Issue 43

Autumn Issue 2012

SCOTTISH BIODIVERSITY FORUM

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THE FORUM

Scotland's Biodiversity: New species to science discovered at Leadhills

A NEW species of plant that has only just come into existence has been discovered in Scotland . Dr Mario Vallejo-Marin, a lecturer in evolutionary biology at the University of Stirling, spotted the unusual looking monkey-flower while he was on a family picnic in South Lanarkshire.

Knowing that hybrids of the two American species which it resembled are usually sterile, he obtained a sample after noticing the plant had seeds.

Experts at Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden used DNA analysis to confirm he had found a new species – believed to have been created less than 150 years ago through a rare natural cross between the two alien plants.

The new species of monkey-flower, has been named *Mimulus peregrinus* and is expected to be the forerunner of more new plants produced by invasive species which are changing the country's biodiversity.

NEWSFLASH:

Record Wildlife - free iphone app

A new free iphone app to help people with biological recording is now available in the UK. This app is called Record Wildlife and is free to download and use. It combines a GPS locator, notepad and camera to help generate biological records.
Go to www.recordwildlife.co.uk

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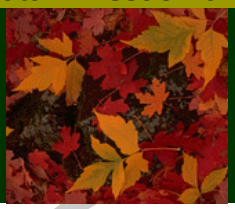

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Do you have a news story? Are you involved in a project? If so, then let the Biodiversity Implementation Team (BIT) know! Ask for our article guidelines to help you make the most of your article.

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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Scottish Biodiversity Forum. The editors reserve the right to edit or exclude articles; the editors' decisions are final. For further information about the Biodiversity Implementation Team, log on to: www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk

SCOTTISH BIODIVERSITY FORUM

New species from invasive plants

The ancestors of the new plant were brought from the Americas as botanical curiosities in the 1800s and were quickly adopted by Victorian gardeners. Soon after their arrival, they escaped the confines of British gardens and can now be found growing in the wild, along the banks of rivers and streams. Reproduction between these species produces hybrids that are now widespread in Britain. Yet, genetic differences between the two parents mean that the hybrids are infertile and cannot go beyond the first generation.

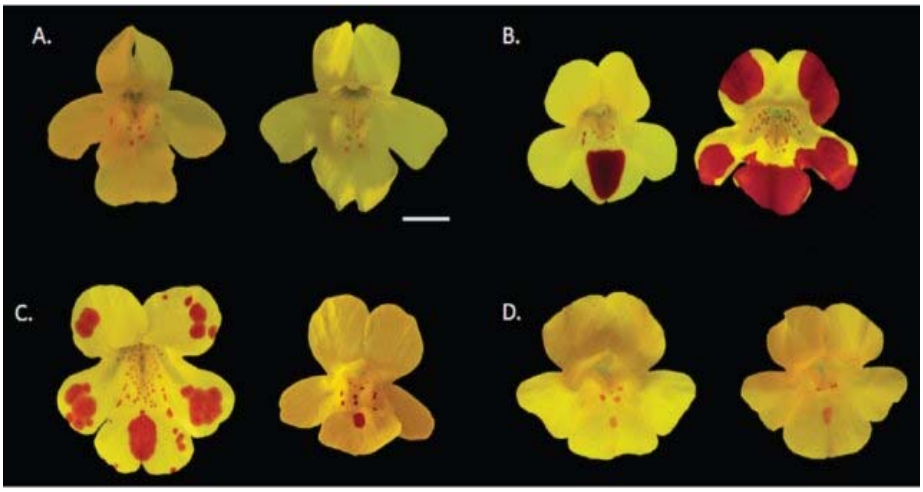


Figure 2. Flowers of *M. peregrinus* and closely related taxa. **A** *M. guttatus* **B** *M.* × *smithii* (*M. luteus luteus* × *M. luteus variegatus*) **C** *M.* × *robertsii* (*M. guttatus* × *M. luteus*), and **D** *M. peregrinus*. Each taxon is represented by flowers from two individuals from a single locality to illustrate within-population variability: *M. guttatus* = Dunblane, Perthshire; *M.* × *smithii* = Coldstream, Scottish Borders; *M.* × *robertsii* = Nenthall, Cumbria; *M. peregrinus* = Leadhills, South Lanarkshire. Scale bar = 1cm.

Dr Vallejo-Marin has documented the first examples of hybrid monkey flowers that have overcome these genetic barriers and show fully restored fertility. This fertile hybrid derived from immigrant' parents represents a new species, native to Scotland. Thousands of wild species and some crops are thought to have originated in this way, yet only a handful of examples exist where this type of species formation has occurred in recent history.

See page 14 for another world first

ECCB conference:
International biodiversity delegates descend upon Glasgow

Every three years the European Section of the Society for Conservation Biology organises an international conference for society members and people involved in conservation and the latest conservation research. The third European Congress of Conservation Biology (eccb) was hosted at the SECC, Glasgow between 28th August 2012 and 1st September 2012. This was the first time that the international conference had been held in the United Kingdom and a great opportunity to promote Scottish biodiversity.

