

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

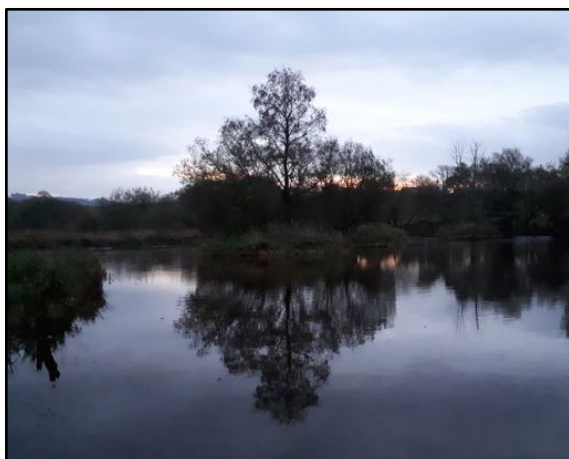


Eskrigg Reserve

October 2017 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Eskrigg Pond at Daybreak (19.10.17) Red Squirrel Hide Feeding Station (07.10.17)



2. **Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during October.**

a. Birds

Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Wagtail, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Swallow, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Wood Pigeon, Wood Warbler, Wren.



b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Brown Hare, Common Shrew, Fox, Hedgehog, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Weasel.

c. Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles

Minnow, Stickleback, Common Frog, Common Toad, Common Lizard.

3. **October Photo Gallery - No photographs from visiting photographers this month.**



Photographs by Jim Rae

4. Planned Activities in October

Tue. 3rd Lockerbie Academy - John Muir Trust Award

Group 2 - The members of the group helped rake up autumn leaves from several sections of the path around the Reserve and Woodland Walks.

Tue. 10th Lockerbie Academy - John Muir Trust Award

Group 2 - The girls studied the woodland invertebrates caught in pitfall traps and living under a pile of dead logs.

These included: Earthworm, Nematode, Black Slug, Rounded Snail, Woodlouse, Centipede, Millipedes (3 species), Ground Beetles (4 species), Ground Beetle Larva, Rove Beetle, Springtails, Harvestmen, Spiders (3 species).

Sun. 15th Fungal Foray with Duncan Ford / Jim Rae

This event was cancelled because Duncan inspected the area and found few of the colourful, medium to large fungi around. Jim notified those who had booked to attend.

However, a good number of people still came along and Jim showed them round and was able to point out 52 different species during the afternoon.



Common Name

Amethyst Deceiver
Ashen Chanterelle
Bay Polypore
Beech Milkcap
Beechwood Sickener
Birch Polypore
Blackening Brittlegill
Bleeding Porecrust
Blusher
Blushing Bracket
Brown Puffball
Brown Rollrim
Burnt Knight
Candlesnuff Fungus
Chanterelle
Charcoal Burner
Clouded Funnel
Common Earthball
Conifer Mazegill
Crested Coral
Dark Honey Fungus
Deadly Webcap
Dyer's Mazegill
Earthtongue
Elfin Saddle
Felt Saddle

Scientific Name

Laccaria amethystina
Cantharellus cinereus
Polyporus durus
Lactarius blennius
Russula nobilis
Piptoporus betulinus
Russula nigricans
Physisporinus sanguinolentus
Amanita rubescens
Daedaleopsis confragosa
Lycoperdon umbrinum
Paxillus involutus
Tricholoma fulvum
Xylaria hypoxylon
Cantharellus cibarius
Russula cyanoxantha
Clitocybe nebularis
Scleroderma citrinum
Gloeophyllum sepiarium
Clavulina coralloides
Armillaria ostoyae
Cortinarius rubellus
Phaeolus schweinitzii
Geoglossum cookeanum
Helvella lacunosa
Helvella macropus

Common Name

Fly agaric
Green Elfcup
Grey Knight
Grisette
Heath Waxcap
Honey Fungus
Horsehair Parachute
Jellybaby
Leafy Brain
Lurid Boletus
No Common Name
No Common Name
No Common Name
No Common Name
Ochre Brittlegill
Pelargonium Webcap
Primrose Brittlegill
Purple Jellydisc
Root Rot
Scarletina Boletus
Shaggy Scalycap
Snowy Inkcap
Sulphur Tuft
Turkeytail
Wood Hedgehog

Scientific Name

Amanita muscaria
Chlorociboria aeruginascens
Tricholoma terreum
Amanita vaginata
Hygrocybe laeta
Armillaria mellea
Marasmius androsaceus
Leotia lubrica
Tremella foliacea
Boletus luridus
Cordyceps longisegmentis
Helvella atra
Lactarius lacunarum ?
Russula farinipes ?
Scutellinia olivascens
Russula ochroleuca
Cortinarius flexipes
Russula sardonia
Ascocoryne sarcoides
Heteribasidion annosum
Boletus luridiformis
Pholiota squarrosa
Coprinopsis nivea
Hypholoma fasciculare
Trametes versicolor
Hydnum repandum



