

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

([www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk](http://www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk))

## Eskrigg Reserve

### July 2016 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

1. View of the pond from the Red Squirrel Hide on the 2nd of July and view of Eskrigg Centre and the Compost Toilet on the 6th of July.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in July.

#### a. Birds

Blackbird, Black East Indian Duck, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Swallow, Swift, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wren.



Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

#### b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Common Shrew, Fox, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Woodmouse.

#### c. Reptiles and Amphibians

Common Lizard, Frog, Newt, Toad.

#### d. Invertebrates

Black Slug; Buff-tailed, Tree and White-tailed Bumble Bees; Common Carder Bee; Green-veined White, Large Skipper, Large White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Small Tortoiseshell Butterflies; Crane-flies; Azure, Blue-tailed and Common Blue Damselflies; Common Darter and Four-spotted Chaser Dragonflies; Froghoppers, Grasshoppers; Dark Great Horse-fly; Foxglove Pug, Hoverflies; Eyed and 7-Spot Ladybird; Midges; Mosquitoes; Beautiful China-mark, Clouded Border, Common White Wave, July Highflyer, Large Yellow Underwing, Mother of Pearl, Nettle-tap and Silver-Y moths.

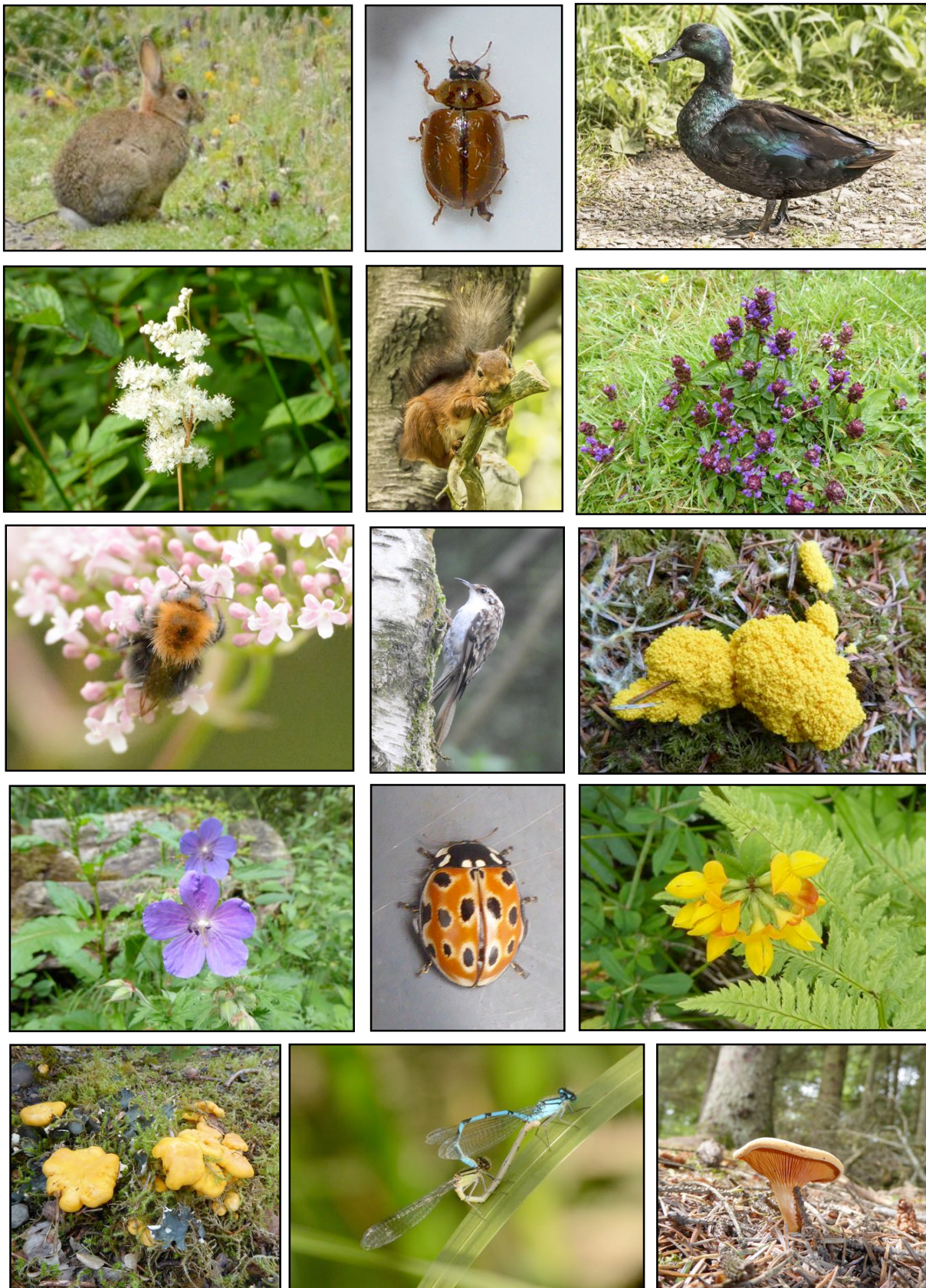


Foxglove Pug (*Eupithecia plumbeolata*)

