

THE WOOD WHITE: *LEPTIDEA SINAPIS* L. AB.BRUNNEO-MACULATA IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, 1978. — It was late afternoon on 20th June, 1978 when I visited a favourite ride in Salcey, where the previous year I had been fortunate enough to see a number of *Strymonidia pruni* L. darting about the tops of old blackthorn bushes. I walked down the ride searching the flowers of privet in the hope of seeing *pruni* again, but without success. So, on my return, I decided to search the grass and flowerheads for resting butterflies. My first find was a male *Leptidea sinapis* resting below the flower of ragged robin, reminding me of the time two years ago on a cloudy day in Devon finding them on pink campion, ragged robin and tuberous pea, from which I concluded that the insect showed a preference for resting below pinkish flowers.

Further down the ride I found a second *sinapis*, another male resting in the grass. However, this one was obviously something special as the normal blackish markings were replaced by a buffy-ochre, and turned out to be an ab.*brunneo-maculata* Stauder in good condition. — LES T. COLLEY, 1 Taldrwst Estate, Dwyran, Llanfair P.G., Anglesea, N. Wales.

THE DEATH'S-HEAD HAWKMOTH (*ACHERONTIA ATROPOS* (L.)) IN KENT. — A fine fresh specimen of this insect was brought into this Museum on the 5th July this year having been found, attracted to light, at Preston Hall Hospital (just north of Maidstone). It is interesting to speculate if this insect had over-wintered as a pupa in this country, when one considers the dearth of other migrant moths this season. — E. G. PHILP, Natural History Department, The Museum, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LH. 1.x.1978.

HESPERIA COMMA LINN. IN THE EASTBOURNE DISTRICT. — On the 21st of August, 1978, whilst walking over the Downs with Mr. S. W. P. Pooles, I came across three unusual Skippers all resting on Ragwort. These were quickly identified as *Hesperia comma* by Mr. Pooles. — MARK PARSONS, 43 King's Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

AESHNA CYANEA (MULLER) (ODONATA: AESCHNIDAE) IN ELGIN, MORAYSHIRE (VC95). — While in Culbin Forest, near Forres, on the 3rd September, 1978, I found a colony of the Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea* (Müll.)), and with them was a number of the Emerald Dragonfly (*Lestes sponsa* (Hansemann)). According to Hammond (1977, *The Dragonflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, 32), *A. cyanea* has not previously been recorded north of N. Northumberland (VC68). — H. C. EVE, 173 Court Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 0PX.

MYTHIMNA UNIPUNCTA (HAW.) ON THE ISLE OF CANNA. — I took a specimen of this moth inside the house on 12th November, having seen it indoors the preceding evening. The night of the 10th/11th was calm in the middle of prolonged spells of atrocious weather. — J. L. CAMPBELL, Isle of Canna.

THE MERVEILLE DU JOUR (*GRIPOSIA APRILINA* L.): COURTSHIP OBSERVATIONS IN THE WILD. — I was privileged to witness the courtship display of this species whilst sugaring in a Surrey wood on 3rd October this year. Adjacent to a sugared oak



Campbell, John Lorne. 1978. "Mythimna unipuncta (Haw.) on the Isle of Canna." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 90, 340–340.

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