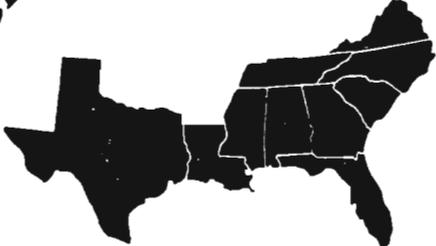




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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY, ORGANIZED  
TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO UNDERSTANDING  
THE LEPIDOPTERA FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHAIRMAN-EDITOR : DAVE BAGGETT

SECRETARY-TREASURER : TOM NEAL

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PLANS CONFIRMED FOR THE 1980 MEETING IN GEORGIA

Irving Finkelstein, Abner Towers, J. D. Christy and I met briefly during the Lepidopterists' Society Meeting in Gainesville to discuss the site and logistics for the 1980 Southern Lepidopterists Meeting. We decided that the most convenient place to gather will be in the town of Dahlonega, Georgia near the foothills of the lower Appalachians. Excellent lodging is available at the Smith House ( renowned for its country-style, long table, multiple course meals and friendly atmosphere ). Current rates are \$21.00 double bed, \$24.00 with two double beds, and \$28.00 for a suite; cots are available for \$5.00 extra. There are additional motels in Dahlonega, and campers may chose to stay at either Vogel State Park ( with full facilities ) or at Cooper Creek State Recreation Area ( primitive ). Reservations at the Smith House are suggested ( 404 864 2348 ). Dahlonega is located about 60 miles northeast of Atlanta at the western tip of Lake Sidney Lanier, and is of some historic interest because of the gold mining ventures there in years past. We will plan to rendezvous at Smith House on August 23rd. at 8:00 for breakfast, then depart between 9-9:30 for Cooper Creek to lead those not familiar with the area. The entrance to Cooper Creek is about six miles from Suches off highway 60, marked by a small sign. From there, a gravel road leads some six miles up the mountain to the parking area and camping areas. The group will regather at the parking area for instructions, and we will break up into several groups to check on a number of trails and roads for Leps. We will reconvene at 12:30 for lunch, which will be provided by the Georgia hosts. An informal business session will take place during the lunch break, and we will plan to be afield again by 2:30. The afternoon period is the best time to look for female Speyeria diana, and Irving Finkelstein and Hermann Flaschka have offered to explain some of the rearing techniques necessary for this species. With enough eyes open, and with some luck, someone in the group just might find Erora laeta ( the late Joe Patterson took his specimen at the end of August in the area we will be in!) Please write or call the Editor if you are planning to attend in order to make appropriate lunch provisions - my home phone is (904) 724 8597 and my work phone is (904) 646 2614. My schedule is 9:30-7:30 Mon.- Thurs., 9:00 - 12:00 Friday, and I am home most evenings by 10:00. A map and accommodation information will be mailed under seperate cover to those interested in making the trip, and we look forward to meeting you there. This is a very scenic portion of the state, and you'll probably want to bring your camera to record the sights and activities. We will also plan to blacklight on Saturday night, so bring a portable unit if you have one. Moth collecting may be off due to the moon phase, but it never hurts to try.

The 1980 Lepidopterists' Society Meeting was a big success, with the turnout in the neighborhood of 200 in attendance. A big hand should be given to Tom Emmel, Dale Ha-  
beck, Howard Weems, Frank Mead, and the student assistants. Some excellent papers were  
presented, and all enjoyed the opportunity to meet and greet those with whom correspon-  
dence has been shared in the past, and to chat about all things Lepidopterous in general.  
Quite a few made the Ecuador expedition, and this also was a great success, judging from  
the comments I have received to date. Steve Roman tried to get a picture of the Southern  
Lepidopterists in attendance, along with a photo of those who missed the group photo,  
but the story of the film is something you should hear from him personally. Anyway, we  
did not get any pictures; seems we have a very tough time getting photos for the NEWS,  
but we'll keep trying.

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If you have life history information on any species of butterfly or moth occurring in  
the SL states which you feel is worthy of a short feature article, forward them to the  
Editor for inclusion. There is a lot of information known by members on a local basis  
which is generally unknown. Photographs are desirable if you can obtain them, but are  
not necessary - we'll alternate short features on moths and butterflies.

