie, Broward County in the spring of 1982. In October, I married Maria Rosiello Lain from Sacramento, California. I worked for two years on the biological control of the invasive aquatic weed, hydrilla with Dr. Joseph Balciunas and Dr. Ted Center. The highlight of this job was a one-month trip to Bangalore, India. Maria and I also did a lot of exploring and collecting around Broward County and other parts of southern Florida. We put a lot of volunteer work into saving a tract of sand pine scrub at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. Our efforts seemed to have paid off, because most of the preserve is still intact. One day Dave Baggett called me to talk about butterflies in southeastern Florida. Through Dave, I joined the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and met other Lepidopterists in Florida.

After our daughter Angie was born in 1984, we decided to go back to school. I called Dr. Tom Emmel at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and he kindly accepted me as his student in the Department of Zoology. I had gotten interested in the biology of butterflies from Art Shapiro, and started rearing many different species, especially skippers. For my dissertation I compared the morphology of immature skipper butterflies of North America. Tom introduced me to Dr. Howard Weems and Dr. John Heppner of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, and I became a research associate of the FSCA.

Tom also provided many other terrific opportunities including a summer in Florissant, Colorado in 1985. With Dr. Boyce Drummond, we later collaborated on a book of the fossil and present day butterflies of the Florissant area. In 1986, Maria did much of her Master's research on a rare scrub milkweed at the Archbold Biological Station near Lake Placid, Florida. I worked as an intern for the station, collecting Lepidoptera, and curating their collection. In the mid-1980's, Tom Emmel began studying the population biology of the endangered Schaus Swallowtail in the Florida Keys and invited me to work with his research team. That proved to be some of the most difficult fieldwork that I've ever experienced with the heat and dense swarms of mosquitoes. Tom and I worked up the data I had been collecting and published the "Butterflies of the Florida Keys" in 1992.

In order to have a more steady income, I took a biologist position with the Florida Department of Agriculture in 1988. The focus of this project was the mass rearing of Caribbean Fruit Flies for reproductive sterilization and release as a biological control. After a few years, Dave Baggett called and told me about a job opening with the St. Johns River Water Management District in Palatka. I was hired in the fall of 1990 to work on wetland mapping, environmental assesment, and modeling the effects of ground water withdrawal on wetland plant communities. Our son, Ivan, was born a month later. Dave Baggett and I collaborated on an update for the Rare and Endangered Biota of Florida series in 1994. I was granted my Ph.D. that same year.

Maria and I formed Eco-Cognizant, Inc. in 1996 in order to fund our environmental education and conservation projects. Through Eco-Cognizant, Inc., we have worked on species from the endangered Okeechobee Gourd, the threatened Arogos Skipper, and the invasive exotic weed, cogongrass. After years of work, we were able to publish *Florida Butterfly Gardening* through the University Press of Florida in 1999.

I plan to continue working on the biology, distribution, and conservation of plants, butterflies, and moths in Florida and the southeastern United States. The 1999 Annual Meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society brought me a tremendous surprise and joy of being the honored recipient of the John Abbott Award.

I'm proud to serve as a member of the executive committee as Member-at-Large for the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and hope to do more for the society in the future. Aside from working with butterflies and moths, I am the current president of the Florida Association of Benthologists and leader of Cub Scout Den #1 of Pack 476 in Gainesville. Maria and I also work a lot with the Florida Native Plant Society. We still love to travel, explore, and photograph the wild places, plants, and animals of our beloved home state- Florida.

REPORT ON THE 1999 ANNUAL MEETING

by
Bill Russell, Secretary

The 21st Annual Meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society was held on 2 & 3 October 1999 in the Doyle Conner Auditorium at the Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville, Florida. Arrivals began on Friday afternoon with the meetings beginning on Saturday morning. Approximately twenty two members were present for the Saturday meeting and presentations.

The general meeting started on Saturday morning with welcoming remarks by Chairman James Adams. This was followed by the business meeting and the election of officers. The slate of officers was Ed Knudson, Chairman; Jeff Sloten, Treasurer; Bill Russell, Secretary; Leroy Koehn, Newsletter Editor; David Fine, Assistant Editor; Marc Minno, Member-at-Large; and Paul Milner, Membership Coordinator. Jeff Sloten gave the Treasurer's Report that reported a balance of approximately \$500. A discussion followed on ways to reduce expenses and increase revenue. Leroy Koehn moved that the next newsletter be printed on a donated printer rather than a commercial printer. Seconded and passed. James Adams suggested that the dues be increased and that categories of memberships be created. Annual dues for regular membership will be increased by \$3.00 from \$12.00 to \$15.00. Three new membership categories were added,

Student membership at \$12.00, Contributor membership at \$25.00 and Sustaining membership at \$50.00. It was moved, seconded, and passed. Another revenue source discussed was a registration fee for the annual meeting as had been charged in the past. For future annual meetings, it was moved, seconded and approved to charge \$10 for members registering in advance, \$15 for members registering at the meeting, and \$20 for non-members. Leroy Koehn agreed to put a notice in the newsletter encouraging all members to submit records to their respective State Coordinators. The business meeting concluded with a general discussion on the possibility of establishing a web site for the Society. Any expertise in assisting or advising on the web site is welcomed.

The Keynote Presentations, 'The Origin of Florida Butterflies: The Cuban and Bahaman Connection' and 'Faunal Diversity of Butterflies in the Lesser Antilles' was given by Dr. Lee D. Miller and Dr. Jacqueline Y. Miller. The meeting then recessed for a group photo and lunch.



Lee & Jackie Miller

The 1999 Abbot Award was presented to Marc Minno for his research and publications on the Lepidoptera of the Southeast as well as his contributions to the Southern Lepidopterists' Society.

Excellent afternoon presentations were made by Bob Beiriger (*Phoebis* species utilizing *Cassia* as a larval host in Florida), Jeffrey Slotten (What's in a pitcher? Searching for *Exyra* moths), Don Stillwaugh (Lepidoptera associated with Gopher Tortoise burrows), James Adams (Comparison of moth faunas from Bt-sprayed and Bt-free areas near Highlands, NC), and Leroy Koehn (Adventures of a Southern Lepidopterist).



Group Photo of Members

After the Saturday evening banquet at a local restaurant, Jeff Slotten hosted a reception at his house.

It was a great meeting and we look forward to seeing you in College Station, Texas this September!

FALL FIELD TRIP REPORT

BY
BARRY LOMBARDINI

The Fall field trip of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society was held in West Texas in Caprock Canyons State Park (September 3-6) near the small town of Quitaque, Texas. Unfortunately, the field trip was poorly attended. A total of four individuals attended. They were Ben Williams, Jeffery Slotten, Chuck Garner and Barry Lombardini (host). We occupied the bunkhouse located within the Park which worked out quite well in that it was air conditioned when the outside temperature was in the high 90ties. Twenty-two species of *Schinia* moths were collected either at sheets and blacklights or the blacklight traps. Butterfly collecting was poor with only 19 different species observed - all of which were common to the area. While our numbers were small we had a great time and plenty of food since more participants were expected. Interestingly, black lighting the first night (Friday) was exceptional with most of the better material coming in that evening. Subsequent evenings were good but nowhere near the amount of material and the diversity as on Friday.

On Monday, Ben Williams and Barry Lombardini went to Palo Duro Canyon State Park (near Canyon, Texas) and collected 13 species of *Schinia* moths. Jeff and Chuck returned to their respective homes the previous day.

All in all the butterflies could have been better, the moths could have been better. However, since moths in the genus *Schinia* were of great interest and a goal, we did fairly well and nobody was disappointed. As advertised, this field trip proved to be a real adventure. It was a great time.

SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY FIELD TRIP - SEPTEMBER 3-5, 1999

Checklist of the Moths/Butterflies of Caprock Canyons State Park (Specimens Collected):**MOTHS:****Arctiidae:**

Cisthene tenuifascia
 Holomelina aurantiaca
 Grammia arge
 Grammia phalerata
 Grammia figurata
 Grammia nevadensis
 Hypoprepia sp.
 Estigmene acrea
 Pygarcia flavidorsalis
 Pygarcia spraguei
 Cisseps fulvicollis
 Euchaetes bolteri

Sesiidae:

Mellitita gloriosa

Noctuidae:

Helicoverpa zea

Heliocheilus paradoxus

Schinia rivulosa
 Schinia thoreau
 Schinia gracilentia
 Schinia gaurae
 Schinia oleagina
 Schinia grandimedia
 Schinia mortua
 Schinia hanga
 Schinia ultima
 Schinia saturata
 Schinia arcigera
 Schinia bicuspidata
 Schinia nundina
 Schinia tertia
 Schinia ciliata
 Schinia sordida
 Schinia nubila
 Schinia lynx
 Schinia siren
 Schinia reniformis
 Schinia sanguinea

Sphingidae:

Agrius angulatus
 Eumorpha vitis
 Manduca sexta
 Manduca quinquemaculata

BUTTERFLIES:**Hesperiidae:**

Amblyscirtes eos
 Hesperia viridis
 Celotes nessus

Lycaenidae:

Mitoura siva

Nymphalidae:

Basilarchia archippus
 Mestra amymone

Checklist of the Butterflies Observed in Caprock Canyons State Park

Pyrgus communis
 Hesperia viridis
 Lerodea eufala
 Eurema nicippe
 Eurema lisa
 Papilio cressphontes
 Nathalis iole

Strymon melinus
 Hemiargus isola
 Agraulis vanillae
 Phytodes phaon
 Cercyonis pegala texana
 Danaus gilippus strigosus
 Danaus plexippus

Amblyscirtes eos
 Celotes nessus
 Pholisora catullus
 Hesperia viridis
 Wellengrenia egeremet

Checklist of the Moths of Palo Duro Canyon State Park (Specimens Collected)**Noctuidae: Schinia species:**

S. nundina
 S. sanguinea
 S. rivulosa
 S. grandimedia
 S. mortua
 S. ultima

S. arcigera
 S. tertia
 S. chrysella
 S. hulstia
 S. siren
 S. gaurae
 S. bicuspidata

Arctiidae

Grammia figurata

THE SLS WEBSITE: COMING NEXT YEAR!

At the Annual Meeting in Gainesville, several topics of interest were discussed during the business portion of the meeting, including establishing a website for the Southern Lepidopterists' Society. The website should provide another forum for presenting societal information, and should help in new member recruitment by making us more visible to the public. Previous to the meeting, I had asked for potential "volunteers" (through the newsletter, e-mail, etc.) to establish and maintain the website. The response was sparse, but I did get two people who were interested in taking on this project. The "volunteers" include John Snyder, of Furman University, who currently maintains the Lepidopterists' Society webpage. It can be viewed at: furman.edu/~synder/snyder/lep/.

The second volunteer is Derek Hill, Texas resident and interested in Texas butterflies. He states that he "specializes in environmental websites", and has constructed a couple relevant sites that can be viewed at: members.aol.com/king32 (a Texas Birding site) and [<http://springcreekforest.virtualave.net>]. Derek is also asking a \$125.00 start up fee for constructing the site.

The third volunteer is Dave Morgan, who resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Dave is currently employed as a producer of IBM e-business Services and knows his way around web pages. He has a website that is very entertaining and informative at: www.lepidoptera.net.

I want the members to take a good look at these websites and respond back to me with your preference no later than **March 30, 1999**. Any responses received after this time are unlikely to have any influence on the choice of website coordinator. A few relevant points I think you as members should be aware before making your choice

- 1.) It may seem as though if John would maintain the site for free that he might be the logical choice, but I ask you to take a look at both Derek and Dave's web sites carefully, as they seem nicely constructed (at least to me).
- 2.) There is an advantage to having the site constructed on a server at a large institution (like Furman).
- 3.) The Texas contingent of the Society has, from time to time, discussed feeling left out of the proceedings of the society, which I can understand as the meetings are typically in Gainesville, Florida (though they will be in College Station next year, at Texas A&M University).
- 4.) The website coordinator's position will come with a complementary membership to the SLS.
- 5.) The major work the coordinator should have is in the initial setup. We (members, state coordinators, etc.) will need to make a concerted effort to get materials to the website coordinator in as web-ready a state as possible. The particulars of the position are not completely worked out yet, though the editor of the newsletter will likely work closely with the coordinator on getting together web-presentable materials.

Take this opportunity to have a say in the workings of **YOUR** society. You can reach me at: jadams@daltonstate.edu or at (706)602-6993, or mail the enclosed ballot with your choice to James K. Adams, 346 Sunset Drive SE, Calhoun, GA 30701.

FIELD MEETINGS AND ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER FIELDING ON THE GEORGIA COAST HOSTED BY JOHN HYATT

John Hyatt will host a summer field meeting on the Georgia coast the weekend of June 30 and July 1 & 2. We will meet at John's summer home near the community of Meridian (For direction, see below). We will operate UV lights and several bait trails for moths. This is an excellent time for *Catocala* moths in this area.

We will meet Saturday morning at 8:30AM in the parking lot of Altman's Restaurant in the town of Eulonia (Direction to restaurant below). We will search the coastal marsh areas for *Problema bulenta*, *Euphyes dion*, *Euphyes dukesii* and *Poanes viator*. Leroy Koehn collected the only specimen of *Euphyes dukesii* in a marsh area near the town of Darien in 1979 on a return trip from Florida. John Hyatt was also present. We will also look for other skipper species in wooded wetland areas where cane breaks occur. Areas with cane breaks may have several Satyrid species: *Enodia creola* and *Enodia portlandi florale*. The coastal *Cercynois pegala* may also occur in this area.

There will be a cook out at John's house Saturday evening, followed by moth collecting that night.

We will meet in the parking lot of Altman's restaurant at 8:30AM on Sunday and search for additional collecting areas. After lunch anyone wishing to continue to collect will be on their own.

This should be a great meeting in an area of Georgia that has not been well collected. A new state record or two could possibly be found. If you are planning to attend, contact John Hyatt at: Tennessee Telephone: 423-343-0067; Georgia Telephone: 912-437-3948.

DIRECTIONS TO HYATT HOUSE, MERIDIAN, MCINTOSH COUNTY, GEORGIA

TRAVELING SOUTH ON I-95 IN GEORGIA: Take Exit #11, the Eulonia/Townsend exit. Go left, over I-95. You will be on GA. Route #99. Proceed about a mile to a 4-way stop at the intersection of SR99 and US 17. You are now in Eulonia; Altman's restaurant is on your left. Continue on SR 99 straight through this intersection. Go exactly 8 miles past the intersection. You will be in the unincorporated community of Meridian. Turn left on Landing Road. There is a white one story church at the intersection along with a sign pointing to Sapelo Island National Estuarine Reserve.

Proceed one block on Landing Road to Seabreeze Road, turn left on Seabreeze Road, proceed until the pavement ends (about 1 1/2 miles). There is a log house on the left at the end of the pavement. Proceed to the right onto the unpaved causeway across a few hundred yards marsh and through a gate marked "Seabreeze Island". Go past a couple of driveways on your left when the road forks. You will see a large green horizontal tank water tank on your right. Continue approximately a hundred yards and you will see a sign proclaiming, "Kittles Island - Private" nailed to a pine tree on the right. Immediately past this sign, make a sharp right. We are the third house on the left, a blue cabin on pilings, "Hyatt" on a fencepost. House telephone: 912-437-3948.

TRAVELING NORTH ON I-95 IN GEORGIA: Take exit #9 to the right onto US 17. Travel north several miles, across several bridges over the Altamaha River delta and into the town of Darien, turn right on GA. Route #99. Travel 7 or 8 miles through the communities of Ridgeville and Carneghan and into Meridian. Turn right on Landing Road at the white church and follow the directions in the paragraph above to the house.

MOTELS: There are two motels at Exit #11 of I-95: Day's Inn; Telephone: 912-832-4411; Ramada Inn; Telephone: 912-832-444. There is an older and less elegant, but probably cheaper, Eulonia Lodge, located one block on the right on US 17 from the 4-way stop at the GA Route #99 and US 17 intersection; Telephone: 912-832-5175.

RESTAURANT: Altman's Restaurant; (Breakfast, Saturday morning, 8-9AM): Altman's is located in Eulonia at the intersection of GA Route #99 and US 17, at the 4-way stop.

