

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

May 2015 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. View of pond taken on the 14th of May.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in May.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blackcap, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Cormorant, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Grasshopper Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren.

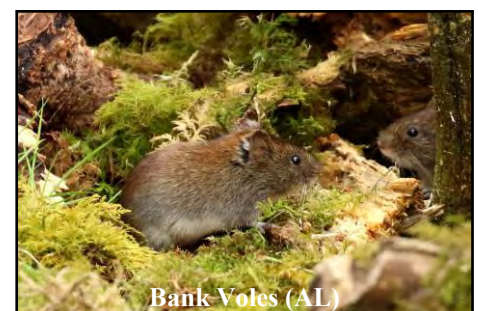
b. Mammals

Badger (road kill), Bank Vole, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Wood Mouse.



c. Other Vertebrates

Common Lizard, Frog, Toad, Smooth Newt, Stickleback.

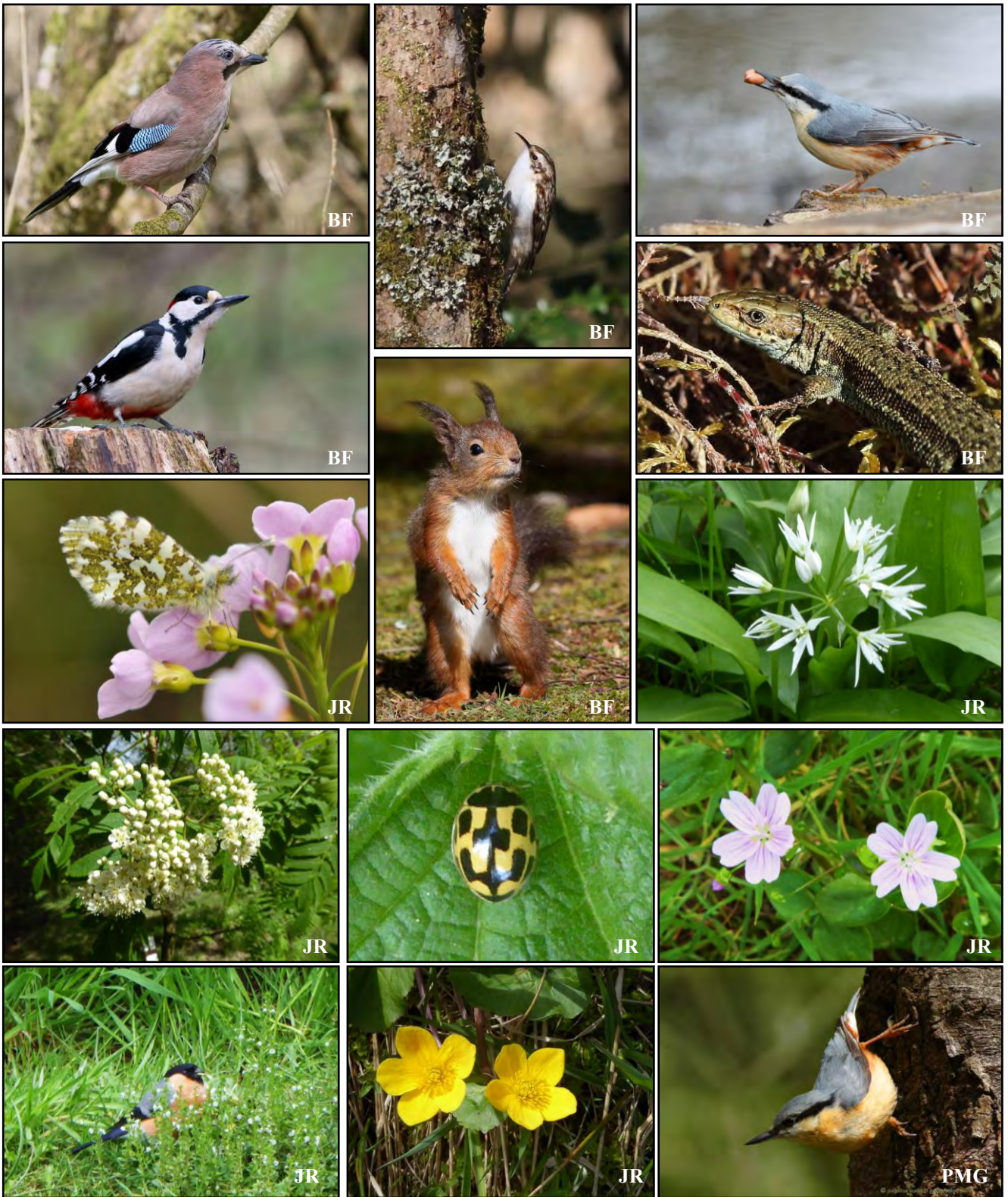


d. Invertebrates

Black Slug, Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Carder Bee, Orange-tip, Green-veined White & Peacock Butterflies, 7-spot & 14-spot Ladybirds, Spiders, Wasp.

Photographs: Pauline Mellor Greenhalgh (PMG), Andrina Laidler (AL).

