

Editorial Committee of the NEWS

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Please note discussion and questionnaire about the Season's Summary on Page 7. This is arranged so the questionnaire can be detached and returned without spoiling the rest of this issue.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Pacific Slope Section of the Lepidopterists' Society was held at the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, June 19-21, 1965. There were 31 members registered, coming from the Pacific Coast States, Texas, Kansas and Arkansas, some with their families; and a number of visitors. Robert Langston was elected Secretary-Treasurer, Pro-Tem. A highlight of the program was the symposium on the Megathymidae, the highly complex family which lives on yucca mostly in the Southwest; and it was stated that there are now 5 genera and 47 species in this family. Pictures of old-time Western entomologists were shown at the banquet, and these men were described by Drs. John A. Comstock and F. X. Williams, themselves old-timers. The well-organized meeting was arranged by Charles Harbison, Fred Thorne and other members of the local entomological club, Los Entomologos. Our thanks go to them and to the Museum Directors for providing a meeting place and a memorable meeting. E. J. N.

RESEARCH NOTICES

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR RESEARCH INTO CIRCUMPOLAR DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSPECIATION: All Parnassius and Colias, especially P. eversmanni thor (females) and all forms of P. phoebus, preferably with brief description of biotopes. Wanted from Alaska, Yukon and Northern British Columbia only. Will pay good prices. Colin W. Wyatt, 1 Mavins Road, FARNHAM, Surrey, ENGLAND.

Everybody who has reared Sphinx gordius or any of its subspecies is cordially and urgently invited to send his notes, especially about foodplant, to J. C. E. Riotte, Dept. Ent., Royal Ontario Museum, Univ. of Toronto, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto 5, Ontario, CANADA, for use in revising the gordius group.

The THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Pacific Slope Section of the Lepidopterists' Society will be held at the Los Angeles County Museum in the summer of 1966. Mr. Charles L. Hogue, Chairman of the Program Committee, would welcome suggestions and offers for presentation at that meeting. If you have any suggested subjects, please write to Charles L. Hogue, Los Angeles County Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90007

NOTICES

Lepidopterists' Society members may use this section free of charge to advertise their offerings and needs in Lepidoptera. The Editors reserve the right to rewrite notices for clarity or to reject unsuitable notices. We cannot guarantee any notices but all are expected to be bona fide. Notices should be sent to the Editor and should reach him at least two weeks in advance of publication date for any particular issue of the NEWS.

FOR TRADE: 162 butterflies and 131 small moths from Hungary. List sent on request. Need the following North American species: Nymphalis j-album, Melitaea harrisii, Phyciodes batesii, Speyeria diana, and Papilio brevicauda. Would like to have a male and female of each papered and in A-1 condition. Leonard S. Phillips, Illinois Institute of Technology, Research Institute, Life Science Department, 35th and Dearborn Streets, Chicago, Ill., 60616, U.S.A.

NEOTROPIC RHOPALOCERA: Collections of 200 all different for sale, \$30 per collection. All material completely determined and with full collecting data. All first quality except Morpho species. All families and major groups represented. John H. Masters, 701 West Washington, Osceola, Ark., U.S.A.

WANTED TO BUY: From breeders or field collectors: Danaus gillipus, Vanessa atalanta, V. virginiensis, V. cardui, Phoebis sennae eubule, Euptoieta hegesia, E. claudia, Colias cesonia. Perfect specimens, lots of at least five, not pinned. Write first. Mrs. R. H. Harrison, 4034 Stillwood Lane, Odessa, Texas, 79762, U.S.A.

FOR SALE: Formosan papered butterflies, common and rare species, as well as sexual mosaic (gynandromorphs) and aberrations. Papered Formosan moths. Dried Formosan beetles, cicadas, dragonflies, spiders, mantids, grasshoppers, wasps and all orders of Formosan insects in large quantity. Mrs. Chang Pi-Tzu, P.O. Box 873, Taipei, Formosa.

EXCHANGE: Ova of many species of butterflies, Noctuidae, Geometridae, of Northeast U. S. for those of West and South. Send for list of species I expect to have. Charles Oliver, 74 Charter Road, West Acton, Mass., 01780.

CORRECTION: The address of Mr. J. A. Brown was given in the 1 June NEWS as Cookeville, Ontario. The correct spelling of the town name is COOKSVILLE.

