

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Eskrigg Reserve

July 2014 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. View of the Reserve pond on the 13th of July.

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in July.



a. Birds

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, House Martin, House Sparrow, 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.

b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Common Shrew, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Stoat, Weasel, Wood Mouse.

c. Other wildlife

Leech, Pond Snail, Black Slug, Alderfly, Caddis Fly, Cleg, Green-veined White, Large White, Peacock, Red Admiral, Ringlet, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Tortoiseshell and Small White Butterflies, Peacock caterpillar, Macro-moths - Brown China-mark, Clouded Border, Common Wainscot, Common White Wave, July Highflyer, Spruce Carpet, and Straw Dot, Micro-moths – Alder Leaf-miner, Honeysuckle Leaf-miner, *Scoparia ambigualis*, Cinnabar caterpillar, Azure, Blue-tailed, Common Blue and Large Red Damselflies, Common Darter Dragonfly, Buff-tailed, Early, Gypsy Cuckoo and Tree Bumblebees, Yellow-horned Nomadic Bee, Grasshopper, Common Froghopper or Meadow Spittlebug, Green Leafhopper, Bronze, Hawthorn and Red-legged Shieldbugs, Hoverflies - *Leucozona lucorum*, *Eristalis pertinax*, Marmalade Fly and Sunfly, Soldier Beetle, 7-spot Ladybird, Mirid Bug (*Grypocoris sexguttatus stysi*), Wasp, Garden Spider, Green Spider, Leaf-curling Sac Spider, Frog, Toad, Common Lizard, Minnow, Three-spined Stickleback.

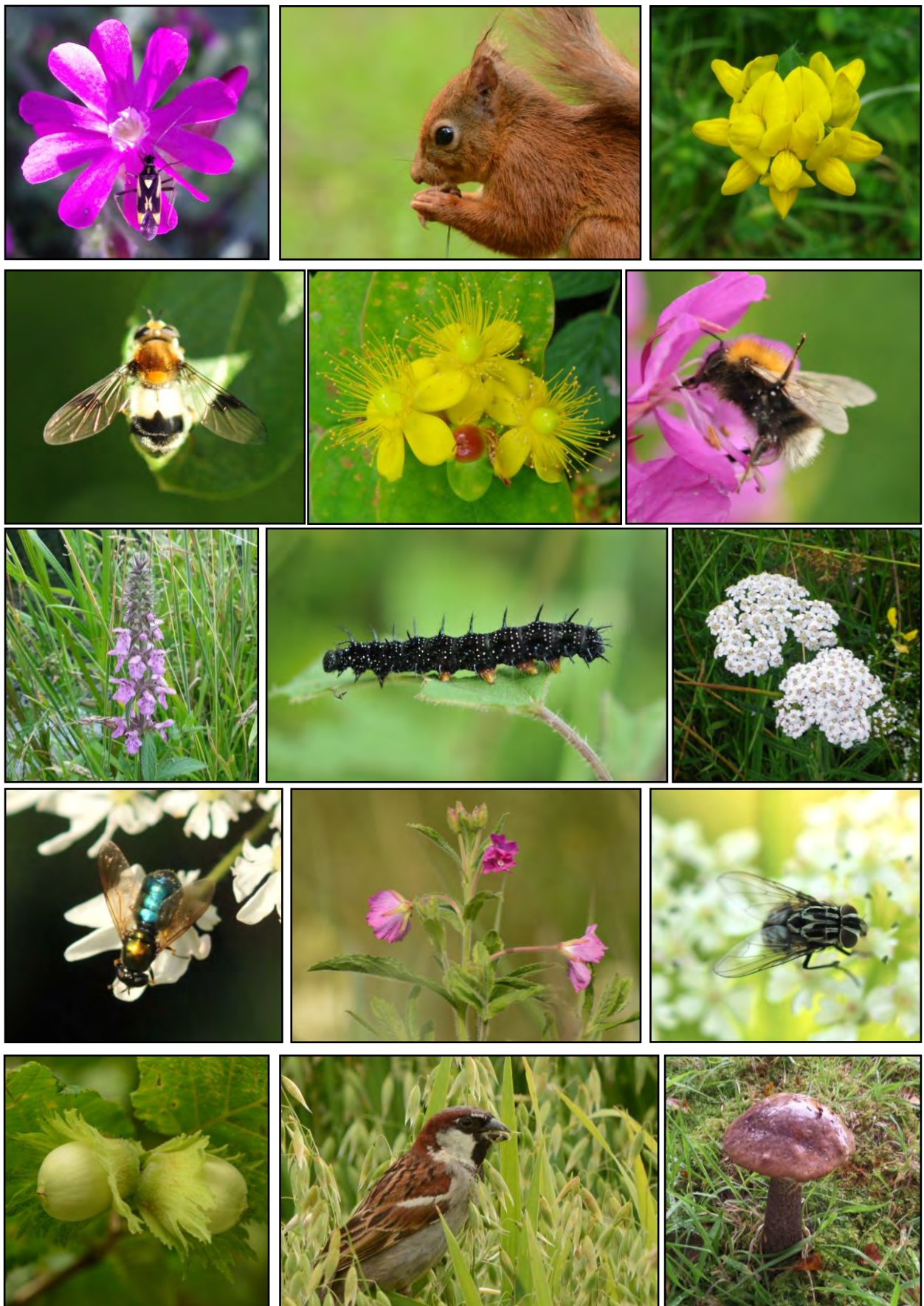


(m) Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebees (f)



