

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

Galls on ash trees – with reference to my note in the *Proceedings* for 1983 (VII(8): 643) on the galls on ash trees caused by the mite *Eriophyes fraxinivorus* Nalepa, I had further sightings in both 1984 and 1985 on ash trees in the yard of West Mill, off the Carisbrooke Road, Newport, and on a single ash tree on the north side of Bowcombe Road, near Idlecombe Farm. The galls were formed on both male and female flowers at West Mill, while at Mottistone Mill they have all been on male flowers.
Dorothy Frazer, Brighstone.

Another record of the rare spider *Argiope bruennichi* – The rare spider *Argiope bruennichi* was rediscovered on the Island at Hampstead in 1979 (see *Proceedings* VII(4): 266). It has subsequently been found at Whippingham and Freshwater (see *Proceedings* VII(8): 645). In September 1984 a female of the species was photographed by Mr. T. Bullimore under the roof of the front porch of his house in School Green Road, Freshwater. It appears that this spider is well-established on the Island and further records of this spectacular white, black and yellow striped spider would be welcome.
Oliver Frazer, Brighstone.

The earliest red squirrel and dormouse in the British Isles – A recent paper describing the fossil faunas found in soils within the landslip debris in the Undercliff by Richard Preece records the presence of the oldest British fossil red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) and dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). The material came from soil horizons radiocarbon dated to nearly 4,500 years old.

From author's abstract.

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