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

ORETA ROSEA (WALKER, 1855) (LEPIDOPTERA: DREPANIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY

VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

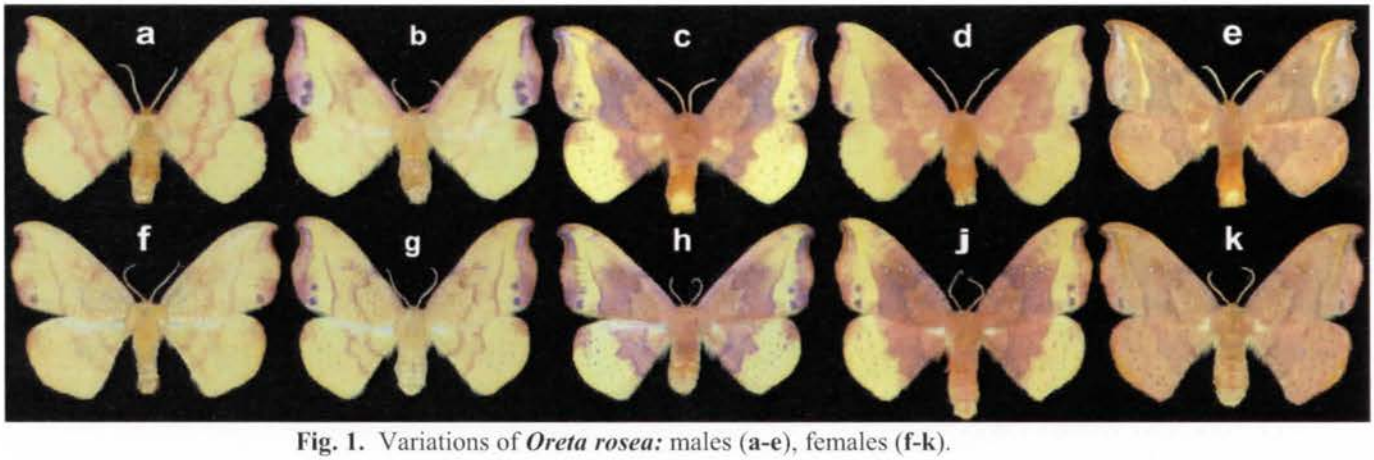

Fig. 1. Variations of ***Oreta rosea:*** males (**a-e**), females (**f-k**).

The small in size drepanid moth, ***Oreta rosea*** (Walker) (Fig. 1) occurs commonly at the Louisiana study site, 4.2 mi. NE of Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish. Adults of this species occur in innumerable variations of color from pale yellow with pink and light brown maculation to near total rusty orange, with lighter and darker markings, a few of which are illustrated here. In Hodges *et al.* (1983), the family ***Drepanidae*** was refereed by Douglas Ferguson who listed ***rosea*** as the lone species for the genus ***Oreta*** Walker.

In St. Tammany parish, ***rosea*** appears to have seven or more annual generations at approximate 30-day intervals (Fig. 2). The larvae are often found on ***Virburnum*** leaves at the study site.

Heitzman & Heitzman (1987) state in Missouri, ***rosea*** *"is widespread, but rather local"* and has *"two generations*

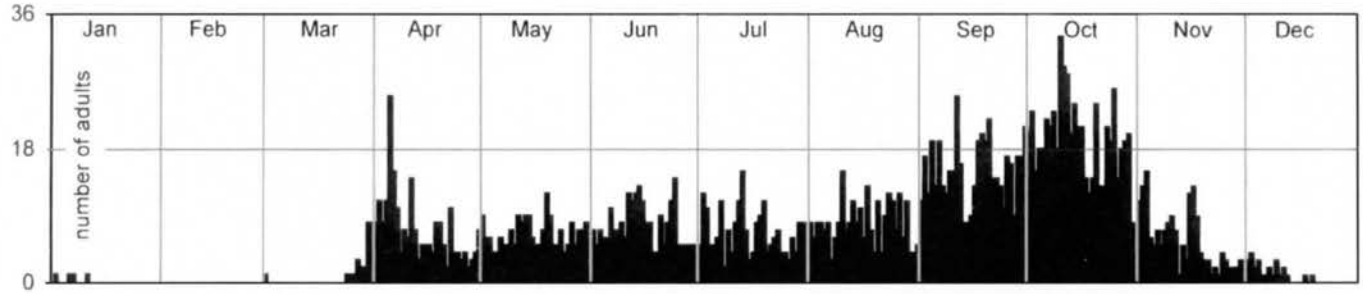

Fig. 2. Adult ***Oreta rosea*** captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE of Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 2367.

Fig. 3. Parish records by this author.

yearly, with adults occurring from early May to late September." Wagner (2005) states ***rosea*** has *"at least two generations over much of the east ..."* occurring Canada to Florida and Texas. Knudson and Bordelon (1999) report ***rosea*** to be a common species in Texas and illustrate it in publication 6, part 2 (1999). Covell (2005) reports ***rosea*** to be common throughout (eastern North America). Heppner (2003) lists the range of ***rosea*** to be Nova Scotia to Florida and west to Michigan and Texas. Louisiana parish records are illustrated in Fig. 3.

Reported larval foodplants include ***Betula*** and/or ***Virburnum*** species Heitzman & Heitzman (1987), Wagner (2005), Covell (2005).

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MANY, MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS DONORS TO THE SL SOCIETY

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(Contributions made after publication of the March 2008 issue of the SLS NEWS.)

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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. Annual membership dues:

Regular	$20.00
Student	$15.00
Sustaining	$30.00
Contributor	$50.00
Benefactor	$70.00

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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DEAR MEMBERS, I am still looking for articles for the SLS NEWS. While a number of members have submitted many interesting articles over the years there are a good number of you who have not yet contributed. Surely, you have encountered something of interest in your travels of collecting, photographing, or just hiking through the mountains, woods, swamps, prairies, deserts, *etc.* Short note or long article (add a few photos) - all will be accepted. Please write it up and send it to me. Many thanks - The Editor.

A COMMENT BY JAMES

"Twenty dollars has been sent to our illustrious treasurer Jeff Slotten as part of my promise for $10.00 donations for each ***"Dangers/Joys of Lepping"*** *article and each* ***"First Encounter"*** *article. My mom's article certainly fit the description. While I appreciate Joe Riddlebarger's suggestion that his article about his first encounter with Olympias in Ohio should fit into both categories, a possible curling iron left on at home, that in turn wasn't, is not something I would consider a danger of lepping. You could leave a curling iron on when you go anywhere: baseball game, movie, colorectal surgeon visit, wherever. A danger of lepping would have to be something that occurs as a result of lepping activities of some kind, not something that could have happened that didn't at home. So, the tab is $20.00 (out of a possible $100.00 for the year) as of the spring 2008 issue."*

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AND THE CHALLENGE GOES ON!

James, please check out these next three articles by Harry E. LeGrand Jr., David Rupe, and Lance A. Durden and Jamie M. Anderson. Hopefully they fit your criteria for a $10.00 donation to the SL Society.

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MEGATHYMUS COFAQUI – COSTLY FIRST ENCOUNTER

BY

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

When Derb Carter, Rick Cech, Emily Peyton, and I made an attempt to see and photograph the Cofaqui Giant-Skipper (*Megathymus cofaqui harrisi*) in late July 1999, there seemed to be little published material on the behavior of this very seldom seen species. Each of us was quite familiar with the closely related Yucca Giant-Skipper (*M. yuccae*), as we had seen it on a number of occasions, mostly in North Carolina. This latter species is not hard to see in mid-morning in April as the adults warm up and make flights at *"arenas"* close to their yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*) hostplants. But, we knew that *M. cofaqui* flew in the Carolinas and Georgia in the late July to mid-August period, according to Kilian Roever (pers. comm.), who had collected adults in that time period in NC.

With these few facts in hand, Derb and I headed out of Raleigh, NC, around daybreak on Saturday, July 31, to reach Rocky Face Mountain in Alexander County, NC, by 9 am, to see if *M. cofaqui* might be flying around the exposed granite areas. Yucca plants are common in the adjacent woods, but we figured, based on *M. yuccae* behavior, that our best chance to see *M. cofaqui* would be to work the exposed rocks and not poke around in the woods. Besides, a few years earlier, I had seen a single *M. yuccae*, basking and flying around exposed rocks on this mountain in mid-morning in April. While we were en route to Alexander County, Rick and Emily were on a flight from New York City to Charlotte, to pick up a rental car, and make the 1.5-hour drive north to the mountain to meet up with us later in the morning.

Well, Derb and I covered the portion of the granite outcrops closest to the public road for about two hours. Needless to say, on July 31, it was a warm and muggy morning. And, we found nary a *M. cofaqui*. About the time that we got back to our car, Rick and Emily pulled up. We told them the bad news, saving them the trouble of burning up calories trying to repeat what Derb and I just did. But, we had a back-up plan, though it would require a considerable amount of driving. And, with Rick and Emily having a flight back to New York City late on Sunday afternoon, we couldn't afford to piddle around.

Rick had done enough homework to have some additional known sites, and directions, at his disposal. After all, he was working on a book on Atlantic Coast butterflies (the now published *Butterflies of the East Coast: An Observer's Guide*, 2005, co-authored by Guy Tudor). So, the object of our desire turned to Georgia. By late morning, we headed south around the west side of Charlotte, hitting some major traffic tie-ups, and dropped off one of the cars at the home of one of Emily's relatives, close to Lake Wylie, in the early afternoon. The traffic along I-85 heading toward Atlanta wasn't too bad, but close to Atlanta we hit more jams. Finally, we managed to reach Dekalb County and got motel rooms, but skipped dinner to head to

Davidson–Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, maybe 20-25 miles east of downtown Atlanta, by around 7 pm.

This early evening visit to the preserve was intended to be a scouting trip, to look for the major patches of yucca, and some potential arenas on the nearby granite flatrocks. We spread out, walking the edges of the outcrops and into the open woods. I managed to see two lifer plants – Georgia oak (*Quercus georgiana*), which has a restricted range (AL, GA, and SC) and is limited to margins of granite outcrops; and Georgia calamint (*Clinopodium georgianum*), a low shrub that was in bloom around the margins of the outcrops. Thus, my evening was not wasted! Or, was it? I had split off from the others for over an hour, and had seen no butterflies (not surprising just before dusk), but at least I had a good idea of some spots to hang around on Sunday morning. I arrived back at the car well past dark, around 9 pm. Where were the other three? About 10 minutes later, not only did they arrive, but they arrived with the words: "We saw 3-4 Cofaqui Skippers!" Of course, my answer was an emphatic: "No way! You're lying! You didn't see anything! This is just a trick!" But, they persisted in this lunacy. How can anyone manage to see 3-4 of the buggers, around 8:30 to 8:45 pm, just after the sun had gone down beyond the treeline? And, no photos were taken; they claimed it was too dark. Yeah, right! They had to have been watching some moths.

I was incredulous and still in disbelief all the way back to the motel, and at the late dinner. I couldn't tell you where we ate, or what we ate. Dinner was a revolting idea, and I really had no interest in being with these three the rest of the evening. But they kept telling me – "Just cool it; we'll see them tomorrow morning. We know exactly where they flew around, so we'll stake out that spot in the morning." After all, this evening was just scouting for the big event on Sunday morning, so all was not lost.

I slept poorly that night. I still had hopes of seeing the buggers in the morning. So, we arrived quite early, probably by 8 am. We wandered around a little bit, but at least one person stayed at the arena. Time moved on – 8:30, 9:00, 9:30. Nary a *M. cofaqui*. We couldn't kick up a single one while walking through the woods, kicking the yucca plants, nothing. We had learned some important biology about the species: *M. cofaqui* does not fly at all in the morning, but it flies (only?) at dusk! Where the adults hang around during the day, I can't say, but I'd guess they must perch on tree trunks over 10 feet off the ground, as they certainly didn't seem to be anywhere close to the ground.

I was fit to be tied. Not only had I burned up a lot of calories Saturday morning on Rocky Face Mountain, but I had killed about 4-5 hours over two days at this stupid preserve! Well, I still had one last chance.

By late morning, we headed back to Charlotte, three happy people in the car, and one who was dying. Rick and Emily got the rental car at Lake Wylie, drove to the Charlotte airport, and flew back to New York City. Rather than head back up NC 49 and US 64 through Asheboro back to Raleigh, Derb suggested that – since we knew now that *M. cofaqui* flies presumably only near dusk – we head back to Rocky Face and give it one last try late in the day. Of course, late afternoons in midsummer in the South are often bad times for butterflying, as thunderstorms are often brewing or just finishing. We had been very lucky yesterday that no such storms hit Arabia Mountain preserve. And, luck was with us, as no storms were around as Derb and I climbed back up Rocky Face an hour before dusk. But, this is a dangerous thing to do, as Rocky Face is a monadnock, somewhat like Stone Mountain in Georgia. A flashlight is a requisite for such an evening hike (to get safely back down the rock to the car after dark), and a flashlight we did not have. But, we tried anyway; we staked out a few potential arenas, and the appropriate time (about 8:30 pm) arrived. Nothing. 8:45. Nothing. I wasn't surprised. Missed again!

I know that I have never been so depressed at missing a lifer butterfly as I was when I got home late Sunday night. It wouldn't have been so bad if all four of us had missed it. Back at work on Monday, I was a wreck. I had a few meetings during the week, the last being in late morning on Wednesday. By Tuesday, I had made up my mind that I was going to try again, on my own, with no one along to share gas or motel money. Steve Hall, my fellow lepster at the N.C. Natural Heritage Program, was incredulous that I would consider doing this, especially giving up 2.5 days worth of work time. But, I am a birder at heart, and birders do crazy things; we make chases like this all the time. Yes, it was crazy, but it had to be done!

Out of Raleigh I headed by noon on Wednesday, August 4. I knew it was about 385 miles to Atlanta, which would be about 6.5 hours non-stop. But, any major traffic jams could keep me from getting to Arabia Mountain by dusk that evening. (I would still stay over nearby, and try on Thursday evening if I needed.) Luck was with me on several accounts. Traffic wasn't too bad, and I got to the preserve by 7:30, with plenty of daylight left, and with no storms in the area. I waited patiently at the arena, not daring to venture far, as maybe the flight might start at 8 pm. Well, it didn't.

The sun set behind the trees. It was 8:30, and still nothing. Finally, a minute or two later, a large butterfly/moth came from nowhere and started circling around the flatrock, 2-3 feet above the rock. It was indeed a *M. cofaqui*! A moment later, another came in – presumably both were males. They chased each other a bit, but both perched on the rock, and on twigs, for a couple of minutes. But, that was it; no more were seen, and by 8:45 pm, it was all over. Whew!! I wasn't interested in photography; I simply wanted to see them, and see their most unusual behavior.

After a comfortable night at the same motel, I headed due north Thursday morning, just as I had planned, to do some butterflying in the extreme southwestern tip of NC, in poorly-worked Cherokee County. I spent Thursday and a little bit of Friday there, and made the very long trip back to Raleigh on Friday afternoon, a very happy fellow.

This was not the end of the story in 1999. Both Derb and Rick failed to get photos on the fateful evening of July 31. Derb made a separate trip on his own that following weekend, as did Rick. Both were successful (on different evenings), and some of Rick's excellent photos – taken on August 7, are in his book, on pages 317 and 319. And, some of the text on those pages clearly relate to our adventures during that remarkable week (July 31 - August 7) at Arabia Mountain.

Now that I had figured out how to look for *M. cofaqui*, I tried a few more times over the next couple of years at Rocky Face Mountain, each time with different butterfliers, each time on sweltering but non-stormy evenings. Failure. Failure. I still think *M. cofaqui* could still be at Rocky Face, as there is a lot of rock face and yucca much farther from the paved road, but that means a long and dangerous trek back to a car at night (even with a flashlight). Derb tried this method – checking a flatrock with yucca plants at dusk – at another large site in Rutherford County, NC, where the species is not yet known. Failure. In sum, *M. cofaqui* hasn't been seen in NC in 10 or more years, but it would be difficult to say it is gone. I'll keep trying, as I want to see one of the very few breeding species of butterfly still lacking on my list in North Carolina.

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A TALE OF TWO ZEBRAS
BY
DAVID RUPE

I have enjoyed collecting butterflies since I was three years old. Perhaps my exposure to butterflies at a young age while spending time with my grandmother was the catalyst. My grandmother's house was surrounded by mature mimosa trees (*Albizia julibrissin*) that attracted fairly large numbers of swallowtails, especially pipevine swallowtail (*Battus philenor*), spicebush swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*), tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), and occasionally giant swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*). As a child these large butterflies fascinated me, and they seemed larger than life to my young eyes. Only one species of interest eluded me, the zebra swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*).

I can still remember my first zebra swallowtail, on the hillside adjacent to my parent's house. I was probably nine years old at the time, playing on the old swing set on the hillside. As I remember it, a striking black and white butterfly came floating by and behind it were tails that must have been three or four inches long. Of course the tails were not really that long, but appeared so in my memory. I was totally mesmerized, and that was all I could talk about for weeks. As soon as I learned the zebra swallowtail's host plant, papaw (*Asimina triloba*), my grandmother and I set off to a creek some miles away and dug a few papaw trees up to transplant near my parents' yard. Unfortunately they did not make it, and my hopes of zebra swallowtails swarming around my yard faded. Soon summer was over and I was left dreaming of zebra swallowtails all winter.

The next summer, I talked my grandmother into taking me fishing on the small creek behind my parents' house. The creek constitutes the eastern property boundary between my parents' land and their neighbor to the east. There was one open hole of water, set aside to water cattle, that was suitable to fish from. As soon as we got there, I was catching small sunfish on live worms, and having an enjoyable time. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a zebra swallowtail appeared near the riffle at the end of fishing pool. I went into orbit, no net anywhere, screaming hysterically. My grandmother thought I had gone into a mad fit. When I finally calmed

down, I explained what I had seen and that I must go home and get my net. We went home, retrieved my net, and returned to the creek. I saw two or three more zebra swallowtails, but could not catch them; they were just too fast for a ten-year-old's net swinging hands.

I managed to return to the creek practically daily, but could not capture a zebra swallowtail, no matter how hard I tried. I could not understand why, because I had collected every swallowtail around, and a myriad of other butterflies for that matter, but just could not capture a zebra swallowtail. Finally, one afternoon, my grandmother, my mother, and my little sister all came down to the creek with me. Fishing took a back seat; all I brought was my trusty net. After a few minutes, along came a gleaming zebra swallowtail, fairly small, but with very long tails. I swooped, it banked, I chased, and it ducked. This continued for a while, until it finally took off across the huge cattle pasture to the south and west. It was heading in a beeline across the pasture, and moving fast. I was in quick pursuit, swinging and swooping while it was dodging and swaying. Then it happened. Almost like a cartoon, I was running, but there was no ground beneath me. I had just fallen off of the bank of a huge mud puddle, eroded by cattle and vehicles and full of ripe mud. I landed in that mud puddle head first and was covered with the nastiest slop believable. When I finally emerged, my family was rolling in laughter. At least my grandmother was keeping her composure, well, until she realized I wasn't hurt. She must have told that story a million times and continues to tell the story to this day. There was no zebra swallowtail for me that summer, however, the next year was a different story.

A net in the hands of an eleven-year old is a different story. I captured the first of many summer-form zebra swallowtails that year. The first one I captured is still framed in a riker mount at my parents' house and is likely the most impressive zebra swallowtail anyone has ever laid eyes on.

Now fast forward about twenty years. I am now a grown man, with two children of my own. I work as an ecologist for a successful consulting firm. I am still obsessed with butterflies, and most people who work with me know this. By this time, I have collected a large percentage of butterflies known to Arkansas, including several rare strays. During September 2006, however, I encountered one that I just didn't see coming.

A colleague and I were conducting an environmental survey just southwest of Little Rock, Arkansas, during that fateful day in September. It was a fairly warm morning and we were in the middle of a field surrounded to the south by a mature pine-oak forest and to the north by urban-lawn communities. As we were working our way through the field, and conversing, something caught my eye. Something I had seen before, but not here. I casually said, *"there goes a zebra longwing (Heliconius charithonia)"*. Then it hit me! Wait! There goes a zebra longwing, holy smokes, a zebra longwing. Well, I had been carrying around a shovel, to be utilized during our field investigation. I went into pursuit of the zebra, and the shovel went way up in the air, nearly taking my colleague down for the count. I had no net and was trying to catch the feeble zebra with my baseball hat. Unfortunately, I did not capture the zebra, but it soon lit on a privet bush (*Ligustrum sinense*), out of reach, but great for viewing. My colleague caught up to me and although not particularly interested in Lepidoptera, was amazed by the unusual butterfly. We had a good laugh, and spent the next hour looking for the shovel.

It is a relief to know that even though I have been chasing butterflies for over twenty years, I can still get as excited today as I did twenty years ago. I wish all members of SLS an enjoyable and eventful collecting season.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank my grandmother, Grace Brasher, for introducing me to the wide world of Lepidoptera. Without her, there would have been little chance for this lifelong interest that I have so enjoyed.

