1 September, ten of which appeared on 31 August; probably more would have been noted if the light had been in operation from the 2nd until the 16th September. The number was about the same in 1984, the specimens being seen from 26 August until 29 September, but the following year from 29 August to 29 September the number rose dramatically to eighty-one, including twelve on 8 September. The second brood was delayed in 1986, not appearing until 2 September, but continuing as late as 14 October, and the light was not operated from 3rd September until 12th September. Nevertheless a total of 43 specimens was noted, with a maximum of seven on September 23rd. One hundred specimens were seen at the light in 1987, including fourteen on September 4th and twelve on the 13th, in the period 20 August to 21 September.

The number of second brood *margaritata* has in several years exceeded the number of first brood specimens, and the number seen on one night is also greater in general, first brood moths usually appearing in ones or twos only. Very few of these second generation insects were found in the trap, like *Opisthograptis luteolata* L. they prefer to settle on the surrounding herbage. As the moths trapped, and those resting nearby, are transported for release to a site over a quarter of a mile away, with woodland in between, very few specimens make a return visit.

A final point of interest is that two of the plants upon which I have found the larvae here are not mentioned in the text books — sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), the former being a favourite pabulum in Kent. B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent.

BUTTERFLIES ROOSTING IN HOT WEATHER— The report by John Coutsis (*Ent. Rec.* **100**: 54) of hairstreaks roosting low down in very hot weather supports my own observations made on captive stocks being bred in an insectary. The species in question, which I was recently rearing in very large numbers, are *Pieris brassicae* L., *Vanessa atalanta* L. and *Cynthia cardui* L. It was quite striking how when the temperature exceeded 33-35°C all the butterflies ceased their normal activities of mating, ovipositing, feeding, or just sunning themselves in the case of the nymphalids, and descending to the floor of their cage. In a cage of height 3ft all would be on or within six inches of the floor whereas in normal circumstances some three-quarters of the total number of butterflies would be in the upper half of the cage. This effect has been noticed time and time again in the case of the *brassicae* which I have been rearing for very many years under all sorts of weather conditions.

Another observation on the *brassicae* is that on a few occasions when the hot spell has been prolonged and the temperature has exceeded 33°C for several hours each day, then any subsequent ova laid have been infertile. This temperature also happens to be the lethal point above

which larvae of this species do not survive. While other species will clearly have different temperature points which are lethal, it seems to me that this observation could well explain the decline of some species that has occurred in spite of (or because of) a spell of what may have seemed to us a particularly fine summer. BRIAN O.C. GARDINER, 18 Chesterton Hall Crescent, Cambridge CB4 1AP

ORGYIA ANTIQUA L., THE VAPOURER MOTH (LEP.: LYMANTRIIDAE) IN SHETLAND— at 20.00 hours on September 6th 1987, I was enjoying an evening stroll along the cliffs at Dale of Walls on the west coast of mainland Shetland. The weather was clear and sunny following several days of southerly winds. As I walked, a moth became entangled in my hair, which, on further examination, proved to be a male *antiqua*.

As far as I am aware, this moth has not been previously recorded from Shetland, but is widespread in the British Isles, being recorded to the North from Iceland, and to the south on mainland Orkney and Hoy, where it feeds on willow, rowan or even montbretia. My thanks are due to Mr D. Carstairs for confirming the identity of the moth, and to Mr R.I. Lorimer for his comments on its distribution. C. BARTON, 20 Kenilworth Road, Thornham, Rochdale OL16 4SF.

SCHRANKIA COSTAESTRIGALIS STEPHENS: PINION-STREAKED SNOUT (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN BRECONSHIRE.— Contrary to Mr A.D. Riley's note in *Ent. Rec.* **100**: 141-142, this species appears to have been first noted in Breconshire by R.G. Warren in the Valley of the Afon Pyrddin on July 25, 1952 (cf. Sankey-Barker, Chalmers-Hunt and Parker, *Butterflies and Moths of Breconshire* (1978), p.60).

Furthermore, there is an earlier record for Montgomeryshire of *Eupithecia trisignaria* H.-S. Thus, P.B.M. Allan records it from Aberhafesp in 1944 (cf. Smith, The Butterflies and Moths found in the County of Montgomery etc. *Proc. Chester Soc. nat. Sci. Lit. Art* **3**: 58 (1950)). J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT, 1 Hardcourts Close, West Wickham, Kent.

A MELANIC LYGDIA ADUSTATA L. (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) IN HAMPSHIRE— L.W. Newman obtained a feral melanic specimen at Bexley, Kent on 25.iii.1903 which was described and illustrated by E. Cockayne (*Entomologist* **83**: 53) as ab. *plumbosa,* and is now in the National Collection. There seems to have been no further record of this melanic which is deep bluish grey with the normal black markings visible as darker bands, until 29.iv.1987 when a specimen was attracted to my m.v. light at Brockenhurst, Hants. *L. adustata* is a species often noticed settled upon the upper side of leaves, appearing to resemble a bird dropping; melanic forms in such species are usually absent or very rare and would seem to confer no advantage to the species. B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent.