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 (WEBSITE: www.southernlepsoc.org/)

J. BARRY LOMBARDINI: EDITOR

ERINNYIS ALOPE (DRURY) REARING NOTES IN FLORIDA

BY
JEFF SLOTTEN

Erinnyis alope (Drury), the Alope Sphinx, ranges throughout the Neotropical Region from northern Argentina north to Arkansas and Kansas as strays, according to Hodges (1971). Though adult moths can be found feeding on flowers at dusk to dawn, they are seldom encountered. They are not readily attracted to lights or bait. In Florida, the moth is resident throughout the peninsula and larvae are readily encountered on locally grown papayas (*Carica papaya* L.). Covell(1984) lists *Allamanda* sp. and *Jatropha* sp. as other host plants.

I have had the pleasure of rearing this beautiful sphinx moth in Gainesville, Florida. Thanks to fellow Southern Lepidopterist member Tom Neal, I have been able to record the life history through the accompanying photos from stock collected on his papaya trees in Gainesville (Please See Color Insert B: Fig. 1). Tom has set up native plant communities in his yard. The papayas were planted near nectar sources for the adult moths. The green, round ova are laid on the undersides of the leaves. Larvae eclose about one week after they are laid and do not eat the entire egg shell (Fig. 2). Larvae develop rapidly (hey, it's a harsh environment out there!). Young larvae are very well camouflaged on the leaves and stems of papaya. As the larvae mature, they become more secretive and disappear during the day by hiding on the stem of the plant tucked underneath the leaf and flower joints. The larvae have a brown and a green form (Fig. 3). A closeup view of the green form can be seen in Fig. 4 and of the brown form in Fig. 5.

The mature larvae pupate in the soil and debris after they drop or crawl off the plant. The larvae make cells in the soil with strands of silk surrounding the cells. Cocoons are flimsy and may serve to keep dirt and debris away from the larvae during pupation to prevent deformation. Pupae are brown and the tongue cases are tucked into the pupae (Fig. 6) in contrast to some sphingid pupae whose tongue cases are exposed.

Adults emerge within a month of pupation (Fig. 7). They are inactive during the day and begin to take flight in the

late afternoon and early evening. Normally the adult rests with its hindwings tucked under the forewings. When the resting moth is disturbed, the yellow-orange hindwing color is exposed and may serve to surprise a predator.

Literature Cited

Covell, C.V. 1984. *A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America.* Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

Hodges, R.W. 1971. *The Moths of America North of Mexico.* Fascicle 21. *Sphingoidea.* E. W. Classey Limited and R. B. D. Publications Inc.

(Jeffrey R. Slotten, D.D.S., FSCA Research Associate, 5421 N.W. 69th Lane, Gainesville, Florida 32653)

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NEW BOOK: LEPIDOPTERA OF FLORIDA. PART 1. INTRODUCTION AND CATALOG

BY

J. B. HEPPNER (AND 6 COLLABORATORS)

670pp, 55 plates. Arthropods of Florida and Neighboring Land Areas. Vol. 17.

The new Florida catalog is published as of December 29, 2003, by the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, for the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA) series, Arthropods of Florida. It treats 2,941 resident species of Lepidoptera in Florida. Many of these also occur in the southeastern USA. The 55 plates illustrate 1,697 specimens, so about half the fauna is illustrated (reprinting of Kimball plates from 1965 in black and white, plus 29 added plates including 12 butterfly plates that Kimball had prepared but which were not included in his 1965 catalog). The text gives synoptic data for each species: regional range in Florida, months of adult activity, and all recorded hostplants. Future parts will treat each species in more detail. The introductory pages give a historical synopsis, notes on Florida and its habitats and climate as this relates to Lepidoptera, gazetteer of Florida localities, and lists of exotic, endemic, pest, beneficial, and stray species in Florida, as well as notes on erroneous records, plus field techniques, basic morphology, classification, family names, keys to families, generic synopsis of the fauna, and a list of name changes. After the main catalog there are a references section and indexes to hostplants, species, genera, and common names. The catalog is available for $45 spiral bound, or $55 perfect bound, postpaid in the USA. Send orders to the author for invoicing (checks payable only to Center for Systematic Entomology).

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COLOR INSERT A - VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

Vernon illustrates in Color Insert A, color versions of the specimens from recent past black and white articles, along with color images of both sexes for 4 species of the noctuidae genus *Mocis.* The June issue of the SL newsletter will have an article by Vernon on the genus *Mocis* which contains often confused species found all across the Gulf States.

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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 or the Society Website: www.southernlepsoc.org/

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DEFINITIONS:

Fulvous -- Tawny brown or dull orange; also dull reddish-yellow or brownish-yellow.

Hyaline -- Glassy or shiny; translucent; transparent as glass.

Melanic -- Particularly dark or blackish. Refers to ***melanin*** which is a brownish-black pigment found in skin, hair, and other animal tissues.

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THE OCCURRENCE OF *ACTIAS LUNA* (L.) IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

Ferguson 1972, discusses the luna moth, ***Actias luna*** (Linnaeus) (Fig. 1), in five pages of text covering most aspects of this well known and beautiful pale green species. He reviews the validity of names for nine forms and synonyms from Nova Scotia to Texas, and reducing them all to a single species due to population variation and lack of consistent and definitive distinguishable characters.

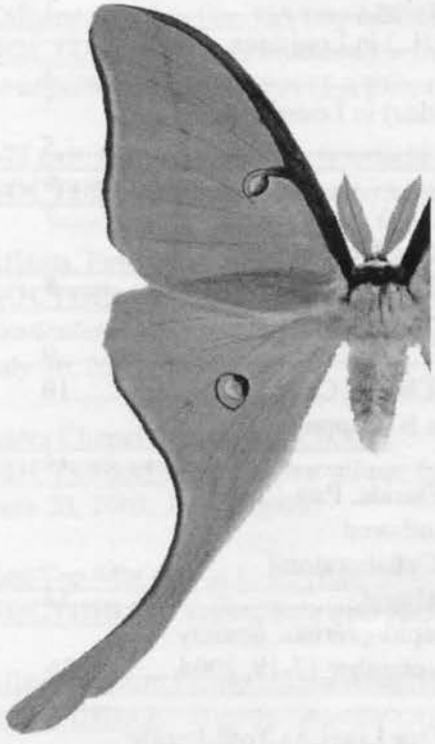

Fig. 1. ***Actias luna*** male, spring brood.

Ferguson 1972, discusses the one brood in the northern states and two broods in middle states and three broods in southern states. In Louisiana, ***luna*** was first reported by von Reizenstein, 1863, and appears to occur abundantly across the state based on my records (Fig. 2). Based on dates of capture (Fig. 3), there appear to be five annual broods in Louisiana, first brood peaking end of March and at 36-day intervals. The second brood is minimally populated, as often found in other lepidoptera species in Louisiana.

With each successive brood, the wing shape broadens and richness of green coloration fades to a very pale light green in the last brood. The purple border of the outer wing edges is usually evident only in the first brood.

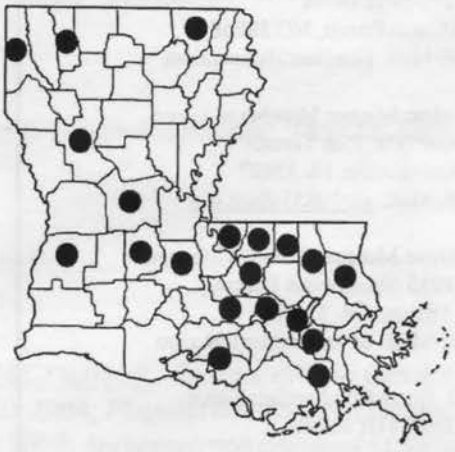

Fig. 2. Parishes in which ***Actias luna*** have been captured.

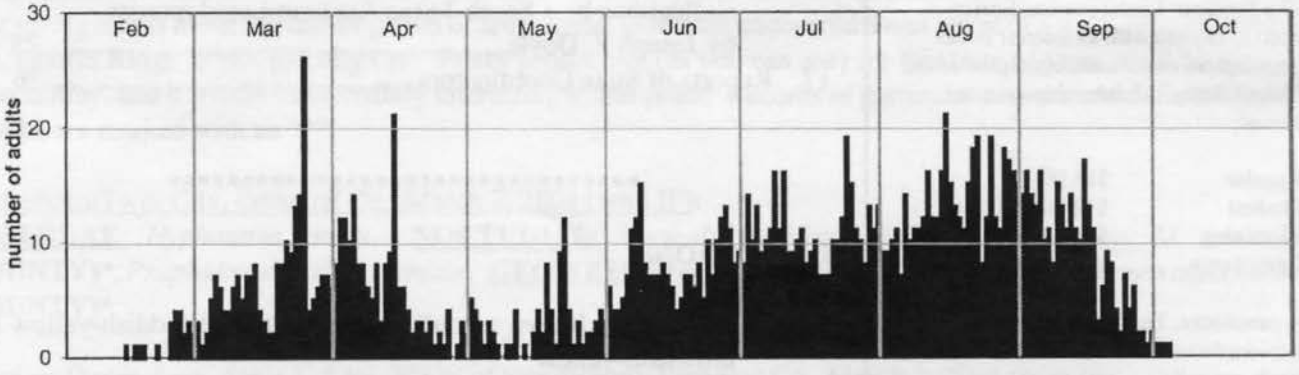

Fig. 3. ***Actias luna*** taken as sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 1757.

Literature Cited

Ferguson, D.C. in **Dominick, R. B. *et al.***, 1972. *The Moths of America North of Mexico*, fasc. 20.2B, Bombycoidea (in part), The Curwen Press, London, England.

von Reizenstein, L. 1863. *Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of New Orleans and its vicinity*. Isacc T. Hinton. New Orleans. 8 pp.

(Vernon Antoine Brou Jr. 74320 Jack Loyd Road, Abita Springs, Louisiana, 70420; e-mail: vabrou@bellsouth.net)

THE GENUS *PERIDEA* (NOTODONTIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

Three species of the Notodontidae genus ***Peridea*** Stephens are listed by Hodges (1983) as occurring in America, north of Mexico. In Louisiana, all three species (Fig. 1) have been taken by this author, though only ***Peridea angulosa*** (J.E. Smith) appears widespread and common (Figs. 2 & 3). Four males and one female of ***Peridea basitriens*** (Walker) have been collected from several locations in West Feliciana Parish (Fig. 3) in the months April through July. Seven males and two females of ***Peridea ferruginea*** (Packard) have been collected from Beauegard, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany Parishes (Fig. 3) in the months of June and July.

Covell (1984) states records for ***basitriens*** April-Oct, common. Based on Louisiana and literature records from elsewhere, I suspect ***basitriens*** has four annual broods in Louisiana. For ***angulosa*** it is evident that there are 4 broods in Louisiana (Fig. 2), first brood peaking about April 13 and at subsequent 53-day intervals. The second brood of ***angulosa*** being least populated of the four. For ***ferruginea***, the nine Louisiana records indicate they were collected from a single brood occurring June-July, though literature records from elsewhere indicate there may be at least an earlier brood also.

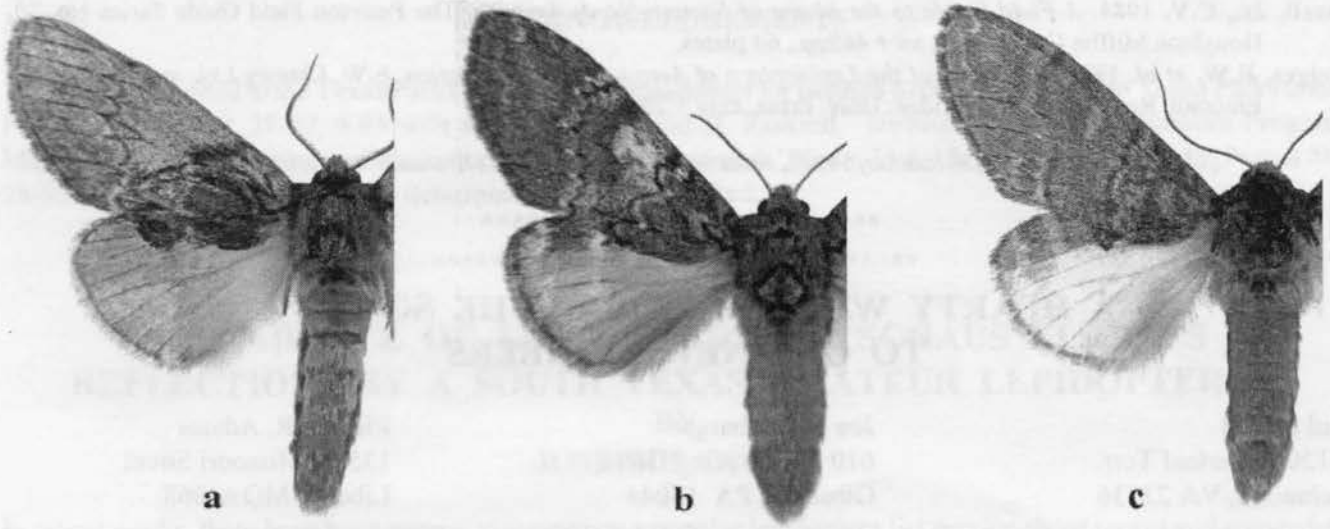

Fig. 1. ***Peridea*** of Louisiana: a. ***P. basitriens***, b. ***P. angulosa***, c. ***P. ferruginea***.

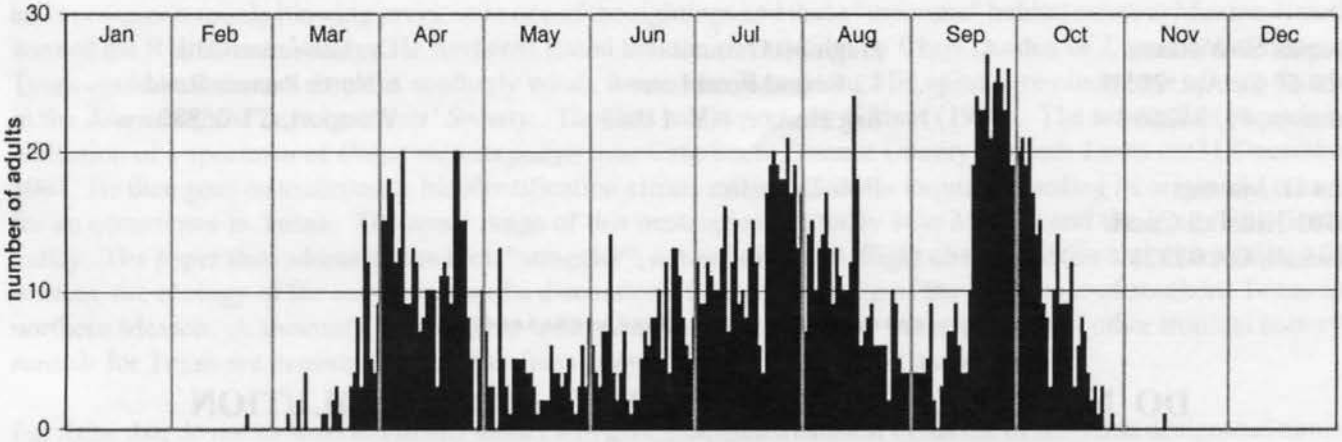

Fig. 2. ***Peridea angulosa*** adults captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 2086.

