

NEWS

of the LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

Number 3

May/June 1977

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PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

Stanley Swenson Nicolay was born in the town of Colfax, Washington on March 14, 1917, but shortly thereafter the family moved to Spokane where they remained until 1930, when they moved to Seattle. Stan graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1940 with a B.S. degree in Zoology. Four days after graduating he started pre-flight training, and the following September went to Pensacola as an aviation cadet in the Marine Corps. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, and received his wings in May 1941. Three wars and 27 years later he retired from the Marine Corps as a Colonel, and he now lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

His interest in butterflies began with the move from Spokane to Seattle, and has become more intense and time consuming as the years have passed. Collecting Lepidoptera was a means of relaxation during his years in the Corps, but it has since become an avocation. His chief interest is in taxonomy, and hence he is still a "net swinger". Most of his collecting for the past 15 years has been done in the tropics of the New World, where the two groups in which he is most interested (and still avidly collects) reach their highest and most diverse development in both numbers of species and variety of form. These two families, the HesperIIDae and the LycaenIDae, form the bulk of his collection and have provided the basis for most of his research papers.

Colonel Nicolay is a Research Associate of the Allyn Museum of Entomology in Sarasota, Florida. His papers have been published in their BULLETIN, in the JOURNAL of the Lepidopterists' Society, and the JOURNAL of Research on the Lepidoptera. He was Treasurer of the Lepidopterists' Society from 1969 to 1974.

The inevitable question is always, "How did a Marine Aviator become interested in collecting Lepidoptera?" It was really the other way around. In 1935, when he was 18, someone gave Stan a ride in an open cockpit airplane. From that moment on, he was hooked. Flying was for him. At that time he had already been chasing butterflies for five years. The two interests are perfectly compatible. The challenge for both man and butterfly is to leave the ground behind.



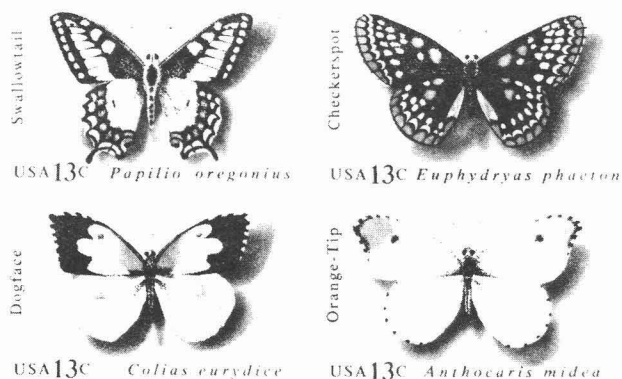
Col. Stanley S. Nicolay

John Snider

In November 1976 We sent out about 1200 dues notices for the Lep's. Society, along with ballots for the election of officers for the 1977 elections. As of April 1 1977, nearly 300 of these notices still remained unanswered. Therefore, on April 9 I sent a final notice to the 300 members who had not answered. COST of this operation: Postage \$48.00. Printing \$18.00. Envelopes \$6.00. Time about 20 hrs --no charge.

As of today, Monday, April 18, I have received 36 returns, some with apologies, about 12 with all degrees of indignation, claiming they had received NO PRIOR NOTICE. One member asked if we had stopped sending notices. Now if 12 out of 36 did not receive the first notice, the law of averages says that one third of the entire 300 in the second mailing, or 100 members did not receive the first notice. Out of my November mailing of 1200, 100 just disappeared, having been neither returned to the sender nor delivered to the addressee!! Further, it is unlikely, if not impossible, that my mail was the only mail on that plane which carried my ballots, or in that P.O. where they should have come to rest. I firmly believe that if an investigation were conducted, a count made, and an average loss of 1/3 assumed, we would uncover the greatest mail loss since the Great Train Robbery of '88.

