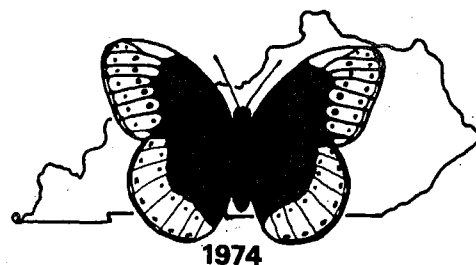

KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

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BARRY S. NICHOLS, Editor
7004 Ethan Allen Way,
Louisville, KENTUCKY USA 40272
BITNET: BSNICH01@ULKYVM
INTERNET: BSNICH01@ULKYVM.LOUISVILLE.EDU



EDITORS' NOTES

We are still behind. To avert confusion, this is the 3rd newsletter for 1995. Those of you paid for 1995 are still in good standing. The next issue will be the last for 1995 and will contain mention of dues payment for 1996.

This newsletter contains field trip info for the Spring of 1996. The next issue will be out shortly. It will mostly deal with the 1995 annual meeting and have the minutes, pictures, etc. The issue with the membership list is slated for the issue after that (22:1). I actually received only 6 cards with current addresses, interests, etc. so I'm guessing that folks really don't want that info on their listing.

My article file is EMPTY. We need your submissions. The most common question I am asked is "What kind of articles, notes, etc., do you want for the newsletter?" My answer is ANYTHING. If it is of interest to you, it is probably of interest to someone else. Collecting trip accounts, famous and/or important collections or collectors from (or around) Kentucky, type localities, rearing methods, trap design, lep photography, butterfly & moth gardening, etc. are all interesting topics. WE CAN ALSO USE PHOTOS. Do you feel like planning a field trip/meeting? Send in your thoughts. The newsletter needs YOU! As we have many new members, I am repeating details for submission to the newsletter below.

Those who have access to a copy of the Hodge's Checklist of the Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico are asked to include authorship and checklist number with each species mentioned in your article (only needed upon first mention in the article). It saves a great deal of time.

Please put your full name, address, and phone number on the title page of your submission. I often need to get in touch with the writers and some of you are hard to track down. FOR THOSE OF YOU USING

COMPUTERS, PLEASE send your submissions on disk (any size) in DOS or ASCII text. I can now also accept MACINTOSH documents. I will return all disks. I can also take documents in WORDPERFECT 5.1 (or previous versions), DISPLAYWRITE, FIRST CHOICE, WORD FOR WINDOWS, WORDSTAR and LOTUS WORKS. If you have another program and need to figure out how to transfer into DOS or ASCII text, drop me a line or call me at (502) 583-5835, speak into the answering machine and if I'm home I'll pick up.

You may also send contributions by ELECTRONIC MAIL to me at the addresses in the header. This is, in fact, much easier than mailing disks, and you'll get an immediate reply. Those of you on COMPUSERV and some Computer Bulletin Board Systems can also send mail to these addresses.

When submitting pictures, please send me copies that can be cut. I need to be able to crop them to fit. Also, when sending articles please let me know if they will be printed in their entirety in other newsletters. I try not to duplicate material that will be printed elsewhere as many of our members also belong to other societies.

The NOTICES section is a free service to **SKL members**. Organizations, businesses, etc. may also run ads for the price of membership. All notices, research requests, etc. will run for two consecutive issues unless notified to extend them or to terminate them earlier.

Spring 1996 Field Trip News
by Paul A. Florence, Field Trip Coordinator
University of Louisville,
Louisville, KY 40272

The spring field trip will be to Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest. Parts of the forest are located in Bullitt and Nelson counties in Kentucky. The trip is set

for April 27, 1996. We will meet at the Nature Center in the arboretum at 10:00 a.m.. If there is inclement weather, the trip will be moved to the following weekend. You will have to stop at the kiosk at the main entrance, just tell them you are with the KY Lep. Soc. and they will let you pass go, but without collecting \$200.

Bernheim is located at exit 112 (Clermont, Bardstown) off of I-65. Go towards Bardstown off the exit and Bernheim is approximately 1 mile from I-65. For more info on this trip contact me at (502) 852-6771 (work) or (502) 962-9881 (home).

I am currently planning a summer field trip for June 1996. Stay tuned for more info on this trip.