ANNUAL MEETING AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

The 2000 Annual Meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society will be held the weekend of September 22, 23, & 24 at Texas A&M University, in College Station, Texas. There will be a key note speaker, presentation of paper, presentation of the Abbott Award, a business meeting and much more. The collection at Texas A&M will be open for viewing on Saturday morning. There are plans for field trips before and after the meeting. The moon will be near the last quarter which will make for some great moth collecting during the field trips.

There will be more information in future newsletters.

This will be a great meeting. Mark your calendar and plan to attend now.

LET'S MAKE IT FUN AGAIN

by
John Calhoun

I read with interest the article by my late friend, Ben Ziegler in Vol. 21, No. 3 of the Southern Lepidopterists, News entitled Lepidopterology, Butterflying & Public Relations: Collecting vs. Watching? Ben's points are well taken, but we would accomplish much if we allocated as much energy and page space to the study of Lepidoptera as we do to the ongoing collector vs. watcher debate and its perceived implications. We must all realize that anti-collecting and anti-watching propaganda, whether it appears in popular nature magazines or organizational newsletters, is counterproductive. I believe in freedom of speech and expression. I also believe in enjoying my interest in Lepidoptera. This needless quarreling doesn't excite me and inserts anxiety into the one portion of my life that doesn't deserve it.

We must recognize that the overused labels collector and watcher are archaic and inappropriate. They blatantly ignore individual variations of opinion. I could easily be labeled as a collector. Rather, I am a proud member of the lepidopterist community. I often collect specimens during my surveys and various other research projects, but I also enjoy the basic beauty and simplicity of butterflies and moths. Much of my research requires observation. If we are going to apply labels, why don't we identify ourselves as we truly are, just to avoid confusion? I could be characterized as a married, right-handed, middle-aged, brown haired, hazel-eyed, wildlife illustrating, bird watching, dog owning, fish-keeping, corporate marketing, middle-class home-owning, Caucasian Scottish American father and lepidopterist. By their very nature, labels are limiting and even this lengthy tag is not an accurate description (nor could it ever be).

I have recently completed work as a co-author, with Jeff Glassberg and Marc Minno, on a new Florida butterfly book. This book will be published in early 2000 and is part of Jeff's Butterflies Through Binoculars series. Marc and I jumped at the chance to help create a user-friendly popular treatment of Florida's butterflies. We all recognized that a combined effort would be more effective and feel we were successful in producing a useful guide to novice and seasoned lepidopterists alike. Undoubtedly, someone will raise an eyebrow and wonder how collectors and watchers could collaborate in such a fashion and conclude that Marc and I have crossed over. In actuality, we are simply three lepidopterists who possess a common interest and desire to share it with others. Some do not like the concept of collecting. Others feel that photography is not enough. Fine, but mudslinging will not help us understand our intentions or resolve differences. Perhaps it is cliché, but by working together, we will learn much more. The baseball player Casey Stingle (1890-1975) was right on the mark when he observed, "It's easy to get the players; it's getting them to play together that's the tough part." We have to move on. Perhaps we should all step back, take a deep breath, and recall why we became interested in learning more about these fascinating creatures. Let's make it fun again.

BOOK REVIEW

by

Jeffrey R. Slotten

This book review of **Florida Butterfly Gardening, A Complete Guide to Attracting, Identifying, and Enjoying Butterflies of the Lower South**, by Marc C. Minno and Maria Minno is far overdue. It is difficult to criticize a book written by such fine people as Marc and Maria Minno who have been my friends for several years. We share a love of the ecology of Florida and other regions of the United States. There truly is nothing to criticize. The outstanding cover with live photographs of butterflies, larvae and chrysalides hints at the treasures of information that lay inside.

The photography of the Lepidoptera and their host plants is excellent since the photos are clear with good background. The white outer border separating each photograph makes the subjects stand out on the pages and this is pleasing to the eye without strain. The illustrations by Diane Pierce display color and form of the insects accurately.

The text is well written and comprehensive, yet easy to follow. The chapters on **Understanding Butterflies, Butterfly Behavior, Danger and Defense, Butterfly Distribution and Identifying Butterflies** contain important information so that when one is planning to set up a butterfly garden, he or she will understand something about the insects he or she wants to attract. I particularly like the way that the authors explained or illustrated how to separate similar looking species of butterflies and moths. For example, the **Luna Moth** and the **Polyphemus Moth** are very different in the adult stage, but the caterpillars can be confused since they look quite similar. By illustrating the two species in the same proximity, the gardener should have no problem separating them. This also applies to the **Horace's** and the **Juvenal's Dusky Wing** butterflies which are very similar looking in the adult stage.

The authors limited the species of butterflies and moths to those that would normally be encountered in the butterfly gardens in Florida. This had to be done or the book would have been too expansive since there are thousands of species of butterflies and moths in Florida.

To conclude, one of the reasons that this book is so effective in conveying the subject matter to the general public is that it is written by authors that have studied both butterflies and their native plant hosts. Their deep appreciation for natural habitats and understanding of the dependence of insects on their host plants is brought out in this excellent book.

You can purchase the **Florida Butterfly Gardening** from University Press of Florida, 15 NW 15th Street, Gainesville, FL 32611-2079, Telephone: 800-266-3822; ISBN 0-8130-1665-7, Cloth, \$34.95

Jeffrey R. Slotten, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, Florida 32653

RESEARCH REQUEST & MEMBERS NOTICE

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RESEARCH REQUEST: I am interested in any Florida records of the Miami Blue, Cyclargus thomasi, since 1989. Please submit relevant data regarding dates, location, sexes, observations etc. Recent attempts to verify its existence in Florida have been unsuccessful, suggesting it may nearly be extirpated from the region. Likewise, I am gathering all Florida records of the newly established Cyclargus ammon which appears to be invading at least one area formerly inhabited by Cyclargus thomasi. All responses would be greatly appreciated. Submit data to: John Calhoun, 977 Wicks Dr., Palm Harbor, FL, 34684-4656 or e-mail at: jcalhoun@maxximmedical.com.

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THE PASSING OF TWO CHARTER MEMBERS

We have learned of the passing of two members who were both Charter Members. At the end of November 1999 that Hermann Flaschka of Decatur, Georgia, died after under going colon cancer surgery. We also learned that Ben Ziegler of Summit, New Jersey died unexpectedly from heart failure in mid-January of this year. A tribute for each will appear in the next newsletter.

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy Coombs, 8640 Thorncliff Fairway, Cordova, TN 38018; dgcoombs@bellsouth.net

Ms. Jan Dauphin, 7315 Cottonwood Drive, Baytown, TX 77521-4901; Home Phone: 281-383-3955

Alana M. Edwards, 3206 Palm Drive, Delray Beach, FL 33843; Home Phone: 561-736-2643; Office Phone: 561-706-6732; E-mail: lasmariposa@prodigy.net

Environmental Learning Center, 255 Live Oak Drive, Vero Beach, FL 32963

Dana Gring, 1552 Berkey Road, Swanton, OH 43558; Home Phone: 419-826-3926; Office Phone: 419-385-9647

Dar Heinze, 811 Harvest Moon Lane, Houston, TX 77077; Home Phone: 281-293-9406; E-mail: HeinzeDJAK@aol.com

Joe A. McKoy, 634 Ranch Road, Del Valle, TX 78617
Home Phone: 512-247-3888

Donald H. Miller, Box 578, 59 High Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851; Home Phone: 802-626-9003

Dave Morgan, 4935 Shadowood Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339

Michael J. Smith, 101 Rugosa Drive, Folsom, CA 95630

Dr. Milton D. Taylor, 200 Woody Road, Apt.#44, Pendleton, SC 29670; Home Phone: 864-646-9063; Office Phone: 864-646-2185; E-mail: taylor@clemson.edu

CHANGE IN ADDRESS

Robert Beiriger, 16356 Trafalgar Drive, East, Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Ron Huber, 2521 Jones Plave West, Bloomington, MN 55431-2837

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Another year has come and gone along with another century and a second millennium. My how time flies. The Mnnual Meeting in Gainesville, Florida has brought many changes. A new chairman, Ed Knudson of Houston, Texas. Ed has some experience having served as chairman in 1983. Ed is a charter member of the Society and has served as the field coordinator for the state of Texas since the Society was formed in 1978. I look forward to working with Ed this year. After several years of having the Annual Meeting in Gainesville, Florida, the 2000 Annual Meeting will be in College Station, Texas at Texas A&M University, September 22, 23, & 24. And finally, we have a \$3.00 increase in dues from \$12.00 to \$15.00 for 2000. The modest dues increase became necessary with a larger and more informative Newsletter, a smaller number of members (Less than 140), and cost of maintaining an active society. The officers believe that we can maintain the \$15.00 dues for several years and continue to produce a great newsletter while having activities for the members.

