

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve

May 2019 News Bulletin

1. Eskrigg Pond - Photographs a. and b. were taken at 7.00 and 7.05 on the 22nd of May. Photograph c. was taken on the 29th of May.



Common Crossbill
(Female)

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during May.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Common Gull, Crossbill, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Redpoll, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Reed Bunting, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Swallow, Swift, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals

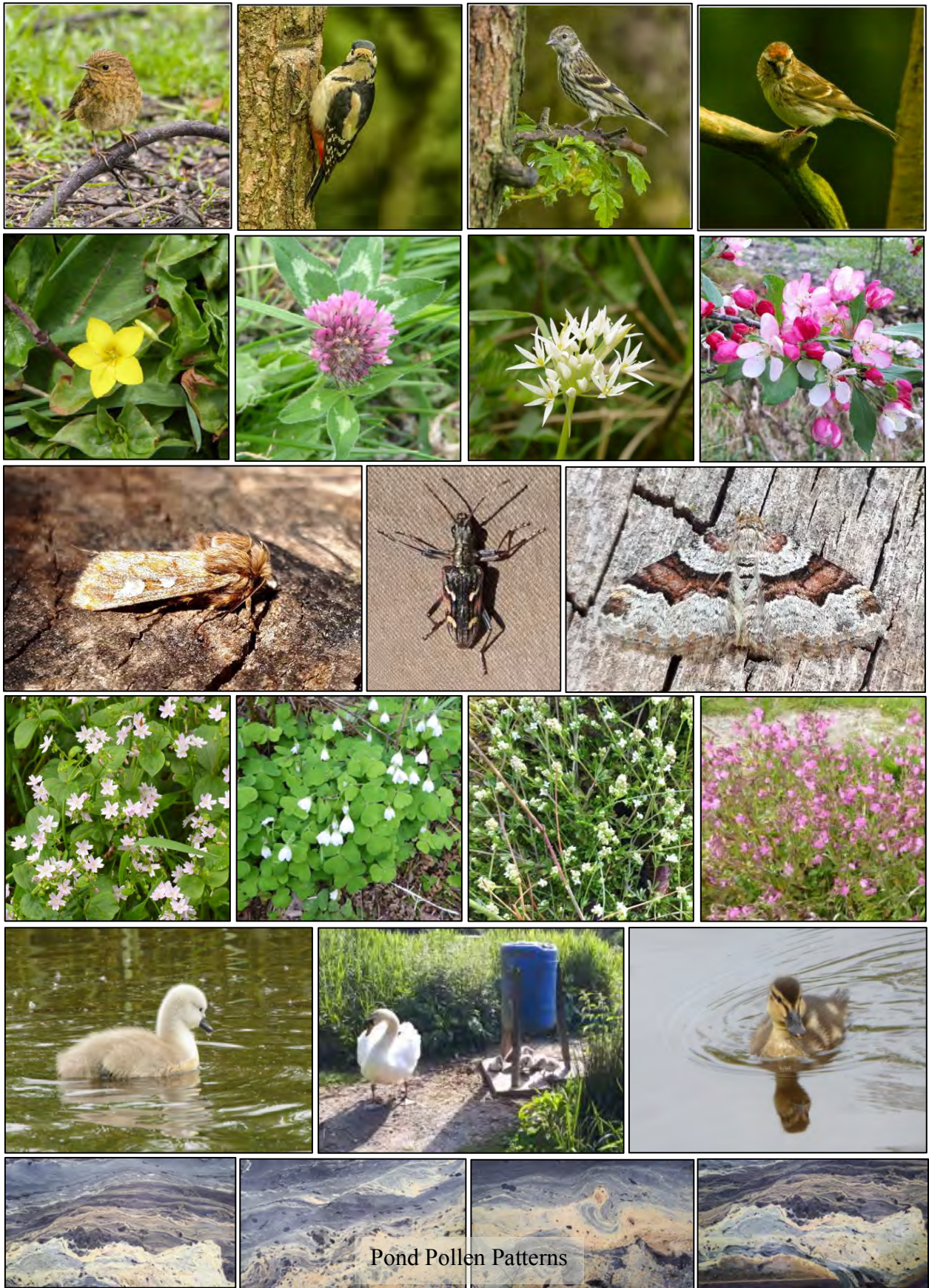
Bank Vole, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Soprano Pipistrelle Bat, Water Shrew, Woodmouse.

c. Amphibians

Frogs, Toads.