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**Issue Date:** June 6, 1977  
**First Day City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Designer:** Stanley Galli  
 Kentfield, California  
**Modeler:** Clarence Holbert  
**Press:** Gravure  
**Colors:** Yellow, orange, purple, gray,  
 umber and black  
**Image Area:** (Single stamp)  
 1.44 x 0.84 inches or  
 36.57 x 21.33 millimeters  
**Plate Numbers:** Six  
**Stamps to pane:** 50  
**Selva:** "Mail Early in the Day"  
 "Use ZIP Code" and "Mr. ZIP"

## Butterfly Commemorative Stamps

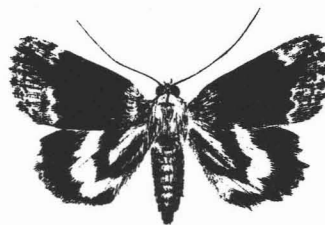
Noted wildlife artist Stanley Galli designed these four stamps which depict butterflies representative of different geographic areas of the United States. Species of contrasting coloration were selected to provide design variety. The species are the Dogface (*Colias eurydice*), Swallowtail (*Papilio oregonius*), Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*) and Orange-Tip (*Anthocaris midae*).

Procedures for ordering first day of issue cancellations are as follows:

—**Customers affixing stamps.** Customers may purchase their own stamps at their local post office and affix them to their own envelopes. All envelopes must be addressed and peelable return address labels are recommended for this purpose. Stamps must be affixed in the upper right corner of envelopes approximately 1/4 inch from the top and 1/4 inch from the right edge. Return addresses should be placed low and well to the left and a filler of postal card thickness should be inserted in each cover. Not later than June 21—orders must be postmarked by that date—the envelopes may be forwarded to "First Day Cancellations, Postmaster, Indianapolis, IN 46206" for cancellation and return through the mailstream. No remittance is required.

—**Postal Service affixing stamps.** Except for affixing stamps and addressing orders, follow the procedures listed above. Address orders to "Butterfly Stamps, Postmaster, Indianapolis, IN 46206." The cost is thirteen cents per stamp to be affixed to covers (52 cents for the block of four). Do not send cash. Personal checks will be accepted for orders up to the limit of 200 covers. Postage stamps are unacceptable as payment. Orders must be postmarked no later than June 21.

REMINISCENCES  
of a  
CATOCALA SPECIALIST



This is an apt title for someone who has been collecting *Catocalae* for over 60 years. My basic collection and some of my finest specimens in series were collected on the Ozark Mountain plateau in southwest Missouri in a period of "big years" 1915 - 19. My first *Catocala* rearing work, aided and abetted by Prof. G.H. French, was published in 1922. This because I received several names for *Catocala ulalume*. The experts were always more or less wrong; only the observant daytime collectors recognized the two species. *C. ulalume* and *C. lacrymosa* have entirely different habits when alive in the woods. My next paper was on marking and recovering *Catocalae* (1930). My Doctorial dissertation on Biology of the *Catocalae* was accepted for publication by the Jr. N.Y. Ent. Soc. and later returned because of lack of funds in the Great Depression. Following a study trip to the U.S. National Museum in about 1932-3, where I helped Dr. F.H. Benjamin incorporate the *Catocalae* in the Barnes and other collections into the Museum collection, he strongly urged me to announce that I planned a major study of the genus *Catocala*. To that I agreed and we did. This has been persistently pursued since then. Most of the early *Catocala* names were proposed during the period when it was the common practice to name butterflies and moths after goddesses, heroines, flamboyant characters or terms associated with marriage. The acrimonious wordy battles of Strecker, Grote, Hulst and others largely center on *Catocala*.

