

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

(www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk)



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve

June 2014 News Bulletin

1. View of the Reserve pond on the 29th of June.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greylag Goose, Grey Heron, House Martin, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Swallow, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wren.



Goldcrest

b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Fox, Mole, Otter, Pipistrelle Bat, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Wood Mouse.

c. Other wildlife

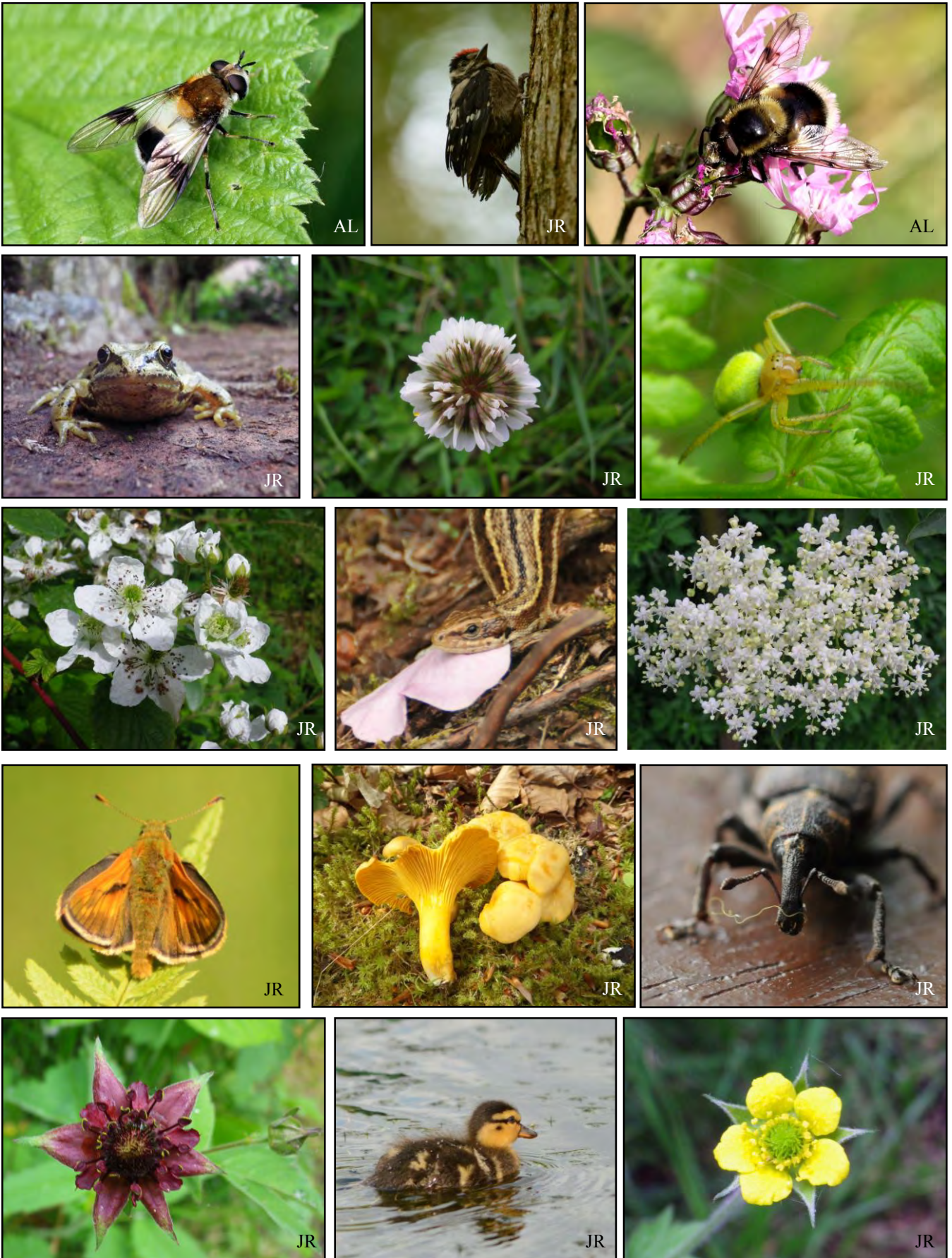
Ashy/Grey Mining, and Carder Bees, Buff-tailed and Tree Bumblebees, Green Dock Leaf and Speckled Longhorn Beetles, Green-veined White, Large Skipper, Large White, Meadow Brown, Orange-tip, Red Admiral, Ringlet, and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies, Azure, Blue-tailed, Common Blue, Large Red, and Variable damselflies, Hoverflies (*Leucozona lucorum* and *Volucella bombylans*), Green Lacewing, Drinker and Cinnabar moth caterpillars, Brimstone, Chimney Sweeper, Clouded Border, Common Carpet, Four-dotted Footman, Nettle-tap and Straw Dot moths, Birch and Hawthorn Sawfly larvae, Scorpion fly, Stonefly, Wasp, Pine Weevil, Grasshopper, Green Spider, Black Slug, Stickleback, Frog, Toad, Common Lizard.