GIFT OF A COLLECTION

Ray Hulbirt, scientist-chemist and lepidopterist, recently gave his private collection of 18,000 specimens of butterflies to Citrus Junior College, Azusa, California, which he founded in 1915. This valuable gift, which includes Lepidoptera from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Europe, Africa, China, Japan, Korea and Formosa, will be permanently housed in a natural history museum in the new life science center to be built this year by the college. Mr. Hulbirt had travelled more than 40,000 miles on collecting trips. One species, which he discovered in the Olympic Mountains of Washington, was named Hesperia hulbirti in his honor. Mr. Hulbirt served as Dean of Citrus College from 1915 to 1920 when he left the

faculty to become chief chemist at American Cyanamid Company, Azusa, California, where he retired in 1947. Mr. and Mrs. Hulbirt now reside at 950 Garden Way, Ashland, Oregon. - - Kent H. Wilson.

SHIPPING TECHNIQUE: Pinned specimens can be shipped safely if a few precautions are observed. (1) The outer carton must be strong enough not to be crushed. It should be marked on all five upper and side surfaces "FRAGILE". I also mark in large letters on the top, "DRIED BUTTERFLIES - FRAGILE AS EGGS". (2) Between the outer and inner cartons, there should be not less than 3 inches, and preferable more, of soft, compressible packing material such as excelsior or shredded paper, in all six directions. This amount of material should be placed on all four sides and the top and bottom. (3) The inner carton or cartons should be wrapped to prevent excelsior fragments getting in with the specimens. (4) Most important of all: the pins should be inserted deeply into the pinning bottoms of the cartons so they cannot work loose. Thin pins cannot be pinned deeply enough except by use of forceps. I prefer Celotex for the pinning bottoms. This should be glued to the bottom of the box so it cannot come loose. (5) Heavy specimens and those with heavy abdomens should be anchored with pins so they cannot swivel.

The two major causes of damage are: (1) Inadequate packing, usually too thin a layer of packing or no packing at all on one or more sides; and occasionally too weak an outer carton. (2) Pins not pushed deeply enough into the pinning bottoms. Occasionally some other object (microscope slide or fumigant holder) may be left loose in the inner carton. Anything of any bulk that gets loose in the box with the specimens during shipment will destroy all the specimens. One other thing: Avoid shipping during December, as increased mailing at that time because of Christmas makes it likely that shipments will be less carefully handled. By observing these rules I have shipped 20,000 pinned specimens as far as Japan, New Zealand, Czechoslovakia and South Africa; by failing to observe them, I have shipped lots that arrived as bare pins, loose labels and dust. - - Bryant Mather, Jackson, Miss. U.S.A.

Moth Drinking (?) from River. - - The behavior of butterflies drinking from wet places is well known. I do not recall accounts of Lepidoptera drinking from the free surface of open bodies of water. Mr. Wilbur I. Luke, Jackson, Miss., described to me the following observation made on the late afternoon of 7 May, 1965, while fishing in the Pearl River. He noted a large brown Saturniid, probable Antheraea polyphemus, that alighted on the surface of the water, sat quietly for slightly less than a minute, then took off without difficulty and flew away. The water surface was smooth, the wind was negligible. - - Bryant Mather, Jackson, Miss., U.S.A.

SEASON SUMMARY FOR 1964

Due to an oversight, the Season Summary for Zone V was omitted from the NEWS for 15 April. This was my fault and Mr. Heitzman and his cooperators have my apologies.

It appears below:

ZONE V: CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI TO WEST VIRGINIA, NORTH TO ONTARIO.

Coordinator: J. R. Heitzman. Contributors: R. Arnold, R. Bracher, C. V. Covell, K. Dixon, D. J. Dunlop, P. Hebert, J. R. Heitzman, A. M. Holmes, R. Holzman, R. Huber, L. L. Martin, B. and K. Mather, M. C. Nielsen, J. Nordin, R. C. Robertson, R. Royer, J. Schrenk, W. E. Sieker, J. Sorensen, D. Studebaker, O. Taylor, R. Wilkinson and W. H. Wagner, Jr.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: Collecting and population levels in general below normal over much of the area. Drought prevalent and continued wide-spread use of weed killers and insecticides noted by most contributors. Fall migration of D. plexippus not as pronounced as in previous years.

MISSOURI: 1964 season below average for Lepidoptera. Cold, cloudy spring weather coupled with drought later in season were primary factors. Summer resident species such as Phoebis sennae eubule, Eurema nicippe, E. lisa, Nathalis iole and Precis coenis uncommon. Eurema mexicana, Strymon liparops, S. caryaevorus and Eupsyche m-album absent. Strymon ontario present but scarce. Spey. idalia remains common in prairie meadows. Colias cesonia rosa abundant on wild aster flowers in Camden County during late September along with numerous Hesperia leonardus. LARVAE REARED: Atrytonopsis hianna and Atrytone arogos on Andropogon gerardi, Erynnis horatius on wistaria and Amblyscirtes c. belli on Uniola latifolia. STATE RECORD: Erynnis icelus taken 25 May in Barry County. (Heitzman reporting).