The Society continues to grow. We currently have 139 members. Paul Milner will serve as Membership Coordinator for 2000. He brings some new ideas and a desire to see the Society grow and become an important organization for Lepidopterists' in the southern region of the United States. We should sustain our continued growth well into this century.

Two field meetings were held in 1999, although attendance was below expectations, on the other hand, the Lepidoptera that were collected exceeded expectations. The field meetings are planned around flight periods of numerous species, and, the dark of the moon. Ask anyone who has attended a field meeting and you will quickly learn that they are exciting and enjoyable. The meeting at Caprock Canyons State Park in the Texas Panhandle was a real adventure.

If you like what is going on in the Society, let your state coordinator and officers hear from you. If you do not like what is going on, let them know. Only with your input can we have an enjoyable and active organization.

STATE COORDINATOR REPORTS

We are in need of a coordinator for Mississippi. If you are interested in becoming the state coordinator for Mississippi, contact the Chairman: **TEXAS:** Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhart Road, Houston, TX 77055; E-mail: eknudson@wt.net

ALABAMA : C. Howard Grisham, 573 Ohatchee Road, Huntsville, AL 35811; E-mail: cgrisham@HiWAAY.net

The following records, unless otherwise noted, are leps collected either from Hollytree, Jackson County, Alabama, in Paint Rock Valley, near the base of Bingham Mountain (herein "J"), or from Maysville, Madison County, Alabama, on Berry Mountain (herein "M") by Howard Grisham, or my son Charles. Nathalis iole appeared in Northeast Alabama this summer and fall. On opening day of dove season, I observed a colony transacting business about a small pond over which I was hunting. A fresh emergence was again noted in November (M:14 Nov. 99). Oddly, these were the first iole I have seen since my early teen years in Mississippi. Although the fall weather has been warm, the mast crop bountiful and, therefore, deer hard to come by, 124 Erannis tiliaria were counted on the north wall of my Hollytree cabin 10 Dec 99; must've been all does, as I saw no antlers.

Of note: Paranthrene simulans (form "palmii") (M: 10 May 99, 13 May 99, 25 May 99, 28 May 99); Alcathoe carolinensis (M: 10 Sept 99); Synanthedon exitiosa (M: 22 May 99, 28 May 99); Podosesia syringiae (M: 3 May 99, 4 May 99, 10 May 99, 17 May 99); Uresiphita reversalis (J: 15 May 99); Loxostege cerealis (M: 11 Aug 99, 20 Aug 99); Compacta capitalis (J: 8 June 99); Vaxa critica (J: 28 June 99); Galleria mellonella (J: 8 Sept 99); Tolype notialis (M: 27 Oct 99); Nola pustulata (J: 15 May 99); Papaipema cataphracta? (M: 16 Oct 99, 29 Oct 99); Platysenta mobilis (J: 19 Nov 99); Agnorisma badinodis (M: 6 Nov 99, 22 Oct 99); Schinia arcigera (J: 24 Sept 99); Schinia rivulosa (J: 18 Aug 99); Schinia thoreau (J: 28 Aug 99); Schinia gracilenta (J: 28 Aug 99); Schinia trifascia (J: 28 Aug 99).

Automeris io something (M: 13 May 99 & 27 May 99), both males, with brown fore and hind wings, reduced-size eyespots, and smaller overall than the stereotype males seen abundantly.

ARKANSAS: Mack Shotts, 514 W. Main Street, Paragould, AR, 72450

FLORIDA: Robert L. Beiriger, 4068A Palm Bay Circle, West Palm Beach, FL 33406; E-mail: brts@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

Leroy Koehn reported collecting in the Martin/Palm Beach/Okeechobee County areas around Lake Okeechobee. In bait traps he found: 6 October: Asterocampa flora, Asterocampa alicia, Vanessa atalanata, Polygonia interrogationis, Phyciodes tharos, and Catocala vidua. 8 and 12 October: Jonathon Dickenson State Park, Martin County: Atrytonopsis loammi, Hesperia meskei, Hesperia attalus, Erynnis zarucco, Nastra neamathala, Euphyes arpa, Euphyes pilatka, Polites themistocles, and Aphrissa statira floridensis.

Through the months of September and October Leroy collected the following *Schinia* moths in light traps at Jonathan Dickeson State Park; *Schinia nubila*, *S. fulleri*, *S. lynx*, *S. petulans*, *S. sordida*, and *S. sanguinea*. Although *Schinia* moths were numerous, there were more species than in 1998, but fewer in total numbers. Only a single male of *Schinia carolinensis* was recorded after being very abundant in 1998.

October was an excellent month for Lepidoptera in general. Both butterflies and moths were very abundant. On October 29 and 30, Hurricane Irene blew through Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and Okeechobee counties and dumped an average of 9 ½ inches of rain and winds of 80 MPH. Although a Category one hurricane, Irene was not expected to develop once it made land fall east of Naples. Hurricanes normally lose strength over land. However, it passed directly over the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee which are also warm bodies of water, this fed the hurricane as it moved in a north east and allowed some rapid development. The eye wall of the Hurricane passed directly over Palm Beach County, with 80 MPH winds and 16 ½ inches of rain in 11 hours. Leroy lives in the central section of Palm Beach County, the community where he lives received 16 inches of rain and completely flood his development (See photo below), although no water entered his home, the water four feet deep in the street in front of his home. Bob Beiriger who lives just a few miles north of Leroy only received 5 inches of rain and no flooding. Dave Fine who lives 15 miles to the south in Delray Beach, received 3 inches of rain. After the storm passed, butterflies were scarce. Collecting around Lake Okeechobee was limited to a few survivors of the Hurricane.

Leroy Koehn and Dave Fine visited the Upper and Lower Keys on 21 October and found *Pachylia ficus* on North Key Largo. On Upper Maticumbe they found *Eurema daira palmira* to be very abundant. On Ohio Key they found *Strymon martialis* and *Brephidium isophthalma pseudofea*. On Big Pine Key they found several *Hemiargus ammon* and *Polygonus leo*. As they traveled down through the Keys, they left a series of bait traps in several hardwood hammocks and slash pine areas. They each would make several trips a



Flood Waters of Hurricane Irene

week to check the traps. For all their efforts, the results were very poor. However, during a trip by Leroy, he stopped to check a trap behind a shopping plaza on Key Largo, he also checked the walls of the plaza for moths and found dozens of *Erinnyis ello* and *Enyo lugubris*. As he walked across the parking lot to his car he noticed several sphingids hovering over the flowers of Golden Lantana that were planted in the parking lot dividers. He assumed them to be *Enyo lugubris* until he saw a flash of yellow, he then assumed they were *Perigonia lusca* and went to for a net. He could not identify the sphingid he collected. When he returned home he found the moth in D'Abrera's "Sphingidae Mundi" as *Eupyrrhoglossum sagra*, both his specimens were females. This is the first report of adults of *Eupyrrhoglossum sagra* from Florida. Jeff Sloten had collected several larva in Dade County several years earlier. Several additional trips to Key Largo produced no additional specimens until Dave Fine collected a male on January 1, 2000. It was his first *Eupyrrhoglossum sagra* as well as his first specimen of Lepidoptera for the new millennium.

On November 26, Leroy Koehn, Bob Beiriger and Dave Fine visited the Lower Keys, on Big Pine Key they found; Polygonus leo, larvae were found on Piscidia piscipula (Jamacia Dogwood) and adults were rather common, Phocides pigmalion okeechobee, Euphyes pilatka klotsii, adults were found flying around in large stands of the larval host plant, Cladium jamaicense (Sawgrass) and larva in tents as well, Panoquina panoquinoides, Strymon acis bartrami, S. columella, Leptotes cassius theonus, Hemiargus ceraunus antibubastus, Hemiargus ammon and the day flying Sphingid, Aellopos tantalus.