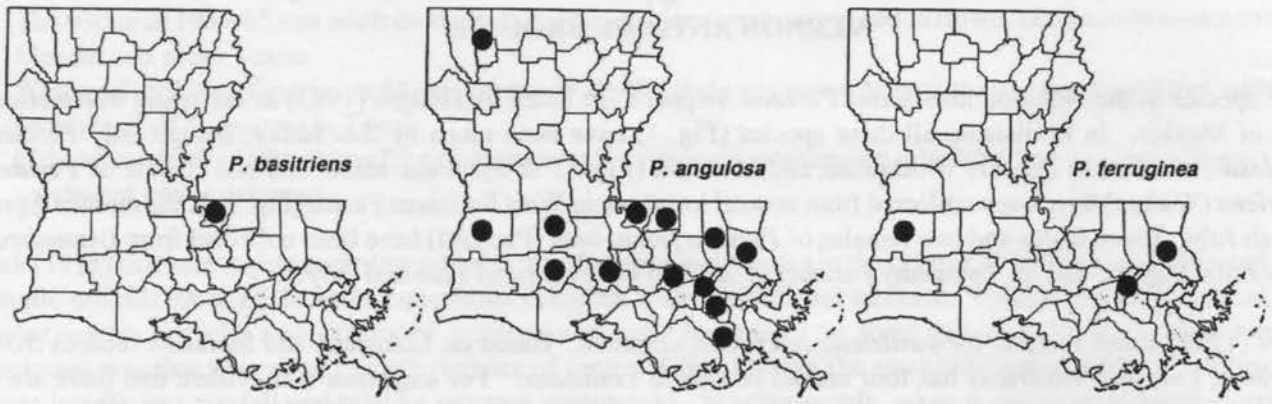

Fig. 3. Louisiana parish locations in which ***Peridea*** species have been recorded.

Literature Cited

Covell, Jr., C.V. 1984. *A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America*. The Peterson Field Guide Series No. 30, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. xv + 469pp., 64 plates.

Hodges, R.W. *et al.* 1983. *Checklist of the Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico*. E.W. Classey Ltd. and The Wedge Entomol. Res. Found., Cambridge: Univ. Press. xxiv + 284 pp.

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A HEARTY WELCOME FROM THE SOCIETY TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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Dr. Lawrence Gall
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DO NOT FORGET YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Fellow Members please do not forget to write an article on some aspect of Lepidoptera for the coming year. Surely there must be some news item that you would want to share with the other members of the Society. Pictures are always welcome. Thanks - The Editor.

CISTHENE PLUMBEA IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

The small lichen feeding arctiidae moth ***Cisthene plumbea*** Stretch (Fig. 1) is reported by Covell (1984) to occur commonly from New York and Wisconsin to Florida and Texas, with two annual broods. In Louisiana, it is the most abundantly occurring species of the genus across the state (Fig. 2). In Louisiana, ***plumbea*** has three annual broods occurring about two and one-half months apart, first brood peaking late April (Fig. 3). The population of the second brood is less than the first and the third brood less than the second. The color of ***plumbea*** forewings is lead gray with costal edge yellow, as is the inner margin, and with a yellow triangular patch at the inner margin near anal angle. The hindwing is mostly pink to reddish-pink, with a lead gray triangular patch near apex. The head and dorsal thorax are lead gray. The collar, tegula and abdomen are also reddish-pink. Occasional specimens occur in which all red color is replaced entirely with yellow.

Fig. 1. Adult ***Cisthene plumbea***, male.

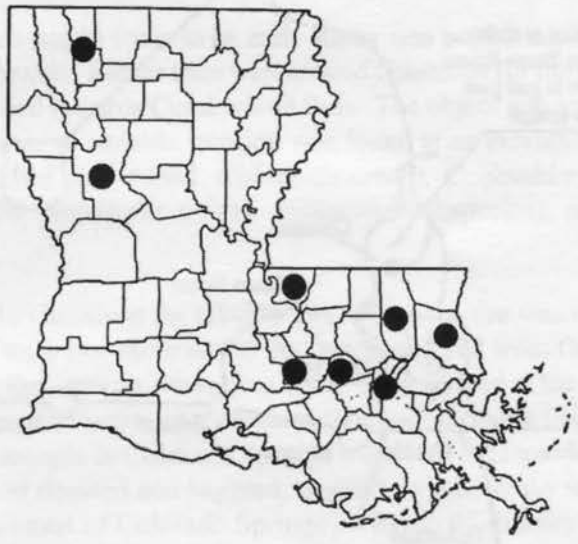

Fig. 2. Parish records for ***C. plumbea***.

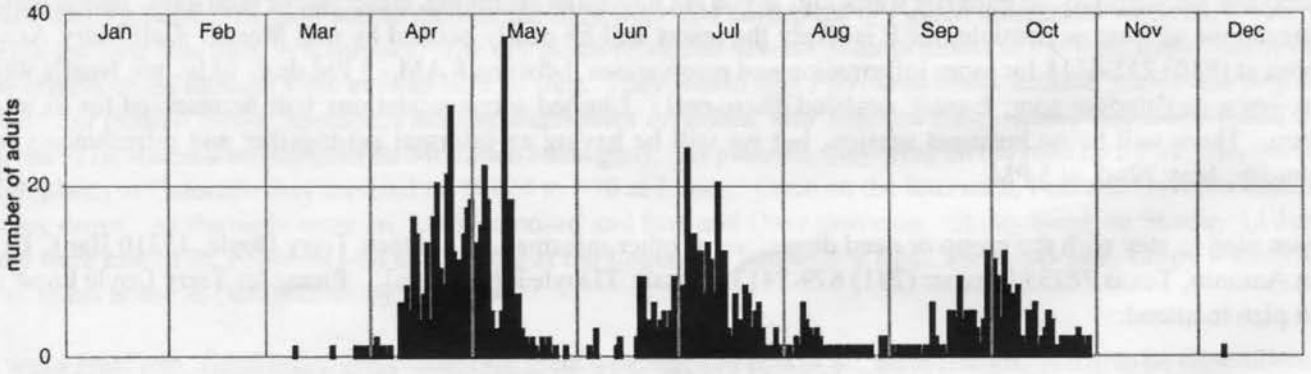

Fig. 3. Adult ***Cisthene plumbea*** captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 1016.

Literature Cited

Covell, Jr., C.V. 1984. *A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America.* The Peterson Field Guide Series No. 30. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. xv + 469pp., 64 plates.

(Vernon Antoine Brou Jr., 74320 Jack Loyd Road, Abita Springs, Louisiana 70420; e-mail: vabrou@bellsouth.net)

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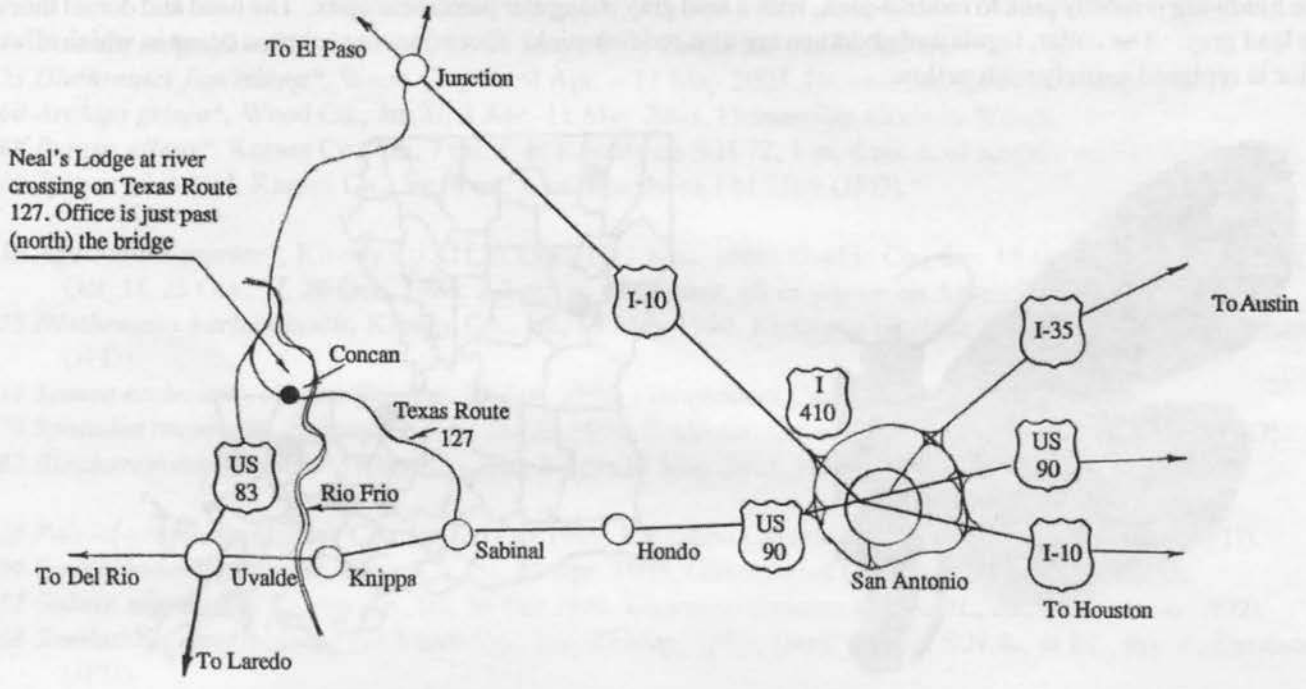
NOTICE: SPRING FIELD MEETING TO BE HELD IN CONCAN, TEXAS MAY 21-23, 2004

A spring field meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society will be held in Texas and take place in Concan, Uvalde County, the weekend of May 21-23, 2004. The location will be at Neal's Vacation Lodges on the Frio River.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS TO SPRING FIELD MEETING AT

NEAL'S LODGE, CONCAN, TEXAS



This will be a great opportunity to meet out-of-state members and enjoy a few days (and nights) of outstanding collecting, photography, or butterfly watching. If you are interested in coming, either one or both days, please make reservations as soon as possible, for it is likely the resort will be nearly booked by mid March. Call Mary Anna Roosa at (830) 232-6118 for more information and reservations, between 8 AM - 5 PM daily [Also see Neal's web site: www.nealslodges.com; E-mail: nealslod@hctc.net]. Limited accommodations will be reserved for us as a group. There will be no business session, but we will be having an informal get-together and refreshments on Saturday, May 22nd, at 5 PM.

If you plan to stay with the group or need directions or other information, contact: Terry Doyle, 13310 Bar C Dr., San Antonio, Texas 78253 [Phone: (231) 679-7413, E-mail: TDoyle3@aol.com]. Please let Terry Doyle know if you plan to attend.

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DEFINITIONS: ***Polymorphism*** -- The occurrence of several distinct forms within a species. The condition in which a species has two or more very different morphological forms, as in the castes of social insects.

Prairie -- A broad, level, or rolling grassland containing arid and moist areas

Scree – A loose, unstable rockslide, or the rock pile at the base of a cliff or slope.

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PROCHOERODES TRANSVERSATA (DRURY) IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

The large brown-colored geometrid moth ***Prochoerodes transversata*** (Drury) (Fig. 1), commonly called the Large Maple Spanworm is quite common in Louisiana (Fig. 2). Adults can be encountered in any month of the year, but this species appears to have five consistent broods in Louisiana, occasionally six or seven, occurring at about 38-day intervals, but the second brood contains about 90% of the annual population, peaking in early June (Fig. 3). Wagner, *et al.* (2001) also reports a single principal generation. This species is reported by Covell (1984) to occur throughout the eastern U.S., April through October. Numerous trees, grasses, and flowers are listed in the literature as foodplants, which may account for the commonness of the species.

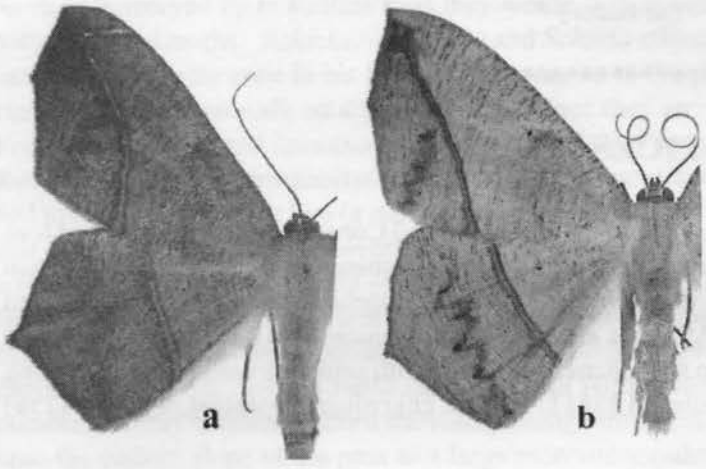

Fig. 1. ***Prochoerodes transversata***: a. male, b. female.