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LOCATING LARVAE OF THE LESSER VINE  
SPHINX, EUMORPHA FASCIATUS

Even as a kid, I always used to bring home various caterpillars I encountered just to  
see what they would become - my parents would let me get away with this, but the line  
was drawn with snakes, which also inspired my curiosity. One of my favorites was that  
of the Lesser Vine Sphinx, whose larvae are generally common to abundant from late sum-  
mer through fall, mainly because of the variety of color forms the larvae demonstrated.  
While not unusual for sphingids of certain genera to have larvae of two color forms, not  
that many are quite so easy to locate! In the wild state, virtually every roadside ditch  
of any consequence and most freshwater lakes in Florida have growing along or around them  
Primrose Willows or False Loosestrife or Seedbox ( Melastomataceae ), depending on who  
you could find to tell you what the plants were. Now I know them to be members of the  
genus Ludwigia, and three species in particular are fondly preferred by E. fasciatus  
as the larval hosts : L. peruviana, L. octovalia, and L. decurrens. Once you learn to  
recognize these plants, there will never be a problem in trying to locate larvae of this  
fine moth, at least in Florida. As soon as the plants are about three feet tall, which  
normally occurs by the 4th. of July or so, larvae may be easily found on the stems of  
these plants. When sphinx caterpillars are involved, the damage to plants is very obvi-  
ous, particularly after the larvae have attained any size. Anyway, I took great delight  
in finding them and bringing them home to raise, and was always amazed at how something  
which looked so different could produce the same moth. The larvae have two main color  
phases in the final two instars, one of which is boldly marked with black and white  
striping on a red background, the other a pale green with cream chevrons. The anal horn  
is lost with the early stages, when the larvae may be green, yellow, or pinkish with  
large white oval patches on the sides. Often three or four larvae are found on the same  
plant, which may be no more than three or four feet tall, and the signs of defoliation  
are much in evidence. I learned quickly that the bigger the larvae, the more likely the  
larvae would be parasitized, in this case by a Tachinid fly - if the larvae showed small  
black spots scattered randomly on the skin, it was surely parasitized. Apparently the  
flies attack only the later instars in this case, for I have never found small larvae  
which were parasitized. These larvae are well adapted to habitat, and are capable of  
swimming to shore in a directed manner. Often the plants are growing in the water, and  
the larvae must leave the plant to pupate in the ground, which also amazed me. I have  
deliberately dropped larvae in the water and have observed them orient themselves toward  
the nearest land and propel themselves with a side-kick motion.

Members of the Lepidopterists' Society who went on the Monday field trip to Shell Bluff Landing on Crescent Lake, Flagler County helped provide a list of nearly fifty butterfly species for the Xerces Society 4th of July Butterfly Count. Though collecting on the 23rd. of June is far from prime time in north Florida, some good bugs were tallied in the count. The water level was way down in the swamp and offered easy access for the party, which had about 40 participants, perhaps a Xerces first. Certainly the area was well canvassed! Tree trunk searching for Catocala moths was demonstrated, and six species were recorded, the most abundant being Catocala agrippina. A new county record was set with two specimens of Specodina abbotti at bait. Another brief stop was made near San Mateo in Putnam County on the way back to Gainesville, and here several visiting collectors found their first Parrhasius m-album and Battus polydamas, which to my knowledge is one of the best northern colonies of the latter, though it reaches Georgia in the coastal areas in the fall.

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Tom Neal and I have been busy with the 1980 membership list, which will be mailed out during August. New members include Mrs. Frances C. Welden, 7826 Willow Street, New Orleans, LA 70118; Jason Weintraub, Dept. of Entomology, MCZ, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. 02128; Robert Robbins, 11 Bulaire Rd., East Rockway, NY 11518; Daniel Bogar, Department of Entomology, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX 77843; Roy Kendall, 5598 Mt. McKinley Dr. NE, San Antonio, TX 78251; and Scott Stanford, 720 Fairfax Street, Denver, Colorado 80220.

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----- CURRENT ZONE REPORTS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES -----

ZONE I : TEXAS : Coordinators, Ed Knudson & Mike Rickard, 803 Woodstock, Bellaire 77401

