EST. 1978

Official Newsletter of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society

VOL: 22 NO. 4

MARCH 31, 2001

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

GONE AGAIN! YOUR EDITOR DEPARTS.

This issue of the newsletter brings an end to my service as Editor. This was the second time I have served the Society as your editor. It has been a difficult but satisfying experience. It has been filled with ups and downs. The most difficult task was rebuilding the confidence of the membership in the Society. The years of turmoil in the early 90's severely hampered the officers, then came the USF&W raids in 1992 and the prosecution of Lepidopterists for violating the ESA and USF&W regulation. One of this Society's founding principals was the reporting of records, regardless of whether it was scarce or extremely common. The issue of natural history records was and still is a vital part of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society. This newsletter (The News of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society) has reported more field records than any other society world wide. Lepidopterists became fearful of reporting their activities and the Lepidoptera that they collected which they believed would result in their collection being raided. This however has not been the case. Collection records and observations are very important. As urban development continues and the resulting loss of habitat, the records that we record today may become vital information in the future for the preservation of habitat and the Lepidoptera that occur in them.

There are those who believe that the collecting of butterflies is wrong. There are those who vehemently oppose collecting and will stop at nothing to prevent it. In the pages of this newsletter is my personal encounter with several individuals who oppose collecting. I support those who want to collect, however, collecting in protected areas such as National Wildlife Refuges, National and State Parks, or any other area that protects wildlife, is illegal and wrong.

The fear of confrontations with butterfly watchers in the field, the constant "there is no longer any need to collect" rhetoric from organizations that support the activity of butterfly watchers, the loss of habitat and now that most states require a collecting/research permit to collect in State Parks, State Forests and any other property owned by the state, have caused collectors to curtail or limit their activities and become very secretive of they are finding. What was once a continuation of a childhood pleasure has now become a tangle of regulation and legal wrangling's, and encounters with those who oppose collecting.

I was encouraged as a young boy to pursue my interest in insects, today there are very few young people who collect insects. We need to encourage those who want to explore the wonders of nature and to collect butterflies and moths as a scientific endeavor. (Cont. on Pg. # 68 Gone Again)

A DIFFICULT DECISION

I have had great difficultly deciding whether or not to publish the following article, "The Incident on Sugar Ridge." I presented this article to numerous Lepidopterists, both professional and amateur, for their review and most importantly, their opinion, should this article be published. The review was the easy part, I rewrote the article as not to be offensive to those who are butterfly watchers. I removed all the names of all the organizations and individuals involved. The decision to publish the article was the most difficult. The opinions of those who reviewed the article brought no clear choice. In the end it was my decision alone. I believe that this incident needs to be told.

THE INCIDENT ON SUGAR RIDGE BY LEROY C. KOEHN

I have been a Lepidopterist since I was a young boy. My fascination with butterflies and moths has increased as I have grown older. The boyhood hobby of collecting and studying Lepidoptera has grown to a great passion as an adult. As a teenager, I was encouraged by teachers, museum personnel, parents, and many adults in my pursuit of Lepidoptera. As an adult, I consider myself to be an ardent amateur Lepidopterists. However, what was once solely a pleasure, is slowly turning to aggravation. I became a target to some of those who believe that the collecting of butterflies is wrong.

During the past three years while a resident of Florida, Bob Beiriger of Loxihatchee, Dave Fine of Delray Beach, and I were surveying the Lepidoptera of south Florida. One area that has been of great interest to us has been the Sugar Ridge. the former shore line of Lake Okeechobee prior to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control, levee, and rim canal work around the Lake. The Sugar Ridge is the name given by the locals who live along the ridge as it is the barrier between the rim levee and the sugar cane fields. The Sugar Ridge is located on the northeast side of Lake Okeechobee that extends from Okeechobee County, through Martin County and ends in northwestern Palm Beach County. The ridge acts as a natural barrier and directs insects and birds either north or south along the ridge. We have been collecting Lepidoptera along the Sugar Ridge for the past two years and to date have recorded 606 species of butterflies and moths. The major method of collecting has been accomplished with bait traps, pheromone traps, and light traps. Bob Beiriger is also a Coleopterist and has been using various types of traps for beetles. We have sought and obtained permission of the land owners to collect and set out the traps on their property. Once the traps are in place, each of us takes turns monitoring the traps, recording the species and then servicing the traps. This requires a constant effort on our part and has been very rewarding.



