A Few Days on the Isle of Wight in June, 1976
By G. Summers*

On 9th June, 1976 I crossed on the ferry from Southampton to Cowes on my first visit to the Isle of Wight hoping to see *cinxia* in particular (a new species for me) and also to have a look at the lepidoptera in general. I stayed at Bonchurch and upon reaching my destination took an early opportunity to explore nearby St. Boniface Down and resolved to visit the Niton Undercliff for *cinxia* next day.

It was very windy on the day of my arrival but the remainder of my five-day stay was warm and sunny, with the exception of the 12th which was dull and misty. On this day I walked from Alum Bay to Freshwater, including Tennyson Down, and the unsuitable weather, although improving later, accounts for the paucity of records from this locality.

Other areas visited were Sandown, Shanklin, Blackgang, Brading Down and a further look at St. Boniface. I confined my activities to the south of the island, visiting no woodlands, and these factors have resulted in several omissions of butterfly species which were on the wing at this time of the year. The complete list follows hereunder.


*23 West Close, Stafford, Staffs. ST16 3TG.*
Adonis Blue (Lysandra bellargus Rott.). Appeared to be in similar numbers to icarus on St. Boniface Down. A few along the Undercliff. This and the previous species were almost exclusively found only in the areas where the larval foodplant grows in the localities mentioned. Small Copper (Lycaena phlaeas L.). Recorded on St. Boniface Down (four) and the Undercliff (two). Green Hairstreak (Callophrys rubi L.). Only one seen—imbibing at Bird’s-foot Trefoil along the Undercliff. Large White (Pieris brassicae L.). Recorded in all localities visited but in surprisingly small numbers. Some indication of increase at end of stay. Small White (Pieris rapae L.). Same remarks as for brassicae. The Green-veined White (Pieris napi L.) was not seen but may possibly have been overlooked although perhaps preferring different habitats from those visited. Dingy Skipper (Erynnis tages L.). Common on St. Boniface Down and recorded in smaller numbers along the Undercliff, with a few on Brading Down, at Freshwater and Bonchurch. Surprisingly the Grizzled Skipper (Pyrgus malvae L.) was not located. Large Skipper (Ochlodes venata Brem. & Grey). Common on St. Boniface Down and fairly common on Brading Down. A few along the Undercliff and at Freshwater and Bonchurch. Like tages particularly fond of brambles.

Although mainly looking for butterflies, I recorded any moths caught or otherwise positively identified.

Brading Down produced a beautiful female Cream-spot Tiger (Arctia villica L.) hiding in the long grass, a nicely marked Mother Shipton (Callistege mi Clerck), two Cinnabars (Tyria jacobaeae L.) and four Burnet Companions (Euclidia glyphica L.), whilst St. Boniface contributed a Small Elephant Hawk (Deilephila porcellus L.), again in the grass, two Yellow Shells (Camptogramma bilineata L.), a Heart and Dart (Agrotis exclamationis L.), three mi and about ten male Fox Moths (Macrotthyllacia rubi L.) in dashing flight across the Down. The last-named were active only on the windy day previously mentioned and none were seen on the second visit to St. Boniface Down when the weather was calm and sunny.

The dull day at Freshwater added only two bilineata and a look at the Spur Valerian in the evening at Bonchurch revealed a few Silver Y (Autographa gamma).

I left the island on the morning of 14th June, crossing from Yarmouth to Lymington to spend the next nine days in the New Forest.

The Beautiful Gothic (Leucochlaena oditis Hbn.: hispida Geyer) in Sussex in 1976. — I took a single example of this moth which had entered the m.v. light trap in my garden here on the 21st October. — R. R. Pickering, 123 Manor Way, Aldwick Bay Estate, Bognor Regis, Sussex. [This seems to be the furthest east occurrence in Britain of this local Devon and Dorset speciality, and the first record of this species for Sussex. I have seen the specimen and it is in quite good condition. — J.M.C.-H.]