Dixon and Heitzman found excellent UV light collecting in Rudolf Bennitt Wildlife Area, Randolph County during July and August. Choice captures included Eacles imperialis, Sphinx chersis, Xylophanes tersa, Apantesis virgo, Utethesia bella, Hyparpax aurora, Leucania rubripennis and Cirrhophanus triangulifer. Apatela and Catocala sp. were abundant. In late October many Macronoctua onusta taken at porch lights in Kansas City area. Royer observed massive congregations of Anaea andria at muddy spots along western shore of Bull Shoals Lake, Taney County, October 16-17. Numerous groups of a hundred or more closely bunched specimens noted. Dixon took Poanes hobomok in early June, Rudolf Bennitt Wildlife Area, a new record for Randolph County.

KENTUCKY: Covell reporting from Louisville and adjacent areas, September to mid November found usual fall sp., Precis l. coenia, Colias eurytheme, C. philodice, Pieris rapae and Pyrgus communis fairly common. In September Strymon melinus, Pieris protodice, Polites themistocles and Atalopedes campestris also taken. A migration of D. plexippus observed the entire day of 3 October. The monarchs were widely dispersed, flying lazily to the Southwest.

WEST VIRGINIA: Collecting at Droop Mountain picnic grounds, Pocahontas County, 9 May, Covell collected Papilio troilus, Anthocaris midea, Pieris virginensis, Everes comyntas and Erynnis juvenalis.

IOWA: Royer reports that good collecting area found in the Banner Recreation Area, Warren County. This extensive marsh area yielded such choice sp. as Spey. idalia, Strymon titus, Euphyes bimacula, Problema byssus, Euphyes dion and Atrytone delaware. The E. bimacula is a new county record. Several undetermined sp. of Strymon also taken.

INDIANA: Bracher considers 1964 a very poor season with population levels very low, at least partially due to weed killers, insecticides and birds. Several hundred 4th instar larvae of C. promethea, placed on sassafras trees, were completely devoured within a few minutes by birds, mostly bluejays. A rare catch for the Granger area was Papilio crespontes, taken 29 June. Excellent results obtained rearing Samia cynthia larvae in plastic bags with almost 100% of the larvae pupating.

ILLINOIS: Arnold found flight periods about normal, the fall season later. Population levels seemed lower than normal perhaps due to a cold spring and drought during spring and fall. Spraying and construction are also playing a part. Southward migrations of D. plexippus noted 2-6 October.

NEW COUNTY RECORDS: Libytheana bachmanii, 8 July, Lisle, Dupage County; Spey. idalia, 3 July, Palos Park, Cook County (21 spec., females fresh); Pap. crespontes and Pieris protodice, 4 July, Palos Park, Cook County. Robertson observed migratory D. plexippus 25 August - 27 September at Glencoe. B. and K. Mather, in Pratt County, 7-11 September, found poor collecting, apparently due to drought. Haematopsis grataria taken here.

OHIO: Flight periods normal, fall season abbreviated by early freezes in late September. The severe drought of 1963 continued well into the 1964 spring season. A general decline in populations of Lepidoptera apparent. Suggested reasons include severe drought, widespread grass and woods fires in fall of 1963 and new land-clearing policies employed in state parks. Late April again produced the desirable Pieris virginensis in Cleveland Metropolitan Park. Vanessa atalanta and Graphium marcellus numbers were up over previous years and the first Pyrgus communis in six years was taken. In November a number of typical spring-form Colias eurytheme were collected.

COUNTY RECORDS: Thymelicus lineola taken in Logan and Lorain Counties for first time. (L. Martin reporting). Studebaker records for Pike County (May), Nycterosea obstipata, Epimecis hortaria (2 melanic males), (June) Diactinia atricolorata and Zanclognatha lituralis. Eugonobapta nivosaria taken in Miami County in June.

MINNESOTA: Sorensen reports late spring and early fall flight periods along with drought and abnormal heat in July. Collecting poor in Minneapolis area. Colony of Strymon edwardsii found at Fort Snelling, Hennepin County. Libytheana bachmanii taken here 8 July, a new county record. Schrenk found collecting hampered by severe drought and continued deforestation of many good areas. The D. plexippus migration was smaller compared with two previous years. The normally common Spey cybele is still down in numbers. Acosus centerensis, a choice sp., taken 1 July. Nordin reports a number of interesting captures and observations, Everes comyntas and E. amyntula found flying together in St. Louis County, 4 June. This seems to be first record of the two sp. taken together.