Earlier this year I was contacted by the person arranging field trips in conjunction with a national organization of butterfly watchers who were meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida the weekend of 19, 20 & 21 May 2000. I suggested several areas for them to visit including a location on the Sugar Ridge at the Port Mayaca Locks in Martin County. Here they could find Siproeta stelenes, Marpesia petreus, Asterocampa flora, Asterocamps alicia, and many of the more common butterflies. The field trip coordinator and I have known each other for several years and we respect each others opinions and share information on Lepidoptera freely.

I gave no further thought to their meeting nor their field trips. However, all that changed the night of Sunday, 21 May 2000, when I received three telephone calls informing me that during the field trip to the Sugar Ridge location at Port Mayaca Locks that one of my traps had been destroyed and others tampered with by those attending the field trip. I was very upset to say the least. For the first time in my life, there was a direct attack on my passion and collecting work.

I visited the site of the incident on Monday, 22 May 2000, and notified the Martin County Sheriff's Department. The responding deputy knew of our activities and was aware that a group of some sort was in the area on Sunday.

I was provided with the names of the two individuals who destroyed the trap. The individual who hosted the meeting contacted both individuals and requested that they resolve the incident with me directly. Both of the individuals contacted me via the Internet. One explained his involvement in the incident: When the bait trap was originally found, it was lowered (It was approximately 30 feet up in a tree) and emptied of its contents. They returned to the bait trap a second time and noticed that there was no identification on the trap and **they presumed** that the bait trap was illegal and they cut the trap down and cut it up. They found a second trap which was also lowered, however, this trap had identification (I had used it the previous year in a state park that required identification.). This trap was not damaged, although it was emptied. The individual went on to further explain that they knew there were legal traps used by government agencies and that **they presumed** that the bait trap was illegal. The other wrote that the traps were illegal and she destroyed it to save the butterflies.

I informed these individuals that my traps were on private property and that I had the permission of the landowner to collect and set out traps. There are no laws prohibiting the use of traps to collect insects, including butterflies on private property. There are however, places that the use of traps for the collection of insects, including butterflies, requires a collecting/research permit. These included National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, Historic Sites and Monuments, State Parks, County Parks and any other areas where wildlife is protected and a collecting/research permit is required. Further, unless either of these individuals is a wildlife officer or law enforcement officer, they have no legal right or authority to destroy or remove my traps. If they believed that my traps were illegal, they should have reported the trap to a wildlife officer or a law enforcement agency. Just because they presumed the traps were illegal does not give them the right nor authority to destroy the trap. The destruction of the trap was the destruction of personal property and it is a crime! I also informed them that I had filed a complaint with the Martin County Sheriff Department and

THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

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The Southern Lepidopterists' Society is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the southern region of the United States. Membership dues are annual:

Regular	\$15.00
Student	\$12.00
Sustaining	\$25.00
Contributor	\$50.00

A newsletter, The News of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society is published four times annually.

Information about the Society may be obtained from the Membership Coordinator: Paul Milner, 272 Sky Drive, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

Dues sent to the Treasurer; Jeffrey R. Slotten, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653

In the end the two individual who destroyed the trap accepted their responsibility and paid for the trap. I promptly dropped all charges.

Although this brought an end to the sad episode, with the passage of time my emotions have settled down and I have been able come to some conclusions. First of all, there are individuals in the world who are vehemently opposed to the collecting of insects and will overreach sensible bounds to express their displeasure with collecting and collectors. Such people appear to be driven more by their emotions than by rational thought and consequently are seldom swayed by scientific argument. We as collectors can do little or nothing about them, but it is important that we recognize that they exist and acknowledge the remote possibility of conflict.

