

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

July 2015 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. View of pond taken from the sluice on the 29th of July by Jim Rae.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in June.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Swallow, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer.

b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Common Shrew, Fox, Mole, Pipistrelle Bat, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Wood Mouse.

c. Other Vertebrates

Common Lizard, Frog, Palmate Newt, Smooth Newt, Stickleback, Toad. During the past month, tiny frogs and toads have been leaving the pond in their hundreds. They will feed, grow and mature over three years and then come back to the pond to breed themselves - if they survive that long.

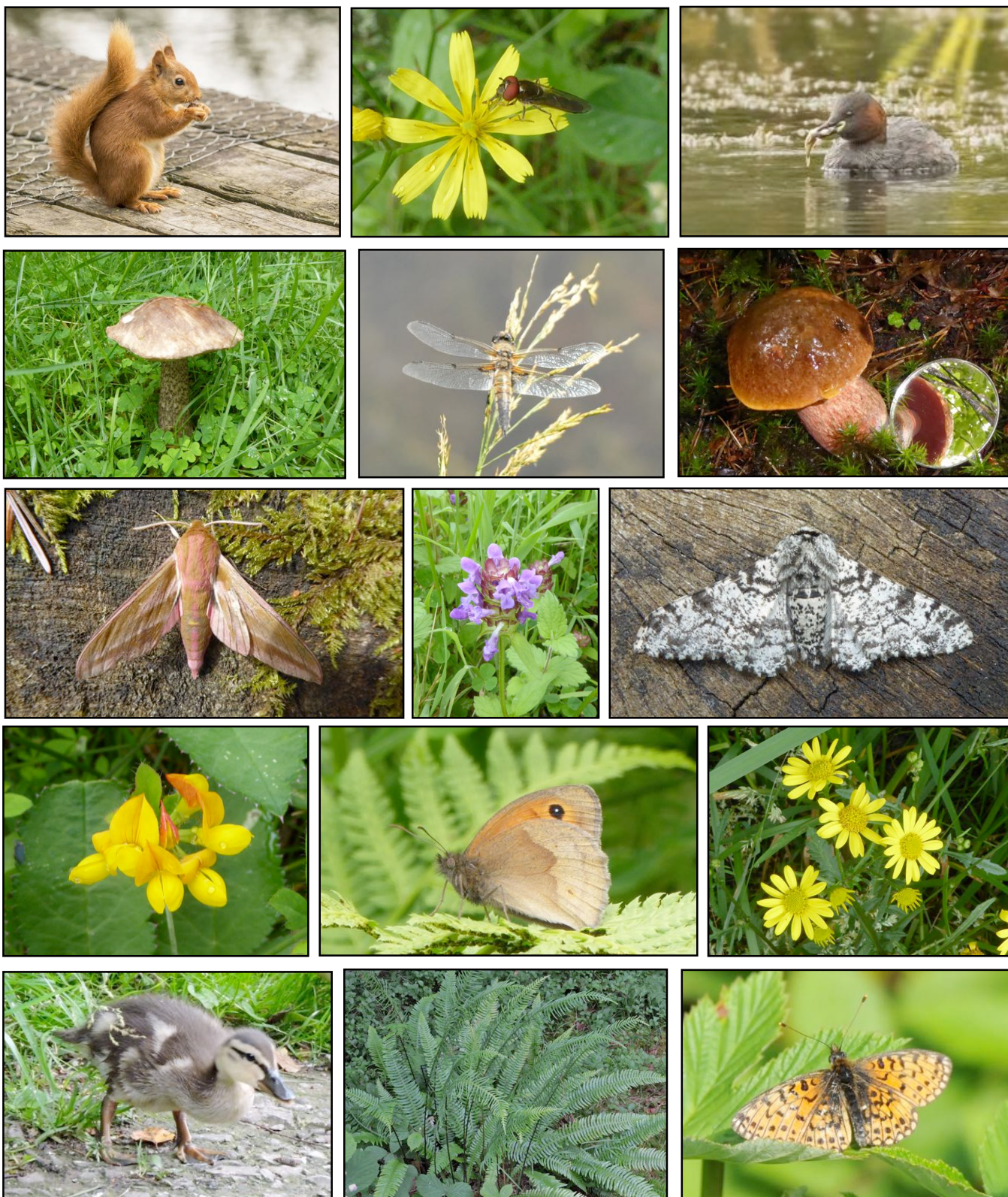


Tiny frog or toad (JR)

