

A SMALL TORTOISESHELL IN THE TYROL IN DECEMBER. — I was surprised to see a Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae* L.) active at about 12.20 p.m. on the 23rd December, 1976 in the village of Obergurgl (1,930 m., 6,330 ft.) in the Oetztal of the Austrian Tyrol. It was basking in bright sunshine in a warm corner formed by a house and shed, but made one flight of a few yards while I was watching. At this time there was about a foot of snow in the village, which is a popular ski resort. I have no record of the shade temperature but it must have been close to freezing. — A. J. M. HESELDEN, 81 Hoxeth Hill, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

ANCYLOSIS OBLITELLA Z. IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE. — On 21st September, 1976, I had a fresh specimen in my home actinic light trap. Dr. J. D. Bradley kindly determined the specimen for me. I understand the species has been unusually common in its Essex haunts this year, but it has not been recorded before from Gloucestershire. — J. NEWTON, 11 Oxleaze Close, Tetbury, Glos.

MACROGLOSSUM STELLATARUM L. AND AGRIUS CONVULVULI L. IN S. DEVON IN 1976. — One *M. stellatarum* in m.v. trap on 17.vii and the following daylight sightings: 3.vii, 11.viii, 4.ix, 19.ix, 20.ix, all feeding on valerian at the north end of Slapton Sands. Captures of *A. convolvuli* in the m.v. trap were: 24.viii (2), 25.viii (1, a recapture from previous night), 26.viii (1), 30.viii (1), 31.viii (1), 2.ix (1). Total, six different moths, all males. — H. L. O'HEFFERNAN, 3 Coombe Meadows, Chillington, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

PURPLE EMPERORS AND OTHER BUTTERFLIES ON BOOKHAM COMMON, SURREY IN 1976. — Dr. Geoffrey Beven of Esher has sent me a most illuminating list of butterflies observed on Bookham Common during the fabulous summer of 1976. Most notable among these was *Apatura iris* L., the Purple Emperor, seen on 30th June by the keeper, Mr. Nigel Davies, and a female the following day also round his cottage. On 2nd July another male was seen on a dry road by Mr. Tim Knight. Mr. Davies saw a further male on 25th July and Miss E. M. Hillman another specimen on 7th August. The White Admiral was quite abundant, the first being observed on 23rd June; Mr. Davies counted at least 30 on 24th July along a woodland ride, while Mr. Hugh Baillie found a fresh specimen on 5th September, evidently a second emergence which is very rare in this species. Mr. Alan Wheeler reported an example of *ab. valezina* or *Argynnis paphia* L., which species was also very plentiful. This form of the female has seldom been seen in Surrey. Other butterflies of interest on the Common were a *Strymonidia w-album* Knoch on 2nd July, many Ringlets throughout July and an abundance of *Maniola tithonus* L. in early August. Six Commas were observed feeding on blackberries on 12th September. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Woking.



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