This was a big conference, approximately 900 delegates from over 50 countries selected from a choice of over 400 presentations! The topics included many familiar to Scotland, ecosystem scale management, benefits of nature, climate change adaptation, fragmentation, protected areas and social science topics relating to nature. Scottish issues it would appear are issues faced by many other countries!
Most importantly it was an opportunity to share ideas with people from other countries and it was fantastic to see their enthusiasm and hear about innovative ideas.
Iain Macdonald SNH

NTS—Speckled wood butterfly first at Perthshire beauty spot

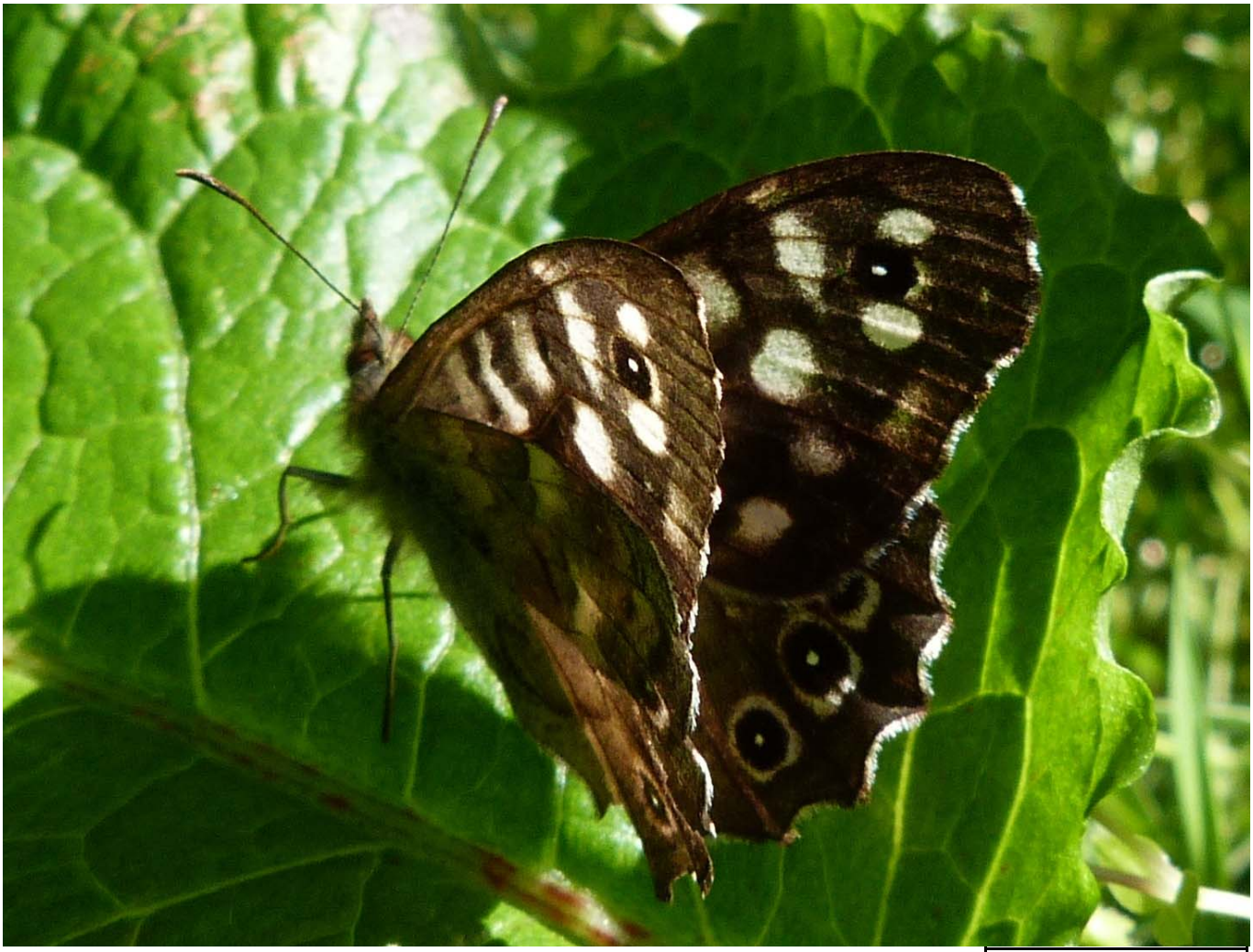
the National Trust for Scotland
a place for everyone

National Trust for Scotland rangers recorded a first at the Linn of Tummel, with the sighting of a Speckled Wood Butterfly.

Ranger and naturalist Louise Medine said:
“The recent warm, sunny weather has meant many butterflies have taken to the wing and this one was a new species record for the Linn of Tummel, in Highland Perthshire.”

The *Pararge aegeria* is found throughout Britain and Ireland - its range contracted during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It has been spreading back since the 1920s and continued to expand its range over the past two decades, recolonising many areas in eastern and northern England and Scotland.

Dark brown with creamy white patches on wings they can be found in partially shaded woodland. The territorial males often perch in sunny spots, and rise rapidly to intercept any intruder. Both sexes feed on honeydew in the tree tops.



Speckled Wood Butterfly

Urban and rural pupils plant woodland

the National Trust for Scotland
a place for everyone

Pupils from Killin & Kenmore Primary Schools

Around 70 pupils from Leith Primary and Killin and Kenmore Primary schools near Loch Tay joined expert staff from the National Trust for Scotland to plant a new native broadleaf wood at Balnasuim Wood on the slopes below Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve. Sponsored by the small group tour operator Rabbie's, the work will establish a new hazel wood on the site of an old conifer plantation. The company, which runs tours to some of Scotland's best-loved beauty spots, has well-established environmental credentials and is keen to 'give something back' to Scotland's heritage and to the communities and places that help make their tours so successful.

Rabbie's Chief Executive Robin Worsnop said:

"At Rabbie's we're proud of our ethical and environmental records. We've been working with the National Trust for Scotland at Ben Lawers for a few years now and are really excited by this project. It's a great opportunity to invest in Scotland's heritage both by improving the biodiversity of this beautiful place, but also by, we hope, inspiring the next generation of conservationists."