New "Southern End" Records (and a response to Bryant Mather's Response to my previous Records)

by James Adams
137 Sequoya Hall, Dalton College
Dalton, GA 30720

In the February 1992 issue (Volume 18, Number 1) of the Kentucky Lepidopterists, I discussed a "pet project" of mine since moving to north Georgia. This ongoing project is the determination of the species in the moth fauna that are at the southernmost extensions of their ranges here in north Georgia. These species should represent a northern (Appalachian) fauna, able to extend south into north Georgia because of the mountainous terrain with its flora more typical of farther north. As such, although some of the species may have populations farther west in certain areas (e.g., the Ozarks), most should not extend nearly so far south elsewhere. I have been continuing to make new discoveries during my tenure here, and have some interesting additions to the "southern end" list to report. Before I tackle the new list, however, I would also like to respond to Bryant Mather's June 1992 (Vol. 18, #2) response to my original article. I realize this response is a bit tardy, but Bryant Mather's article about the occurrence in Mississippi of the species I reported from Georgia has some interesting implications on the "southern end" fauna, as well as one small problem that needs to be cleared up.

In my original article, I listed 24 species as being at or near the southern end of their ranges here at the southern end of the Appalachians. I then went on to discuss some other interesting (because of

scarcity, unusual habitat, unusual date of capture, etc.) species I have encountered here in Dalton. When Bryant Mather then compared my list to captures made in Mississippi, he included all species I had listed, including both "southern end" species and the others (most of which are indicated as occurring in Mississippi in Covell's moth field guide). Of the species I listed in my article, the thyridids, *Caripeta aretaria* (Wlk.) 6869, *Calledapteryx dryopterata* Grt. 7653, the notodontids, the sphingids, the saturniids, *Catocala ulalume* Stkr. 8789, *C. dejecta* Stkr 8790, *C. insolabilis* Gn. 8791, *Baileya doubledayi* (Gn.) 8969, *Tarachidia semiflava* (Gn.) 9085, *Elaphria georgei* (Moore & Rawson) 9680, *Feralia major* Sm. 10007, and *Eutolype grandis* Sm. 10013 were not intended as "southern end" records, and, not surprisingly, Mather reported most of these as occurring in Mississippi, half of them commonly. Of these species, only *C. aretaria*, *C. dryopterata*, and *E. grandis* have not been recorded (according to Mather) in Mississippi, and these three are generally considered uncommon anyway. (The lack of *C. aretaria* is particularly surprising as I have collected this species with some frequency in eastern Texas.) However, of the 24 "southern end" species I listed, only *Isochaetes beutenmuelleri* (Hy. Edw.) 4675 (which probably doesn't belong in the list), *Glena cribrataria* (Gn.) 6449, and *Holomelina laeta* (Guer.-Meneville) 8114 (which I indicated at the time didn't really belong in the list) have been collected in Mississippi with any frequency, and fully half of the 24 species have not been recorded at all. *Probole nepiasaria* (Wlk.) 6839, which was listed by me with the "others" in the first article, actually belongs in the "southern end" list, and has also not been recorded in Mississippi. The point? The original "southern end" list I reported is apparently a reasonable representation of species being at their southern limits in the north Georgia Appalachians; as most are apparently infrequent at best in Mississippi (as indicated by Mather).

The following list is what I consider to be appropriate additions to the "southern end" list: *Packardia geminata* (Pack.) 4659, *Anisota peigleri* Riotte 7720 (which is apparently restricted to S. Tennessee, W. North Carolina, N. Georgia, and NE Alabama), *Colocasia propinquilinea* (Grt.) 9185, *Merolonche dolli* B. & McD 9277*, *Acronicta funeralis* G. & R. 9221, *Cucullia convexipennis* G. & R. 10202, *Lithophane querquera* Grt. 9904, *L. baileyi* Grt. 9902, *Catocala luctuosa* Hulst. 8788, *Autographa ampla* (Wlk.) 8923*, *Papaipema lysimachiae* Bird 9479*, *P. marginidens* (Gn.) 9492*, *P. birdi* (Dyar) 9486*, *P. rutila* (Gn.) 9484*, and *Lacinipolia olivacea* (Morr.) 10406.

Additionally, there is another set of moths I have collected here which may belong in the list, but more appropriately belong in a southeastern limit list (as may some of the others listed in previous paragraph), as I have seen many of these species farther west (in the Midwest), and as such these species probably also occur in northern Alabama, N. Mississippi, N. Louisiana and so on. These include *Syssphinx bisecta* (Lint.) 7712*, *Ceratomia hageni* Grt. 7790, *Lytrosis permagnaria* (Pack.) 6723, *Spilosoma latipennis* Stretch 8133*, *Grammia oithona* (Stkr.) 8195*, *Catocala illecta* Wlk. 8840, *Catocala cerogama* Gn. 8802, *Lithacodia concinnimacula* (Gn.) 9050*, *Stiria rugrifrons* Grt. 9785*, *Papaipema cerrusata* (Grt.) 9505, , *P. inquaesita* (G. & R.) 9483*, and *P. cataphracta* (Grt.) 9466*. In both lists, species marked with a "*" may represent state records.