Mike lamented about late cold spells and weekend weather conditions as hampering spring collecting in eastern Texas, with the hairstreak flights reduced to non-existent, but there was good collecting for skippers. Frank Hedges, George Busby, and Joseph Doyle supplemented the report : 8 March near Buffalo in Freestone County, Incisalia hadros and I. henrici were common, two E. olympia were also taken. Hedges & Busby reported numerous M. yuccae pupae in the area as well. On 18 May in the same area, Hesperia atalys, Polites thermistocles, and P. origines were found. At Falcon State Park, Starr County on 6 April Ed & Mike found three Apodemia walkeri, and on a trip to Jim Wells County 13 April with Busby, 16 pupae and adults of S. maculosa were taken. On 24-26 May Knudson & Rickard covered a 12-county portion of NE Texas, with four species taken in each county : P. thermistocles, P. origines, A. lyciades, and W. otho. Highlights of the trip were A. cellus on 26 May in Cass County ( first Texas records for the eastern population); on 25 May in Franklin Co. they found several pupae of E. dion on Carex sp.; on 25 May in Leon Co. they found a colony of P. viator; and on 26 May they found several A. logan logan ( this eastern ssp. is not common in Texas.)

Good moth records include the following from Atlanta State Park, Cass Co. on 25 May : two new probable state records with Pheosia rimosa ( Notodontidae) and Olceclostera angelica ( Apatelodinae), plus Zanclognatha martha ( Noctuidae), Lytrosis unitaria and Sterrrha violacearia ( Geometridae), Oneida lunulalis ( Pyralidae ) and Rhyacionia blanchardi ( Olethreutidae). The night before Knudson visited Tyler State Park, Smith Co., and found Semiothisa promiscuata, bicolorata, & transitaria ( Geos), Limacodes y-inversum & biguttata, Lithacodes gracea ( Limacodidae), and Archips georgiana, Accleris subnivana ( Tortricidae.) An early trip to the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge in Hidalgo Co. on April 5th. produced Draudtia morsa, Elydna tristicta, Spragueia dama & S. jaguaralis, Diastema tigris, and Nerastria clossia ( Noctuids); Aethiophysa dualis, Xanthostege rosei-terminalis, Gonocausta sabinalis, & Hahncappsia mancalis ( Pyralidae); and Ethmia semi-ombra ( Ethmiidae).

Another trip to Palmetto State Park, Gonzalez Co. on 4 May yielded other interesting moths : Erastria synochitis, Tarachidia erastrides, Acontia abdominalis, Catocala clintoni, Zanclognatha nr. minoralis, & Bleptina sangamonica ( Noctuidae ); Episemasia cervinaria, Fernaldella fimetaria, Lytrosis heitzmannorum, Lychnosea intermicata, ( Geos ); Paragyraetis daemonalis, Herculia intermedialis, Glapharia fulminalis, Xanthophysa psychialis, Goya ovaliger, Epipaschia superatalis, Rupela sejuncta ( Pyralidae ); Dysodia oclatana ( Thyrididae ); and Eucosma robinsonana, E. guttulana, E. grotiana, E. scintillana, & Epiblema numerosana ( Olethreutidae ). Mike Rickard will be providing the butterfly summary from Zone I, and Ed will get the moth summary together.

ZONE II : ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, & TENNESSEE : Coordinators - Vernon Brou(LA), Bryant Mather (MS), Charles Watson (TN), and John Hyatt ( TN-AL)

Vernon Brou provided a fine list of new state records : Lacinipolia explicata, Epizeuxis forbesi, E. rotundalis, Metalectra richardsi, Renia salusalis, R. factiosalis, Orthodes cynica, Hemeroplanes habitalis, Balsa tristrigella, Orthosia rubescens, Schinia nubila, Acronicta brumosa, A. hamamelis, A. haesitata, A. interrupta, Abagrotis alternata, Leucania linda, & Bomolocha madefactalis ( Noctuids ); Ellida caniplaga, Heterocampa biundata, Datana ministra, D. angusi, D. perspicua, Hyparpax aurora, Cerura scitiscrupta ( Noto-dontidae ); and Semiothisa eremiata, S. multilinedata, S. ocellinata, S. quadrinotaria, S. promiscuata, Scopula ordinata, Plagodis alchoolaria, Lambdina pellucidaria, Antephione thisoaria, Petrova divisata, Syrrhodia coloraria, Hydria prunivorata, Itame pustularia, Nemoria bistriaria, & Lytrosis unitaria, all Geometridae. Another note of interest was provided by Frances Welden, who commented on a population explosion of Hemileuca maia larvae between Broadway & St. Charles Ave. in New Orleans; the adults were on the wing during the third week of December. A note on the specific host plant for H. maia will be useful.