Tree Bumblebee
(*Bombus hypnorum*)

Photographs by Sybille Spägle (SS), Andrina and Raymond Laidler (AL), Internet (I).

3. June Photo-gallery



L to R & top to bottom: Hoverfly (*Leucozona lucorum*), Great Spotted Woodpecker chick, Hoverfly (*Volucella bombylans*), Frog, White Clover, Green Spider (*Araniella cucurbitina*), Bramble blossom, Common Lizard, Elder Flowers, Large Skipper, Chanterelles, Pine Weevil, Marsh Cinquefoil, Duckling, Wood Avens.

Photographs by Andrina and Raymond Laidler (AL), Jim Rae (JR)

4. Planned Activities in June.

1st – Visit by Dryfesdale, Hutton and Corrie Sunday School

The children took part in three activities. They examined moths and wee woodland beasts that had been trapped in the Reserve during the previous night and had a go at pond dipping.



The organisms caught included:

a. Moths

Bordered White	1	Peach Blossom	2
Brimstone	1	Pebble Prominent	1
Broken-barred Carpet	2	Peppered Moth	2
Brown Silver-line	1	Poplar Hawkmoth	4
Campion	1	Scalloped Hazel	4
Clouded Border	7	Scorched Wing	6
Common Marbled Carpet	3	Silver Ground Carpet	1
Common Wave	3	Small Fan-foot	1
Flame Carpet	2	Small Phoenix	6
Grey Pine Carpet	3	Small Square-spot	1
Map-winged Swift	1	Spectacle	1
Nut-tree Tussock	10	Spruce Carpet	1
Oblique Carpet	3	Swallow Prominent	1
Pale Prominent	3	Welsh Wave	1
Pale-shouldered Brocade	3	White Ermine	12



Peach Blossom



Spectacle



Pebble Prominent

b. Pond Animals

Pond snails & their eggs, pea mussels, water mites, midge larvae, caddis larvae, alderfly nymphs, damselfly nymphs, mayfly nymphs, diving beetles, water beetles, beetle larvae, water scorpion, greater and lesser water boatmen, pond skater, toad and frog tadpoles and sticklebacks.



Harvestman



Damselfly nymph

c. Woodland Mini-beasts

Ladybird, ground beetles, rove beetles, soldier beetles, ground bugs, stonefly, snipe fly, flower bug, insect larvae, insect pupae, springtails, caterpillars, spiders, harvestmen, millipedes, centipedes, woodlice, slugs and worms.

Photographs by Jim Rae

29th – Visit by Mark Pollit and several members of the British Plant Gall Society.

On a relatively short visit to the Reserve, these experts identified a wide range of plant galls. I will receive a full report in due course. Here are a few of the galls that were pointed out to me.

Gall 1:



The upper and lower surface of a Marsh Violet leaf infected by the autoecious rust, *Puccinia violae*.

Note: Autoecious means passing through all life stages on the same host.

Gall 2:



The Moth Head or Knotting Gall on Broad Buckler Fern.

The gall is caused by the dipteran fly *Chirosia betuleti*. The fly lays its eggs in the unfurling fronds. The larva mines the apex of the fern frond causing the tip of the frond to curl and roll inwards and upwards to form a loose but obvious knot or mop-head structure.

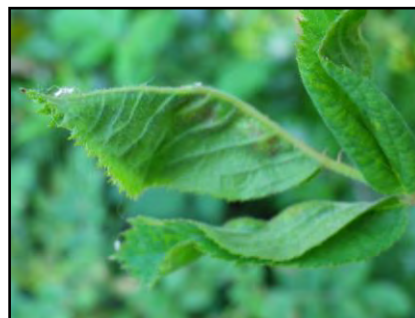
Gall 3:



Gall on an Oak leaf bud.