The project is the latest push in decades of work undertaken by the Trust to re-establish important native species in the area – including pioneer work on the restoration of high altitude willow scrub. Once established, the hazel wood will be coppiced by the Scottish Crannog Centre for use in its weaving and education activities. The pupils will stop by here for some willow weaving.

Ben Lawers Property Manager Helen Cole said:

"This project makes a big difference in a lot of different ways at Ben Lawers – it enables us to continue our vital conservation work, it gives us a great opportunity to get the next generation involved in that important work, and thanks to our partnership with the Scottish Crannog Centre, it contributes to local heritage in other ways too."

Barrie Andrian, Director at The Scottish Crannog Centre said:

"We are delighted to support the National Trust for Scotland in this innovative and collaborative project. We look forward to sharing hands-on skills with the school children in the context of our Iron Age ancestors who utilised willow and hazel for many purposes. We also look forward to assisting with the long term coppice management of a new hazel plantation which we hope will stimulate the regeneration of traditional rural crafts and create a sustainable supply of hazel much needed to maintain the replica Crannog".

Pupils from Leith Primary School

Scottish Biodiversity Week 2012— Photo Competiton .....

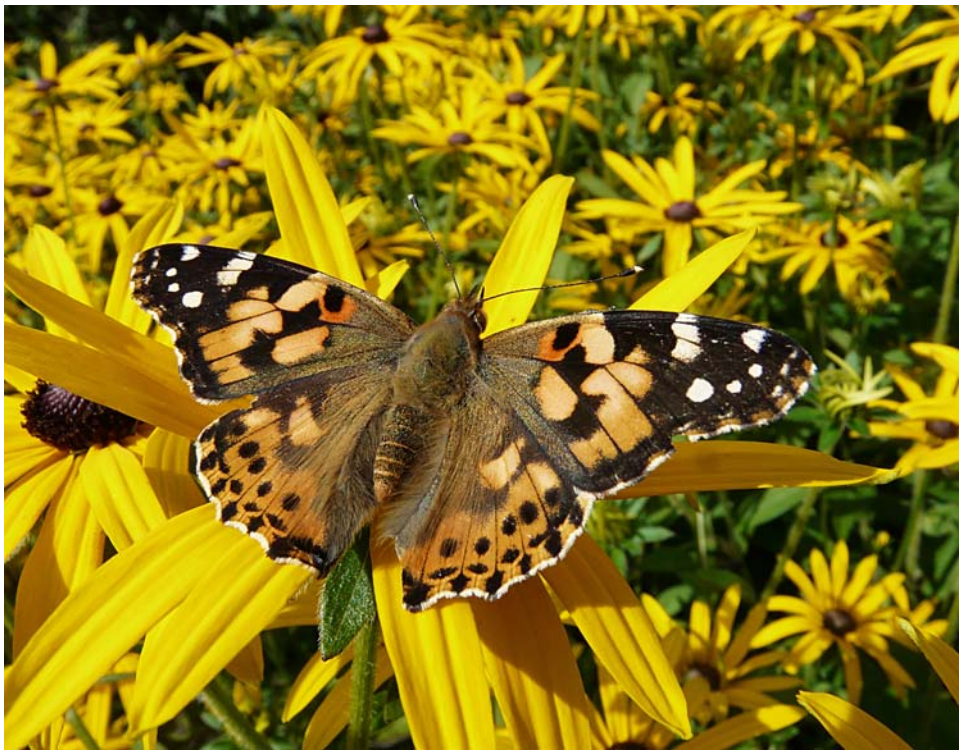
Another three outstanding photographs have been chosen as the winners of 2012 Scottish Biodiversity Week's Nature Photography Competition. The theme of the competition was “Nature - Caring and Sharing” and attracted a wonderful set of entries from people of all ages.
A gallery of the winning images as well as others that were commended by judge Lorne Gill will be posted on the Scottish Biodiversity Week website.

1st prize—Catherine Clark

Catherine Clark won first place with her image entitled "Peek a Boo Dolphins". Catherine took the photograph of the mother and calf dolphins known as Zephyr and Breeze at Chanonry Point on the Black Isle. Catherine said of her image that "the two dolphins are often seen in this area, where Zephyr has been teaching Breeze how to hunt fish, sharing her knowledge and experience with her young calf".

.....The winners

Second place went to Carole Anderson for her image "Painted Lady - Coldstream". Carole highlighted that this picture encapsulated a sharing relationship: "the flower provides the butterfly with nectar and the butterfly aids the pollination of the plant..."



2nd prize—Carole Anderson

Third place went to eleven year old Fraser Heigh with his image entitled "Looking Up". Fraser explained what this image meant for him: "usually we just share a classroom but that week we shared the beauty of the outdoors".

3rd prize—Frazer Heigh

Scottish Wildlife Trust—Scotland's raised bogs

Interim findings from a survey of 58 Scottish raised bogs and analysis of change since 1994-95

The aims of the survey were: to find out the current condition of Scottish lowland raised bogs using a sample of 58 sites; to analyse any changes by comparing against surveys from the 1990s; estimate costs of restoration back to a favourable condition and identify landowners who would support restoration measures.

Summarising the key findings:

• Scottish lowland raised bog sites show a high level of degradation and damage and unmanaged sites show a net deterioration in condition over the last 15 years.

• Some improvement in condition as a result of less intensive use of sites ('benign neglect') is not sufficient to reverse the damaged condition of the Scottish lowland raised bog resource.

Image courtesy of Pete Matthews

• Only a small proportion of the restorable peatland area is peat forming and therefore sequestering carbon – the majority of the area is likely to be emitting carbon through drying and peat oxidation processes.

• A programme of site restoration will have clear wildlife benefits whilst reducing carbon emissions and increasing the long-term storage of peat.

• Active restoration management is required to:
- restore sites to a favourable condition,
- increase their potential for peat accumulation,
- enhance their ability to adapt to climate change.

Scottish Wildlife Trust

• Restoration effort should focus on:
- removal of woodland and scrub,
- installation of dams,
- use of livestock grazing to inhibit regeneration of scrub and woodland,
- creation of buffer zones at the peatland margin.

Seasonal Fungi—Pocket Plum (*Taphrina pruni*)

Sloe infected with Taphrina pruni (left) and uninfected (right)

As the species name suggests, *Taphrina pruni* infects *Prunus domesticus* (Plum) and *Prunus spinosus* (Blackthorn or Sloe) fruits to form pocket plums. It also infects the shoots of Blackthorn to cause stunted or swollen distortions.

T.pruni is a member of a group of fungi that don't produce fruit bodies. As a member of the ascomycete fungi (including the cup and flask fungi), *T.pruni* produces its spores in tubes called asci (plural; singular = ascus). These asci penetrate through the surface of the fruit where the tip releases under pressure, shooting the spores out into the air. The spore germinates on the plant surface before penetrating the flesh seeking refuge and nutrition. Infected fruits tend to become elongated, often more so on one side than the other, to produce the pocket-like shapes, presumably referred to by the English name.

Others found in Scotland are *T. alni* (Alder Tongue), *T. padi* (Bird Cherry Fungal Gall) *T. betulina,* (Birch Besom) and *T. johansonii* (Aspen Tongue). The first two species in this list have been the focus of recording effort by the Highland Biological Recording Group's successful 'TRY' project. All *Taphrina* fungi are obligate parasites i.e. don't grow without a host.

Another species of *Taphrina, T. deformans*, is well known to fruit growers as the cause of Peach leaf curl disease. Infection requires humid conditions and it is this disease that restricts commercial growth of peaches and its relatives to dry climates or glasshouses with very carefully controlled humidity.

Dave Genney
https://sites.google.com/site/scottishfungi/home

Sloe/Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosus)* infected with *Taphrina pruni*

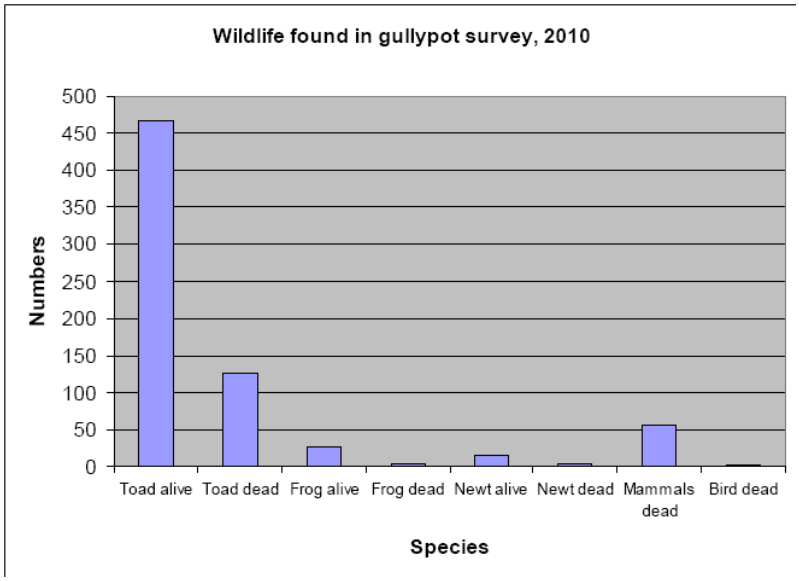
Toads in the hole—

Introduction:

In 2010 Perth & Kinross Council Countryside Ranger Service officially started the Amphibians in Drains Project across Perth and Kinross. For a number of years prior to this, observations made by Rangers and Tayside Contracts staff undertaking routine drain maintenance suggested a significant number of roadside gullypots contained trapped amphibians. These were mainly toads (*Bufo bufo*) but also frogs (*Rana temporaria*), and the occasional palmate newt (*Triturus helveticus*) - along with numerous small mammals. Roadside gullypots can act as pitfall traps when animals fall through the grid at road level, especially over periods of mass movement such as during the breeding season and when animals disperse to find hibernation sites. Once trapped it is unlikely that the animals will be able to escape or survive for any length of time.

Results:

In 2010 three hundred and twenty two gullypots were checked, with 69% containing wildlife – 641 amphibians, 56 mammals and 1 bird were found. These numbers are relatively low compared to 2011 as the data from spring and early summer surveys was lost due to equipment failure. For species breakdown see graph 1:



It was identified that a more robust study to ascertain the scale of the problem was required. Gullypot surveys were carried out across eastern Perth & Kinross in 2010 and 2011 with the following aims:

- To estimate the number of gullypots that may be affected across central and eastern Perthshire.
- To estimate the number of amphibians & mammals that may be trapped.
- To record species of amphibian & mammals affected.

Graph 1 – Wildlife found in gullypot survey 2010

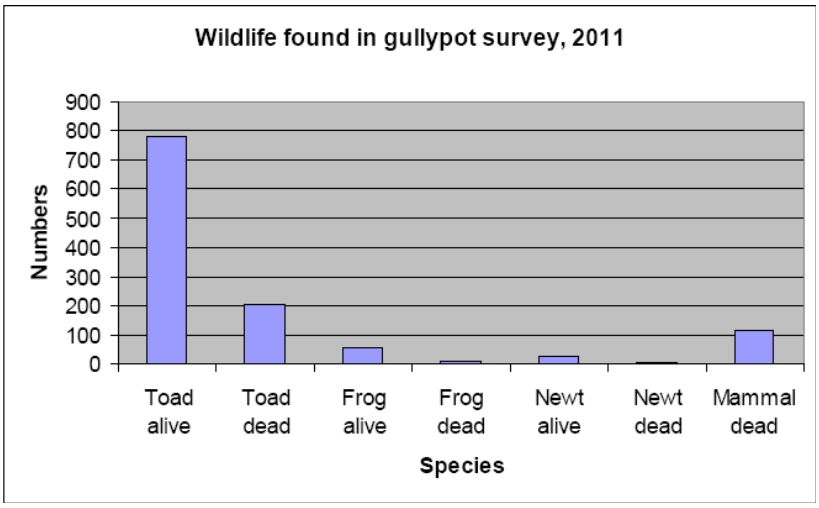
The majority of mammals found were voles, with mice and shrews being found in smaller numbers.

- In 2011 six hundred and thirty six gullypots were checked, with 63% containing wildlife –1087 amphibians and 114 mammals being found.

....Amphibians in drains project

Species breakdown see graph 2

The majority of animals were found in August and September. Young amphibians will be leaving their breeding ponds in the summer and, along with adults, disperse to their hibernation sites in autumn. The same migration route can be used for many years and these are frequently found in woodland. The majority of toads should be hibernating by November across Perth and Kinross.



It is surprising that more animals were not found in spring, when amphibians migrate to their breeding sites. Similar numbers to those found in August and September would have been expected.

Future plans:

The survey will continue in 2012 to obtain further data. The Ranger Service has obtained SITA funding to purchase a number of ACO wildlife kerbs to replace the standard kerbs at a pilot site in Elm Drive, Blairgowrie. This is a new road close to a pond where there is data from 2010 & 2011 to enable comparison of before and after figures.

Wildlife kerbs contain a recess which allows wildlife to follow the lower edge of the kerb and bypass the gullypot A study by the Vale of Glamorgan Pond Survey at Roose in 2006 showed that moving the gullypot 10cm away from the kerb led to 80% fewer great crested newts falling into the gullypots by allowing the animals to bypass the danger zone.

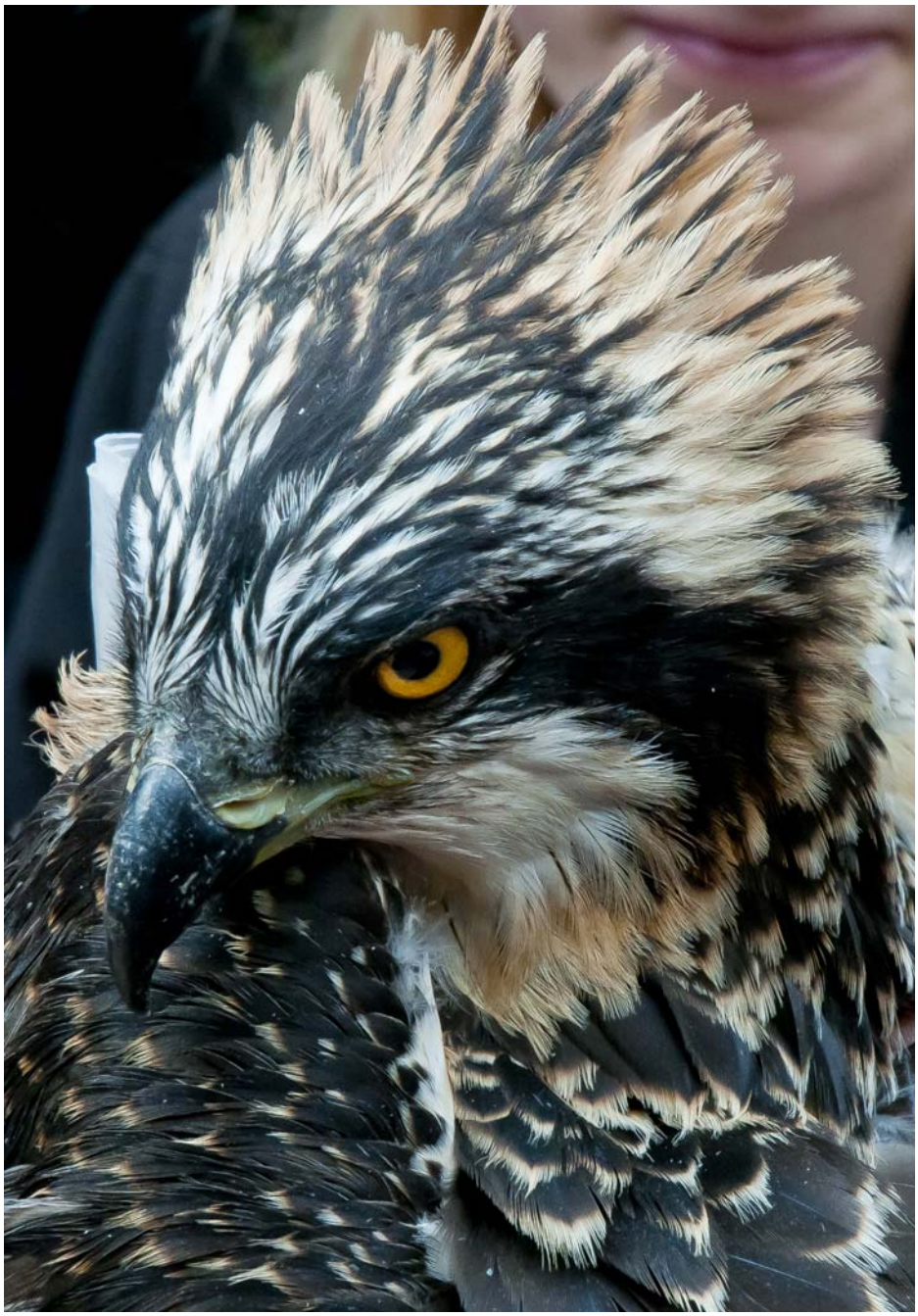
If the wildlife kerbs are shown to be successful, Perth and Kinross Council Roads Section is interested in using them in suitable locations across Perth and Kinross in future.

Daniele Muir
Countryside Ranger, Perth and Kinross Council
DMuir@pkc.gov.uk

RSPB—Alba makes record breaking migration journey

After surviving Scotland's soggy summer, a young osprey may have flown into the history books by making a record-breaking journey to sunnier climes.
In just two weeks,' Alba' left her home at RSPB Loch Garten and made her hazardous 3000 mile maiden migration to West Africa.
Having only hatched earlier this year, the female bird has astounded online audiences who have been following her journey on the internet.
Alba and her sister Caledonia were fitted with satellite tags before leaving the nest so both staff and the public could follow their fortunes and movements.

Whilst the pair fledged successfully towards the end of last month, Alba made short business of the journey to their wintering grounds and is now believed to have made the fastest migration of any tagged European osprey.



Richard Thaxton, site manager at RSPB Scotland Loch Garten Osprey Centre, said: "It is astonishing that in just a fortnight, Alba has travelled from Loch Garten in Strathspey to southern Mauritania close to the border with Senegal. Other tagged birds have taken months to do this! It is all the more remarkable when you think that this is her first migration, with sea crossings to contend with and all sorts of weather. It's good to know she has arrived there safely".
To find out more visit http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/l/lochgarten/blog.aspx

—Horsing around! New additions help wildlife at RSPB reserve

An Aberdeenshire nature reserve is ramping up its au naturel approach to boosting biodiversity by expanding its workforce.

A further 4 wild horses, including a stallion, have joined an existing resident herd of Konik horses at RSPB Loch of Strathbeg.

The horses, which can cope with harsh climate and forage in the wild, have been helping to improve the wetland habitat through natural grazing.

Staff have been so impressed by their ability to munch through coarser grass, sedges and rushes that they have decided to increase the herd.

Richard Humpidge, Site Manager at RSPB Loch of Strathbeg, said: “The Koniks are a very popular and important conservation tool, they love to eat the tough vegetation that we used to have to spend a lot of time and money stripping away with machines. As they are so effective we’ve decided to increase the herd slowly and naturally through a breeding programme, that way we can monitor their progress and ensure we reach a grazing level that will is beneficial for the thousands of geese, ducks and wading birds that need the wetlands to feed and breed.”

To ensure the Koniks can work undisturbed they will once again be kept on the less public areas of the reserve. However, visitors will be able to see them distantly from the hides and follow their progress on the website.

Konik horses graze intensively in small areas so their effects are long lasting and resounding. Although they are wild, they will be confined to certain areas of the reserve that require more concentrated habitat management approach.

For more information visit www.rspb.org.uk/lochofstrathbeg

RBGE—New dandelion species found on remote Scottish island

A new species of dandelion has been discovered growing on one of the remotest islands in the Outer Hebrides.
The plant is only known from the island of Hirta, in the archipelago of St Kilda, where it may be endemic and may be among the rarest plants in Scotland's flora. It is thought that the plant could have been brought to St Kilda by birds or Vikings, and Iceland is thought to be the most likely source.
Seeds from four plants were collected two years ago by Jim McIntosh when he joined a group of botanists from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), on a sailing trip to the island of Hirta to carry out a survey of higher plants and bryophytes.
The seeds have been successfully propagated at the RBGE nursery by horticulturist Natacha Frachon. It is the presence of unique hairy exterior bracts on the flower bud that led botanists to believe it is a new species of Asteraceae, the largest family of flowering plants. The St Kilda dandelion is also much smaller than the common species.

The newly discovered dandelion has been named *Taraxacum pankhurstianum* for Richard Pankhurst, a retired staff member at RBGE who still carries out research work. He was involved in its culture and has been interested in the taxonomy, distribution and the computer-assisted identification of *Taraxacum* for more than thirty years.
When Richard, who is the vice-county recorder for the Outer Hebrides, heard about the trip in June 2010 he asked Jim McIntosh to collect any *Taraxacum* seed he saw while on his journey. Jim works for the Botanical Society of the British Isles as coordinator for Scotland.
Richard said it is an honour to have the dandelion named after him. He added: "St Kilda is known to have two endemic sub species of mouse and a wren, and now we know it has a dandelion too.'' The dandelion was named by Professor James Richards, of Hexham, Northumberland, who saw the species and recognised that it was new.
Taraxacum may be rare on St Kilda because it is eaten by animals including sheep and perhaps, some birds. Also, botanists tend to visit St Kilda outside the very short dandelion season, which may peak in May on the island.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

SNH—Working with Nature to Adapt to Climate Change

Projections for Scotland's future climate suggest we will have warmer, drier summers; milder, wetter winters, more extreme weather events, and continued sea level rise. Responding to climate change is a key government priority – both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and to prepare for a changing climate (adaptation). Taking a lead role in these challenges, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has published a summary of action required, entitled 'Climate Change and Nature in Scotland.' The plan aims to help local authorities, land managers, engineers and policy makers take action on climate change. It also sets out SNH's priorities for its own work for the next three years including advising on renewable energy development.

In the summary, SNH emphasises the importance of working with nature as the climate changes, to keep ecosystems healthy. Nature provides us with vital ecosystem services including clean water, food and pest control. To safeguard our soils, water and wildlife in a changing climate, a series of Adaptation Principles are outlined (p17). It is hoped that these will inform future land and water management plans.

