

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

May 2016 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Views of the pond on four different days in May.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in May.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Cuckoo, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goosander, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Grey Wagtail, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Redpoll, Little Grebe, Mallard, Mandarin, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Swallow, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals

Common Shrew, Soprano Pipistrelle Bat, Bank Vole, Mole, Noctule Bat, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Wood Mouse.

c. Amphibia

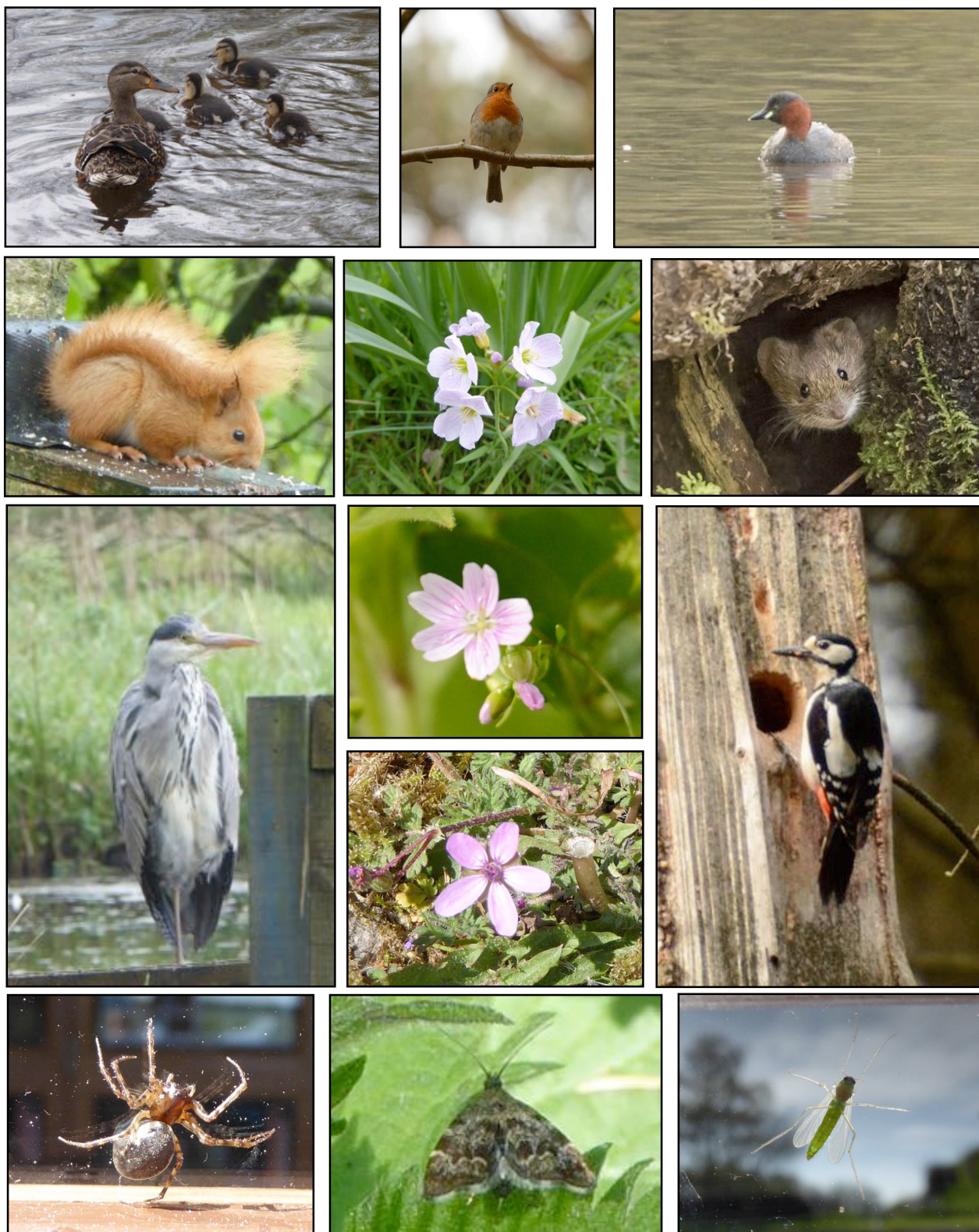
Frog, Toad.

d. Invertebrates

Black Slug, Buff-tailed Bumble Bee, Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Small Tortoiseshell Butterflies, Blue-tailed, Common Blue and Large Red Damselflies, Hoverflies, Midges, Brimstone, Nettle Tap and Water Carpet Moths, Drinker Moth caterpillar, Mosquitoes.