Incisalia henrici turneri taken 16 May in Pine County, the first state capture in 30 years. Euchloe ausonides, collected 4 June, a new record for St. Louis County.

STATE RECORDS: Euphyes dion, 12 July, Sherburne County (also taken 1 July in Dakota County by Taylor), Polites origines found locally common 4 July in Sibley State Park, Kandiyoh County, flying with Wallengrenia otho egeremot, Euphyes vestris metacomet, Atrytone delaware and Polites mystic dacotah.

An excellently detailed report of butterfly sp. taken, with dates of capture, locality and collector, was turned in by Huber. Oeneis macounii, 20 June, Lake County and Erebia discoidalis, 24 May, Lake County, taken by him are first state captures in 30 years and only the third captures for the U.S. Phoebis s. eubule taken by Taylor 24 June is second state record for this sp. Nathalis iole found in unprecedented numbers during late summer. New County Records: Erynnis lucilius, Carver County, 15 July (Taylor), Goodhue County, 17 July (Taylor). Hesperia sassacus manitoboides, St. Louis County, 26 June (Nordin). Atalopedes campestris, Dakota County, 10 August (Taylor), Hennepin County, 12 August (Sorensen), Scott County, 13 August (Taylor).

MICHIGAN: Nielsen lists 86 butterfly sp. and over 250 moths for 1964. Flight periods about normal. Drought persisted with only small amounts of snow and rain during winter. The drying up of many marsh areas may be responsible for absence of certain sp. this year. Considerable spraying in Southern Michigan in the Japanese beetle and cereal leaf beetle eradication programs is being done. In these areas a notable increase in number of Pieris rapae, possibly due to elimination of natural predators and parasites. UV light collecting in April and May in Ingham and Lenawee Counties attracted desirable sp. like Eutolype electilis, E. rolandi, E. grandis, Feralia comstocki, Psaphida resumens, P. grotei, Orthosia hibisci, O. rubescens, O. garmani and Gluphisia lintneri. July captures included Xylophanes tersa (third Michigan record), Adelocephala bisecta, Catocala illecta and C. subnata. Oarisma powesheik caught 5 July.

CHOICE CAPTURES: Oeneis macounii, 27 June, Isle Royale (second capture in 25 years), Boloria eunomia dawsoni, June, Chippewa and Mackinac Counties, Incisalia eryphon, 16 May, Luce and Chippewa Counties, Strymon melinus, 17 May, 21 June, Chippewa County (first Upper Peninsula records), Euptychia mitchellii, 5 July, Barry County and Pyrgus centaureae, 8 May, Montcalm County (new county record).

STATE RECORDS: Euchloe ausonides, 1 specimen taken 29 May, Isle Royale, by Ron Wilson, M.S.U. student. Septis semilunata taken in June in Manistee and Otsego Counties (Nielsen). Holzman had only moderate results with mercury vapor lamp in Detroit area. Poor weather on weekends hampered collecting. The commonest sphingid was Darapsa myron. Specodina abbottii caught 5 June in Oakland County and Darapsa versicolor taken in June and July in Oakland and Jackson Counties. Among the Arctiids, Apantesis virguncula, Pyrrharctia isabella and Halisidota tessellaris were very common while other sp. were scarce or absent. The prize catch was a freak male Actias luna with an extra eyespot above the normal eye on the left forewing, taken in Jackson County, 4 July. Wilkinson notes Papilio cresphontes extremely common in Ingham County, found from early May to late August with peak numbers in June. Asterocampa celtis and A. Clyton taken in July near Okemos. Euchloe o. rosa numerous 16 May in Grand Traverse County. The common Catocala sp. taken at sugar were ultronia, ilia, unijuga and parta. There was a population explosion of Sunira bicolorago with huge numbers coming to sugar. In late October forest areas near East Lansing found swarming with these moths.

John Taggart took Eupsyche m-album in Muskegon County, 12 August, identification confirmed by veteran Michigan collector. W. H. Wagner, Jr. and M. Bertoni found Amblyscirtes samoset in abnormally abundant numbers in Sharon Township, Washtenaw County, 23-25 May, visiting flowers of Hydrophyllum and resting on leaves in sunlit patches. This normally rare sp. so abundant that 4 or 5 could be taken at a time. Holzman took Sphinx canadensis, Jackson County, 18 July, an unusual southern record for this species.