Management practices that reduce carbon loss are an important part of climate change mitigation. The carbon stored in Scotland's peaty soils is equivalent to more than 180 years of greenhouse gas emissions from Scotland at current rates. SNH highlights the importance of conserving and restoring peat-forming habitats to ensure they remain as long-term carbon 'sinks' rather than sources of greenhouse gases. Increasing Scotland's forest cover in ways that promote net carbon storage and biodiversity will also help safeguard carbon sinks.

The document can be downloaded from the SNH web site:

http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications

Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

CSV Action Earth—Get Ready for Autumn with an Action Earth Grant

Are you planning an environmental activity using volunteers? Can you come up with a project that improves your local area? Do you want to get your community working together? Then you could be eligible for a CSV Action Earth grant and the time to apply is NOW!

The CSV Action Earth campaign runs until the end of November, supported by SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage). The campaign offers up to £500 to cover plants, materials, tools and expenses and can make a big difference.

CSV Action Earth Awards are grants of £250 for projects providing or improving habitats for wildlife, enhancing local nature spots and getting communities volunteering together.

CSV Local Nature Reserve Awards of up to £500 are available exclusively for projects taking place on Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) which involve volunteers. Activities can include practical work, celebration days, educational events and wildlife recording.
Last year, CSV Action Earth volunteers were involved in tasks such as improving woodlands by planting and clearing, turning derelict wasteland into bee-friendly wildflower meadows, creating ponds and footpaths, building bird and bat boxes, tagging sharks and a whole range of other environmental activities. We are keen to help projects, communities and groups attract new volunteers to their work.

Grants are allocated on a first come first serve basis, so please register quickly to avoid disappointment. You can apply online, download forms or get more information at http://actionearth.csv.org.uk

If you wish to discuss project ideas or discuss any issues relating to the campaign, please contact Robert Henderson on 0131 222 9083 or e: rhenderson@csv.org.uk

Renfrewshire volunteers built bird boxes of all shapes and sizes

Forestry Commission Scotland—The Saxons Invade Fife

Fife's first ever Saxon moth was recorded in July during a survey at the Forestry Commission Scotland's Devilla Forest, close to the town of Kincardine. It is the first time the moth has been found in Fife.

A moth trapping event in July last year resulted in a catch of 34 different species, but when the event was repeated in July 2012, this had increased to 60 species.

Jenny Ventham, Forestry Commission Scotland's Community Ranger commented: "To have increased the number of moth species by nearly 100% in one year is in itself amazing, but to find the Saxon moth among them , for the first time in Fife, is just fantastic. It goes to show that the hard work we have been putting in to improve wildlife habitats in the forest is really paying off and the forest is becoming much more biodiverse. Devilla is an amazing forest and every season brings something new to see."

Wildlife initiatives that Forestry Commission Scotland has been undertaking in Devilla Forest include putting squirrel ropes in the trees to encourage red squirrels to use more of the forest, protecting them from predators on the forest floor. They have also been replacing and improving natural wetlands that were previously drained to plant trees in order to create new habitats for dragonflies, damselflies and frogs.

Duncan Davidson from Butterfly Conservation commented: "I think it is fantastic that the Saxon moth has been found in Devilla Forest. It is a particularly attractive creature and it is a welcome addition to Fife's species list. Moths and butterflies are important indicators of all sorts of things, including air quality, habitat health and climate change and the discovery of the Saxon in Devilla Forest indicates that the forest is in great shape. It also shows that Scotland is bucking the trend elsewhere in the UK which shows decline in moth numbers."

The Saxon moth is an attractive moorland species with distinctive grey and black markings. It spends the winter as a caterpillar, sleeping in a silk lined chamber just underneath the soil surface, then pupating in the springtime to become a moth. Sightings of the Saxon have increased dramatically since 2000 across central and northern Scotland and now for the first time in Fife.

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

HLF—£20m investment in 13 distinctive landscapes across UK

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announced funding of £20m made through its Landscape Partnership (LP) programme. This investment will help conserve some of the UK's most diverse and locally distinctive landscapes by supporting schemes that provide long-term social, economic and environmental benefits for rural areas.

HLF's LP programme – which has been running for eight years - is the most significant grant scheme available for landscape-scale projects and is at the cutting edge of delivery. HLF has to date invested a total of £132m in 83 different areas, helping forge new partnerships between public and community bodies and ensuring people are better equipped to tackle the needs of their local landscapes in a co-ordinated and practical way. Alongside essential conservation work to the built heritage and a wide range of training opportunities which enable people to learn new skills, the projects also help protect valuable habitats and enhance local biodiversity. The 13 landscapes receiving HLF support today include: Cambridgeshire's Ouse Washes; the UK's highest mountain, Ben Nevis; the much-visited Dartmoor National Park; the floodplain of the Tame Valley; and the Dearne Valley in the Pennine foothills, one of the 12 Nature Improvement Areas selected in response to the recommendations of the Natural Environment White Paper.

The two Scottish LP projects are:

Nevis LP, Fort William ***– first-round pass of £1,927,700, including £75,800 development funding***

Every year thousands of people climb to the summit of Ben Nevis, making it an important tourist attraction. In addition to the obvious draw of the mountains, Ben Nevis, Glen Nevis and the surrounding area are home to a wealth of species and archaeological sites. The scheme will not only conserve this famous landscape but also get local communities involved with managing it more effectively.

Inner Forth LP, Central Scotland – first-round pass of £1,975,900, including £75,900 development funding

Alongside the industries that dominate the skyline, the upper reaches of the Firth of Forth (between Stirling and the Forth Bridge) have many natural resources and important areas for wildlife as well as a number of scheduled ancient monuments and historic properties. This densely populated part of central Scotland suffers pockets of significant deprivation; one of the challenges of the project will be to get the surrounding communities much more involved with and enthused about the stewardship of their local heritage.