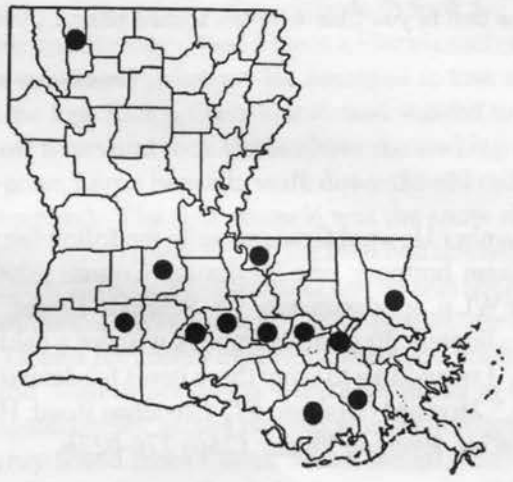

Fig. 2. Parish records for ***Prochoerodes transversata.***

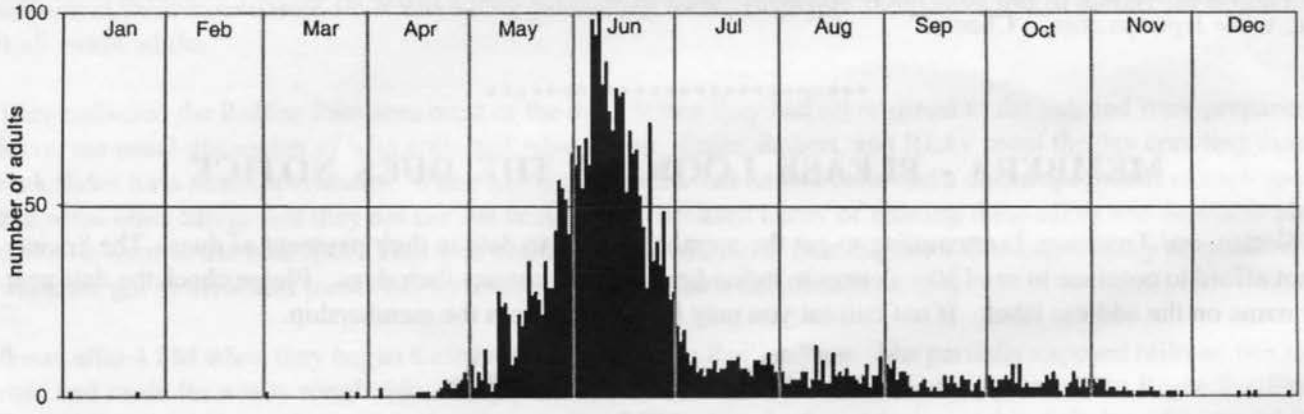

Fig. 3. Adult ***Prochoerodes transversata*** captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 3301.

Literature Cited

Covell, Jr., C.V. 1984. *A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America.* The Peterson Field Guide Series No. 30. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. xv + 469pp., 64 plates.

Wagner, D. L., D. C. Ferguson, T. L. McCabe, R. C. Reardon, 2001. *Geometroid Caterpillars of Northeastern and Appalachian Forest.* USDA, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team, 239 pp.

(Vernon Antoine Brou Jr., 74320 Jack Loyd Road, Abita Springs, Louisiana 70420; e-mail: vabrou@bellsouth.net)

ANNOUNCEMENT: RETIREMENT OF CHARLES COVELL JR.

After 40 years at the Biology Department, University of Louisville, Charlie Covell is retiring. Beginning July 1, 2004, he will assume the post of Senior Research Scientist and Curator of Moths at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Director Tom Emmel's offer includes a likely Adjunct Professorship in the Department of Entomology, University of Florida. This will enable Charlie to advise graduate students and otherwise become involved with the Entomology program. Charlie received his Ph.D. in Entomology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in June, 1965, a year after joining the faculty at Louisville. He intends to continue his involvement in research on the New World Geometridae, especially Sterrhinae, and on butterfly and moth faunistics in general. He expects to continue his service to the Lepidopterists' Society and the Kentucky, Ohio, and Southern Lepidopterists.

[Charlie is retiring from a distinguished career at the University of Louisville only to metamorphose in Florida to a second career. All the best to you Charlie in this second phase of your life. - The Editor]

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NOTICES

1) Member Howard Grisham write the following notice: "I have approximately 60 Cornell drawers with hinged tops and foam bottoms; one 20 drawer Cornell 2000 series walnut grain formica cabinet (BioQuip Products - Item 2012FWL); approximately 75 Schmidt Boxes: three custom eight drawer cabinets with custom drawers; and approximately 30 custom drawers without a cabinet. All items are from old collections and incompatible with my setup. I would like to swap these items for desirable Lep specimens, preferably with someone within a day's driving range." Howard Grisham, 573 Ohatchee Road, Huntsville, Al 35811. E-mail: chgrisham@comcast.net. Fax: (256) 895-9654. Evening Phone: (256) 776-0226.

2) Checkout Leroy Koehn's new website - Leroy writes: "Hello all: Leptraps.com is now up and running. I offer Light Traps, Bait traps, UV & MV Bulbs, collecting light units, fixtures for permanent/stationary traps, sheet & light rigs, and much more. I will be offering pheromone traps and lures for Sesiid moths in the very near future. Check it out: www.leptraps.com. Cheers."

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MEMBERS - PLEASE LOOK AT THE DUES NOTICE

Jeff Slotten, our Treasurer, is attempting to get the membership up to date in their payment of dues. The Society cannot afford to continue to send Newsletters to individuals who do not pay their dues. Please check the date near your name on the address label. If not current you may be dropped from the membership.

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NEW MOON DATES FOR 2004

April 19, May 19, June 17, July 17, August 16, September 16, October 14, November 12, December 12.

The best moth collecting occurs during the nights around the new moon - usually one week before and one week after.

Reference: **Brahde R.** (1977) Moon tables, phases of the moon for times past, present and future (601 BC to 2700 AD). *A Nordanger Nautical Handbook*, Nordanger Forlag, Bergen, Norway. (This appears to be a little overkill - The Editor).

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McGUIRE CENTER - 2004

BY

JOHN B. HEPPNER AND THOMAS C. EMMEL

Since the donation in December 2000 of $4.2 million by the William and Nadine McGuire Foundation, for the establishment of a center for Lepidoptera research at the University of Florida, and since then matched with State of Florida donor-matching funds in 2001, plus the added donations from the McGuire family of further monies for the center in 2002-04, the new museum now known as the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Ecological Research, has been much anticipated. The total budget has risen to about $12 million, and more monies are expected to be raised for operations and research center goals for Lepidoptera studies around the world.

A previous article showed the beginning of construction of the building. The photos accompanying this update show the museum construction as of September 2003 and February 2004. A total of about 42,000 sq. ft. of space is for offices, laboratories, collection rooms, and public exhibit areas, with 6,400 for a butterfly house vivarium. For the public, the new butterfly house is perhaps most anticipated of all. This will be the 4th butterfly house to open in Florida since Butterfly World opened in Ft. Lauderdale in 1988, becoming then the first such facility in the USA. There is another one now in Key West, and one other butterfly house was in operation at Cypress Gardens, in central Florida, until that park closed in 2003.

McGuire Center construction, September 2003

The butterfly house height is about 65 feet, with an equally large square base. As can be seen in the photos, there is a steel rib-cage frame above a concrete wall base, with specially made fine-mesh screening to keep the butterflies inside yet allow warm outside air to enter. Underground piping of warm water and hot air, besides misting systems, will keep the vivarium warm throughout the mild Gainesville winters, and moist enough for the tropical rainforest effect and butterfly habitat. Besides 100s of butterfly species, including morphos and birdwings, a few special moths will also be kept there live, such as atlas moths and some day-flying species like uranias. Outside the building will also be a butterfly garden with flowers and native plants to attract local butterflies and moths.

The public will also have window-access to the pupal nursery for the butterfly house, besides many exhibits about butterflies and moths worldwide in the lobby. Specially scanned images of butterflies and moths, greatly enlarged to show details of every wing-scale done by Dr. Andrei Sourakov, will be on the walls, and each world faunal region will have pictures and information on the species to be found in each region. A few display cases will also have actual specimens visible to the public under special UV-resistant glass. The public will also have unique access to the world of research on Lepidoptera, with viewing windows into one of the collection rooms and each of the main

McGuire Center, February 2004

laboratories, to see how researchers actually work with specimens, as collections and also in DNA analyses, morphology studies, *etc*. The window areas will have written information and possibly some kind of audio tape to explain what is being done in each area, and how this is important to understanding and protecting butterflies and moths. The collection room will have its entire public wall made of glass, allowing viewing of all the drawers, compactors, and research going on as the collections are curated.

The size of the museum collection will be on view for the public through the window of one collection room, yet even then only a single floor of 34,000 drawers will be visible. All three floors of the collection area will hold about 100,000 drawers when entirely filled to capacity in the future. Butterflies will be housed in the top collection room, moths in the middle and public level, while the bottom floor will for some years be reserved as a staging area where collections will be first brought in, sorted to family and genus, and then brought upstairs to the main collection rooms. Other smaller rooms will be used for other specimen preparation, such as spreading and labeling. A special larval room will house the large collections of immatures from the FSCA, Allyn Museum, and various donors. There also are unique DNA and genetic sample collections from nearly 18,000 species of butterflies, and large collections of photographic images of worldwide Lepidoptera. Eventually, McGuire Center will be able to house up to 24 million pinned specimens and 2 million larvae in vials, plus large computer-based data banks on Lepidoptera. Yet, even within a few years the anticipated collection growth at McGuire Center is expected to surpass the specimen total of the Natural History Museum, in London, England, now the largest such Lepidoptera collection in the world, with about 8 million pinned specimens.

For 2004, the McGuire Center is scheduled for staff use by the end of March. Thereafter, first priority will be to move the Allyn Museum collection, with over 1 million butterflies and moths, from Sarasota to the new museum in Gainesville. The old Allyn Museum building will eventually be sold and proceeds added to McGuire Center endowments. The large collection of nearly 2 million specimens of Lepidoptera from the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, will also move from just 200 feet away in the Florida Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry building, and various donated specimens and what the University of Florida has accumulated will be moved in, as well. The initial total in 2004 will be somewhat over 4 million specimens in the worldwide collections, about 45% butterflies and 55% moths, and including about 200,000 larvae and other immatures in alcohol. All Lepidoptera books from the University of Florida and the Division of Plant Industry, besides those from Allyn Museum and other sources, will move to McGuire Center as well, placing about 12,000 volumes in the Center library to begin with.

Clearly, McGuire Center has generated great anticipation also by the scientific workers in Lepidoptera. Already, Dr. Charles Covell, professor at the University of Louisville and well-known in North America for his much used moth

field guide and other works on Geometridae, has decided to move to McGuire Center in 2004. Likewise, Dr. Gary Ross, well-known researcher and writer on butterflies, formerly at Louisiana State University, will also be coming to McGuire Center in 2004. Dr. George Austin, of the Nevada State Museum and well-known skipper researcher, has been hired as Collection Manager at McGuire Center. Several other researchers are on board, such as Dr. Andrei Sourakov and Dr. Jaret Daniels, besides staff members Drs. Tom Emmel, John Heppner, Jackie Miller, and Lee Miller, of the University of Florida, FSCA, or Allyn Museum. A further McGuire Center goal is to attract many new students for Lepidoptera taxonomy and other research on butterflies and moths, and more experts for different lepidopteran groups. Already added expertise will be on hand with the transfer of such experts as Dr. Jim Nation, of the University of Florida, who works on physiology and artificial diets, among other subjects, and how this relates to Lepidoptera, and Drs. James Lloyd and Tom Walker, likewise from UF, who are experts in insect systematics, ecology and migration studies.

Public opening of McGuire Center, including the butterfly house, will be August 14, 2004. Thereafter, a special grand opening ceremony and other special events are planned for October 8-9. In between, the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera and the Southern Lepidopterists' Society are planning their 2004 annual joint-meeting in the new McGuire Center for the first time, with its large new meeting room and special tours of the facilities to be available for meeting participants. The dates for this joint annual meeting are September 17-19.

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BOOK REVIEW: LEPIDOPTERA OF FLORIDA, PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND CATALOG, AUTHORED BY JOHN B. HEPPNER (AND 6 COLLABORATORS)

REVIEW BY
IRVING L. FINKELSTEIN

Immediately following its publication in 1965, Charles P. Kimball's *The Lepidoptera of Florida, An Annotated Checklist*, became a prime reference resource for lepidopterists, not only in Florida but throughout the Southeastern quadrant of the United States. Butterflies were already pretty well documented and illustrated in various field guides. North American moths, particularly the smaller, less colorful ones, did not fare well at all in the era before the Covell field guide (1984) and the *Moths of North America* series (MONA), with only the largely antiquated Holland *Moth Book* being available in a 1968 Dover reprint.

Over the years, there have been taxonomic revisions, many new Florida records, identification of previously undetermined or misidentified species, newly described species, and of course the publication of Covell and the MONA fascicles. All this resulted in the Kimball volume, while still being a useful reference, increasingly showing its age. Since the mid-1980's plans have been developed to update and revise Kimball with a new catalogue / checklist that would be current and "state of the art." At long last, volume 17 of the Arthropods of Florida and Neighboring Land Areas series, *Lepidoptera of Florida: Part 1, Introduction and Catalog*, by John B. Heppner (Gainesville, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Dec. 2003, ISSN: 0066-8036) is here. It is a massive, 670 page volume, and it invites the question, "Is this the definitive replacement for Kimball we've been so eagerly anticipating?

For starters, we are immediately informed that this book is in fact not intended to be a definitive, final product. Instead, it is part of an ambitious, long-term project, and that this catalogue is the first part of a planned ten volume series, in which all the 2,941 verified resident species of Lepidoptera in Florida are to be diagnosed and illustrated, by family, in the subsequent volumes. John Heppner is the primary author of the present volume, with collaboration by six additional lepidopterists, W. Lee Adair, Jr., H. David Baggett, Terhune S. Dickel, Linwood C. Dow, Thomas C. Emmel and Dale H. Habeck. However, the nature and extent of the contribution by each collaborator is not provided, nor is there an indication of who will author the subsequent volumes in the series. Nor are there projected dates of publication for those volumes.

The introductory section begins with a summary history of Lepidoptera study in Florida, drawn largely from Kimball but updated to credit collectors and researchers between 1965 and the present, especially Florida State Collection of Arthropods Research Associates and those who have contributed to the conservation of the endangered Florida species, *Papilio aristodemus ponceanus* and *Eumaeus atala florida.* The illustrations, photos of Florida natural habitats and portraits of Kimball and other past researchers discussed in the text, are very poorly reproduced, resembling photocopies printed on a cheap home copier.

There follows a short but excellent section providing an overview of Florida physiography and geology, the state's climate, the natural ecosystems of Florida and its major biogeographic regions, all well illustrated with clear, easy-to-read maps and line drawings.

