Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

August 2017 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No: SC 005538

1. Eskrigg Pond on the 9th and the Annan Valley from the woodland walk on the 29th of August.

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during August.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, 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, Mandarin, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Starling, Swallow, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer.

b. Mammals

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

c. Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles

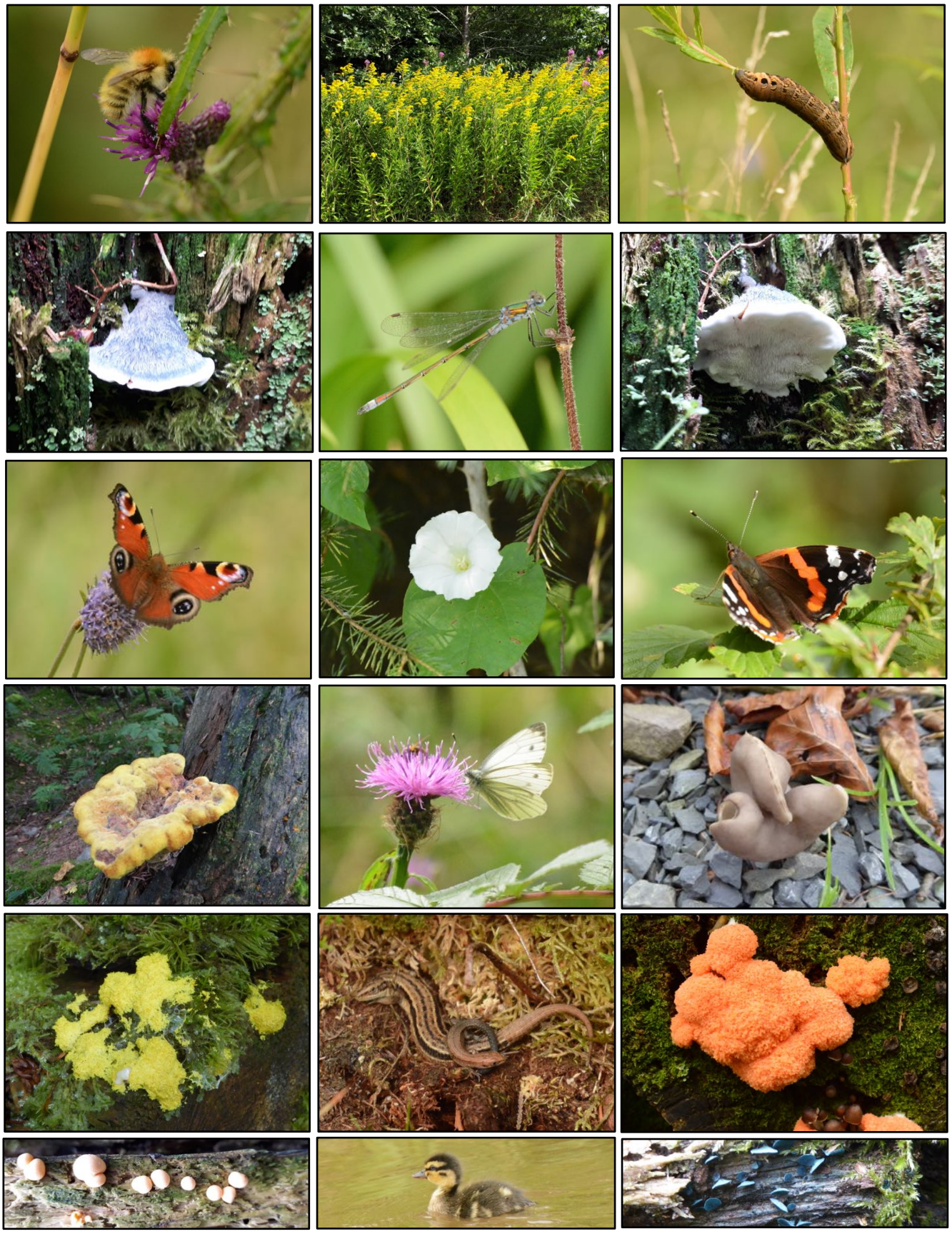
Stickleback, Common Frog, Common Toad, Common Lizard.