3. May photo-gallery



Row 1 - Jay, Treecreeper, Nuthatch.

Row 2 – Great Spotted Woodpecker, Common Lizard.

Row 3 – Orange-tip Butterfly on Cuckoo Flower, Red Squirrel, Wild Garlic.

Row 4 – Rowan Blossom, 14-spot Ladybird, Pink Purslane.

Row 5 – Bullfinch eating dandelion seeds, Marsh Marigold, Nuthatch.

Photographs: Bob Fitzsimmons (BF), Pauline Mellor Greenhalgh (PMG), Jim Rae (JR).

4. Volunteer Work Duke of Edinburgh Award Volunteers



2nd May



16th May



30th May

On May 2nd, Angus Johnstone, Patrick Malone, Keir Stewart and Michael Kerr helped to fill in the potholes on the forest road before selecting timber to line the new path (Beech Walk). On May 9th, Angus helped cut and remove some of the tree roots along the developing Beech Walk. On May 16th, Angus, Keir, Patrick and Rory Holden cleared tree roots and barrowed in some type 1 sub-base for the path. On the 30th Keir, Rory, Michael and Angus put a fresh topping of fine grit over parts of the path through the Reserve.

At various points during the month Sybille Spägle helped with the ongoing pathwork.

Sun. 31st - Maintenance Day

This event was cancelled this month because Jim had another engagement.

5. Planned Activities

Thu. 7th – Visit by St Mungo Primary School.

Bob Glaister kindly helped by supervising the Woodland Minibeast Activity while David Hughes took charge of the Clock Orienteering and Jim organised the Pond Dipping. The youngsters had a great time, learned a lot and sent a very large thank-you poster which is displayed in the Eskrigg Centre.



Tue. 12th – Visit by Eaglesfield Primary 3, 4, & 5.

Bob and David helped to run a similar set of activities for these pupils.

Together the two schools found the following animals:

Pond Animals

Pond snails, pond snails' eggs in jelly, pea mussels, horse leeches, gnat pupae, midge larvae, caddis flies, cased caddis larvae, damselfly nymphs, mayfly nymphs, water boatmen, lesser water boatmen, alderflies, alderfly nymphs, great diving beetles, great diving beetle larvae, assorted other water beetles, water mites, freshwater shrimps, frog and toad tadpoles and three-spined sticklebacks.

Woodland Animals

Earthworms, slugs (4 sp.), snails (2 sp.) woodlice, centipedes, millipedes (2 sp.), springtails, insect larvae and pupae (7 sp.), flies, plant bugs, bumblebees, rove beetles, ground beetles (5 sp.), longhorn beetles, ladybirds, web spiders, wolf spiders, spiders' eggs, harvestmen, frogs, toads and newts.



Common Frog



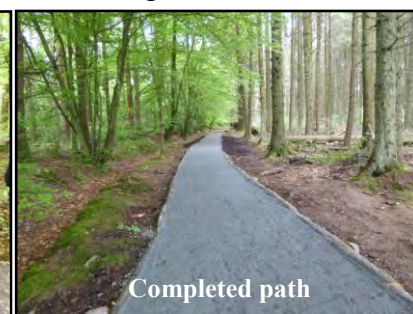
Sausage Ground Beetle

Photographs: Jim Rae

6th, 11th, 13th, 18th, 20th and 25th May – Lockerbie Academy students



Senior pupils from Lockerbie Academy, who were working to achieve a **John Muir Trust Award**, visited the Reserve on six occasions during the month in order to carry out a range of activities. Firstly, they completed the Eskrigg Explorer Challenge in order to familiarise themselves with the Reserve. Secondly, they were required to carry out some wildlife surveys and elected to study pond and woodland invertebrates. Thirdly, they assisted with maintenance work by treating the timber structures with wood preservative. Lastly, they had to do something to help improve the area and chose to replace a muddy section of woodland walk with a hardcore path that would not only make access easier for visiting ramblers and dog walkers but allow the adjacent woodland habitat to regenerate.



I would like to thank Frank Gibson, Bob Glaister, David Hughes and George Trudt for their assistance in supervising the school groups. A big thank you to the students and staff from Lockerbie Academy.

21st May - May Moths

Thanks to those who helped identify the following moths:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Pinewood	Pond Fringe
Clouded Drab	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	0	2
Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	0	1
Engrailed	<i>Ectropis crepuscularia</i>	4	3
Grey Birch	<i>Aethalura punctulata</i>	2	0
Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	3	8
Nut-tree Tussock	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	4	7
Pale Prominent	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>	0	1
Small Phoenix	<i>Eliptopera silaceata</i>	2	0
Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera firmata</i>	0	1
Streamer	<i>Anticlea derivata</i>	1	0
V-pug	<i>Cloroclystis v-ata</i>	0	1
Water Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	2	0

Photographs: Jim Rae

For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)
Address: Carradale, 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, DG11 2DZ.
Home Tel.: 01576 203 314 / Mobile No.: 07739 987 009
Email: jim.rae2012@gmail.com