

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

July 2022 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Reserve heathland area (left) and pond (right).



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during July.

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, **Red Kite**, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Woodpigeon, Wren.



b. Mammals: Bank Vole, Common Shrew, Fox, **Rabbit**, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Woodmouse.



c. Insects

Butterflies: Green-veined White, **Large Skipper**, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary**, Small Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell.

Moths: Buff Ermine, Chimney Sweeper, Clouded Border, Riband Wave.

Other insects: Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Common Froghopper, Common Hawker, Golden-ringed Dragonfly, Grasshoppers, Hoverflies, Soldier Fly, Tree Bumblebee, White-tailed Bumblebee.



Photographs by Dave & Jenny Holt (DJH), Jim Rae (JR), Caroline Thom (CT)

3. July 2022 Photo-gallery.



Row 1 (DJH): Jay, Red Squirrel, Large Skipper
Row 2 (BT): Nuthatch, Red Squirrel, Great Spotted Woodpecker
Row 3 (JT): Robin, Red Squirrel, Wren
Row 4 (JR): Slime Mould (*Stemonitis fusca*) Day 1, Day 2, Day 3
Row 5 : Ringlet (JR), Roe Deer (DA), Hoverfly (JR)

Photographs by David Allan (DA), David and Jenny Holt (DJH), Jim Rae (JR), Jen Tay (JT), Brian Taylor (BT)

4. July Events.

26/27 July – Moth Trapping

Macro-moths

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of Moths		
		Trap 1	Trap 2	Trap 3
Antler Moth (b)	<i>Acronicta alni</i>	-	2	1
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	2	1	1
Common Lutestring	<i>Ochropacha duplaris</i>	-	1	-
Common Wave (h)	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	-	-	1
Copper Underwing (c)	<i>Amphipyra pyramidea</i>	-	1	-
Dark Arches (d)	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	1	-	3
Dark-barred Twin-Spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	-	-	1
Dark Marbled Carpet (g)	<i>Chloroclysta citrate</i>	1	1	-
Devon Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx otregiata</i>	2	-	-
Dotted Clay	<i>Xestia baja</i>	1	-	-
Double Square-spot (e)	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	1	-	-
Drinker (a)	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	-	-	1
Early Thorn (j)	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	-	-	1
Green Carpet	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	2	-	1
Ingrailed Clay (f)	<i>Diarsia mendica</i>	1	-	-
July Highflier	<i>Hydriomena furcate</i>	5	5	3
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	2	-	1
Lesser Cream Wave	<i>Scopula immutata</i>	-	-	5
Northern Spinach	<i>Eulithis populata</i>	1	-	-
Phoenix	<i>Eulithis prunata</i>	-	-	1
Poplar Hawkmoth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	1	1	2
Red-green Carpet	<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>	1	-	-
Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	2	1	-
Scalloped Oak (i)	<i>Crocallis elinguaris</i>	-	1	1
Small Fan-footed Wave	<i>Idaea biselata</i>	1	-	-
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	1	1	-
Small Wainscot	<i>Chortodes pygmina</i>	-	2	5
Twin-spotted Quaker	<i>Orthosia munda</i>	1	-	-

Micro-moths

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number		
		Trap 1	Trap 2	Trap 3
-	<i>Catoptria margaritella</i>	-	1	3
-	<i>Eudonia lineola</i>	-	7	-
-	<i>Eudonia truncicolella</i>	-	2	1

