

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

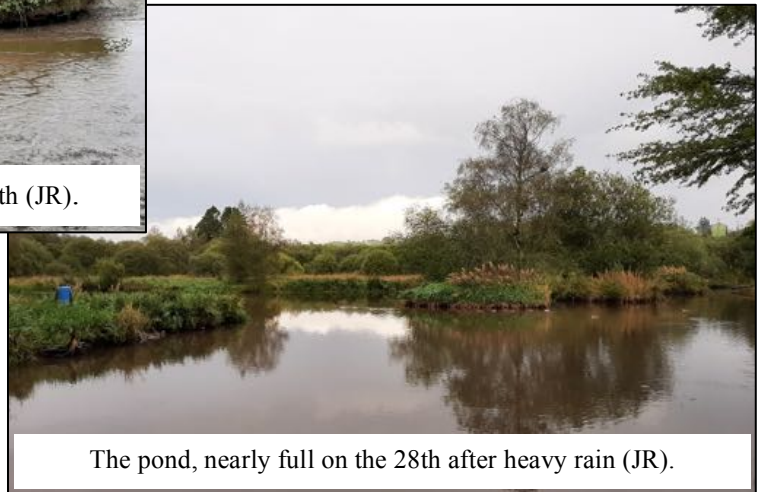
Eskrigg Reserve

September 2021 News Bulletin

1.



The pond, drained and nearly empty on the 25th (JR).



The pond, nearly full on the 28th after heavy rain (JR).

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during September.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Common Crossbill, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Grasshopper Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, **Jay**, Kestrel, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Mute Swan (Resident MS died on the 10th), Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Spotted Flycatcher, Starling, Stock Dove, Swallow, Swift, Teal, Treecreeper, Wigeon, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren.



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b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Common Shrew, Mole, **Rabbit**, **Red Squirrel**, Roe Deer, Weasel.



JR



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c. Insects

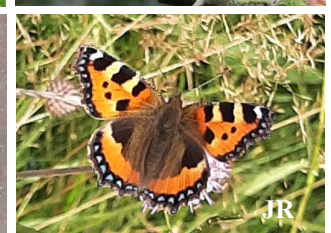
Butterflies: Comma, Green-veined White, Peacock, Red Admiral, **Small Tortoiseshell**.

Moths: **Copper Underwing** agg., Silver Y.

Others: Bee (various), Cranefly, Hawthorn Shieldbug.



JR



JR

Photographs by Brian Taylor (BT) and Jim Rae (JR)

3. Eskrigg Reserve - September 2021 Photo-gallery



Row 1 (CT): 7-spot Ladybirds, Hoverflies - *Volucella inanis* & *V. pellucens*, Comma butterfly

Row 2: Silver Y (CT), Goldcrest (BT), Green-veined White (CT)

Row 3 (JR): Field Cuckoo Bee, Honeysuckle fruit, Marsh Ragwort

Row 4 (JR): Crested Coral, Honeysuckle blossom, Wood Hedgehog

Row 5 (JR): Slippery Jack, Shaggy Incap, False Chanterelle

New species for Eskrigg

Photographs by Caroline Thom (CT), Brian Taylor (BT) & Jim Rae (JR)

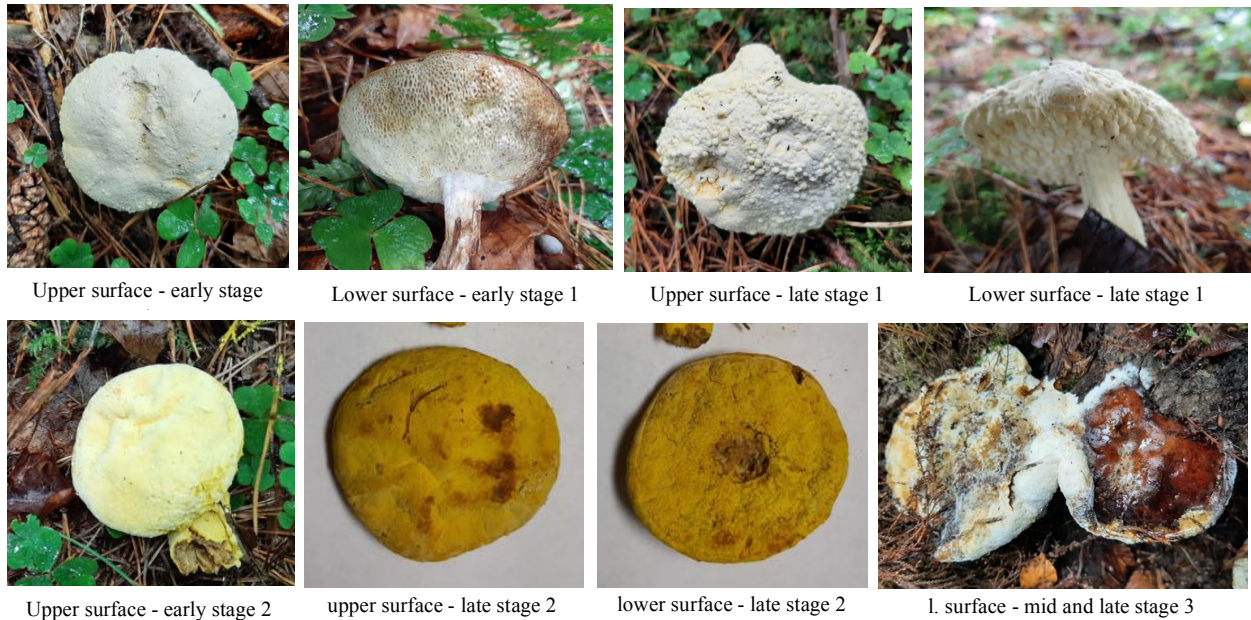
4. September Fungi around Eskrigg Reserve and Woodland Walks