On December 30, Dave Fine and Leroy Koehn once again visited Big Pine Key. Euphyes pilatka klotsii was very abundant and numerous larval tents were located on Cladium jamaicense. Hemiargus ammon was also found in small numbers. Most surprising was the abundance of Strymon martialis and Panoquina panoquinoides. As a whole, the trio reported finding more butterflies and moths than at anytime since the late 1980's. It must be noted that much of the aerial mosquito spraying has stopped.

GEORGIA: James K. Adams, 346 Sunset Drive SE, Calhoun, GA 30701; Email: JADAMS@em.daltonstate.edu

There were more contributors this reporting period than any other period I can recall, including some who are not SLS members (but I'm working on them!!). Records are from James Adams, Irving Finkelstein (IF), Bill Russell (BR), Doug Booher (DB), Mike Chapman (MC) or others as indicated, and represent new or interesting records (range extensions, unusual dates, uncommon species, county records, etc.) or newly identified species, mostly for NW Georgia. Records are from Calhoun, Gordon County, GA unless otherwise specified. "Dal." represents the Dalton/Rocky Face area, Whitfield Co.; "Pig." represents Pigeon Mountain area, Walker County; "Tay." represents Taylor's Ridge, 5 miles W. of Villanow along Hwy. 136, Walker County; "Car." represents the Carbondale exit (134) off I-75, Whitfield County; "Con." represents the Murray/Whitfield County line, nr. the Conasauga river, on Hwy. 76; "Gates" refers to a site on Gates Chapel Rd., 3 miles N. of Hwy. 52, 8 miles W. of Ellijay, "Bar." refers to the NE corner of Bartow County, just SE of Fairmount; "Allatoona" represents the Allatoona Dam area, exit 124, I-75, Bartow County; "Red" represents the Red Top Mountain State Park exit (123) off I-75, Bartow County; "Kit." represents Kittles Island, McIntosh County. Definite county/state records are indicated.

LYCAENIDAE: Panhiades m-album, 17 Sept. 1999, abundant at "Pig." (WR and IF). **HESPERIIDAE:** Urbanus dorantes, 27 Sept. 1999, W. of Brunswick, Glynn County (COUNTY; MC). **MEGATHYMIDAE:** Megathymus cofaqui - observed 31 July, Aug. 4, 6, & 7, Mount Arabia, Davidson Park, DeKalb County. (Rick Cech, Emily Peyton, Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand); observed courtship behavior from about 15 minutes before to 15 minutes after sunset. **SATURNIIDAE:** Actias luna, 21 Oct. 1999, Car. (LATE!). **APATELODIDAE:** Olceclostera angelica, 12 June 1999, Gates (IF and WR). **SPHINGIDAE:** Manduca rustica, 9 July 1999, Oglethorpe County. (DB); Sphinx franckii, 16 June 1999, Dal.; Dolba hyloeus, 22 Aug. 1999, Dal.; Paonias astylus (2), 10 July 1999, Ellijay, Gilmer County. (DB). **ARCTIIDAE:** Lycomorpha pholus, 11 Oct. 1999, Dal., at lights; Syntomeida epilais, 26-27 Sept. 1999, numerous on Jekyll Island and one W of Brunswick, Glynn County. (MC); Grammia virgo, 18 Sept. 1999; Grammia parthenice intermedia, numerous, 23 Sept. - 11 Oct. 1999; Grammia figurata, 28 Sept. 1999. **NOCTUIDAE:** Hemeroplanes scopulepes, 10 July 1999 (Dal.); Renia fraternalis, 11 Oct. 1999, Dal.; Zale bethunei, 13 June 1999, Gates (COUNTY; IF); Catocala robinsoni ("missouriensis"), 11 Oct. 1999; Malliatha synochytis, 12 June 1999, Gates (IF and WR); Baileya doubledayi, 11 July 1999, Con.; Amyna bullula, 18 Oct. 1999; Elaphria fuscimacula, 25 April 1994, Honey Creek nr. St. Marys, Camden Co. (COUNTY; Jim Taylor) and 28 Nov. 1997, Meridian, McIntosh Co. (COUNTY; John Hyatt); Oligia crytora, 12 June 1999, Gates (STATE; IF); Meropleon diversicolor, 4 Sept. 1999, Ringgold (SE), Catoosa County (COUNTY; "Sparkle" [the cat] Jordan); Callopietria floridensis, 13 June 1999 Gates (COUNTY; IF), also 21 Oct. 1999, Car.; Diphthera festiva, 26 Sept. 1999, Folkston, Charlton County (DB) and 27 Sept. 1999, Lyons, Toombs County (COUNTY; DB); Papaipema polymniae, 9 and 16 Oct. 1999, Bar., also 17 Oct. 1999, Allatoona (IF) (COUNTY); Papaipema furcata, 17 Oct. 1999, Red (IF); Eupsilia devia, 15 Oct. 1999, Con. (STATE); Xylotype capax, 5 Nov. 1999, Red (IF); Lithophane lemmeri, 23 Nov. 1999 (Car.); Metaxaglaea inulta, 17 Oct. 1999 (COUNTY); Tricholsilia geniculata (3), 27 Sept. 1999, Dal.; Agnorisma bollii, 9 and 16 Oct. 1999 (Bar.; COUNTY), 15 Oct. (Con.) and 21 Oct. 1999 (Car.); Protolampra bruneicollis, 9 Oct. 1999, Bar. (COUNTY); Xestia youngii, 9 Oct., 1999, Helen, White County, also (STATE); Abagrotis magnicupida, 27 Sept. and 11 Oct. 1999, Dal. (STATE).

Abagrotis anchocelioides, 11 Oct. 1999, Dal. (STATE); Schinia arcigera, 25 Sept. 1999, and 11 Oct. 1999; Schinia sanguinea, 26 Sept. 1999, near Folkston entrance to Okefenokee swamp, Charlton County (COUNTY; DB); Schinia sordida, S. tuberculum, S. siren, and S. nubila, 1 Oct. 1999, Magnolia Rd. 3 mi. N. of Jordan Creek/Hawkinsville, Pulaski County (IF & WR). **LYMANTRIIDAE**: Dasychira atrivenosa, 4 Sept. 1999, Gates (COUNTY; IF). **GEOMETRIDAE**: Cymatophora approximaria, 15 Oct. 1999 (COUNTY), also several 17 Oct. 1999 - Nov., Allatoona and Red (IF); Ennomos subsignarius, 12-13 June 1999, Gates (IF and WR); Lytrosis unitaria, 12-13 June 1999, Gates (IF and WR); Selenia kentaria, 10 July 1999 (Dal.); Caripeta divisata, several, late Aug. - early Sept., Gates (COUNTY; IF); Caripeta aretaria, 15 Sept. 1999, Red (COUNTY; IF). Euchlaena madusaria (2), 27 Sept. 1999, Dal. COUNTY; Euchlaena marginaria, 27 Sept. 1999, Dal. STATE. **COSSIDAE**: Cossula magnifica, 11 July 1999 (Con.). **TORTRICIDAE**: Pandemis limitata and Argyrotaenia quercifolia, 13 June 1999, Gates (IF). **SESIIDAE**: Paranthrene dollii, 13 June 1999, E side of Grassy Mountain, Murray County (IF).

John Hyatt continues to enlarge his list of moths from Kittles Island, McIntosh County; it is likely that most represent county records. **NOCTUIDAE**: Hemeroplanes scopulepes, 4 Sept. 1998; Dysgonia smithii, 4 Dec. 1998; Metria amella, 8 May 1999; Zale undularis, 8 May 1999; Acronicta afflicta, 11 April 1999; Meropleon cosmion, 28 Nov. 1997; Bagisara rectifascia, 3 July 1997 and 4 Sept. 1998; Xestia elimata, 1 Nov. 1998.