After 50 years of collecting, I feel pretty positive there is no collection in existence which contains all of the New World species of *Catocala* moths. Due to their appeal, numerous amateur collectors have announced a special interest in *Catocalae* and keep series of specimens of all species they collect. This withholds needed material from the specialist. A considerable number of species have always been rare. Many *Catocala* species vary greatly, and so comparatively long series are usually kept, and often collectors will not even loan a specimen considered unusual, or unidentified material. This popularity of *Catocalae* among amateurs has tended to steer the scientific collector away to other genera, and with good reason. There are too many unanswered problems in the genus. The types of part of the earliest names in the western *Catocalae* were destroyed by the earthquake and fire in San Francisco. Ten of Edwards' types, mostly western, have been lost and all attempts to locate them have failed. Other types have been kept to support local dermestids. Loss of early types poses a most difficult problem in *Catocala*. Some more recent types were never labelled as such by the author. Two sets of types (actually co-types) of some names were in poor condition, disposed of, and other specimens, sometimes from a distant place, labelled as the types. I feel positive that some collectors changed locality labels so that no one else could learn where the specimens came from. In the days when accession catalogues were kept, much material was labelled with only a date slip. This has led to numerous erroneous locality labels. Lone marked variations have been described as new species in part because of the added value of being a single type.

In the days when the *Catocalae* for Holland's Moth Book were selected, erroneous determinations were rampant in collections. Beutenmeuler was planning a monograph on the genus, as he had had some good field experience with them. After he was discharged by the museum authorities, part of his manuscript (not his knowledge and not his specimens), were urged on Barnes & McDunnough. Mrs. Beutenmueller's fine paintings were also offered. Barnes & McDunnough wisely refused to attempt a monograph. The illustrations contained too many errors and uncertain figures. The specimens painted were claimed to be in the American Museum of Natural History, and to be labelled as such, but the student who believes this can be in for a sad experience. Paintings, manuscript and all were the property of the A.M.N.H. and we can believe that Barnes & McDunnough returned them to the museum. If not they should have been with the Barnes Collection which was sold to the U.S. National Museum. Workers there and Dr. Rindge in the A.M.N.H. have put forth strong efforts, but no trace of these specimens has been found. Carl Heinrich was sent to pack and get the Barnes collection to the U.S.N.M. Within a few years after he did this, he answered my questions regarding the Barnes *Catocala* larvae etc. by saying he had no recollection whatever of ever having seen any *Catocala* larvae. T.D. Mayfield accumulated a nice lot of *Catocala* larval heads, and larvae, together with paintings of the heads by Mrs. Beutenmueller. Some time later after he died



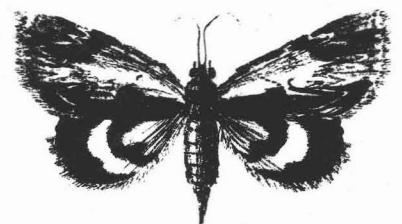
his widow evidently sent the lot to the dump for burning. Otto Bucholz accumulated a desirable lot of larvae and head capsules. During my last visit to him I was allowed to go through this material and take duplicates. After his death the collection was moved to the A.M.N.H. When I asked Dr. Rindge, he had no recollection of having seen even the head capsules which had been preserved in pill boxes, and after much searching we could still not locate them.

*Catocala* has suffered the same fate as many of the old large genera. Various proposals have been made to split it, with varying degrees of success. Perhaps division of *Catocala* is more justifiable if based on available knowledge of only Old World fauna, but to use variable characters of species to support generic subdivision has not led to desirable results. We need to know far more about our *Catocalae*, especially a number of western species, and base any subdivision on a greater number of characters. When the illustrations were thrust on Barnes and McDunnough, they spent a few productive years rearing and working on mostly eastern species. They took some of the Old World ideas on groupings and applied them to the species in America and arranged the Barnes collection accordingly. When I helped Dr. Benjamin combine the *Catocalae* in the U.S.N.M. the first Barnes case of them was brought; I pointed to it and said it was a mixup. He turned on me in dismay, raised his hands and said, "do you realize those are just the way Barnes and McDunnough placed them?". I named the species needed and he brought out the big heavy oak drawers which were located near the elevators. I pointed out that a certain little tray of four specimens contained four species, including all three major divisions, and four different groups. He was appalled. In their defense I can say all were, or appeared to be reared females, the physical structures of which did not prevent this mixup. I have found many less excusable mixups in collections. The rather recent Pennsylvania list of Lepidoptera includes a Great Basin *Catocala* and omits some widespread eastern species. I have a series of one of these missing species, collected in the home town of the author of that list. There was a time when European species were reported as collected in the United States, especially on Long Island. Those reports have faded out with the better recognition of our species.

