

uncommon to find overwintered larvae of the moth on ivy foliage well up on hedgerow trees and bushes but this maple was a young tree with a totally clean trunk and free of adjoining foliage.

So was its egg laid there or did the larva ascend? The implications could be profound for those amongst us who research into the fundamental behaviour of our Lepidoptera. Perish the thought that *L. quercus* is emulating *H. sapiens* in the belief that, next to being high-born, success in life is gained through travelling ever upwards.— G.M. HAGGETT, Meadows End, Northacre, Caston, Norfolk NR17 1DG.

### **Unusual abundance of the Holly Blue, *Celastrina argiolus* L. (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in 1989 in parts of Sussex**

Kenneth Smith in North London was not alone in noting the unusual flight period and large numbers of Holly Blues in the summer of 1989 (*Ent. Rec.* **101**: 278).

For several years I have been trying to get good close-up slides of these lively little butterflies. This has usually involved hanging about near the post box close to my home where there is a mass of holly and ivy in an overgrown garden; in April - early May and August, one or two butterflies may, with luck, be seen dashing about at breakneck speed. However, in 1989 I did not see any here until 20th May.

So when I went to woods below the downs near West Dean, Chichester, on 12th and 14th July 1989 to photograph other species, I was most surprised to see Holly Blues in almost every thicket and on most wet patches in the road. On 21st July, I went to Willingdon Point, Eastbourne, to photograph Chalkhill and Common Blues, but again Holly Blues were more numerous than either, albeit in the thickets rather than in the open. My last sighting here in Selsey was on 4th October 1989.

These unusually high populations are interesting in view of the very low numbers of sightings countrywide between 1986 and 1988 (Pollard E. & Hall M.L. Butterfly monitoring in 1988. *Entomologist* **108**: 229-242).— R.C. DENING, 20 Vincent Road, Selsey PO20 9DQ.

### **Return of the White-letter Hairstreak**

At approximately 17.00 hours on 16th July, I noticed a single male specimen of *Satyrrium w-album* Knoch, the White-letter Hairstreak, feeding on Buddleia in my back garden. There are still a relatively small number of elm trees in the neighbourhood but it is the first time for over 20 years that I have noticed this particular butterfly in the locality. In the late 1950s and early 1960s it used to be quite common in a locality in Banstead, Surrey, approximately three miles from where I live, but the habitat in question was totally destroyed following redevelopment of what was originally Ministry of Defence surplus land.— M.S. HARVEY, Highfields House, Highfields, Ashstead, Surrey.



Dening, R C. 1990. "Unusual abundance of the holly blue, *Celastrina argiolus* L. (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in 1989 in parts of Sussex." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 102, 74–74.

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