

**March 2009**

## **BUTTERFLIES**

Even in a colder winter than we've become used to, intermittent warm spells provoked the appearance of **Red Admiral** on January 26th and **Peacock** on February 23rd.

In March, two **Small Tortoiseshells** were seen on the 2nd, the first **Comma** was found basking in the Elms on the 8th and in warm sunshine on the 16th four Commas, three Peacocks and two Small Tortoiseshells were recorded. Although unsettled weather took over for a week or so in between the season's first **Small White** at Mary Bax on the 21st and the first **Green-veined White** on the 31st, there were records of butterflies on 15 days during the month, compared to only 3 in 2008 and 9 in 2007.

## **MOTHS**

A **Satellite** was recorded at the observatory on March 12th and in a trapping session on the 20th a **Twin-spot Quaker** was extracted from the the trap.

There was also a notable emergence of **Dark-edged Bee-flies** in mid March, with 30 or so scattered about in sheltered areas of the Estate.

