

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

August 2023 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Eskrigg Pond on the 14th of August



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during August

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Cormorant, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, House Sparrow, Jay, Kingfisher, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Spotted Flycatcher, Starling, Stock Dove, Swallow, Tree Creeper, Tree Sparrow, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals:

Bank Vole, Fox, Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Stoat.

c. Amphibians and Reptiles:

Frog, Toad, Lizard.

d. Insects:

Butterflies: Green-veined White, Large White, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White, **Wall (*Lasiommata megera*)**.

Moths: Copper Underwing.

Others: Bog Hoverfly (*Sericomyia silentis*), Four-banded Longhorn Beetle (*Leptura quadrifasciata*), Grasshopper, Hoverfly (*Helophilus pendulus*), Ichneumon Wasp (*Diphyus amatorius*), **Red-legged Shieldbug (*Pentatoma rufipes*)**.

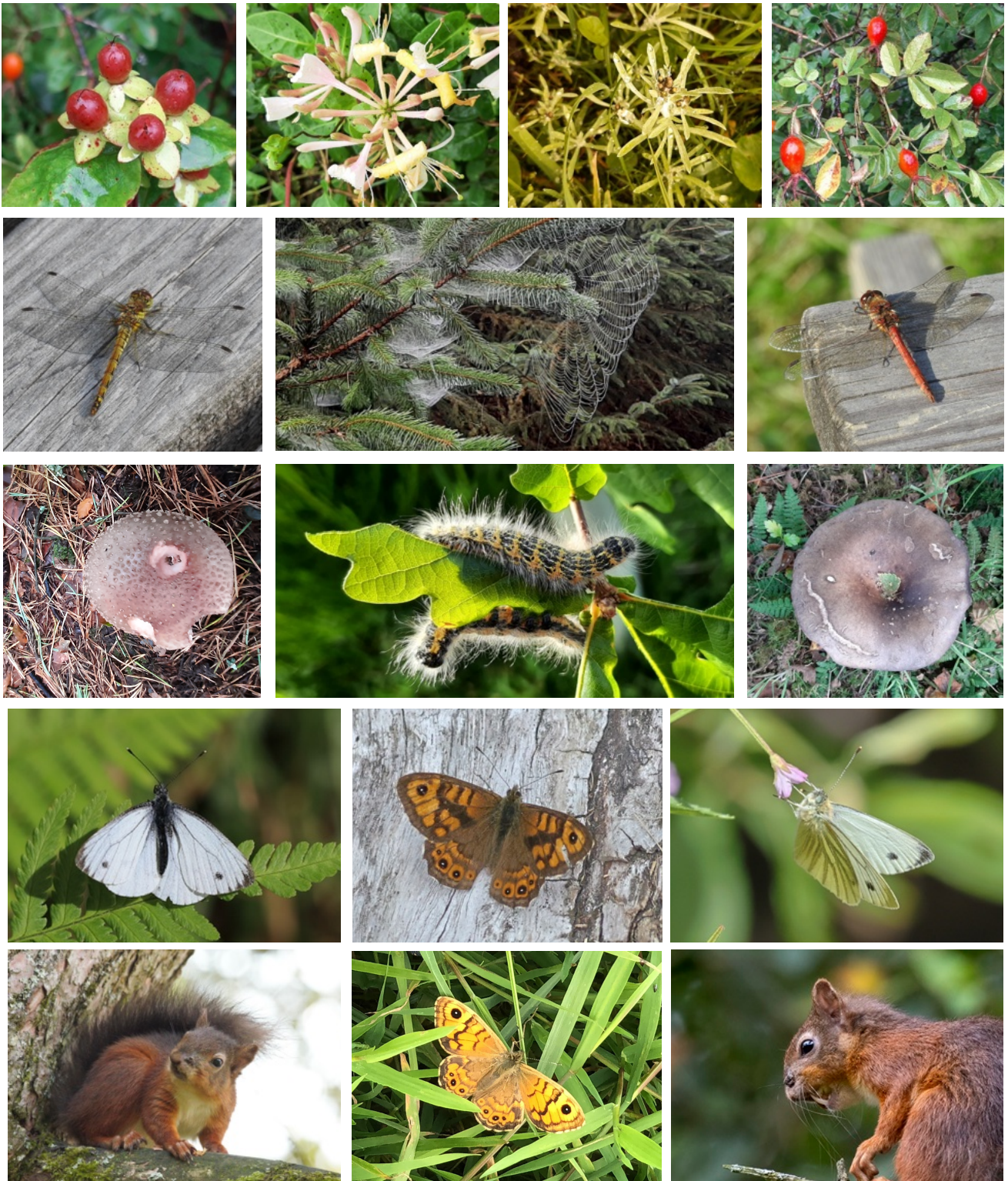


Copper Underwing

***New species for
Eskrigg Reserve**

Photographs by Sybille Spägle (SS)