An outline of Lepidoptera bionomics and distributions in Florida (that is, coinciding with the distribution of the larval hostplants) is immediately followed by listings of introduced exotic species established in Florida, and Lepidoptera species endemic to Florida. Surprisingly the latter list contains a total of 241 species, or approximately 8% of the state's entire lepidopteran fauna. Most of the endemics are among the Pyralidae (38 species), Noctuidae (26) and Tortricidae (20). Heppner acknowledges that some of the endemic species from northern Florida and the panhandle may well occur in Alabama and Georgia. Indeed, I know of three such species, *Schinia fulleri Syntomeida ipomoeae* and *Tegeticula cassandra*, that have already been collected in Georgia. Heppner also provides a list of stray Lepidoptera that have turned up in Florida, and a page of erroneous records or misidentified species that have been reported for the state.

Of major agricultural importance is the listing of lepidopteran pest species in Florida, followed by an index of those species, by their common names, in alphabetical order, and their scientific names. While Heppner states that among Florida Lepidoptera, few are considered pest species, with many among those considered only minor pests or only occasionally occurring in outbreak numbers, the list is none the less imposing: a total of 455 species are included in the pest category! Dramatizing the number of pest species even more is its contrast with the one-page section that follows: Beneficial Lepidoptera in Florida, a list of only nine species! Returning to the matter of common names, every one of the pest species is assigned a common name, a substantial number (marked with an asterisk) newly coined for this volume, presumably by Heppner.

Although it seems highly unlikely that this volume will be sought out by any rank novice considering initiating the collection and study of Lepidoptera, the author provides the obligatory summary of basic techniques for field collecting, diurnally and nocturnally, field preparation, rearing techniques, and the curation of Lepidoptera collections, all in four pages, with no illustrations. Enough said!

More pertinent as introduction to the main thrust of this book are the sections on the classification of Lepidoptera, the families of lepidoptera, their breakdown into subfamilies, and their organization and numbering, primarily following the MONA 1983 Checklist, with some updating and shifting, per Heppner (*Classification of Lepidoptera, Part 1*, 1998). Indices of family names and family common names are placed here too, though one might argue for their equally logical placement with the other appendices/indices at the end of the book.

Keys to the lepidopteran families are provided as well, and effective use of this section requires some specialized background on the reader's part. Heppner notes, *"a basic knowledge of Lepidoptera morphology and the terms of the main anatomical characters is required for easy use of the keys."* To assist the user, a glossary of anatomical terms and a set of diagrams appear in the classification of Lepidoptera section. Following the keys to identification is a nearly 20 page generic summary of Florida Lepidoptera, which would function equally well immediately preceding the main catalogue or as an appendix.

The list of name changes dramatically highlights the extensive taxonomic revisions that have taken place over the last forty years. Some of the names used by Kimball have been transferred to other genera and in numerous cases both genus and species names have changed. The total number of name changes listed is 948, nearly one-third of all the Florida species! Families with the greatest number of name changes are the Pyralidae, Arctiidae, Geometridae and Noctuidae. This list is a very useful tool, but there are a number of spelling errors and a few generic errors among the new names, although they are listed correctly in the main catalogue. For example: "*Trichoplusia*

oxygramma [old] – *Agrapha oxygramma* [new]" – the new genus should read *Ctenoplusia,* and *"Senta enervata – Hypocoena enervata*" – the new genus should read *Chortodes.* In addition, most species of the Geometrid genus *Semiothisa* have recently been moved into *Macaria* and *Digrammia.* Three species listed in the name-changes section and in the main catalogue under *Macaria – continuata, ocellinata* and *gnophosaria* – actually should be placed under *Digrammia.*

Ordinarily the focal point and most useful component of any published anthology devoted to the Lepidoptera is the body of plates illustrating the covered species. In recent years, publications such as the MONA fascicles, as well as books on the Lepidoptera of specific states – Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, Missouri, *etc.* – have set high standards for crisp, clear photographic reproductions, whether color or black and white, that make identification easy and virtually error proof. Yet, sad to report, the 55 plates in *Lepidoptera of Florida* are the book's weak link, not because they are all black and white or because they illustrate barely half the Florida species, but because they are, overall, of such poor quality that many are virtually useless for identification purposes. All the 26 plates from Kimball are reproduced, as well as twelve additional plates of butterflies originally set up for that work that were in the end omitted. The remaining seventeen plates show additional species of moths not illustrated previously. Even though many of the plates represent enlargements of up to 200% life size, the coarse grainy photocopy quality renders many species unrecognizable. In fact, some of the white or very pale moth species are almost invisible on the page!

In all fairness, I should point out that the plates in this volume weren't intended to be definitive tools for identification, but, like the book itself, are considered an introductory point of reference. The author assures us that the future parts of the series, devoted to the specific families, will be illustrated with sharp, clear color photos, which will eventually also be made available on the Florida State Collection of Arthropods website. Even so, it remains difficult to overlook the disappointment the plates cause and compromise they produce in the otherwise praiseworthy qualities of the book. Perhaps the plates should have been omitted altogether!

On a positive note, the catalogue of Florida species is of course the main body of the volume and it is, ultimately, its *raison d'etre* and its most successful component, which will no doubt be used effectively for decades to come. While the catalogue is preceded by a page explaining its format, its content (and omissions) and the various notations used, it is necessary to return to the table of contents at the front of the book to see the order of the families and genera at a glance (the section on classification of Lepidoptera is intended for this purpose, but it is rather lengthy). As indicated earlier, the catalogue follows the order and numbering of the 1983 MONA Checklist, with the generic revisions and updating noted, and so it is quite "user friendly," and the sought-after listings can be located reasonably quickly and easily.

Although the location records for each species which made up a considerable part of the Kimball catalogue have been omitted – they are to be included in the subsequent volumes in the series – the current species entries provide a storehouse of valuable information, in compact format. Current species names, in bold type, follow the MONA number, with all known synonyms in italics below them. In many cases the common name of the species, if there is one, is also listed. The range of each species is given, both for the regions within Florida where it is known to occur, and for its total general distribution. Those species endemic to the state are noted with an asterisk.

Dates are provided for the recorded months of adult flight periods of each species in Florida. And, finally, all recorded larval hostplants, including those not native to Florida, are listed for each species, by genus, species and plant family for each entry. For polyphagous lepidopterans, like the White Marked Tussock Moth, *Orgyia leucostigma* (158 hostplant species), the Gypsy Moth, *Lymantria dispar* (131 species) or the Corn Earworm, *Helicoverpa zea* (101 entries), the list is long indeed!

Instead of a single, all inclusive bibliography, there are two separate bibliographic reference sections. The first list is devoted to papers and books on Florida ecology, natural history and naturalists (including obituary notices), and the second, very extensive (42 page) section contains all taxonomic papers and books, many not specifically about Florida species, but included because they treat species whose range extends (or may extend) into the state.

However, the longest reference section is the 52 page Hostplant Index, a seemingly exhaustive listing of the hostplants recorded for all the Lepidoptera species known to occur in Florida, including plants whose natural range

doesn't include Florida, such as imported tropical plants for nursery stock. The emphasis on hostplants and pest species is understandable, since this and all the subsequent volumes in the series are under the auspices (and funding) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The index lists common plant names, along with the scientific names, in alphabetical order, enhancing the accessibility of the index for non-botanists. However, each entry is followed only by the MONA number of each lepidopteran utilizing that hostplant, forcing the reader to return to the main catalogue again and again to determine which species use that hostplant. For example, *Acer spp.* (Maple) is followed by 92 MONA numbers, making the search for the various maple feeders rather unwieldy. It's even worse for *Quercus spp.* (Oak), *Salix spp.* (Willow) and a few others, but fortunately most act as hosts for only one or a few species.

Other appendices include a Species Index, with 8,327 entries, a Generic Index, with 4,586 entries, including genera, subgenera and synonyms, and a Common Name Index for all the species, including the pest species, which have a separate index earlier in the volume. In the quest for completeness and exhaustive cross-referencing, there is a substantial amount of overlapping and redundancy, not necessarily negative traits. The Species Index, with almost three times the number of 2,941 resident Florida species, also includes strays and other species excluded from the main catalogue, as well as named aberrations, forms, hybrids, races, varieties and even unnamed new species (listed at the end by genera).

The verdict? The new *Lepidoptera of Florida, Part 1: Introduction and Catalog* contains a tremendous amount of information that will be very valuable to researchers and serious students of Lepidoptera for many years to come, and is a worthwhile addition to a lepidopterist's library. It is currently up-to-date taxonomically and is probably the most complete species and hostplant guide available anywhere. However, my conclusion is that this volume falls short of being the definitive replacement for the forty-year-old Kimball work. It would be dishonest to deny that the poor quality of the plates compromises the many positive, laudable features of the book and the tremendous time and effort by the author to prepare the volume. Furthermore, even if we accept the premise that this "introduction and catalog" functions mainly to whet the reader's anticipation for the promised nine subsequent volumes in the series, it is disappointing to have had to wait a very long time for this book and now to be asked to wait again, for an indefinite time. I wonder how many people will consider that additional wait reasonable and justifiable, especially when also taking into account the ultimate cost of the volumes to complete the set.

The book may be ordered from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Publications, DPI Technical Assistance, P. O. Box 147100, Gainesville, Florida 32614. Attn.: Dr. John B. Heppner. Checks should be made payable to "Center for Systematic Entomology". There is a spiral bound edition available for $45 postpaid, and a fully bound version for $55 postpaid in the U.S.A. (Extra postage required outside the U.S.A.) I would strongly advise ordering the fully bound version, to avoid the aggravation of pages snagging constantly that I encountered with the spiral bound review copy.

Many thanks go to James K. Adams for his willingness to look at this review and make corrections, call my attention to oversights and make suggestions for its improvement.

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FALL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY TO BE HELD IN GAINESVILLE, SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2004

The Tropical Lepidopterists' Society is meeting September 17-19, 2004, in Gainesville, Florida, at the Division of Plant Industry and the New McGuire Center. John Heppner and Tom Emmel have invited the Southern Lepidopterists' Society to join the Tropical Lepidopterists for a joint meeting. More details of this meeting will be published in the June issue of the SL NEWS. (Please see the next article by Robert Beiriger as to the reason why the meetings are usually held in Florida. If anyone would like to host a Fall Meeting in the future contact one of the officers of the Society.)

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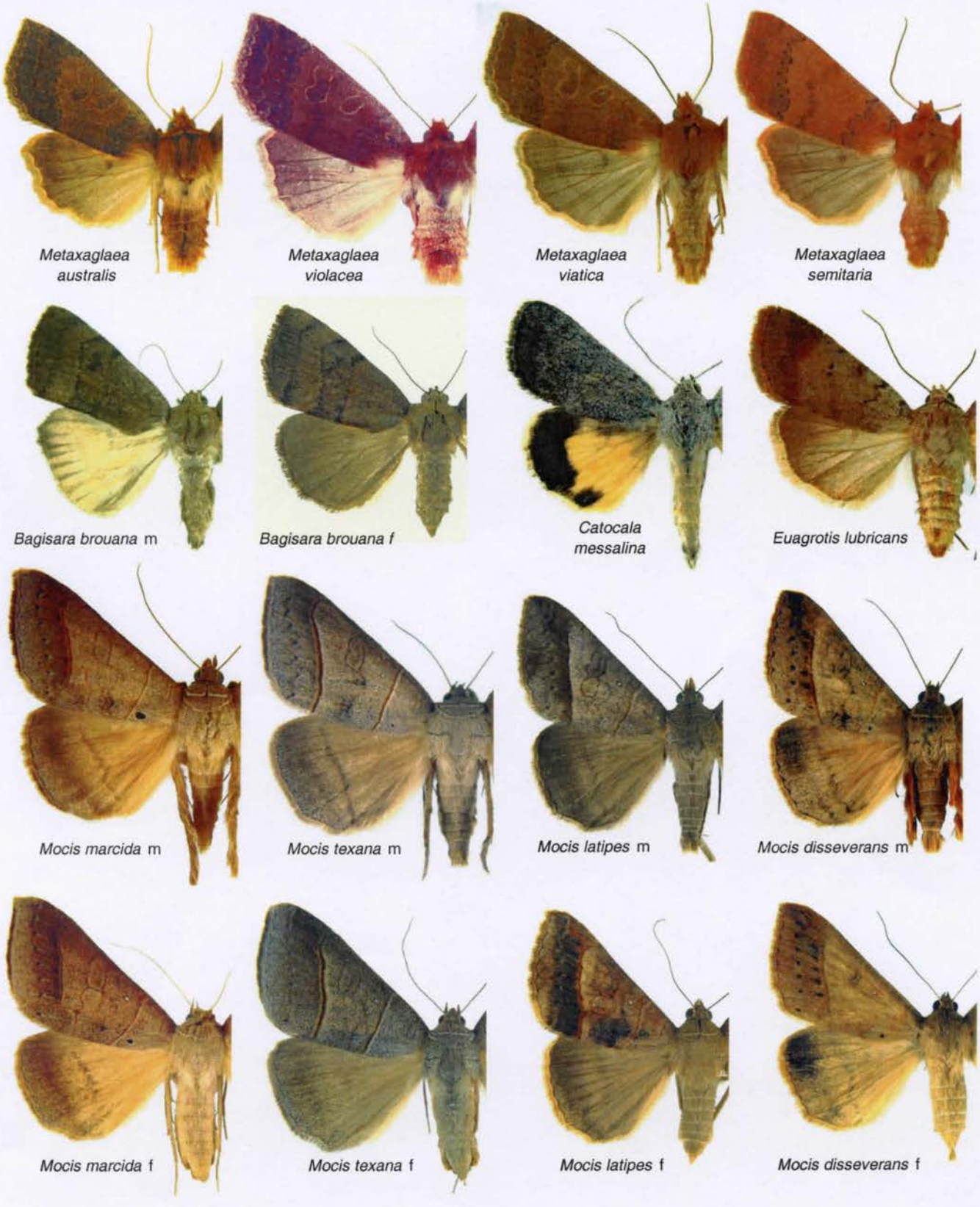

Metaxaglaea australis

Metaxaglaea violacea

Metaxaglaea viatica

Metaxaglaea semitaria

Bagisara brouana m

Bagisara brouana f

Catocala messalina

Euagrotis lubricans

Mocis marcida m

Mocis texana m

Mocis latipes m

Mocis disseverans m

Mocis marcida f

Mocis texana f

Mocis latipes f

Mocis disseverans f

Fig. 1. Papaya trees, Gainesville, FL.

