

April 2009

## BUTTERFLIES

The first transect walk of the season around the Estate on the 5th produced only Peacocks, but a walk along Worth track on the 6th was notable for the first **Speckled Wood** of the year, 8 Peacocks, a Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Green-veined Whites. By the Easter weekend there were at least 30 Peacocks on the Estate and Worth, a **Large White** was seen on the 12th and our first **Orange Tip** fluttered past the Observatory on the 14th. A **Holly Blue** and a **Small Copper** were seen on the 15th - the Small Copper is the earliest recorded at the Bay, beating its previous earliest date (in 2007) by one day. There were also 14 Speckled Woods and 2 Orange Tips on the Estate and at least 40 Peacocks around the wider area. The first **Small Heath** of the season was seen on New Downs on the 28th and a walk along Worth track on the 29th revealed an excellent total of 18 Orange Tips, which appear to be enjoying a very good spring throughout East Kent.

## MOTHS



Hodgson).

10 species were trapped overnight on the 9th, among which were an early **Sharp-angled Peacock**, a **Pine Beauty**, a lovely **Swallow Prominent** (photograph, on left, by Ian Hodgson) and a **Herald**. The theme of early emergences continued with a **Muslin** on the 12th and a **Bright-line Brown-eye** the next day, which also featured a **Early Tooth-striped**, which appears not to have been recorded previously at the Bay. The first 2 **Brimstone Moths** of the year were at the Observatory window on the 16th and despite a return to cool weather a superb female **Emperor Moth** appeared in the Whitehouse on the 18th (photograph on right by Ian

Only 20 moths were extracted after a trapping session on the 23rd, continuing the theme of rather low numbers, but they did include a Pine Beauty and this **Broad-barred White** (photograph, below, by Ian Hodgson). This is another species that should be on the wing from late May, according to the literature. The event of the month was the discovery by Francis Solly of a specimen of *Grapholita internana* along the Ancient Highway - only the second site in Kent where it has been found since 1954!