3. August 2023 Photo-gallery



Row 1 (JR): Tutsan, Honeysuckle, Cudweed, Rose hips

Row 2 (JR): Common Darter (female), Cobwebs on the Sitka Spruce, Common Darter (male)

Row 3 (JR): Blusher, Oak Processionary caterpillars, Charcoal Burner

Row 4 (BT): Small White, Wall (male), Green-veined White

Row 5: Red Squirrel (GB), Wall (female) (JR), Red Squirrel (AM)

Photographs by Gary Brough (GB), Alistair Moulstone (AM), Jim Rae (JR), Brian Taylor (BT)

4. Construction and Maintenance Work during August

While the Reserve Manager was on holiday from Sunday 30 July until Sunday 6 August, **Liam McNeillie** kindly opened and closed the Centre and Hides at the Reserve. He also topped up the feeders. The hours of voluntary work involved have qualified him for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Mon. 07 Jim resourced a length of steel pipe, from Franklin Steel PLC in Heathhall, for mounting **Fiona Riviere's 'Broken Angel' sculpture**. He then got the help of **Alan Thomson** (Lockerbie Blacksmith) to weld the steel pipe into a heavy 4" scrap metal pipe, supplied by local plumber **Colin Taylor**.



Tue. 08 During the day, **Jim** cleaned the ramps up to the Eskrigg Centre and Red Squirrel Hide. In the evening, **Anna** and **Sybill Spägele** treated the Centre ramp with wood preservative.

Wed. 09 During the day, **Jim** cut down some overhanging branches along the forest road and strimmed the sides of paths near the Eskrigg Centre. In the evening, **Anna** and **Sybill Spägele** treated the ramp up to the Red Squirrel Hide with wood preservative.

Thu. 10 Jim pruned trees along the Reserve Path and then prepared the site for installing the **'Broken Angel'**.

Fri. 11 In the morning, **Jim** concreted in the pipe on which to mount the **'Broken Angel'**. He then met with **Fiona Riviere**, her husband, and some passing volunteers, who all helped to mount her sculpture on to the steel pipe.

Sat. 12 Jim strimmed along the west side of the feeder burn below the silt trap.

Mon. 14 Jim cut and cleared trees along the burn-side with the help of **Tom Hargreaves**.

Thu. 17 Jim strimmed and raked a 50m stretch along the side of the forest road then strimmed and raked the top of the Northern Loop.

Fri. 18 In the early evening of the 17th, some vandal kicked the door of the Red Squirrel Hide and broke the central boards. This was not discovered until



Jim opened up at 7.30am on the 18th. He immediately contacted **Scott McLean**, the joiner, who came down later in the afternoon and took measurements in order to make repairs - which he did the following morning.



Later in the morning of the 18th, **Jim**, **Brian** and **Gordon** strimmed and raked part of the Northern Loop.

Sat. 19 When **Jim** opened up he discovered that a willow tree, in the soak-away below the sluice dyke, had come down during the night before. He contacted Ross Gemmell who agreed to cut down all of the large trees in the area later in the Autumn.



Sun. 20 Jim treated the new boards on the front of the Red Squirrel Hide with wood preservative.

Fri. 25 A new volunteer, **Sam Pattinson**, came along in the morning to help **Gordon Reid**, **Brian Mauson**, **Sybill Spägele** and **Jim Rae**. Together they cleared self-seeded trees and brambles from the side of the path and ditch along part of the Southern Loop. In the afternoon **Jim** and **Sybill** continued the work in this area.

5. Activities involving the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust during August

Fri. 11 August at 4.00pm, Fiona Riviere (McCall) unveiled her sculpture of the 'Broken Angel'.



Fiona Riviere



'Broken Angel'



Colin Dunbar

Jim Rae, Reserve Manager, welcomed those present to the Reserve and made a few introductions: **John Reid** (Chairman of Lockerbie Wildlife Trust), **Sybille Spägele** (Vice Chairman), **Colin Dunbar** (Piper) and guest of honour, **Fiona Riviere (née McCall)**. **Jim** then invited **Fiona** to tell the gathering about her poem 'An Angel's Kiss' and the sculpture 'Broken Angel' which she had created for the reserve.