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A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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SOME RECORDS OF *"FLORIDA"* LEPIDOPTERA FROM GEORGIA: GLOBAL WARMING ?

BY
LANCE A. DURDEN AND JAMIE M. ANDERSON

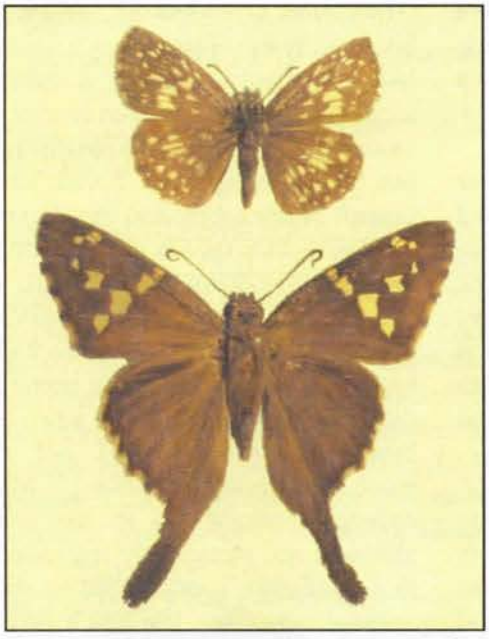

Fig. 1. TOP: *Pyrgus oileus* (Bulloch Co., Georgia, 1 September 2005). BOTTOM: *Urbanus dorantes* (Bulloch Co., Georgia, 11 November 2002).

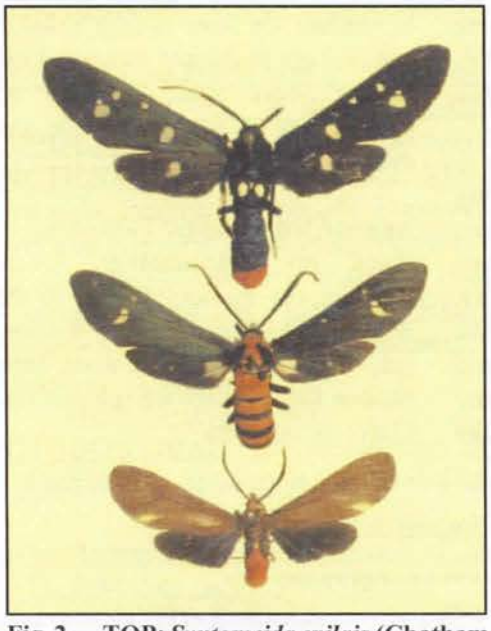

Fig. 2. TOP: *Syntomeida epilais* (Chatham Co., Georgia, 1 October 2007). MIDDLE: *Syntomeida ipomoeae* (Bulloch Co., Georgia, 28 August 1995). BOTTOM: *Dahana atripennis* (Ware Co., Georgia, 18 October 2004).

Some species of Lepidoptera that are common in Florida but have been uncommon or almost absent in Georgia, have seemingly become more abundant in the latter state in recent years. Included in this category are the Dorantes skipper (*Urbanus dorantes*) and the tropical checkered skipper (*Pyrgus oileus*) (Fig. 1). Most published and internet distribution maps for these 2 species show them to be widespread in Florida but either not occurring in Georgia or barely extending northwards across the Georgia state line (*e.g.,* Scott, 1986; Opler & Malikul, 1992; Glassberg, 1999; Daniels, 2004; Cech & Tudor 2005). Nevertheless, both species, especially *P. oileus*, are sometimes recorded in Georgia (Daniels, 2004) and both are listed in James Adams' *"Georgia Lepidoptera"* website (http://www.daltonstate.edu/galeps/ – Georgia Lepidoptera).

In an attempt to partially quantify records of *U. dorantes* and *P. oileus* in Georgia and to determine if these species have been collected more often in recent years, we examined specimens in the insect collections of the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University (GSU) in Statesboro, Georgia. These collections are historically important because they include student collections made from 1969-2007 in connection with partial requirements for the *"Entomology"* (BIOL 5442/G) course. This course was taught by Dr. Frank E. French from 1969-2002, by Dr. Daniel V. Hagan in 2003, and has been taught by one of us (LAD) from 2004 until the present time. Throughout its duration, the course has had a similar number of students (13-18) each time it has been offered and students were required to submit 100 insects in their course collections from 1969-2003 and 50 specimens from 2004 until the present time. With rare exceptions, student collections are incorporated into the Department of Biology Insect Collections after they have been graded at the end of the course. Therefore, these collections should reflect differences in the abundance of certain insects between 1969 and 2007.

We examined, identified and recorded all student-collected specimens in the trays of *Urbanus spp.* and *Pyrgus spp.* in the GSU insect collections. We also recorded Georgia specimens in the collection for three species of mostly diurnal arctiid (tiger) moths that have similarly been stated to occur in Florida but are typically not listed for Georgia: the polka-dot wasp moth (*Syntomeida epilais*), yellow-banded wasp moth (*Syntomeida ipomoeae*) and black-winged dahana (*Dahana atripennis*) (Fig. 2). Covell (2005) lists only Florida for the distribution of all three of these arctiids but James Adams lists each of them in his Georgia Lepidoptera website.

Table 1 lists records for both *U. dorantes* and *P. oileus* by year from 1969-2007 based on specimens in the GSU insect collections. Fourteen Georgia specimens of *U. dorantes* and 16 specimens of *P. oileus* were recorded. Fig. 3 shows the Georgia county records for specimens of *U. dorantes and P. oileus* in the GSU insect collections. Fig. 4 shows Georgia county records for specimens of *S. epilais, S. ipomoeae* and *D. atripennis* in the GSU insect collections. There were few records of

TABLE 1. Annual numbers of Georgia specimens of *Urbanus dorantes* and *Pyrgus oileus* in student insect collections at Georgia Southern University, 1969-2007*

Year	*Urbanus dorantes*	*Pyrgus oileus*
2007	2	2
2006	0	3
2005	1	2
2004	0	1
2003	3	0
2002	4	1
1999	1	0
1998	0	1
1994	1	1
1993	0	1
1991	1	0
1987	0	2
1972	1	0
1971	0	1
1969	0	1
TOTAL	14	16

*Years with no records for both species are excluded.

Fig. 3. Map of Georgia showing county records for *Pyrgus oileus* (squares) and *Urbanus dorantes* (crosses) for specimens in the Georgia Southern University insect collections.

these three arctiids with three specimens of *S. epilais* (one in the year 2005 and two in 2007), four of *S. ipomoeae* (1981, 1995, 1999 and 2007) and three of *D. atripennis* (1997, 2004 and 2007) (Fig. 4).

Ten of the 14 (71%) and nine of the 16 (56%) Georgia specimens of *U. dorantes* and *P. oileus*, respectively, that we recorded were collected between the years 2002-2007, a period that comprises only 21% of the years from 1969 to 2007. Clearly, more specimens of these two skippers have been collected since 2002. This does not reflect more collecting by more individuals because the number of students collecting insects was relatively constant each year. The increase in numbers of these two species in Georgia become more impressive when it is considered that, since 2004, half the number of total insects was submitted (50 *versus* 100) by each student compared to years prior to 2004.

Data for the three arctiid species are insufficient for further analysis except to note that these species are present in Georgia at least as far north as Bulloch, Chatham and Effingham counties (near Statesboro, Blichton and Savannah, respectively). Whether these three species are resident in Georgia or migrate northwards from Florida at certain times is unknown.

Fig. 4. Map of Georgia showing county records for *Syntomeida epilais* (squares), *Syntomeida ipomoeae* (triangles) and *Dahana atripennis* (crosses) for specimens in the Georgia Southern University insect collections.

Based on these data, there appears to have been a real increase in numbers of some species of *"Florida"* Lepidoptera in Georgia, especially since 2002. The cause of these increases is unknown but global or regional warming must be considered as a likely reason. Other studies have similarly suggested or provided circumstantial evidence for northward shifts in Lepidoptera distributions because of global or regional warming (*e.g.*, Parmesan *et al.*, 1999). Based on the larval foodplants documented by Opler & Malikul (1992), Allen

et al. (2005), Cech & Tudor (2005), Covell (2005) and Wagner (2005) for the five Lepidoptera species considered here, hostplant availability in southern Georgia is not a limiting factor for any of them. Further, hurricane activity (which could transport insects northwards from Florida) did not correlate with the dates of specimen captures in Georgia. Previously, increased collecting or recording has sometimes indicated an increase in numbers of particular species that could be false but, because the number of collectors was fairly constant between years for our data, the increases in Lepidoptera numbers reported here are probably real.

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DEFINITIONS:

Pharate - referring to an adult insect waiting to emerge from a cocoon; referring to an animal, especially an insect in transition between stages of metamorphosis.

Greek meaning 'cloak'.

Source: http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/pharate

Teneral - freshly emerged; the stage in the insect's metamorphosis when the adult is emerging from the pupa and the insect's exoskeleton has not yet become hard. At this stage the insect is highly vulnerable to attack by other predators such as insects, birds, *etc.*

Latin meaning 'tender' or 'delicate'.

Source: http://insects.about.com/od/t/g/def_teneral.htm

Ecdysis - the act of molting or shedding an outer cuticular layer.

Latin from Greek meaning 'act of getting out'.

Source: http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ecdysis

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DRYOCAMPA RUBICUNDA (F.) IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

In Louisiana, the very pretty pink and yellow ceratocampid moth ***Dryocampa rubicunda*** (F.) (Fig. 1) occurs commonly across the state (Fig. 2). The pale Midwest form, mostly cream-colored with minimal pink markings ***Dryocampa rubicunda alba*** Grote was considered a valid entity by Ferguson (1971), but dismissed by Tuskes *et al.* (1996) who found no justification for such status. Reported to have two broods by Ferguson (1971); Tuskes *et al.*

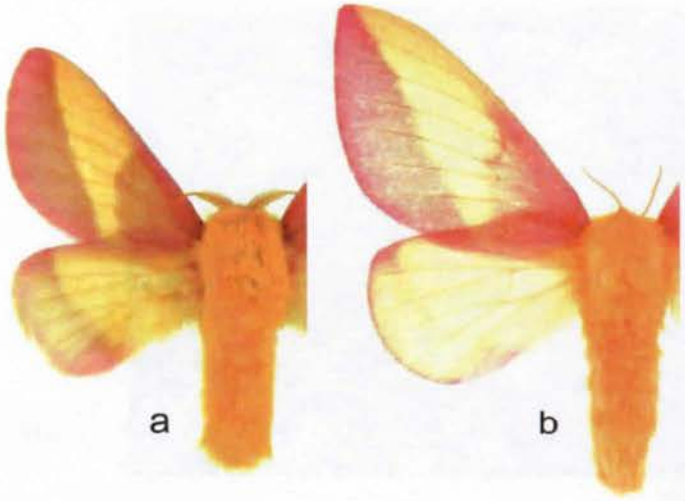

Fig. 1. ***Dryocampa rubicunda*****: a**. male, **b**. female.

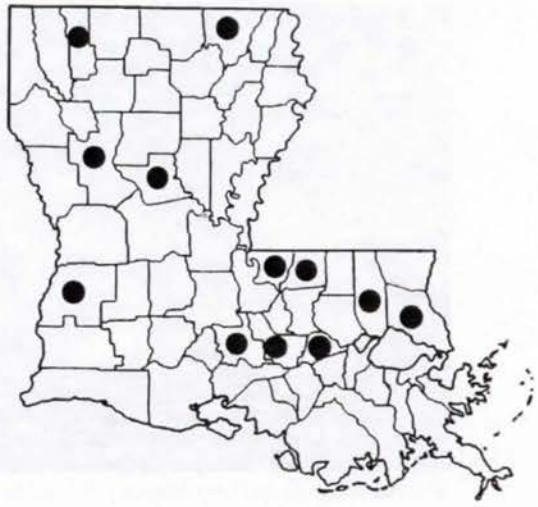

Fig. 2. Parish records by this author.

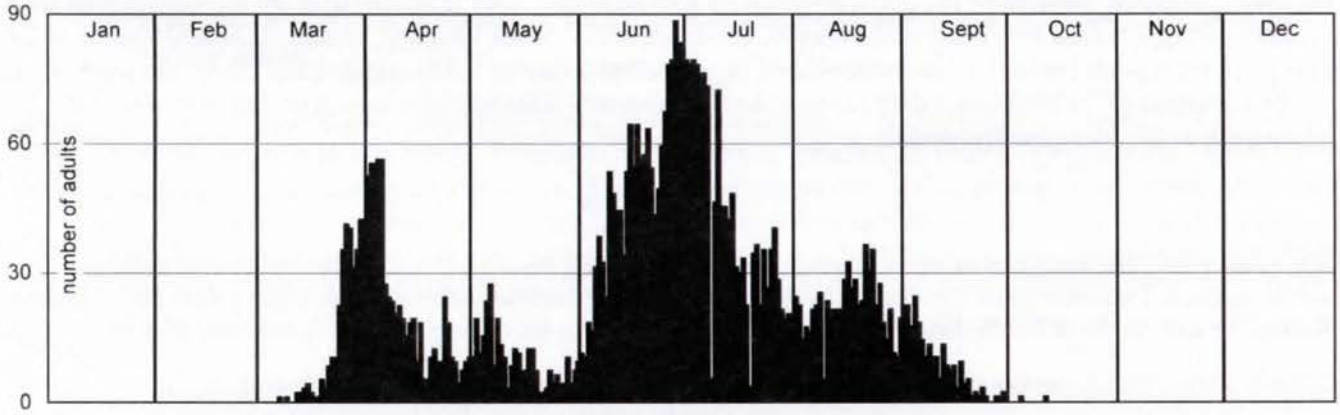

Fig. 3. ***Dryocampa rubicunda*** captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 4946.

(1996) pondered the possibility of a third brood in the south. They also reported *"...first brood early April through late May, ...second ... late June through mid-September"*. It is clearly evident that in Louisiana and probably elsewhere in the southeast that ***rubicunda*** has five annual broods, the populations of each brood peaking at about 36-day intervals. In Fig. 3, the abundant populations of broods three and four overlap end of June early July and the resulting peak displayed on the graph is simply an artifact of displaying multi-year dates on a composite graph. ***D. rubicunda*** has been reared in captivity on numerous species of maples and oaks as well as beech and butternut (Oehlke, 2004). Oehlke offers an image of a live moth and larva and some information **at http://www3.islandtelecom.com/~oehlkew/zrosymap.htm**

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MINISTRYMON LEDA (W. H. EDWARDS, 1882)

BY
J. BARRY LOMBARDINI

Ministrymon leda form ***ines*****: a,** dorsal; **b,** ventral.

This specimen of *Ministrymon leda* (W.H. Edwards, 1882) form "*ines*" was caught in the city of Lubbock (Lubbock county), Texas, on November 11, 2007, by J. Barry Lombardini. This butterfly is relatively common in the far western part of Texas in the counties of Presidio, Brewster, Jeff Davis, Culberson, Hudspeth, and El Paso, and there is at least one reported record in the Panhandle of Texas in Potter County. The winter form *"ines"* pictured here has on the underside of the hindwing a dark median band without red. This butterfly is commonly referred to as the Leda Ministreak or the Mesquite Hairstreak.

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J.A. Scott 1986. *The Butterflies of North America*, Stanford University Press.
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Butterflies and Moths of North America: http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species?1=1573&chosen_state=48*Texas

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NOTICE

Dr. Lee D. Miller passed away peacefully on Saturday (April 5, 2008) afternoon at his home in Gainesville, Florida. An obituary will be published in the September issue of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society NEWS. Donations may be made in Lee's memory to the Lepidopterists' Society or to the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity to support undergraduate students. The SLS extends their sincerest condolences to his wife, Jackie.

AN OBSERVATION OF POSSIBLE POPULATION IMPACT OF *PHOEBIS PHILEA* ON *PHOEBIS SENNAE* (PIERIDAE) AS AN AGGRESSIVE MIGRANT AND COMPETITOR FOR LARVAL HOSTS ON THE UPPER TEXAS COAST, 2004 - 2007

BY

CHARLES BORDELON & ED KNUDSON

Introduction

This note was prompted by the reappearance of *Phoebis philea* (Linnaeus, 1763) in the greater Houston area during the 2004 season, after years of absence. This species' appearance was a novelty at first, but later proved to have a huge impact on the usually common resident, *Phoebis sennae* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Study Area

While the main focus is the greater Houston area (especially Spring Valley, a township in west Houston), the total impact area would come to include not only the neighboring counties of Harris County (Fort Bend, Chambers, and Jefferson), but also a neighboring state, (Louisiana), as the population of *P. philea* would begin to reproduce exponentially over a two-year period (2005-2006). Beaumont, Jefferson County, was a secondary site. To best illustrate this phenomenon, and what was to come, a graph was created to encompass a four-year period (See Chart 1).

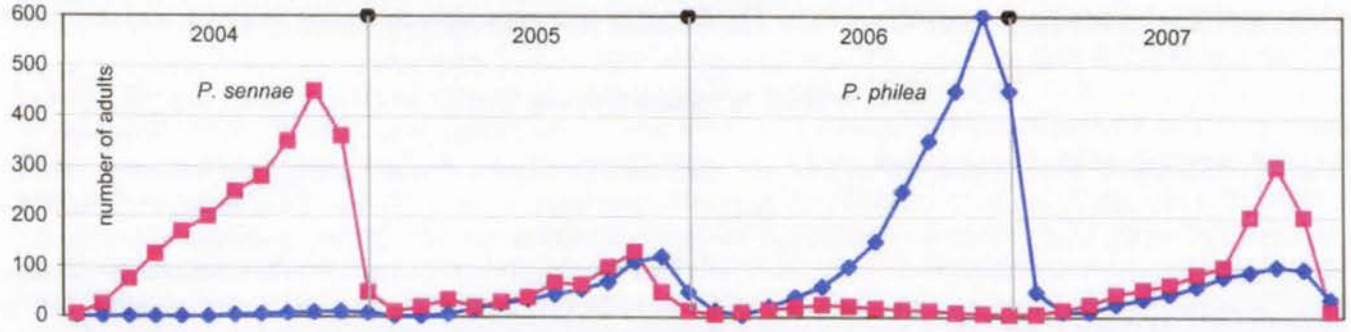


Chart 1. Number of observed adults by month (2004-2007) for *P. sennae* (magenta) and *P. philea* (blue).

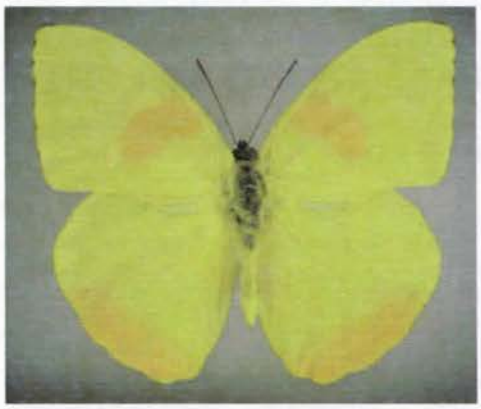
General Discussion

There was little method involved, except for observation and counting of individuals throughout the main and secondary study areas, and plugging in variables as a mean to plot the graph on a monthly basis over a four-year period.

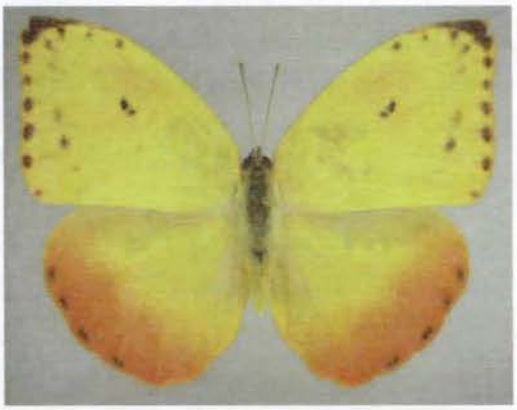
The 2004 season proved to be a typical one on the Upper Texas Coast during the spring, although rainfall was above average. The common *P. sennae* was on the wing in January, both as hibernators and/or the occasional new emergent. *P. sennae* is a familiar resident throughout the year, and a regular migrant (August-October) well to the north into regions where it cannot survive the colder winters. Populations of *P. sennae* were "normal" for the area throughout the year. By July, the first of several *P. philea* appeared. While they are a familiar sight in the Rio Grande Valley all year, and in the Hill Country during the latter half of the year, they were considered to be a "novelty" in Houston. It was hoped they would become established since the recent winters had been relatively mild, and the following winter was expected to be mild, as well. The notion of the old axiom, *"Be careful what you wish for..."* was the furthest thing from our minds that summer. By the end of the year, we had observed a total of 42 individuals. Those observed from September to December appeared to be fresh, and a few were collected, proving that they indeed were.

As 2005 began, some *P. philea* were observed during warm spells, as well as the usual *P. sennae*, from January through February. By March, we found *P. philea* beginning to occur on a near-daily basis, as well as *P. sennae*. It was then apparent that *P. philea* did breed, and survive the winter. Both species occurred on an even keel throughout the rest of the year. Furthermore, the first specimen of *P. philea* was found and collected by Bordelon for the first time ever at the secondary study site in Beaumont, approximately 90 miles to the east of Spring Valley. After 24 years

of collecting there, and throughout extreme Southeast Texas, Bordelon had never seen this species in the entire region, nor in the previous 11 years in Northeast Texas, as a resident of Longview, Gregg County.



