

April, at the top of a long extinct and eroded volcano (Bermeja, 157 metres) on the nearby island of Graciosa I noted it in dozens. The same day, I could record only a single *C. croceus* and a single *V. virginiensis*.

What a contrast between the years! If I had written this in 1988 I would have been quite sure that mid to end April was the best time to see butterflies in Lanzarote — good variety and large numbers in many locations. But in 1989 I would be saying that Lanzarote had a very localised butterfly population with little to be seen unless one knew the “right places to go”.

What is the true situation? Is Feb/March the best time or is it late April or perhaps even later? Others of the Canary Islands have been reported on in the *Record* from time to time but we have had little information so far on Lanzarote.

The breeding site of *Anthicus bifasciatus* (Rossi) (Col.: Anthicidae) at Broadway, Worcestershire.

In 1990 (*Entomologist mon. Mag.* **126**: 27-32; *Col. Newsletter* **39**: 7-8) I referred to *Anthicus bifasciatus* (Rossi) in the Broadway area of Worcestershire, although in the former publication I was unable to provide evidence of breeding.

In the spring of 1990 a large quantity of cow dung and stable bedding was spread in a paddock at Broadway (SP04). In the following hot summer decomposition was negligible, the compacted bedding desiccated, and was only really damp at contact with the ground.

A substantial population of *A. bifasciatus* built up and teneral specimens were located in September 1990. Apart from what has just been outlined the following key considerations hallmark the beetle fauna:

- (a) the presence of *Astenus pulchellus* (Heer) (not yet noted by the writer in compost)
- (b) the dominance of *Mycetaea hirta* (Msh.)
- (c) the absence of *Anthicus floralis* (L.) (frequently encountered in compost).— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3EP.

Observations on Coleoptera in the diet of two bird species in Worcestershire.

It is not easy to obtain exact information on the diet of Sand Martins by examination of faecal sacs of nestlings, because they are frequently dropped by parent birds into water beneath the nesting sites. On 5.9.1990 at Beckford, Worcestershire, I released two such sacs from spiders' webs at a nest opening. They contained, in addition to disarticulated fragments of flies and wasps (including chalcids), fragments of the following beetles:

Meligethes aeneus (F.) 3, *Calvia quattuordecimpunctata* (L.) 1, *Phyllotreta nigripes* (F.) 1, *Oulema melanopa* (L.) 7, *Sitona lineatus* (L.) 9, *Ceuthorynchidius troglodytes* (F.) 1, *Ceutorhynchus quadridens* (Pz.) 8. *C. quadridens* swarmed during late July 1990, and it is likely that the sacs were voided then. The conclusion is the same as that reached by Osborne & Whitehead (1988 *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **124**: 232) with regard to House Martins, namely that the parent birds are entirely unselective samplers of the aerial fauna. In addition there is clear indication that, were the two species cohabiting, they would be direct competitors.

On 26.6.1990 I was able to examine the contents of a Little Owl pellet collected on Bredon Hill (SO94). This contained evidence of *Abax parallelepipedus* (P. & M.) 1, *Agonum muelleri* (Hbst.) 1, *Harpalus rufipes* (Deg.) 1, *H. affinis* (Schr.) 1, *Melanotus erythropus* (Gmelin) 1, *Agriotes acuminatus* (Ste.) 1, *A. obscurus* (L.) 1, *Stenocorus meridianus* (L.) 1, *Hypera punctata* (F.) 5. Few of the beetles listed here represent a good return on the energy expended in catching them, and the diet is probably that of an inexperienced juvenile bird. Cockchafer (*Melolontha melolontha* L.) are the principal element in the beetle-diet of nestling Little Owls in the area, and *Geotrupes* spp. are also provided. I have an interesting record of a number of adult *Procræus tibialis* (Bois. & Lac.) (a localised elaterid) from debris at the base of a Little Owl's nest (SO94, 19.6.1990).— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs WR10 3EP.

***Scolopostethus pictus* (Schilling) (Hem.: Lygaeidae) new to Worcestershire**

A specimen of this large, strongly-pigmented *Scolopostethus* was observed to land on my car whilst it was parked near the River Severn, Worcester (SO849547) at 15.30 hours BST on 12.x.1990. It was flying in extremely high light conditions in a temperature of 23°C.

S. pictus is generally rather rare inhabiting flood strands and cornstacks. Dr P. Kirby kindly provided information on the status and biotope of *S. pictus*, which may be locally distributed in the Lower Severn Valley.— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3EP.

The Hummingbird Hawkmoth in West Cumbria.

At about 3.30pm on 28th August 1990, I observed one specimen of *Macroglossum stellatarum* fly into my garden here at Hensingham. The weather was sunny and dry with a temperature of around 70°F. The moth was very active and visited a number of herbaceous plants, and it was observed to feed in particular on the flowers of some cultivated *Campanulas*. The moth eventually left the garden after approximately six minutes.— R.W.J. READ, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 8RF.



Whitehead, Paul F. 1991. "Observations on Coleoptera in the diet of two bird species in Worcestershire." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 103, 81–82.

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