Irving Finkelstein and Bill Russell visited several sites and got the following COUNTY butterfly records:

PEACH COUNTY (1 Oct. 1999, Housers Mill Road @ GA96): Lerema accius, Copaeodes minimus, Hylephila phyleus, Polites vibex, Lerodea eufala, Phoebis sennae, Eurema lisa, E. nicippe, Calycopis cecrops, Agraulis vanillae, Euptoieta claudia, Junonia coenia, Limenitis archippus. **TWIGGS COUNTY** (1 Oct. 1999, Ocmulgee WMA): Asterocampa celtis. **BLECKLEY COUNTY** (1 Oct. 1999, Ocmulgee WMA): Urbanus proteus, Pyrgus communis, Lerema accius, Polites vibex, Panoquina ocola, Zerene cesonia, Phoebis sennae, Eurema lisa, E. nicippe, Strymon melinus, Agraulis vanillae, Euptoieta claudia, Phyciodes tharos, Limenitis archippus, Asterocampa celtis, Hermeuptychia sosybius. **PULASKI COUNTY** (1 Oct. 1999, Ocmulgee WMA): Urbanus proteus, Pyrgus communis, Panoquina ocola, Phoebis sennae, Eurema lisa, E. nicippe, Calycopis cecrops, Strymon melinus, Agraulis vanillae, Euptoieta claudia, Junonia coenia; (3 Oct. 1999, North River Road, 1 mile N. of UA 129): Lerema accius, Copaeodes minimus, Hylephila phyleus, Battus philenor, Everes comyntas, Danaus plexippus. **IRWIN COUNTY** (3 Oct. 1999, US 129): Pyrgus communis, Phoebis sennae, Eurema nicippe, Phyciodes tharos, Limenitis archippus. **BEN HILL COUNTY** (3 Oct. 1999, US129 @ Old River Road): Urbanus proteus, Erynnis horatius, Pyrgus communis, Nastra lherminier, Copaeodes minimus, Hylephila phyleus, Phoebis sennae, Eurema nicippe, Agraulis vanillae, Euptoeita claudia, Junonia coenia, Limenitis archippus. **WILLCOX COUNTY** (3 Oct. 1999, US 129): Polites vibex, Pompeius verna, Phoebis sennae, Eurema lisa, E. nicippe, Calycopis cecrops, Agraulis vanillae, Euptoieta claudia, Phyciodes tharos, Junonia coenia, Hermeuptychia sosybius. **DODGE COUNTY** (3 Oct. 1999, US129 near Abbeville): Pyrgus communis, Hylephila phyleus, Phoebis sennae, Eurema lisa, E. nicippe, Atalides haesus, Agraulis vanillae, Junonia coenia.

Doug Booher, collecting in Athens, Clarke Co., recorded the following: **SATURNIIDAE**: Dryocampa rubicunda (several), May, 1999; Actias luna (several), June, also July 6, 1999. **SPHINGIDAE**: Darapsa myron (several), Sept. 1999; Sphecodina abbottii, Sept., 1999 (LATE DATE). **NOCTUIDAE**: Harrismemna trisignata, 11 Sept. 1999. He also collected around Folkston, Charlton County, on 26 Sept. 1999, and collected the following moths at lights: **LASIOCAMPIDAE**: Artace cribraria, Tolyte notialis. **DREPANIDAE**: Oreta rosea (dark form). **ARCTIIDAE**: Utetheisa bella.

LOUISIANA: Michael Lockwood, 215 Hialeah Avenue, Houma, LA 70363

MISSISSIPPI: Drew Hildebrandt, 710 Laney Drive, Clinton, MS 39056; E-mail: Drew@umsmed.edu

Ricky Patterson reported finding Erynnis funeralis ♂, 6 Mi. NE of Moss Point, Jackson County, 30 Sept 1999; Danaus gilippus berenice ♀, Hwy. 90 - 0.2 Mi. W. of Alabama Line, Jackson County, 11 Sept 1999; Incisalia henrici turneri ♀, Big Biloxi Rec. Area, Harrison County, 12 April 1999; Euphyes bayensis ♂ Bay St Louis, Hancock County, 11 Sept 1999.

Ricky Patterson collected three skippers (1 ♂, 2 ♀) on October 5, 1999 at a locality 6 mi NE of Moss Point, Mississippi in Jackson County that were confirmed by Andy Warren as Euphyes berryi. According to Bryant these are the first records (STATE RECORD) of this species for the state of Mississippi and this may be the most westerly records for the species (There is supposedly a record from Pensacola, Florida.).

NORTH CAROLINA: Steve Hall, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, Div. of Parks & Recreation, 1615 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1615; E-mail: Stephen.Hall@ncmail.net

The following butterfly records were submitted by Harry LeGrand. Place names refer to counties unless otherwise stated. HL = Harry LeGrand

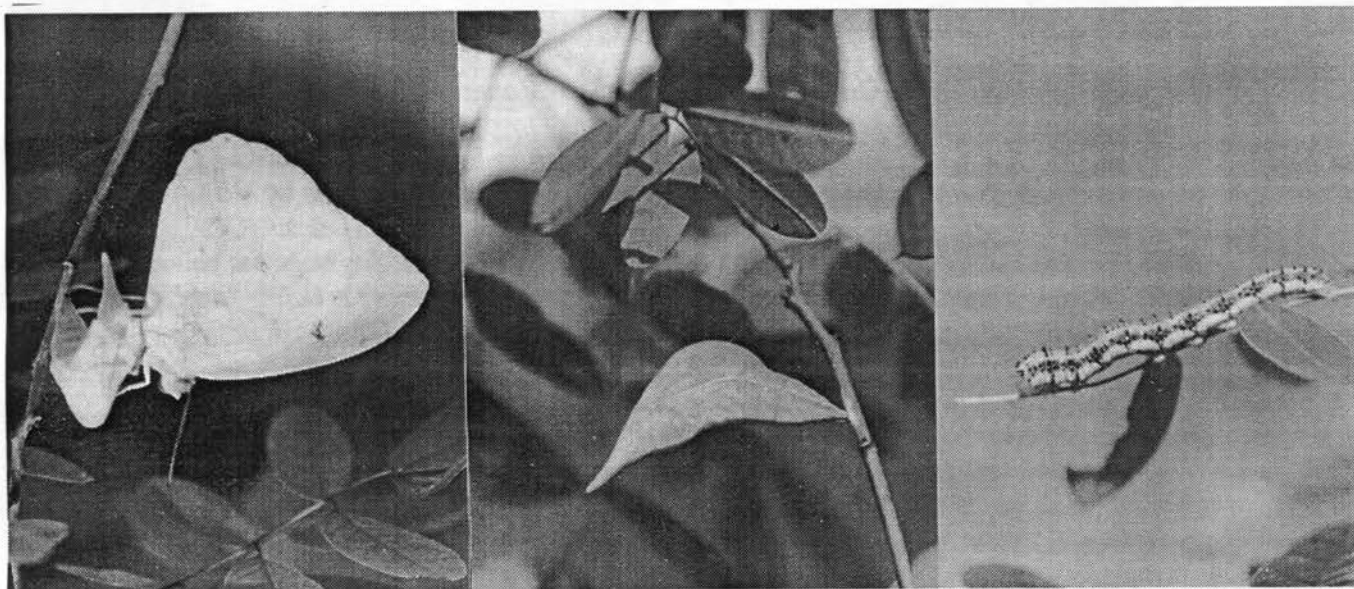
PAPILIONIDAE: Papilio cresphontes, one was seen by Paul Milner in his yard in Transylvania on September 13. The species is very rare in the mountain counties, where perhaps mainly a migrant. **NYMPHALIDAE:** Heliconius charitonius, one stray was seen by Paul Hart while he was golfing (!) in Harnett on October 4, for the only report in the state this year. Phyciodes phaon, normally abundant at Fort Fisher in New Hanover, the species was devastated by Hurricane Floyd in mid-September, and HL saw just a few there on a visit on October 9. Several were seen quite late, at a known colony, on November 6 on the Outer Banks in Dare by Derb Carter and Jeff Pippen. Danaus gilippus, the colony at Fort Fisher was destroyed or heavily impacted by Hurricane Floyd, and Derb Carter and HL saw none there on October 9. Fortunately, one was seen on nearby Baldhead Island in Brunswick on October 19 by Greg Schneider, the only coastal report all year. **HESPERIIDAE:** Urbanus proteus, one was seen by HL in Watauga (COUNTY) on September 7. Urbanus dorantes, this species was seen in gardens in Durham (COUNTY) on September 30 by Randy Emmitt and in Wake (COUNTY) on October 3 by HL. Bill Reynolds has collected the species in three additional counties in the state in the past few years. This southern species is clearly "on the move" northward in the late 90's. Hesperia leonardus, a possible state record count was 10 noted by HL in the Piedmont portion of Moore (COUNTY) on October 16. This county lies along the southeastern edge of the range. Most were found nectaring on Aster grandiflorus in telephone line clearings along roadsides through upland woods. Hesperia attalus slossonae, perhaps a state record count was 18 individuals (12 males and 6 females) found by HL, Derb Carter, Rick Cech, and Emily Peyton on September 6. They were seen at several sites in Scotland, where the species is widespread in open longleaf pine stands with a diverse herb layer. In the same areas, 12 were counted on September 18 by HL and Randy Emmitt. Hesperia meskei, HL observed one in Scotland on September 18, an early date for the second brood. One seen on November 1 in Moore by Scott Hartley might be the first state report for that month. Problema byssus, four were noted at two new sites in Pender on September 12 by Randy Emmitt. He speculated that both sites were likely destroyed by flooding from Hurricane Floyd the next week. Euphyes berryi, two were found at a known site in Dare on September 11 by Rick Cech and Randy Emmitt. Calpodus ethlius, two were seen in Union (COUNTY) on October 23 by Lynn Smith and others. This is slightly farther into the Piedmont than any other known state records. As expected, a few others were seen along the extreme southern coast (Brunswick and New Hanover) this fall.