Fig. 2. Hatched egg of *E. alope* on Papaya leaf.

Fig. 3. Green and brown forms of *E. alope* larvae.

Fig. 4. Full grown larva (green form) of *E. alope.*

Fig. 5. Full grown larva (brown form) of *E. alope.*

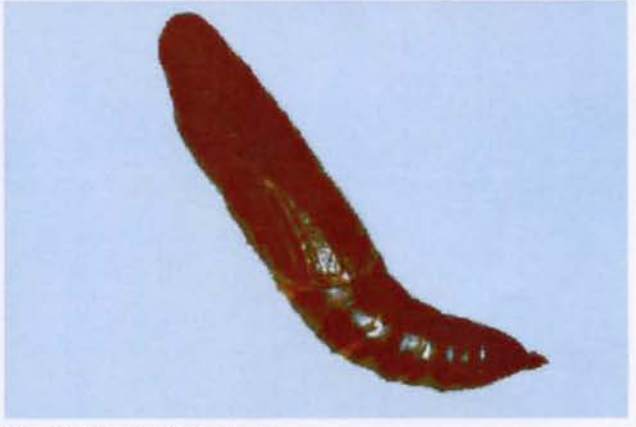

Fig. 6. Pupa of *E. alope*

Fig. 7. Adult of *E. alope.*

ERINNYIS ALOPE (DRURY) REARING NOTES IN FLORIDA

BY
JEFF SLOTTEN
FSCA RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Colorado Sunrise

Caribou Bog

Robert, Leroy & Ricky take a break from collecting near the summit of Mount Evans

A view of the mountains from Caribou Bog

A view of the mountains from Caribou Bog

Snow cover on Mount Evans

Leroy & Ricky sitting in the shade sorting the moths from the light traps

Mount Evans

Plebejus saepiolus amica

Gaeides xanthoides

Hemilueca eglanterina

Chalceria heteronea

Leroy collecting on the road during the journey up to Rollins Pass

Floridian Dave Fine admires the snow that the Rollins Pass Road passes through on the way to the top

Looking down on the Rollins Road from the top

Mountain meadow on Rollins Pass

Ricky collecting in a rockslide on Rollins Pass

Oeneis melissa lucilla

Euchloe ausonoides

Ancient volcano bowl of Horseshoe Mountain

Oeneis chryxus

Leroy sorting a tray of BBM (Basic Brown Moths)

Rainbow at Beaver Creek, Grand County

Colorado sunset

Oarisam garita

Sounds like it was a fantastic trip to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. I am sure that the SLS members are all envious of Dave, Ricky, Robert, and Leroy. Maybe next time we can help them carry some of their supplies if they will let us accompany them.

CHAIRMAN [2]

BY

ROBERT BEIRIGER

This is my second year in a row as Chairman of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society. In last year's newsletter (Vol. 25, #1), I gave a brief bio about myself, my family, and some of my interest in Lepidoptera and Coleoptera (beetles). Instead of boring everyone again, I will address some concerns, issues and positive happenings in the Southern Lepidopterists' Society.

One of the big issues the past year was "should nomenclature articles be printed in our Newsletter". After a lively e-mail discussion among the executive board and other interested parties, it was decided not to except nomenclature articles in the newsletter until the Society's annual meeting in Gainesville (fall 2003). At our annual meeting, this was discussed and it was decided not to except nomenclature articles in the newsletter, but if there was enough interest, we would talk about starting to publish the "Bulletin of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society" again. While some members might not agree with this decision, I think it is for the best.

While I am on our newsletter, we have a very good and informative newsletter edited by J. Barry Lombardini. Each issue comes with one to several color inserts and for the money, I think it is one of the better newsletters being produced. No other Society produces as nice a newsletter for the low price of $15.00 a year. We are always interested in new authors for articles and if any member would like to write an article for our newsletter, please contact Barry.

There has been some concern expressed about this Society being "The Florida/Georgia Lepidopterists' Society". While a majority of our members and most of our officers are from Florida and Georgia, this is not "The Florida/Georgia Lepidopterists' Society". Even though our field meetings are well attended in other parts of the country, our annual meetings were not. Our best-attended meetings have always been in Gainesville. This is why a majority of our meetings are held there. Last year's joint meeting with the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera was a good example. If you missed it, it was a great annual meeting with several interesting talks. Our Society was well represented in both attendees and talks. Since this is also my last year as chairman, it would be nice if the new chairman was from outside the Florida area, but finding people interested in serving can be extremely hard. If anyone knows someone interested in the position or knows of anyone who would do a good job as chairman, please let me or any of the other officers know. This would help alleviate some of the concerns of some of our members about the future course of our Society.

We are trying to increase our dues paying members and/or remove old/nonpaying members from our mailing list. Newsletters are being sent to people who have not paid their dues for over 2 years. This year that will stop. Our current plan this year is to let all delinquent members know they are behind on their dues the first newsletter of the year (Vol. 26, #1). Hopefully, this policy will not upset our membership but will help us determine which members want to belong to our Society and which nonpaying people we can drop from our mail lists. This will save us money long term and allow us to better serve those who wish to be members of our Society.

The comradely and friendship that can be found in our Society is outstanding. Several of the Lepidopterists that I spend the most time with in the field, I met at Southern Lepidopterists' meetings or through the Southern Lepidopterists' Society. A couple of these people I have been collecting with for nearly 15 years. Even though we are all lepidopterists, everyone seems to have our own areas of expertise. The amount of knowledge and information that can be learned at our meetings or in general conversations in the field is amazing. I do encourage all are members to attend your Societies annual meeting or a field meeting this year. Our field meeting is planned for Concan, Texas during May, 2004. Our field meetings are a great chance get to know your fellow members in the field and to learn a lot about Lepidoptera in a beautiful setting. Our annual meeting this year is another joint meeting with the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera in Gainesville in September 2004. Please join us. It should be right before the grand opening of the McGuire Center. This is your Society please help us make it better.

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COLORADO JOURNEY: ABOVE THE TREE LINE!

AS TOLD JOINTLY BY

DAVID FINE, RICKY PATTERSON, ROBERT BEIRIGER AND LEROY KOEHN

This is a short story of four Lepidopterists, Ricky Patterson of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Robert Berieger of Loxahatchee, Florida, David Fine of Delray Beach, Florida and Leroy C. Koehn of Georgetown, Kentucky, who went on an eleven day adventure to Colorado to collect butterflies and moths above tree line, high up in the Rocky Mountains. Over a year in the planning, the trip was a true adventure, from start to finish. And the memories linger on!! [Please see Color Inserts C , D and E for photographs of this fantastic odyssey.]

Ricky Patterson's journey began on 30 June 2003 when he made his way to South Dakota to visit family and collect along the way. Ricky would then meet Bob, Dave and Leroy near Fort Lupton, Colorado on Thursday, 3 July at 1 PM Rocky Mountain time (RMT). Remember this time!

Wednesday, 2 July: Leroy loaded his van with collecting gear and departed Georgetown, Kentucky at 3:15 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST), at 4 PM he picked up Bob and Dave at the Louisville, Kentucky airport where they had arrived several hours earlier. They were on their way by 4:10 PM. With Leroy behind the wheel, they headed west from Louisville on I-64 to St. Louis, Missouri to connect with I-70 to Kansas City. David crawled up in the back seat and went to sleep after a tasty dinner at a Waffle House (When traveling with Leroy, a Waffle House will be found) just west of St. Louis. Robert took the wheel and got them just east of Topeka, Kansas, where David took the wheel at 2 AM RMT. David kicked in the after burners on Leroy's van and at 6 AM RMT, they crossed the Kansas border into Colorado and collected their first moths at the lights of the Colorado welcome Center Rest Area. David had covered 358 miles in less than 4 hours. And in that 4 hours they stopped once for gas! After a quick stop at Limon, Colorado for breakfast, they continued their journey with several stops along the Interstate to check the flowers of Galardia for *Schinia masoni*. Although a prime target species of the trip, it was never found!

They were on the outskirts of Denver by 9 AM RMT. At this point, they had driven 1,109 miles in just a little over 14 hours. As they exited I-70 unto E-470, a loop freeway around the eastern outskirts of Denver, from the top of the ramp they saw a field full of flowers with hundreds of butterflies. An exit was found and their first serious collecting was attempted. The vast majority of the butterflies were *Vanessa cardui*. However, a few *Vanessa annabella* were collected by Leroy. Other species found were *Hyllolycaena hyllus, Prygus scriptura*, and *Polites origines rhena.*

They arrived at the Fort Lupton meeting place in Weld County at 10:30 AM. To their chagrin the spot they wanted to collect was now posted, "NO TRESPASSING". This was a well known spot for *Chalceria rubidus sirius* and *Gaeides xanthoides*. They drove around the area and found very little and decided to return to the meeting place and await for Ricky. When they arrived, they found Ricky, waiting for them. After greetings were exchanged and journey's tales were told, they visited an area around Pearson Park, a location that Leroy had visited years earlier. It must be noted that Leroy was acting as their guide. Although he had collected many times in Colorado, it had been 9 years since his last visit. Although Leroy believed his memory was failing as he got lost or turned around several times during the trip, the others were amazed at how much he did remember after 9 years. The area to the west of the park was old fields with huge stands of milkweed. Here they found *Piruna pirus, Poanes taxiles, Gaeides xanthoides,* and *Speyeria aphrodite ethne*.

After an hours collecting they traveled towards Neiderlands, a small ski community west of Boulder. They made several stops along highway 119 between Boulder and Neiderlands and found *Amblyscirtes aenus, Incisalia eryphon, Euphilotes enoptes ancilla,* and *Polygonia zephyrus*.

From Niederlands they went to Caribou Bog, an old peat bog at 10,200 feet. As they traveled up the road to Caribou bog, they set out a light trap and a dozen pheromone traps for Sesiid moths. As the day waned, they set out two light traps around the bog. They were too exhausted from the marathon drive to light for moths and elected to return to Boulder for the night.

Friday 4 July: That morning they returned to Caribou Bog, collecting along the road to the bog. They found

Eyrinnis pacuvius, Hesperia uncas, H. nevada, Colias alexandra, Euphilotes enoptes ancilla, Plebujus saepiolus amica, Polygonia zephyrus, Erebia epipsodea, and *Pterourus rutulus*. They reached the bog and recovered the light traps and after a quick look in the traps, Robert, Dave and Ricky went in search of butterflies while Leroy sorted them out. There was not a great number of moths in each trap, there was, however, some great diversity of species, of which Leroy could only identify one or two species. They spent the entire day in the Caribou Bog area. Although Leroy had visited Caribou Bog a number of times, he had never spent more than two or three hours a visit collecting before going to another location that was always an hour or so away. As a result, Leroy planned the trip to spend an entire day at each location or area. A plan that in the end was to everybody's liking, and then some. Ricky provided a lunch of ham sandwiches that was consumed in the shade of some spruce trees overlooking the bog and a panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains. After lunch it was back into the field. After a visit to the ruins of the old settlement of Caribou near the bog, Leroy and Dave went up the mountain to collect while Ricky and Bob collected around the peat bog. At day's end they had collected *Thorybes mexicana, Pyrgus centaureae, Artogeia napi mcdunnoughi, Euchloe ausonides coloradoensis, Anthocaris sara julia, Colias alexandra, C. eurytheme, Incisalia eryphon, Glaucopsyche lygdamus, Plebejus saepiolus amica, Icaricia acmon lutzi, Euptoieta claudia, Clossiana frigga sagata, C. freija browni, Aglais milberti, Polygonia progne, Coenonympha ochracea ochracea* and *Erebia epipsodea.*

Late that afternoon, they traveled to Look Out Mountain in Jefferson County. When they arrived they found the road up the mountain was blocked for the 4th of July fireworks display that night and all of the following day as well. They regrouped and went to Clear Creek Canyon in Jefferson County where they set out bait traps and then journeyed up to the Mount Evans area in Clear Creek County where they set out light traps. This proved to be an adventure of sorts. They put out three light traps, one at about 8,800' and the other two near the summit at 13,000". They encountered several mountain sheep that were curious at the trap and Leroy's van. Dave was admiring the sunset and said how beautiful and romantic it was. Leroy looked at Dave, then the sheep. He honked the horn, the sheep took off and they set out the light trap. The air temperature was in the mid-40's with a stiff wind as they set the light trap out near the summit. Leroy was of the opinion that there would be very little flying. However, as they began their trip back down the mountain, the air in the headlights of his van was full of moths. They returned to Boulder for the night.

Saturday 5 July: They departed Boulder in the early AM, a quick stop in Clear Creek Canyon to check the bait traps and then begin the journey back up to Mount Evans. As they arrived at the spot were they set out the first light trap, they found an abundance of butterflies, including: *Mitoura spinetorum, Insicalia eryphon, Polygonia zephyrus* and *Basilarchia weidemeyerii*. Once the trap was sorted and the area collected, they continued their journey up the mountain. Ricky and Dave recovered the second trap at 10,300 feet which contained a few hundred noctuid moths of about a dozen species. Leroy and Robert went ahead of Ricky and Dave to recover the 3rd trap. As they reached 11,500 foot elevation mark, they looked over the side and were surprised to see a very large herd of elk in the meadow several thousand feet below. They got out of the van for a better look and were taken by the beauty of the view. Leroy and Robert continued on to the third trap near Summit Lake. They recovered the trap and it contained the same twelve species, except the bucket of the trap was full. Approximately three gallons of moths appeared to be dead. However, as Leroy sorted the trap in the sun, the moths began to revive from the cool air temperature and the effects of the ethyl acetate and began to take flight. Leroy poured the bucket of moths on the ground and within an hour the vast majority of the moths took wing and were gone.

There was a stiff wind blowing most of the morning, but as the day wore on, the wind began to settle down and a warm sun made for some exciting collecting. *Oeneis taygete* were on the wing, but once disturbed from their unseen resting place, they would fly up and were carried off by the wind. A careful eye was necessary to follow them to their new resting place where they could be collected. *Oeneis melissa lucilla* and *O. polyxenes brucei* were also found as well as *Prygus xanthus, P. centaurae loki, Parnassius phoebus sayii, Occidryas anicia eurytion*, and *Schinia pessilimi*. Near Summit Lake they found *Euphydryas editha* and *Colias meadii*. As they began their decent, they stopped to collect on Mount Goliath. Here they found more *Oeneis taygete, Oensis melissa lucilla, Oenesis polyxenes brucei, Parnassius phoebus sayii,* and *Schinia persimilis.*

Once on the interstate, they made a stop for dinner at a little restaurant along I-70 in Idaho Springs for Buffalo Burgers. It tasted like chicken!