In addition to more adults of many species, knowledge of the early stages of *all* species are greatly to be desired. We know nothing of the early stages of our two largest eastern species; *C. marmorata* and *C. nebulosa*; likewise of many more. Most of the collectors with an announced interest in *Catocala* will do little or nothing more than collect adults, and if it is scarce or rare, they must keep it in their series. Getting batches of fertile eggs from many species is quite difficult, and has never been reported for many. We need rearings from several batches to determine the variation in the species. Rearing larvae may be difficult. Mating *Catocalae* and rearing from them has never been very practical. One of my best field collectors was a small insect dealer. Over some years, I spent a very considerable amount of time supplying him with information and coach coaching him on collecting *Catocala*, and he became a very successful collector. I purchased all or most of his *Catocala* catches. Later I learned that some of the rarest species I had especially asked for and needed most, had been sold to others who would pay more for one or two specimens of a species they lacked than I offered for each in a series. What I wanted most was batches of eggs and these I never secured. He apparently believed that if I reared a batch of specimens, they could be used as breeding livestock and an unlimited number reared, as with silk moths. In other orders of insects, ideas are usually so different. When Blickle & Morse were working on their list of New Hampshire and Maine *Tricoptera*, I supplied them with over 2700 specimens of one new species.

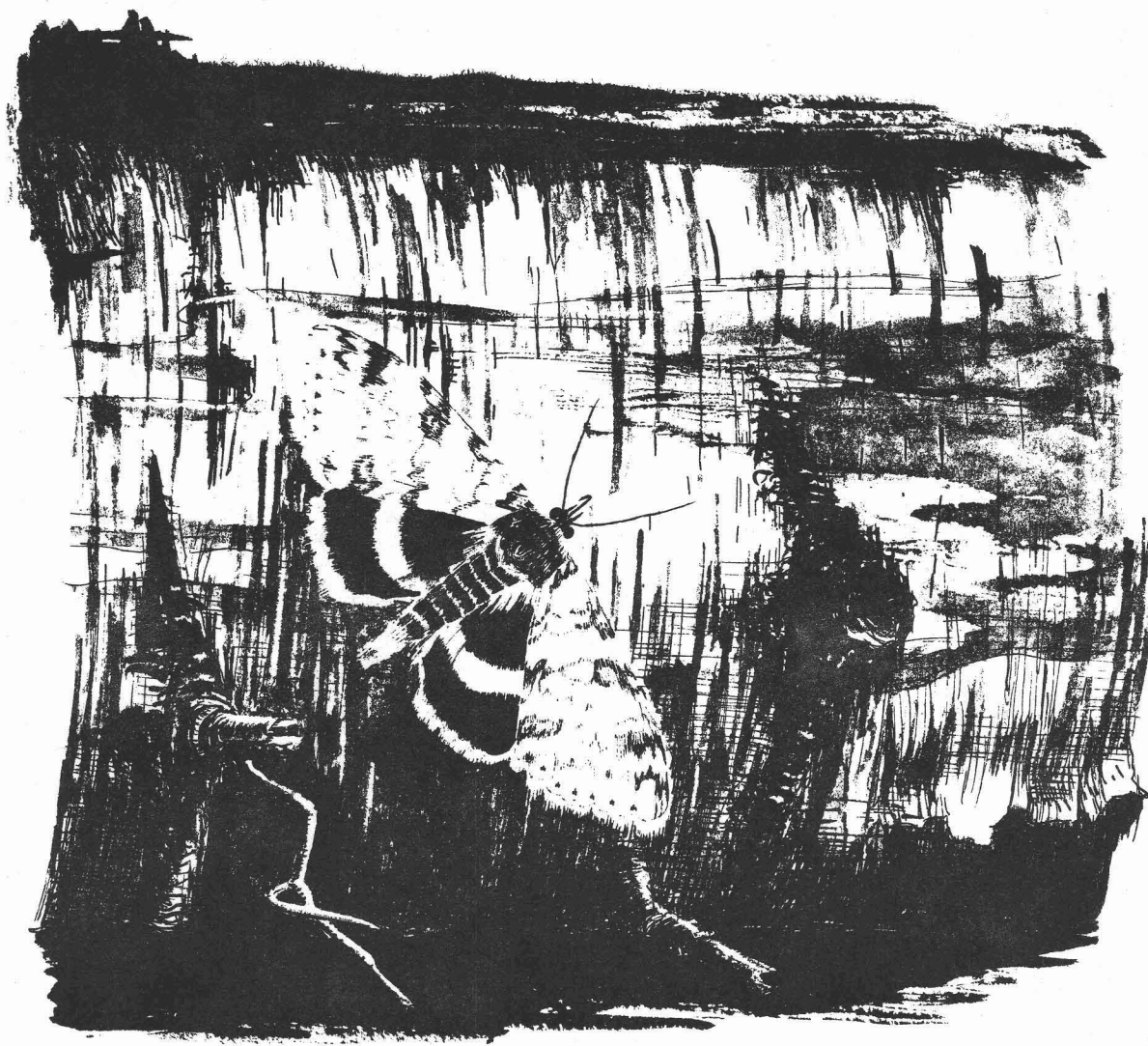
My next project led to the publication of a new species and a race of southwestern *Catocalae* (1936). This was followed by work on two more projects on forms and new species. On these I borrowed, purchased and exchanged for material from different sources. Both projects were jumped and the species named by others before I felt I had a fair series of specimens for description.

