

## FURTHER NOTES ON ALBERTA LEPIDOPTERA.

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(Continued from page 244.)

423. *S. athabasca* Neum.—The only locality given for this species in Smith's Catalogue is "British Columbia," presumably on the strength of the description, which I have not seen. But I have seen the type, a male, in the Neumögen collection, and it is labelled "Belly River," which is in Southern Alberta, and no portion of it in B.C. I have seen the species fairly swarming around Gleichen, and on the Blackfoot Indian Reserve near there. It is almost or quite exclusively a day flier, and revels in hot sunshine, usually accompanied, in far fewer numbers, by *Melipotera septentrionalis* and *Melipoterygia oregonica*. The Laggan specimens I referred to as having orange secondaries are *petricola* Walker, described from Rocky Mountain specimens taken by Lord Derby's collectors. A prairie and a mountain series of these respectively might easily give every impression of two species, especially if the series were short ones. Mountain specimens are usually a trifle more robust and larger, have yellowish or orange secondaries and ochreous tinted primaries, the depth of this tint varying as the depth of color of the secondaries. In size, my prairie specimens vary from about 28 to 31 mm., smaller specimens being uncommon. Mountain specimens seen to average scarcely more than 1 mm. larger, but my largest specimen, a handsome female from Field, B.C., expands very nearly 35 mm. My darkest and most richly coloured example is from Windermere, also in B.C. But an orange-tinted form is rare on the prairie, and a form with creamy white ground is equally rare in the mountains. Each of these grades through to the predominating form in their respective districts, and the extremes in each overlap those in the other. I regret to say that my entire series of these at present consists only of twenty-five specimens, but I have examined a good many more, both dried and in nature, and after years of deliberation have come to the conclusion that the balance of evidence is strongly in favor of there being only one species.