Is there a "northern end" list? The answer is that of course there is, but, for the reasons listed below, this list is not as interesting (to me) from a biological standpoint. This location does get a significant number of species that are more typical of the southern (subtropical) fauna, but most are notable summer-fall migrants. As such, a "northern end" list is probably not as biologically significant as a "southern end" list, as many of the northern end species are not permanent members of the north Georgia fauna, and therefore may not have significant predator or foodplant interactions within the fauna. Species (by no means a complete list, however) I have recorded here that would probably fall into the northern end category are *Cossula magnifica* (Stkr.) 2674, *Givera francesca* (Dyar) 2671, *Agrius cingulatus* (F.) 7771 (m), *Manduca rustica* (F.) 7778(m), *Enyo lugubris* (L.) 7851(m), *Xylophanes tersa* (L.) 7890 (m), *Pero zalissaria* (Wlk.) 6752, *Leucanopsis longa* (Grt.) 8217, *Eumestleta recta* (Gn.) 9078, *Magusa orbifera* (Wlk.) 9637 (m), *Ascalapha odorata* (L.) 8649 (m), *Catocala orba* Kusnezov 8856, *Hypocala andremona* (Cram.) 8642 (m), *Callopietria floridensis* (Gn.) 9630 (m), and *Properigea tapeta* (Sm.) 9592. Those designated with an "(m)" are definite migrants, and most have been collected occasionally much farther north than north Georgia.

The list of generally interesting species that I have encountered here in the Dalton area continues to grow, and anyone interested in more complete lists of species I have recorded from northern Georgia should follow the summaries in the newsletter of the Southern Lep. Soc.

Moth Miscegenation by Joel M. Johnson

While trapping moths in the Uinta Mts. this last August, I made an unusual find. In early morning I was taking the moths out of the three blacklight traps I had hung out in different areas of the forest the night before. If you attend the traps right at dawn before the sun gets up, it usually cool and the moths are resting on the walls of the trap, too cold to be very active. You can reach in through the zipper opening of the screen and pick off with forceps the ones that look interesting and drop them into a killing jar with minimum flurry and damage to the specimens.

I picked off a yellowish noctuid, among other things and, as I dropped it into the ethyl acetate bottle, I thought I had seen another smaller moth in the forceps along with it. Didn't pay it too much attention at the time because it is not unusual, when rapidly taking out a number of moths, to have an extra one caught by a leg or antenna. In the bottle they go and you look them over more carefully later.

When I was sorting them after breakfast, and came to that particular bottle, I find this yellow noctuid, *Energia infumata* (Grt.) 9550, in copula with an, as yet unidentified, grey noctuid of considerably smaller size; dead but still attached. Definitely not an *Energia*. I later pinned them up that way.

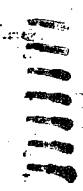
It is not unusual to find moths mating in traps. Often I am lucky in finding a pair of an uncommon species in the same trap, both male and female. Not generally actually mating, but were they following each other and ended up trapped at the same time? Fairly often, I find a moth pair quietly copulating in a trap - why not? It is a quiet place until I get to it in the morning.

But this pair! Like a bantam rooster taking on a hen turkey! What were they thinking? Were they too drunk from some fermented nectar? Was it a case of moth rape? Or finding themselves hopelessly imprisoned together, did they just say "What the heck, we might as well do it."

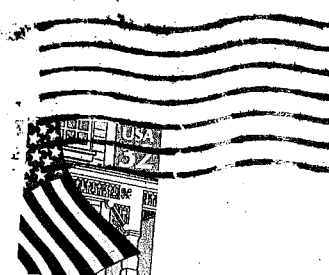
MEMBER'S NOTICES

FOR SALE: Books and Literature: Scudder, Smith, Guenee, Denton, Walker, Maynard, Howe, Clarke, Fabre, Weeks, and others. Many high quality volumes about butterflies and moths are available. Send S.A.S.E. #10 envelope with \$.55 postage to Eric H. Metzler, 1241 Kildale Square, North, Columbus, Ohio 43219-1306 USA.

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FROM: BARRY NICHOLS
7004 Ethan Allen Way
Louisville, KY 40272



FIRST CLASS

Loran D. Gibson
8496 Pheasant Drive
Florence, KY 41042
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