***Phoebis philea* (male), 1-VI-2006, Harris County, Spring Valley, TX.**



***Phoebis philea* (female), 1-VI-2006, Harris County, Spring Valley, TX.**

In those 11 years in Northeast Texas (1969-80), Bordelon did find other Pierids with a tendency to migrate (or disperse), such as *Phoebis agarithe, Phoebis sennae, Anteos maerula, Kricogonia lyside*, and *Eurema mexicana*. During the next 25 years of collecting in Southeast Texas (1980-2005), Bordelon found other Pierids with the same tendencies, such as *Phoebis agarithe, phoebis sennae, Anteos clorinde, Glutophrissa drusilla*, and *Ascia monuste*. While *P. philea* was a hopeful stray in East Texas from 1969-2004 (because of previous records in Houston and Dallas), that stray never materialized, and the appearance of *P. philea* in Beaumont in 2005 then became suspect, given what was happening in the Houston area. The theory of an a impending migration was born, and this would become true in 2006.

2006: A "Space Odyssey"

The year 2006 will be a very memorable one for us, regarding what happened next... Though we saw equal numbers of both *P. philea* and *P. sennae* in 2005, a very atypical season occurred in 2006. Instead of seeing *P. sennae* as a common sight in the winter months, *P. philea* had become dominant in numbers due to yet another mild winter. *P. sennae* started to dwindle to almost zero in numbers, and the *P. philea* population had virtually saturated the Houston area. Knudson observed the same phenomenon to the west, in Fort Bend County, as well as the far east side of Houston. One could not step outside for a minute without seeing one. Chart 1 depicts the nearly vertical incline throughout the year. Our thoughts had now become one of how the area could possible sustain such a huge population? The fact is, it couldn't. By early September, the mean number in Chart 1 could be interpreted as a weekly count in Houston. It was quite dramatic, as these large, powerful, almost "neon-looking" butterflies navigated the wooded streets and boulevards like river corridors, cruising at altitudes of 8-30 feet, only to occasionally drop down to investigate anything red, or orange, whether it be a rose bed, a *Hibiscus*, or even the ripening fruits of Japanese Persimmons.

After a mid-September trip to the Rio Grande Valley, Bordelon returned to Houston via the US 77 and US corridors. From Kenedy County, north along the coast, hundreds of *P. philea* were observed in every single county along the route. All were moving northeast along the coast, in first phase of mass migration. By the time this influx had reached Houston, the local population was past saturation. Various white and yellow forms of the females started to become numerous, and a second massive migration then proceeded east along the coast. By then, mean numbers in the chart could be interpreted as a daily reflection, as thousands began to move east. Bordelon observed 60-80 individuals per hour at the peak of migration in Beaumont, as they moved east in October and November. An actual real number would have been impossible to record, but was easily in the thousands, if not tens of thousands. Thus, the lowest monthly mean numbers by week were implemented in 2006 now by day, to show the dramatic rise in numbers, without creating a chart that would be a "double-truck" in this issue.

Only a few days later, the phenomenon was reported in Lafayette, LA., by Craig Marks, on a Texas chat site, and Vernon Brou after that (*pers. com.*), north of New Orleans. Dr. Andrew Warren also noted larger-than-normal numbers of *P. philea* only a few days later in Gainesville, Florida (pers. com). *P. philea* normally moves northward from south Florida , but apparently the "twains did meet" somewhere in northern Florida. There were several others

who commented across coastal Texas on numbers flying and breeding in their own yards, as well as in Louisiana. For those who were not able to see the ***obvious eastern movement*** in the Beaumont area ***swarms***, it was surreal, and ***spectacular***.

After this mass migration, we closely monitored numbers of both species in 2007. It was no surprise that populations of both species had leveled off to a near 50:50 ratio by August, followed by a spike in the population of *P. sennae* to near "normal" in the fall while the population of *P. philea* finally "leveled off". It was obvious the trend could not rise in favor of *P. philea*, because of availability of *preferred* hosts for *P. philea* . This will be discussed in the next section. *P. sennae* was able to rebound in remarkable fashion, and statistical tendency analysis shows that both populations will continue to remain level in future seasons, with rise in population in favor of *P. sennae* for two reasons...

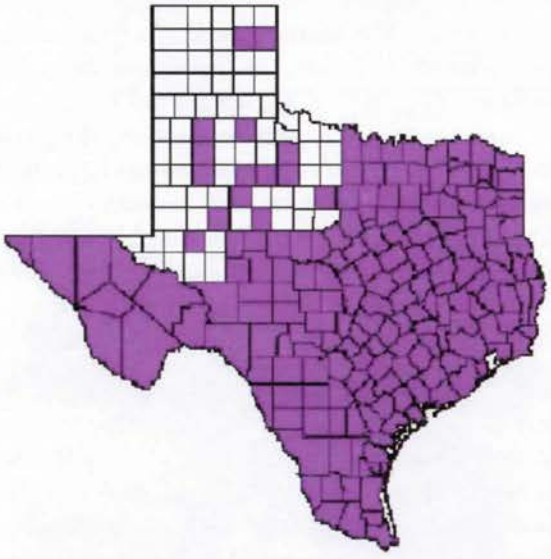


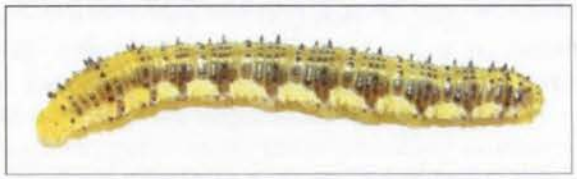
Chart 2. Occurrence of *P. sennae* in Texas.

Hosts, Competition, And Why *P. sennae* Must Prevail

Once we look at the range of *P. sennae* (Chart 2), it is obviously more successful in the temperate to subtropical climes of Texas for two reasons. First, *P. sennae* is resident in the southern half of the state. Secondly, *P. sennae* is a generalist on hosts in the genus *Cassia*. As a resident on the coast, *P. sennae* is able to survive fairly cold winters, where at least, native *Cassia fasciculata* thrives, irregardless of whether some or few exotic unprotected by trees giving thermal protection. This weedy species is common, often in vast stands in waste fields and disturbed areas. It is low-growing and generally a subtle weed, except when in bloom.

The problem for *P. sennae* in the main study area of Spring Valley, and other parts of Houston, is the lack of *Cassia fasciculata*. Lack of space for these to thrive is due to human population. Millions of people with lawns, many hundreds of square miles of concrete, and many wooded areas are just not favorable for this weed. However, non-native and exotic species of *Cassia* are planted widely as ornamentals. *P. sennae*, as a generalist, has no problem utilizing these. The most popular species planted are *C. bicapsularis, C. obtusifolia, C. alata*, and *C. multijuga*, to name just a few.

***Phoebis philea* larva, 1-VI-2006, Harris County, Spring Valley, TX.**



***Phoebis philea* larva, 1-VI-2006, Harris County, Spring Valley, TX.**

Exotic butterflies use exotic hosts. When *P. philea* arrived in Houston under favorable conditions in 2004, they also found suitable hosts to utilize. (It is not a permanent resident here on the upper coast, though its range appears to be so.) (See Chart 3 on next page.) *P. philea* was thriving in wooded neighborhoods with exotic hosts. These conditions are typical for the species where it occurs naturally. *P. philea* is *not a typical species* in open fields, and we don't know of it using the small *C. fasciculata*. As their numbers increased, the numbers of *P. sennae* decreased. We had to assume that *P. philea*, being a more robust species, was able to compete for these exotic hosts. They were able to eat more and reproduce faster than *P. sennae*. As a tropical species that breeds continuously, the smaller, more seasonally occurring *P. sennae* appeared to not have a chance. It is believed that they were unable to cope and compete in the metropolitan scenario.

So where did they go, when the population crashed? Many move north in the fall, anyway; but we assume *P. sennae* did disperse into other areas in the region throughout the year where they were able to utilize *C. fasiculata*. They were observed elsewhere, where *P. philea* was not, and apparently were able to regulate their populations, where *P. philea* could not. *P. philea* was not reported north of Jefferson County in East Texas. A few strays were observed in the Dallas/Fort Worth area by Dale Clark and James McDermott. These were most likely strays of the annual dispersion

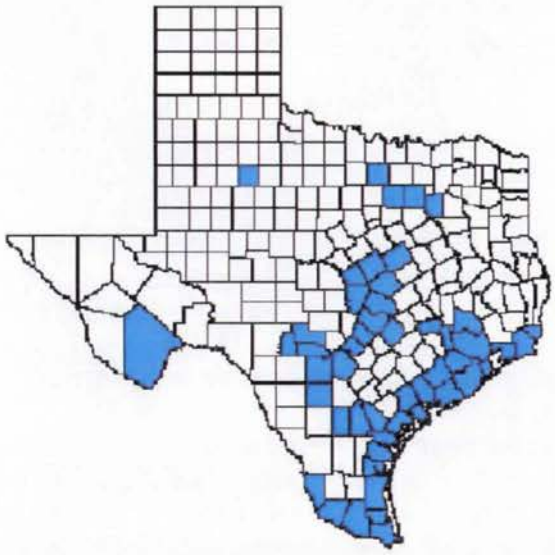


Chart 3. Occurrence of *P. philea* in Texas.

into the Hill Country from the south, where they sometimes become temporarily established on exotic *Cassia spp.* (*Chris Durden, per. com.*). Apparently, numbers of *P. philea* have no significant impact on Hill Country populations of *P. sennae*. It was believed *P. sennae* would rebound in 2007, and indeed, it did. It is the hardiest of our *Phoebis* species. Its ability to find a way to cope and adapt prevailed.

Conclusion

There are many kinds of migration and dispersion. Literature in Lepidoptera is replete with information on this subject, and is of course, most notable with the over-rated *Danaus plexippus* (Nymphalidae: Danainae). Of course, the kind of migration relevant to this discussion is one of overpopulation (or drought), and a means of relieving it. We are not sure of the exact conditions that prompted the initial surge along the coast from Mexico, but it is clearly evident that the secondary surge was due to over population. We are also unsure *why* this movement followed the coast and moved eastward, rather than northward, though it is believed that this has occurred before. Everyone is familiar with Mitchell and Zim's *Golden Guide* which states that *P. philea* "is common along the Gulf of Mexico". That statement was originally written in 1962, and has certainly not been the case for us until now.

Some may argue the case of "global warming", as a reason. If that is the case, it is a very small argument. This phenomenon is most likely *cyclical*, because of a combination of many favorable conditions. What the exact recipe for this is, is unknown. We are simply reporting observations made since 2004, and will continue to monitor this. This article was originally written in March, 2008, for publication in the spring issue, but since it was held over for the summer issue, we can now update our findings through May, 2008. We have observed *P. philea* less than two dozen times in January and February, and only two in March. They have been breeding in small, manageable populations in older areas of Houston, such as the Heights, and Bellaire since. On the other hand, *P. sennae* has been very common throughout Southeast Texas. Numbers of individuals are already off the charts. Eventually, it is believed *P. philea* will finally succumb to an inevitable hard freeze, thus completing the cycle.

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Pelham, Jonathan P., Andrew D. Warren (eds.) 2008. Checklist of the Butterflies of the United States and Canada. *Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera,* Vol. 40. The Lepidoptera Research Foundation, Beverly Hills.

Acknowledgements

The senior author would particularly like to thank Vernon A. Brou, for his gracious assistance with EXCEL graphics, and Jonathan Pelham for taxonomic discussions on *Phoebis sennae*. We both wish to thank Andrew Warren, Dale Clark, James McDermott, Craig Marks, Chris Durden, John & Gloria Tveten, and Vernon A. Brou for their field remarks.

(Charles Bordelon & Ed Knudson, Texas Lepidoptera Survey, 8517 Burkhart Rd., Houston, TX 77055)

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***EXCERPTS FROM A TRAMP ABROAD* - BY MARK TWAIN:** The author is comparing the European dinner to the European breakfast and states that the dinner is better but *"...it has its faults and inferiorities; it does not satisfy... And thus he goes on, from dish to dish, like a boy after a butterfly which just misses getting caught every time it alights, but somehow doesn't get caught after all; and at the end the exile and the boy have fared about alike; the one is full, but grievously unsatisfied, the other has had plenty of exercise, plenty of interest, and a fine lot of hopes, but he hasn't got any butterfly."*

VARIATIONS OF *PHOBERIA ATOMARIS* HÜBNER (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

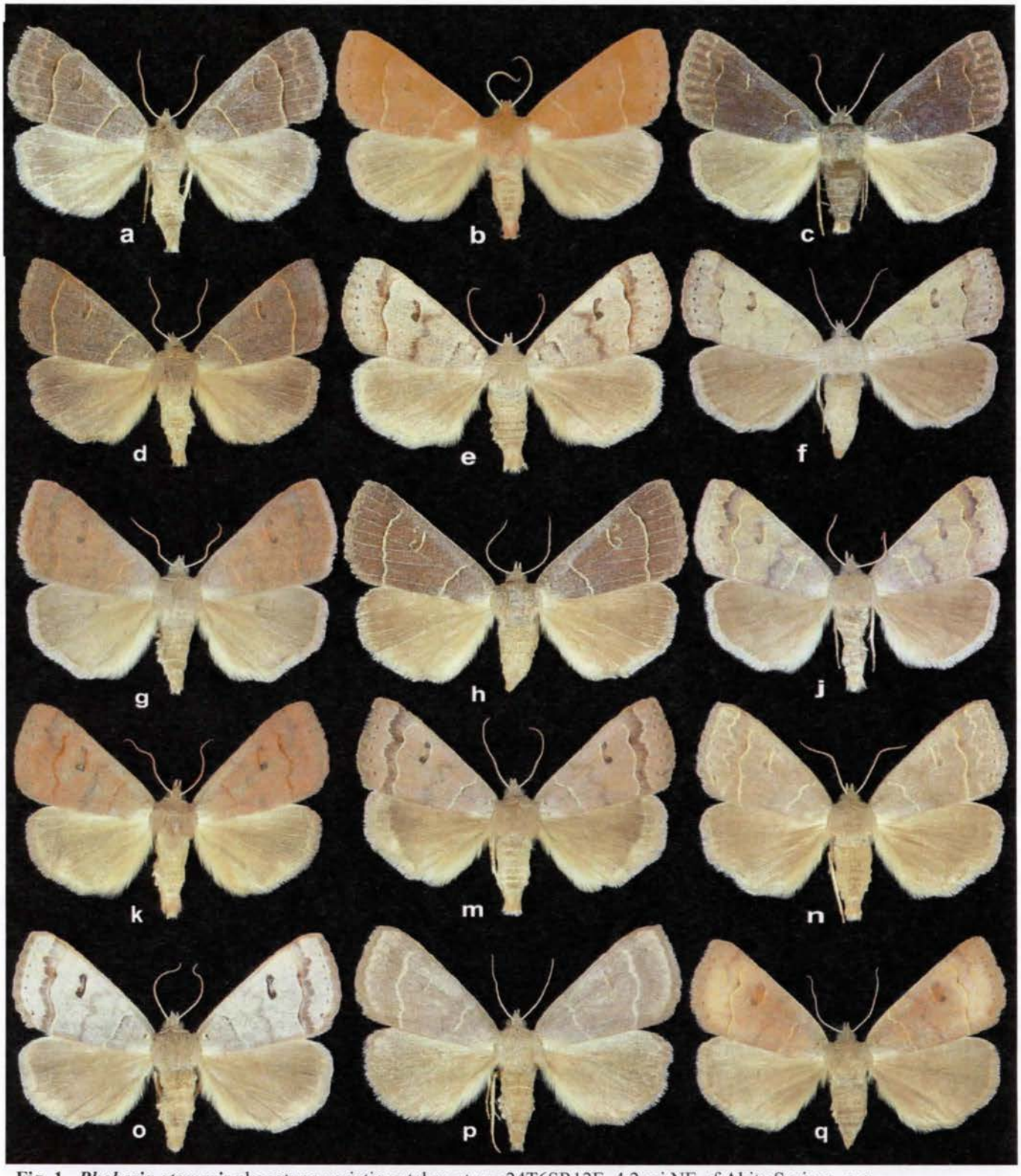

Fig. 1. ***Phoberia atomaris*** phenotype variations taken at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi NE of Abita Springs, **a-q**.

The old adage, a picture is worth a thousand words is quite apropos when viewing some lepidoptera adults and larvae from even a single geographical location. Lepidopterist rely on field guides and even more specialized volumes of reference books to aid in correctly visually identifying a particular specimen or species. What we are usually

presented with is a single image or half image of a specimen, and even worse, a black and white image or a pencil drawing or the dreaded and more often inadequate text description. Publication of my earlier newsletter articles concerning species accounts in Louisiana were limited to black and white images and it was impossible to illustrate the colors and hues and subtle variations in color and maculation found on even a single specimen let alone within a population. Thus, I often illustrated a single specimen or pair of specimens, or images depicting one half of fully spread specimen (one side). Since then, our current editor has transitioned this publication from the black and white dark ages to the realistic and colorful present day format. Only four years ago, I even made such now outdated suggestions on illustrating and reporting new state records in our newsletter (Brou, 2004). It is obvious why lepidopterists over the past centuries have found it necessary to give detailed text explanations of color and markings when describing or speaking of specific species.

I previously reported on the noctuid species ***Phoberia atomaris*** Hübner in Louisiana (Brou, 2004), illustrating only a one-half black and white image of the adult. I make note of a typo in that article, the species was incorrectly listed in that article as ***Phoberia automaris***. In this earlier article, I reported on 1294 specimens representing one brood peaking in February taken at the Abita Springs study site. I described the color of ***atomaris*** as being numerous and varying shades of brown, chestnut and tan with variable colored maculation, though such descriptions are woefully inadequate when one views a small representative sample of the many variations actually encountered at this one location (Fig.1).

This particular species is not unique in such variability and one must consider that additional phenotype variations of ***atomaris*** probably also occur at other locations across the vast habitat of this species in the eastern United States. Now, since the availability and reduced cost of printing in color has arrived, lepidopterists should consider illustrating more than a single specimen in their publications, when there is such great variability within a species or population.

While it is not my intention to make the taxonomic changes involving the various other names involved here for ***atomaris***, others have investigated these matters and have intentions to publish their findings in the future. The other names associated with ***Phoberia atomaris*** Hübner, 1818 [Type locality: Georgia] are:

Lyssia orthosioides Guenée, 1852 [Type locality: North America]
Poaphila ingenua Walker, 1858 [Type locality: United States]
Poaphila porrigens Walker, 1858 [Type locality: Florida]

The final name ***Poaphila basigutta*** Walker, 1869 [Type locality: not given], was not previously associated with the group (Lafontaine, *per. com.*).

I thank John Heppner and Don Lafontaine for helpful information and advice on this investigation.

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MOBY DICK **- BY HERMAN MELVILLE:** *"Nevertheless, a man like Queequeg you don't see every day, he and his ways were well worth unusual regarding. He commenced dressing at top by donning his beaver hat, a very tall one, by the by, and then --still minus his trowsers -- he hunted up his boots. What under the heavens he did it for, I cannot tell, but his next movement was to crush himself --boots in hand, and hat on --under the bed; when, from sundry violent gaspings and strainings, I inferred he was hard at work booting himself; though by no law of propriety that I ever heard of, is any man required to be private when putting on his boots. But Queequeg, do you see, was a creature in the transition state -- neither caterpillar nor butterfly."*

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ACROLOPHUS MYCETOPHAGUS DAVIS, 1990 (LEPIDOPTERA: ACROLOPHIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

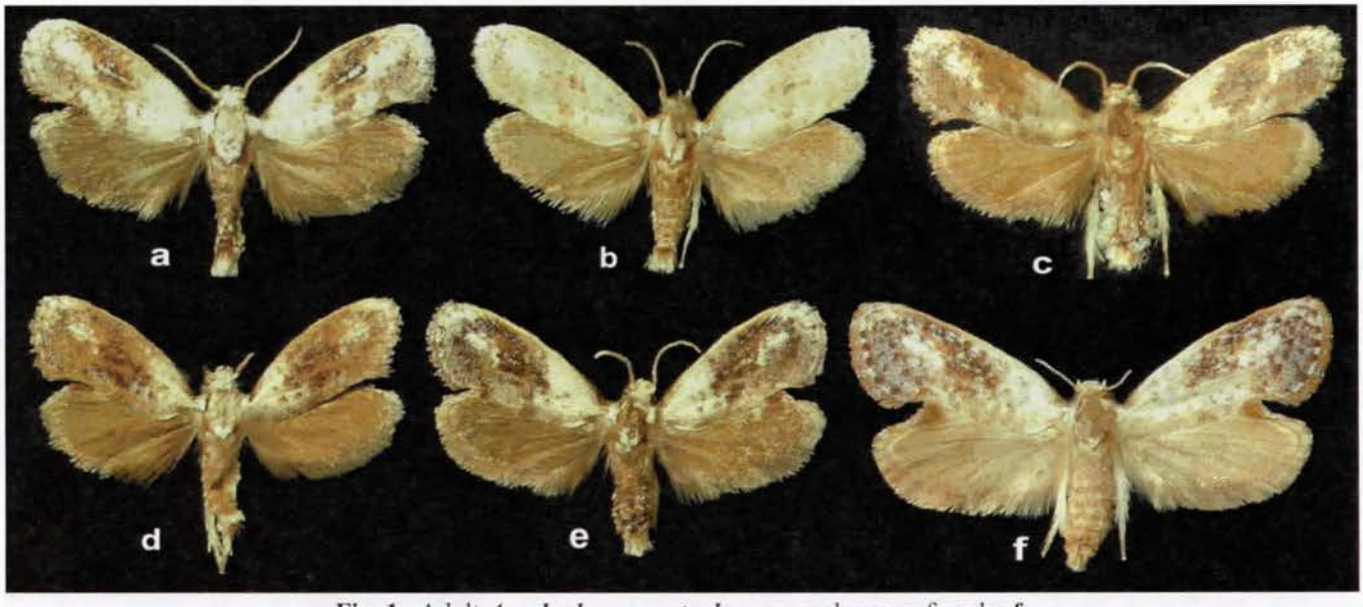

Fig. 1. Adult ***Acrolophus mycetophagus*** - males: **a-e**, female: **f**.

