

# CHECK-LIST OF THE MOTHS OF SASKATCHEWAN

## PART 5: ARCHES MOTHS, SIMILAR-WINGS, GRASS MOTHS AND UNDERWINGS (CATOCALINAE)

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In the following text these abbreviations are used: s - south, n - north, w - west, e - east, CNC - the only Saskatchewan records of the species that we know of are in the Canadian National Collection in Ottawa. (Unless otherwise indicated all the species are represented in the collection of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina).

Most of the species in this group have a ridge, or tuft of hair on the upper side of the first abdominal segment. The eyes have no long hair (or "lashes") around them. Each hind wing usually has a prominent sub-marginal band on the outer side.

Arches moths have strongly angled sub-marginal bands on the hind wings, and are day fliers.

Similar-wings, (as the name suggests) have a similar pattern of jagged markings on both the fore-wings and hind wings. They are night fliers in wooded areas.

Grass moths are very common on prairies and meadows, flying in bright daylight with the butterflies.

The Underwing moths are quite large, and have bright red, pink, or orange hind wings. They are night fliers among trees and shrubs, but they do not come very well to lights. They are best collected from late August until early September by putting sugar bait on the tree trunks to attract them. The sugar bait is a mixture of black molasses, brown sugar, and a little yeast.

It can be made more attractive by adding fermented fruit or stale beer. Underwing caterpillars are long, smooth and twig-like, and are difficult to notice.

Also in this group is the Black Witch Moth which is the largest moth to reach Saskatchewan. It strays here in the fall from the southern United States (as well as the Owl Moth, and Mexican Moth). The Black Witch Moth is up to 150 mm in wing expanse.

### CATOCALINAE

Decorated Owlet - *Pangrapta decoralis* Hbn. — n Saskatchewan, s to Greenbush campsite (w of Hudson Bay).

Canadian Owlet - *Calyptra canadensis* (Bethune) — Fort Qu'Appelle.

The Herald - *Scoliopteryx libatrix* (L.) — s Saskatchewan, n to Somme and the Prince Albert area.

The Puritan - *Melipotis jucunda* Hbn. — Outlook, Great Sand Hills and Rosefield (se of Val Marie).

The Mexican Moth - *Bulia deducta* (Morr.) — Wadena

The Cowhead Arches - *Synedoida pallens* (G. & R.) — s Saskatchewan n to Fort Qu'Appelle and Saskatchewan Landing Park.

The Little Arches - *S. petricola* (Wlk.) — s Saskatchewan n to Fort Qu'Appelle and Kelfield.



*Black Witch Moth, 31 July 1986, Regina*

K.N. Ro

Northern Arches - *S. hudsonica* (G. & R.)  
— s Saskatchewan n to Nipawin; also  
Hunt Falls and Uranium City.

Perplexing Arches - *S. perplexa* (Hy. Edw.)  
— Estuary (CNC)

Shadowy Arches - *S. adumbrata alleni*  
(Grt.) — s Saskatchewan n to Bow River  
(s of Lac La Ronge).

Desert Arches - *S. howlandi* (Grt.) —  
Killdeer Badlands and Val Marie.

Owl Moth - *Thysania zenobia* (Cram.) —  
Regina.

The Black Witch - *Ascalapha odorata* (L.)  
— White Bear, Fort Qu'Appelle,  
Regina, Porcupine Plain and Sas-  
katoon.

Maple Zale - *Zale galbanata* (Morr.) —  
Roche Percée, Glentworth and Estuary.

Mahogany Similar-wing - *Z. minerea*  
— s Saskatchewan n to Sturgeon L  
ing.

Oblique Similar-wing - *Z. obliqua* (Grt.)  
— Nipawin and Prince Albert a  
(Reported by the Forest Insect Sur

Banded Similar-wing - *Z. duplicata* (Grt.)  
(Bethune). — Hudson Bay, Nip  
and Prince Albert areas (reported by  
Forest Insect Survey). Also in Cyp  
Hills.

Washed-out Zale - *Z. metatoides* Mc  
Montreal Lake (reported by the F  
Insect Survey).

Pointed Grass Moth - *Euclidia cuspidata* (Hbn.)  
— s Saskatchewan n to Pe  
Narrows and Otter Rapids.