(New Species for Eskrigg)

Amethyst Deceiver, **Aniseed Funnel (*Clitocybe odora*) - a**, Bay Bolete, Bay Polypore, Birch Polypore, Bitter Bolete, Blackening Brittlegill, Blusher, **Bolete Eater (*Hypomyces chrysospermus*) - see below**, Brown Birch Bolete, Brown Rollrim, Chanterelle, Charcoal Burner, Common Earthball, Crested Coral, Dyer's Mazegill, False Chanterelle, False Saffron Milkcap, Felt Saddle, Fly Agaric, Glistening Inkcap, Honey Fungus, Horse-hair Parachute, Nutty Brittlegill, Ochre Brittlegill, **Orange Birch Bolete (*Leccinum versipelle*) - b**, **Goldenhaired Inkcap (*Parasola auricoma*) - c**, Porcelain Fungus, Primrose Brittlegill, Saffron Milkcap, **Scaly Webcap (*Cortinarius pholideus*) - d**, Scarletina Bolete, Shaggy Inkcap, Sickener, Slippery Jack, Small Stagshorn, Smoky Bracket, Suede Bolete, **Tan Ear (*Otidea bufonia*) - e**, Tawny Grisette, Turkeytail, Willow Bracket, Wood Cauliflower, Wood Hedgehog, Yellow Stagshorn.



'Bolete Eater' Mould - *Hypomyces chrysospermus*



This is a parasitic ascomycete fungus that grows on bolete mushrooms, turning the afflicted host a whitish, golden yellow, or tan colour. It becomes evident when the host fungi produce mature fruiting bodies. Apparently it is fairly frequent in Britain, although this is the first year it has been spotted at Eskrigg. The Bolete Eater and its afflicted host are inedible.

"The Bolete Eater goes for the underside of the host's cap first and gives a distinct fishy smell to the boletes it grows upon. In its initial white fluffy stage its spores are elliptical and smooth and between 10-30 microns in length and 5-12 microns wide. The lurid yellow powdery coating, that develops on this initial covering, is made up of its asexual spores, which are spherical, spiny and range up to 25 microns in diameter. Then there is a third phase, when the host has deliquesced into a revolting smelly slime, which reveals that *Hypomyces chrysospermus* is in fact an ascomycete fungus, producing a third type of sexual spore in batches of eight in long sacs. In this final stage the 'ascospores' are once again elliptical and 30 microns long, but a lot narrower, only reaching up to 6 microns in width, and also possess a separating wall in the cell. Depending on the state of decay of the bolete host and the Bolete Eater's various stages of development, all three spores can exist simultaneously."

The above paragraph was taken from an article by **Jasper Sharp** (woodlands.co.uk) September 2019.

Photographs by Jim Rae

5. Newly recorded Slime Mould at Eskrigg Reserve

On the 20th of September, **Keith Boseley** was visiting Eskrigg Reserve and Woodland Walks when he spotted the **Egg-shell Slime Mould (*Leocarpus fragilis*)** on the grass at the side of the forest road. The bright yellow/orange images are of the plasmodium stage. When they mature, within 24 hours, they become dry and turn brown then grey and produce blackish spores. They have a very brittle outer wall that cracks and fractures into angular pieces.



6. Maintenance and construction work at the Reserve and Woodland Walks in September.

Work carried out this month included:

- Strimming and raking up the grass at the cemetery entrance, down the car park path, in the Reserve and along sections of the forest road and northern loop.
- Pruning brambles, shrubs and trees round many of the paths.
- Transporting 40mm and 1mm gravel sub-base to Zack and Jack's Track and raking it out level.
- Collecting timber from Castle Milk Sawmill for rebuilding the jetty.
- Erecting new interpretation boards in the heathland, along the reserve paths and in the Kingfisher Hide.
- Repairing the sluice gate (thanks to **Alan Thomson** for his help).
- Erecting a new noticeboard at the start of the path down from the car park (see photograph).



The Reserve Manager, **Jim Rae**, would like to thank **Graeme Urquhart**, **Norah Muirhead**, **Sybille Spägle**, **Zack Nicholson** and **Jake Creighton** for their valued assistance. Thanks also to anyone else who has adopted a path and helped to keep it tidy.

7. September Activities at Eskrigg Reserve

3rd The RH Youth Group (Pathfinders and Troopers) visited the Reserve in the evening.

9th **Jim** and **Sybille** carried out a fungal foray.

16th **Jim** met up with **Alveria Weighill** and six other members of the **Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society** and took them on a guided tour of Eskrigg Reserve and Woodland Walks (see photograph).



8. Draining the pond

We had intended to drain the pond during the dry spell in order to dig out the accumulated silt. However, we could not do this because the injured swan could not fly off and still required open water. When the swan died on the tenth of September we started work to open the sluice (last opened in 2009) and drain off the water. Unfortunately, by then the dry spell had come to an end and we will have to wait until the next one before we can try again.

Photographs by Keith Boseley (KB) and Jim Rae (JR)

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