Photographs: Colin Barrett (CB), Jim Rae (JR)



### 3. July Photo-gallery.



Row 1: Rabbit (JR), Larch Ladybird (JR), Black East Indian Duck (BL)

Row 2: Meadowsweet (JR), Red Squirrel (BL), Selfheal (JR)

Row 3: Carder Bee on Common Valerian (JR), Treecreeper (CB), Scrambled Egg Slime Mould (JR)

Row 4: Meadow Cranesbill (JR), Eyed Ladybird (JR), Bird's-foot Trefoil (JR)

Row 5: Chanterelle (JR), Mating damselflies (JR), False Chanterelle (JR)

Photographs: Bob Little (BL), Colin Barrett (CB), Jim Rae (JR)



#### 4. Planned Activities

##### Sat. 16th - Wildlife Weekend - Woodland Minibeasts with Jim Rae

In the morning, six youngsters and two adults came along to see what animals had been caught in the pitfall traps overnight and to hunt in the log pile for other wildlife.

The following creatures were found -

Insects: moths - Large Yellow Underwing (*Noctua pronuba*) and Foxglove Pug (*Eupithecia plumbeolata*); Click Beetle (*Anthous haemorrhoidalis*), ground beetles and ground beetle larvae; rove beetles; Dipteran flies; assorted insect larvae, weevil (*Phyllobius pomaceus*) - **1**, wingless aphids - **2**, springtails.

Arachnids: spiders, harvestmen and Red Mite.

Myriapods: centipedes and millipedes (black, bronze and golden).

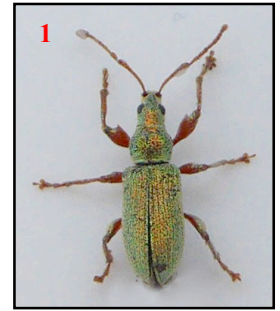
Crustacea: woodlice.

Molluscs: Black Slug (*Arion ater*), white slug and slug eggs, Ramshorn Snail.

Annelids: earthworm.

The children also found several species of fungi:

Blusher, unidentified Amanita, False Chanterelle, Larch Boletus, Scarletina Boletus, Cep, Common Inkcap, Glistening Inkcap, Birch Polypore, Bay Polypore, Blackfoot Polypore, Horsehair Toadstool, Small Stagshorn and unidentified Russula.



##### Sat. 16th - Wildlife Weekend - Trees ID, Facts and Folklore with Jim Rae

Three adults came along to this session on the Saturday afternoon. The trees looked at were the Scots Pine, Sitka Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, Hawthorn, Hazel, Sycamore, Ash, Alder, Rowan, Downy Birch, Silver Birch, Gean, Apple, Crab Apple, Beech, Oak and Holly.

##### Sun. 17th - Wildlife Weekend - Small Mammal Survey

One family came along to take part in the survey.

Out of 16 traps put out the night before, 4 contained Bank Voles, 2 contained Woodmice, 3 had evidence of Common Shrew and 7 were empty.



##### Sun. 17th - Wildlife Weekend - Summer Pond Dipping

Seven people came along to the pond dipping. Animals found included:

**In Pond** - Three-spined Sticklebacks, Pond Skaters, mayfly nymphs (2 sp.), caddis larvae (2 sp.), Alderfly larva, Lesser Water Boatman, Water Boatman (back-swimmer), diving beetles (2 sp.), pond snails and snail eggs, Pea Mussels and leeches (2 sp.).

**In Burn** - Minnows, Freshwater Shrimp.



##### Wed. 20th - Visit by Aberlour group.

The visit had to be cancelled because of the very heavy rain in the morning.