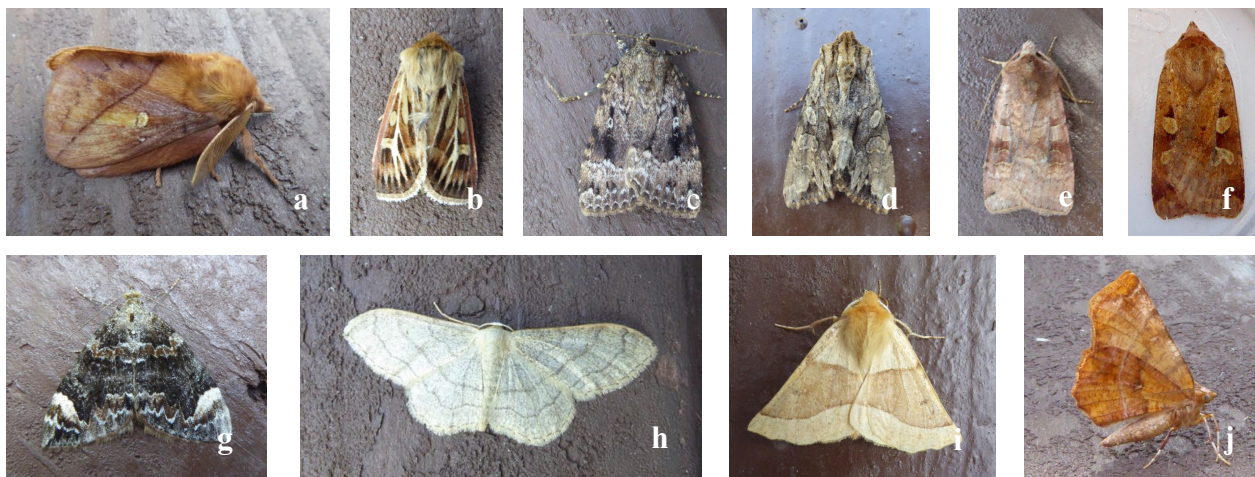
Totals

26

27

32

85 moths belonging to 32 different species



Photographs by Jim Rae

5. Construction and Maintenance Work during July.

Fri. 1 **Gordon Reid** and **Jim Rae** finished rebuilding the Jetty.



Mon. 4 **Tom Hargreaves** and **Jim** strimmed and raked the areas near the duck feeder, opposite the Red Squirrel Hide, beside the feeder burn and round the Northern Loop from the bridges to Gary's Seat.



Tue. 5 **Gordon** and **Jim** pruned, strimmed and raked round the Northern Loop from the Gravel heaps to Gary's Seat.

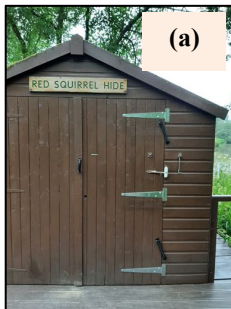
Tue. 12 **Gordon** and **Jim** filled in the potholes on Eskrigg Farm road and deep-strimmed the part of the Northern Loop from the gravel heap to Gary's Seat.



Wed. 13 **Peter Hands** attached battery charger cables to the new solar panel system.

Thu. 14 **Jim** raked several Reserve and Woodland Walks.

Fri. 15 **Jim** helped **Scott McLean** fix new hinges and door closures to the Red Squirrel Hide (a) and replace the floor at the entrance to the Centre (b). Scott did a first rate job. **Jim** then treated the new timbers with two layers of wood preservative (c).



16, 17 & 18 **Jim** strimmed and raked the entrance opposite the Cemetery Lodge, the Dumfries road path and several Woodland Walks.

Wed. 20 **Gordon** and **Jim** deep-strimmed and raked the rest of the Northern Loop.

Thu. 21 **Jim** strimmed and raked the picnic area, path from shelter to bridge and area around the Centre.

Tue. 26 **Gordon** and **Jim** strimmed and raked the apple tree area and the path through the Reserve.



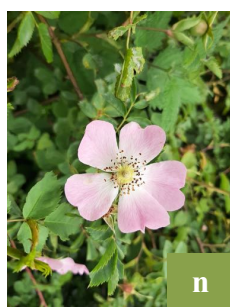
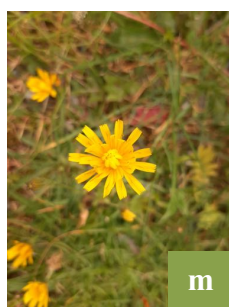
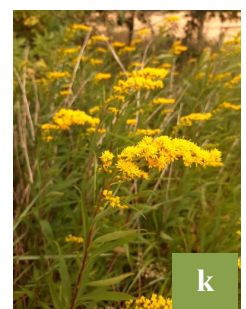
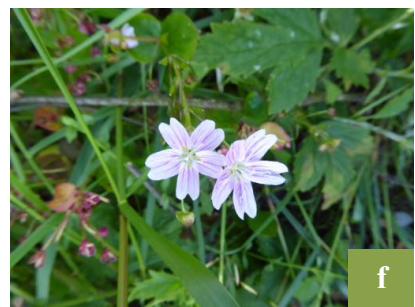
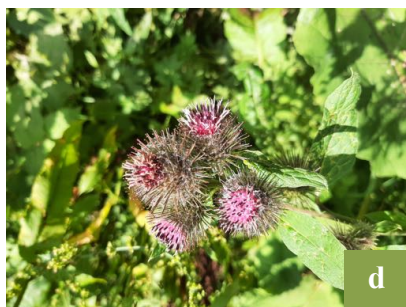
Thu. 28 **Archie Jarvis** and **Imogen Spence** (D of E Award volunteers) helped Jim cut back the trees on the outside of the south perimeter fence. On **Fri. 29** they helped cut back the trees on the inside of the fence.