A Cep or Penny Bun nibbled by a Red Squirrel.

In Dutch, the name for a Penny Bun is **'Gewoon eekhoorntjesbrood'**, which means 'Common Squirrel Bread'.

Photographs by Caroline Thom (CT), Paul Wharton (PW), and Jim Rae (JR).

3. August Photo Gallery



Row 1: Carder Bee, Canadian Golden Rod, Elephant Hawkmoth Caterpillar.
Row 2: Conifer Blueing Bracket - top side, Emerald Damselfly, Conifer Blueing Bracket - bottom side.
Row 3: Peacock Butterfly, Bindweed, Red Admiral Butterfly.
Row 4: Dyer's Mazegill, Green-veined White Butterfly, Elastic Saddle.
Row 5: Scrambled Egg Slime Mould, Common Lizards, Red Raspberry Slime Mould.
Row 6: Wolf's Milk Slime Mould, Mallard Duckling, Green Elf Cup.

Photographs by Jim Rae

4. Planned Activities in August

Tue. 8th Visit by Parent Inclusion Network (PIN)

Morning Group

Afternoon Group

The children took part in a range of wildlife activities including wildlife orienteering, pond dipping, woodland minibeasts and nature treasure trail.

Thu. 17th August Moths

Despite the heavy rain, three moth traps were put out late on the previous evening. The rain abated during the night and, by daybreak, there was a reasonable catch of moths. Many thanks to **Val** and **Peter Russell** who helped **Jim** with the identification.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Barred Chestnut	*Diarsia dahlii*
Buff Footman	*Eilema depressa*
Burnished Brass	*Diachrysia chrysitis*
Common Carpet	*Epirrhoe alternata*
Common Footman	*Eilema lurideola*
Common Marbled Carpet	*Chloroclysta truncata*
Dark Arches	*Apamea monoglypha*
Dark Marbled Carpet	*Chloroclysta citrata*
Dun-bar	*Cosmia trapezina*
Dusky Brocade	*Apamea remissa*
Early Thorn	*Selenia dentaria*
Flame Carpet	*Xanthorhoe designata*
Galium Carpet	*Epirrhoe galiata*
July Highflyer	*Hydriomena furcata*
Large Yellow Underwing	*Noctua pronuba*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	*Noctua janthe*
Oblique Carpet	*Orthonama vittata*
Pebble Hook-tip	*Drepana falcataria scotica*
Rosy Rustic	*Hydraecia micacea*
Shaded Broad-bar	*Scotopteryx chenopodiata*
Small Phoenix	*Ecliptopera silaceata*
Small Square-spot	*Diarsia rubi*
Welsh Wave	*Venusia cambrica*
a micro-moth	*Agonopteryx heracliana*
a micro-moth	***Bactra lancealana****
a micro-moth	*Eudonia delunella*
a micro-moth	***Eudonia pallida****
a micro-moth	*Eudonia truncicolelle*
Mother of Pearl	*Pleuroptya ruralis*

Twenty-plume Moth ***Alucita hexadactyla**** Flew into Eskrigg Centre 16.08.17

*New species for Eskrigg Reserve

Bactra lancealana

No Photograph for ***Eudonia pallida***

Alucita hexadactyla

Oblique Carpet

Early Thorn

Shaded Broad-bar

Photographs by Jim Rae

Sun. 27th Fungal Foray with Duncan Ford

Once again, many thanks to Duncan for the very informative guide to the main groups of fungi.

More amateur mycologists arrived after the picture was taken.

The following species were pointed out to the group and interesting facts and folklore explained.