To this end I can think of nothing better to do than take the actions we all know are prerequisite to responsible collecting in the first place: Be absolutely sure that you are collecting at a site where such activity is not restricted (or obtain the necessary permit(s) if restrictions apply); obtain permission from landowners to use their property; and be as unobtrusive as possible. Furthermore, having determined that your activities are not in violation of any laws or regulations, defend your right to collect vigorously to a satisfactory conclusion if challenged in any way!

As collectors, we can do no more than go about our legitimate activities to the extent of our desire, understand that there are some who resent our right to do so, and we must defend our rights whenever necessary.

(Gone Again, Cont. from Front page.) Although I was the Editor, I had many people who provide me with help and encouragement. Jeff Slotten's, his devotion to the Society and his desire to see it flourish provide support, proof read copy and generally provide key in put in the decision making process. Drew Hildebrandt, his efforts to help rebuild the Society and increase the membership are greatly appreciated, and he is not even a Lepidopterist. (He is a confused Coleopterists who wants to be a Lepidopterists), Barry Lombardini, his encouragement, articles, and advise helped shape the newsletter. James Adams, I am not sure who was encouraging who, but he helped us both get the job done. John Calhoun, Paul Milner, John Hyatt, Roy Rings, Vernon Brou and Marc Minno, just to name a few, all provided articles, helped make key decisions and brought ideas that help guide the Society. To these people and to all those who helped me along the way, thank you. All of you are great!

I am now in Kentucky. I miss the south!

The following letter from Jim Taylor of Savannah, Georgia has nothing to do with Lepidoptera, but your Editor thought it was rather interesting and somewhat humorous.

Dear Leroy:

I know Editors are desperate for material, so I am sending you this e-mail in the hope you have nothing to publish and will put it in the Newsletter as filler. I need help and my neighbors need help - indeed, every lawn owner in Savannah needs help - with a problem which has little to do with Lepidoptera.

I'm talking about moles - creatures of the family Talpidae. Mine, I think, are of the genus Scalopus, perhaps aquaticus. They are meat eaters, and they burrow in the ground in search of prey. The problem is the ground they burrow in happens to be where my wife and I are attempting to grow grass and flowers and the like. My wife has developed a permanent crazed look, a crease between her eyes, and the habit of muttering to herself. I am grateful I can't fully understand what she is saying. My neighbors (particularly the one to my south) are even more upset with the damage than she is.

My first approach was to ask the members of the group with which I play golf for help, and they came up with a few home remedies. I was told that chewing gum would kill them. Simply chew, poke a hole in the tunnel, and insert the wad. Fifteen sticks of gum later, they were thriving. After questioning me for details of the attempt, my advisors suggested Spearmint wasn't the answer; perhaps I should try Juicy Fruit.

Another golfing buddy scoffed at the use of chewing gum, saying, "Moles don't chew; they eat. You need to plug up their gastrointestinal tract with something they'll eat but can't digest. Use Gummy Bears." That advisor was a medical doctor, but he doesn't know diddly about mole innards. The moles multiplied.

"You gotta make the tunnel smell bad," said a four handicap."Try mothballs." I always listen to four handicaps. I tried mothballs, castor beans, and a slurry of Tide detergent with a touch of ammonia. Still their numbers increased.

A waitress at the Club overheard the various conversations on moles and volunteered her sure-fire solution. She makes a hole in the tunnel at the low end, and her husband pokes another at a higher point. He then sticks a garden hose in the high end and turns it on full blast. She stations herself at the low hole, and when the mole washes out, she bashes him with a hatchet. She wields the hatchet because her husband (she said with a sniff) is too chicken to kill the beast.

I next bought a couple of spring-loaded traps at the hardware store - the sort our golf club maintenance people use. The theory is you mash the tunnels down in several places and mark the places with a button, coin, bottle cap, or the like. Examine them later. The mashed places pushed back up mark an active tunnel. Load the trap and place it over the site so found. After a bit, BANG! You skewered the passing mole on six spikes, and he'll never dig again.