The acrolophid moth ***Acrolophus mycetophagus*** Davis (Fig. 1) occurs in Louisiana, though all of my records are for the southeast portion of the state (Fig. 3). Davis (1990) described ***mycetophagus*** (type locality: Clinch County, Georgia) from a series of about 93 specimens from Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Among the type series, there were seven specimens from Louisiana, five from East Baton Rouge Parish and two supplied by this author from St. John the Baptist Parish. Davis remarked that ***mycetophagus*** showed no affinities to any other member of the genus and was the first ***Acrolophus*** to be reared from fungus. Davis described

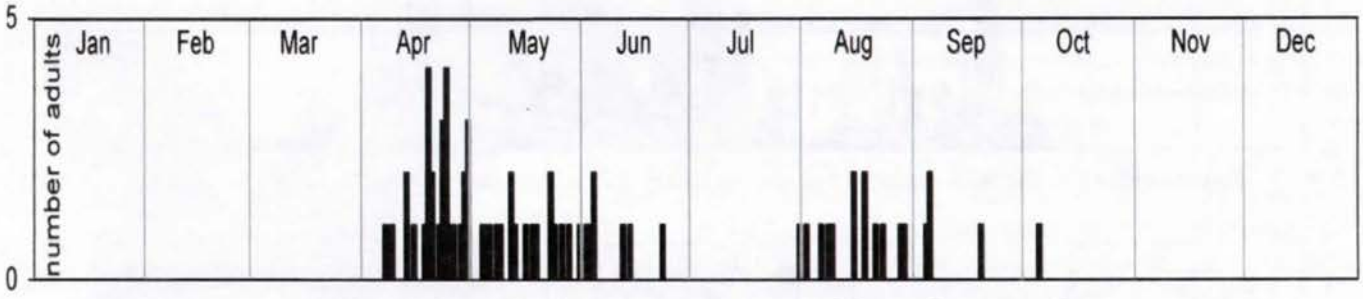

Fig. 2. Adult ***Acrolophus mycetophagus*** captured in Louisiana. n = 69.

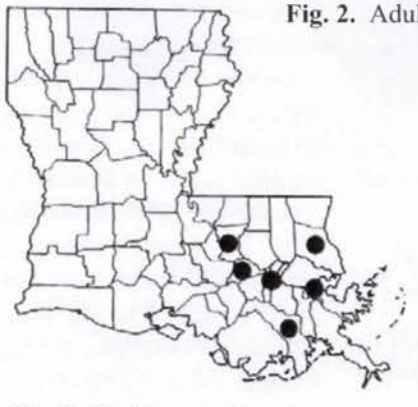

Fig. 3. Parish records.

mycetophagus as *"a moderately small moth with dull white forewings heavily marked with dark fuscous over distal half and uniformly dark fuscous hindwings"*, with the length of forewing for males to be 5-8 mm and females 8-11 mm. Davis stated ***mycetophagus*** was possibly bivoltine with most known adults captured between mid February and mid June and a second, much smaller amount in August and September. My data confirm this (Fig. 2).

I have taken this species in six southeastern parishes (Fig. 3). I thank Don Davis and Peter Jump for their helpful assistance.

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Davis, D. R. 1990. Three New Species of *Acrolophus* from the Southeastern United States with remarks on the status of the Family Acrolophidae (Lepidopter: Tineodea). *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 92(4): 694-704.

THE GENUS *PHYTOMETRA* HAWORTH, 1809 (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

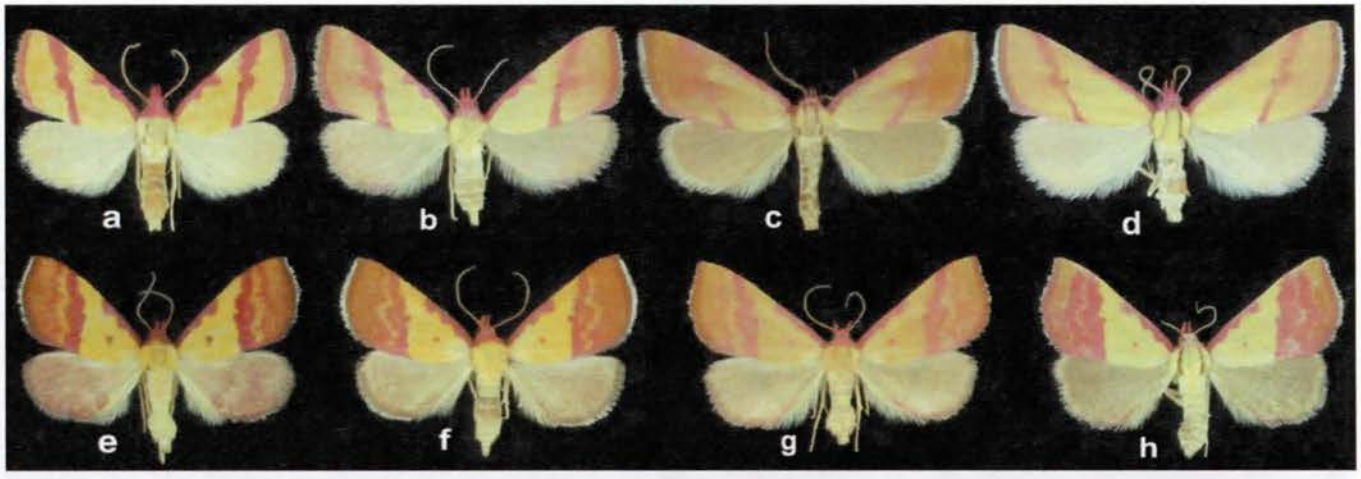

Fig. 1. ***Phytometra ernestinana***: male. **a**, females. **b, c, d**; ***Phytometra rhodarialis***: males. **e. f**, females. **g, h**.

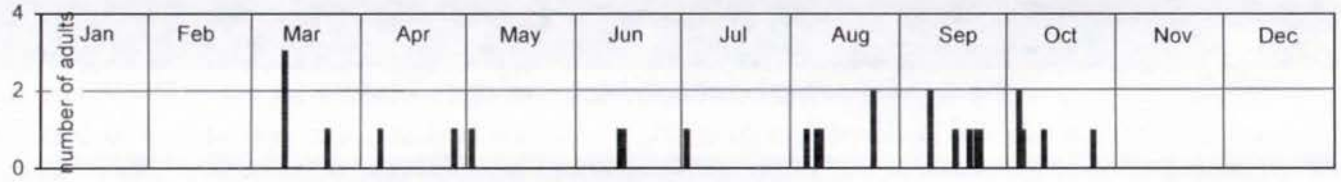

Fig. 2. ***Phytometra ernestinana*** captured in Louisiana. n = 26

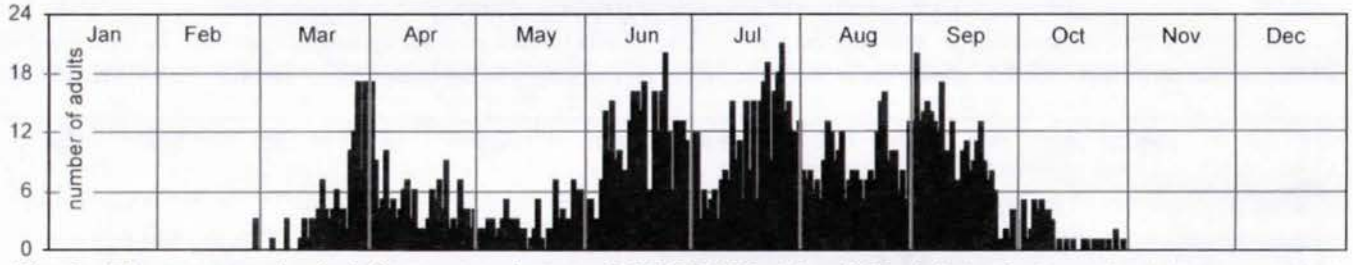

Fig. 3. ***Phytometra rhodarialis*** captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi NE of Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 1639

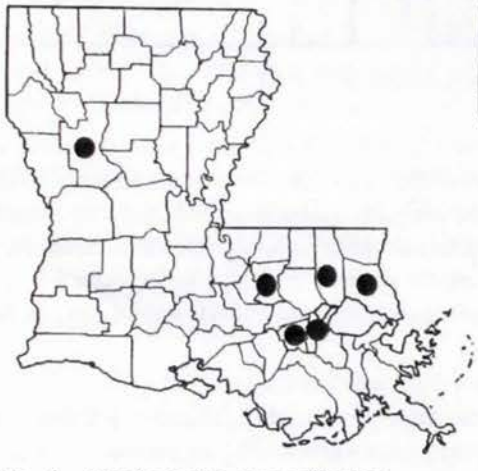

Fig. 4. ***Phytometra ernestinana*** parish records.

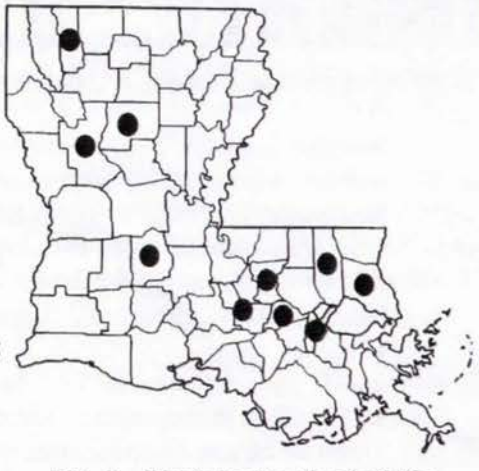

Fig. 5. ***Phytometra rhodarialis*** parish records.

In the latest checklist of moths (Hodges *et al.*, 1983), five species of ***Phytometra*** Haworth are listed. In Louisiana, two species occur: ***Phytometra ernestinana*** (Blanchard, 1840) and ***Phytometra rhodarialis*** (Walker, 1859) (Fig. 1). Both species were previously reported to have been captured in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, area by Chapin and Callahan (1967), who listed specimens from non-specific localities outside of East Baton Rouge Parish. My parish records (Figs. 4 and 5) now include East Baton Rouge Parish for both species reported here.

P. ernestinana was reported by Covell (1984) to occur from Georgia to Florida and west to Texas, with strays to New York and Kansas. Heppner reported ***ernestinana*** occurring (January-December) in Florida with the range to include New York to Florida and Kansas to Texas in the eastern United States.

P. rhodarialis was reported by Covell (1984) to occur from New Hampshire and Southern Ontario to Florida, west to Missouri and Texas. Heppner reported ***rhodarialis*** occurring (January-December) in Florida with the range to include Ontario to Florida and Illinois to Colorado and Texas. ***P. rhodarialis*** has possibly five or more annual broods. Though I have only 26 Louisiana specimens of ***ernestinana*** at hand, one could surmise this species also may have an equivalent number of broods, as the dates of capture are spread throughout the same time expanse as ***rhodarialis*** (Figs. 2 and 3).

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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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HOLOMELINA RUBICUNDARIA (HÜBNER) (LEPIDOPTERA: ARCTIIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

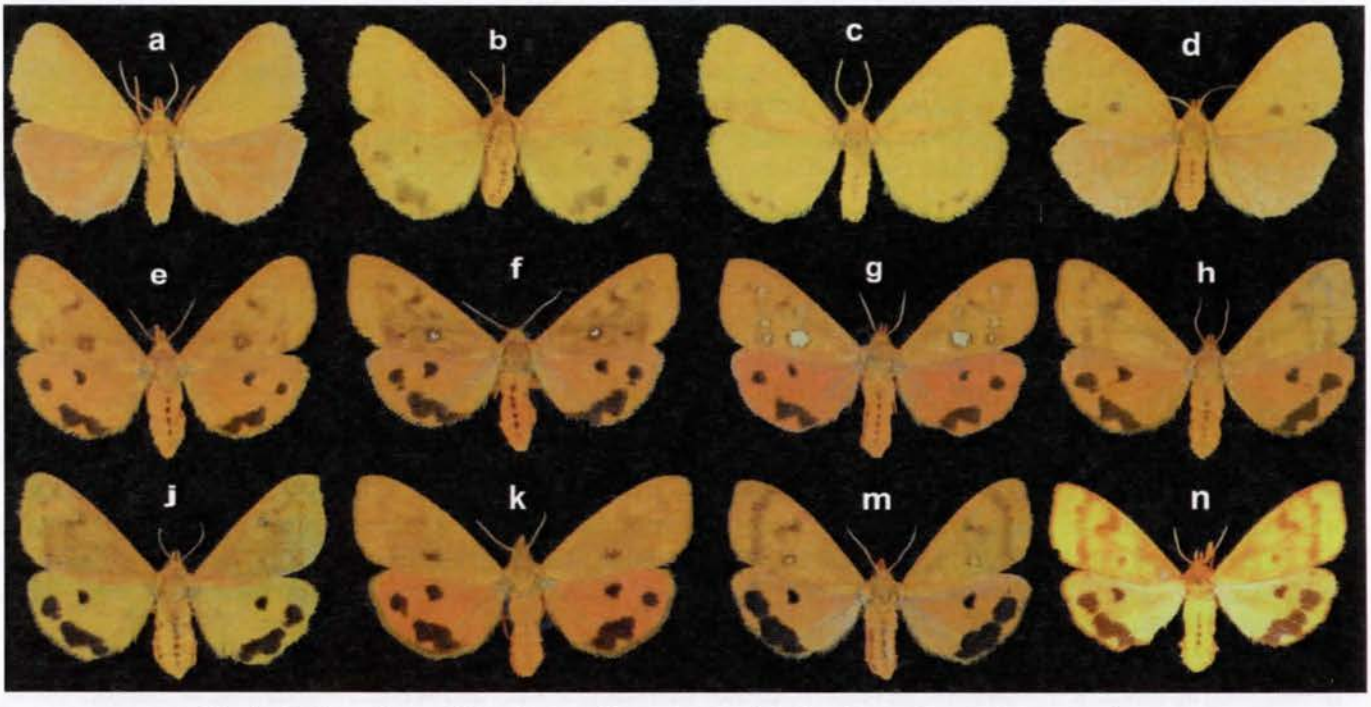

Fig. 1. ***Holomelina rubicundaria*** males: **a, b, c** and **d**, females: **e, f, g, h, j, k, m** and **n**.

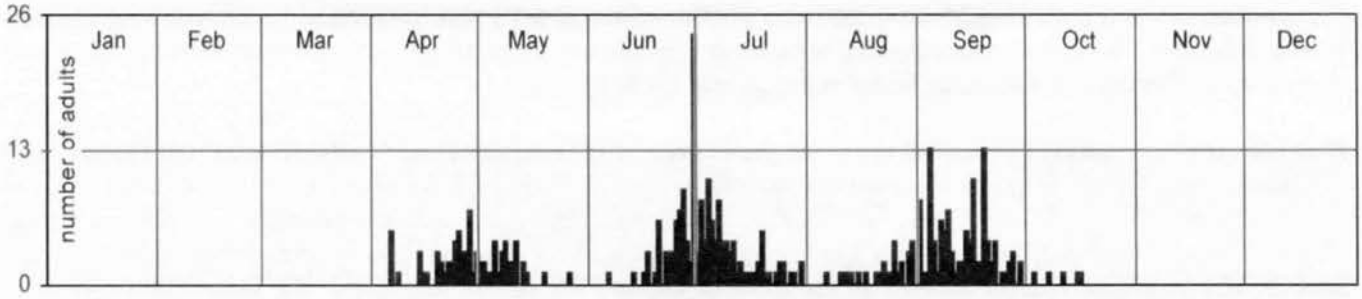

Fig. 2. Adult ***Holomelina rubicundaria*** captured in Louisiana. n = 380.

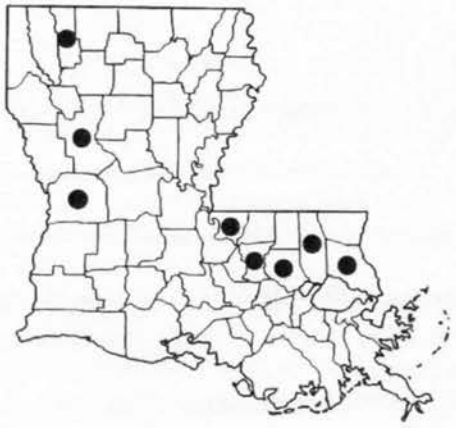

Fig. 3. Parish records by this author.

In the latest list of moths for North America, twelve species of the genus ***Holomelina*** H.-S., 1856, are listed by Hodges (1983). Watson & Goodger (1986) stated species of ***Holomelina*** occur from Canada to Colombia, while species of the genus ***Virbia*** occur from Mexico to Brazil. Ferguson (1985) mentioned in passing that the two genera (***Virbia*** and ***Holomelina***) may not be distinct. Most recently, Zaspel and Weller (2006) placed the genus ***Holomelina*** as a junior generic synonym of the genus ***Virbia***.

In Louisiana, males of the pretty and small arctiid moth ***Holomelina rubicundaria*** (Hübner) (Fig. 1) are often seen flitting about the woodlands in St. Tammany Parish in the bright sunshine, though the specimens in Fig. 2 were all captured in ultraviolet light traps. I have records for ***rubicundaria*** from only eight parishes (Fig. 3). The color of this species (Fig. 1) can be varying shades of pale yellow and red and the maculation is quite varied especially among females. I have provided in Fig.1 some examples of variations in color and maculation encountered in Louisiana that I have before me at this time. It appears there is not much information about this species in current literature. Covell (1984) states ***rubicundaria*** occurs from Florida along the Gulf Coast to Texas, occurring commonly all year. Heppner (2003) lists five species of ***Holomelina*** from Florida, with ***rubicundaria*** occurring in Florida from February to November. Zaspel and Weller (2006) listed existence of two additional new undescribed ***Virbia*** (***Holomelina***) species, one from Colorado and one from Florida without further description. Heppner (2003) listed the range of ***rubicundaria*** to be Florida to Texas, and into Mexico. Heppner listed the foodplants of ***rubicundaria*** to include: ***Chenopodium album***, ***Taraxacum officinale*** and ***Zea mays***.

This is the third species of this genus that I have reported on from Louisiana. Previously, I reported on ***Holomelina laeta*** (Gr.-Men.) (Brou, 2003) and ***Holomelina opella*** (Grote) (Brou, 2006). In Louisiana, ***rubicundaria*** has been collected from April through October (Fig. 2) in three annual broods, the first brood peaking end of April, the second brood peaking end of June and third brood peaking early September.

Forbes (1960) appears to refer to ***rubicundaria*** (Hübner) as southern specimens of ***Holomelina aurantiaca*** Hübner, and mentions particularly, Louisiana and Texas specimens as being *"small and bright ...and forewings without orange or brown tinting"*. It is unclear as to what Forbes was actually looking at, or what he was referring to, as the flight periods of ***rubicundaria*** and ***aurantiaca*** are distinctly different in southern Louisiana and the forewings of ***rubicundaria*** do indeed have orange and brown on forewings, especially so in females. In Louisiana, unlike ***rubicundaria*** which has three broods, ***aurantiaca*** appears to have at least four broods.

Forbes (1960) also refers to ***Holomelina immaculata*** (Reakirt) as a variation of ***aurantiaca***, and under the ***aurantiaca*** discussion stating ***immaculata*** *"is large"*, *"behaves like a separate species, but shows no difference in genitalia, which are very good otherwise in this genus"*. I have omitted from this article four male specimens from Natchitoches and Morehouse Parishes in northern Louisiana which are distinctly larger in size from the remaining Louisiana ***rubicundaria*** outlined in this article. I also have typical size ***rubicundaria*** from Natchitoches Parish. Knudson & Bordelon (1999) list five species of ***Holomelina*** for Texas including r***ubicundaria***.

