

MACROGLOSSUM STELLATARUM LINN. RECORDS FROM KENT IN 1973.—I have had reports of two adult Humming-bird Hawks this autumn from Kent. One flying around flowering lavender at Woodstock Farm, Sittingbourne, at midday on 20th September. The other was feeding from late flowering honeysuckle at 10.30 on Sunday, 23rd September near the railway station at Herne Bay.—Dr I. A. WATKINSON, 2 Fairleas, Sittingbourne, Kent.

ONCOCERA (SALEBRIA) OBDUCTELLA ZELLER ON NORTH DOWNS IN KENT.—On the evening of Wednesday, 1st August 1973 whilst dusking for *Pterophorus tridactyla* L. and *P. baliodactylus* Z. on the North Downs near here, I disturbed a small Pyralid moth from a large clump of marjoram. I quickly netted the insect but in the gathering dusk could not identify it with certainty. I tapped several nearby clumps of marjoram in the hope of disturbing further specimens, but my attention was soon back with *tridactyla* which were now beginning to fly (these plumes are easily caught in the twenty minutes or so of twilight before darkness prevents even these little buzzing moths, reminiscent of miniature ghost moths, from being seen).

On arriving home I was delighted to see that the Pyralid was as I hoped *Oncocera obductella*, an insect recorded remarkably seldom nowadays. This beautiful moth has always been almost entirely restricted to parts of the North Downs in Kent and I consider myself very fortunate to have taken it. A return to the locality a few days later produced no more specimens, but in this exposed habitat the weather was inclement on that particular evening. Huggins (*Entomologist*, 1929, p.193) quotes a similar finding of *obductella* on the North Downs and watched his specimen, a female, ovipositing. He revisited the same plants again early the next summer and found the larvae which he managed to rear to adults. I shall follow in his footsteps next year with as good a chance of success.—Dr I. A. WATKINSON, 2 Fairleas, Sittingbourne, Kent.

MIGRANT LEPIDOPTERA IN LINCOLNSHIRE IN 1973. — Apart from *Hyles gallii* Rott. this year has provided a number of interesting migrants.

Two *Herse convolvuli* were taken, the first on 17th August and the second on 4th September in a Robinson light trap placed near a large bed of *Nicotiana affinis* I had planted near here. A third was taken at Alford on 28th September.

A single *Macroglossum stellatarum* L. was seen at Willoughby, near Alford, on 26th September, at flowers of *Cerastigma* and was seen for a week.

Eurois occulta L. appeared at Woodhall on 28th July, a second one here on the 29th July and at the same time G. W. Haggett took three in his M.V. trap at Lissington, near Market Rasen.

A single *Lithomoia solidaginis* Hubn. was found on a wall near here on 22nd September.

Probably one of the most spectacular of invasions of Lepidoptera in the county for many years was witnessed by Keith Paine, one of the wardens at the Gibraltar Point Field Station who recorded the sight each day of very many hundreds (but not, he thinks, very many thousands) of *Vanessa atalanta* L. coming in over the sea over a front of about two miles. The invasion started on the 26th August and persisted until 6th September. It started to wane on 7th September and petered out on the following day. Those of use near here who were fortunate enough to have beds of *Sedum* and Michaelmas Daisies in our gardens were rewarded for many days by the company of large numbers of what must surely be one of Britain's most beautiful butterflies. — R. E. M. PILCHER, The Little Dower House, South Thoresby, nr. Alford, Lincs.

MACROLEPIDOPTERA IN WEST SUFFOLK IN 1973.—A surprising thing is the arrival of quite a number of fen moths at my m.v. trap run in the garden here, but where they come from I cannot find out. There are some damp meadows containing small streams and sedge etc. about a mile distant, but when I have worked these at night I found practically nothing, except in one meadow well over a mile away I found many *Archanara dissoluta* Tr. In my garden trap over the years I have found quite a number of *Thumatha senex* Hübn., one *A. geminipuncta* Haw. and a few each of the following: *A. dissoluta* Tr., *Mythimna obsoleta* Hübn., *M. pudorina* D. & S., *Senta flammea* Curtis and *Nonaeria typhae* Thunb.

Several people have said either on T.V. or in the newspapers that this year more butterflies than usual have been seen. My experience has been quite the opposite, and in regard to the Holly Blue (*Celastrinus argiolus* L.) I have not seen a single one in the garden where it is usually numerous. Nor have I seen any White-letter Hairstreaks (*Strymonidia w-album* Knoch), which were quite plentiful at private blossom last year, and when I also got a number of larvae in a nearby wood.

If any collectors come to this area in 1974, I should be very pleased if they would call and see me. Being now retired with a fair amount of spare time, and having explored the Fen and Breckland area for nearly 30 years, I could possibly produce some useful information. — REV. G. A. FORD, The Rookery Farmhouse, Norton, Bury St. Edmunds, 11.xii.1973.

MACROLEPIDOPTERA AT WATERLOOVILLE IN 1973.—It is worth recording a number of interesting captures for here this season particularly since the wood adjoining my garden is shortly to be cut down for housing. *Lymantria monacha* L. and *Trichiura crataegi* L. occur, *Tethea* or D. & S. and *Aspalia diluta* D. & S. I have seen in numbers and there is a strong colony of *Odontesia carmelita* Esp. I took my first *Euproctis chrysorr-*



Pilcher, R E M. 1974. "Migrant Lepidoptera in Lincolnshire 1973." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 86, 58–59.

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