Photographs by Jim Rae

3. Eskrigg Reserve May Photo-gallery



1st Row: Juvenile Robin (RFB), Great Spotted Woodpecker (RFB), Siskin (RFB), Lesser Redpoll (RFB).

2nd Row: Yellow Pimpernel (JR), Strawberry Clover (JR), Wild Garlic (JR), Crab Apple (JR).

3rd Row: Pine Beauty (JR), Longhorn Beetle (JR), Flame Carpet (JR).

4th Row: Pink Purslane (JR), Wood Sorrel (JR), Heath Bedstraw (JR), Red Campion (JR).

5th Row: Mute Swan cygnet (JR), Female Mute Swan and offspring at feeder (JR), Mallard duckling (JR).

Photographs by Robert and Frances Blaikie (RFB), Jim Rae (JR)

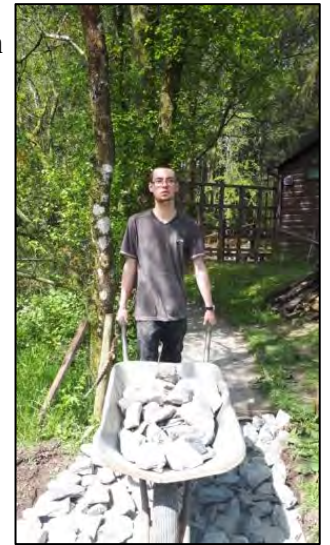
4. Volunteer Activities in May

Sat. 4th **Anthony Ison** helped **Jim** cut and clear branches from along the sluice dyke the boardwalk.



Tue. 7th **Steven Jackson, Steven Dalgliesh, Ross Gemmell and Tom Henry** worked with **Jim** to cut up and remove timber from along the boardwalk.

Tue. 14th **Findlay Crossan** and **Steven Jackson** used the quad bike and trailer to top up part of the Reserve path with 10mm sub-base then brought two loads of gabion stones for the new path, while **Steven Dalgliesh** helped **Jim** remove the first section of boardwalk and then replace it with the new hardcore path.



Tue. 21st In the morning, **Steven Dalgliesh** and **Jim** brought down an assortment of ladders and stripped the felt from the shelter roof. They then worked on the new path, removing the old boardwalk, while Alan Thomson and his boys, Willie McEwan and Euan Millar, fitted a new metal roof on the shelter.

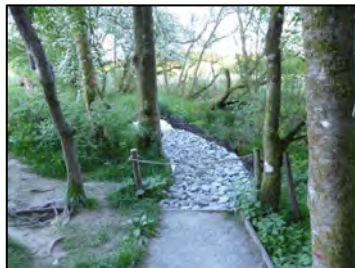


Steven Dalgliesh



Willie McEwan, Euan Millar and Alan Thomson

In the afternoon, Jim continued working on the path, gathering gabion stones and laying them on terram membrane until he reached a tree stump that had to be cut shorter.



Pictures by Jim Rae

Wed. 22nd **Richard Macauley**, who works for **Dougie Stevens**, took the top off the tree stump. This allowed **Jim** to extend the Terram membrane and layer of gabion stones on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th.

Sat. 25th **Jim**, helped by **Anthony Ison**, **Lewis Carrick** and **Neil Stewart**, extended the layer of gabion stones and added a layer of 40mm washed gravel to the first section of path.



Tue. 28th **Steven Jackson** and **Steven Dalgliesh** helped **Jim** install the storm overflow pipe and extend the gravel path.

Above photographs by **Jim Rae**

5. Special Event - BEM

Fri. 31st On behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, **Dumfriesshire Lord Lieutenant Fiona Armstrong** presented **Jim Rae** with the **British Empire Medal** for services to **Eskrigg Nature Reserve** and the community of **Lockerbie**.

After the presentation, **Jim** used the opportunity to thank the many people who had helped over the years: the members of the **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust**, its Management Committee (past and present), President **Sir John Buchanan-Jardine** and Honorary Vice-presidents **Bobby Smith** and **Duncan Ford** for their help and advice over the last three decades; the staff and pupils (past and present) at **Lockerbie Academy**, with whom he has worked for the past forty-eight years; the forest manager and his staff on **Castle Milk** and **Corrie Estate**; local firms and contractors; local charity organisations; **Dumfries and Galloway Ranger Service**; **Lockerbie** and District residents and visitors to the Reserve, including wildlife photographers from all over the world.



