

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve August 2026 News Bulletin

1. Eskrigg Pond on the 10th of August - shallow water, lots of pondweed



2. Reported wildlife sightings at the Reserve during August

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Crossbill, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, Herring Gull, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jay, Kingfisher, Linnet, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Meadow Pipit, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Red Kite, Redpoll, Reed Bunting, Robin, Rook, Sedge Warbler, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Spotted Flycatcher, Stockdove, Stonechat, Swallow, Treecreeper, Tree Sparrow, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer

b. Mammals: Bank Vole, Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Stoat, Weasel

c. Amphibians: Frog, Toad

d. Butterflies: Green-veined White, Peacock, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White

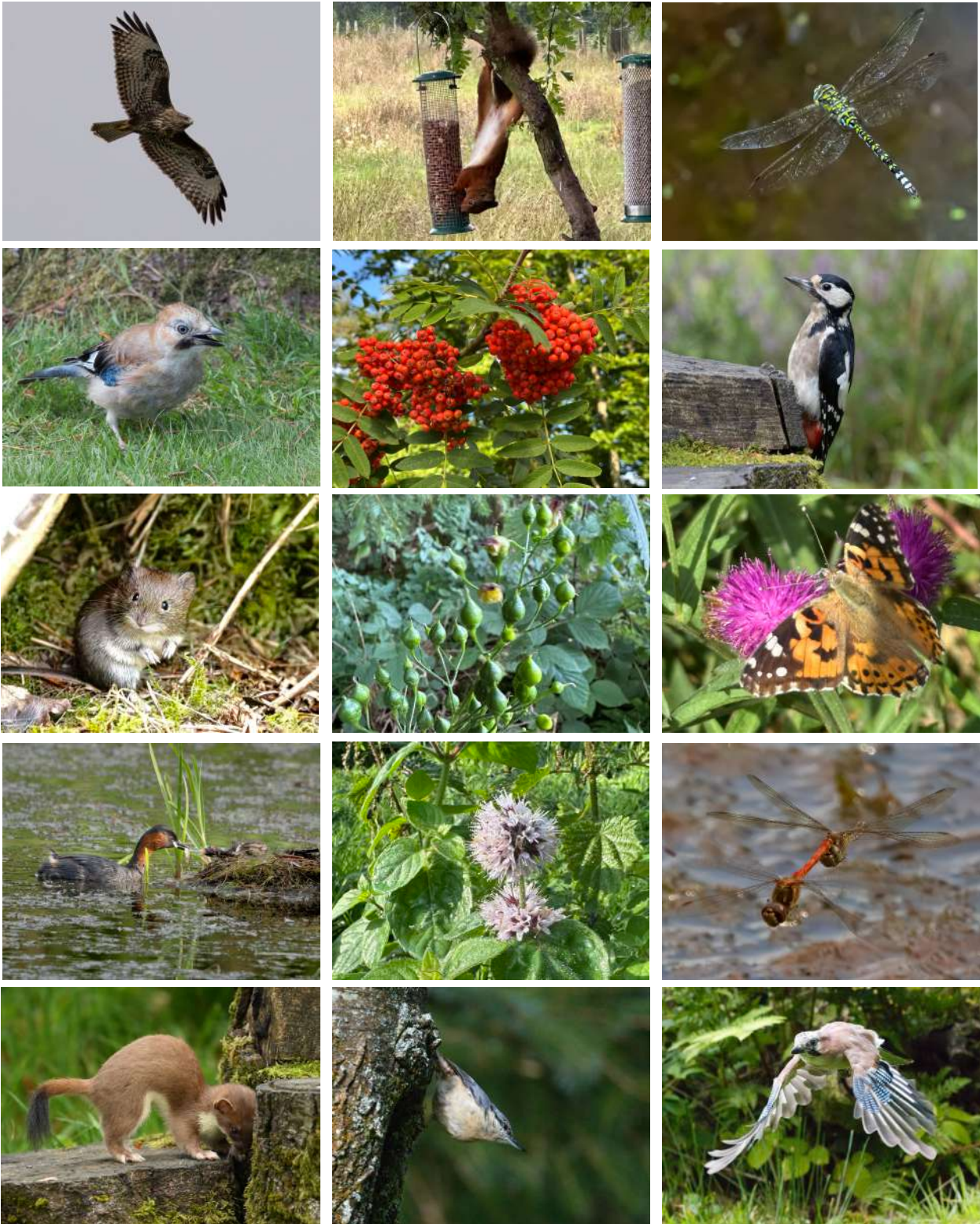
Moths: Silver Y

e. Dragonflies: Common Darter, Southern Hawker

Damselflies: Common Blue

Photographs by Jim Rae

3. Selection of photographs taken in August



Row 1: Buzzard (BT), Red Squirrel (JR), Southern Hawker (BT)

Row 2: Young Jay (BT), Rowan Berries (JR), Great Spotted Woodpecker (BT)

Row 3: Bank Vole (BT), Common Figwort (JR), Painted Lady (JR)

Row 4: Little Grebe (GL), Water Mint (JR), Common Darter (BF)

Row 5: Stoat (Al), Nuthatch (DB), Jay (DB)

**Photographs by Al from Meta (Al), David Brantom (DB), Barbara Furphy (BF),
George Lightbody (GL), Jim Rae (JR), Brian Taylor (BT)**

4. Maintenance work in August

Wed. 12 Jaydin Scott and Jim Rae strimmed and raked part of the west side of the Forest Road.

Thu. 13 Jaydin and Jim strimmed and raked the sides of the path north of the Shelter. Meanwhile, Sybille Rae weeded the gravel area in front of the Eskrigg Centre.



Fri. 14 Derek Campbell cut back trees and sprouted stumps, working from the west end of the soak-away while **Sybille Rae** did the same from the east end of the soak-away. Meanwhile **Jim Rae** strimmed the grass and cut back sprouted tree stumps on the path along the south side of the soak-away.

Fri. 21 Derek Campbell strimmed the reed grass in the west end of the soak-away while **Jim** cut back a large tree stump with a chainsaw and then started to strim the reed grass at the east end of the soak-away.



Sun. 23 Jim strimmed the reed grass along the rest of the soak-away and then started to clear rotting logs, other plant debris and brambles from the west end of the soak-away.

Mon. 24 Jim cut up and cleared the remaining dead trees and branches that had been lying in the west end of the soak-away.



Wed. 26 Jim cleared the area next to the Car Park where the water pipe comes under the road.



Plans are being put in place to replace the 12-inch-diameter pipe with an 18-inch-diameter pipe to prevent flooding of the path to the Reserve.

Thu. 27 Jim cleared the area at the east end of the pipe.

Sat. 29 **Jim** re-established a small pond in the soak-away.

5. "Rusty Pond Water"



Due to the lack of rain in August, the pond started to dry up and the shallow area of the pond in front of the Eskrigg Centre gradually turned a rusty colour. This was because the algae and water weeds in the area were dying, and the decaying organic matter was releasing tannins into the water. This was confirmed by carrying out a Jar Test: Some water was scooped up into a clear glass jar. The jar was then left sitting undisturbed for 24 hours. All dirt particles sank to the bottom but the water remained slightly rust-stained, indicating the cause to be the tannins.



6. Visit to Cumbrian Nature Reserves on the 18th and 19th of August

Eight members of the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust visited four different reserves, two in the north of Cumbria (Drumburgh Moss & Campfield Marsh) and two in the south of Cumbria (South Walney and Hodbarrow), with an overnight stay in between at the Cumbria Grande Hotel in Grange-over-Sands.

Over the two days they recorded 42 different bird species and 67 plant species plus a number of mammals and insects.



Participants (LtoR)

Martin Moore
Kathryn Hughes
Jane Sammes
David Hughes
Jim Rae
Pat Mackay
Karen Miller
Sybille Rae

7. Butterfly Heaven

The 26th of August was a bright, sunny day. The Heather and the Devil's-bit Scabious were in flower in the heathland area of the Reserve and **six** species of butterfly were in that one area at the same time.



Total people count for August = 2,300 - Average number per day = 74

These figures only indicate the visitors entering the Reserve via the Reserve Car Park, they do not include the many people who access the Reserve and Woodland Walks via the Cemetery entrance.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)

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