Light traps were set out along Clear Creek in Clear Creek County for the night and then they traveled to Wheat Ridge where they spent the night.

Sunday 6 July: They departed Wheat Ridge and traveled back through Clear Creek Canyon in Jefferson County where they recovered bait traps. *Asterocampa montis, Polygonia zephyrus, and Basilarchia weidemeyerii* were taken. As they stopped at each spot along the Clear Creek to recover light traps, they found lots of butterflies. *Hesperia uncas, piruna pirus, Chalceria heteronea, Harkenclenus titus, Poladryas arachne arachne, Speyeria mormonia eurynome, Speyeria callippe nevadensis, S. cybele, Euphilotes enoptes*, and *Colias alexandria* were all taken. There were some great moths in the light traps; *Hemihyalea labecula, Lophocampa argentata, L. ingens, L. significans, Pygoctenucha terminalis, Ctenucha venosa,* and *C. cressonana.*

Early afternoon found them on Berthoud Pass at 11,315' elevation in Grand County. The sky began to cloud over and a few rain drops began to splatter down. They looked at each other when Leroy said, *"well we have paid the fiddler, lets dance"*. With nets in hand, they headed up an abandoned ski slope to a rock slide area. Just as they began to get into the rock slide, out came the sun and with it, *Lycanea cupreus snowi* and *Pyrgus centaureae*. They also found *Oenisis polyxenes brucei* and *Oeneis chryxus*. They also found *Schinia sueta sueta* and *Heliothis ononis* along the edge areas of the rock slides.

It was late afternoon when they checked into a motel in Winter Park. Leroy and Dave then drove to Beaver Creek to set out light traps and bait traps. Arriving back in Winter Park late that evening.

Monday 7 July: They went to Beaver Creek. Butterflies were in abundance. They collected *Polites sonora, Anthorcharis sara julia,* and *Satyrium californica* which were just emerging and in numbers, *Satyrium fulginosum, S. Behrii crossi, Euphilotes enoptes ancilla, Lycarides melissa melissa, Icaricia icariodes lycae, I. acmon lutzi, Speyeria mormonia eurynome, Polydryas arachne arachne, Phyciodes pascoensis, Occidryas anicia capella, Charadryas acastus, Polygonia zephyrus, Basilarchia weidemeyerii, Cercyonus oetus charon*, and *Oeneis uhleri.* Ricky, Dave and Bob journeyed over the mountain into St. Louis Creek to set out bait traps in the Lodge Pole Pines near the St. Louis Creek Camp Ground for *Oeneis jutta.* On their way over the mountain, they collected several mountain meadows were they found *Schinia sueta sueta.* Around 3 PM, rain clouds appeared and a brief three minute down pour occurred. This was the only rain they would encountered during the trip. By 3:30 PM the sun was out and the butterflies with it. Leroy remained in the Beaver Creek area to sort the light traps which contained several interesting moths: *Eilema bicolor, Arachnis picta, Ectypia clio* and a large assortment of *Synedoida.* Leroy was sure he could identify four species: *Synedoida howlandi, S. hudsonica, S. inepta* and *S. perplex.* There were many he could not identify or they may have been females of the species that he could identify. Leroy returned to the corral area near the Colorado River to recover bait traps and pheromone traps. Here he found *Hesperia pahaska, Polites sonora, Pterourus eurymedon,* and *Oeneis uhleri.* When they had all returned to the motel, David showed Leroy one of the *Schinia sueta sueta* he had collected in a large meadow near the road junction of FR 133 and St. Louis Creek Road. This was one of the Schinia species the Leroy was looking for. Ricky then accompanied Leroy back to the mountain meadow to set out light traps. It was nearly dark when they arrived at the meadow. Two light traps were set out with the use of flash lights. Upon their return to the motel, they all had a late dinner at a Pizza Hut. The journey up to Rollins Pass was the main topic of discussion during dinner. It had been over 10 years since Leroy ventured up to Rollins Pass and he was really excited about the journey.

Tuesday, 8 July: Leroy and Ricky were up before dawn and returned to the mountain meadow to recover the light traps. During the over night the air temperature dropped into the mid forties in Winter Park area and was probably another 10 degrees cooler up at the mountain meadow. As a result, there was little in either trap and no *Schinia sueta sueta.* However, a quick look at several species of whites flowers in the meadow produced 6 specimens of *Schinia sueta sueta* which were found in the heads of the flowers. They returned quickly to the motel, checked out and loaded up the vans and began the journey up to Rollins Pass. The high mountain passes are more accessible in Colorado than those found anywhere else in the Rocky Mountains. This accessibility was created as the early pioneers began moving west in the mid 1800's. John Rollins for whom the pass is named, built the wagon road from Rollinsville across the continental divide in the 1870's. David Moffatt, a prominent Denver banker established the Denver Northwestern Railroad. The original plan was to tunnel under the mountain, but due to the lack of financing, he built a temporary rail bed over Rollins Pass. The entire road from Moffatt Station west of Denver and over the

pass to what is now the ski resort of Winter Park required thirty plus tunnels. This would become known as "Moffatt's Road". At 11,600 feet, it was the highest railroad ever built in North America. Crossing Rollins Pass could be risky. The 23 mile trip could be very dangerous, more so in the winter with avalanches and heavy snow drifts. At the top of the pass at Corona, where the continental divide crossed the mountain, a restaurant and small accommodations were built. After Moffatt Tunnel was constructed in 1928, the railroad route over the pass was abandoned. The road to Rollins Pass was built on much of the old railroad bed. The first road built on the rail bed was a wood slat road. The rail road track rails were removed and a wood slat road was constructed on the existing rail road ties. This road carried tourists in horse drawn wagons to Corona, the top of the world as it became know. Over the years the wood slats deteriorated and were removed and replaced with an earthen base over the original railroad ties. Some of the wood from old slat road can be seen along side the road bed above tree line where it was left to rot after it was removed. Over the years the earthen road bed has worn down and the railroad ties have become exposed. This conditions make for a rough ride, both up and down.

As they journeyed up to Rollins Pass they would stop at mountain meadows or along creek beds to look for both butterflies and moths. *Schinia sueta sueta* and *Schinia villosa villosa* were taken. Dave Fine is a Florida native and has only seen snow once in his life. On his way up to the pass, he saw snow aplenty. He managed to toss a few snow balls and even walk on a snow shield. Once they arrived at the top, Ricky, Dave and Robert wanted to find *Erebia magdalena*, and *Lyceana cupreus snowi*. Leroy sent them off to several rock slides above the parking area. Rock slides are the prime habitat for both species. Once they were gone, Leroy began to walk down the old railroad bed towards the Needles Eye (a narrow tunnel on the east side of the pass). The first obstacle was the snow shield that covered the road bed for several hundred feet, and once crossed, it was all down hill on the road bed towards the collapsed tunnel. It was a bright sunny day with a brisk breeze. As Leroy walked down the road bed he was sheltered from the wind by the side of the mountain. Here he found *Pyrgus centaurea, Polites draco, Colias meadii, Agriades franklinii rustica, Euphydryas anicia eurytion, Polygonia progne, Oeneis polyxenes brucei, O. melissa lucilla*, and *Erebia magdalena; Schinia sueta sueta, Schinia villosa villosa*, and *Schinia persimilis* were also found in some numbers. Leroy continued down the road passing through the collapsed tunnel, across two old wooden bridges and onto the eastern slope of the pass to a large montane meadow. Leroy found more *Colias meadi meadi*, including females, *Polygonia zephyrus*, and *Aglias milberti. Heliothis ononis, Eutricopis nexilis, Schinia sueta sueta, Schinia villosa villosa,* and *Schinia persimilis* were abundant along with the arctiid, *Apantesis cervenoides*. Leroy had walked and collected for almost three hours before turning around to make the return trip. The trip back was all up hill and in the thin mountain air, it was a long exhausting walk. However, there were lots of butterflies which made it all worth while.

They collected the Rollins Pass area most of the day. When they had all returned to the van and were preparing to leave, the usual discussion of who collected what began. Dave, Robert, and Ricky spent the day crawling through rock slides for a dozen specimens. When Leroy mentioned that he had collected a dozen specimens of each species and some other things that they did not see or find, they accused Leroy of sending them off to less desirable places while he went to the best spot. That was not the case at all, but it sure appeared that way. Ricky announced that when the got to their next location, Horseshoe Mountain, he was following Leroy!

It was after 4 PM when they began their journey down from Rollins Pass. The partially exposed railroad ties in the road bed made for a very rough ride. They journeyed across Berthoud Pass and west on I-70 to Route 9 at Frisco, through Breckenridge and onto Fairplay. It was after 8 PM when the found their motel in Fairplay. Leroy and Dave left immediately to set out light traps on Horseshoe Mountain. As they traveled the Four Mile Creek Road to Horseshoe Mountain, Leroy was saddened by the number of homes that had been built since his last visit in 1996. There were homes almost to tree line. Once the traps were out, they returned to Fairplay. All were tired from the day of collecting in the thin air and from the journey and were asleep in no time.

Wednesday 9 July: They were up early. A clear sky and hopes high, they had breakfast at the Brown Burro, a small restaurant in Fairplay with interesting history. The restaurant dates back into the 1950's and was named for the small brown burros that were used in the mines. It was a great meal, almost as good as a Waffle House, mmmmmmmmm, good!

Four Mile Creek Road is an old road that was originally constructed to provide access to the gold mines along Four

Mile Creek and on Horseshoe Mountain. A tipple, several old wooden structures, a building, and the road are all that remains of the gold rush days.

As they began their journey up to Horseshoe Mountain, they stopped at a number of locations to recover light traps. Several nice Arctiid moths where taken: *Holomelina costata, Apantesis nevavdensis, Aemilia ambigua*, and some beautiful Geometrid moths. As Leroy sorted traps, the others collected butterflies. They found the newly described subspecies, *Occidryas anicia carolae*. Although some what worn, a great catch. They also collected several *Neominois ridingsii*, also worn. As they reach forested areas, they stopped to set out Sesiid traps. At the back of Leroy's van, Leroy and Ricky were putting the pheromone lures in the traps when a number of Sesiid moths began to buzz around, most were collected. A dozen traps were set out with extremely high hopes.

As they climbed above tree line and turned onto Horseshoe Mountain Trail, they once again found a snow shield blocking the road. The snow shielded bordered a large road slide. Once across the snow shield, the road was clear. Three bait traps were set out on stands that Leroy had fabricated and brought with them. During his 1994 trip, Leroy had set out a bait trap on the rock slide and collected a number of *Erebia magdalena*. This is a difficult bug to catch in a rock slide. The footing amongst the loose rocks is not good and a misstep can result in a fall that can easily injure the Lepidopterists. Add a stiff wind to the rock slide along with an elusive butterfly, and you have a real challenge. The bait traps were an attempt to collect a number of *Erebia magdalena* without venturing into the rock slides.

Once the bait traps were set out, Ricky, Robert, and Dave set out to collect butterflies, each going in a different direction. Leroy sorted the light trap and then he to set out to search for butterflies. In the rock slides on the east facing slope of the mountain, *Polites draco, Colias meadi meadi, Lycaena cupreus snowi, Icaricia shasta minnehaha, Agriades franklinii rustica, Charadryas damoetes, Oeneis melissa lucilla, O. polixenes brucei, Oeneis chryxus, Erebia callias,* and *Erebia magdalena* were sighted. Some nice moths were also taken, *Schinia sueta sueta, Schinia villosa villosa*, and *Schinia persimilis*. Although they spent the entire day on Horseshoe Mountain, the majestic view of the rocky mountains, the bright sunshine and the lots of Lepidoptera made the hours pass quickly. They began their return journey to Fairplay at 3 PM, stopping once in a willow bog to search for *Proclossiana eunomia*. The wet area near the creek was very difficult to maneuver in. The grass hummocks proved to be a real obstacle course when a *Proclossiana eunomia* would appear. Leroy took what looked to be a serious tumble, but two arms arose from the grass with the prize in the net and Leroy flat on his back. There was some comment about the resemblance to a beached whale and then another comment about a long walk back to Fairplay. It was however, an entertaining moment. Another stop was made to recover the pheromone traps with eager anticipation. However, to their surprise, the traps contained very few Sesiid moths. Two light traps were set out along the way and they returned to Fairplay for the night.

Thursday10 July: They were once again off to an early start. The Brown Borro provided breakfast where David decided to try the extra large breakfast burrito. Robert and Leroy were very glad he was riding with Ricky as they began their journey up Four Mile Creek to recover the light traps. Once the light traps were sorted, they began their journey to Cottonwood Pass in Chaffe County. They traveled south on US 285 to Johnson Village, then a turn north up US 24 to Buena Vista and then up Cottonwood Pass Road. The journey from the east to Cottonwood Pass is on a paved road. Smooth and easy driving. They stopped several times on the journey up to Cottonwood Pass to collect among Gambrel Oaks for the stunning Colorado Hairstreak, but none were found. Once on the Pass, Robert, and Ricky headed to the rock slides on the east side of the Pass. Leroy and David headed up toward the top of the mountain on the west side of the Pass. David pushed on and Leroy found another on of those spots where he stopped and spent two hours collecting all the choice species: *Pyrgus centaurea, P. Xanthus, Polites draco, Colias meadii, Agriades franklinii rustica, Clossiana freija browni, C. titania helena, Occydryas anicia eurytion, O. editha gunnisonsis, Aglias milberti, Polygonia progne, P. zephyrus, Oeneis polyxenes brucei, O. melissa lucilla, O. taygete*, and *Erebia magdalena*. Several nice moths were also taken: *Eutricopis nexilis, Heliothis ononis*, and *Schinia villosa villosa.*

David visited the bald area on the top of the mountain and found very little. He found Leroy sitting on a large rock watching butterflies come up the water run trail. It acted like a natural flyway and he was collecting butterflies with ease. Before long both Ricky and Robert joined Leroy and David and they collected for another hour. Not only was

this a great area for butterflies, the view from the top was spectacular.