Recently I described other new species and a form (1976). To my own *Catocala* catches I have recently added a large number from other collectors with their notes and observations. Many collectors have re-checked for me, records and notes on habits. Much more is needed on all which concerns these insects. Few records exist of where the species oviposit in nature of mating habits, details of biology, of parasites, of substantiated records, of predatism. Therefore detailed records of many sorts are desirable and greatly needed.



My collection of Nearctic *Catocalae* had, by the 1960's, become one of the most --perhaps the most complete in existence. It is certainly outstanding if early stage material and biographical information in depth are considered. In mid-July, 1975 I was asked to prepare the fascicle on *Catocala* for MOTHS OF AMERICA. I have accepted the task although I am heavily involved in other projects. I would therefore greatly appreciate the assistance of other collectors. Specimens of all stages, all kinds of data, especially of the rarer species, and even common species on the fringe of their ranges are needed in order to assure that this will be a definitive work.

A.E. Brower, 8 Hospital Rd., Augusta, ME 04330.



Drawings by Katherine A. Doktor Sargent

NOTICES - Buy, Sell, Exchange

Members of the Lepidopterists' Society are invited to use this section free of charge to advertise their needs and offerings in Lepidoptera. We cannot guarantee any notices, but all are expected to be made in good faith. Please be brief, clear, and check spelling. Notices will be limited to 2 appearances. The Editor reserves the right to alter or reject unsuitable copy.

FOR SALE: Lepidoptera Literature and Cornell equipment, list and description on request. R.A. Rah, 3214 W. Springdale Ave., Wausau, WI 54401.

FOR SALE: Extensive collection of Calif. butterflies in period 1927-'75. Mounted in Riker mounts with data plus large number of papered specimens; contains such rarities as S.a. atossa, Xerces blue, Polyphemus blue, aberrant Euphydryas, etc. Library with Holland B'fly (both editions) and Moth book, Comstock - B'fly of Calif. Wright, Ford, etc. for further information please contact Mrs. Charlotte Reeves, 10431 Kailua Lane #15, Tujunga, Ca. 91042.

FOR SALE: MONARCH BUTTERFLY, Stained Glass Weathervane \$495.00 Delivered. Your money refunded if not completely delighted with specimen. Milton Schedivy, 261 Madison Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey 07604.