This was successful, but not often enough to diminish the mole population to any significant degree. Then one day a visiting four year old grandchild insisted on running the trap line with me. It had been my habit to put my foot beside the tripped trap and pull it out of the mole and the ground at the same time, which practice obviates the need to bury the mole. Logan, however wanted to see, so I pulled the whole thing out of the ground. In retrospect, this wasn't the brightest thing I have ever done; the mole was still alive, albeit with two of the six prongs through his lights. Logan looked at me as if I had just thrown my old grandmother to the pigs, and I had to foreswear the use of such instruments in the future.

On the web I found an article stating moles were fearful of predators and wouldn't hang out where an odor indicated one was in residence. Panther pee was recommended, and was on sale at the site at \$99 per gallon. I viewed this price to be outrageous until I considered how much I would charge to get a gallon of pee from a disgruntled panther. I rejected the idea when I found applications were necessary after each rain. The way it rains down here most of the time, I'm not sure the panther could produce enough - and know I couldn't afford keep my half-acre saturated.

This time of year (October) is particularly bad because it must be the breeding season. Through the Spring and early Summer my lawn and flower beds sport large (in diameter) but deep tunnels. This time of year, the pups (or calves, or chicks) begin their forays, and the tunnels are smaller but much nearer the surface - and therefore more destructive. To the left of the deck is an area where the St. Augustine grass comes out like the ground had been receiving radiation treatments. I think they are forming a social club there, complete with passwords and secret paw shakes.

It struck me the other day (and here comes the insect connection) that they would go to another yard (maybe my neighbor to the south) if there were nothing to eat. I am certain I don't have mole crickets, chinch bugs, etc., but earthworms are plentiful in my lawn, and I think that is the meal of choice. For the first time ever, I considered putting down an insecticide. I surveyed the insect species in my yard. I have sand gnats - the infamous "no-seeums" - and nothing I can do can endanger them. If I could, I'd be richer than Bill Gates used to be. I also have night-flying moths hiding in the grass. No species I have, however, would be in danger of extinction - and they have already laid next year's crop of eggs. While I was considering what damage I might do to the earthworm population, I almost lost

I read the labels on several lawn spray products, and the one I chose claims to eradicate, among other things, chinch bugs, sod webworms, aphids, fire ants, and two species of small dinosaurs as well as frail Democrats. Earthworms weren't mentioned, but Democrats, even frail ones, are more pernicious than worms, so I figured it should work on them. I applied "as directed" and waited for the mass exodus of moles - I pictured the little devils coming out of the ground and charging toward the Atlantic like lemmings. It is now two weeks after the spraying, and I still have moles. I also still have moths in the grass and earthworms in the ground.

As I write this, my neighbor to the south is driving his golf cart up and down his lawn, mashing down mole tunnels. Anyone have a solution?

Jim Taylor, 4 Tangle Tree Ln., Savannah, GA. 31411; E-mail:1 iron@msn.com

TREASURERS REPORT FOR 2000

1/31/00 \$5.00

January 1st, 2000 Beginning Bank Balance = \$776.78 Expense Breakdown: *Bank Fees:

Dues = \$1871

Pete Ritenour

Contributions = \$687 2/29/00 \$5.00 3/31/00 \$5.30 Total \$15.30

Total Revenues = \$2558

Expenses = \$1331.69Printing and Postage Fees:

NEWSLETTER Postage \$110.10 Revenues minus Expenses = \$1226.31 Supplies \$47.25

Printing \$272.01 December 31st, 2000 Ending Bank Balance = \$2013.09 (there is a \$10 error I cannot account for since the above Postage \$110.29 **NEWSLETTER 2 2000** figures give the balance as \$2003.09 when it is actually Printing \$364.39 \$2013.09) **NEWSLETTER 3 2000** Postage \$80.57

Printing \$213.59 The following people made contributions:

Total \$1198.20 Howard Grisham \$425 Mack Shotts \$35

Bob Belmont \$35 Tom Neal \$35 Miscellaneous Expenses: Harry Godwin \$20 James Popelka \$15 Telephone, postage, meeting expenses, etc.= \$29.79

Tom Allen \$2 Abbot Award= \$88.40

The Sustaining members: (They gave \$10 over the normal \$15 dues) *(These can be eliminated with a daily balance of \$1000

and over) Kilian Roever Richard Romeyn J. Bolling Sullivan Charles Bordelon

Jeffrey R. Slotten George Balogh Jeff Robb 2000 SLS Treasurer Dale Clark Mike Ouinn Paul Milner Ben Williams

William Conner

Xanthopastis timais (Cram.) In Louisiana by Vernon Brou Jr.



Fig. 1 Distribution of Xanthopastis timais (Cram.) in Louisiana.

This pretty pink and black noctuid moth is found over much of Louisiana. Adults of this species have been taken in Ascension, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Ibberville, Jefferson, Lafrourche, Natchitoches, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, and West Feliciana parishes (Fig. 1). Based upon a sampling of captured adults, it appears this species has five broods in Louisiana with broods two through five occurring at approximately 42-day intervals (Fig. 2). The initial brood peaks about March 19. This species was originally reported for Louisiana by Chapin and Callahan (1967).

Literature Cited

Chapin, J.B. & P.S. Callahan. 1967. A list of the Noctuidae (Lepidoptera, Insecta) collected in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Proc. La. Acad. Sci. 30: 39-48.

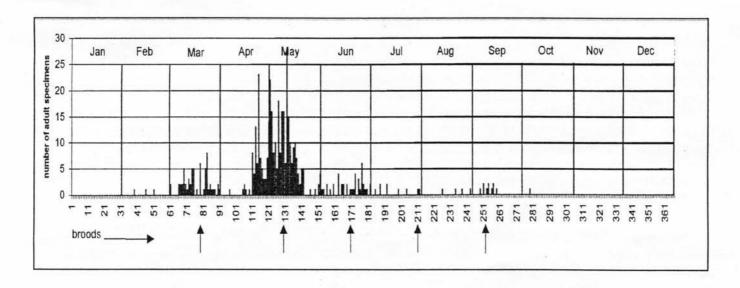


Fig. 2 Phenology of xanthopastis timais (Cram.) In Louisiana 1971-1999. N== 461

Acknowledgment: Special thanks to Dr. John Heppner of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods for compiling some of the label dates used in the preparation of this graph.

RESEARCH REQUEST & MEMBERS NOTICE

FOR SALE: LIGHT TRAPS: 12 volt DC or 110 volt AC with 15 or 20 watt black lights. The traps are portable and easy to use. Rain drains and beetle screens protect specimens from damage. For a free brochures and price list contact; Leroy C. Koehn, 202 Redding Rd., Georgetown, KY 40324; Tele.:502-570-9123; E-mail:Leptraps@aol.com

<u>FOR SALE</u>: BAIT TRAPS: 15" Diameter X 36" Height, collapsible for travel. Two types available: Flat Bottom and Inverted funnel. For a free brochure and price list contact; Leroy C. Koehn, 202 Redding Rd., Georgetown, KY 40324; Tele.:502-570-9123; E-mail:Leptraps@aol.com

RESEARCH REQUEST: I am researching the present day range and distribution of Mitoura sweadneri. This season I want to determine its northern and southern boundaries. I have recorded 20 dependable sites in six Florida counties. Most of these are along the coasts so any additional Florida locations will help fill in my outline. I'm especially interested in finding a zone where Mitoura gryneus and Mitoura sweadneri overlap perhaps in Alabama, Georgia, or South Carolina. Please send relevant data collected since 1985 including dates, and locations as specific as possible to: Akers Pence, 318 S.E. 71st St., Gainesville, FL, 32641-7798 or via e-mail: pence@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu Thank you for help.

STATE COORDINATOR REPORTS

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.