WISCONSIN: UV light collecting excellent, Door County, 26 June to 13 July. Hyalophora cecropia, Antheraea polyphemus, Actias luna, Automeris io, Ceratonia amyntor, C. undulosa, Paonias myops, P. excaecatus and Euparthenos nubilis taken. Ova and larvae of A. luna found and reared on hop hornbeam. (Robertson reporting). Sieker also records good moth collecting in Door County during July with good catches of Geometridae, Notodontidae, Noctuidae and Sphingidae. Fourteen sp. of Catocala collected by Sieker: amestris (common for first time), amica, cerogamia, concupens, epione, brynea, ilia, meskei, micronympha, minuta, ultronia, vidua, serena, and parta. Speyeria sp. abundant on thistle flowers during July in Door County. Mitoura gryneus numerous, early May, in Dane County.

ONTARIO: Holmes, collecting in Norfolk County, 8 May, took Incisalia henrici (1), I. irus (2) and I. nippon (common). Dunlop, collecting in same locale, 24 May, took I. irus and found Lycaeides melissa common. Hebert found spring flight periods early, but cool weather during June brought return to normal for summer and fall seasons. Excessive rainfall during August drastically reduced Catocala population. There was an un-explained increase in Sphingidae collected, 543 in 1964, 324 in 1963 (no increase in other families noted). Choice captures included Specodina abbottii, 5 May, Westbrook (this capture 200 miles east of other Ontario records). Sphinx canadensis, 23 July, Napanee, Pholus s. pandorus, 28 July, Millhaven, and Darapsa versicolor, 13-14 July, Glenburnie.

THE SEASON'S SUMMARY

Because the Editor has had to get the history of the publication of the Season's Summary second-hand and because some questions about it have been raised, we are printing below a questionnaire which we hope all members, at least in North America, will fill out and return to the Editor: E. J. Newcomer, 1509 Summitview, Yakima, Washington, 98902.

Almost 100 members provided data for the 1964 Summary, and sent it to the Co-ordinators in good time so that they could get their summaries to the Editor in time for publication in the 15 April NEWS. The approximate cost of printing this Summary was \$150.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Do you use the Summary?
2. If so, what kind of use do you make of it?
3. Do you contribute to it?
4. If so, do you use the report form?
5. If not, why not?
6. Do you think the Summary is worth the time it takes and the cost?
7. Would you prefer a prompt report (15 April NEWS) with perhaps some inaccuracies, or a later one that might be somewhat more accurate?
8. Or would you prefer none at all?
9. Keeping in mind time and financial limitations (cost about \$10 per page) what improvements would you suggest?
(Use separate sheet if necessary).
10. Would you like to have the NEWS given volume numbers?

(If you prefer, a separate sheet may be used for your answers, by giving them the same numbers as the questions).

Memoirs of the Lepidopterists' Society, Number 1 (Feb. 1964)
A SYNONYMIC LIST OF THE NEARCTIC RHOPALOCERA by
Cyril F. dos Passos

Price: Society members - \$4.50, others: \$6.00 postpaid (hard-cover binding \$1.50 additional)
Order from Society Treasurer

Membership in the Lepidopterists' Society is open to all persons interested in any aspect of Lepidopterology. Prospective members should send the Treasurer the full dues for the current year (\$6.00 U.S.A.) together with their full address and special Lepidopterological interests. Remittances in dollars (U.S.A.) should be made payable to the Lepidopterists' Society.

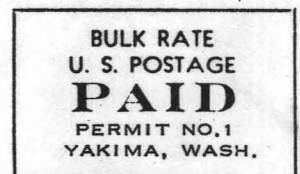
Information on membership in the Society may be obtained from the Treasurer, George Ehle, 314 Atkins Avenue, Lancaster, Pa., 17603, U.S.A. Changes of address should be sent to the Treasurer at the above address. Please do not send requests for membership nor changes of address to the Editors of the NEWS nor the JOURNAL.

All members in good standing receive the NEWS of the Lepidopterists' Society which is issued eight times a year and which includes the biennial Membership List, and the JOURNAL of the Lepidopterists' Society which is issued quarterly.

Manuscripts for formal publication in the JOURNAL of the Lepidopterists' Society should be sent to the Editor of the JOURNAL, Dr. J.A. Powell, 112 Agriculture Hall, University of California, Berkeley, California, 94720, U.S.A.

Items for inclusion in the NEWS should be sent directly to the Editor of the NEWS, E.J. Newcomer, 1509 Summitview, Yakima, Washington, 98902, U.S.A.

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