FOR SALE: Limited specimens of the following very scarce Agrias: narcissus, sardanapalus, phalcidon, claudia varieties, etc. -- Free list with self-addressed, stamped envelope. Robert E. Aronheim - P.O. Box 239, Middlebury, Connecticut U.S.A. 06762

FOR SALE: INSECT PINS: \$.80/1000 (10 pckgs) postpaid. All sizes. Clair Armin, 191 W. Palm Ave., Reedley, Calif. 93654.

EXCHANGE: Many French and exotic rhopalocera and Sphingidae for rhopalocera and Attacidae, Sphingidae of the world. It will be answered to any letter. F. Beneluz, Ecole Bologne 34000 La Paillade, France.

EXCHANGE: Lepidoptera from many parts of the world (Canada, Spain, Nationalist China, Peru, Brasil, Uruguay, etc.), for Lepidoptera from anywhere. Will buy also Morphos and Ornithopteras. Please send a list. Brian Donnelly, ecole sec. Vanier, 100 Blvd. Hamel, ville Vanier, P. Quebec, Canada.

EXCHANGE: Canadian Rhopalocera for the world-wide Lycaenidae; also live material. W.W. Gregory, 1373 Hixon St., Oakville, Ontario, L6L 1R9, Canada.

WANTED: To buy Butterflies - mostly Papilio's - World-wide esp. Cuba, New Guinea, Jamaica, Phillipino, China, and Celebes - will exchange other rare species. Virgil Warczynski, 1804 Fitzhugh, Bay City, Michigan 48706, U.S.A.

WANTED: Papilio ascanius, P. gundlachianus, P. rumanzovia female, P. pericles, P. toboroi, Cethosia lechenaulti, and Morphotenaris schoenbergi. Will buy or exchange. Mr. B.E. Ellis, 3176 West 50th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102 U.S.A.

WANTED: The Butterflies of Virginia by Clark & Clark. Will purchase any copy & in any condition. Needed for my collecting work in Virginia: Leroy C. Koshn, RT #1-38 Southern Dr., Dublin, Virginia 24084.

WANTED: Rare Gloss Papilios esp. Papilio buddah, lorquinianus, Krishna, Pericles, Peranthus and variations of P. ulysses at reasonable prices. Joseph S. Brown, 12103 W. Ohio Ave. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53227.

WANTED: Living material (live females or eggs) of the following Phyciodes: P. tharos from Manitoba west and the Rockies; P. batesii from the Mid-west and Great Plains; any P. campestris. C.G. Oliver, R.D. 1, Box 78, Scottdale, PA 15683.

FOR SALE: Three used copies of Butterflies of the World, Lewis H.L. all in exc. cond. \$14.50 each, delivered. Donald J. Dill, 1773 W. Granville Ave., Apt. 3-B, Chicago, IL 60660.

CORRECTION: In his Field Summary, Eduardo C. Welling M. mentioned taking Cocytius lucifer and C. cluentius in Merida under mercury vapor lights; this should read Cocytius lucifer and C. antaeus. He took the C. cluentius at X-can, Quintana Roo.

WANTED: Large quantities of North American Noctuidae, Saturniidae, Sphingidae, Papilionidae, & Nymphalidae. Will trade or buy. Ronald Kral, R.R. 1, Box 648, Necedah, WI 54646.

EXCHANGE: Lepidoptera from my area for lepidoptera from other parts of the country. John M. Maverisk, Box 170, Dilles Bottom, OH 43947.

Research Requests

ARCTIIDAE of Colorado: Information needed regarding species records, flight dates, localities, elevations, notes on habitats and food plant assoc. wanted for Master's thesis. All correspondence will be acknowledged. Ira M. Heller, Biology Dept., Adelphi Univ., Garden City, NY, 11530 USA.

WANTED: Living material of Strymon melinus and pinned adults for a review and analysis of subspecies nomenclature. Information needed regarding flight periods, host plants, parasites, habitats, courtship and mating behavior, oviposition times, and collection locality records for exact study of distribution. Glenn A. Gorelick (Biology), Citrus College, 18824 E. Foothill Blvd. Azusa, CA 91702.