Bronze Shieldbug (5th instar)

3. July Photo-gallery



Row 1: Mirid Bug (*Grypocoris sexguttatus*) on Red Campion, Red Squirrel, Bird's-foot Trefoil.
 Row 2: Hoverfly (*Leucozona lucorum*), Tutsan flowers, Tree Bumblebee.
 Row 3: Marsh Woundwort, Peacock caterpillar, Yarrow.
 Row 4: **Unidentified Fly A**, Great Willowherb, **Unidentified Fly B**.
 Row 5: Developing Hazelnuts, House Sparrow in corn field, Brown Birch Bolete

4. Planned Activities in July.

a. **July Moths** - The trap was put out on the evening of the 23rd July and the moths identified the following day.

Macro-moths

Antler Moth	1	Dark Arches	1	Pebble Prominent	1
Barred Red	1	Dotted Clay	1	Poplar Hawk-moth	1
Barred Straw	1	Drinker	21	Rivulet	7
Blue-bordered Carpet	2	Dun-bar	3	Scalloped Oak	1
Brimstone	2	Dusky Brocade	1	Shaded Broad-bar	1
Buff Footman	109	Early Thorn	5	Slender Brindle	2
Burnished Brass	1	Engrailed	3	Slender Pug	4
Clouded Border	15	Gold Spot	2	Small Argent and Sable	2
Common Carpet	4	Green Carpet	5	Small Phoenix	2
Common Footman	31	Ingrailed Clay	2	Small Wainscot	4
Common Rustic	19	July Highflyer	23	Straw Dot	7
Common Wainscot	9	Large Emerald	2	Tawny-barred Angle	1
Common Wave	2	Large Yellow Underwing	23	True Lover's Knot	2
Coxcomb Prominent	1	Lesser Cream Wave	1	Total	341
Cream Wave f. Scotica	3	Lesser Swallow Prominent	4		
Crescent	7	Middle-barred Minor	3		



Antler Moth



Slender Brindle



Dun-bar



Gold Spot

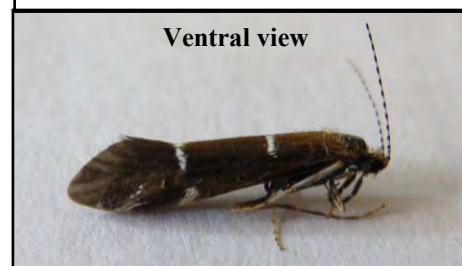
Micro-moths

1305	<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	10
1092	<i>Aptomis turbidana</i>	1
1314	Pearl-band Grass Veneer <i>Catoptria margaritella</i>	25
1302	<i>Crambus perlella warringtonellus</i>	1
1345	Brown China-mark <i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>	11
1138	<i>Epinotia nisella</i>	1
1340	<i>Eudonia truncicolella</i>	19
1358	<i>Evergestis pallidata</i>	7
1350	Beautiful China-mark <i>Nymphula stagnata</i>	2
971	<i>Pandemis cinnamomeana</i>	3
1405	Mother of Pearl <i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	7
1334	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	11
1333	<i>Scoparia pyralella</i>	2
424	Bird-cherry Ermine <i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>	17
	Total	117
	Overall Total	458



Dorsal view

Unidentified micro-moth



Ventral view

If any reader can identify the flies and micro-moth in the above photographs, please let Jim know.

b. Access for All Project – Phase 2 - Construction of hardcore path



Day 1. With Ronnie Bell working the digger and Bruce Redpath driving the dumper, the burn was piped and bridged and then the top section of path down to the field connection was cleared and levelled.



Day 2. The middle and bottom sections were cleared and levelled. In the top section and part of the middle section, Terram membrane was laid and covered with type 1 sub-base.



Day 3. Wet soil in bottom section removed then geotech and stone laid.



Day 4. Stones built up round ends of pipe. Terram membrane and type 1 sub-base laid on bottom section. All three sections raked and rolled.



Day 5. Turf from the Hunting gate to the Wood gate, and the Wood gate itself were removed and the ground was levelled. Pipe heads were covered with turf. The marshy area of field 1 filled in, tidied and levelled. The first rooted section of the woodland path was filled with stone to level of roots.



Day 6. Final section of path through the wood was already covered with terram and thin layer of type 1. More type 1 was added to cover tree roots and rolled. Soft area near field gate left to dig out, lay terram and fill with stone and type 1.