In summing up this article, I do not believe the cladistics analysis of Zaspel and Weller furnished sufficient convincing taxonomical evidence to lump such a huge and varied number of species from a vast geographical range, North

America to South America and island nations, into one catch-all genus with specimens exhibiting an array of obvious differing external characteristics. Consequently, I have continued to use ***Holomelina*** as the genus for our species in Louisiana for the present time or until the matter has stood the test of time and critical review by Arctiidae workers.

I thank the following individuals who provided helpful assistance, comments and information in this investigation: Charles Bordelon, Charles V. Covell, Jr., John. B. Heppner, Edward C. Knudson, and Jennifer M. Zaspel.

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INSECTS ARE NOT THE ONLY LIGHT ATTRACTED ORGANISMS ---- HILLBILLY BIRTH:

Deep in the back woods of Floyd County, Kentucky, a hillbilly's wife went into labor in the middle of the night, and the doctor was called out to assist in the delivery. Since there was no electricity, the doctor handed the father-to-be a lantern and said, *"Here. You hold this high so I can see what I am doing!"*

Soon, a baby boy was brought into the world. *"Whoa there,"* said the doctor, *"Don't be in such a rush to put that lantern down I think there is another one coming."*

Sure enough, within minutes he had delivered a baby girl. *"Hold that lantern up, don't set it down there's another one!"* said the doctor. Within a few minutes he had delivered a third baby. *"No, don't be in a hurry to put down that lantern, it seems there is yet another one coming!"* cried the doctor.

The redneck scratched his head in bewilderment, and asked the doctor. . .

"You reckon it might be the light that's attractin' 'em?"

[Many thanks to Leroy for sending this joke to the SLS NEWS]

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BUTTERFLIES OF THE FELICIANAS

BY
CRAIG W. MARKS

This is the third of three articles outlining some of the butterflies that might be seen across the middle of Louisiana. Before going any further, let me state *"right out of the gate"* there are several people with much more knowledge on the butterflies of the Felicianas than me, including Gary Ross, Dr. Michael Israel and Vernon Brou. For those out there who remember the movie, *"MASH,"* Gary, Michael and Vernon are truly the *"pros from Dover."* Anyone who has the opportunity to pick their brains as I have been allowed to do will benefit greatly from that experience.

Next, and before I actually turn to the subject of this article, I would like to supplement my Cen-La article from the last issue [SLS NEWS Vol. 30 NO.1 (2008), pgs. 25-31]. With the help of Gary Ross, on March 16, 2008, I located a colony of Frosted Elfins, right where Gary last saw them, **40 years ago**! The colony is located primarily in the large open area adjacent to the Catahoula Butterfly Garden in Grant Parish. I saw a total of 12 Frosted Elfins either on or flying about the numerous Wild Indigo plants that had grown to a height of about 12" in that field. The Wild Indigo plants around Stuart Lake were a good week behind the plants in the garden area and no Elfins were flying. I also found a good amount of thistle in both areas, and I hope to go back to find Little Metalmarks there in early summer.

The following Friday, March 21, 2008, I went to Kisatchie NF in Natchitoches Parish and found all three Elfins flying, including two separate colonies of Frosted Elfins. The first was along the Longleaf Vista Scenic Byway two to three miles north of the Longleaf Vista Recreation Area. The second was along Road 345 about a half mile after the turn off of Rd. 342. Sleepy Duskywings were also flying with the Frosted Elfins at this spot. Thanks to Kilian Roever and Nick Grishin for help locating these colonies. I also saw a first E. Pine Elfin along the top of the Longleaf Vista Trail at the Longleaf Vista Rec Area.

The *"Felicianas"* are, of course, East and West Feliciana Parishes which are part of Louisiana's Florida Parishes. The Florida Parishes were part of Spanish West Florida in the early 19th century. Unlike much of the state of Louisiana, this region was not part of the Louisiana Purchase, as it remained under Spanish control. The Florida Parishes stretch from the Mississippi state line on their eastern and northern borders, to the Mississippi River on their western border, and Lake Pontchartrain on their southern border. The region contains eight parishes: East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington.

Initially, East and West Feliciana were part of Feliciana Parish which was founded in 1810 and then divided in 1824. More than the other Florida Parishes, planters from other southeastern states established a plantation economy in East and West Feliciana. These parishes developed into the cultural and political center of the Florida parishes. West Feliciana Parish has its center at St. Francisville. East Feliciana Parish, has its center at Clinton with an additional center at Jackson.

I will reference several locations within this article, but for the most part my searches in this region have centered on three locations: Clark Creek Nature Area, Mary Brown Preserve and the Weyanoke area. I also include Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area although my time there has been limited. Finally, I would suggest visiting several plantations in this region to include Myrtles Plantation, Butler-Greenwood Plantation and Asphodel Plantation (but see my cautions below).

Identification of where each bug has been seen will be by specific location with additional, more detailed information occasionally provided. Flight times (which include both my sightings and those available to me through other sources) are numerically by month in parentheses. My indication of frequency is based on my sightings and are purely my own perceptions. This scale of frequency is:

Abundant (A)	Rare (R)
Common (C)	Vagrant (V)
Uncommon (U)	Local Colonies (LC)

I have made no frequency comments based on other people's sightings.

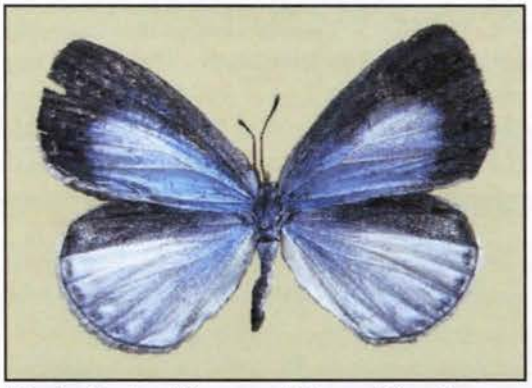

Fig. 1. Spring "Summer" Azure [female (dorsal)], 23-VII-2006; Clark Creek Nature Area, Wilkinson County, MS.

Fig. 2. Harvester [male (dorsal], 2-VI-2001; Clark Creek Nature Area, Wilkinson County, MS.

Creole Pearly-eye [male (ventral)], 23-VII-2006; Clark Creek Nature Area, Wilkinson County, MS.

The Clark Creek Nature Area (hereinafter CC) consists of more than 700 acres of steep terrain, flowing creeks and a wide variety of plants and animals. Several waterfalls are part of the area's uniqueness. Clark Creek's steeply sloping hills host a mixed hardwood and pine forest dominated by beech and magnolia. Also inhabiting the area are several species of migratory birds, poisonous snakes (so watch closely), and several threatened and endangered animals and plants, including black bear. There is a small entrance fee, and a nature trail is available for hiking, highlighted by numerous waterfalls. The terrain is physically demanding with no camping facilities or other amenities. CC is located in a somewhat remote part of the county, and medical and other assistance can be a long way off. I want to warn everyone that footing can be treacherous at times. If you want to walk the creek bed (which is where all the butterflies seem to be), a great deal of climbing, over boulder and fallen trees, will be required. Be ready to work, but the work is definitely worth it. Standing under a cold waterfall after hiking a couple of hours in the June/July heat is wonderful. My girls, 'Lyse and Mattie', always had a blast playing in the pools at the base of each waterfall.

This is one of the best places to see many of the woodland butterfly species of this region. Hugh Eastern Tiger Swallowtails; greenish, late spring Zebra Swallowtails; sky blue Summer Azures (Fig. 1); Red-spotted Purples; both Emperors; Southern and Creole Pearly-Eyes are commonly found on the wet sand or mud of the creek bed. This is only place I've seen a Harvester in LA (Fig. 2). This location is particularly good for close observation of Summer Azures and Creole Pearly-Eyes. The Azures come down to the wet sand and are easy to catch/photograph. The Creole Pearly-Eye like to hang out (literally) in the vegetation along the vertical sides of the creek. The males are easy to identify as their forewings are more narrow than Southern Pearly-Eye with the forewing tips pointed outward slightly (Fig. 3). The female looks more like the Southern Pearly-Eye but if you look closely she will have a fifth eyespot on the ventral forewing. I find it impossible to tell the difference between the two species in flight as both fly with a weaving flight, swifter and less bouncy than other southern satyrs. When initially startled, Creoles will usually fly further down the creek bed and land again. However if pursued they have a habit of flying out of the creek bed and up the surrounding bluffs, making them difficult to follow on foot.

CC is located 13 miles west of Woodville off LA Hwy. 24 at the community of Pond. It is found in southwestern Wilkinson County, Mississippi, just east of the Mississippi River. It is immediately north of the Louisiana/W. Feliciana Parish border and is included here not only because of its proximity, but also because of its similar habitat, particularly to Tunica Hills WMA. Baton Rouge is roughly 55 miles to the south. From Baton Rouge, take LA Hwy. 61 north, past St. Francisville. Turn left on Angola Prison road, otherwise known as LA Hwy. 66. Eventually, LA Hwy. 969 will fork off to the right, turn right there. Pond, Mississippi, is at the junction of Hwy. 969 & Hwy. 24, 25 minutes from St. Francisville, La. (Pond General Store will be off to your left, next to the duck pond.)

The Mary Ann Brown Preserve (hereinafter MB) is located along the eastern boundary of the Tunica Hills, in West Feliciana Parish, between St. Francisville and Jackson, on LA Hwy. 965. It encompasses 109 acres and supports a mature stand of beech-magnolia forest. Several streams cross the property, some cutting deep into the forest. There

are several deep ravines which will allow you to walk away from the trails, along the streams to check out what might be *"puddling"* (but beware of moccasins). The preserve contains roughly 2 miles of walking trails. The Main Loop Trail (1.3 miles) begins at the Trailhead near the front entrance gate, continues over numerous foot bridges through the preserve, past the pavilion, around the pond and returns hikers to the front gate entrance. The Outer Loop can add 0.7 miles by taking a spur trail off the Mail Loop. Found along the trails are butterfly gardens, birdhouses and small ponds. There are trail maps available at the information kiosk near the front entrance.

Fig. 4. Gemmed Satyr [male (ventral)], 18-VI-2005; Clark Creek Nature Area, Wilkinson County, MS.

MB is a good place to see Gemmed Satyrs (Fig. 4) and Southern Pearly-Eyes where there are good stands of cane on the Main Trail Loop. Goatweed Leafwings are common in the spring and fall along the treeline that runs into the interior of the Preserve. Question Marks and Red Admirals are also common. Banded Hairstreaks fly in May along the *"cut"* at the very front of the Preserve. I found two *"Seminole"* Texan Crescents flying in early November, nectaring on boneset growing in that same *"cut"*.

MB is located 30 miles North of Baton Rouge off of LA Hwy 61. Turn east at the intersection of LA Hwy 61 and LA Hwy 965, onto LA Hwy 965 and travel 5.5 miles. The preserve will be on the left. You will see the front entrance gate and a small parking area. The physical address is 13515 Highway 965. Admission is free with the park open for daylight hours only. Off the street parking is available. The main gate to the preserve usually remains closed, but note the railed walkway located by the green entrance sign on the far end of parking lot.

Weyanoke (hereinafter 'Wey') is more of an area than it is a specific location. It can be found by turning right onto LA Hwy 66 as you travel north on LA Hwy 61 from St. Francisville. From LA Hwy 66, turn right onto Ouide Iradale Road which will take you into the Weyanoke community. Continue about three miles past Weyanoke and you will enter an area of hunting leases accessed by numerous hunting roads. Just pull off the road anywhere there is room and walk along where those hunting roads enter the main road. Again, be aware of what hunting season might be open, but during the off-season you can walk along the main road without much traffic at all. The number of butterflies that course up and down Ouide Iradale Road from out of those hunting roads is amazing. The smaller, lighter-colored spring brood of Zebra Swallowtails are particularly common here in the spring. Further down, Ouide Iradale Road enters a *"Y"* intersection. Bear to the right (east) on Ouide Iradale Rd. toward Hollywood. A mile or so down is a flowing stream with room to pull over and investigate. Falcate Orangetips are regular there in March as are Little Wood Satyrs.

Search the blooming Redbud trees in March for Henry's Elfins. I saw fourteen on 3-III-2007. Unlike in Kisatchie NF where all Henry's Elfins seen were actually high up at Redbud blooms, several seen in this area were at eye to ground level. One was at a sunny spot of dirt, three (all males) were perched on underbrush at about eye level alongside of a trail through a densely wooded area. Two others were perched directly below a blooming Redbud tree.

Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area (hereinafter TH) is composed of two separate tracts lying northwest of St. Francisville in West Feliciana Parish. The Angola Tract (2,345 acres) lies immediately adjacent to the Louisiana State Penitentiary, and is closed to the public from 1-III to 30-IX. The South Tract (3,560 acres) is 17.3 miles west of LA Hwy. 61 on LA Hwy. 66. A small road, the Old Tunica Trace will turn off to the left, run approximately a mile up in the hills and bisect the management area. The Old Tunica Trace is a portion of the scenic Natchez Trace System.

TH is owned by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The terrain is typified by rugged hills, bluffs and ravines, for the most part similar to what can be experienced at CC. The area lies at the southern end of the Loess Blufflands escarpment that follows the east bank of the Mississippi River. These bluff lands offer a diverse habitat that supports some species of plants and animals not found elsewhere in Louisiana. The forest type on the area is classified as upland hardwood, with some loblolly pine and eastern red cedar mixed in on the ridge tops and creek terraces. Hardwoods consist of American beech, American holly, flowering magnolia, several species of oak, hickory, sweetgum, Osage orange, hackberry, elms, eastern hophornbeam, ironwood, maple and other less predominant

species. The understory varies from dense in logged areas to fairly open in uncut timber areas. Common understory species are oak leaf hydrangia, two-winged silverbell, trifoliate orange, pawpaw, flowering dogwood, sweetleaf, spicebush, blackberry and switchcane. TH is open to a variety of outdoor recreational activities including hunting and trapping so be aware of what seasons might be open when you go. A nature trail and 3 hiking trails are present. Infrequently, black bear tracks may be observed. Be aware of healthy populations of canebrake rattlesnakes and copperheads.

Myrtles Plantation and Butler-Greenwood Plantation, both in West Feliciana Parish, are open to the public with gardens and other areas that can be walked in search of butterflies. Asphodel Plantation (AP) is located in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. This plantation is privately owned. Its website indicates new features about the flora and fauna of Asphodel Plantation's forest, fields and streams will soon be added, and that the gardens there are in the process of being planted with an emphasis on native, heirloom and butterfly plants. The Plantation is currently open by invitation only, but if you are in the area, I would encourage you to make the effort to inquire about an invitation as the location is beautiful with numerous interesting butterfly species having been recorded there by Michael Israel.

As with my first two articles, by no means do I suggest the following is an exhaustive list of all butterflies that can be found in this region or all that have been recorded from it. No doubt Gary Ross, Michael Israel and Vernon Brou have more exhaustive data. However, what I have done is blend a lot of information from different sources for this article. The material comes from several sources and has been used by me as I've conducted my searches in this area. To give proper credit I will color-code the data. My own records will be in black. Records from Gary Ross' articles (*Journal of Lep. Soc.,* 17: 148-158 and 19: 47-52) will be in green. Records from the Lepidopterist Society's Season Summaries for the years 1998 – 2006 will be in red (these records primarily, but not exclusively, reflect sightings by Dr. Michael Isreal). Finally, records from an unpublished article written by Gayle Strickland and provided to me by the late Bryant Mather will be in blue. That article is entitled, *"Recent Studies of Louisiana Rhopalocera,"* and appears to have been authored in approximately 1971. The article states its content was based on materials collected by the author since mid-1967. Other sources of information are specifically identified.

The species of swallowtails, whites and sulphurs of this region (with two exceptions) do not differ from those found in Acadiana and Cen-La although some are much more common (Zebra Swallowtail, Falcate Orangetip) while others are not (Black Swallowtail, Palamedes Swallowtail). These are:

Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*) CC, MB, Wey (4-6) C;
Zebra Swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*) CC, MB, Wey (3-6) C to A;
Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) AP (2) (Although I've never seen it in the Felicianas, I have seen this bug in Pointe Coupe Parish at Old River near Morganza in 6/01. Pointe Coupe is the parish to the immediate west of W. Feliciana);
Giant Swallowtail (*P. cresphontes*) CC, MB, Wey, AP (3, 4-7, 11);
E. Tiger Swallowtail (*P. glaucus*) CC, MB, Wey (3-7) A;
Spicebush Swallowtail (*P. troilus*) CC, MB, Wey (3-7) C;
Palamedes Swallowtail (*P. palamedes*) AP (9).

My sightings of whites are limited, but other records reflect the presence of more species here than other areas I've visited and include:

Florida White (*Appias drusilla*) AP (X-2005);
Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*) Amite River (6). This is the only record for this butterfly of which I am aware in the three regions I have covered. I have seen it more than once in the Jackson MS area, but, on several trips to the Trace around Natchez, I have not seen it. I cannot explain its scarcity. I find it ironic that the Checkered White, which some writers assert has been replaced by the Cabbage White over their range, is seen more often across the middle of Louisiana;
Great Southern White (*Ascia monuste*) AP (7);
Falcate Orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*) Wey, AP, TH (2, 3-4) C to A;
Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*) MB, Wey, St. Francisville, AP (3, 4-5);
Southern Dogface (*C. cesonia*) Jackson, Ethel, AP (10-11);
Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*) CC, MB, Wey, AP (3-4, 6, 10-11) C;

Fig. 5. Zebra Swallowtail [male (ventral)], 1-IV-2006; Weyanoke area, West Feliciana Parish.

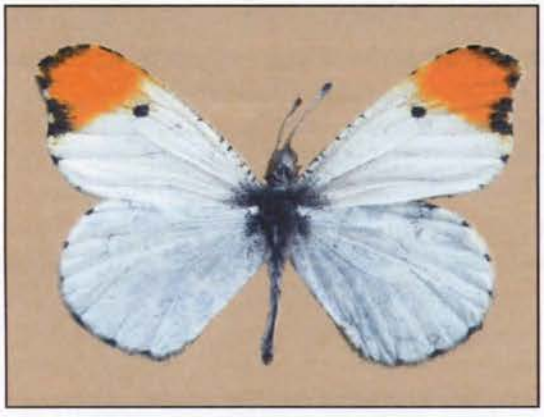

Fig. 6. Falcate Orangetip [male (dorsal)], 3-III-2007; Weyanoke area, West Feliciana Parish.

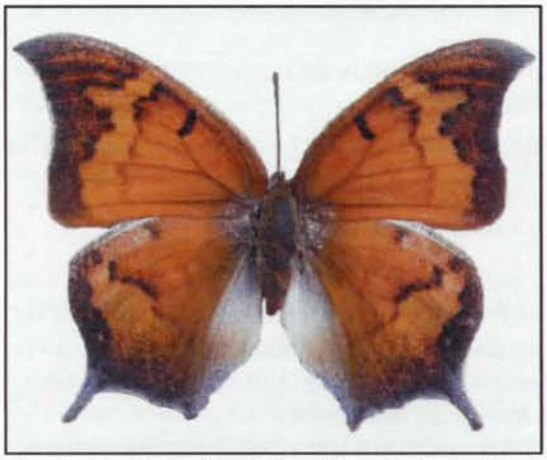

Fig. 7. Goatweed Leafwing [female (dorsal)], 1-IV-2006; near Weyanoke, West Feliciana Parish.

Barred Yellow (*Eurema daira*) Rogillioville (6) (I've found this bug quite regularly a few miles to the east in MS at the first Rest Area on Interstate 55 north of the LA/MS state-line. The habitat (pine woods) is similar so this sighting does not surprise me);
Little Yellow (*E. lisa*) CC, AP (6, 10) U;
Sleepy Orange (*E. nicippe*) MB, Wey, AP (4, 10-11) U;
Dainty Sulphur (*Nathalis iole*) AP (5).

The Wey area is a great place to find Zebra Swallowtails and Falcate Orangetips in March. The spring brood of Zebras have the characteristic lighter, whitish coloring and short tails (Fig. 5). I have read other accounts describing how male Zebras will fly a repeated route, and I have actually seen that at Wey as I've watched males, flying about 4 to 6 feet off the ground, fly the same pattern, passing by me multiple times. Actually, male Tiger Swallowtails do the same thing (in fewer numbers), but about 15-20 feet or more above the male Zebras along the same roads and trails.

After all these years of seeing Zebras and Falcates, I still get a charge each spring when they first start flying. That is why I love going to Wey in March. By the second week of that month, it seems at least one of these two bugs is always in sight. Unlike the Zebras which seem to prefer flying in the open along the roads and trails, the Falcates like to flit on the fringes of the forest, staying mostly in the shade and within 2 to 3 feet of the ground. Although not necessarily hurried, their flight is direct with the males (Fig. 6) searching for females and the females searching for their foodplant. Both will occasionally stop to nectar, but my general impression is that they are always on their way to somewhere else. Throw in Tiger and Spicebush Swallowtails, the two Elfins, an occasional Azure, a few Goatweeds (Fig. 7), lots of Little Wood Satyrs, and March is a great time to be here.