This is caused by the gall wasp *Andricus paradoxus (albopunctatus)*.

Gall 4:



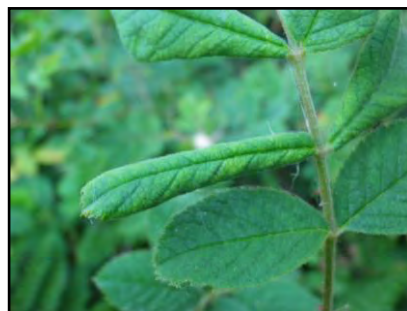
This leaf-fold pod gall on the Dog Rose is caused by the Rose-leaf Midge, *Dasineura rosae*.

Gall 5:



Anther Smut on the Lesser Stitchwort is caused by the fungus *Microbotryum stellariae*. The flower on the right has normal healthy anthers while the one on the left is infected by the fungus.

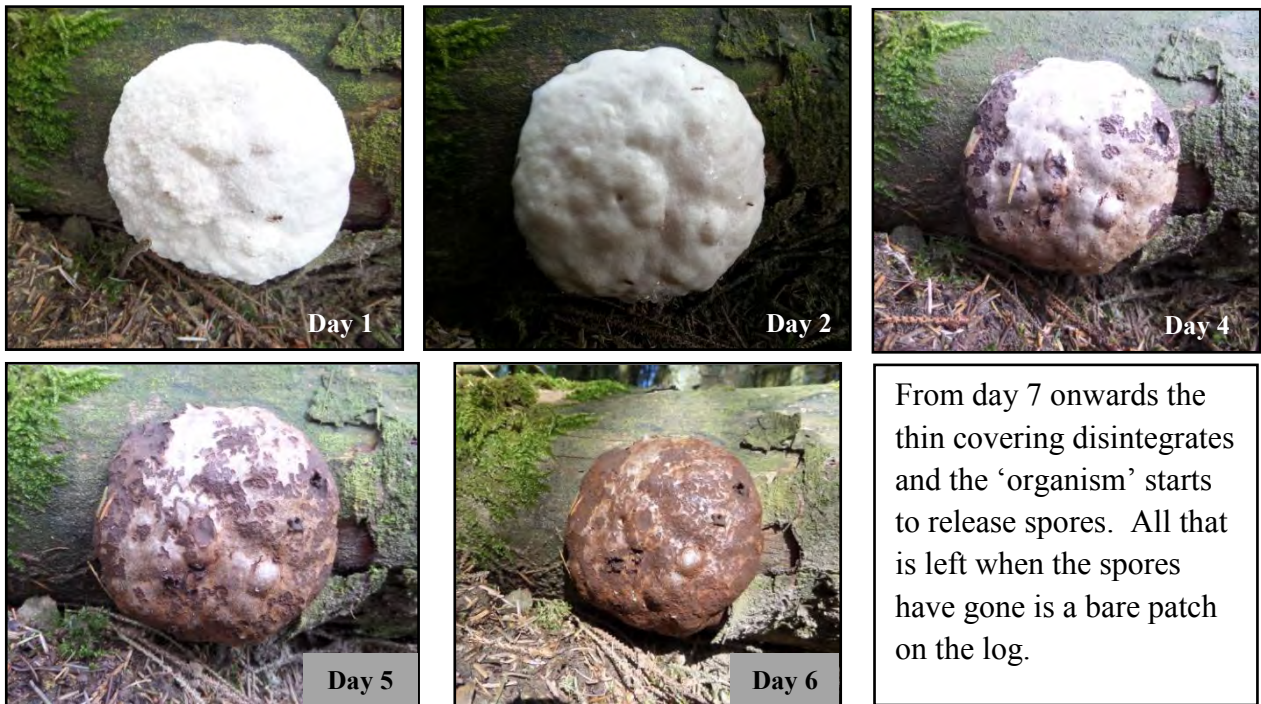
Gall 6:



This leaf-roll gall on the Dog Rose is caused by the Rose-leaf Sawfly, *Blennocampa phyllocolpa*.