Watson and Hyatt commented on having a late spring in eastern Tennessee, with things a little on the cool and damp side, and down from previous seasons. Hyatt reported that M. gryneus was unusually abundant this spring during a trip in Washington County on 17 April, but that I. henrici was scarce, with only two taken in the same area. A. midea and P. virginensis were locally common in Hawkins Co. from mid-April to early May, and F. tarquinius showed up in strong numbers in Hawkins Co. in early May. Cyllopsis gemma was fairly common along wooded mountain roads in Sullivan & Hawkins Counties, and Incisalia nippon was found in Sullivan Co. on 20 April, a good catch in that area. A single Erora laeta was taken in Hawkins Co. on 3 May on a dirt road under a beech tree near the spot where it was found in '77-'78. Celastrina ebenina was found on 20 April in the Sullivan Co. location where Watson had found them last season, and Watson reported a new colony found in Scott Co., Va. Ova and larvae were found easily on the host plant, Aruncus, and are being reared by Watson. Hyatt took his first P. hobomok in Sullivan Co. on May 18th., and noted that Psychomorpha epimidis was very common everywhere in the mountains during mid-April. His Alabama friend, Dave Baker, reported that spring collecting in central/southern Alabama was poor due to unusually heavy spring rains.

ZONE III : GEORGIA : Coordinators, Abner Towers & Irving Finkelstein

Neither Celastrina ebenina nor P. centaurae wyandoti were found this spring, but Irving did find the second C. hesseli from the state, again in Taylor Co., but some six miles from the first capture on 5 April along Cedar Creek. At Cooper Creek on 17 April Irving and Abner each found a pair of I. augustinus at a spot just off Duncan Ridge Road. Hermann Flaschka and Finkelstein found numerous larvae of Catocala in all stages of growth on Cherry, Wild Plum, and various Hickories during April in the Buford & Kennesaw areas. Ron Gatrell visited Cooper Creek on July 5th., after driving all night to get there, and collected from 9:30 to 2:30 before leaving for home. He found one Erora laeta, numerous Polytonia faunus smythi, Lethe appalachia, male Speyeria diana, and F. tarquinius among others, and called to my attention that several seasons ago he had taken a single Poanes yehl during July at Cooper Creek, perhaps the only mountain record for the species.

Dave Winter & Jo Brewer Winter vacationed on Ossabaw Island, one of the barrier islands off the coast of Georgia, during late March and recorded 18 butterfly species, including tents and larvae of M. yuccae, N. antiopa, E. nicippe, and P. communis. He also mentioned a possible sight record for Anaea andria. The night before they arrived the temperature had dropped to 25 degrees, and during the first day of exploration, Jo found a dead P. m-album and a dead A. halesus lying in the path, both in fresh condition, probably killed by the late freeze.

ZONE IV : FLORIDA : Coordinators ; Steve Roman, Jeff Slotten, & Lee Adair

Florida spring collecting ranged from excellent to very poor, depending on the area. Hairstreak collecting in the northern portion of the state was very poor this spring, though from Gainesville southward collecting was excellent. The late freeze of March 1st apparently killed off much of the new growth the young larvae were depending on; in the Jacksonville area and at Torreya State Park very few hairstreaks were reported, and the numbers were drastically down from past seasons. After the freeze, these two areas experienced above normal rainfall, which also must have had some effect. I. henrici margaretae and C. gryneus swadneri were observed out before the freeze, but few after the freeze, suggesting that many were affected in the pre-eclosure state in pupae. In south Florida, David Smith reported the following good records: P. m-album at Coconut Grove 19 April and Matheson Hammock on 20 April; Fixenia favonius on 19 April, Coconut Grove (generally quite rare in extreme southern Florida); E. angelia, locally common in the Coconut Grove area during April; Phoebis statira, many males seen/collected during April at Matheson Hammock; Asterocampa flora, Matheson Hammock on 20 April (sight record, but mentioned another capture 28 May 1979, southern record limit); Poanes aaroni howardi, 4 at levee along Hwy. 41, 14 March, along with a Euphyes berryi. Smith & David Leston are jointly working on a checklist of all Dade/Monroe Co. butterflies. Visitor Leslie Hazen reported Battus polydamas & E. areolata in the vicinity of Inverness, Citrus Co., during April. Adair reported finding larvae of Catocala minuta, plus a few pupae, on Gleditsia trees along the Hillsborough River, Hillsborough Co., a significant range extension. He collected at the Fakahatchee Stand, the most interesting catch being Paonias excaecatus for another extension, and at Collier-Seminole St. Pk. he found a pair of P. strigilis at MV light on each of two consecutive nights, a female saved for ova, which he used to successfully rear a few adults on Brazillian Peppertree. At Sanibel Island he recorded P. strigilis, P. ficus, C. grotei, M. pseudothyreus, & E. obscura on 18 April. Jeff Slotten (who will be leaving us in August to attend dental school in Illinois, and whom we hope will return upon completion) reported P. comma on 1 July in Gainesville, plus A. lyciades & A. cellus (in a bait trap !!) at San Felasco Hammock, Alachua Co. He had a fine female Haploa colona female from Gainesville on May 31, another likely state record. He found Catocala jair at Melrose, Putnam Co. in a turkey oak/post oak scrub area during late June, and managed to obtain ova. This species has never been reared, so perhaps we'll know by next season when the eggs hatch. Lethe appalachia was reported during late June/early July from three counties: Crystal River, Citrus Co. (Linwood Dow); Gulf Hammock, Levy Co. (Tom Neal/ Slotten); Univ. of North Florida campus, Duval Co. (Dale Schweitzer/Baggett). Spring skipper collecting seemed very poor in most of north Florida. Two N. antiopa were taken in Jacksonville in May (Baggett) and June (Schweitzer) for a new county record. Linwood Dow & Terry Dickel are hard at work with the Microheterocera, and many new county/state records are in the offing. Steve Roman took a male Pachysphinx modesta at Torreya during late May, a possible new county record, rare in Florida.