d. Invertebrates

Black Slugs; beetles; bumblebees; butterflies - Green-veined White, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Peacock, Red Admiral, Ringlet and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary; Carder Bee; damselflies - Azure, Blue-tailed, Common Blue and Large Red; Forest Bug; Four-spotted Chaser; grasshoppers; hoverflies; moths - Brimstone, Chimney Sweeper, Clouded Border, Dark Arches, Gothic, grass moths, Green Carpet, Grey Dagger, July Highflyer, Tawny-barred Angle, and various micro moths; Scorpion Flies; shield bugs; spiders; wasps.

3. July Photo-gallery



Row 1: Red Squirrel (BL), Nipplewort flower with insect (JR), Little Grebe with Stickleback (BL)

Row 2: Brown Birch Bolete (JR), Four-spot Chaser (JR), Pine Bolete (JR)

Row 3: Elephant Hawkmoth (JR), Selfheal (JR), Peppered Moth (JR)

Row 4: Bird's-foot-trefoil (JR), Meadow Brown (JR), Marsh Ragwort (JR)

Row 5: Duckling (PD), Hard Fern (PD), Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (JR)

Photographs by Bob Little (BL), Peter Dutton (PD), Jim Rae (JR)

4. Volunteer Work

Sun. 26th - Maintenance Day

Many thanks to **Sybill Spägle, Feli Stark, Patrick Malone and Rory Holden** for helping to rake up the cut grass along the path from the Reserve car park to the Eskrigg Centre.

5. Planned Activities - Wildlife Weekend

Sat. 18th (morning) - July Moths

There was a good catch over night. Thanks to those who came along to see the moths and help to identify them. Full list on page 4.

Sat. 18th (afternoon) - Summer Flowers

This event was postponed because only one person booked in and she kindly offered to come along on another day and give us more time to identify the moths caught in the morning.

Sun. 19th (morning) - Small Mammals

Several people came along to learn how the small mammals were caught, recorded and released. Sixteen traps were set late on Saturday evening in the Scots Pine woodland. Three were found to be still open with no signs that they had been visited. One was triggered and empty, but the presence of faecal pellets indicated that a common shrew had visited the trap before leaving through the hole provided. Two traps contained bank voles and the other ten contained woodmice. All were in very good health and released unharmed.

Sun. 19th (afternoon) - Pond Dipping

Once again, a good number of children and adults investigated the pond life at Eskrigg. The following organisms were identified:

leeches - 1 large and 2 small species	'bloodworms' (midge larvae)	mayfly nymphs - 2 species
caddis larvae - 2 species	damsel fly nymphs	gnat pupae
Diving Beetle larvae	Lesser Water Boatmen	Alder Fly larvae
Pond Skaters	Water Mites	Pea Mussels
Pond snails	Ramshorn snails	Three-spined Sticklebacks

6. The Common Lizard (also known as the Viviparous Lizard)

Scientific name: *Zootoca vivipara* (formerly: *Lacerta vivipara*)

Size: Usually between 10 and 15cm long including tail

Distribution: Found throughout the U.K.

Months seen: March to October. During the winter Common Lizards hibernate underground

Habitat: Grassland, heathland, forest edges, and sand dunes

Food: Small insects and spiders

Special features: Common Lizards are also known as Viviparous Lizards. They are mostly olive-green coloured with black, brown and yellow markings. The head is distinctly pointed. They can often be found lying on stones, logs or patches of moss in the sunshine, because they need the heat of the sun to warm their bodies. This makes them more mobile enabling them to catch their prey. Common Lizards are also good swimmers. Common Lizards are viviparous which means the females retain their fertilised eggs inside their bodies until they are almost ready to hatch. This helps to keep the eggs warm and when the time is right she lays the eggs. Within seconds the young lizards hatch out. The Smooth Snake, the Adder and the Slow Worm are also viviparous.

Common Lizards have an amazing way to escape capture from predators. If caught by the tail, they simply snap it off at a joint near the base. This leaves their predator holding just the tail, which continues to wriggle after separation. The lizard can grow a new tail if it lives long enough, although the new tail will be shorter and thicker than the original.