The following moth records were submitted by James Adams. All specimens were collected at Cullowhee, Jackson County, NC, Oct. 8, 1999 (all are probably the first records for this county): Catocala maestosa (fresh wings found at lights), Papaipema cataphracta (3), Papaipema polymniae (2), Papaipema marginidens, Papaipema rigida (STATE – record shared with J.B. Sullivan), Papaipema cerussata, Noctua pronuba (fresh wings found at lights), Xestia normanniana (several), Xestia smithii (many), Agnorisma badinodis (several), Abagrotis anchoceliodes

The following moths were collected by J. B. Sullivan at New River State Park in Ashe County, NC, Oct. 8, 1999 (all are probably the first records for this county): Papaipema cataphracta, Papaipema impecuniosa, Papaipema marginidens, Papaipema nebris, Papaipema rigida (STATE : record shared with James Adams), Papaipema cerussata, and Xestia bolli.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Ron Gattelle. 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445

Harry LeGrand reported the following records: **PIERIDAE:** Phoebis philea, a female laid eggs in a yard in Sumter (STATE) during the summer, as noted by Evelyn Dabbs. She photographed the chrysalis, larva, and one or two of the adults that hatched from this brood during the fall. In addition, Dennis Forsythe observed a female of this species at Folly Beach, Charleston ((COUNTY) on October 18. **LYCAENIDAE:** Leptodes cassius, one or two were carefully studied by Randy Emmitt, Dennis Forsythe, and Mike Turner at Fort Johnson in Charleston on October 9. There are only a few previous state records. Hemiargus ceraunus, Randy Emmitt photographed one at Fort Johnson in Charleston (COUNTY) on October 9. Dennis Forsythe and Mike Turner also observed this stray, previously known only from Beaufort and Berkeley counties in the state. These two species were seen on the same patch of flowers as several Brephidium isophthalma, yielding a most unusual (and rare) trio of blues! **HESPERIIDAE:** Urbanus dorantes, HL observed one at Lantana at Fort Johnson in Charleston (COUNTY) on September 25. This is perhaps the second record of the species for the state.



Left to Right: Newly emerged adult, Pupa, & Larva

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over into Virginia (Speyeria diana was having about the normal population) "Very dry conditions prevailed in Northeast Tennessee this summer, although isolated areas did receive up to about 80% of long term average rainfall. Butterfly populations were in general reduced from the norm, especially after July. Asterocampa clyton and Asterocampa celtis populations appeared strong however. Autumn has been both drier and warmer than usual, with Colias philodice and Junonia coenia on the wing as late as 9 December. Oddly enough, neither Agraulis vanillae nor Urbanus proteus put in an appearance to this collector in the mountains this fall."

TEXAS: Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhart Road, Houston, TX 77055; E-mail: eknudson@wt.net

Most of the reports that reached me for fall report are from the Lower Rio Grande Valley, as is usually the case for this season. Conditions were variable, and many tropical species were found, but usually in small numbers and duration. Knudson and Borderlon collected 31 October to 7 November 1999 in South Texas with about 95 species of butterflies observed or collected. At Lake Corpus Christi State Park on 31 October, we collected several fresh specimens of Strymon alea. At Yturria NWR in western Hidalgo County on 2 November, we observed Nymphalis antiopa, which was also sighted or photographed elsewhere in Hidalgo County in late 1999. I specimen of Strymon rufofusca was also collected at Yturria NWR.

At Santa Maria NWR, several specimens of Eurema दौरा were collected on 3 & 4 November. Eurema proterpia and Eurema boisduvaliana were common. One female of the arctiid moth, Phaloesia saucia was collected, as well as the day-flying geometrid, Melanchroia chephise. In a pheromone trap, which had been last checked in August, we found one specimen of Tirista praxila and several Carmenta albiciliata.

At the Audubon Palm Grove Sanctuary, on 5 & 6 November, conditions were very dry during our visit. We did find several specimens of Lasaia sula and Decinea percosius nectaring on Eupatorium. One male of the arctiid, Biturix venosata was collected at light.

At Boca Chica NWR, we found one new STATE record, which was the phycitine pyralid, Protasia miribilicornella (or possibly a new species close to this.). This species was described from San Diego, California, but omitted from the MONA check list by mistake.

J.F. (Terry) Doyle reported about 30 species from a trip to South Texas on 27 & 28 October 1999. The most interesting records were: Eurema proterpia (Brooks County, 6 mi. S. of Falfurrias); Melanis pixie (Hidalgo County, Palmview); Basilarchia archippus watsoni (Live Oak County, Tips State Park); Pyrgus philetas (Jim Wells County, 2 mi. E. of US 281, on FM 624); Terry remarked that conditions had been extremely dry prior to his trip and local rains did appear to bring out some butterflies. He noted a complete absence of the usual Lycaenidae.

Charlie Sassine submitted a copy of his report to the Lepidopterists' Society Season Summary, of which I will skim the cream for earlier publication. Some of these were reported in these pages previously. Strymon vojia was reported from Starr County, Roma, 2 April; Chlorostymon simaethis sarita, Hidalgo County, Penitas, 13 November; Anteos chlorinde, Cameron County, Rio Honda, 15 May; Ganyra josephina, Hidalgo County, El Zacatal, 15 May; Dione moneta, Starr County, Fronton, 23 Oct; Anartia fatima, Starr County, Roma, 15 May; Adelpha fessonia, Hamadryas februa, Memphis pythusa, and Biblis hyperis Starr County, Roma, 28 August; Siproeta stelenes from numerous locations in Starr and Hidalgo County's, 6 through 16 of November. Astraptes fulgerator, Starr County, Salineno, 23 October; and Agunda asander, Hidalgo County, Relampago, 8 August.

Altogether, about 110 species of butterflies were reported from the Lower Rio Grande Valley in the 1999 fall season.

Knudson and Borderlon made a successful trip to the Angelina National Forest on 4 December, to look for Buck Moths. In the company of Charles Ely and Craig Rudolph, we found Hemileuca maia maia flying in San Augustine County near Norwood, between 1100-1230 hours. We saw about 20 individuals and captured 5, all in fresh condition. Hemileuca grotei was found to be abundant at the Brackenridge Field Lab., University of Texas, Department of Entomology, in Austin, Texas, by James Gillaspie during late November.

VIRGINIA : Harry Pavulaan, 494 Fillmore Street, Herndon, VA 22070; E-mail: hpavulaan@aol.com

The fall of 1999 was another mild one, following the pattern of the previous year, precisely. Many late sightings were reported from throughout the state. An unusual abundance of Pontia protodice were recorded for the first time in many years, with many reports coming in from throughout the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, including from the Maryland side.

Note: Records listed by county or independent-city (equal to county status). Following the county/independent city listings are: date; name of nearest community and/or locality (if given); reporting person's initials; means of identification if known in parentheses; and any observational notes.

Key to sources: AC=Anne Chazel, BF=Barbara Farron, CJ=Carlene Jones (Monarch Watch report), HG=Harry Godwin, HP=Harry Pavulaan, LB=Larry Brindza (dplex-l internet newsgroup report), RL=Robert Lyon, SP=Sandra Pavulaan, WH=William Hark.