Telphusa latifasciella (J: 5-19-00); Givera anna (J: 6-2-00); Phaecasiophora niveiguttana (M: 3-24-00); Gretchena deludana (M: 4-7-00); Compacta capitalis (J: 6-2-00); Salebriaria rufimaculatella (J: 5-5-00); Thyris maculata (M: 6-18-00); Dysadia oculatana (J: 6-2-00); Pimaphera sparsaria (J: 2-25-00); Manduca rustica (M: 8-4-00); Manduca jasminearum (J: 7-3-00); Sphinx canadensis (J: 6-12-00 J: 8-25-00); Sphinx francki (J: 6-23-00 J: 7-3-00); Sphinx kalmiae (J: 6-9-00 J: 8-25-00); Metria amella (M: 5-2-00); Spiloloma lunilinea (J: 6-23-00); Chrysanympha formosa (J: 6-2-00); Acronicta noctivaga (J: 6-23-00); Oligia chlorostigma (M: 5-30-99); Amphipoea velata (J: 6-9-00); Iodopepla u-album (J:6-2-00); Lithophane antennata (M: 4-7-00); Pyeferra citrombra (J: 2-25-00); Eupsilia sidus (J: 2-11-00); Polio detracta (J: 6-9-00); Orthodes crenulata (J: 6-30-00); Xanthopastis timais (J: 6-9-00); Agrotis malefida (M: 5-2-00); Agrotis subterranea annexa (J: 4-27-00); Abagrotis alternata (M: 6-10-00).

On August 1, 2000, Jon Kegler and Howard Grisham collected at Hollytree, Jackson County, Alabama, on Bingham Mountain, by 1000 watt mercury vapor light. The following <u>Catocala</u> were taken: <u>Catocala amica</u>, <u>C. dejecta</u>, <u>C. maestosa</u>, <u>C. retecta</u>, <u>C. robinsoni</u>, <u>C. angusi</u>, <u>C. flebilis</u>, <u>C. obscura</u>, <u>C. residua</u>, <u>C. sappho</u>, <u>C. palaeogama</u>, <u>C. neogama</u>, <u>C. nebulosa</u> (fresh and beautiful!), and <u>C. piatrix</u>.

ARKANSAS: Mack Shotts, 514 W. Main Street, Paragould, AR, 72450; E-mail: cshotts@grnco.net

FLORIDA:16356 Trafalgar Drive, East, Loxahatchee, FL 33470; E-mail: brts@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

Rick Gillmore of Winter Park, Florida gave me this short report:

Empyreuma affinis Roths. A pair collected on the wall of a motel during the daytime at Cocoa Beach, Brevard County, Florida, March 11th, 2000. Electrostrymon angelia Hewitson. Adults found on April 1st in the in Cocoa Beach, Brevard County, Florida flying around some flowering tree and landing on the blossoms.

Jeff Slotten is conducting a study of the moths associated with cane brakes and salt marshes in northern Florida under the guidance of Eric Quinter. Jeff reported the following species which were identified with the help of Hugo Kons, a recent graduate of the Ph.D. program in entomology at the University of Florida in Gainesville:

- 1) Eric Quinter's species #3 Papaipema one male. FL; Liberty County, Hwy 67 Apalachicola National Forest, 27-X-2000, at UV light, cane brakes habitat.
- 2) <u>Grammia parthenice intermedia</u> one male and one female very large. FL: Alachua County, Gainesville, San Felasco Hammock State Park, 5-XI-2000, at UV light, cane brakes habitat, with state park permit. Also, on October 22nd, one male <u>Parapamea buffaloensis</u> was collected in the same habitat.

Nepheloleuca sp. (probably <u>floridata</u>) 3 males and 1 female. FL: Alachua County, Gainesville, University of Florida Campus Veterinary College, 4-XI-2000, at UV lights, cane brakes babitat.