Photographs: Jim Rae

3. May Photo-gallery.



Row 1: Female Mallard and ducklings (JR), Robin (JR), Little Grebe (JR)

Row 2: Young Red Squirrel (JR), Cuckoo Flower (JR), Bank Vole (BL)

Row 3: Grey Heron (JR), Pink Purslane / Common Stork's-bill (JR), Great Spotted Woodpecker (JR)

Row 4: Spider (JR), Nettle-tap (JR), Non-biting Midge (JR)

Photographs: Bob Little (BL), Jim Rae (JR)

4. Planned Activities

4th/5th - Jim attended a **Small Mammal Survey and Identification** course run by **Andy Riches, Dumfries and Galloway Mammal Recorder**, at Rouken Glen Country Park.

12th - Jim attended a **Squirrel Hair Training** course run by **Alexa Seagrave, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels**, at Lochfield Cottage, Lochmaben.

22nd - May Moths with Jim Rae

Thanks to those who came along to assist with the identification.

			Conifer Woodland NY 124 803	Pond Fringe NY 125 803
Macro-moths				
1738	Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata alternata</i>	1	-
1956	Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	-	1
1955	Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	-	1
2008	Coxcomb Prominent	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	4	-
1881	Early Tooth-striped	<i>Trichopteryx carpinata</i>	1	-
1947	Engrailed	<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>	3	1
1722	Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	3	-
1951	Grey Birch	<i>Aethalura punctulata</i>	2	-
2190	Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	1	-
2469	Herald	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	1	-
1822	Marsh Pug	<i>Eupithecia pygmaeata</i>	1	-
2425	Nut-tree Tussock	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	5	-
1844	Ochreous Pug	<i>Eupithecia indigata</i>	-	1
2011	Pale Prominent	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>	1	1
1981	Poplar Hawkmoth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	-	1
1920	Scalloped Hazel	<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	2	-
1759	Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	3	2
1769	Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera britannica</i>	1	-
1747	Streamer	<i>Anticlea dervivata</i>	1	-
1750	Water Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	3	1
Micro-moths				
130		<i>Incurvaria masculella</i>	-	1
986		<i>Syndemis musculana</i>	1	-

New records for Eskrigg Reserve



Marsh Pug (*Eupithecia pygmaeata*)

Syndemis musculana

Incurvaria masculella

Photographs: Jim Rae

28th - Trust visit to the Farne Islands

Twelve members of the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust travelled by ATI minibus to Kielder Forest Park and then on to Seahouses where they took a boat trip to the Farne Islands.

The weather was ideal for the visit.

The group saw Rabbit, Hare, Grey Seal, Grey Heron, Ringed Plover, Eider, Cormorant, Shag, Puffin, Arctic Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern, Gannet, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Kittiwake, Guillemot, Razorbill and Oystercatcher.



5. Lockerbie Academy Employability Course May 2016

Thirty-one S4 and S5 students each worked and studied at the Reserve on three separate days during the month. They arrived at 10.00 in the morning and left at 14.30 each day.

The study activities included:

- an investigation of pond invertebrates and water quality.
- an investigation of leaf litter invertebrates.
- completion of the Eskrigg Explorer Photographic Challenge.

The work activities included the:

- creation of a new section of all-user, hard core, woodland path.
- treatment of the shelter, picnic tables, Red Squirrel Hide, Eskrigg Centre and the fence round the new compost toilet with wood preservative.
- clearance of cut timber.
- construction of a bird box each. A few students were absent on the day the boxes were made. The twenty-six bird boxes that were completed will either be used in the Reserve or sold to help raise funds.

I would like to thank the students for doing a first class job and the Lockerbie Academy staff for their help in supervising the students. I would also like to thank Frank Gibson and David Hughes for leading some of the activities.

The pond invertebrates identified by the students included:

Caddis flies, cased Caddis larvae, Damselfly nymphs, Mayfly nymphs, Water Beetles, Water Beetle larvae, Lesser Water Boatmen, Water Mites, Pond Snails and eggs, Pea Mussels, Gnat Pupae cases, Bloodworms / Midge larvae and Leeches.