Day 7. Whole length of field path covered with dust and further rolled. The fencers start on the middle field section of the path. The section between from the Hunting gate to the Wood gate filled with stone and type 1.



Day 8. Lower section of field path fenced. Hunting gate to Wood gate surfaced with type 1 and dust. Bottom end of field ditch dug out as far as pipe and area of field around Wood gate tidied. Remaining type 1 spread evenly over car park area.



Day 9. Part of fence between area of Hunting gate and Wood gate fenced off. Field gate erected and area made stock-proof.

Day 10. New fence next to wood completed. Two hanging gate posts for the new Henley gates at the field connection were dug and concreted in and the gates hung and closure fittings attached.



Day 11. The two fastening posts for the Henley gates at the field connection were dug and concreted in. When the gates are open they close off access to the field. When the Henley gates are closed and the field gate is open, livestock can move between fields but not along the access path.

The posts for the third Henley gate at the car park were dug and concreted in and the gate hung.



Day 12. The posts for the fourteen foot, metal Cromer gate into the car park were dug and concreted in. The gate was then hung. To begin with, the gate will be locked open during the day, from 8.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. and locked closed at night. The whole site was tidied up and all waste materials taken to the dump.

Thanks are due to the many people who helped implement Phase 2 of the Access for All Project: Sir John Buchanan-Jardine and Andrew Brown (Castle Milk Estate) for the inspiration and permission to go ahead; Dumfries and Galloway Council (Core Path Department); Mark Jardine (The People's Project) and Lockerbie Community Council for the necessary funding; Ronnie Bell, Bruce Redpath and Scott Hill for constructing the high quality path; Castle Milk staff, John Graham, Callum Scott, Russell Mundell and John Telfer for completing the fencing and gate work to such a high standard and farmers Ian and Colin Paterson for their co-operation and patience during construction.

5. Maintenance work during July.

Tues. 1st. Pamela Beeton and Ian Dunn helped rake up grass cuttings along the Reserve path and then pruned back the brambles and trees along the forest road.

Fri. 18th. Sybille Spägele spent the whole day clearing reed-grass around the edge of the pond.



Tues. 22nd. Pamela Beeton helped rake up grass cuttings when Jim strimmed the Dumfries Road entrance and path.

Sun. 27th. Jim Rae and David Hughes strimmed and raked all the Reserve paths, the sides of the boardwalk and the observation and picnic areas.

Mon. 28th. The seat at Pip's Corner had been vandalised a few days previously. It was beyond repair so Jim removed it and took it to the Annan Refuse Centre. He then purchased a new bench seat at Creca Sawmill.

Tues. 29th. Pamela Beeton helped Jim to treat the new seat with wood preservative and position it at Pip's Corner. She then helped to dig in a tree identification post.



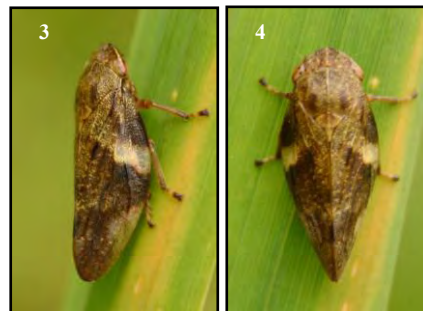
6. World-class Athletes at Eskrigg

Common Froghopper - *Philaenus spumarius*

The familiar 'cuckoo-spit' found on many plants (such as the Ribwort Plantain¹) in the spring and summer is a frothy mass of bubbles which secreted by the Froghopper nymph in order to protect itself². The adults^{3/4}



are able to leap 70cm into the air (equivalent to a human being jumping over a tower block). The jump is so powerful that, in the initial stages, a G-force of over 400-gravities is generated. This is truly phenomenal considering that an astronaut rocketing out into orbit experiences G-forces of 5-gravities.



Adults mate back-to-back, and the subsequent nymphs go through a number of stages (instars). Both adults and nymphs feed on plant sap using specialized sucking mouthparts. Adult size – 5.3 to 6.9 mm.

Green Leafhopper - *Cicadella viridis*



Female



Male



Pair mating

This large and eye-catching species is widespread and common in damp grassland and marshy areas throughout the UK. The adults are 6–9 millimetres long. The females are generally larger than the males. The front of the head is pale yellow, with two black spots near the compound eyes. The bicoloured pronotum (yellow at the front and green at the rear) is distinctive. The forewings of the female are bright turquoise green, but those of the male are much darker blue-purple and may even be blackish (sexual dimorphism). They are polyphagous, feeding on the sap of various species of herbaceous plants, mainly grasses, sedges and vetches.



The young nymphs or early instars¹ are yellowish and have two brownish stripes running from head to the end of the abdomen. **Photo from internet¹.**

Late instar nymphs have more of the adult colours as seen in the **photograph taken by Yvonne Kerr².**

Cicadella viridis may have one or more generations per year. This species overwinters in the egg stage.



7. Visitor and Precipitation Records.

These have been omitted this month due to lack of space.

All photographs, except the last two, were taken by Jim Rae.

For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

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