Range Grass Moth - *Caenurgina distans* (Neum.)  
— s Saskatchewan



Painted Grass Moth, Mistatim, June 1981

R. Hooper

Chociceland, Candle Lake and Buffalo Narrows.

Erichto Looper - *C. crassiuscula* (Haw.) — s Saskatchewan n to Sturgeon Landing and Loon Lake.

Common Grass Moth - *C. erechtea* (Cram.) — s Saskatchewan n to LaSonge

Woman - *Argyrostroma anilis* (Drury) — Tantalion, Maryfield, Glen Even and Roche Percée.

Metfern Underwing - *Catocala anemphya* (Hbn.) — Bjorkdale (J. Rozal). Apparently the first record for western Canada.

Underwing - *C. ilia* (Cram.) — Tantalion, Maryfield and Oxbow.

Yellow-banded Underwing - *C. cerogama* Gn. — Fort Qu'Appelle (one sight record).

Relict Underwing - *C. relictata* Wlk. — s Saskatchewan n to Cumberland House, Prince Albert and Meadow Lake Park.

Once-married Underwing - *C. unijuga* Wlk. — s Saskatchewan n to Jay Jay Lake (nw of Big Sandy Lake) and Meadow Lake Park.

Mother Underwing - *C. parta* Gn. — s Saskatchewan n to Fort Qu'Appelle and Saskatoon.

Hermia Underwing - *C. hermia verecunda* Hulst —s Saskatchewan n to Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatoon and Battlefords Park.



Sweetfern Underwing, Bjorkdale, 14 August 1989

John K

Ribbed Underwing - *C. briseis* Edw. — s Saskatchewan n to La Ronge.

Semirelict Underwing - *D. semirelict* Grt. — s Saskatchewan n to Greenbush Campsite (w of Hudson Bay) and Prince Albert.

Meske's Underwing - *C. meskei* Grt. — Indian Head, Oxbow and Estuary.

Sleepy Underwing - *C. concumbens* Wlk. — s Saskatchewan n to Aylsham.

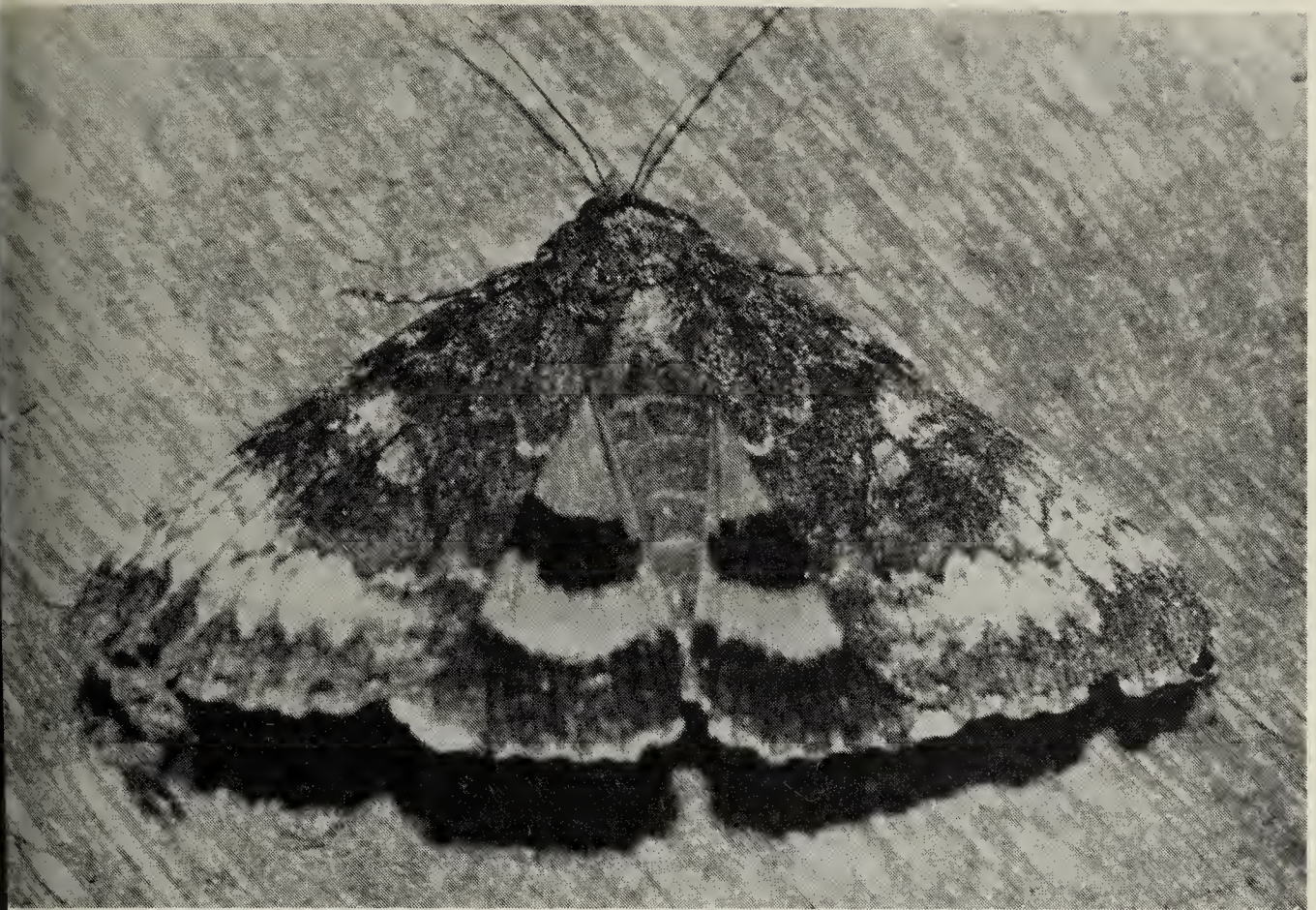
Sordid Underwing - *C. sordida* Grt. — Nipawin Provincial Park and Gordon Lake (n of Pinehouse Lake).