5. Development of the Plasmodial Slime Mould - *Enteridium reticularia* (*lycoperdon*).

Over the last three months several patches of this interesting slime mould have appeared on dead wood and each has completed the plasmodial phase of its life cycle in around 18 days.



Photographs by Jim Rae

When the spores germinate, the emergent cell can be amoeboid or a swarm cell with a flagellum (a whip like tail for motility). These are inter-changeable depending on the moisture level. If stressed (e.g. dry out) they can form micro-cysts rather like reverting back to spores.

When conditions are favourable, two amoebae/swarm cells can combine into one cell becoming a double nucleate single cell. This then combines with many other cells to become multinucleate. At this stage, if stressed, they can form a resilient resting stage (sclerotia) to await better times.

Eventually millions combine to form a single, multi-nucleate plasmodium, often seen as yellow veins on timber. Under the microscope these can be seen to pulsate as they absorb nutrients and transport them around the plasmodium.

When conditions are right, the plasmodium aggregates into a mass, as in the image labelled Day 1, and the mass turns into the fruiting body. The internal nuclei form spores and, as the fruiting body dries out and falls apart, the ripe spores are blown away and the whole cycle starts again.

6. Two residents of the heathland area.



Common Lizard



Grasshopper

Photographs by Bob Fitzsimmons

7. Maintenance work during June.

Many thanks to Pamela Beeton, Ian Dunn, Drew Stewart, Althaia and Justine Somerville, Crispin McCreery, Robert Petry, Sybille Spägele and Thomas Gibb for their help with routine maintenance work during the month.

Thanks also to Colin McLean, Neil McLean and Denny who helped Jim put long sleepers in place to support a bridge over the outflow burn. Colin also kindly donated some planks for the top of the bridge.



Sun. 29th Trust Maintenance Day - Jim worked with Sybille Spägele to clear the islands before the Rosebay Willowherb started to disperse its seeds.



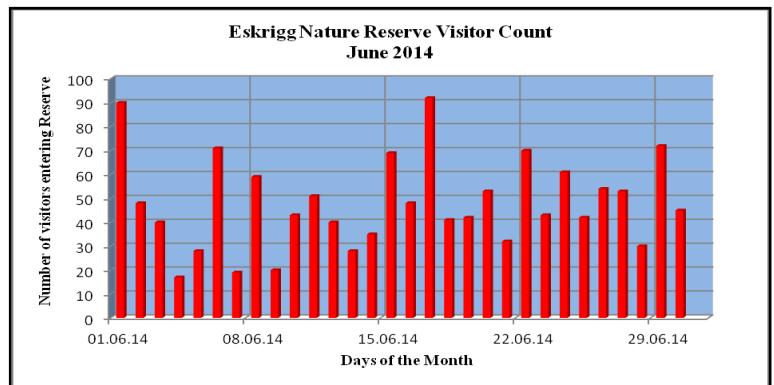
before

after

Photographs by Sybille Spägele (SS) and Jim Rae (JR)

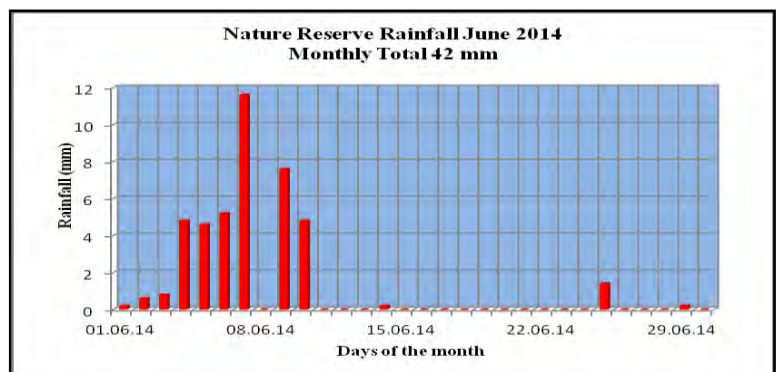
8. Visitor Records

Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
Jan. 2014	1546	50
Feb. 2014	1285	46
Mar. 2014	1760	57
Apr. 2014	1911	64
May 2014	1833	59
June 2014	1436	48



9. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
Jan. 2014	195
Feb. 2014	199.2
Mar. 2014	135
Apr. 2014	89.6
May 2014	88.8
June 2014	42



For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

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