

the end of the garden on which it may have bred, but perhaps this is rather unlikely since it has not so far recurred.

Ptocheuusa paupella Zell.: 3.vii.76. If it bred locally, it must have been on one of the less usual foodplants, *Centaurea* or *Mentha*.

Caloptilia populetorum Zell.: 17.viii.86. Evidently a rarity here.

In passing I would mention that *Epiphyas postvittana* Walk. is now well established in this district since I recorded the first Kent specimen in 1983, occurring freely in both broods, but hitherto always at light. — A. A. ALLEN.

FIRST RECORD OF A MELANIC *ANATIS OCELLATA* L. (COL.: COCCINELLIDAE). — For some time I have had in my collection an example of this well-known species, the 'Eyed Lady-bird', with the data 'St. Plant, Bovey, S. Devon/7.5.55/L. H. Woollett', which is entirely pitch-black, without a trace of lighter areas on the elytra or elsewhere either above or below. I had paid it little attention until finding lately, to my surprise, that no such all-black form of *A. ocellata* appeared to be mentioned in either British or foreign works. This negative finding was verified by Mr. R. D. Pope who very kindly searched the collections and relevant literature at the BMNH. He points out that the nearest known approach to full melanism seems to be made by the ab. *friebe* Mader, in which a great extension of black or dark markings obliterates much (but by no means all) of the pale elytral ground-colour. That the blackness of the Devon specimen is no artefact caused by impregnation with grease is proved by its being quite unaltered after prolonged degreasing. — A. A. ALLEN.

EMPIS VOLUCRIS WIED. (DIPT.) IN SURREY. — When collecting in Richmond Park on 7th July, 1986, in the company of Prof. J. A. Owen, I tubed two Empid flies out of my friend's net after he had been sweeping the lower branches of well-grown Scots pines along the edge of a plantation; the flies, both males, came off different trees. They were readily identified from Collin (1961, *British Flies* 6 (Empididae): 451, 544-5) as the above apparently rare and little-known species, whereof they clearly exhibit all the characters given. Collin (p. 545) records *Empis volucris* only from the New Forest and from Waterperry Wood on the Oxon./Bucks. border, mostly in July, and I have no note of any later capture. — A. A. ALLEN.

Current Literature

The natural history of butterflies by John Feltwell. 133pp. 24 figs. 20 colour photographs. Croom Helm 1986. £7.95 paperback, £12.95 boards.

At last a butterfly book with a difference! Written with the general naturalist in mind this book combines a wealth of information with an easy, narrative style.



Allen, Anthony Adrian. 1987. "Empis volucris Wied. (Dipt.) in Surrey." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 99, 136–136.

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