

August 2009



Although numbers in the first week of August were not as large as in the previous month, new species for the year continued to occur, including **Bulrush, Silky and Twin-spotted Wainscots, The Crescent, Straw Underwing, Crescent Striped**, the striking **Canary-shouldered Thorn, The Fern and Barred Rivulet**, while an overnight session on the 9th added **Lunar Underwing and Marbled Beauty**, bringing the macro species total for the year so far to an excellent 300. However, the moth of the year was trapped overnight on the 10th - a **FOUR-SPOTTED** (photo, on left, by Ian Hodgson) was

probably only the fifth Kent record since 1962. A Bordered Pug, 2 Bulrush Wainscots and another Tree-lichen Beauty were also recorded and on the 11th a **Ni Moth** - a new species for the Observatory - and a **Tawny Shears** were trapped, bring the macro total for the year to 304.

Notable and new species on the 14th included Bordered Straw, **Frosted Orange** and **Six-striped Rustic** and highlights over the next few nights included 676 Common Wainscots and a **Tawny-speckled Pug** on the 15th, 515 Setaceous Hebrew Characters and 133 Large Yellow Underwings on the 16th, our first **Red Underwing** of the year on the 21st and **Dusky Thorn** (photo, below, by Ian Hodgson) and **Scarce Bordered Straw** on the 22nd, bringing the total of macros recorded this year to a Bay record of 310.

The following night a **Suspected** was trapped, though numbers were generally lower, and in a session on the 26th a very smart **Feathered Gothic** and a **Hedge Rustic** were recorded.. A series of clear, chilly nights ensured that the end of the month was relatively quiet, but on the 29th 3 **Large Thorns** were trapped and a beautiful **Peach Blossom** was seen on the Observatory building; the first for the year despite several individuals having been recorded less than a mile away. A **Large Wainscot** was trapped on the 30th, bring the year's macro total to an outstanding 316.