New Book Announcements

LIBRO ROJO DE LOS LEPIDOPTEROS IBERICOS (The Red Book of the Iberian Lepidoptera), by M. Garcia-de-Viedma and M.R. Gomez-Bustillo. In this book -- the first one published in the world on an invertebrate group -- are contained the biological story, recommendations for protection, and close observation of 50 lepidoptera taxa out of the 3,500 to be found in the Iberian Peninsula. Taxa have been classified in five categories, mostly following the Red Data Books published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources of Switzerland. De luxe edition in Spanish with 120 pages, 81 original color plates and 50 distribution maps US \$5.50 including surface postage. Orders with check or Money Order to: SHILAP, Apartado n° 331, Madrid, Spain.

DR. JOHN R.G. TURNER has completed a bibliography of Heliconius and related genera, which has been privately published by the author at Stony Brook. (Contribution no. 151 of the Program in Ecology & Evolution at the State University of New York at Stony Brook). This work was compiled from the bibliographies of some recent major papers, from my own reprint collection, from the pages of Zoological Record, and from lists sent in by Tom Abrams, Woodruff Benson, Keith Brown, Kenneth Clarke, and Helmut Holzinger. This is a 21 page document, and is available gratis from Dr. Turner while the stock lasts. Write to: Dr. John R.G. Turner, Department of Ecology & Evolution Division of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Stony Brook - Stony Brook, New York 11794, U.S.A.

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\* CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE butterfly books, equipment, specimens or artifacts for door prizes at the annual \*  
\* banquet of the Lepidopterists' Society in Boulder, Colorado on Saturday, July 23? If so, please \*  
\* contact Dr. Charles V. Covell Jr., Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40208 \*  
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*These are some of the species identified in Madison, Wisconsin during the great summer migration of 1976. It has been predicted that a similar phenomenon may extend as far west as Boulder Colorado this summer.*

From: The Lepidopterists' Society  
Department of Biology  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, Kentucky 40208 U.S.A.

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#### AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

- MEMOIRS of the Lepidopterists' Society, No.1, 1964: A Synonymic List of the Nearctic Rhopalocera. C.F. dos Passos (with 3 supplementary articles). Unbound copies ONLY. \$5 (member); \$7.50 (non-members), sent postpaid.
- JOURNAL of the Lepidopterists' Society (and its forerunner, LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWS), from Vol. 1 (1947) to date, \$13 per volume, postpaid. Individual numbers available at prices depending on how many were published in each volume (varies from 4-8). NOT available are: Vol.7, no.3/4 (combined in one issue), Vol.9, no.3/4, Vol.12, no.1/2, and Vol.21, no.1.
- NEWS of the Lepidopterists' Society. Some recent issues are still available at \$.25 per copy, postpaid. Inquire as to availability before sending money.

ORDER FROM: Dr. Charles V. Covell Jr., Memoirs Editor, Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40208 U.S.A.

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#### INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY....

Membership in the Lepidopterists' Society is open to all persons interested in any aspect of Lepidopterology. Prospective members should send the TREASURER the full dues for the current year, (\$13, U.S.A.) together with full address and areas of interest in Lepidoptera. Remittances in dollars (U.S.A.) should be made payable to the Lepidopterists' Society. All members will receive the JOURNAL published quarterly, and the NEWS in even-numbered years. Back issues of the JOURNAL may be purchased from the TREASURER.

Information on membership may be obtained from the TREASURER, Dr. John M. Snider, 3520 Mulldae Ave., San Pedro, CALIF. 90732, U.S.A. Change of address must be sent to him alone, and only when changes are permanent or very long terms.

Other information about the Society may be obtained from the SECRETARY, Julian P. Donahue, Dept. of Entomology, Los Angeles Co. Mus. of Nat. Hist., 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007. U.S.A.

Manuscripts for publication in the JOURNAL are to be sent to the Editor, Dr. George L. Godfrey, Illinois Natural History Survey, Natural Resources Bldg., Urbana, IL 61801, U.S.A. See inside back cover of a copy of the JOURNAL for editorial policies.