Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

June 2015 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No: SC 005538

1. View of pond taken on the 22nd of June by Jim Rae.

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in June.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Dunnock, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Jay, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Reed Bunting, Robin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Swift, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Fox and two cubs, Mole, Otter, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Wood Mouse.

c. Other Vertebrates

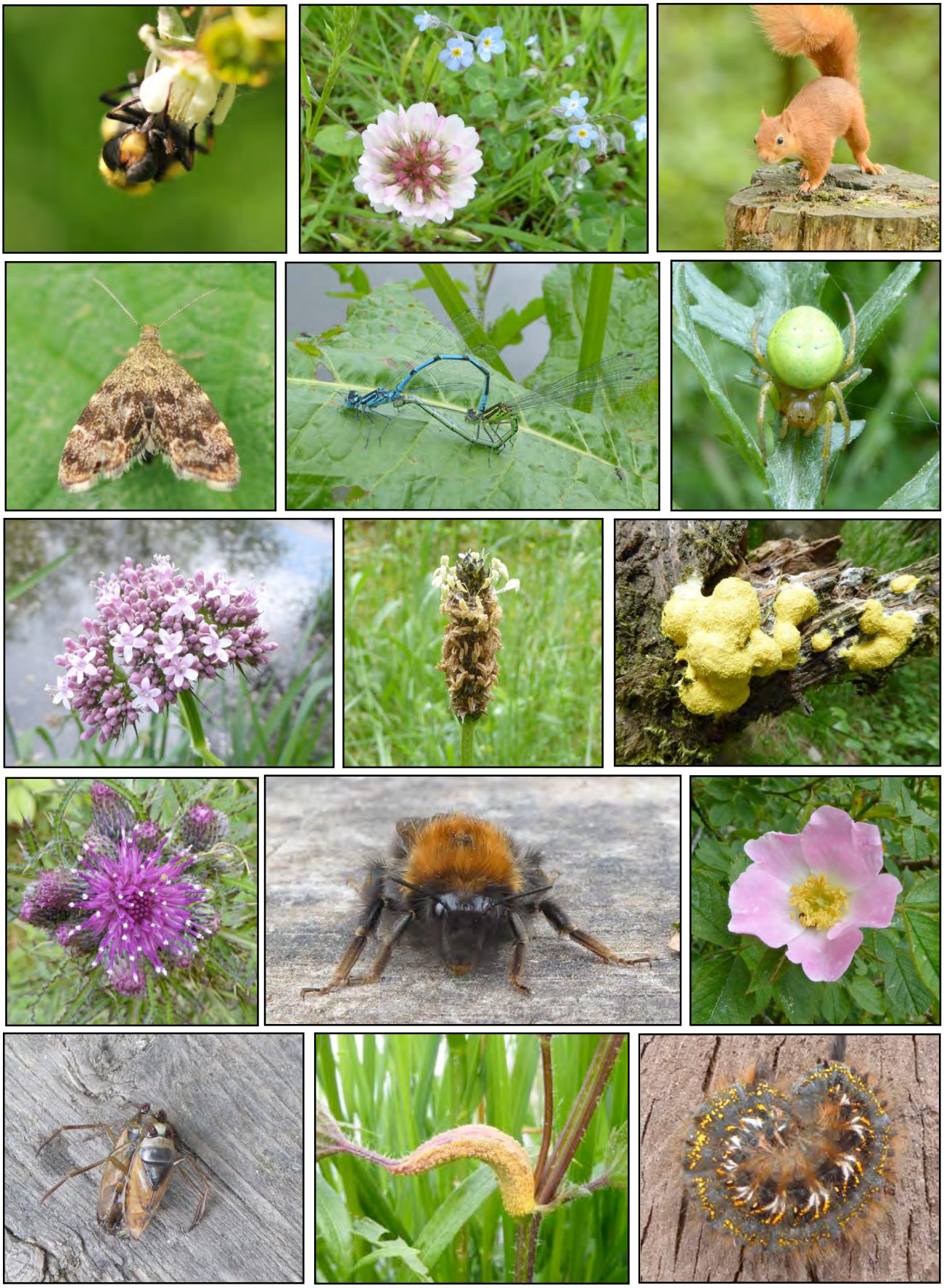
Common Lizard, Frog, Palmate Newt, Smooth Newt, Stickleback, Toad.

d. Invertebrates

Black Slug; Beetles - Green Dock Leaf Beetle, Seven-spot Ladybird; Bumblebees - Buff-tailed and White-tailed; Butterflies - Green-veined White, Orange-tip and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary; Carder Bee; Damselflies - Azure, Blue-tailed, Common Blue and Large Red; Forest Bug; Hoverflies - assorted; Moths - assorted grass moths, Cinnabar, Drinker Moth caterpillar, Nettle-tap and White Ermine; **Scorpion Fly**; Spiders - Cucumber Green and Leaf-curling Sac Spider; Wasp.

Photographs: Andrina Laidler (AL), Jim Rae (JR).

3. June photo-gallery (photographs: Jim Rae)



Row 1: Bee feeding on rasp flower, Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*), Red Squirrel.
Row 2: Nettle-tap moth, mating Azure damselflies, Cucumber Green Sac-spider
Row 3: Marsh Valerian, Ribwort Plantain, Scrambled Egg Slime (*Fuligo septica*).
Row 4: Marsh Thistle, Head of White-tailed Bumblebee, Dog Rose.
Row 5: Mating Water Boatmen, Nettle Rust Gall (*Puccinia urticata*), Drinker moth caterpiller.