July Moths at Eskrigg Reserve 18.07.15

Macro Moths				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Pond Fringe	Pine Wood	Spruce Wood
Barred Red	<i>Hylaea fasciaria</i>		1	
Bordered White	<i>Bupalus piniaria (northern)</i>	1	2	
Buff-tip	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>		1	
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	1	1	
Clouded Magpie	<i>Abraxas sylvata</i>		1	
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata alternata</i>		1	
Common Lutestring	<i>Ochropacha duplaris</i>		1	
Common Rustic	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i>	1		
Common Wave	<i>Casbera exanthemata</i>			1
Coxcomb Prominent	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	1		
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>		1	
Drinker	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	2		
Elephant Hawkmoth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>		1	
Engrailed	<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>	1	3	1
Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>		1	
Four-dotted Footman	<i>Cybosia mesomella</i>			1
Grass Emerald	<i>Pseudoterpna pruinata</i>			1
Green Arches	<i>Anaplectoides prasina</i>		2	
Green Carpet	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>		2	1
Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	2 + 1 f-less		
Ingrailed Clay	<i>Diarsia mendica mendica</i>	5	5	2
July Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	2	6	3
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>		2	
Light Emerald	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>		3	1
Map-winged Swift	<i>Hepialus fusconebulosa</i>		6	1
Mottled Beauty	<i>Alcis repandata repandata</i>		2	1
Northern Spinach	<i>Eulithis populata</i>		3	
Peppered Moth	<i>Biston betularia</i>		1	1
Plain Golden Y	<i>Autographa jota</i>			1
Poplar Hawkmoth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	5	2	
Purple Clay	<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>	6	4	2
Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>		2	
Rufous Minor	<i>Oligia versicolor</i>	2		
Scallop Shell	<i>Rheumaptera undulata</i>		1	
Slender Pug	<i>Eupithecia tenuiata</i>	1		
Small Fan-foot	<i>Herminia grisealis</i>		1	
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>		1	
Small Square-spot	<i>Darsia rubi</i>			3
Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	1		
Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera britannica</i>	2	1	
Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	1		
Sword-grass	<i>Xylena exsoleta</i>	1		
Tawny-barred Angle	<i>Macaria liturata</i>	1	1	
True Lover's Knot	<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>		1	
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	1		
Micro Moths				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Pond Fringe	Pine Wood	Spruce Wood
	<i>Ancylis achatana</i>	4		
Pied Grey	<i>Eudonis delunella</i>	1	9	
Ground-moss Grey	<i>Eudonia truncicolella</i>	1		
Small Magpie	<i>Eurrhynx hortulata</i>	1		
	<i>Scoparia ambigua</i>	4	10	3

7. Mystery Moth

During the moth identification workshop on Saturday 19th July at Eskrigg Reserve, the moth (centre picture below) was found on the ground near the waste bin. At first, I thought it might be a flightless female - several species show sexual dimorphism - but I could not find its picture in any of my books or on the internet. I sent pictures of the moth to Alison Robertson (Dumfries & Galloway Moth Recorder) and she kindly supplied a possible explanation.



Dark Arches (29.07.15 - JR)



Mystery Moth (18.07.15 - JR)



Grey Dagger (18.07.15 - JR)

The moth had recently emerged from its pupa and climbed a plant stem or tree trunk to expand and harden its wings. The damage to its abdomen suggests that a predator, such as a bird, may have attacked it while its wings were still expanding. The moth responded by 'emptying its bowels' and ejecting, in the meconium, the fluid (haemolymph) that was meant to go into the wings, so the wings didn't develop properly. The moth would not be able to fly.

I think the Mystery Moth was either a Dark Arches (*Apamea monoglypha*) or a Grey Dagger (*Acrinicta psi*).

8. St. Mungo Primary Donation.

The pupils at St. Mungo Primary chose Eskrigg Reserve as their charity for session 2014-2015. During the year, the pupils, parents and staff at the school ran a range of fund-raising activities. The pupils visited the Reserve in May. During the year Mr. Rae assisted with the school's forest classroom and attended a variety of school events. On the 1st of July, Jim was invited to the forest classroom for the last event of the year and the pupils presented him with a cheque for the magnificent sum of £421.95. This money will be used to help fund a composting toilet, with disabled access, at the Reserve. Many thanks St. Mungo Primary.



For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

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