Scarlet Underwing - *C. coccinata* Grt. — Maryfield, Welwyn Park, Tantallon Oxbow.

Dark Red Underwing - *C. ultronia* (H) — se Saskatchewan n to Fort Appelle, Regina and Buffalo Pound Park, w to Rockglen.

Praeclara Underwing - *C. praeclara* Beut. — se Saskatchewan n to Tantallon, Fort Qu'Appelle and Buffalo Pound Park, w to Rockglen.

Charming Underwing - *C. blanda* Grt. — s Saskatchewan n to Somme, Porcupine Plain and Rockglen.



lobed Underwing, Nemieben Lake, 24 September 1975

Fred Lahrman

### pected Species

ate Zale - *Zale lunata* (Drury) — w to Aweme, Manitoba. The larvae feed on maples, plums and willows.

ing Underwing - *Catocala luciana* Grt. — n to Cartwright, Manitoba and the Medicine Hat and Lethbridge areas of Alberta. The larva feeds on willow and poplar.

ton's Underwing - *C. clintoni* Grt. — n to Aweme, Manitoba. Larva feeds on Wild Plum.

Tiny Nymph - *C. micronympha* Gn. — nw to Kelwood, Manitoba. The larva feeds on oak.

### nowledgements

The identification of uncertain species was checked by E. Rockburne, A.E. Sawyer, or Dr. L. Gall.

ANSEN, C.B. 1972. The Catocaline moths of Minnesota and neighboring

areas. *The Mid-continent Lepidoptera Series* V. 65 No. 63.

<sup>2</sup> McDANIEL, B. & G. FAUSKE 1981. The genus *Catocala* Schrank collected from four eastern South Dakota counties. *J. of the Lepidopterists' Society* 35(2):94-100.

<sup>3</sup> McDONALD, H. n.d. The Noctuidae (Phalaenidae) of Saskatchewan. Unpubl. ms.

<sup>4</sup> PUTNAM, L.G. and C.G. DEVLIN n.d. The Noctuidae captured at a light trap near Aylsham, Saskatchewan in the 10-year period 1961-70, with quantitative data. Unpubl. ms.

<sup>5</sup> SARGENT, T.D. 1976. Legion of night: the Underwing Moths. The Univ. of Mass. Press, Amherst, Mass.

<sup>6</sup> STECK, WARREN n.d. Noctuid moths in the collection of the National Research Council, Saskatoon. Unpubl. ms.