Amethyst Deceiver	*Laccaria amethystina*	**Fruity Brittlegill***	***Russula queletti***
Ashen Chanterelle	*Cantharellus cinereus*	Jellybaby	*Leotia lubrica*
Beech Milkcap (spotted)	*Lactarius blennius*	Nutty Brittlegill	*Russula integra*
Beechwood Sickener	*Russula nobilis*	Ochre Brittlegill	*Russula ochroleuca*
Birch Polypore	*Piptoporus betulinus*	Pelargonium Webcap	*Cortinarius flexipes*
Blackening Brittlegill	*Russula nigricans*	Poisonpie	*Hebeloma crustuliniforme*
Blusher	*Amanita rubescens*	Porcelain Fungus	*Oudemansiella mucida*
Brown Birch Bolete	*Leccinum scabrum*	Powdery Brittlegill	*Russula parazurea*
Brown Rollrim	*Paxillus involutus*	Purple Brittlegill	*Russula atropurpurea*
Chanterelle	*Chanterelle cibarius*	Rooting Shank	*Xerula radicata*
Charcoal Burner	*Russula cyanoxantha*	Sickener	*Russula emetica*
Common Earthball	*Scleroderma citrinum*	Soft Puffball	*Lycoperdon umbrinum*
Common Puffball	*Lycoperdon perlatum*	Tawny Grisette	*Amanita fulva*
Deadly Webcap	*Cortinarius rubellus*	Velvet Bolete	*Suillus variegatus*
Fly Agaric	*Amanita muscaria*	Wood Hedgehog	*Hydnum repandum*

During the last few days of the month, a number of other species were noted in other parts of the woods next to Eskrigg Reserve.

Bay Polypore	*Polyporus durus*	Felt Saddle	*Helvella leucomelaena*
Bleeding Porecrust	*Physisporinus sanguinolentus*	Glistening Inkcap	*Coprinellus micaceus*
Burnt Knight	*Tricholoma ustale*	**Golden Spindles***	***Clavulinopsis fusiformis***
Candlesnuff	*Xylaria hypoxylon*	Green Elfcup	*Chlorociboria aeruginascens*
Cellar Cup	*Peziza cerea*	Horsehair Parachute	*Marasmius androsaceus*
Cep	*Boletus edulis*	Pale Stagshorn	*Calocera pallidospathulata*
Conifer Blueing Bracket	*Postia caesia*	Plums and Custard	*Tricholomopsis rutilans*
Conifer Mazegill	*Gloeophyllum sepiarium*	Primrose Brittlegill	*Russula sardonia*
Crested Coral	*Clavulina coralloides*	Spotted Toughshank	*Rhodocollybia maculata*
Dappled Webcap	*Cortinarius bolaris*	Yellow Stagshorn	*Calocera viscosa*
Deathcap*	***Amanita phalloides***	Willow Bracket	*Phellinus igniarius*
Earthtongue	*Geoglossum cookeanum*	Wood Cauliflower	*Sparassis crispa*

*** New species for Eskrigg Reserve.**

Golden Spindles

Dappled Webcap

Chanterelle

Plums and Custard

Amethyst Deceiver

Grisette

Photographs by Jim Rae

5. Volunteer Activities in August

Sat. 5th **Michael Kerr** and **Rory Holden** helped **Jim** fill in the potholes on Eskrigg Farm road and laid gravel on a new section of woodland walk.

Thu. 24th Freda Seddon and **Jim Rae** pulled some of the reed-grasses round the edge of the pond.

Thu. 31st Freda Seddon, **Kaye Borthwick** and **Jim Rae** pulled more reed-grasses from the edge of the pond.

During the rest of the month, there was so much rain that taking a quad bike and trailer filled with gravel along the paths would have done more damage than good, therefore work on the paths was suspended.

6. The Large Pine Weevil (*Hylobius abietis*)

Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, the young trees in the most recently planted forestry compartment south of the Reserve have been attacked by the Large Pine Weevil. The weevil has been developing in the stumps of the old pine trees since they were felled, but are now climbing up the Western Hemlock and Douglas Fir and, if not killed now, they will go on to destroy the new crop. Castle Milk Estate will be spraying the trees in the very near future so visitors to the area must avoid eating the wild fruit (bilberries, wild raspberries and brambles) and any edible fungi in that compartment.