4. Volunteer Work

Thu. 18th - Thomas Gibbs and **Connor Jardine** helped with the Moth Trapping and then with resurfacing part of the Reserve path.

Thomas and Connor

Sat. 20th - Duke of Edinburgh Award Volunteers, **Rory Holden** and **Keir Stewart,** helped to resurface part of the path through the Reserve.

Thu. 25th - Thomas Gibbs and **Connor Jardine** helped to cut and clear the grass at the Cemetery Lodge entrance and within the Reserve.

Keir and Michael

Sat. 27th - Michael Kerr and **Keir Stewart** helped to weed the path through the Reserve.

Sun. 28th - Maintenance Day - Cancelled due to wet weather.

5. Planned Activities

Tue. 9th – Visit by Shawhead Primary School

The pupils took part in four main activities: -
1. Clock Orienteering + Tree Identification with David Hughes.
2. Pond Dipping with Jim Rae.
3. Woodland Mini-beasts with Bob Glaister.
4. Eskrigg Explorer Challenge with their class teacher.

After a picnic lunch the younger children also took part in a Gruffalo Hunt.

All had a good time.

Mon. 15th - 1st Visit by Aberlour Homework Club
The children took part in a Gruffalo Hunt and Woodland Mini-beast Hunt.

Mon. 22nd - 2nd Visit by Aberlour Homework Club
This time the children were pond-dipping.

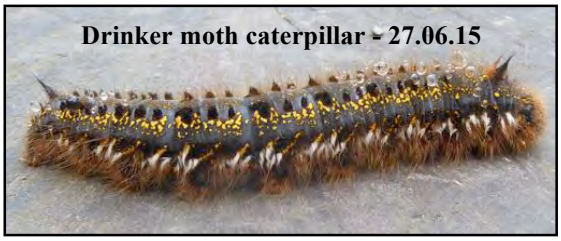
Fri. 19th - Babes in the Woods
The children enjoyed a Gruffalo Hunt and Pond Dipping at the Reserve during an afternoon visit.

Photographs: Jim Rae

Thu. 18th June - June Moths

Row 1: Poplar Hawkmoth, Green Silver-lines, White Ermine
Row 2: Silver-ground Carpet, Nettle-tap, Scalloped Hazel.

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Pinewood	Sitka Spruce	Pond Fringe
Brimstone	*Opisthograptis luteolata*	1	-	-
Clouded Border	*Lomaspilis marginata*	-	-	2
Common Lutestring	*Ochropacha duplaris*	4	-	2
Common Marbled Carpet	*Chloroclysta truncata*	1	1	-
Common Wave	*Cabera exanthemata*	1	1	-
Coxcomb Prominent	*Ptilodon capucina*	1	-	-
Engrailed	*Ectropis bistortata*	1	-	-
Flame Carpet	*Xanthorhoe designata*	1	-	-
Flame Shoulder	*Ochropleura plecta*	-	-	2
Green Silver-lines	*Pseudoips prasinana britannica*	-	-	1
Map-winged Swift	*Hepialus fusconebulosa*	1	2	3
Mottled Beauty	*Alcis repandata repandata*	1	-	-
Nettle-tap	*Anthophila fabriciana*	-	-	4
Nut-tree Tussock	*Colocasia coryli*	5	-	2
Poplar Hawkmoth	*Laothoe populi*	1	-	-
Scalloped Hazel	*Odontopera bidentata*	-	1	-
Silver-ground Carpet	*Xanthorhoe montonata*	1	1	1
Small Angle Shades	*Euplexia lucipara*	-	-	1
Small Engrailed	*Ectropis crepuscularia*	1	-	-
Spruce Carpet	*Thera britannica*	2	-	-
Water Carpet	*Lampropteryx suffumata*	1	-	-
Welsh Wave	*Venusia cambrica*	1	-	-
White Ermine	*Spilosoma lubricipeda*	1	-	1
	Eudonia truncicolella	-	-	1



Photographs: Jim Rae

Scrambled Egg Slime (*Fuligo septica*) growing on old Birch stump.

Photographs: Jim Rae

Fuligo septica is a species of plasmodial slime mould and a member of the Myxomycetes class. It is commonly known as the **dog vomit slime mould**, **scrambled egg slime**, or **flowers of tan** because of its peculiar yellowish, bile-coloured appearance. A common species with a worldwide distribution, it is often found on bark mulch in urban areas after heavy rain or excessive watering.

Like many slime moulds, the cells of this species typically aggregate to form a plasmodium, a multinucleate mass of undifferentiated cells that may move in an amoeboid-like fashion during the search for nutrients. *F. septica*'s plasmodium may be anywhere from white to yellow-grey, typically 2.5–20 cm in diameter and 1–3 cm thick. The plasmodium eventually transforms into a sponge-like aethalium, analogous to the spore-bearing fruiting body of a mushroom. *F. septica* produces the largest aethalium of any slime mould. This then degrades, darkens in colour and releases its dark-coloured spores.

The spores are produced on or in aerial sporangia and are normally spread by the wind, although this species is also known to have its spores dispersed by beetles (family Lathridiidae). The spores have a two-layered wall with a dense outer layer with spines and a fibrous inner layer. During germination, the outer layer splits to create an opening and the more elastic inner layer ruptures later as the protoplasm emerges. A remnant of the inner layer may be persistent and adhere to the protoplast after it has emerged from the spore. A peroxidase enzyme present in the inner cell wall plays a role in germination.

Fuligo septica grows on rotten wood and plant debris, but can also grow on the leaves and stems of living plants.

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