



Paul Alexander Opler (1938)- Entomologist

Biographical Sketch by Sharon Landwehr, Archives Volunteer

Paul Alexander Opler was born on August 3, 1938 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He earned his B.S. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1960. After serving in the U.S. Army (1961-1963), Opler received his M.A. from California State University, San Jose in 1965 and returned to the University of California, Berkeley where he received his Ph.D. in 1970.

A stint as Research Associate for the Organization of Tropical Studies, San Jose, Costa Rica (1970-1974) led to a station with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington D.C. (1974). Other positions held were: Chief, Branch of Biological Support, Office of Endangered Species (1980-1982) and Managing Editor of Research and Development Information, Ft. Collins, Colorado (1983-1986). While in the latter position, Opler was Adjunct faculty at Colorado State University (1984-?) and published *Butterflies East of the Great Plains: An Illustrated Natural History* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984). (This was his second monograph, *Oak Lepidoptera Ecology* having been published in 1975.)

Opler's honors and memberships include: Alternate Fellow, National Science Foundation; Special Achievement award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1986); Member, Association Tropical Biology (Executive Director 1984-); American Institute of Biological Sciences (Secretary-Treasurer, 1985-); Xerces Society (vice-president, 1985-); and Pacific Coast Entomological Society.

He now lives in Loveland, Colorado (2001).

Sources Consulted:

Who's Who in the West 21st edition, 1987-1988, pg.550

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