Leafy Brain



Heath Waxcap



Grey Knight

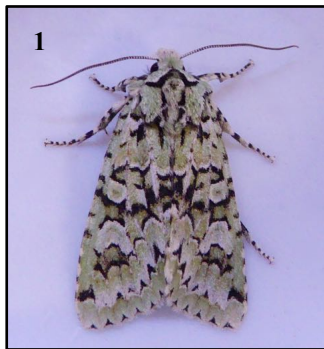


Snowy Inkcap

Photographs by Jim Rae

Thu. 19th October Moths with Jim Rae

Common Name	Scientific Name	Pine	Spruce	Pond Fringe
Angle Shades	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	-	1	-
Dark Chestnut	<i>Conistra ligula</i>	1	1	-
Feathered Thorn	<i>Colotois pennaria</i>	1	1	-
Grey Pine Carpet	<i>Thera obeliscata</i>	4	-	7
Merveille du Jour	<i>Dichonia aprilina</i>	-	-	1
Pale November Moth	<i>Epirrita christyi</i>	2	-	-
Red-green Carpet	<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>	1	1	5
Red-line Quaker	<i>Agrochola lota</i>	-	-	2
Red Sword-grass	<i>Xylena vetusta</i>	-	-	1
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	-	-	2
Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera britannica</i>	1	-	2



1. Merveille du Jour on a plain background. 2. Merveille du Jour on the tree bark. 3. Feathered Thorn on moss.

Mon. 23rd Visit by P7 pupils and staff from Murray Primary School, East Kilbride

Following a short introduction and tour of the Reserve, the youngsters investigated the woodland minibeasts.

After a break for lunch, it was time for a spot of pond dipping.



Tue. 24th Autumn Pondlife with Jim Rae

There was a good turnout for the event even though those who booked were told not to expect many invertebrates because of the absence of pondweed.

We found lots of sticklebacks, a few Lesser Water Boatmen, a few Backswimmers and some bloodworms (insect larvae). We also found minnows in the stream.

Tue. 31st Lockerbie Academy - John Muir Trust Award Group 2

Four girls set about treating a bench seat with wood preservative while four others split their time between raking up leaves and helping Jim to lay a new section of gravel path using the quad bike and trailer.



5. Volunteer Activities in October

Fri. 13th **Jim Rae** collected a bench seat (donated by Edna Eelbeck) from Compass in Dumfries and gave it a first coat of wood preservative.

Sat. 14th **Michael Kerr, Halime Yildiz, Neil Stewart and Patrick Malone** helped **Jim** fill up some of the pot holes along the Eskrigg Farm road.

Despite the 10 mph speed limit, a number of drivers drive far too fast along the road, with the result that the road repairs are short-lived.



Thu. 19th till Sun. 22nd

Halime Yildiz, Michael Kerr, Patrick Malone and Neil Stewart kindly looked after the Reserve while **Jim** was away in Germany. This involved locking up the Centre and toilet in the evenings. Each morning, they opened up and tidied the Centre and toilet, entered the previous day's sightings in the log book, tidied the Red Squirrel Hide and topped up all the squirrel and bird feeders. Well done the E-Team.

Sat. 28th **Neil Stewart, Phoebe Davison and Halime Yildiz** raked up the fallen leaves from the Reserve and woodland paths.

Sat. 28th **Bob Merritt** carried out his 4th survey of invertebrates at Eskrigg Reserve. Most of the species he found had not previously been recorded at Eskrigg Reserve and this is also the first time that the money spider, *Asthenargus paganus*, has been recorded in Dumfries and Galloway.

Key to Habitats: H - Heathland, C - Conifer plantation

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat	Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat
Ground Beetles	<i>Agonum muelleri</i>	(H)	Money Spiders	<i>Diplocephalus latifrons</i>	(H/C)
	<i>Trichocellus placidus</i>	(H)		<i>Diplostyla concolor</i>	(C)
Rove Beetles	<i>Anthobium sp.</i>	(C)		<i>Erigonella hiemalis</i>	(H)
	<i>Philonthus rotundicollis</i>	(C)		<i>Ero cambridgei</i>	(H)
	<i>Stenus impressus</i>	(H)		<i>Gonatium rubens</i>	(H)
	<i>Stenus nanus</i>	(H/C)		<i>Gongylidiellum vivum</i>	(C)
	<i>Tachyporus dispar</i>	(H)		<i>Maso sundevalli</i>	(H)
	<i>Tachyporus hypnorum</i>	(H)		<i>Micrargus herbigradus</i>	(H/C)
	<i>Tachyporus obtusus</i>	(H)		<i>Microneta viaria</i>	(H)
Crab Spiders	<i>Ozyptila sp.</i>	(H)		<i>Minyriolus pusillus</i>	(H)
	<i>Xysticus sp.</i>	(H)		<i>Monocephalus fuscipes</i>	(H/C)
Ghost Spider	<i>Zora spinimana</i>	(H)		<i>Pocadicnemis pumila</i>	(H)
Jumping Spider	<i>Neon sp.</i>	(H)		<i>Porrhomma pygmaeum</i>	(C)
Long-jawed Spider	<i>Metellina menzei</i>	(H)		<i>Savignia frontata</i>	(H/C)
Pirate Spider	<i>Ero cambridgei</i>	(H)		<i>Tenuiphantes alacris</i>	(H)
Money Spiders	<i>Asthenargus paganus</i>	(C)		<i>Tenuiphantes cristatus</i>	(H)
	<i>Centromerus dilutus</i>	(H)		<i>Tenuiphantes flavipes</i>	(H)
	<i>Ceratinella brevipes</i>	(H/C)		<i>Tenuiphantes menzei</i>	(H/C)
	<i>Ceratinella brevis</i>	(C)		<i>Tenuiphantes tenuis</i>	(H)
				<i>Tenuiphantes zimmemmanni</i>	(H/C)