- 3) <u>Epiglaea apiata, Anacamptodes defectaria, Argyrostrotis flavistriaria, Xestia dilucida, Orgvia leucostigma, Lymatophora approximaria, Eupithecia sp., Zale lunata, Nomophila nearctica.</u> FL: Liberty County, Apalachicola National Forest, Hwy 67, 24-XI-2000, at UV lights, cane brakes habitat.
- 4) Sphalacelodes vulneraria one male. FL: Alachua County, CR 241 near Alachua, 25-XI-2000, at UV lights, cane brakes habitat.
- 5) <u>Papaipema speciosissima</u> one female, <u>Spodoptera frugiperda</u>, <u>Spodoptera dolichos</u>, <u>Condica confederata</u>, <u>Chaetaglaea tremula</u>, <u>Anomis illita</u>, <u>Pseudaletia unipuncta</u>, <u>Lochmaeus manteo</u>, <u>Xestia dilucida</u>, <u>Zale lunata</u>, <u>Condica cervina</u>. No <u>Papaipema duovata</u> were seen. This is one of the species I am researching. FL: Franklin County, ST. George Island State Park, at UV lights, salt marsh habitat, with state park permit.
- 6) Agrotis venerabilis, Xestia dilucida. Again, no Papaipema duovata were seen. FL: Duval County, Ft. George near the Talbot Islands State Parks, with state park permits.

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

This fall there were good flights of two sphingids, the Pink-Spotted (Agrius cingulatus) and Mournful (Enyo lugubris) sphingids, in north Georgia. Most years these two species are seen very sparingly. Records listed below are from James Adams, Irving Finkelstein (IF), Bill Russell (BR), or Jeff Slotten (JS); most 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 Co. Rd 202 (Hurricane Rd.), south off Dug Gap Battle Rd, just SW of Dalton, Whitfield County; "Car." represents Carbondale, exit 326 (formerly 136) off I-75, Whitfield County; "Bar." represents NE corner of Bartow County, 5 mi. SE of Fairmount; "Gates" represents Gates Chapel Rd., 8 mi. WNW of Ellijay, Gilmer County; "Lump" represents the Dahlonega/Cane Creek area, Lumpkin County; "Dil" represents Dillard, Rabun County; "Bur" represents N. end of Lake Burton, Rabun County; "RTM" represents the Red Top Mountain State Park exit (number 285) off I-75, Bartow County; "Atl" represents Atlanta (residences of either IF or BR), Fulton County.Definite county/state records are indicated.

HESPERIIDAE: Staphylus hayhursti, 24 July 1993, Taylor's Ridge, Walker County (IF). LYMANTRIIDAE: Dasychira dorsipennata, 12 Aug. 2000, (Bur., COUNTY, BR); D. plagiata, 31 Aug. 1998 and 5 Sept. 1999 (Gates, COUNTY, IF). NOCTUIDAE: Ophiuche minualis, 1 Nov. 2000 (COUNTY); Zale metata, 5 Sept. 2000 (Gates, IF); Z. buchholzi, 24 March 2000 (RTM, COUNTY, IF); Zale phaeocapna, 27 March 1997 (RTM, IF); Catocala vidua and C.lacrymosa, seen into November; Elaphria cornutinus, 15 May 1993, Cohutta Overlook, Gilmer County, 1 mile east of the Murray/Gilmer County line, Hwy. 52 (BR); Papaipema polymniae, 18 Oct. 2000 (Bar.); P. cerrusata, 18 Oct. 2000 (Bar.); P. furcata, 18 Oct. 2000 (Bar.), 21 Oct. 2000 (from my back porch), and 22 Oct. 2000 (Car.); NEWS OF SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