Photographs by Jim Rae

## 24th - July Moths with Jim Rae

Conifer Woodland  
NY 124 803

Pond Fringe  
NY 125 803

### Macro-moths

1962	Barred Red	<i>Hylaea fasciaria</i>	2	2
1954	Bordered White	<i>Bupalus piniaria</i> - northern - f	6	-
1906	Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	1	1
2049	Buff Footman	<i>Eilema depressa</i>	1	3
2434	Burnished Brass	<i>Diachrysia chrystitis</i>	-	1
1887	Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	6	2
2050	Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	-	2
2343	Common Rustic	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i>	1	4
1956	Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	0	3
1955	Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	2	0
2008	Coxcomb Prominent	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	3	1
1693	Cream Wave	<i>Scopula floslactata</i>	-	1
2368	Crescent	<i>Celaena leucostigma leucostigma</i>	-	4
2321	Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	-	5
1725	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	-	3
2130	Dotted Clay	<i>Xestia baja</i>	1	5
1640	Drinker	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	4	5
2318	Dun-bar	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>	-	1
1917	Early Thorn	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	-	1
1722	Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designa</i>	3	3
16	Gold Swift (f)	<i>Hepialus hecta</i>	-	1
1776	Green Carpet	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	4	3
1860	Green Pug	<i>Pasiphila rectangulata</i>	-	2
2120	Ingrailed Clay	<i>Diarsia endica mendica</i>	5	8
1777	July Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	15	8
1666	Large Emerald	<i>Geometra papilionaria</i>	3	4
2107	Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	3	32
2440	Lempke's Gold Spot	<i>Plusia putnami</i>	-	1
2343a	Lesser Common Rustic	<i>Mesapamea didyma</i>	-	2
1961	Light Emerald	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>	1	-
1941	Mottled Beauty	<i>Alcis repandata repandata</i>	-	2
2003	Pebble Prominent	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	-	2
1931	Peppered Moth	<i>Biston betularia</i>	-	1
2443	Plain Golden Y	<i>Autographa jota</i>	-	1
1981	Poplar Hawkmoth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	-	2
1713	Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	3	2
2064	Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa fuliginosa</i>	-	1
2338	Rufous minor	<i>Oligia versicolor</i>	-	3
1702	Small Fan-footed Wave	<i>Idaea biselata</i>	1	4
1803	Small Rivulet	<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i>	-	5
2350	Small Wainscot	<i>Chortodes pygmina</i>	-	1
2198	Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	2	2
2477	Snout	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	-	1
2450	Spectacle	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	-	1
2474	Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	-	3
2007	Swallow Prominent	<i>Pheosia tremula</i>	-	1
2339	Tawny Marbled Minor	<i>Oligia latruncula</i>	-	2
2118	True Lover's Knot	<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>	-	1
1873	Welsh Wave	<i>Venusia cambrica</i>	1	1
1937	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	-	3
2030	Yellow-tail	<i>Euproctis similis</i>	1	1

### Micro-moths

1304		<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	-	x
977	Large Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Archips podana</i>	-	x
1345	Brown China-mark	<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>	-	x
1076		<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	x	x
510		<i>Coleophora juncicollata</i>	x	-
1302		<i>Crambus perlella</i>	-	x
1343		<i>Eudonia delunella</i>	-	x
1338		<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>	x	x
1344		<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	-	x
1358		<i>Evergestis pallidata</i>	-	x
1350	Beautiful China-mark	<i>Nymphula nitidulata</i>	x	x
1073		<i>Phiaris schulziana</i>	x	-
1159	Holly Tortrix	<i>Rhopobota naevana</i>	x	-
1334		<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	x	-
1334a		<i>Scoparia basistrigalis</i>	-	x
424	Bird-cherry Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>	-	x



Large Emerald



Early Thorn



Ingrailed Clay



Ruby Tiger



Swallow Prominent



Welsh Wave



Large Fruit-tree  
Tortrix

Photographs by  
Jim Rae



Also found in the Robinson moth trap on the 24th of July:

### The Dark Giant Horsefly (f) - *Tabanus sudeticus*

#### Identification - *Tabanus*

*sudeticus* is a very large, rather dark, species of horsefly (body length about 25 mm) with small equilateral pale median abdominal triangles, which do not reach the foregoing tergites, and (usually) little or no lateral reddish colour on the abdomen. The tergites have black or dark brown bands. The eyes of the female are blackish-brown with a coppery sheen.



side view



front view



rear view

**Distribution & seasonal occurrence** - It flies in July and August and commonly feeds on the blood of cattle and ponies. In Britain, it mainly lives in boggy areas in the north and west, although it is also quite common in the New Forest. *Tabanus sudeticus* is distributed widely in northern Europe into Russia.

**Feeding** - *Tabanus sudeticus* is anautogenous - it must first take a blood meal before it can lay eggs. The dark giant horsefly undoubtedly prefers feeding on horses, cattle and deer, but it will bite man if available, as many have found to their cost. It makes a deep hum when flying around a host, but this stops abruptly just before it settles. Aside from feeding on live hosts, *Tabanus sudeticus* has been recorded feeding on mammal carcasses, presumably upon the decaying juices.

