PHOEBIS PHILEA LINN.¹ IN WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

EDWARD M. DAVIS
Baker Museum of Natural Science, Rollins College

The following notes on the occurrence of Phoebis philea Linn.¹ in Winter Park, Fla. may be of interest, since this locality would appear to be out of its normal range. It seems all the more unusual to have these records when at the same time we have none at all of P. agarithe.

All of my records are of individuals seen or caught in my yard in the center of the town, where the butterflies were visiting a young Acacia bush which had reached a size of about 6 ft. high by 6 ft. in diameter when the first one was seen around it. It is now (Jan. 1943) about 8 ft. high and 12 ft. in diameter. I believe that every butterfly seen has been a female; all of those caught have been.

The first was captured on Oct. 21, 1941; the second was seen about mid-December 1941 but the exact date is missing. The third was caught on Jan. 4, 1942, and a fourth was seen on April 7th. From May 10th, 1942 until Oct. 10th, I was away from Winter Park. On Oct. 31st another was caught, and one more on Dec. 27. Another was seen on Jan. 17th, 1943 and the most recent one on Jan. 25th.

Most of the butterflies have been laying eggs on the bush, but in spite of this I have seen only two very small caterpillars which may have hatched from them and I do not think these survived. At the time of writing this bush has probably 60 eggs on it, presumably from the most recent visitor.

Mr. D. F. Berry of Orlando tells me that during the period in which I have seen these he has seen three or four, all apparently females, around Orlando, but has not caught any. He had never seen any previously. I think that the Acacia bush would hardly have been big enough much before the fall of 1941 to attract the butterflies. My work prevents me from keeping the bush under observation. There may well have been 50 visitors of this species in the time under consideration, without my having any chance to see them.

Most of the butterflies have lost many of the scales on their wings making their color very pale, but otherwise are in very good condition.

¹ Callidryas philea in Holland’s “Butterfly Books”—The Red-barred Sulphur. Florida not included in its range—Ed.