Although no coppers are known to fly in this area, many other hairstreaks, blues and some others from this sub-family do fly here. These include:

Harvester (*Feniseca tarquinius*) CC (6) (found *"puddling"* on moist sand in the creek-bottom with Red-Spotted Purples);
Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*) (Fig. 8) MB, Wey, AP, Jackson (1, 3, 5, 12);
Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*) (Fig. 9) MB, AP (5) R;
King's Hairstreak (*S. kingi*) Rogillioville (6). Also reported by Kilian Roever as present at CC and TH. I have no specifics regarding Kilian's sight dates, but I would suggest looking for it the last two weeks of May;
Striped Hairstreak (*S. liparops*) W. Feliciana, no site specified (5);
Oak Hairstreak (*S. favonius*) MB, AP (5, 6) (While exchanging information with Vernon B. about a prospective article on this bug's range in LA, Vernon's Information indicated this bug has been

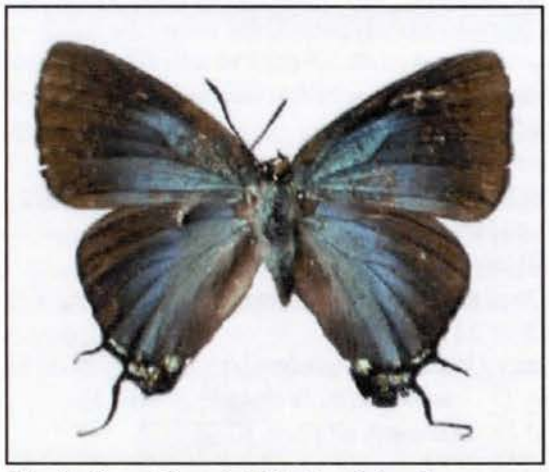

Fig. 8. Great Purple Hairstreak [male (dorsal)], 3-III-2007; Weyanoke, W. Feliciana Parish, LA.

Fig. 9. Banded Hairstreak [male (ventral)], 10-V-2008; Mary Brown Nature Preserve, W. Feliciana Parish, LA.

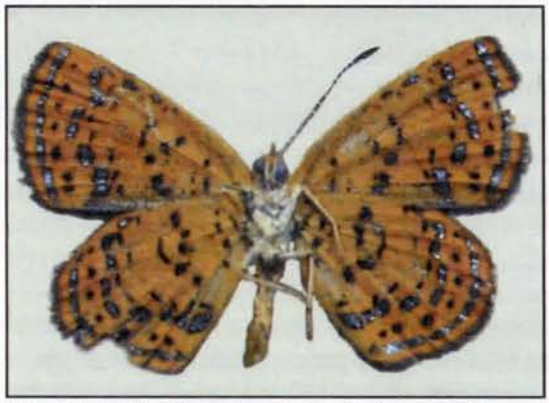

Fig. 10. Little Metalmark [male (ventral)], 19-X-2005; near Asphodel Plantation, East Feliciana Parish, LA.

seen in West Feliciana Parish with no further specifics; however, his overall data indicate a flying period from the last week of April into very early June);

Henry's Elfin (*Callophrys henrici*) Wey (3) C at right time (this is the first location at which I saw this Elfin);

Eastern Pine Elfin (*C. niphon*) Wey (3) R (also the first location at which I saw this one, perched on the end of a branch of a Long-leaf Pine);

***"Olive"* Juniper Hairstreak (*C. gryneus*)** Wey (3-4) LC (Michael Israel has personally communicated to me a flight period of 12-III – 14-IV in this area);

White M Hairstreak (*Parrhasius m-album*) MB, AP, TH (3, 5, 7);

Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*) MB, Wey (3-5) U:

Red-Banded hairstreak (*Calycopis cecrops*) CC, MB, Wey, AP (4-7, 10) C to A;

E. Tailed Blue (*Everes comyntas*) CC (6) U;

***"Spring"* Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon ladon*)** Wey, AP (1-2, 3) U to C;

***"Summer"* Spring Azure (*C. ladon neglecta*)** CC, MB, Wey (4-7) C to A;

Little Metalmark (*Calephelis virginiensis*) MB, AP (actually, right across the street), Rogillioville (3, 5, 8, 10-11). In October, this bug can be common around AP. Michael Israel has told me he has seen this bug as early as the first week of March and as late as the first week of November. I saw it at MB on the first weekend of November, 2007. Michael reports the two main broods fly during the second half of July and the second half of October. On 19-X-2005, I saw over 10 in less than thirty minutes walking a powerline cut across the highway from AP.

The Little Metalmark is a neat little bug (Fig. 10). It is so innocuous that it can easily be missed. First, it is small, about the size of a male Phaon Crescent. It flies low to the ground and really doesn't move around much unless disturbed. Its flight is fluttery, not gliding like a crescent. It will regularly perch on the underside of leaves close to the ground. While it is never far from its foodplant (thistle), it does not regularly perch on thistle (like, for example, the Frosted Elfin on Wild Indigo), but seems to like to perch on plants about 12 to 16" in height in the immediate area around thistle.

The species of Brushfoots, whose number also do not differ too much from other areas in LA (while frequency does in some instances), include:

American Snout (*Libytheana carinenta*) CC, Wey (3-4, 6-7) not common most times seen, but very common IV-2008;

Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanilla*) AP (10) also not common when I've seen it;

Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta Claudia*) Myrtles Plantation in St. Francisville (5-6) A at the times seen, but noticeable absent at other times;

Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*) MB, Wey, AP, TH (3-5, 8) U;

Fig. 11. Mourning Cloak [female (dorsal)], 3-III-2007; near Weyanoke, West Feliciana Parish, LA.

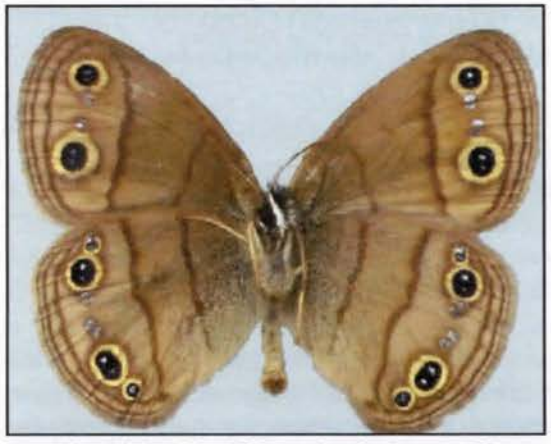

Fig. 12. Little Wood Satyr [male (ventral)], 19-III-2006; Weyanoke, W. Feliciana Parish, LA.

"Seminole" Texan Crescent (*Phyciodes texana seminole*) MB, Wey, AP (3, 5, 10, 11) R;
Phaon Crescent (*P. phaon*) AP (4) I'm actually surprised I've not personally seen this bug as it is so common just a little to the west;
Pearl Crescent (*P. tharos*) all (3-6, 11) A;
Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*) CC, MB, Wey (3-7, 11) U to C at times;
E. Comma (*P. comma*) CC, AP, TH (3, 6, 10) R;
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*) MB, Wey (Fig. 11), AP (3, 4, 11) R;
American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*) MB, Wey (4-5) U;
Painted Lady (*V. cardui*) MB, Wey, AP (3, 10-11);
Red Admiral (*V. atalanta*) all (3-6, 10-11) C;
Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*) CC, MB, Wey, AP (3-4, 11) C;
Red-Spotted Purple (*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*) CC, Wey, MB, TH (3, 4-7) C to sometimes A, particularly along the creek-bed at CC;
Goatweed Leafwing (*Anaea andria*) MB, Wey (3-4) C;
Hackberry Emperor (*Asterocampa celtis*) CC, MB, Wey (4,6-7) C to A at times (this one can occur in large numbers at CC);
Tawny Emperor (*A. clyton*) CC, AP (7) U;
Southern Pearly-Eye (*Enodia portlandia*) CC, MB, Wey, AP (4-7) C, A at CC and MB;
Creole Pearly-Eye (*E. creola*) CC, TH, W. Feliciana (no specific site given) (3, 4, 4, 6, 7, 10) C - look for it at CC;
Gemmed Satyr (*Cyllopsis gemma*) CC, MB, AP (4-6) C to A - look for it at MB;
Carolina Satyr (*Hermeuptychia sosybius*) all (3-7, 10-11) A;
Little Wood Satyr (Megisto cymela) CC, MB, Wey (Fig. 12) (3-5) C to A at the right time;
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) MB, Wey, AP (3-4, 9, 10) U.

I wanted to make a brief observation on Mourning Cloaks. Having literally no experience with the northern parts of the State (how is that for a good segue into an article by Rosemary Seidler, Jean Trahan and/or Jeff Trahan?), I will state that this bug is not commonly seen in those areas with which I am familiar. My sightings (save the one at MB in November) have been singles in the spring; however, most of these spring bugs were not particularly tattered (the two sightings at Wey being the exception). Of the three areas I have covered, it has been seen more often in this region. I wonder if it is not an uncommon resident here, occasionally straying west? My father and I share an common partiality for this beautiful and graceful insect, and when its rarity across south-central Louisiana is added to that connection, seeing one is always special for me.

As with my first two articles, my own personal skipper records are woefully inadequate and inconclusive; however, using the other sources previously indicated I believe one can get somewhat of an adequate picture of what might be found:

Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*) CC (7) C;
Long-tailed Skipper (*Urbanus proteus*) MB, AP (6, 11, 12);
Southern Cloudywing (*Thorybes bathyllus*) AP (9),
Northern Cloudywing (*T. pylades*) AP (4);
Confused Cloudywing (*T. confuses)* AP (6);
Hayhurst's Scallopwing (*Staphylus hayhurstil*) AP (4, 6);
Horace's Duskywing (*Erynnis horatius*) MB (5) C;

Juvenal's Duskywing (*Erynnis juvenalis*) CC (7) R;
Funereal Duskywing (*E. funeralis*) AP, Ethyl (6, 7, 10, 12);
Tropical Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus oileus*) MB, AP, near Baines (W. Feliciana) (7, 10, 11);
Clouded Skipper (*Lerema accius*) CC, MB (4, 5, 7, 11) C;
Southern Skipperling (*Copaeodes minimus*) AP (4, 7);
Tawny-edged Skipper (*Polites themistocles*) AP (5);
Whirlabout (*Polites vibex*) MB, Wey (4-5);
Little Glassywing (*Pompeiius verna*) AP, W. Feliciana (no site given) (5, 7, 8-9);
Dun Skipper (*Euphyes vestries*) CC, MB (4-5);
Yehl Skipper (*Poanes yehl*) AP (5);
Lace-winged Roadside-Skipper (*Amblyscirtes aesculapius*) CC, MB, Wey, AP (3, 4-5, 8) U;
Carolina Roadside Skipper (*A. carolina*) CC (reported to me by Kilian Roever without date data);
Twin-spot Skipper (*Oligoria maculate*) MB, AP, Jackson (5-8, 9);
Brazilian Skipper (*Calpodes ethlius*) AP (10);
Ocola Skipper (*Panoquina ocola*) Ethyl (10);
Yucca Giant-Skipper (*Megathymus yuccae*) Bain (W. Feliciana) (3, 4). Kilian Roever has told me he has seen this unique bug associated with stands of its food plant along the road from Woodville MS heading toward Pond MS/CC.

I would anticipate seeing other butterflies in this region such as **Large Orange Sulphurs (*P. agarithe*)** which I have seen both to the north near Natchez, MS and to the west at Indian Bayou in the Basin. I've seen **Checkered Whites (*Pontia protodice*)** only a few miles to the west in Pointe Coupe Parish at Old River on June 1st. I question whether **Frosted Elfins (*C. irus*)** would not be here as the pine forest habitat is so similar to that of Cen-La. However, Vernon Brou has advised me he has not seen this one in the Abita Springs area. **Zebra Longwings (*Heliconius charitonius*)** might be a long-shot, but I've seen them in the wild in Biloxi MS, and Gary Ross has them flying around his home in Baton Rouge. I'm not aware of **Viceroy (*L. archippus*)** having been reported in the Felicianas but I have seen it in June at Old River (Pointe Coupe Parish) where there are a lot of willows so I would expect it to be found along Thompson Creek in West Feliciana. As previously reported, I have found **Appalachian Browns (*Satyrodes appalachia*)** present in the Basin. Vernon Brou has reported it from May of 1995 at Abita Springs (St. Tammany Parish), and Gary Ross reported it from October of 1981 at Denham Springs (Livingston Parish), both records from the Florida Parishes. As such, I believe it will be found either in TH or CC where the appropriate habitat appears to exist. **Georgia Satyrs (*Neonympha areoata*)** have also been found in other Florida Parishes to the southeast and ought to be here in the right environment. Similarly, I am surprised I have not seen **Common Wood Nymphs (*Cercyonis pegala*)** yet.

The website, *"Butterflies and Moths of North America,"* lists Checkered Whites**, Gorgone Checkerspots (*C. gorgone*)**, Viceroys and **Northern Pearly-Eyes (*E. anthedon*)** as reported from West Feliciana, but gives no references, dates, locations, *etc.* As indicated above, I would expect Checkered Whites and Viceroys to be present. Gorgones have been reported from similar habitat in the Cen-La region. I know Northern Pearly-Eyes are reported from Mississippi. I have long wondered if some of the Pearly-eyes seen at CC weren't the Northern species, particularly the ones found at the higher elevations. The coloring is darker and more precise. Also, the wings are smaller and more blockish. This is something I intend to investigate further.

Some of the more common skipper that should be present here but of which I have not found nor know of any records are ***Hoary Edge* (*Achalarus lyciades*), *Common Checkered-Skipper* (*Pyrgus communis*), *Common Sootywing* (*Pholisora catullus*), *Least Skipper* (*Ancyloxypha numitor*), and Fiery Skipper (*Hylephila phyleus*).** The above-referenced website lists all as present in West Feliciana except the Common Sootywing. It also lists the **Swarthy Skipper (*Nastra lherminier*), Sachem (*Atalopedes campestris*), Southern Broken-Dash (*Wallengrenia otho*)** and **Zabulon Skipper (*P. zabulon*)** as present in that parish. I have no doubt but that other, less common skippers will also turn up here, but I'll leave those predictions to the experts.

I've gone back and forth with several thoughts on how to conclude this last article. I've finally decided to end it with a request/suggestion that others in Louisiana consider generating their own article(s). My hope is ultimately all areas of the state will be covered here in this forum, thereby giving a more complete and updated picture of Louisiana's butterflies. I've already talked to Jeff Trahan about sharing his extensive database on the Shreveport area *via* an

article. New Orleans has one of the longest occurring NABA 4th of July Counts so I suspect there is a core group there with invaluable data on that area. I've found two websites discussing the butterflies of the Toledo Bend area created by Frank Dutton of Many, LA. I wonder if there is someone out there with information on the Lake Charles/Southwest LA area, the Houma/Thibodeaux area and/or Northeast LA. Suggestions of good locations to see particular butterflies would certainly be of interest to encourage a continuing expansion of knowledge regarding what is here in the State.

There are still new species to be discovered here in Louisiana. In the last two years Jeff Trahan has reported two new species for LA, both from the Shreveport area. He and I are searching for stands of Soapberry trees in his area in the hope of finding a colony of Soapberry Hairstreaks within the State. Kilian Roever tells me of his ongoing search for Hickory Hairstreaks in the State. I've already described my quest to locate Edwards Hairstreaks here. Who knows what other species might actually be residents? Coral Hairstreaks in the northwest corner, Hessel Hairstreaks on the extreme south-eastern border with Mississippi, Mitchell Satyrs in Northeastern Louisiana, Baltimore Checkerspots in the same area? I hope that with a joined effort, including the exchange of new information, questions such as these and many others can be answered.

(Craig W. Marks, E-Mail: cmarks@landcoast.com)

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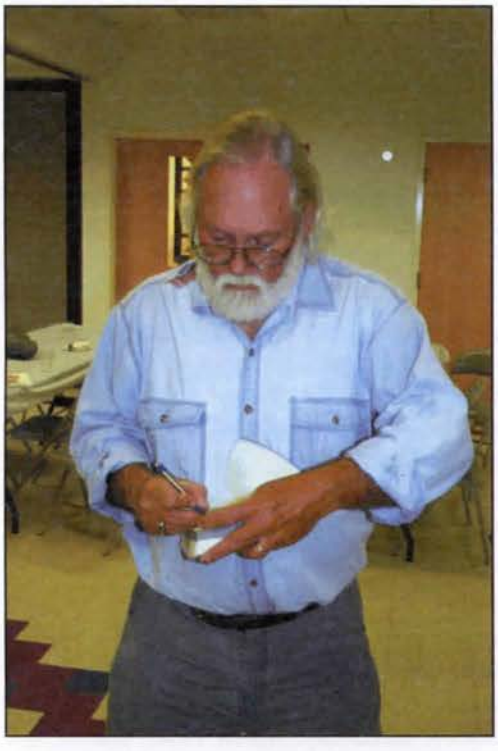
BOB PYLE'S BUTTERFLY - A - THON 2008
BY
MARC C. MINNO



Throughout the year 2008, noted lepidopterist and writer, Robert M. Pyle (Fig. 1) will be undertaking a journey to find and identify as many species of butterflies as possible in the United States and Canada. Notes, photos, postcards, and other souvenirs from Bob's journey will be posted as a blog at the Xerces Society website (www.xerces.org/Butterfly_Conservation/butterflyathon.html). Bob will also publish a book about the experience next year. You can participate in this historic project by pledging $0.05 or more per species that Bob sees and positively identifies. All proceeds from the Butterfly-A-Thon will go to Xerces Society rare butterfly conservation projects. Please pledge today at the Xerces Society website. Any bets on how many species will he find?

Fig. 1. Dean of American butterfly watchers, Bob Pyle, signs his books at the University of Florida, McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research in Gainesville, on March 20, 2008.

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DEFINITION:

Palpus (pl. ***palpi***) - a feeler; jointed sense organs attached to the mouth organs of insects, arachnids, crustaceans, and annelids used for touching or tasting.

Latin origin

REPORTS OF STATE COORDINATORS

Alabama: C. Howard Grisham, 573 Ohatchee Road, Huntsville, AL 35811, E-Mail: chgrisham@Comcast.net

Arkansas: Mack Shotts, 514 W. Main Street, Paragould, AR 72450, E-Mail: cshotts@grnco.net

David Rupe sends in the following report and states that these leps were observed and/or collected near Nola, Scott,

County, AR, on March 28, 2008:

Papilionidae : *Papilio glaucus*
Pieridae: *Colias eurythemne, Anthocharis midea.*
Lycaenidae: *Celastrina ladon, Everes comyntas, Mitoura grynea grynea.*
Nymphalidae: *Polygonia interrogationis, Polygonia comma, Nymphalis antiopa, Vanessa virginiensis. Anaea andria, Libytheana carinenta.*
Hesperiidae: *Erynnis juvenalis.*
Thyrididae: *Thyris sepulchralis.*

Florida: Charles V. Covell Jr., w07 NE 9th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601, E-Mail: covell@louisville.edu

Notes from Florida by Charlie Covell:

March 15. At Cross Creek (home of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings) I saw *H. cresphontes* (several, with many orange trees on the property), *P. glaucus* male, *P. troilus, P. palamedes* (several), *P. sennae*, and several *H. sosybius*.

March 22. Bob Pyle, visiting as part of his *"Big Year"* butterflying trip, and I recorded the following at La Chua Trail in the Payne's Prairie State Preserve, Alachua Co., and though it was fully overcast we saw *P. palamedes, H. cresphontes, P. phaon, J. coenia, H. sosybius, M. cymela viola,* and *Danaus gilippus berenice*. Also some very large gators.

March 26: Charlie Covell and John and Julie Hyatt collected at Inglis, Levy Co.: *Erynnis horatius, Papilio glaucus, Callophrys gryneus sweadneri, Phyciodes tharos* and *P. phaon*. At nearby Yankeetown, Levy Co. we recorded: *Poanes aaroni, Polites vibex, Copaeodes minima, Panoquina panoquin* (common), *Panoquina panoquinoides, Battus philenor, Papilio glaucus, Papilio palamedes, Heraclides cresphontes, Ascia monuste, Phoebus sennae eubule, Eurema nicippe, Nathalis iole, Callophrys gryneus sweadneri, Berphidium pseudofea, Phyciodes tharos, P. phaon, Vanessa atalanta, Junonia coenia, Anartia jatrophae, Agraulis vanillae, Hermeuptycia sosybius, Megisto cymela viola*, and *Danaus gilippus berenice*.

March 29. *H. phyleus, H. cresphontes, P. sennae, V. atalanta, A. halesus, P. m-album, L. carinenta, Limenitis archippus* (form *floridensis*), *J. coenia* and *V. virginiensis* .

March 30. I met John and Ruth Ann Peacock at the Payne's Prairie Park campground and put out a moth light behind their trailer. Species recorded include *Acronicta americana, Halisydota tessalaris, Clemensia albata, Cisthene sp., Estigmene acrea, Virbia opella, Lophosis labeculata* (later oviposited), *Scopula timandrata, Glenoides texanaria, Macaria transitaria, Eupithecia sp., Hypagyrtis unipunctaria, Idia aemula*. Others are yet to be identified.