Large Pine Weevil

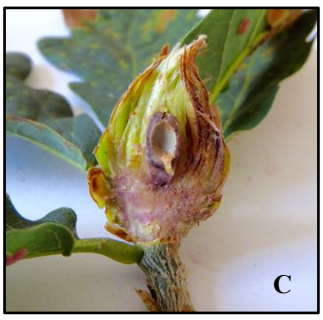
Bilberry

Wild Raspberry

Bramble

7. The Oak Artichoke Gall

The asexual generation of the gall wasp *Andricus foecundatrix* is responsible for the well-named artichoke or hop gall, which is a greatly enlarged bud, up to 30mm long. Deep among the bud scales is a hard, egg-shaped inner gall containing a single larva. Galls appear in mid-summer and mature in August, when the inner gall is forced out and falls to the ground, leaving just the dried scales on the twigs. Pupation takes place in the fallen galls and adults emerge in late spring to lay their eggs in the male flower buds. Galls of the sexual generation are inconspicuous, hairy swellings on the catkins.



A - An Artichoke Gall photographed at the beginning of August.
B - Photograph of an Artichoke Gall taken at the end of August.
C - Section of an Artichoke Gall made at the end of August showing the inner gall.
D - Inner gall cut in half.

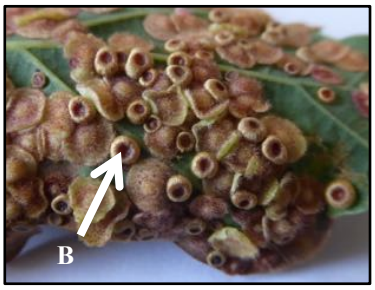
Photographs by Jim Rae

8. Oak Spangle Galls (Text from 'Britain's Plant Galls' by Michael Chinery with the author's permission.)

A - Common Spangle Gall

Each gall houses the larva of the asexual generation of the gall wasp ***Neuroterous quercusbaccarum***. The gall is up to 5mm across, with a central 'pimple' and scattered tufts of red hairs.
The galls fall from the leaves and pass the winter in the leaf litter, often swelling noticeably as the insects mature inside them. Adult gall wasps emerge early in the spring and lay their eggs in the oak buds. Galls of the second generation develop on the male catkins or on the young leaves and mature in late spring and early summer. Commonly known as currant galls, they are about 6mm across, soft and juicy, and green with a variable amount of red blushing. The adult insects emerge during the summer and mated females lay their eggs in the leaves to start the cycle again.

B - Silk Button Spangle Gall



This type of gall, caused by the asexual generation of the gall wasp ***Neuroterous numismalis***, is a truly spectacular gall, especially when looked at closely. The raised edge of the cup appears to have been embroidered with silky golden hairs. Developing on the undersides of the leaves, the galls are often abundant in late summer. Hundreds may occur on a single leaf. Up to 5mm across, each gall contains a single larva. The galls mature on the ground in autumn and the adult wasps emerge in the spring. Eggs are laid in the oak buds and the resulting larvae induce the formation of the galls of the sexual generation on the young leaves. These galls are far harder to spot than the showy silk buttons, being small, circular blisters that match the colour of the oak leaves. The barely raised dome on the upper surface is matched by a similar bulge below. The upper surface has a central pimple, from which radiating lines stretch almost to the edge. A single larva lives and pupates in each gall and the adult insects emerge from May to July.

9. Autumn Spider - *Metellina segmentata* / *Meta segmentata*

This spider is found in semi-open habitats from August to October. It is diurnal and feeds on insects. It builds a relatively small orb-web, which is normally close to the ground. The spider is usually found upside down in the centre of its web or near the edge, waiting for prey. When disturbed the spider falls back into the vegetation.

Mating occurs in September and lasts only a few minutes. Before mating takes place, a number of sexually mature males appear in the vicinity of the orb-web of the female, where they wait for the female to be ready to mate. If an insect gets caught in the female's web, the males race toward it and the fastest spider wraps the prey in silk and offers it as a 'bridal gift' to the female. While the female eats the gift, the successful male starts a courtship ritual during which it drums and plucks at the threads of the web to get the full attention of the female. When the female is ready, she takes position on a mating string at the rear of the web. After mating, the male spider leaves.

The female Autumn Spider creates several white, round cocoons on the branches or the bark of trees for the protection of the eggs. Up to 100 yellow eggs are laid in these cocoons. The new generation hatches in the spring.

Photographs by Jim Rae

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