

and had set up a number of traps along the road in thick scrub. On my return I was accompanied by the local Game Warden and his wife. It happened to be a boom year for *Charaxes pythodorus* (normally a relatively uncommon species), and the traps were packed with dozens of them, to the point of nuisance. At one trap, we had all spent several minutes sorting the wheat from the chaff, and talking loudly, when a lion which was evidently sleeping peacefully about twenty yards away in the scrub, decided it had had enough, and let out an almighty roar. No landrover was ever more rapidly re-occupied, though again we did manage to take the trap with us!— —R.C. DENING, 20 Vincent Road, Selsey, Chichester PO20 9DQ.

An early or late larva of *Pieris brassicae* L. (Lep.: Pieridae)

On 3rd January 1990, I picked up a fully grown larva of the Large White butterfly in a road in Plymouth, Devon. This pupated on 6th January, out of doors, where it remained until a normal male emerged on 8th June, a lengthy period considering the long hot spring.— A. ARCHER-LOCK, 4 Glenwood Road, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon.

The return of *Eilema sororcula* Hufn. (Lep.: Lithosiinae) to N.W. Kent

Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, 2, 1961) states that this moth is apparently extinct in N.W. Kent. This has probably been so for a considerable period, the last definite occurrences having been for Swanscombe Wood (twenty-four) in 1848, and singletons for West Wickham 1859, Greenhithe 1859 and Darenth Wood 1863.

In 1989 I was therefore surprised to find that two specimens had been attracted to my garden m.v. light on 23rd May, and I assumed that they were vagrants from far afield. The following evening I made my only visit of the year to the Orlestone Woods, the main stronghold of *sororcula* in Kent, but none was seen. On 5th May 1990 a further specimen arrived at my garden light, suggesting that perhaps this species has again become established in N.W. Kent.

Chalmers-Hunt in his latest supplement to his county work notes that *sororcula* appeared to have become scarcer, and he lists only three records for the county for the two decades, two specimens from the Weald of mid-Kent, and a specimen I saw in the Orlestone Woods in 1962, and these were two decades of considerable m.v. light activity in the Orlestone Woods.

I believe several other specimens were seen in N.W. Kent in 1989, although my efforts to obtain detailed confirmation have proved unsuccessful. Dartford comes within the Clean Air Zone (Clean Air Act, 1964) and atmospheric pollution has decreased considerably resulting in a return of lichens to the oak trees of local woodlands. Thus for central Dartford the six monthly average winter totals of solid deposits has fallen from about 28 tons per acre in 1962 to about seven tons in 1989, including the cement dust which is now almost negligible, and there is now only about



1990. "An early or late larva of *Pieris brassicae* L. (Lep.: Pieridae)." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 102, 251–251.

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