BUTTERFLIES: Urbanus proteus: Fairfax County: 9/20/99, Springfield, BF (photo); 9/25/99, Herndon, HP, female collected on Buddleia shrub, kept alive for 3 days in sleeve on a Wisteria vine, no ovipositions (specimen released). Thorybes bathyllus: Bland County (**COUNTY RECORD**): 6/3/94, Rocky Gap, Laurel Fork, HG (vouchered). Staphylus hayhurstii: Richmond City (**INDEPENDENT CITY RECORD**): (no date given), Great Shiplock Park, WH (website photo: <http://www.geocities.com/~billhark/menu.html>). Pyrgus communis: Loudoun County: 11/6/99, Leesburg, HP (sight), 100+ counted. Polites themistocles: Spotsylvania County (**COUNTY RECORD**): 9/12/99, Thornburg, HP (sight). Hesperia leonardus: Spotsylvania County (**COUNTY RECORD**): 9/12/99, Thornburg, HP (sight), fresh female being courted by male Atalopedes campestris. Panoquina ocola: Fairfax County: 9/8/99, Herndon, HP (sight). Papilio polyxenes: Loudoun Co.: 10/12/99, Leesburg, HP (net/release). Heraclides cressphontes: Fairfax County: 9/8/99, Herndon, HP (sight), unusual in northern Virginia suburbs. Papilio glaucus: Fairfax County: 9/25/99, Herndon, HP (sight), unusually late, fresh male. Pontia protodice: Fairfax County: 9/19/99, Lorton, LB (sight); 11/20/99, Herndon, HP (sight), fall form. Loudoun County: 10/1/99, Leesburg, HP (sight), 50+ summer form counted; 10/12/99, Leesburg, HP (vouchered), 100+ summer form counted; 11/6/99, Leesburg, HP & BF (photo), 30+ fall form counted; 11/13/99, Leesburg, HP (vouchered), 20+ fall form counted; 11/13/99, 11/18/99, Purcellville, RL (photo), fall form. Prince William County: 9/8/99, Quantico Marine Corps. Base, AC (sight). Pieris rapae: Fairfax County: 12/5/99, Herndon, HP (sight); 12/17/99, Herndon, SP (capture/release), cold-weather form "metra". Colias eurytheme: Fairfax County: 12/5/99, Herndon, HP (sight), nectaring on Scabiosa and ovipositing on Trifolium repens; 12/12/99, Herndon, HP (sight). Richmond City: 12/4/99, Maymont Park, WH (sight), several reported. Colias philodice: Fairfax County: 12/10/99, Herndon, SP (careful repeated observations). Richmond City: 12/4/99, Maymont Park, WH (sight), several reported. Phoebis sennae: Richmond City: 12/4/99, Maymont Park, WH (sight). Eurema nicippe: Bland County (**COUNTY RECORD**): 10/15/91, Rocky Gap, Laurel Fork, HG (vouchered). Fairfax County: 11/21/99, Mason Neck N.W.R. nr. Gunston Hall, HP (sight). Feniseca tarquinius: Bland County (**COUNTY RECORD**): 5/31/93, Rocky Gap, Laurel Fork, HG (vouchered). Calycopis cecrops: Spotsylvania Cov (**COUNTY RECORD**): 9/12/99, Thornburg, HP (sight). Strymon melinus: Loudoun County: Purcellville, RL (photos). Two specimens were photographed, indicating that both nominotypical melinus (9/2/95) and ssp. humuli (7/29/99) forms occur together. Euptoieta claudia: Richmond City: 12/4/99, Maymont Park, WH (sight). Speyeria cybele: Spotsylvania County: 9/12/99, Thornburg, HP (sight), 25+ females observed (unusually large number for the date). Phyciodes tharos: Richmond City: 12/4/99, Maymont Park, WH (sight). Phyciodes cocyta: Bland County (**COUNTY RECORD**): 6/14/99, Rocky Gap, Laurel Fork, HG (vouchered). Chlosyne ismeria nycteis: Grayson County; Junonia coenia: Richmond City: 12/4/99, Maymont Park, WH (sight), several reported. Danaus plexippus: Fredericksburg City (**INDEPENDENT CITY RECORD**): tagged 9/16/94, CJ (Monarch Watch Report), recovered March 95 in Anganguero, Mexico (2210 mile journey). Loudoun County: 11/13/99, Purcellville, RL (photo). Cercyonis pegala: Henrico County (**COUNTY RECORD**): 7/4/94, (no location given), WH (website photo: <http://www.geocities.com/~billhark/menu.html>).

BUTTERFLY SURVEYS, SUMMARIES:

Janet Bruner (Washington Area Butterfly Club) has observed and reared butterflies in her Arlington garden for several years, and provided a garden summary to me. Only positively-I.D.'ed species were reported. The following new **COUNTY RECORDS** were established from the summary. Interestingly, no record of these species has ever been published for Arlington County, nor are there any documented museum specimens: Epargyreus clarus, Thorybes bathyllus, Staphylus hayhurstii, Papilio troilus, Strymon melinus, Calycopis cecrops, Speyeria cybele, Clossiana bellona, Basilarchia archippus, Vanessa atalanta, Vanessa virginiensis, Vanessa cardui.

Alonso Abugattas (Washington Area Butterfly Club) has also observed, collected and reared butterflies in Arlington county for several years, especially at Longbranch Nature Center, and provided his own county summary. The following new **COUNTY RECORDS** were established from the summary, though many of the species are known to be generally common and widespread throughout the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Some of these records duplicate (corroborate) some species listed on Janet Bruner's summary: Papilio troilus (common at Longbranch Nature Center), Calycopis cecrops (common throughout 1999), Strymon melinus, Speyeria cybele, Vanessa atalanta, Vanessa cardui, Basilarchia archippus, Epargyreus clarus, Erynnis horatius, Staphylus hayhurstii (vouchered), Wallengrenia egeremet, Pompeius verna, Euphyes vestris.

Dick Smith (Maryland Entomological Society) provided a summary for two counties in extreme northern Virginia. Details will be made available at a future time. In the meantime, the following new **COUNTY RECORDS** were established from the summary, with date of record: Frederick County: Achalarus lyciades (1997), Thorybes pylades (1998), Nastra lherminier (1997), Polites mystic (1997), Atalopedes campestris (1999), Poanes zabulon (1999), Euphyes bimacula (1997), Heracles cressphontes (1999), Calycopis cecrops (1999), Strymon melinus (1999), Polygonia comma (1999), Vanessa atalanta (1997), Basilarchia arthemis arthemis, fully-banded (1997), Asterocampa clyton (1998), Enodia anthedon (1997). Shenandoah County: Achalarus lyciades (1998).

Anne Chazal and Chris Hobson (Virginia Division of Natural Heritage) performed a butterfly survey of the area around Kerr Reservoir in three counties, during 1997-98. A county summary was provided to me. Details will be made available at a future time. In the meantime, the following new **COUNTY RECORDS** were established from the survey: Charlotte County: Erynnis baptisiae, Pyrgus communis, Ancyloxypha numitor, Atalopedes campestris, Polites peckius, Polites themistocles, Polites origenes, Poanes zabulon, Lerema accius, Panoquina ocola, Papilio polyxenes, Papilio troilus, Colias eurytheme, Phoebis sennae, Eurema lisa, Calycopis cecrops, Libytheana bachmanii, Phyciodes tharos, Polygonia interrogationis, Polygonia comma, Basilarchia archippus, Junonia coenia, Asterocampa clyton, Hermeuptychia sosybius. Halifax County: Achalarus lyciades, Erynnis baptisiae, Ancyloxypha numitor, Atalopedes campestris, Polites origenes, Papilio troilus, Anthocharis midea, Phoebis sennae, Eurema lisa, Phyciodes tharos, Nymphalis antiopa, Polygonia interrogationis, Polygonia comma, Vanessa atalanta, Junonia coenia, Asterocampa clyton, Hermeuptychia sosybius, Danaus plexippus. Mecklenburg County: Ancyloxypha numitor, Atalopedes campestris, Polites peckius, Papilio glaucus, Papilio troilus, Anthocharis midea, Phoebis sennae, Eurema lisa, Eurema nicippe, Libytheana bachmanii, Speyeria cybele, Polygonia comma, Basilarchia arthemis astyanax, Junonia coenia, Asterocampa clyton, Danaus plexippus.