

Sept 2009

Breezy conditions and a clear, moonlit sky ensured a quiet session on the 5th but the following night nearly 800 moths were trapped, including our first 2 **Centre-barred Sallows** of the year, and a **Pinion-streaked Snout** was lured on the 6th. Although numbers and variety began to diminish over the next few nights as the NE breeze picked up, an **Autumnal Rustic** was recorded on the 11th, a rather late *Cynaeda dentalis* was trapped on the 12th and a **Brick** was recorded on the 16th. Colour-marking of larger moths in the run-up to National Moth Night proved very interesting; of 544 moths that were marked (mostly Large Yellow Underwings), only 26 were re-trapped, suggesting a considerable turnover of insects. Although conditions continued to be difficult, with a much reduced variety, National Moth Nights coincided with much calmer conditions and **Mallow**, **Sallow**, **Pink-barred Sallow**, **Barred Sallow**, **Black Rustic** and **Feathered Ranunculus** were all new species for the year in a catch of 753 moths on the 18th and a most impressive **Convolvulus Hawkmoth** was extracted amid much excitement on the 19th. The 20th was also productive, with **Blair's Shoulder-knot** and **Deep Brown Dart** bringing the number of macro species trapped this year to 329, while the total of 486 moths included a notable 175 Lunar Underwings.

A rewarding session on the 23rd produced 789 moths, among which were new emergences in the shape of **Red Line Quaker**, **Beaded Chestnut**, **Dusky-lemon Sallow** and **Feathered Brindle**, while 265 Square-spot Rustics were also trapped, and a **Lesser Treble-bar** was trapped overnight on the 25th; apparently a first at the Observatory. Although the month concluded rather quietly, the 30th produced notable new species in **Orange Sallow** and **Oak Lutestring**; both species rarely, if ever, recorded at the Bay.