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P. lysimachiae, 3 Oct. 2000 (Gates,IF); P.eupatorii, 18 and 25 Oct. 2000 (Bar.); P.necopina, 25 Oct. 2000 (Lump., STATE, IF); P. cataphracta, 25 Oct. 2000 (Bar.), also 25 Oct. 2000 (Lump., BR); Papaipema sp. (one of the cane feeders that Eric Quinter is going to describe [sp. 4]), 18 Oct. 2000 (Bar., STATE); Oligia illocata. 21 Oct. 2000 (Bur., third in state, BR); Oligia mactata, 14, 28 & 25 Oct. 2000 (Bar., STATE); Lithophane querquera, 16 Oct. 2000 (Dal.); L. patefacta, 1,3, & 4 Nov. 2000 (Car.); L. antennata, 19 Nov. 2000 and 14 Jan. 2001; L. joannis, 19 Nov. 2000 (STATE); Pyreferra pettiti, 25 Oct. 2000 (Bar., COUNTY); Metaxaglaea inulta, 29 and 31 Oct. 2000; Chaetaglaea tremula, 19 Oct. 2000 (Car., STATE); Xylotype capax, 16 and 30 Oct. 2000 (Dal.); Sutyna privata, 30 Sept. 2000 (RTM, COUNTY, IF); Agnorisma bollii (females), 25 Oct. 2000 (Bar.), also 5 Nov. 2000, Rocky Face area, Whitfield County; Schinia petulans, 1 Oct. 1999, Hawkinsville, Pulaski County (BR). GEOMETRIDAE: Cymatophora approximaria, 30 Oct. 2000; Apodrepanulatrix liberaria, 16 Oct. 2000 (Dal.); Paleacrita merricata, 15 Jan. 2001 (COUNTY).

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

There was a very poor flight of northbound migrants this fall. Perhaps the drought in Florida and other southern states for much of the year was the chief factor in such low numbers of strays into North Carolina.

LYCAENIDAE: Feniseca tarquinius, a very good count was nine seen in Duke Forest in Durham on September 8 by Will Cook. NYMPHALIDAE: Vanessa cardui, the entire year was very poor for this western visitor, and reports came only from Buncombe, Ashe, and New Hanover. Danaus gilippus, this was a dismal year for this species, but Randy Emmitt succeeded in finding one in New Hanover on August 26. Hurricanes in autumn 1999 probably came close to wiping out this northern outpost colony site. HESPERIIDAE: Hesperia leonardus, this species was specifically looked for, and found, at sites in Wake, Chatham, and Harnett in October, by Harry LeGrand, John Dole, and Tom Howard. Most were nectaring on Aster grandiflorus on margins of roads. Poanes aaroni aaroni: A very good count of nine was made by Jeff Pippen and party in mainland DARE on September 9. This species appears to be limited to slightly brackish marshes along the northern coastal counties in the state, with the above site representing the southern outpost for this subspecies. Euphyes berryi: Several were again found this fall at the northernmost site for the species in DARE. Rich Cech had the best count of four on September 3-4.

The following noteworthy moth species were recorded by Steve Hall and Bo Sullivan on a sampling trip to Fort Bragg on October 25, 2000.

NOCTUIDAE: Lemmeria digitalis: (STATE) 1 specimen was collected at the type locality for Neonympha mitchellii francisci in Cumberland County. This wetland species has apparently not been previously recorded south of New Jersey and may have habitat affinities and a distribution similar to the satyr. Papaipema n. sp.: (COUNTY) 7 specimens were collected at the same site as for Lemmeria. Cane is rapidly taking over this wetland, increasing the habitat for this species as well as for several cane-feeding butterflies, but decreasing the open sedge-marsh habitat needed by the satyr and probably by Lemmeria. Xylotype capax (COUNTY) 2 specimens were collected in flatwoods along the Little River in Moore County. This barrens species has previously been recorded in the North Carolina mountains but not in the Coastal Plain.

The following noteworthy moth species were collected by Bo Sullivan on October 3, 2000 at Grandfather Mountain in Avery County.

NOCTUIDAE: Pachypolia atricornis (STATE). <u>Lithophane baileyi</u> (COUNTY). Previously recorded in North Carolina in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Swain County and by Bo Sullivan at Mt Mitchell in Yancey County: <u>Lithophane georgii</u>: (COUNTY). Previously recorded in North Carolina by Bo Sullivan at Mt. Mitchell.

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