

June 2011

Heart and Club was the first new macro species for the month on the 1st and 3 **Narrow-bordered Six Spot Burnets** were in the Whitehouse on the 2nd; a good two weeks earlier than usual. Strong NE winds precipitated a large influx of **Rannoch Loopers** on the south coast on the 3rd, our share of which was a rather measly two, along with a **Pygmy Footman**, and despite the onset of unsettled weather, new species continued to show, with a **Southern Wainscot** on the 4th and, on the 6th, in a total of 290 moths of 71 species, **Dun-bar**, a female **Ghost Moth**, a **White-line Dart**, a **Single-dotted Wave** and an **Uncertain**. Despite rather cool conditions, the 7th brought a **Pine Hawkmoth**, a **Dingy Shears** and a male **White Satin Moth**; a formerly common species that has now been recorded only twice since 1988. **Mullein Wave** was caught on the 8th, **Lead-coloured Pug** was found in the Oasis on the 11th and new day-fliers included **Restharrow** on the 12th and our first **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** of the year on the 14th.

Although conditions remained unsettled, new species continued to show up, including **Barred Straw** and **Water Ermine** on the 13th, **July Highflier**, **Magpie** and **Green Pug** the next night and, in a catch of 454 moths on the 15th, **Privet Hawk-moth**, **Barred Yellow**, **Small Dusty Wave**, **Dotted Fan-foot**, **Kent Black Arches** and **Mottled Beauty**, after **Shaded Broad-bar** had been found on the Hundred Acre Field earlier the same day. The next few nights produced **Drinker**, **Sycamore**, **Buff Arches** and **Dingy**

Footman; our 201st macro species of the year. **Smoky Wainscot** and **Slender Pug** were recorded on the 20th and **Scalloped Oak** on the 22nd.

A significant change took place with the onset of hot, settled weather on the 25th. A trapping session overnight produced four new species for the year in **Clouded Brindle** (only the fifth for the Bay), **Miller**, **Bright Wave** and **Splendid Brocade** and on a hot, sultry night on the 26th no fewer than 16 new macros for the year were recorded, the best of which were

Blue-bordered Carpet (only the 4th record for the Bay), a **Silver Barred** and this beautiful **ORACHE**; the first ever at the Observatory (photo on the right by Ian Hodgson). This excellent spell continued on the 27th with the addition of 12 more macro species for the year, including the Bay's first record of **SCARCE SILVER LINES** (photo below by Ian Hodgson) , the very scarce immigrant **Concolorous**, which has been recorded here only once before, **Ruddy Carpet**, a pristine **Swallow-tailed Moth**, **Wood Carpet** and the striking green *prasinaria* form of **Barred Red**. 7 more new macros for the year on the 28th included **Blackneck**, the migrant **Small Mottled Willow**, **Treble Brown Spot** and **Langmaid's Yellow**





Underwing. A **Forester** was found during daylight on the 29th, a trapping session later that night produced new species in **Vestal** and **Least Carpet** and continuing evidence of immigration from the south came from the presence of 8 Hummingbird Hawk-moths along the shore on the 30th. Although the final night of the month was relatively cool and quiet, it still produced the first **Small Dotted Buff** for the year, bringing the macro total so far to 246.