Fiona explained that the idea of 'The Angel' had come to her during the horrific Covid time. She had been deeply affected by the number of people that were dying on a daily basis. What kept going through her head was - there were all these angels, not very happy angels, people, just getting taken away - and this sort of applies to the "Broken Angel". The barbed wire heart is supposed to show us a sad, rather than, a happy angel. The poem she wrote at the time, called 'An Angel's Kiss' (which **Colin** read out a few minutes later) just came into her head, she didn't know why, and she scribbled down the design for this sculpture on a piece of paper. However, she never made the sculpture until about two months ago, and she made it especially for Eskrigg Reserve. She did make another sculpture of an angel, which is still in France where she lives.

Colin Dunbar then read out Fiona's poem and followed that up with a tune on the pipes called "O' Gin I Were A Baron's Heir".

'An Angel's Kiss'

**1. An angel came and kissed my brow
As I slept among the trees
A sleep so deep
No need a creep among the dying leaves**

**2. An angel came and kissed my brow
As I balanced on the edge
The wind a rustle floating by
Silently deaf no sound to hear**

**3. An angel came and kissed my brow
To melt the ice within
Blood so cold was slowing in my veins
Limbs outstretched and scarecrow hard**

**4. An angel came and kissed my brow
To reach my heart so slow
So deep the lake
The pressured waters hold me down**

**5. An angel came and kissed my brow
As I flew above the ground
I looked back for just a peep
As the angel held my hand to keep**

By Fiona Riviere (née McCall) 21 April 2020

Photographs by Sybille Spägele

6. Plant of the Month - Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) - Flowers: July – October

Devil's-bit Scabious is common throughout most of the UK. It is in the teasel family and like its relative it is rich in pollen and nectar. It is popular with bees, moths, butterflies and particularly hoverflies of the genus *Eristalis*. It is found on grassland, especially rocky grassland and among hedgerows, meadows, mountain slopes and stream banks. It favours slightly acidic soils and grows in damp areas.

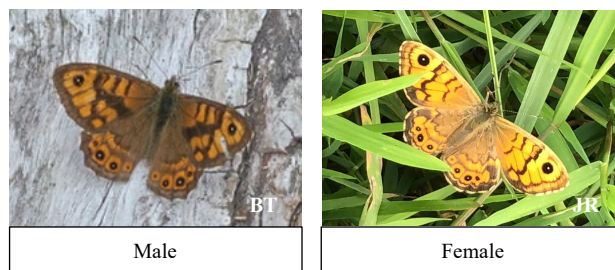
The rounded, 'pincushion' flowers are violet-blue in colour with protruding red anthers. Male and female flowers are produced on different flower heads (gynodioecious), the female flower heads being smaller.

Devil's-bit Scabious gets its Latin name – 'Scabere', meaning to scratch – from its traditional use as a treatment for skin conditions, such as scabies and the sores of bubonic plague. Its common name arises from the fact that its roots look truncated, as if bitten off, legend has it, by the Devil.



7. Animal of the Month – Wall Brown or Wall butterfly (*Lasiommata megera*) – May to October

Conservation status: Priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity framework. The Wall Brown is a medium-sized butterfly which is on the wing in two or three broods, between the middle of April and the end of October. It is a widespread, but declining, butterfly of hot, sunny places such as open grassland, sand dunes and rocky foreshores, disused quarries and railway cuttings, and even gardens. Caterpillars feed on a variety of grasses including false broom and tor-grass.



How to identify:

The wall brown is mainly pale orange with greyish-brown markings and black eyespots. The best way to identify the 'brown' butterflies is by looking at the eyespots on their wings. The combination of orange and brown markings, together with one large eyespot on the forewing and four smaller eyespots on the hindwing, is unique to the Wall Brown.

Distribution:

A scarce butterfly found in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and southern Scotland, particularly around the coast.

Habitats: Grassland, heathland, moorland, farmland and coastal regions.

Did you know?

Living up to its name, the wall brown has a habit of basking on bare patches of rock, earth and stone, such as walls and paths. This allows it to raise its temperature both directly from the sun and indirectly from the reflected heat of the surface it is on, allowing it to fly.

People count for August = 3020
Average 97 per day / Busiest day Friday 18th with 238 visitors

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

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)
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