Citizen Science—Spotting Bristletails—samples please

Might you be able to help collect some specimens to help disentangle our 2-pronged Bristletail fauna? We've been contacted recently by Andy Keay, who is the national recorder for these creatures, also called Diplurans.

Andy is planning to review the UK specimens held in the Natural History Museum, but it's expected that many of these will be in rather a shoddy state, and newly collected material from around the country is needed.

In case you've never met one, Diplura are elegant, little (~4-5mm long), wingless, 6-legged creatures with 2 appendages at their rear end. They are found in soil, litter and under stones, logs, plant pots or other dampish, sheltered places. It's reckoned there are only 12 species of Diplurans in the UK, but this is based on very little information and, as is so often the case with soil fauna, the taxonomy probably needs work! All of our species look a lot like the picture above (Campodea), although there are others in Europe that are bigger (1cm) with pincer-like tails (Japyx – below). If it has 3 tails, or wings/wing cases, it's definitely something else!

Since you may be out and about with pooters, or processing samples from soil extractions, please could you pick out any diplurans, pop them into a small sample vial with a little bit of 70-80% industrial meths (denatured alcohol) or ethanol and send them to Andy (of course, having recorded them and noted that they're going on a trip to see Andy – he can't send them back!). Please also include details of the collector, determiner (ID by), grid reference, date, and a very brief description of the habitat and micro habitat from which they were collected (eg. woodland, under log).
Please seal the vials carefully, wrap up all sample vials in clingfilm or similar, and seal into a plastic bag before sending them to Andy in a jiffy bag.

Andy's address is:Andy Keay, 37 Merrymeet, Woodmansterne, Banstead,,SM7 3HX
Email : andykeay1@btinternet.com

South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership

The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity partnership hosted it's second conference on September 26th at Hamilton Park Racecourse.

This year the theme was Windfarms & Minerals: Exploring benefits for biodiversity and communities in South Lanarkshire. The conference brought together delegates from a range of backgrounds and disciplines including windfarms and mineral site operators, ecological consultants, representatives from NGOs, Government agencies and representatives from local community groups.

Due to it's geography and landscape South Lanarkshire is home to some of the largest windfarms in Europe and supports a number of opencast coal and other mineral extraction sites.

Simon Rennie Chief Executive of the Central Scotland Forest Trust and Head of the Central Scotland Green (CSGN) network Support Unit said" South Lanarkshire is rich in natural resources and we have a great opportunity to secure the delivery of multiple benefits through the implementation of habitat management plans. Linking habitat management across a number of sites will also help deliver the CSGN and it's long term objective to transform the network into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality.

The conference was very well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for networking and sharing good practice. The Biodiversity partnership hopes that by bringing people together, opportunities for connectivity between sites will have been identified, enabling integrated land management and true delivery of landscape scale conservation across South Lanarkshire.

For further details on the conference please contact Sian Williams, Biodiversity Officer Tel:01698 543419. www. southlanarkshirebiodi-versity.co.uk)

Year of Natural Scotland 2013—new grant scheme

Creative Scotland, with funding from Scottish Natural Heritage, is now seeking applications from organisations in the environmental and creative sectors to support arts and/or film projects, which promote and celebrate the Year of Natural Scotland.
Applications will be prioritised which take place in or near a
1. National Nature Reserve

Caerlaverock NNR

2. National Scenic Area, or one of one of Scotland's two national parks, in the calendar year 2013.

3. Scotland's Great Trails

4. and/or helps promote and celebrate the life and teaching of John Muir.

Inverpolly Estate

West Highland Way

The closing date for applications is **November 5th 2012.**
Please circulate this link to, and discuss with, relevant partners who may be interested.

http://www.creativescotland.com/investment/year-of-natural-scotland-open-fund
For further information contact Ashleigh Tooth, GGH, 01463 725215.

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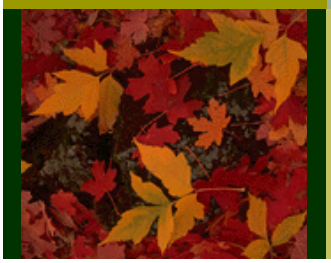

Diary Dates

10th October 2012: Biodiversity workshop on Lichens. Midlothian Ranger Service, At Vogrie Country Park, over18s only. Book on 01875 821990. http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/events/200142/vogrie_country_park

23-24 October 2012:Delivering Green Networks: From Policy to Reality' 2012 Scottish Section Conference This conference will set the policy context for Green Networks in Scotland, explore the challenges and solutions, current initiatives and examples of best practice. At Stirling University http://www.ieem.net/scottish-section-conference

7th-8th November 2012:**IEEM Conference** - Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Impacts, Cardiff. For further information and to book your place: www.ieem.net/2012-autumn-conference .

8th-9th November 2012: Protected Areas - are they safeguarding biodiversity? At Zoological Society of London. http://www.zsl.org/science/events/protected-areas-symposium,594,EV.html

17th November 2012: Scottish Geodiversity Forum Conference. At Battleby Centre Perth http://scottishgeodiversityforum.org/2012/04/03/conference-2012/

23-23 November 2012: Species Action Framework Conference. Managing Species in a Challenging Climate: Scotland's Species Action Framework. At the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. Further information at www.snh.gov.uk

1st December 2012: Putting the Buzz into Local Biodiversity - Tayside's Community Action for Wildlife Seminar. At Battleby Centre, Perth. http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/

species action FRAMEWORK