LtoR: Fiona Armstrong, Jim Rae, daughter Alison and grandson Arran.

Photograph by Bryan Armstrong



Photograph courtesy of the Dumfries and Galloway Standard.

Lastly, **Jim** thanked his family, in particular his wife **Barbara** for being with him all the way.

It was **Jim's** idea to create the nature reserve and form a local wildlife trust over thirty years ago and he continues to manage the **Eskrigg Nature Reserve** today.

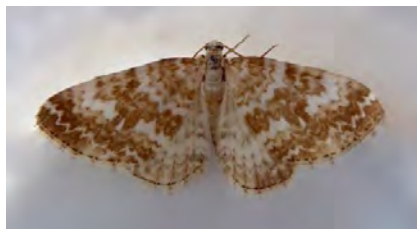
5. May Events at the Reserve

Tue. 14th/Wed. 15th Moth Trapping

Common Name	Scientific Name	Spruce Wood	Pine Wood	Pond Fringe
Macro-moths				
Brindled Pug	<i>Eupithecia abbreviata</i>	-	1	-
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	-	-	1
Clouded Silver	<i>Lomographa temerata</i>	-	-	1
Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	-	-	3
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	-	-	9
Devon Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx otregiata</i>	-	-	1
Engrailed	<i>Ectropis crepuscularia</i> *	1	4	1
Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	-	-	5
Grey Birch	<i>Aethalura punctulata</i>	-	1	-
Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	-	1	11
Least Black Arches	<i>Nola confusalis</i>	-	-	2
Lesser Swallow Prominent	<i>Pheosia gnoma</i>	-	-	1
Nut-tree Tussock	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	2	2	7
Pine Beauty	<i>Panolis flammea</i>	-	-	1
Poplar Hawk-moth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	-	1	2
Purple Clay	<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>	1	-	5
Puss Moth	<i>Cerura vinula</i>	-	-	1
Red Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe spadicearia</i>	-	1	2
Sandy Carpet	<i>Perizoma flavofasciata</i>	-	-	1
Scalloped Hazel	<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	-	-	15
Small Engrailed	<i>Ectropis crepuscularia</i> *	-	-	8
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	-	-	5
Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera britannica</i>	-	1	-
Water Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	-	2	-
Micro-moths				
a Micro-moth	<i>Agonopterix arenella</i>	-	-	1
a Micro-moth	<i>Epiblema scutulana</i>	-	-	1



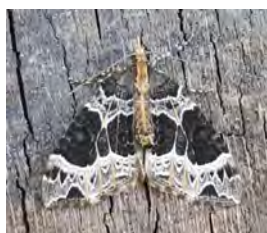
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet



Sandy Carpet



Puss Moth



Small Phoenix



Nut-tree Tussock



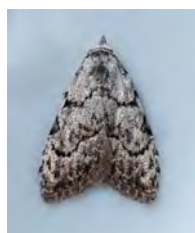
Devon Carpet



Scalloped Hazel



Epiblema scutulana



Least Black Arches



Agonopterix arenella

Photographs by Jim Rae

Thu. 16th Several groups of **Lockerbie Academy** students and teachers visited the Reserve to undertake some Biology Field Studies. The photograph on the right shows one of the groups doing some pond dipping. Other groups carried out a stream study, tree shakes and quadrat investigation. The groups then rotated round the four different activities.

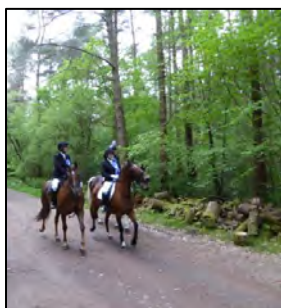


Sat. 18th **Environment Fair** in Dumfries.



Jim set up a **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust** stall at the Environment Fair, as usual, to inform people about the Trust and Eskrigg Nature Reserve. Many thanks to **Kath** and **David Hughes** for helping out on the day.

Mon. 20th **Lockerbie Gala Rideout**



A large turnout of cyclists came down through the Reserve to greet and follow the horses. As usual, Jim opened the gates at either end of the forest road to facilitate access to the route.

Wed. 22nd **Annan Probus Club** invited Jim to give a talk about his role as Eskrigg Reserve Manager.

Thu. 23rd Another group of students from **Lockerbie Academy** came to the Reserve to carry out some biological fieldwork.



Photographs by **Jim Rae**

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