The leaf litter invertebrates identified by the students included:

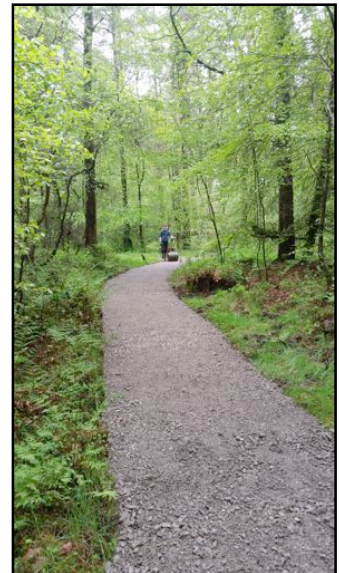
Earthworm, Black Slug (*Arion ater*), Golden Slug, Grey Slug, White Slug, Springtails, Beetle larvae (assorted & unidentified), Beetle (Carabidae) larvae, Beetle (Brown - unidentified), Beetle (*Sepedophilus bipustulatus*), Ground Beetles, Rove Beetle (*Staphylinus caesareus*), Rove Beetle (*Staphylinus olens*) - Devil's Coach Horse, Crane fly Larva - Leatherjacket, Harvestman, Red Mite, Spiders, Ticks, Woodlouse, Centipede, White-legged Snake Millipede (*Tachypodoiulus niger*), Bronze Millipede (*Ommatoiulus sabulosus*), plus unidentified midge or mosquito.



6. E-Team Volunteer Activities

14th - Rory Holden, Patrick Malone, Maya Saunders and Keir Stewart helped to clear the tree roots from the new section of woodland path in order to assist the work of the Lockerbie Academy students on the Employability Course.

21st - Keir Stewart helped resurface a section of the old Mountain Bike Trail, now a woodland path - picture on the right.



7. Compost Toilet with Disabled Access

Work on the new toilet is nearing completion. The following stages were completed in May.

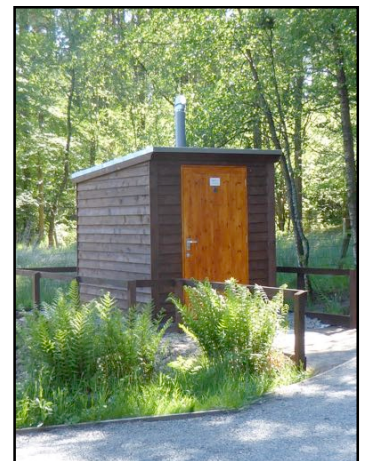
- 3rd - The vault was cleaned out and the urine channels checked for alignment.
- 4th - Condensation on walls and floor of vault noted - more time needed for vault to dry out.
- 9th - Even more condensation in vault noted.
- 10th - Land next to toilet levelled and perimeter fence started.
- 14th - Inside walls given 1st coat of paint and perimeter fence completed.
- 15th - Two of the inside walls given 2nd coat of paint.
- 21st - Type 1 gravel laid round toilet building.
- 22nd - Other two inside walls given 2nd coat of paint.
- 24th - Toilet fittings and notices re-attached to internal walls by Ving Thomson. External cedar cladding treated with wood preservative.
- 25th - Perimeter fence treated with wood preservative.
- 26th - Signs taken down from toilet door and door and door frame given 1st coat of primer.
- 29th - Toilet door given 2nd coat of primer, toilet pedestal and metal plate removed and floor cleaned and rubbed over with emery paper.
- 30th - Toilet door and door frame treated with wood stain and floor given 1st coat of wax.
- 31st - Floor given 2nd coat of wax and gravel topping placed round toilet.



1st June - Floor given 3rd and final coat of wax and signs screwed back onto the door.

Remaining work to be carried out:

- a. Wood shavings and shovel to be placed in vault.
- b. Hand gel to be put in dispensers and wood shaving in bin.
- c. Concrete platform and ramp to be installed in front of door
- d. Hand rail and door jamb to be fitted.
- e. Key guard with combination lock to be fitted on wall beside door.



We hope to have the Compost Toilet ready for use in mid- to late June.

For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

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