April 11. Camp Week near Houston, Suwanee Co., at lights: *Prionoxystus robiniae, Desmia funeralis, Udea rubigalis, Harrisina americana, Actias luna, Macaria distribuaria, Anacamptodes defectaria, Epimecis hortaria, Euchlaena obtusaria, Metarranthis homuraria, Hypagyrtis unipunctaria, Nemoria sp., Orthonama centrostrigaria, Eupithecia sp., Apatelodes torrefacta, Malocosoma americanum, Orgyia sp., Malacosoma americanum, Artace cribrataria, Syntomeida ipomoeae, Grammia sp., Virbia opella, Hypoprepia fucosa, Clemensia albata, Cisthene sp., Halisydota tessalaris; Idia aemula, Idia americalis, Acronicta americana, Thioptera nigrofimbria, Pangrapta decoralis, Polygrammate hebraeicum, Nigetia formosalis, Spodoptera ornithogalli, Eudryas grata, Scolecocampa liburna, Panopoda repanda, Ledaea perditalis*; and others yet to be determined.

April 12. At Camp Weed near Houston, Suwanee Co., I saw *Polites vibex, P. sennae* and *J. coenia*. Near Wellborn, Columbia Co. along Rt. 90 I saw *P. sennae*.

Some other records from Gainesville, Alachua Co., in my journal were positively identified either at our home, at the McGuire Center (Florida Museum of Natural History), or on the Gainesville Country Club golf course:

March 4. *Vanessa virginiensis*
March 5. *Papilio troilus, P. sennae* and *V. atalanta*
March 6. *Eurema daira*
March 8. *Polygonia interrogationis*
March 11. *Papilio poyxenes asterius*
March 13. *P. polyxenes asterius*, *P. sennae, P. phaon*, and *H. sosybius*
March 18. *H. phyleus*
March 23. *J. coenia*
March 28. *P. sennae, V. atalanta, V. virginiensis, J. coenia* (several) and *L. archippus*
April 2. *H. phyleus, P. palamedes, H. cresphontes, P. sennae, S. melinus, V. atalanta, J. coenia*, and *A. vanillae*
April 5. *H. phyleus, H. cresphontes, P. sennae, V. atalanta, V. virginiensis, J. coenia, A. vanillae, D. plexippus* and *D. gilippus berenice*
April 9. *P. sennae, V. atalanta, V. virginiensis, J. coenia* and *D. plexippus*.
April 15: *Anacamptodes defectaria* (Geometridae)
April 16: *Erynnis horatius* and *H. phyleus*
April 21: *Parhassius. m-album, Pontia protodice,* and *A. vanillae*
April 23: *A. delaware, P. polyxenes asterius* and *V. virginiensis*
April 26: *P. palamedes, V. virginiensis* and *J. coenia*
April 29: *Polities vibex, Eurema daira, Calycopis cecrops,* and *Vanessa virginiensis*
May 3: *H. phyleus, P. glaucus* (male and dark female), *E. marcellus, P. sennae, V. virginiensis* and *A. vanillae*
May 4: *H. phyleus, E. horatius, P. polyxenes asterius, P. sennae, V. virginiensis*, and *J. coenia*
May 6: *H. phyleus, A. vanillae* and a male *Asterocampa clyton*
May 8: *Erynnis horatius, H. phyleus, P. troilus, P. sennae, Phyciodes tharos, Vanessa virginiensis*, and *J. coenia*
May 10: Rt. 24 near Cedar Key, Levy Co., *Ascia monuste* common along roadside. On the way home I stopped for a short while at the big Pontederia patch a few miles west of Otter Creek, Levy Co. I took an *O. maculata*, and saw *C. minima* (several), *P. vibex, H. phyleus, P. polyxenes asterius, P. protodice, P. tharos*, and *P. phaon*.

Following is an updated list of *"first sightings"* at our home. The numbers are well ahead of 2007. Butterflies in our yard (2008) at 207 NE 9th Ave., Gainesville, FL, with first dates of sighting:

1. *Agraulis vanillae*	Jan. 1, sunning in front yard
2. *Phoebus sennae eubule*	Jan. 6, trying to nectar on geranium flower
3. *Heliconius charithonia*	Jan. 6, trying to nectar on geranium flower
4. *Urbanus proteus*	Feb. 3, flying low in the back yard
5. *Heraclides cresphontes*	Feb. 3, flying high across the front yard
6. *Calycopis cecrops*	Feb. 10, flying and resting in the front yard
7. *Vanessa atalanta*	Feb. 25, flying in front yard
8. *Papilio troilus*	March 6, flying in back yard
9. *Eurema daira*	March 6, flying and resting in back yard
10. *Junonia coenia*	March 23, flying by driveway entrance
11. *Libytheana carinenta*	March 27, nectaring high in Viburnum trees
12. *Vanessa virginiensis*	March 27, nectaring high in Viburnum trees
13. *Limenitis archippus* form *floridensis*	March 29, flying around back yard
14. *Parhassius m-album*	March 29, nectaring high in *Viburnum* trees
15. *Hylephils phyleus*	March 29, nectaring high in Viburnum trees
16. *Atlides halesus*	March 29, nectaring high in Viburnum trees
17. *Papilio palamedes*	April 26, flying through the back yard
18. *Battus polydamus*	May 1, flying around lantana in front

19. *Phoebis philea*	May 1, female flying around lantana
20. *Erynnis horatius*	May 1, on lantana, and mating pair in front
21. *Papilio glaucus*	May 1, nectaring on lantana
22. *Phyciodes tharos*	May 8, flying and resting in front lawn
23. *Wallengrenia otho*	May 17, on Lantana out front
24. *Urbanus dorantes*	May 18, on Lantana in front yard

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

This summary includes reports for several outings with outstanding results, and is therefore one of the longest for Georgia in years. The contributors include James Adams (JA or no notation), Irving Finkelstein (IF), Eleaner Adams (ERA), Jeff Slotten (JS), Matt Lehnert (ML), and Bill Russell (BR). Other contributors are spelled out with the appropriate records. Most records presented here represent new or interesting records (range extensions, unusual dates, uncommon species, county records, *etc.*), or more complete lists for new locations/new times of year. All dates listed below are 2008 unless otherwise specified.

The weekend of March 21-23 a crew of people visited south Georgia, and at Dixon Memorial Forest WMA just north of the Okeefenokee. Palamedes Swallowtails (*Papilio* [*Pterourus*] *palamedes*) were super fresh and numbered easily in the mid-100's seen during the day. I've never seen that many Swallowtails in a single day in the temperate region. During the same trip, the beautiful little catocaline noctuid *Drasteria graphica* was found in numbers at both Griffin Ridge WMA and Dixon Memorial Forest WMA. The species was not new for either location, as a few had been found in early March in previous years, but clearly late March is a better flight time for this species.

Another trip to the south GA in early May uncovered an explosion of the previously considered uncommon *Callopistria granitosa.* We had seen only a handful of specimens from GA before. Both the geometrid *Cyclophora myrtaria* and the noctuid *Argyrostrotis erasa* were also much more common than during any other previous outing. You'll see the records for both of these species from several localities in this report.

Southern Oak Hairstreaks (*Eurystrymon favonius*) were reported from several locations along coastal GA in higher numbers than "usual".

Pigeon Mtn. WMA, Walker Co., Max Medley and Josh Spence, April 25:
PAPILIONIDAE: *Eurytides marcellus, Papilio glaucus* (over 30). **LYCAENIDAE**: *Atlides halesus, Mitoura gryneus, Calycopis cecrops* (300+). NYMPHALIDAE: *Danaus plexippus* (4; a decent number for mid-spring).

Calhoun, Gordon Co. (JA residence):
NOTODONTIDAE: *Ellida caniplaga* (female), Apr. 8. **NOCTUIDAE**: *Dysgonia smithii*, May 19. **GEOMETRIDAE:** *Selenia kentaria*, Mar. 14; *Eutrapela clemataria* (yellow form male), Mar. 12; *Digrammia continuata* (**COUNTY**), May 8.

Cane habitat, NW end of Tate Bend Rd.,along Oostanaula River, Gordon Co.:
May 31-June1:
NOTODONTIDAE: *Peridea ferruginea.* **NOCTUIDAE**: *Zanclognatha atrilineela, Raphia abrupta*, undescribed apameine (one of the Quinter cane feeders). **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Eusarca packardaria* (3; still the only known location in GA for this species).
June 6-7:
NOCTUIDAE: *Spiloloma unilinea* (uncommon in GA); *Harrismemna trisignata* (female); *Ozarba aerea; Apamea nigrior* (fewer than five records for the STATE); *Archanara oblonga*; a different undescribed cane feeder than previous week (3 specimens).
June 14-15:
NOCTUIDAE: *Zale phaeocapna* (**COUNTY**, third record for GA); *Acronicta connecta; Ozarba aerea*; 3 more specimens of the cane feeder from June 6-7.

Carbondale, Whitfield Co.:
SPHINGIDAE: *Manduca jasminearum*, June 2. **NOTODONTIDAE**: *Hyparpax aurora*, June 4. **NOCTUIDAE**:

Merolonche dollii, April 2 (first in several years; second for **COUNTY**); *Cerma cora*, Apr. 8 (**COUNTY**, uncommon in STATE); *Lithophane patefacta* April 11 (**LATE**!). **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Trigrammia quadrinotaria*, low elevation form, June 4.

Gates Chapel Rd., 8 miles WNW of Ellijay, Gilmer Co.,May 11, 2008, IF:
SATURNIDAE: *Actias luna, Callosamia angulifera* (common, but mostly very worn), *Dryocampa rubicunda.* **SPHINGIDAE**: *Darapsa choerilus* (formerly *pholus*). **NOCTUIDAE**: *Hypsoropha monilis* (Late-ish), *Zale helata, Z. unilineata, Panthea* nr. *furcilla* (abundant, males only), *Charadra deridens, Acronicta inclara, A. modica, A. ovata, A. hasta, A. retardata, Lacinipolia anguina* (**COUNTY**), *Leuconycta diphteroides* (several), *Comachara cadburyi* (several). **DREPANIDAE**: *Drepana arcuata* **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Macaria bisignata* (very common), *M. bicolorata, M. granitata, M. minorata, Eufidonia convergaria, Anagoga occiduaria* (late, females only, very fresh), *Nemoria lixaria, Cyclophora pendulinaria, Eupithecia peckorum.* **PYRALIDAE**: *Pyrausta bicoloralis, Crocidophora pustuliferalis* (**COUNTY**). **TORTRICIDAE**: *Retinia albicapitana* (**COUNTY**).

Union Co., three different locations (meadows), Pierre Howard, May 17:
HESPERIIDAE: *Polites coras* (= *peckius*), more than 30.

Hale Ridge Rd., Rabun Co., Pierre Howard:
May 23, with Max Medley, Rachel Cass, and Ken Blankenship:
PAPILIONIDAE: *Papilio appalachiensis* (clearly the *appalachiensis* morphotype).
May 31, with Dan Vickers:
HESPERIIDAE: *Pholisora catullus*. **LYCAENIDAE**: *Lycaena phlaes americana*.
June 5:
NYMPHALIDAE: *Euphydryas phaeton* (1, fresh; **COUNTY**).

Atlanta, Fulton Co., Irving Finkelstein's house:
NOCTUIDAE: *Dysgonia smithii* (**COUNTY**), June 5. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Digrammia continuata*, June 15. **PYRALIDAE**: *Apogeshna primordialis* (**COUNTY**), June 5.

Piedmont NWR, Jones Co., Jerry and Rose Payne, Mar 28:
HESPERIIDAE: *Megathymus yuccae*. **PAPILIONIDAE**: *Eurytides marcellus, Papilio polyxenes*. **PIERIDAE**: *Anthocharis midea*. **LYCAENIDAE**: *Mitoura gryneus*.

Lamar Co. roadsides; Jerry and Rose Payne, May 8 & 9:
PIERIDAE: *Pontia protodice.* LYCAENIDAE: *Mitoura gryneus*. **NYMPHALIDAE**: *Enodia creola, Satyrodes appalachia.*

Fall Line Sand Hills Natural Area, Taylor Co., Pierre Howard:
HESPERIIDAE: *Hesperia meskei* (**COUNTY**), June 11; 14 specimens seen again on June 14.

Ohoopee Dunes NA, Emanuel Co., Pierre Howard & Dan Vickers, June 7:
HESPERIIDAE: *Hesperia meskei.*

Ohoopee Dunes NA, Tract 3, Emanuel Co., IF, May 13-14, 2004:
Correction: **PYRALIDAE**: Species previously reported as *Apogeshna primordialis* definitely NOT *primordialis*, but instead *A. stenialis.*

Lyons, Toombs Co., at lights, May 23 (JA, IF):
NOCTUIDAE: *Callopistria granitosa* (**COUNTY**). **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Cyclophora myrtaria* (**COUNTY**), *Lobocleta plemyraria* (**COUNTY**).

Ohoopee Dunes habitat, Handy Kennedy Road, 0.8 mi N of GA Hwy 152, 10 mi NE Lyons, Tattnall Co., May 23-24 (JA, IF, JS) and May 25-26 (JS):
SATURNIIDE: *Actias luna, Automeris io, Anisota virginiensis.* **SPHINGIDAE**: *Enyo lugubris.* **LASIOCAMPIDAE**: *Tolype notialis.* **NOTODONTIDAE**: *Hyperaeschra georgica* (extremely fresh, light in color),

Heterocampa astarte, Hyparpax aurora (several). **ARCTIIDAE**: *Cisthene subjecta, Grammia placentia* (abundant, many females). **LYMANTRIIDAE**: *Dasychira meridionalis* (abundant). **NOCTUIDAE**: *Idia gopheri* (JS; May 25), *Metria amella, Catocala ilia, C. umbrosa* (**COUNTY**), *C. coccinata, C. similis, C. charlottae* (**COUNTY, STATE?**), *C. micronympha* (several forms), *Acronicta brumosa, Properigea tapeta* (**COUNTY**), *Anicla (Euagrotis) illapsa* (**COUNTY**). **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Macaria inextricata* (**STATE**), *Macaria distribuaria, Narraga georgiana, Hypomecis* species (very dark), *Pimaphera sparsaria* (**COUNTY**, second location and fourth specimens for STATE); *Euchlaena obtusaria, Nepytia semiclusaria, Nemoria bifilata, Idaea tacturata, I. violacearia, Lobocleta plemyraria.* **LACTURIDAE**: *Lactura pupula* (several). **PYRALIDAE**: *Apogeshna stenialis, Tallula atrifascialis, Melitara prodenialis, Parachma ochracealis, Conchylodes ovulalis, Parapoynx maculalis.* **TORTRICIDAE**: *Phaneta annetteana, Eucosma robinsonana.*

Town Bluff Park, Jeff Davis Co., May 25 (JS; on Ceanothus and Butterfly weed):
PAPILIONIDAE: *Battus philenor, Eurytides marcellus, Papilio palamedes, P. glaucus.* **LYCAENIDAE**: *Harkenclenus titus mopsus.* **NOCTUIDAE**: *Alypia octomaculata.*

Hazlehurst, Jeff Davis Co., at lights, May 24 (JA, IF, JS, ML):
SPHINGIDAE: *Manduca jasminearum* (**COUNTY**). **NOCTUIDAE**: *Callopistria granitosa* (**COUNTY**).

Horse Creek WMA, nr jtn Hwys 117 & 149, 12 mi SW of Lumber City, Telfair Co., May 24-25(JA, IF, JS, ML):
NYMPHALIDAE (in light traps): *Enodia portlandia.* **SATURNIIDAE**: *Antheraea polyphemus, Automeris io.* **LASIOCAMPIDAE**: *Tolype minta* (**COUNTY**, second location in STATE). **MIMALLONIDAE**: *Lacosoma chiridota.* **LYMANTRIDAE**: *Dasychira atrivenosa, D. meridionalis, D. basiflava, D. tephra.* **NOCTUIDAE**: *Hemeroplanis scopulepes, Metalectra tantillus, Argyrostrotis anilis, Cutina distincta, C. albopunctella, C. aluticolor, C. arcuata, Zale obliqua/confusa, Zale horrida, Dysgonia smithii, Catocala ilia, C. orba, C. epione, C. ultronia, C. clintoni, C. mira, C. micronympha, C. similis, C. alabamae, C. pretiosa, C. grynea, C. connubialis, Acronicta laetifica, A. interrupta, A. vinnula, A. tritona, Agriopodes fallax, Baileya acadiana, Oxycilla mitographa* (second in **STATE**, from same location), *Callopistria granitosa* (**COUNTY**), *Azenia obtusa, Anicla (Euagrotis)* sp. [*sullivani*?]. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Macaria aequiferaria, Eumacaria latiferrugata, Erastria cruentaria, Nepytia semiclusaria, Cyclophora myrtaria, Idaea scintillularia* (**COUNTY**). **LIMACODIDAE**: *Lithacodes* nr. *gracea.* **LACTURIDAE**: *Lactura pupula.* **COSSIDAE**: *Cossula magnifica.* **PYRALIDAE**: *Apogeshna stenialis, Desmia maculalis, Saucrobotys futilalis, Parapoynx maculalis.*

Ludowici, Long Co., March 21, 2008, (JA, IF, ERA, and BR):
ARCTIIDAE: *Spilosoma dubia.* **NOCTUIDAE**: *Morrisonia mucens.* **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Anticlea multiferata* (**COUNTY**; far south).

Griffin Ridge WMA, north of Altamaha River, Long Co., March 21-22, with IF, ERA, and BR:
SATURNIIDAE: *Antheraea polyphemus, Dryocampa rubicunda.* **SPHINGIDAE**: *Deidamia inscripta.* **NOTODONTIDAE**: *Nadata gibbosa, Macrurocampa marthesia, Heterocampa gutivitta, H. astarte, Peridea angulosa, Hyperaeschra georgica, Oligocentria lignicolora.* **ARCTIIDAE**: *C. subjecta, Spilosoma dubia.* **NOCTUIDAE**: *Idia americalis, Bleptina inferior, Palthis angulalis, Sigela sp. nov.* (gray), *Hypsoropha monilis, Phyprosopus callitrichoides, Cutina albipunctella, Drasteria graphica, Cissusa spadix, Phoberia atomaris, Phoberia ingenua, P. repanda, Ptichodis bistrigata, Argyrostrotis flavistriaria, A. sylvarum, A. deleta, Metria amella, Zale aeruginosa, Z. squamularis, Z. calycanthata, Z. near lunifera, Z. declarans, Acronicta brumosa, A. tritona, A. afflicta, A. oblinita, Meganola spodia, Nola phylla, Nola sp. nov., Elaphria georgii, E. festivoides complex, Iodopepla u-album, Ulolonche culea, Morrisonia confusa, M. mucens, Anorthodes tarda, Sideridis* (formerly *Trichoclea*) *vindemialis* (second for **COUNTY**, third in STATE), *Feltia (Trichosilia) manifesta, Agrotis ipsilon.* **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Macaria aequiferaria, M. distribuaria, Glena cribrataria, Protoboarmia porcellaria, Iridopsis defectaria, Hypomecis umbrosaria, Lycia ypsilon, Euchlaena deductaria, Metarranthis obfirmaria, Plagodis fervidaria, Tacparia zalissaria, Nemoria rubrofrontaria, Hydriomena sp., Eupithecia sp.*

SE of Waycross (at a church) along US. 1/23, Ware Co., at lights:
March 22 (JA,IF, ERA, and BR):
NOCTUIDAE: *Epidromia fergusoni, Argyrostrotis sylvarum, Zale submediana, Acronicta betulae* (**COUNTY**, very far SOUTH), A. *tritona, A. oblinita, Panthea* near *furcilla, Nola sp. nov., Callopistria granitosa* (**COUNTY**). **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Macaria distribuaria, Iridopsis vellivolata, Tornos scolopacinarius, Metarranthis obfirmaria,*

Hethemia pistasciaria. **LIMACODIDAE**: *Euclea delphinii* (very EARLY).

May 25 (JA & IF):

LASIOCAMPIDAE: *Tolype minta* (**COUNTY**, third location in STATE). **ARCTIIDAE**: *Cosmosoma myrodora* (**COUNTY**, very few in STATE); *Utetheisa bella*. **NOCTUIDAE**: *Metalectra tantillus, Cutina albopunctella, C. distincta, Metallata absumens, Epidromia fergusoni* (several), *Dysgonia similis, Zale obliqua/confusa, Catocala charlottae* (**COUNTY**), *C. similis, Harrismemna trisignata* (**COUNTY**); *Argyrogramma basigera, Diphthera festiva, Bellura densa, Callopistria granitosa* (**COUNTY**), *Spodoptera latifascia*. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Nematocampa baggetaria* (**COUNTY**), *Synchlora frondaria, Cyclophora myrtaria* (**COUNTY**).

