

## PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE MACRO-LEPIDOPTERA OF ALBERTA, N.-W. T.

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(Continued from Vol. XXXIII., p. 172.)

It is now over three years since I published a list of Albertan butterflies under the above title. The list gave promise "to be continued," and it was fully intended at the time to publish the continuation the same year, but for a variety of reasons it had to be postponed. The delay, however, has not been without advantages. Not only have a number of species come to hand that had not been recorded here up to that time, but many that were then standing under names by which I had known them for years, have been found to be wrongly named, and several of them have been described as new species. Closer study, too, of long series, has resulted in a better understanding of nearly allied forms; and it is hoped that some of the notes here appended, though they have no claim to perfection, will enable some obscure species to be more easily separated than they have been hitherto. At the same time, I much regret that I have not been able to make more comparison of local material with that from other districts. Not only has it been hard to spare the time which much exchanging calls for, but it has often proved a very difficult, if not impossible matter, to get by exchange some of the commonest species, their very commonness seeming to render them, so to speak, scarce, at least in collections. I hope, however, to pay more attention to exchange in the future, and when more forms from other localities have come to hand the result of their study, and comparison with their Alberta representatives will probably be published from time to time.

Of the radical changes that have taken place in classification since my list of butterflies was published, enough has been said. Of the two recently published North American lists, I have preferred to follow that of Prof. Smith, as it seems to me to give a better arrangement of the Noctuidæ, or at least of the species in their respective families, and it is the Noctuidæ that have always been my favourite group. Though I am doubtful as to whether the term is any longer recognized, or if so, just where the line is drawn, I have included all the old-time "Macros," meaning thereby those genera which used to be known in European lists fifteen years ago as Sphinges, Bombyces, Geometræ, Cuspidatæ, and Noctuæ. Though I still study them as with the "larger fry," the Hepialidæ at any rate have been eliminated from their former position, as