

Both specimens are alike in size and expand $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. No one could fail to be impressed with the princely appearance of this rare insect, and unhesitatingly accord it the first rank among its peers in the interesting group to which it belongs.

Catocala have been very abundant here this season. I have taken between 900 and 1000 specimens, and among them some rare species and some that I seldom or never took here before. For example, I have taken *atarah* (as has also my friend, Mr. C. Whitney, in N. H.), which I believe has not been recorded before as occurring north of Texas. I have also taken *amasia*, and a species allied to it, which may prove to be an extreme variety. This also is put down in the published authorities as a southern species. Mr. Whitney informs me he also has taken this species in N. H. this season. And now *marmorata*, which hitherto has been known only as a Californian species. I have one, and perhaps two, that I think are new species, which I may give you a description of when I get time. After a while I may also prepare you a list of the species of *Catocala* occurring here.

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HOW DO SPECIALISTS PREFER TO RECEIVE MATERIAL?

DEAR SIR,—

Dr. Henri de Saussure writes in the introduction, page xix, to his Synopsis of "Solitary Wasps" (Amer. Wasps) as follows:

"In a great many collections it is usual to spread the wings and legs of the Hymenoptera. This is mere amateur's work, of no utility for study, sometimes even quite opposed to the purpose in view, by dissimulating the character of the insects instead of exposing it to view. This practice is to be regretted, moreover, by its increasing the value of the insects, on account of the time and expense wasted thereby, so that one is loathe afterwards to place them in the softener, when it becomes necessary to dissect the moth."

In connection with this, I would ask whether Dipterologists and Micro-lepidopterologists prefer things (to be sent to them for study) *spread* or merely pinned. Mr. V. T. Chambers is satisfied to get Tineidæ dead and dry, and even untouched by a pin. Let Mr. Cresson and other specialists announce their preferences. I should be glad to see published the names and addresses of such gentlemen as now are engaged in the study of Tortricidæ, Pyralidæ and Alucitæ, of which groups I will contribute all my accumulated Californian specimens without reserve.

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