Hwy. 177, rd. to entrance of Okefenokee NWR, 7 mi. S. Waycross, Ware Co. May 25 (IF):
ARCTIIDAE: *Utetheisa bella.*

Dixon Memorial Forest WMA, swampy area, 31°07'41"N 82°15'19"W, Ware Co.:

March 22-23, (JA, IF, ERA, & BR) (moths in light traps):**PAPILIONIDAE**: *Papilio palamedes* (incredibly abundant; in the mid 100's at least), *Papilio glaucus*. **LYCAENIDAE**: *Calycopis cecrops* (also incredibly abundant), *Incisalia henrici margarettae* (tailed). **SATURNIIDAE**: *Actias luna, Automeris io* (early). **LASIOCAMPIDAE**: *Artace cribraria*. **ARCTIIDAE**: *Cisthene subjecta, Virbia* (formerly *Holomelina*) *fergusoni* (**COUNTY**, though likely overlooked before), *Apantesis phalerata*. **NOCTUIDAE**: *Renia fraternalis, Tetanolita floridana, Argyrostrotis flavistriaria, A. sylvarum, Pseudanthracia coracias* (**COUNTY**, very uncommon in STATE), *Zale declarans, Acronicta afflicta, Archanara oblonga* (**COUNTY**), *Fagitana littera* (**COUNTY**, very uncommon in STATE), *Egira alternans, Lacinipolia incognita, Ulolonche culea*. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Hypomecis umbrosaria, Glena cognataria, Euchlaena deductaria, E. obtusaria, Metarranthis obfirmaria, Nemoria catachloa* (**COUNTY**).

May 25-26, (JA, IF):

ARCTIIDAE: *Virbia fergusoni* (several). **NOCTUIDAE**: *Metalectra tantillus, Cutina distincta, C. albopunctella, Argyrostrotis erasa* (abundant!), *A. deleta, Pseudanthracia coracias* (**COUNTY**), *Catocala charlottae* (**COUNTY**), *Hyperstrotia flaviguttata, Nola nr pustulata, Callopistria granitosa* (abundant), *C. cordata, Fagitana littera* (also in March, see above). **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Macaria distribuaria, Stenaspilatodes antidiscaria, Metarranthis nr lateritaria* (**COUNTY**), *Nepytia semiclusaria, Prochoerodes transversata* (extremely variable), *Nemoria bifilata, Cyclophora myrtaria* (**COUNTY**). **LIMACODIDAE**: *Lithacodes* nr *gracea, Adoneta* nr *spinuloides*. **TORTRICIDAE**: *Archips magnoliana, Sparganothis* nr *albicaudana.*

Dixon Memorial Forest WMA, forest area, NE of Laura Walker SP, 31°08'55-56"N 82°12'43-44"W, Ware Co.:

March 22-23, (JA, IF, ERA, & BR):

LASIOCAMPIDAE: *Artace cribraria*. **NOTODONTIDAE**: *Nadata gibbosa, Heterocampa gutivitta*. **ARCTIIDAE**: *Apantesis phalerata*. **NOCTUIDAE**: *Idia rotundalis, I. diminuendis, Bleptina caradrinalis, Renia fraternalis, Pangrapta decoralis, Ptichodis bistrigata, P. pacalis, Argyrostrotis flavistriaria, A. sylvarum, A. deleta, Parallelia bistriaris, Epidromia fergusoni, Phoberia ingenua, Dysgonia similis, Zale declarans, Acronicta brumosa, A. tritona, Polygrammate hebraeicum, Nola sp., Morrisonia confusa, Egira alternans, Ulolonche culea, Anorthodes tarda, Agrotis ipsilon*. **GEOMETRIDAE**: Glena *cribrataria, Glenoides texanaria, Ectropis crepuscularia, Hypagyrtis esther, Euchlaena deductaria, E. obtusaria, Metarranthis obfirmaria, Eutrapela clemataria, Hethemia pistaciaria.*

May 25-26, (JA, IF):

NOTODONTIDAE: *Clostera inclusa*. **NOCTUIDAE**: *Hypenula cacuminalis* (**COUNTY**), *Argyrostrotis erasa, A. quadrifilaris, Epidromia fergusoni, Callopistria granitosa, C. cordata*, **DREPANIDAE**: *Oreta rosea.*

Dixon Memorial Forest WMA, just E of Laura Walker SP lake, 31°08'21-23"N 82°12'23-28"W, Brantley Co., March 22-23, light traps, w/ IF, ERA, & BR:

NOTODONTIDAE: *Nadata gibbosa, Heterocampa gutivitta, Schizura unicornis*. **ARCTIIDAE**: *Cisthene subjecta, Hyphantria cunea*. **NOCTUIDAE**: *Idia rotundalis, I. diminuendis, Bleptina caradrinalis, Renia fraternalis, Ptichodis bistrigata, Argyrostrotis flavistriaria, A. sylvarum, Drasteria graphica, Zale declarans, Acronicta brumosa, A. tritona, Nola sp. nov., Callopistria granitosa* (second in **COUNTY**; see above), *C. cordata* (**COUNTY**, far SOUTH), *Morrisonia confusa, Anorthodes tarda, Agrotis ipsilon*. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Macaria aequiferaria, M. transitaria, M. distribuaria, Glena cognataria, Glenoides texanaria, Protoboarmia porcellaria, Anavitrinella pampinaria, Epimecis hortaria, Euchlaena deductaria, E. obtusaria, Metarranthis obfirmaria, Caripeta aretaria* (very large; second time at this location in spring), *Nemoria bistriaria*. **PYRALIDAE**: *Dioryctria clarioralis.*

May 25-26, (JA, IF):
MIMALLONIDAE: *Cicinnus melsheimeri* (**COUNTY**). **ARCTIIDAE**: *Virbia fergusoni* (**COUNTY**). **NOCTUIDAE**: *Hypenula cacuminalis, Metalectra tantillus, Argyrostrotis erasa* (abundant), *Argyrostrotis quadrifilaris, Epidromia fergusoni, Dysgonia similis, Metria amella, Pseudanthracia coracias* (**COUNTY**), *Zale obliqua/confusa, Catocala similis, C. connubialis, Callopistria granitosa* (abundant; **COUNTY**), *C. cordata, Chytonix sensilis*. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Digrammia eremiata, Glena cognataria, Nemoria outina*, and a little yellow and pink unknown. **PYRALIDAE**: *Omphalocera munroei* (**COUNTY**).

Paulk's Pasture WMA, Mike Chapman, April 26:
NYMPHALIDAE: *Enodia appalachia*. Mike said this is the first individual of this species he has seen at this location in 16 years.

St. Catherines Island, Bud Horn, May 16:
LYCAENIDAE: *Eurystrymon favonius*, on Sparkleberry.

Skidaway Island, Chatham Co., Pierre Howard & Dan Vickers, May 19:
LYCAENIDAE: *Eurystrymon favonius*, 27 individuals.

Louisiana: Michael Lockwood, 215 Hialeah Avenue, Houma, LA 70363, E-Mail: mikelock34@hotmail.com

The following sightings have been reported by Craig W. Marks at Indian Creek Recreation Area, Rapides Parish, Louisiana, May 05, 2008:

Battus polydamus
Papilio troilus
Colias eurytheme
Phoebis sennae
Phyciodes tharos
Vanessa virgineinsis
Junonia coenia
Anaea andria
Megisto cymela
Neonympha areolata
Hermeuptychia sosybis
Erynnis sp.
Hylephila phyleus
Oligoria maculata
Nastra lherminier
Satyrium calanus

The following sightings have been reported by Craig W. Marks at Mary Brown Nature Preserve, Louisiana, May 10, 2008:

Battus philenor
Papilio cresphontes
Papilio polyxenes (larva)
Colias eurytheme
Phoebis sennae
Phyciodes tharos
Polygonia interrogationis
Junonia coenia
Vanessa atalanta
Limenitis astyanax
Asterocampa celtis
Hermeuptychia sosybis
Cyllopsis gemma
Erynnis sps.
Oligoria maculata
Polites vibex
Carterocephalus palaemon
Atlides halesus
Parrhasius m-album
Satyrium calanus
Satyrium favonius
Calycopis cecrops
Strymon melinus

Mississippi: Rick Patterson, 400 Winona Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180, E-Mail: rpatte42@aol.com

The following Mississippi records are reported by Ricky Patterson:

12 April 2008, Belmont, Itawamba County, *Callophrys niphon niphon*.

29 April 2008, BSA Camp Warren Hood, *Satyrium ontario ontario* (common), *Satyrium liparops strigosum, Polites vibex vibex, Eurema daira daira* (COUNTY).

9 May 2008, Homochitto National Forest, Pipes Lake, on Sandy Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Satyrium ontario ontario, Satyrium liparops strigosum, Strymon melinus melinus.*

10 May 2008, Calhoun County Wildlife Management Area, Calhoun County, *Achalarus lyciades, Euphyes vestris, Charidryas nycteis nycteis.*

22 May 2008, Vicksburg, Warren county (COUNTY), *Lytrosis unitaria* in bait trap.

19 May 2008, Calhoun County Wildlife Management Area, Calhoun County, *Parrhasius m-album, Polygonia interrogationis.*

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

Report by Steve Hall - Only a couple of noteworthy moth records were made this spring.

NOCTUIDAE:

Ptichodis bistrigata. Two specimens were collected by Scott Pohlman in Montgomery County (**COUNTY**), apparently the first time this species has been collected in the Piedmont of North Carolina, although it is known from several sites in the Outer Coastal Plain and Sandhills as well as a few sites in the Mountains. Most of the records for this species come from dry to xeric longleaf pine habitats and these specimens were similarly collected from dry oak woodlands containing remnant longleaf pines as well as a couple of small pitcher plant bogs. Does anyone have an idea of the host plant(s) of this species?

Morrisonia new species. One specimen was collected by Steve Hall at a site along the Rocky River in Union County (**COUNTY**). Again, this species has also been collected at several sites in the Coastal Plain, Sandhills, and Mountains, but this specimen apparently represents the first record for the Piedmont in North Carolina. Unlike *P. bistrigata*, this species occurs in an extremely wide range of habitats in North Carolina, from longleaf pine savannas and swamp forests in the Coastal Plain to northern hardwoods in the Mountains. The habitat for the Union County specimen was rich levee forest.

The following selected butterfly records were submitted by Harry LeGrand. Place names refer to counties unless otherwise stated, and records are not new county reports unless indicated. Rainfall has been near normal in most of the state in spring 2008, and temperatures have been slightly below normal. The severe drought of late 2007 has mostly been eliminated, though a few species will likely be impacted from the drought into 2008. Records are from February - May 2008.

PIERIDAE:

Pontia protodice, this rarity was seen twice at a sewage treatment plant in Forsyth this spring, with one photographed by Dennis Burnette on February 5 being (by a month) a state early record.

Ascia monuste, a potential very rare flight into the Carolinas is underway this spring. There was one confirmed and several likely sightings in South Carolina, and there was a fairly well described report of a perched individual from Buncombe on May 26. As there are only about three previous state records, all from the southern coast in summer-fall, a late May report from a mountain bog must remain unconfirmed without a specimen or photo.

LYCAENIDAE:

Lycaena phlaeas, one was seen at Falls Lake in northern Durham **(COUNTY)** this spring (date not available). This is the first report of this species from the heavily worked Triangle area (Wake, Durham, and Orange) and is a very rare record for the eastern Piedmont of the state.

Atlides halesus, Beth Brinson saw one at Stone Mountain State Park in Wilkes **(COUNTY)** on April 10, a very rare record for the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Satyrium favonius "favonius", Jeff Pippen visited a well-known site for the species and observed and photographed a state record 38 individuals in New Hanover on May 18. At this and other nearby locales in New Hanover and

Brunswick, individuals are generally intermediate between *favonius* and *ontario,* leaning toward the former subspecies; this is the northernmost range of *S. f. "favonius"*.

Callophrys augustinus, Harry LeGrand saw one nectaring on sand-myrtle (*Leiophyllum buxifolium*) at Camp Rockfish in extreme southeastern Hoke **(COUNTY)** on March 26. This extends the range of the species to the southeast by about 10 miles.

Callophrys henrici, several were seen by Gail Lankford in Buncombe **(COUNTY)** between April 25 and May 4. This is just the third county record for the state's mountain region, where the species is mysteriously scarce.

NYMPHALIDAE:

Agraulis vanillae, a few individuals were seen in the mountains this spring, an earlier influx than usual. Simon Thompson noted one at Tulula Bog (Graham) on April 25, Will Cook saw one along the Harmon Den Road in Haywood on May 9, and Ted Wilcox saw one in Ashe on May 31.

Chlosyne nycteis, Steve Hall observed individuals in the floodplain of the Rocky River in Stanly **(COUNTY)** and Union **(COUNTY)** during May 12-13. These counties are in the state's southeastern Piedmont, where there are relatively few other county records for the species.

HESPERIIDAE:

Staphylus hayhurstii, of the several spring reports, the most significant was a first for Pitt **(COUNTY)**, where seen by Salman Abdulali near Winterville on May 9.

Pyrgus centaureae wyandot, Ted Wilcox found three individuals in Ashe again this spring, on April 26. These were at a previously known site, which is basically at a Christmas tree plantation.

Amblyscirtes hegon, along the southeastern edge of the range was one seen by Harry LeGrand at Medoc Mountain State Park, Halifax, on May 1.

Amblyscirtes vialis, this scarce or easily overlooked species was seen only a few times, with one noted by Nelson Dobbs in Haywood **(COUNTY)** on May 9 being the most notable.

South Carolina: Brian Scholtens, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424, E-Mail: scholtensb@cofc.edu

Brian announces that a new South Carolina butterfly checklist is available on the Carolina Butterfly Society Website. Dennis Forsythe and Brian put the list together the middle of April. They would be happy to provide a PDF copy to anyone who wants it.

Tennessee: John Hyatt, 5336 Foxfire Place, Kingsport, TN 37664, E-Mail: jkshyatt@aol.com

Texas: Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhart Road, Houston, TX 77055, E-Mail: eknudson@earthlink.net

Ro Wauer sends in the following report for Texas.

Butterflies Found in Mission Valley, Victoria Co., TX, during May 2008. May 2008 was on the dry side with only a few scattered showers. Butterfly numbers were down early in the month but increased gradually by mid-month. Dominant flowering garden plants that attracted butterflies included: duranta, boneset, zinnia, lantana, and Mexican heather. I recorded the following species:

1. Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*): several seen daily.
2. Black Swallowtail (Papilio polyxenes): loners on 5/25,27, 28 & 31.
3. Giant Swallowtail (*P. cresphontes*): few seen daily.
4. Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*P. glaucus*): one on 5/27.
5. Great Southern White (*Ascia monadte*): one on 5/18.
6. Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*): one on 5/8.
7. Southern Dogface (*Zerene cesonia*): 1-2 on 5/8, 10, 20, 21 & 27-30.

8. Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*): 1-2 on 5/8-10.
9. Orange-barred Sulphur (*P. philea*): one on 5/29.
10. Large Orange Sulphur (*P. agarithe*): 1-3 on 5/8-10, 16, 18, 20, 22-25, 29 & 31.
11. Lyside Sulphur (*Kricogonia lyside*): 1-3 on 5/19-23 & 25.
12. Little Yellow (*Pyrisitia lisa*): few seen daily.
13. Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*): one on 5/20 & 21.
14. Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*): one photographed on 5/27.
15. Oak Hairstreak (*Satyrium favonius*): loners on 5/16 & 19.
16. White M Hairstreak (*Parrhasius m-album*): one on 5/8 & 9.
17. Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*): 1-3 on 5/8, 10, 16, 18-25, 27 & 31.
18. Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak (*S. istapa*): loners on 5/20, 27 & 28.
19. Dusky-blue Groundstreak (*Calycopis isobeon*): several seen daily.
20. Reakirt's Blue (*Echinargus isola*): 1-2 on 5/9, 10, 16, 18-21 & 31.
21. Rounded Metalmark (*Calephelis perditalis*): 1-3 on 5/9, 10, 18-23 & 27.
22. Red-bordered Metalmark (*Caria ino*): two on 5/31.
23. Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*): few seen daily.
24. Julia Heliconian (*Dryas iulia*): loners on 5/20, 21, 23 & 29.
25. Bordered Patch (*Chlosyne lacinia*): one on 5/8.
26. Silvery Checkerspot (*C. nycteis*): 1-3 on 5/18-24.
27. Phaon Crescent (*Phyciodes phaon*): one on 5/9 & 10.
28. Pearl Crescent (*P. tharos*): 1-2 on 5/9 & 18-21.
29. Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*): loners on 5/16, 19 & 21.
30. American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*): 1-2 on 5/16, 18-21 & 23.
31. Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*): 1-2 on 5/ 10 & 18-22.
32. Goatweed Leafwing (*Anaea andria*): one on 5/19.
33. Tawny Emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*): 1-2 on 5/8-10, 16 & 30.
34. Carolina Satyr (*Hermeuptychia sosybius*): several seen daily.
35. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*): loners on 5/8, 10, 18, 19 & 27.
36. Queen (*D. gilippus*): loners on 5/22, 29 & 30.
37. White-striped Longtail (*Chioides albofasciatus*): few seen daily.
38. Dorantes Longtail (*Urbanus dorantes*): 2-4 on 5/28-31.
39. Coyote Cloudywing (*Achalarus toxeus*): several seen daily.
40. Sickle-winged Skipper (*Eantis tamenund*): several seen daily.
41. Horace's Duskywing (*Erynnis horatius*): several seen daily.
42. Funeral Duskywing (*E. funeralis*): 1-2 on 5/8, 10, 19-21, 23, 25 & 27.
43. Common/White Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus communis/albescens*): several seen daily.
44. Tropical Checkered-Skipper (*P. oileus*): several seen daily.
45. Turk's-cap White-Skipper (*Heliopetes macaira*): loners on 5/30 & 31.
46. Julia's Skipper (*Nastra julia*): 1-4 on 5/18, 19, 21, 24, 27, 28, 30 & 31.
47. Clouded Skipper (*Lerema accius*): loners on 5/22, 27, 28 & 30.
48. Fiery Skipper (*Hylephila phyleus*): few seen daily.
49. Whirlabout (*Polites vibex*): 1-2 on 5/16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 27, 30 & 31.
50. Southern Broken-Dash (*Wallengrenia otho*): loners on 5/22, 30 & 31.
51. Sachem (*Atalopedes campestris*): few seen daily.
52. Dun Skipper (*Euphyes vestris*): few seen daily.
53. Celia's Roadside-Skipper (*Amblyscirtes celia*): 2-4 on 5/9 & 19-31.
54. Eufala Skipper (*Lerodea eufala*): 1-2 on 5/8, 9, 18, 19, 24, 25, 27-29 & 31.

Virginia: Harry Pavulaan, 494 Fillmore Street, Herndon, VA 22070, E-Mail: pavulaan@aol.com

Harry sends in the following report:

Papilio appalachiensis - June 9, 2008; George Thompson WMA, Blue Mountain summit, Fauquier County, VA.; multiple ovipositions confirm *Prunus serotina* as only hostplant documented to date, possibly other hosts used; observed by Harry Pavulaan.

Agraulis vanillae - May 26, 2008; Peaks of Otter visitor center, Blue Ridge Parkway, Bedford County; observed by Clyde Kessler.

Anaea andria - May 25 and June 4, 2008; Radford, VA.; observed by Clyde Kessler.

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COMMENT CONCERNING Vladimir Nabokov: *"Butterflies weave in and out of Nabokov's life and his writing. In a Boston Glove column, Chet Raymo wrote that for Nabokov, 'lepidopteral details - patterns, shapes, colors, textures - ...resonated everywhere - in language, literature, love and life - enriching and deepening his experience in way that scientists seldom share'... It was the genius of the young Charles Remington, as founding editor of the News of the Lepidopterists' Society, not to constrain his fellow sufferer's American English within the bounds of standard scientific language. Thus Nabokov's papers in the News include images like 'Plunging into the forest...on the western slopes of the Snowy Range, I found [bog fritillaries] on a small richly flowered marsh'; and 'acting on a hunch, I visited a remarkably repulsive-looking willowbog, full of cowmerds and barbed wire,' among the precise accounts of species found and their characteristics."*

Source: *Nabokov's Butterflies* (2000). Translated by Dmitri Nabokov (edited and annotated by B. Boyd and R. M. Pyle), pg. 69.

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RECENT SIGHTINGS OF THE CUBAN CRESCENT AND ZABULON SKIPPER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

BY
MARC C. MINNO

On March 10, 2008, Effie Smith of Inverness, Florida found a colony of the Cuban Crescent (*Anthanassa frisia*) at Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area near the town of Christmas in Orange County, Florida. Several Phaon Crescent (*Phyciodes phaon*) were also flying in the same area. This is one of the most northern records for this butterfly in Florida, although in 1994 John Calhoun discovered a population a bit further north in southern, coastal Volusia County (Calhoun, *Tropical Lepidoptera* 6:40-42). The Cuban Crescent is usually found in southern Florida, and is rare and local. Effie also discovered another interesting butterfly on March 21, 2008. She was looking for butterflies along Shell Mound Road in Cedar Key, Levy County, Florida and found a few *Poanes zabulon*. The Zabulon Skipper is uncommon and very local in distribution in northern Florida.

Fig. 1. Cuban Crescents from Orange County, Florida.

Fig. 2. Zabulon Skippers from Cedar Key, Florida.

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