ZONE V : SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, & VIRGINIA : Coordinators ; Leroy Koehn (VA, NC), John Coffman (VA), & Ron Gattelle (SC)

Leroy reported good general collecting in Virginia this spring, now settled in his new home in Staunton. He found E. laeta, C. ebenina, G. lygdamus, C. gryneus, C. nippon, A.

midea, & P. centaurae wyandoti 19-20 April in Augusta Co.; C. ebenina, I. polios, I. henrici, E. brizo, E. olympia, P. virginensis, & A. midea in Highland Co. the same weekend. During May he found A. cellus, A. hianna, C. augustinus, H. metea, H. sassacus, A. hegon, A. vialis, & I. irus in Augusta Co.; C. gryneus, I. nippon, T. bathyllus, & A. hianna in Albemarle Co.; and A. cellus, A. vialis, H. metea, & H. sassacus in Highland Co. The Scott Co., Va. spot located by Watson yielded P. m-album, G. lygdamus, A. vialis, A. hegon, P. hobomok, and huge C. argiolus pseudargiolus "neglecta major." Richard Boscoe visited Ron during his return trip from Florida in May, and found S. liparops, S. c. falacer, and S. kingi on the wing; Ron commented that the Mt. Pleasant, SC locality is coming under developmental pressure.

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NOTICES

Vernon Brou, Rt. 1, Box 74, Edgard, LA 70049 is seeking information and any records concerning Proserpinus gaurae ( Sphingidae ) from anywhere in its known range ( GA, FL, SC, AL, MS, LA, TX, MO ). Anyone with information is urged to contact Vernon.

Warren Wagner, Div. of Biological Sciences, Natural Science Bldg., Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109 is seeking cocoons in any shape of Callosamia promethea from from the southern extreme of its range. They can be hatched, parasitized, or intact. He needs them for a study of cocoon types from different populations dealing with the variability of construction.

Linwood C. Dow is trying to obtain copies or reprints of the following articles :  
Amsel, H.G. 1956. Microlepidoptera Venezuelana I Bol. Ent. Venezuelana 10(1-2):1-336  
and II ibid, (3-4):pls. 1-110.

Capps, Hahn W. 1964. Desc. of a new Pachyzancla sp. reared on sweet potato in southern U.S. (Lepid.:Pyraustidae) Fla. Entom. 47(1): 13-15.

Busck, August 1900. New species of the moths of the superfamily Tineina from Florida Proc. U.S.N.M. 23:225-254.

Dyar, H. G. 1901. Desc. of some pyralid larvae from south Florida J.N.Y. Ent. Soc. 9:19-24.

" " " 1906. The N.A. nymphulinae and scopariinae J.N.Y. Ent. Soc. 14: 77-107.

" " " 1908. Review of the N.A. Pyralinae Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash. 10: 96-102.

" " " 1917. Notes on the N.A. Pyraustinae Ins. Insc. Mens. 5: 69-75.

Fernald, C.H. 1901. New pyralidae & Tortricidae from Palm Beach, FL. J.N.Y. Ent. Soc. 9:24-25.  
If you can help him out, please write to 1106 Little Spring Hill Dr., Ocoee, FL 32761.

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