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### Obituary

Robert B. Lyon (1920-2015)

Robert B. “Bob” Lyon, of Purcellville, a member of the Virginia Natural History Society (VNHS) since 2006, died of heart failure on 19 August 2015 at the age of 94. A civil engineer with a degree from Virginia Tech, he was born on 7 September 1920 and served in both World War II (as a Navy fighter pilot) and the Korean War. He was a generous supporter of the VNHS, purchasing a lifetime membership in 2012 at the age of 91, as well as guest memberships for several friends and family members. In retirement, Bob pursued lifelong interests in ornithology, botany, and entomology. He developed a keen interest in the Lepidoptera of Loudoun County, became the local expert, and founded an annual butterfly count there in 1997. He also photographed thousands of local moths and meticulously organized the color prints in a series of albums, each photo labeled with the date and species identification. Bob also frequently assisted his late friend William R. Grooms (1947-2012) in collecting moths at various sites in the county, typically from the walls of buildings at shopping centers late at night.

I first met Bob at a VNHS-sponsored bioblitz held at Douthat State Park on a cold, rainy weekend in May 2003 when we captured very few moths. On many subsequent occasions, he sent me photos of moths to identify or verify (usually as self-addressed return postcards, sometimes labeled “Help!!!”), or handwritten cards and letters inquiring about the taxonomic status of a particular species or noting possible omissions from my unpublished checklist of Virginia macromoths. The arrival of each card or letter was a source of suspense to me and several coworkers. Following Grooms’ death, Bob made a special effort to save that collection from being discarded and later turned it over to me; it contains a number of important records. At the time of his death, Bob was writing a field guide to the moths of Loudoun County, a project that fellow members of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy intend to complete.

Bob was known as Loudoun County’s “Sign Cop” because of his years-long campaign to remove illegal cardboard signs (he personally collected nearly 30,000) that littered the roadways of his community. Survivors include his wife Jody of 68 years, three children, two sisters, six grandchildren, and two great-grand-children. Two children and a grandson predeceased him.

Prepared by Steve Roble, Editor, *Banisteria*