After a quick lunch, they began their journey to Cumberland Pass. The paved road up was smooth, the road down the west side of the mountain was rough and rocky. They stopped at several places to collect and found little new. In the valley below they stopped to let Bob look for Tiger Beetles on the sandy areas along the shore of Taylor Reservoir. Although a very nice habitat, no Tiger Beetles were found. Once back on the road, they passed through the community of Tin Cup and then up a rough and rocky road to Cumberland Pass. As they reached the top and parked, Ricky noticed that the right rear tire on Leroy's van was going flat. Fortunately, Ricky had a tire repair kit and two cans of Fix-A-Flat. Once the tire was patched, they decided to go straight to Gunnison to have the tire repaired. The road down was no better than the road up. The journey was slow and cautious. They arrived at a tire store in Gunnison around 4:45 PM and learned that the cords were broken in the tire and could not be repaired. The rough and ugly roads of the mountains of Colorado had taken a toll on Leroy's tire. However, the store manager made a quick telephone call to a tire supplier in Colorado Springs, and a new tire was ordered to arrive at 1 PM the next day. The motel found, dinner consumed and a tour of Gunnison was enjoyed, they were in bed early.

Friday 11 July: Today the journey of these four friends would come to an end. Ricky was beginning his journey home to Mississippi. After breakfast, they bid Ricky farewell. Rather than wait around Gunnison for the tire, Leroy decided to trust their luck and head back up the Pitkin Road towards Cumberland Pass. The object was to find some place to collect and not journey all the way up to the Pass. A suitable location was found at an elevation of 9,900 feet, and as luck would have it, butterflies a plenty. Here they found *Colias alexandra, C. Scudderi, Euchloe ausonoides coloradoensis, Artogeia napi mcdunnoughi, Occidryas anicia* (unknown subspecies), and *Oeneis chryxus.*

After collecting for several hours it was time to return to Gunnison for the new tire. After the tire was replaced, it was time to begin their journey home. However, there were two more stops. As they journeyed from Gunnison to Colorado Springs, they would stop to collect whenever they saw an interesting spot. They arrived at the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs and searched for the Colorado Hairstreaks, *Hypaurotis crysalus*, in the Gamble Oaks to the east of the Gardens. The effects of the four year drought in Colorado Springs were very evident. Most of the Gamble Oaks were dead and those that where not, looked stressed and haggard. Again, no hairstreaks were found. A light trap was set out and then they journeyed 9 miles east of Colorado Springs on Route 94 to a dry gulch that Leroy knew of. The owner remembered Leroy from previous visits and once again gave them access to the bottom of the Gulch. They set out two light traps and returned to Colorado Springs for the night.

Saturday 12 July: The plan was to recover the light traps and collect the dry gulch until 2 PM when they were to begin the long ride back to Kentucky. The dry gulch produced several Schinia moths in the light traps. However, the effects of the drought were evident here as well. They would find *Pterourus multicaudata, Cercyonis pegala, Thessalia leanira fulvia, Apodemia mormo, Euphilotes battoides,* and *Mitoura siva.* Leroy and Dave found the larvae of *Hemileuca magnificant* on Mountain Mahogany. As planned, they were on the road by 2 PM. Across the high plains of Colorado they traveled on US 24 to I-70 at Limon. Once on the interstate, Bob and Dave snoozed as Leroy drove. As the night wore on, Leroy snoozed and Bob and Dave drove on. At day break on Sunday 13 July, they were east of St. Louis on I-64 and arrived at the Louisville airport at 8 AM. Farewells said, Leroy was on his way to his home in Georgetown by 8:30 AM.

It was a great trip. Great bugs, great locations, great weather, and best of all, great friends. A trip to be remembered.

(As of 18 March 2004, we are <u>all</u> still mounting specimens from the trip!)

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RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER

Fellow SLS members our membership is dropping for no apparent reason. If you have any suggestions to improve our Society and retain old and recruit new members please send me a line - The Editor.

MORE RECORDS FROM TEXAS

BY

JOSEPH F. DOYLE III

These records are primarily from the central Hill Country and some new records from Wood Co. collected by William Godwin (WG). All other records are by the author (JFD). New county records are indicated with an asterisk. A new larval foodplant is listed for *Condica videns.* Hodges (1983) numbers are included for those with a penchant proclivity for taxonomy. Regular rainfall has returned to central and south Texas. The colony of *Chlosyne definita* at Kingsville was in excellent condition with population numbers bordering at the "common" level as observed there on 6 Mar. 2004.

2674 Cossula magnifica, Harrison Co., 1f, 24 May 1995, Caddo S.P., at BL (JFD).
2823 Olethreutes fasciatana*, Wood Co., 1m, 3 Apr. – 11 May 2003, Hainesville, Godwin Woods, (WG).
3660 Archips grisea*, Wood Co., 3m,3f, 3 Apr.-11 May 2003, Hainesville, Godwin Woods, (WG).
3968 Pyrgus oileus*, Karnes Co., 1m, 7 mi. e. of Kenedy on S.H.72, 1 m, 4 mi. s. of Kenedy on FM 2509 (JFD).
3069 Pyrgus philetas*, Karnes Co., 1m, 4 mi. s. of Kenedy on FM 2509 (JFD).

4136 Agathymus mariae*, Kinney Co., 1f,21 Oct., 1f, 1 Nov. 1988; Uvalde Co., 2m, 18 Oct.,1m, 31 Oct., 1f, 21 Oct.,1f, 23 Oct., 1f, 26 Oct., 1986, 2.2 mi. w. of Laguna, all ex pupae, on Agave lechuguilla (JFD).
5175 Diathrausta harlequinalis, Kinney Co., 1m, 19 May 1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson, (JFD).
5150 Samea ecclesialis, , Bexar Co., 1m, 29 Apr. 1995, Government Canyon S.N.A., at BL, (JFD).
5170 Spoladea recurvalis, Kinney Co.,1m, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).
5182 Blepharomastix ranalis*, Wood Co., 1m, 3 Apr.-11 May 2003, Hainesville, Godwin Woods, (WG).

5220 Palpita gracilalis, Kinney Co., 1m, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).
5290 Conchylodes diptheralis, Bexar Co., 1f, 29 Apr. 1995, Government Canyon S.N.A., at BL, (JFD).
5552 Galasa nigrinodes, Kinney Co.,1m, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).
6368 Semiothisa atrofasciata, Val Verde Co., 1m, 27 May, 1990, Devil's River S.N.A., at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).
6420 Narraga fimetaria, Bexar Co., 1m, 19 May 1993, 13310 Bar C Dr., at BL, (JFD).

6421 Narraga stalachtaria, Bexar Co., 1m, 13 Apr. 1982, 8730 Timberwilde, det. E. Knudson, at BL, (JFD).
6982 Prochoerodes transversata, Harrison Co., 1m, 24 May 1995, Caddo S.P., at BL (JFD).
7009 Nematocampa limbata, Bexar Co., 1m, 29 Apr. 1995, Government Canyon S.N.A., at BL, (JFD).
7314 Hammaptera parinotata, Kinney Co.,1m, 20 Oct. 1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).
7416 Orthonama centrostrigaria*, Wood Co., 1m, 3 Apr. – 11 May 2003, Hainesville, Godwin Woods, (WG).

7871 Deidamia inscripta*, Wood Co., 1m, 3 Apr. -11 May 2003, Hainesville, Godwin Woods, (WG).
8066 Cisthene tenuifascia, Bexar Co., 1m, 18 Apr. 1984, 13310 Bar C Dr., at BL, det. E. Knudson. Val Verde Co., 15 May 1989, Devils River S.N.A., (JFD).
8087 Lycomorpha pholus, Kinney Co., 1 f, 15 Oct. 1988, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, (JFD).
8253 Pygartica roseicapitis, Val Verde Co., 1m, 15 Apr. 1989, Devil's River S.N.A., at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).
8445 Hypena abalienalis, Harrison Co., 1m, 24 May 1995, Caddo S.P., at BL (JFD).

8677 Zaleops umbrina, Val Verde Co., 1m, 15 Apr. 1989, Devil's River S.N.A., at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).
8720 Eubolina impartialis, Kinney Co., 2m, 29 Sept. 1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL; 1m, 8 May, 1992, 7 mi. east of Bracketville, det. E. Knudson (JFD).
8895 Rachiplusia ou, Kinney Co., 1f, 19 May 1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, (JFD).
9017 Cobubatha orthozona, Val Verde Co., 1m, 15 Apr. 1989, Devil's River S.N.A., at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).
9078 Eumestleta recta, Kinney Co.,1m, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).

9614 Homoanarta falcata, Kinney Co., 1m, 24 Sep. 1992, 7 mi. e. of Bracketville. Jeff Davis Co., 1 f, 22 Sep. 1992, 2 mi. no. of Ft. Davis, (JFD).

9666 Spodoptera frugiperda, Kinney Co., 1m, 1f, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson, (JFD).

9679 Elaphria chalcadonia, Kinney Co.,1m, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).

9690 Condica videns*, Medina Co., 1m, 11 Nov. 2002, *ex larva,* Hondo Cr. at U.S. 90, new larval foodplant, found and reared on Amphiachyris dracunculoides (JFD).

9693 Condica mobilis, Kinney Co.,1m, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).

9699 Condica sutor, Kinney Co.,1m, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).

10050 Leucocnemis nimalis, Val Verde Co., 1m, 15 Apr. 1989, Devil's River S.N.A., at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).

10384, Lacinipolia uliginosa, Kinney Co., 2f, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).

10451 Leucania oaxacana, Val Verde Co., 1f, 15 Apr. 1989, Devil's River S.N.A., at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).

10772, Euxoa camalpa manca, Val Verde Co., 1m, 15 Apr. 1989, Devil's River S.N.A., at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).

10914 Hemieuxoa rudens, Kinney Co., 2m, 26 Oct.1990, Kickapoo Caverns S.P. at BL, det. E. Knudson (JFD).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are extended to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for permits to collect material in Texas Parks under Permit Nos. 88, 89, 28-90, 9-95 with approval of David H. Riskind, Director of Natural Resources Program. Material listed in a previous article in the Southern Lepidopterists' News, Vol. 25, No.4 was also under Permit No. 28-90. E.C. Knudson's help with determinations is appreciated.

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APPEARANCE OF *THECLA GUZANTA* SCHAUS ELICITES REFLECTIONS BY A SOUTH TEXAS AMATEUR LEPIDOPTERIST

BY

JOSEPH F. DOYLE

In recent weeks, there have been several messages on a popular lepidoptera list service about recent and somewhat-recent occurences of this lycaenid. One of the participants replied to my e-mail in which I remarked that the improvement in the habitat caused by recent, regular rains in south Texas certainly helped chances for sightings of this "stray" in the lower Rio Grande valley area. He agreed and also wisely mentioned that periodic, westerly winds had been uncommonly blowing previous to one of the sightings and that a "montane" habitat exists in Mexico directly west of the Rio Grande Valley. He furthered stated that the obversation by Chris Durden of *T. guzanta* at Langtry, Texas could have been a result of southerly winds from a similar region. His opinion reminded me of two articles in the *Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society*. The first was written by Gilbert (1969). The article first records his collection of a specimen of *Dione moneta poeyii* near Catarina in Dimmit County in south Texas on 31 December, 1964. He then goes on to chronicle his identification efforts evolving into an inquiry regarding its origin and reasons for an occurrence in Texas. The usual range of this neotropical butterfly is in Mexico and the lower Rio Grande valley. The paper then addresses the term "straggler", natural dispersal, flight characteristics and distribution of *D. moneta,* the ecology of the occurrence and a discussion of the relationship of the subtropics of southern Texas and northern Mexico. A summary is then given with a conclusion that similar investigations of other tropical butterfly records for Texas are important to the questions regarding their distribution and dispersal.

For those that do not have access to this work I will give a capsule treatment of his list of facts that designated natural dispersal of this species.

1. *D. moneta* is a strong flyer and is closely related to a known migrant, *Agraulis vanillae.*
2. *D. moneta* is on the wing during December and January only 350 miles south of Catarina, Texas.

3. Though usually found in montane habitats over 1000 meters, *D. moneta* moves to lower elevations in northern Mexico in the winter dry season.
4. The winter of 1964-65 saw adult food plants for the species remain green and in flower extensively over northern Mexico and south Texas.
5. Wide and striking climatic conditions of steady south winds and warm temperatures were correlated with the occurrence of *D. moneta* in Texas.
6. 30% of twenty-four other butterfly species seen with *D. moneta* were known migratory species, including several northward spring migrants.

Neck (1978) in a later article regarding occurences of subtropical species in the central Texas area of Austin and San Antonio unfolds much of the same conceptual evidence with a significant addition. He documents historical and current records and adds a new factor of references to larval foodplants for some species in his discussion. Neck's conclusion was that two major climate regimes of central Texas prevent the establishment of a fringe Neotropical fauna: insufficient rainfall and relative extreme winter cold. In other words, when it comes to migrant, northern Mexico butterfly incursions into south Texas, you get "squat" with drought and freezes.

During the period 1968-1972 many records of known colonists and new U.S. intrusions were documented. A comprehensive list of these would make an interesting and lengthy database on its own. Again, it must be noted that these movements during these periods are only temporary. However, it is important to notice that some of these species can be present for several years if the larval foodplants are present. *Dynamine dyonis* is an example having been present along the southern boundary of the Texas Hill Country in the periods 1966–1968 and 1992–1994. Eventually either freezing winter or high summer temperatures, or drought eliminate them from their temporary homes and push them back to the south. *D. dyonis* has currently been recorded in a creekbed of a feeder to the San Antonio River in north central San Antonio in the late summer of 2003. Over 20 freezes were registered in the winter months of 2003–2004 at the San Antonio airport official monitoring station. These were only a few degrees below freezing and only lasted a few hours into late am. Another species, *Zerene cesonia f. immacusecunda* Gunder, was noted as a seasonal phenotype that moved up from Mexico represented by several female specimens collected in October, 1968. The author has collected 3 females of this form; Bexar Co. 3 Apr. 1966, 9 Mar. 1968, Hidalgo Co., Penitas, 20 Oct. 1988. The 1966 record is of interest as the "wet" regime of the late 1960's in south Texas was actually initiated with Hurricane Carla, Sep. 8–14 1961, that came ashore at Port Lavaca and proceeded northwesterly to San Antonio.

Chioides albofasciatus was recently seen ovipositing on a *Rhyncosia minima* in northwest San Antonio on 22 Mar. 2004, an early date. This year may be one of opportunity for study of lepidopteran strays in the northern-most reaches of the Great Mexican Thorn Forest.