Photographs by Jim Rae

7. July Flowers found at Eskrigg Reserve and Woodland Walks.

American Willowherb, Autumn Hawkbit (m), Bramble, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Bitter Dock, Bladder Sedge, Bottle Sedge, Branched Bur-reed, Broad-leaved Dock, Broad-leaved Willowherb, Buck's-beard (j), Chickweed, Cleavers, Climbing Corydalis, Common Comfrey, Common Hawkbit, Common Hemp-nettle, Common Mouse-ear, Common Ragwort, Common Sorrel, Common Valerian, Common Wintergreen, Cow Parsley, Creeping Buttercup, Creeping Thistle, Crosswort, Cross-leaved Heath, Cut-leaved Crane's-bill, Daisy, Dandelion, Dog Rose (n), Elder, Enchanter's Nightshade, Field Rose, Forget-me-not, Foxglove (b), Germander Speedwell, Goldenrod (k), Greater Burdock (d), Greater Plantain, Ground Elder, Hairy Willowherb, Hawkweed, Hawthorn, Heath Bedstraw, Heath Speedwell, Heath Spotted Orchid (g), Hedge Woundwort, Herb Robert, Honeysuckle, Jointed Rush, Knapweed (c), Lady's Bedstraw, Lesser Hawkbit, Lesser Spearwort, Lesser Stitchwort, Marsh Bedstraw, Marsh Cinquefoil (h), Marsh Ragwort, Marsh Thistle, Meadowsweet (i), Meadow Buttercup, Meadow Crane's-bill, Meadow Vetchling, Nettle, Nipplewort, Oxeye Daisy, Pendulous Sedge, Pignut, Pink Purslane (f), Prickly Sow Thistle, Ragged Robin (a), Red Campion, Red Clover, Redshank, Ribwort Plantain, Rosebay Willowherb, Rough Hawkbit, Round-leaved Crowfoot, Selfheal (p), Silverweed (o), Slender St. John's-wort, Smooth Hawk's-beard, Sneezewort, Spear Thistle, Square-stalked St. John's-wort, Sticky Mouse-ear, Tormentil, Trailing St. John's-wort, Tufted Vetch (l), Tutsan (e), Water Speedwell, White Clover, Wild Angelica, Wild Raspberry, Wood Sedge, Yarrow, Yellow Rattle.



Photographs by Jim Rae

8. Plant of the Month:

Wild Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*)

Wild raspberries are distributed throughout the British Isles except Orkney and Shetland. The raspberry is a frequent plant of open woodlands, wood margins, heaths and commons on dry, usually sandy soils, and is more frequent in hilly areas. The woody stems are biennial and flowering is from June to August.

On the 21 July, while I was strimming and raking up the grass next to the Eskrigg Centre, a lady told me that her children had been eating the wild raspberries, including some white ones. I asked her where they had come across the white raspberries and she told me that they had been next to the field maple tree on the sluice dyke, but that there were none left because her children had eaten them all. Sure enough, when I looked I could not find any. When I checked the same plants the next day, there were some white fruit on them (see above).



Normal Wild Raspberry
(*Rubus idaeus*)



Raspberry with
white drupelet disorder

A raspberry is an aggregate fruit, developing from the numerous distinct carpels of a single flower. The fifty or more carpels each ripen into a separate drupelet containing a juicy pulp and a single central seed. What distinguishes the raspberry from its blackberry relatives is whether or not the receptacle (tip of the stem carrying the fruit) "picks with" (i.e., stays with) the fruit. When picking a blackberry fruit, the receptacle stays with the fruit. With a raspberry, the receptacle remains on the plant, leaving a hollow core in the raspberry fruit.

Raspberries need ample sun and water for optimal development. They thrive in a well-drained soil with a pH between 6 and 7 with ample organic matter to assist in retaining water. While moisture is essential, wet and heavy soils or excess irrigation can bring on *Phytophthora* root rot. Wild raspberry fruits are eaten by birds and other wild animals and the seeds are dispersed in the animals' droppings.

Given the very hot, dry weather we have had lately, the raspberry fruits with white coloured drupelets have probably been affected by sunscald or white drupelet disorder. The high daytime temperatures and low humidity lead to an increase in ultraviolet radiation and this causes the berries to develop white or tan coloured drupelets. Berries with full exposure to direct afternoon sun are most susceptible to sunscald and/or white drupelet disorder. However, high temperatures also appear to be involved as berries shaded by the leaf canopy may also develop white drupelets.

The white raspberries at Eskrigg Reserve are edible and taste like the normal wild red raspberries but are a little less tart and a little less sweet. They are not cultivars that have escaped from someone's allotment.

There are commercially grown raspberry varieties that have a range of colours, including red, purple, black, golden and white. When choosing a specific variety a gardener must choose a cultivar suitable for their location. That is, if you live in a colder region, choose a winter hardy variety.

One company in the Netherlands, only cultivates white summer raspberries, in tunnels, and these are harvested in July and August. These fruit are a bit smaller than regular red raspberries but have the same velvety structure and an aromatic sweet flavour.

Photographs by Jim Rae

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