

## April 2007 Insect Sightings - Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory

April 2007 was an outstanding month for butterflies, not least of all because of the remarkable number of species that emerged much earlier than previously recorded. Speckled Woods were found in three localities on the Estate in the first few days of the month and in warm weather on the 9th there were totals of 30 Peacocks, 7 Speckled Woods, 4 Small Whites, 2 Red Admirals, 2 Small Tortoiseshells and a Comma. Things continued in much the same vein for the next few days, with the first **Green-veined Whites** (at least 7) on New Downs on the 12th and in almost summer-like heat on the 16th the first 5 **Small Coppers** of the season; the earliest Observatory record by four days. The 22nd produced first records of **Small Heath** (very early by local standards), **Holly Blue** and **Orange Tip**, a **Clouded Yellow** appeared on the 23rd, after an influx into the county over the previous two days, and a small influx of **Red Admirals** was apparent on the 26th, with at least 15 Small Coppers and 30 Speckled Woods on the Estate. A **Common Blue** on the 27th was the earliest record for the Observatory by nearly two weeks; well in advance of the previous earliest date of May 9th, and the 30th brought a **Brown Argus**, also well ahead of the previous earliest on May 17th, and our first **Wall Brown**.

Running the moth trap for the first time on the night of the 5th produced ten moths the next morning, including single **Muslin Moth** and **Early Grey** and 2 each of **Red Chestnut** and **Clouded Drab**.

Further activity on the night of the 8th produced an **Engrailed**, a **Herald** and a **Small Quaker**, with several commoner species in a total of 16 moths, and among 22 trapped on the night of the 9th were **Chocolate-tip** (*photo*



*by Tim Hodge* on right), a late **March**

**Moth**, a **Hebrew Character**, another **Early**

**Grey** and 6 **Clouded Drabs**. A **Flame Shoulder**, a **Muslin Moth** and a **Bright Line Brown Eye** were trapped along with 11 **Common Quakers** on the night of the 14th. 15 moths were extracted on the morning of the 18th, including an **Oblique Striped** (*photo by Tim*

*Hodge below*

) - a speciality of dunes in the Deal and Sandwich area - 6 **Powdered Quakers**, a **Clouded Drab**, 6 **Hebrew Characters** and a **Common Quaker**.