So, the lycaenid, *T. guzanta,* may or may not be available for study for an extended period. Determining its larval foodplant in Mexico would be helpful. Fortunately there is more than one colonistic species that appears from time to time to provide us with opportunities. Chroniclers of the sightings of this hairstreak have tagged the exercise as a "guzantafest". Perhaps we should expand this concept to include all the other immigrants and characterize the periodic incursions in Texas as a "strayfest".

Literature Cited

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Neck, Raymond W. 1978. Climatic regimes resulting in unusual occurences of rhopalocera in central Texas in 1968. *J. Lepid. Soc.*, 32 (2) : 111 – 115.

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Florida: Robert Beiriger, 16356 Trafalgar Drive, East, Loxahatchee, FL 33470, E-Mail: bostrichid@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

After the Southern Lepidopterists' Society annual meeting on September 28, Robert Beiriger went collecting in Taylor and Dixie Counties.

North of Stienhatchee, Taylor County, Florida along SR 361:
Eurema daira, E. nicippe, E. lisa, Phoebis sennae, Panoquina ocala, Urbanus proteus, Pterourus glaucus, P. palamedes, Neonympha areolata, Hermeuptychia sosybius, Junonia coenia, Phyciodes phaon, Wallengrenia otho, and *Oligoria maculata.*

South of Jena, Dixie County, Florida along SR 361:
Euphyes pilatka, Calycopis cecrops, Phoebis sennae, Panoquina ocala, Urbanus proteus, Limentis archippus floridensis, Junonia coenia, Phyciodes phaon, Epargyreus clarus, Wallengrenia otho, and *Oligoria maculata.*

David Fine visited West Summerland Key, Key Largo and Big Pine Key in Monroe County, Florida on Dec 28th. He saw a lot of *Anthanassa frisia* on West Summerland Key. This species has not been seen very frequently during the past few years. It is nice to see that it is making a comeback. David also saw *Phyciodes phaon, Ascia monuste, Pheobis sennae, Leptotes cassius, Hemiargus ceraunus, Strymon martialis, S. istapa, S. melinus, Ministrymon azia, Agraulis vanillae, Heliconius charitonius, Junonia evarete, Danaus plexippus, Wallengrenia otho, Hylephia phylius, Asbolus capucinus,* and *Phocides pigmalion.*

On Big Pine Key: *Strymon acis, Ephyriodes brunneus floridensis, Euphyes pilatka klotsi, Hylephia phyleus, Heraclides cresphontes, Pheobis sennae, P. agarithae, P. philea, Eurema lisa, E. daira, Leptotes cassius, Hemiargus ceraunus, Cyclargus ammon, Brephidium isophthalma pseudofea, Strymon martialis, Panoquina panoquinoides, Wallengrenia otho, Polygonia leo, Junonia evarete, Junonia coenia, Danaus plexippus, Heliconius charitonius,* and *Agraulis vanillae.*

On Key Largo: 2 specimens of *Eupyrrhoglossum sagra, Madoryx pseudothyreus, Protambulyx carteri, Erinnyis ello, E. obscura, Xylophanes pluto, X. tersa, Hyles lineata, Enyo lugubris, Cautethia grotei, Pachylia ficus, Ascalapha odorata, Eacles imperialis, Automeris io, Lymire edwardsii,* and *Hyphantria cunea.*

David Fine visited Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, Florida on Feb 11. He saw *Heraclides cresphontes, Battus polydamus, Ascia monuste, Appias drusilla, Aphrissa statira, Pheobis sennae, P. philea, P. agarithe, Leptotes cassius, Danaus plexippus, Danaus gilippus, Heliconius charitonius, Agraulis vanillae, Dryas julia, Urbanus dorantes, U. proteus, Calpodes ethlius,* and *Phocides pigmalion.* Dave saw adults, all ages of larvae and pupae on red mangrove. *Eumorpha labruscae* was seen at a light in front of building.

David Fine also reported the follow butterflies near were he works at TradeWinds Park, Ft. Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida on Feb 18: *Heraclides cresphontes, Pterourus palamedes, Battus polydamus, Pheobis sennae, P. philea, P. agarithe, Eurema lisa, E. daira, E. nicippe, Nathalis iole, Ascia monuste, Leptotes cassius, Hemiargus ceraunus, Strymon melinus, S. istapa, Electrostrymon angelia, Heliconius charitonius, Dryas julia, Agraulis vanillae, Danaus plexippus, Danaus gilippus, Danaus eresimus, Phyciodes phaon, Limenitis archippus, Vanessa atalanta, Preces junonia, Anartia jatrophae, Marpesia petreus, Siproeta stelenes, Urbanus proteus, U. dorantes, Pyrgus oileus, Hylephia phyleus, Polites vibex, Leremia accius, Cymaenes tripunctus, Asbolus capucinus, Calpodes ethlius, Erynnis horatius, Erinnyis ello, E. obscura, Xylophanes tersa, X. pluto, Protambulyx carteri, Enyo lugubris, Pachylia ficus, Ascalpha odorata, Antheraea polyphemus, Automeris io, Syntomedia epilais, Lymire edwardsii,* and *Ecpantheria scribonia.*

Georgia: James K. Adams, 346 Sunset Drive SE, Calhoun, GA 30701, E-Mail: jadams@em.daltonstate.edu (Please check out the new GA leps website at: http://www.daltonstate.edu/galeps/).

Records are from James Adams (no notation) and Irving Finkelstein (IF). Most records presented here represent new

or interesting records (range extensions, unusual dates, uncommon species, county records, *etc.*) or records for newly investigated areas. Known County and State records are indicated. All dates listed below are 2003/2004 unless otherwise specified. Overall, the winter was VERY non-productive from a winter moth standpoint – the xylenine noctuids were incredibly sparse (very few *Lithophane* or *Eupsilia*).

Correction to the report for last fall (2003, number 4): *Dioryctria zimmermani* for the Ohoopee Dunes area, Emanuel Co., should read ***Dioryctria merkeli***, not *D. zimmermani*.

Calhoun, Gordon Co., GA (my house):
NOCTUIDAE: First *Feralia major* for the year was recorded on Jan. 9, 2004, and is still flying March 8; *Lithophane viridipallens*, Mar. 2, 2004 **(LATE)**; *Cerastis tenebrifera*, Mar. 2 and Mar. 7, 2004.

I-75 exit 326 (Carbondale), Whitfield Co.:
NOCTUIDAE: *Psaphida thaxteriana*, Feb. 24, 2004 **(COUNTY)**.

Atlanta, Fulton Co. (IF):
NOCTUIDAE: *Metaxaglaea viatica* (2), Dec. 29; *Sericaglaea sericea* (1), Dec. 29. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Phigalia denticulata* (1), Dec. 29. **PYRALIDAE**: *Dioryctria clarioralis*,, Oct. 1, 2002 & May 29, 2003 *Scotia crassifasciella*, July 30, 2003.

Gates Chapel Rd., Gilmer Co. (IF):
NOCTUIDAE: *Iodopepla u-album*, June 10, 2000 **(COUNTY)**. **PYRALIDAE**: *Selebraria fasciata*, May 22, 2000, June 30, 2002, July 5, 2003.

Red Top Mtn. Rd. at I - 75 (Exit 285), Bartow Co., Feb. 21, 2004 (IF):
NOCTUIDAE: *Lithophane querquera*.

Allatoona Dam Picnic/Hiking Area (IF):
NOCTUIDAE: *Bleptina inferior* (Allatoona Dam, Apr. 28, 2001). **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Erannis tiliaria* (several worn ones), Dec. 28, 2003; *Paleacrita merriccata*, Dec. 28, 2003 and Feb. 20, 2004; *Phigalia denticulata* (2), Dec. 28, 2003. **SATURNIIDAE**: COCOONS: *Hyalophora cecropia* (1), Dec. 28, 2003; *Antheraea polyphemus* (1), Dec. 28, 2003; *Callosamia promethea* ©. 20 - 25, all dead!), Dec. 28, 2003.

Irving Finkelstein and James Adams made an early spring trip to the Ohoopee Dunes area. It was a little early for most spring moths there, but investigation of areas to the southeast uncovered a real jewel of a wildlife management area, Griffin Ridge WMA in Long Co. Pretty productive (as you can see) for this time of year; we'll be visiting again in May, and it should be incredibly interesting at that point! Records of particular interest, and definite county records, are marked with an "*".

Swainsboro/Twin City, Emanuel Co., March 2, 2004 (with IF):
ARCTIIDAE: *Hyphantria cunea*. **NOCTUIDAE**: *Nycteola frigidana, Metaxaglaea viatica, M. australis* **(COUNTY)***, *Psaphida rolandi, P. styracis*. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Phigalea titea, P. denticulata, Tornos abjectarius* **(COUNTY)***.

Ohoopee Dunes Area, Tract 3, 8 mi. WSW of Swainsboro, Emanuel Co., March 2, 2004 (with IF):
NOTODONTIDAE: *Heterocampa biundata*. **NOCTUIDAE**: *Phoberia atomeris, Argyrostrotis* sp.*, *Zale lunifera, Nycteola frigidana, Meganola minuscula, Egira alternans, Psaphida rolandi, P. styracis, Metaxaglaea viatica, Xystopeplus rufago, Orthosia hibisci, O. alurina*. **LASIOCAMPIDAE**: *Phyllodesma americana*. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Cleora sublunaria, Melanolophia signataria, Phigalea denticulata, P. titea, Besma quercivoraria, Eutrapela clemataria*. **PYRALIDAE**: *Udea rubigalis*. **TORTRICIDAE**: *Acleris maculodorsana*.

Griffin Ridge WMA, N of Altamaha River, along Hwy. 301/82, 8 miles N. of Jesup, Long Co., March 3-4, 2004 (with IF): Most of these records are likely **COUNTY** records.

PIERIDAE: *Zerene caesonia, Phoebis sennae, Eurema nicippe.* **SATURNIIDAE**: Cocoons of *Hyalophora cecropia** and *Antheraea polyphemus.* **LASIOCAMPIDAE**: *Phyllodesma americana.* **NOTODONTIDAE**: *Clostera* sp., *Symmerista albifrons.* **ARCTIIDAE**: *Cisthene subjecta, Clemensia albata, Spilosoma virginica.* **NOCTUIDAE**: *Cutina albopunctella, Argyrostrotis carolina, A. flavistriaria,, Lesmone hinna*, Phoberia atomaris, Mocis marcida, Metria amella, Zale calycanthata, Z. lunifera, Z. aeruginosa, Zale* sp. (*declarans*?)*, *Meganola spodia, Nola* sp., *Acronicta oblinita, Iodopepla u-ablum, Phosphila turbulenta, Morrisonia mucens, Psaphida rolandi, P. styracis, Lithophane* sp.**(STATE)***, *Xystopeplus rufago, Chaetaglaea tremula**. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Macaria aequiferaria, Macaria* sp., *Iridopsis defectaria, Ectropis crepuscularia, Cleora projecta, C. sublunaria, Phigalea titea, P. denticulata, Lycia ypsilon* (abundant!), *Phaeora quernaria, Ceratonyx satanaria, Petrophora divisata* (pink!), *Besma quercivoraria, Eutrapela clemataria* (yellow form* included), *Nemoria bistriaria, N. lixaria, N. bifilata**, *Idaea*, sp.*, *Hydriomena* sp. **PYRALIDAE**: *Achyra rantalis.*

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A review of records and specimens at Mississippi State determined that a specimen of *Syntomeida epillais jucundissima* collected by Ricky Patterson at Grand Bay NWR on 20 September 2003 was a state record. There are no other records of note to report.

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[Ed's State Coordinator's Report came in after I went to press with the December 2003 issue (Vol. 25, No.4). Therefore his report appears in the present issue. Sorry for the 3 month delay. The Editor]

As we near year's end in Texas, 2003 appears to be the most outstanding year for Lepidoptera in decades. No less than 6 new US records have been reported, although of these, only one was found this year. To review these, in the Hesperiidae, *Phocides belus* was photographed in Bentsen State Park in Dec. 2002, by Dave Hanson. No others have turned up this year. *Achlyodes pallida* was photographed by Hanson this Oct. in Hidalgo Co., and several others were collected, seen, or photographed in early Nov. In the Sphingidae, *Manduca lanuginosa* was collected by Charlie Sassine in Hidalgo Co. also in late 2002, *Ceratomia igualana* was identified from a specimen collected in Bastrop Co., TX, in 2000, and most recently, *Erinnyis yucatana* was collected by Greg Muise at Concan, Uvalde Co., in March, 2002. This record will be published, with photo in News of the Lep. Soc., early next year. We have also learned of a new US Saturniid record from 1997 (D. Bowman), from Starr Co., TX. This was identified as *Citheronia phoronia*, but we have not yet seen the specimen.

Bordelon & Knudson participated in the Butterfly Festival, in Mission, TX (Oct 17-21, 2003). This was the largest festival yet, with several hundred attendees. Over 120 species of butterflies were recorded during the festival, from Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr co's. Another 20 or so species were recorded from the same counties after the festival.

Outstanding records included: *Papilio anchisiades idaeus, Eurema salome, Emesis emesia, E. tenedia, Rekoa marius, Cyanophrys* sp. (prob. *miserabilis*), *Electrostrymon sangala, Strymon yojoa, Strymon bebrycia, Strymon alea, Ministrymon azia, Euiedes isabella, Dine moneta, Anartia fatima, Hamadryas guatemalena* (several times!), *Epiphile adrasta, Eunica tatila, Marpesia chiron, Adelpha fessonia, A. bredowii* (a first for the valley), *Doxocopa laure, D. pavon, Dynamine dyonis, Chlosyne definita, Proteides mercurius, Urbanus tanna, Aguna asander, A.*

metophis, Gorgythion pyralina, Arteurotia tractipennis (several, first records since the single McGuire record from the 1970's), *Vettius fantasos* (first since the Knudson record from the 1970's), *Celaenorrhinus fritzgaertneri, Pellicia arina, Timochares ruptifasciatus, Grais stigmaticus, Perichares philetes, Panoquina evansi, Monca crispinus* (formerly *tyrtaeus*), and *Lerema liris*.

Other species, such as *Eurema proterpia* and *Ministrymon clytie*, also appeared far north of their usual range. Several rare moths were also found during and after the Butterfly festival, including *Urania fulgens* and *Purius superpulveria* (the first found since 1999).

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The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually. Membership dues are $15.00 annually. The organization is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the southern United States. Information about the Society may be obtained from, and dues may be sent to: Jeffrey R. Slotten, Treasurer, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653.

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