Asthenargus paganus is scarce in the UK - as of now, recorded in only 73 hectads of the national grid since 1913. It is found in moss, leaf litter and detritus in mature broad-leaved and coniferous woodland. It has been found commonly under the scales of spruce bark and in spruce litter. It is adult in autumn, winter and spring.

Sun. 29th Maintenance Day

Jim Rae strimmed the sides of the path between the car park and the Reserve and then raking up the grass cuttings and dead leaves. He managed to complete about half of the path.

Photograph by Jim Rae

6. The discovery of a scarce spider at Eskrigg has prompted me to include an article about spiders.

Spider Silk

One of the defining features of spiders is that they all produce silk from a set of spinnerets at the rear of their abdomen. This silk plays a pivotal role in the lives of spiders and fulfills many and varied functions. There are six types of silk gland recognised, each producing silks with different mechanical properties. Of these six gland types, each species of spider has a combination of at least three (males) or four (females), the number depending on the family to which they belong. The properties of silk are astonishing. It is incredibly flexible, elastic and strong, with one type (dragline silk) having a tensile strength comparable to that of high-grade alloy steel. It is also spun at ambient temperature, unlike synthetic fibres, making it very energy-efficient to produce.

Furthermore, spiders can 'tune' the properties of a type of silk by changing the speed at which it is drawn out from their spinnerets and by combining multiple silk types to create threads with a wide range of characteristics. Spiders with a cribellum produce a type of non-sticky silk which acts rather like a 'woolly' sheet of Velcro, snagging the spines and hooks of the prey.

Different species use silk in the following ways:

1. to construct webs in order to catch prey - e.g. Orb webs, Funnel webs, Tangled webs, Lace webs, Radial webs and Sheet webs.
2. to construct silk-lined tube webs inside cavities where they can hide and wait for the opportunity to catch their prey. Silk threads radiate out of the nest to provide a sensory link to the outside.
3. to wrap up and immobilize their prey.
4. to create a nursery web which is spun as a protective retreat for young emerging from the egg-sac.
5. the Water Spider creates a 'diving bell' in order to live underwater. The bell is not used to catch prey; the spider is an active underwater hunter.
6. to facilitate courtship. Female spiders lay down draglines of silk, containing pheromones, as they move around. These enable males to locate potential partners and may indicate the sex and status (mated or virgin) of a female.
7. to mate. Some male spiders produce sperm webs for the transfer of the sperm.
8. to construct egg-sacs. All spider species wrap their eggs in silk. However, the construction of the egg-sacs in different species varies enormously. The egg-sacs are to protect the developing eggs from desiccation, temperature extremes, predators and parasites, and in some species to make them more portable.
9. to disperse. Two major dispersal mechanisms used by spiders involve silk: **ballooning** and **rappelling**.
 - a. Ballooning is the aerial dispersal strategy that has the potential to transport an individual hundreds or even thousands of kilometres. A strand of silk is released and elongates until the upward lift of the silk line is greater than the weight of the spider, which then drifts up into the air.
 - b. Rappelling involves short distance movements of a few metres. It relies on the short silk strand snagging on adjacent vegetation. It is then pulled in, made taut, attached to the substrate and used as a bridge. Money spiders are often induced to disperse at the same time. When they land, the silk strands can combine to form shrouds, commonly called **gossamer**, that cover the vegetation.
10. as a food source. Spiders' webs are easily damaged and are usually replaced every day or two. The spider eats the old web and recycles the silk components before making a new one.
11. as a guideline. Some spiders that venture from shelter will leave a trail of silk by which to find their way home again.
12. as a drop line and anchor line. Some spiders, such as Jumping Spiders, venture from their shelter and leave a trail of silk to use as an emergency line in case of falling from inverted or vertical surfaces. Many others, even web dwellers, will deliberately drop from a web when alarmed, using a silken thread as a drop line by which they can return in due course.
13. as an alarm line. Some spiders lay out alarm webs that the feet of their prey (such as ants) can disturb, cueing the spider to rush out and secure the meal if it is small enough, or to avoid contact if the intruder seems too formidable.

Notes made from the web and from Britain's Spiders - A field guide (Princeton University Press - 2017)

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