

June 2009



Although not exactly an uncommon sight it was nice to begin the month with at least a hundred *Nemophora degeerella* in the Elms and adjacent gullies (photo on left, by Ian Hodgson), dancing over shaded patches of nettles.

The 2nd, possibly the last warm night for a while, produced 184 moths of 47 species. Although not much was new, we did capture a **Cream-spot Tiger** and a **Shears**, both in pristine condition, and a migrant **Bordered Straw** was found in the Cellars on the 4th. New species for the year on the 5th, in a total of 243 moths of 36 species, included **Heart and**

Club and Double Square Spot. Although numbers were lower the following night, new species continued to appear, including **Elephant Hawkmoth**, **Eyed Hawkmoth**, **Slender Pug** and, best of all, an **Obscure Wainscot**, bringing the number of macros recorded this year to 138. In warm sunshine on the 8th an **Oblique Striped** was found on the seafront and the first **Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnets** were evident on New Downs.

On the 9th, in warm, humid conditions, following overnight rain, there was the extraordinary sight of at least 7 (seven) **Rannoch Loopers**, mostly in the Big Gully with one in the adjacent Waldershare Gully. The next day 2 remained in the gullies and another was trapped just outside the Estate, making at least 13 that have been attracted to light between Thanet and Folkestone - an unprecedented influx of a species that has never previously been recorded at the Bay. A catch of 123 moths on the 11th, including **Campion** and **Clouded Bordered Brindle** was a prelude to an excellent session the following night, in which over 450 were trapped, in a total of over 80 species. New and notables included a **Rannoch Looper** (over 30 have now been trapped between Thanet and Folkestone in the last couple of weeks), a **Goat Moth**, a very attractive **Bird's Wing**, **Barred Straw**, **Treble Brown Spot**, a **Meal Moth** and **Single Dotted Wave**. Even this was put into the shade on a warm, humid 13th when 976 moths of 112 species were trapped. They included **Ringed China-mark**, 14 Small Elephant Hawkmoths, 12 **Reddish Light Arches** and pristine examples of **Water Ermine** and **Scorched Wing**. Even then things didn't settle down entirely, with 2 **Forester Moths** on the Estate in the afternoon. It's a good job the birding is quiet!

An overnight session on the 19th and some ancillary netting during the daytime brought the total of macros recorded so far this year to 173, including first records of **Dotted Fan-foot**, **Small Seraphim**, **White-line Dart** and **L-album Wainscot**, plus a very smart **Blackneck**. The 22nd produced a total of 731 moths of 96 species, including firsts in the shape of **Maple Prominent**, **Barred Yellow**, **Buff-tip**, **Sallow Kitten**, **Ghost Moth**, **Mottled Pug**, an early **Archer's Dart** and a **Pygmy Footman**, while notable micros included a **Synaphe punctalis**. On a windy 23rd a **Mathew's Wainscot** was attracted to an actinic on Restharrow Scrape and despite similar conditions the following night a catch of 290 moths included a **Dwarf Cream Wave**, a **Kent Black Arches** and notable micros in the shape of *Phalonidia manniana* and *Lozotaenioides formosanus*, while a *Sitochroa palealis* was snaffled during daylight on the 25th. That night, traps in the Elms and at the Observatory caught 380 moths, including a beautiful **Large Emerald**, notable records of **Rosy Wave** and **Ruddy Carpet** and our first **Magpie** and **Marbled White-spot** of the year, taking our total of macros beyond 190, a total that was complemented considerably by

Francis Solly running an MV in the Whitehouse. Notable captures there included **Leopard Moth**, **Poplar Lutestring**, **Small Scallop**, **July Highflyer**, **Scallop Shell**, **Haworth's Pug**, **Double Lobed** and **Plain Golden y**.

The night of the 26th produced a very good catch of over 850 moths from just one MV trap, including a **Poplar Kitten**, a **Dot Moth**, a sudden influx of 37 **Bird-cherry Ermines**, **Buff Arches**, **Apple Ermine** and a **Mouse Moth**. The month ended with 2 Hummingbird Hawkmoths along the shore on the 30th and 669 moths in an overnight session at the Observatory and Elms that included 3 **Scalloped Oak**, a **Sycamore**, a **Scarce Footman**, a **Dun-bar**, a **Privet Hawkmoth**, a **Ruby Tiger**, a smart **Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** and a notable local speciality in the shape of a **Silver Barred**, bringing to 221 the total of macros recorded thus far in the year.