**Breeding sites** - *Tabanus sudeticus* breeds in boggy areas, although it seems that few larvae have ever been found.

**Nuisance value & disease transmission** - Although many Tabanid bites are painful, very few are likely to have serious consequences.

### The Sexton (Burying) Beetle - *Nicrophorus vespillo*

**Distribution** - Seen throughout the U.K. from April to October.

**Identification** - The wing casings are brightly marked with two wavy orange bands, and also the antennae have bright orange bobbles on the ends. There are several similar species, all commonly known as Sexton beetles or burying beetles and all are approximately 3cms long.



Sexton Beetle with mites on its back

**Feeding** - It is well known for feeding on the corpses of dead animals. It will also feed on other insects. They get their name from the practice of digging a hole beneath a dead animal and then pulling the body down into the hole. Sexton beetles usually work in pairs, and afterwards the female will lay her eggs next to the corpse for her young to feed on when they hatch. It is thought that Sexton beetles can smell a rotting corpse from up to a mile away.

**Habitat** - Anywhere that dead animals might be found. They often fly towards lights at night.

**Symbiosis** - Carrion beetles and individuals of some species of mites can have a mutualistic relationship. Each derives a benefit from the other. The mites climb aboard the carrion beetle to be transported to new food supplies they could never reach by foot. The mites in turn eat the eggs and freshly hatched maggots of flies that compete with beetle larvae for the food source. Therefore, a mite-laden beetle is more likely to have offspring that survive.

## 5. Volunteer Activities

- Fri. 1st - The Key Guard was fitted to the front wall of the compost toilet.
- Sat. 2nd - The path was reinstated in front of the ramp up to the compost toilet.
- Sun. 3rd - The Key Guard mount was given a coat of timber preservative. The hand rail was given three coats of primer. A frame was constructed for the access instructions and mounted on the wall above the Key Guard and treated with preservative.
- Tue. 5th - **John Wilson** helped Jim Rae with work at the front of the compost toilet. A post holder was fixed to the concrete. The hand rail was fitted and given a final coat of teak stain. John and Jim then strimmed and pruned along the boardwalk and Reserve path.
- Wed. 6th - The post, with door stops and door catch, was fitted into the holder.
- Thu. 7th - John and Jim strimmed and raked one side of the path from the Reserve to the car park. They then prepared and laid the section of gravel path at the corner between the bilberry walk and the honeysuckle walk.
- Fri. 8th - Jim caulked the strip between the compost toilet floor.



L to R: John Wilson, Oliver Mundell, Fiona Halliday



Compost Toilet ready for use

- Mon. 11th - John borrowed a digger and levelled the path from Grace's Bridge to the forest road. Meanwhile **Fiona Halliday** and Jim pruned and cleared the trees along the way. Oliver Mundell (MSP) came down in the early afternoon to lend a hand.
- Tue. 12th - **Ving Thomson** repaired the leak at a pipe joint in the compost toilet and Jim tightened the ring beneath the gent's urinal. The compost toilet was then ready for use.
- Thu. 14th - John and Jim strimmed and cleared part of the area around the duck feeder, three of the islands and at the back of the Red Squirrel Hide. In the evening Jim set out the pitfall traps for the Woodland Minibeast activity on Saturday 16th.
- Fri. 15th - John and Jim put top dressing on two sections of woodland path and filled in some of the pot holes on Eskrigg Farm road.
- Tue. 19th - John and Jim cleared rubbish from the Reserve waste bin and took it to the recycling centre at Corsehill, Annan. They then collected a load of stones from Kirkpatrick Fleming, and a load of gravel from Kirtlebridge and laid them in the dip below Grace's Bridge and on the normally wet section of woodland path nearby.
- Thu. 21st - John, Jim and Fiona Halliday laid gravel on new sections of Bog Myrtle Walk, raked cut grass at the Red Squirrel Hide and drew up plans for work on the Gas Line Path.
- Tue. 26th - John and Jim cleared part of the Gas Line Path, dug out some wet areas with the digger, laid Terram membrane and covered it with gravel.
- Thu. 28th - John and Sybille completed the section of Gas Line Path started last day.
- Fri. 29th - Fiona Halliday began a survey of the lichens within the Reserve.
- Sun. 31st - Maintenance Day - David Hughes, Sybille Spägele, Crispin McCreary and Jim** strimmed, raked and brushed the rest of the Gas Line Path.

**For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.**

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