

KINGHORN BIODIVERSITY MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2023 *by Robert Mill*



Patchwork Leaf-cutter Bee (*Megachile centuncularis*) on cultivated Hooker's Fleabane in The Ecology Centre's pollinator bed, 13 July 2023. New Loch record. Photo Robert Mill.

Although July 2023 was the hottest ever month globally, that was certainly not the case in Kinghorn or indeed the UK as a whole, which was on the cool side of the jet stream all month. One low-pressure system after another brought day after day of weather that was more autumnal than summery. Total rainfall during July collected at The Ecology Centre rain gauge managed by SEPA was 105.4 mm, 157% of the July average for the site. The highest amount that fell on any one day was 23.8 mm on 8th, which was almost a quarter of the month's total. The rest was spread pretty evenly through the month, only eight days being totally dry. Sunshine was in short supply, particularly in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Most of Scotland, including Fife, fared better than the other nations in this respect although values were only average (Met Office, 2023a, b). Temperatures, particularly daytime maxima, were below average virtually throughout the UK, with the only particularly warm spell being 7th-9th. Other than those days, in our area only on the 10th, 12th, 15th, 19th and 28th-30th did the temperature reach levels that were average or slightly above (Met Office, 2023b). It was also a windier than average July – good for drying clothes (when not raining!) but not good for taking photos of plants and wildlife at the Loch. As a result, I managed fewer recording trips to the Loch and elsewhere around Kinghorn than I would have liked.

Nevertheless, 19 species were added to the Loch's list during July: 1 moth, 3 bees or wasps, 2 flies, 3 bugs, 8 flowering plants and 2 fungi. These are, particularly in figure captions, abbreviated NLR (new Loch record). In addition, two other plants (Common Storksbill, *Erodium cicutarium* and Greek Mallow, *Sidalcea malviflora*) were added to the list because I decided to add to the area I include in the total the grassy area between Red Path Brae and The Ecology Centre's weekend / evening parking area. The grand total thereby increased by 21, from 1,548 (30 June) to **1,569** on 31 July.

AROUND THE LOCH Birds: July is usually a quiet month for recording birds – literally so as most songbirds stop singing, having raised at least one brood and started their summer moult. Migration, at least of land birds, also pauses (the first returning waders of autumn do begin to come back to coasts, and suitable inland waters). However, despite this lull, 57 bird species were recorded at Kinghorn Loch during July, two more than July 2022's figure of 55. I am as always indebted to Paul Williams (hereafter abbreviated PW) for many of the records. **Migrants** included the summering **warblers (Blackcap, Common Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler)** and **Swallows** as well as occasional visits by **House Martin** (one on 12th seen by me), **Sand Martins** (PW on 18th, 21st and 23rd) and **Common Swift** (5th, 9th and 23rd, all PW). Unlike last month, the only **ducks** on the Loch were the resident **Mallards**. However, both **Little Grebes (Dabchicks)** and **Great Crested Grebes** remained on the Loch (in 2022 the Dabchicks left early in the summer). The Great Crested Grebes at the east



Two juvenile Kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) near the hide, 13th. Photo Paul Williams.

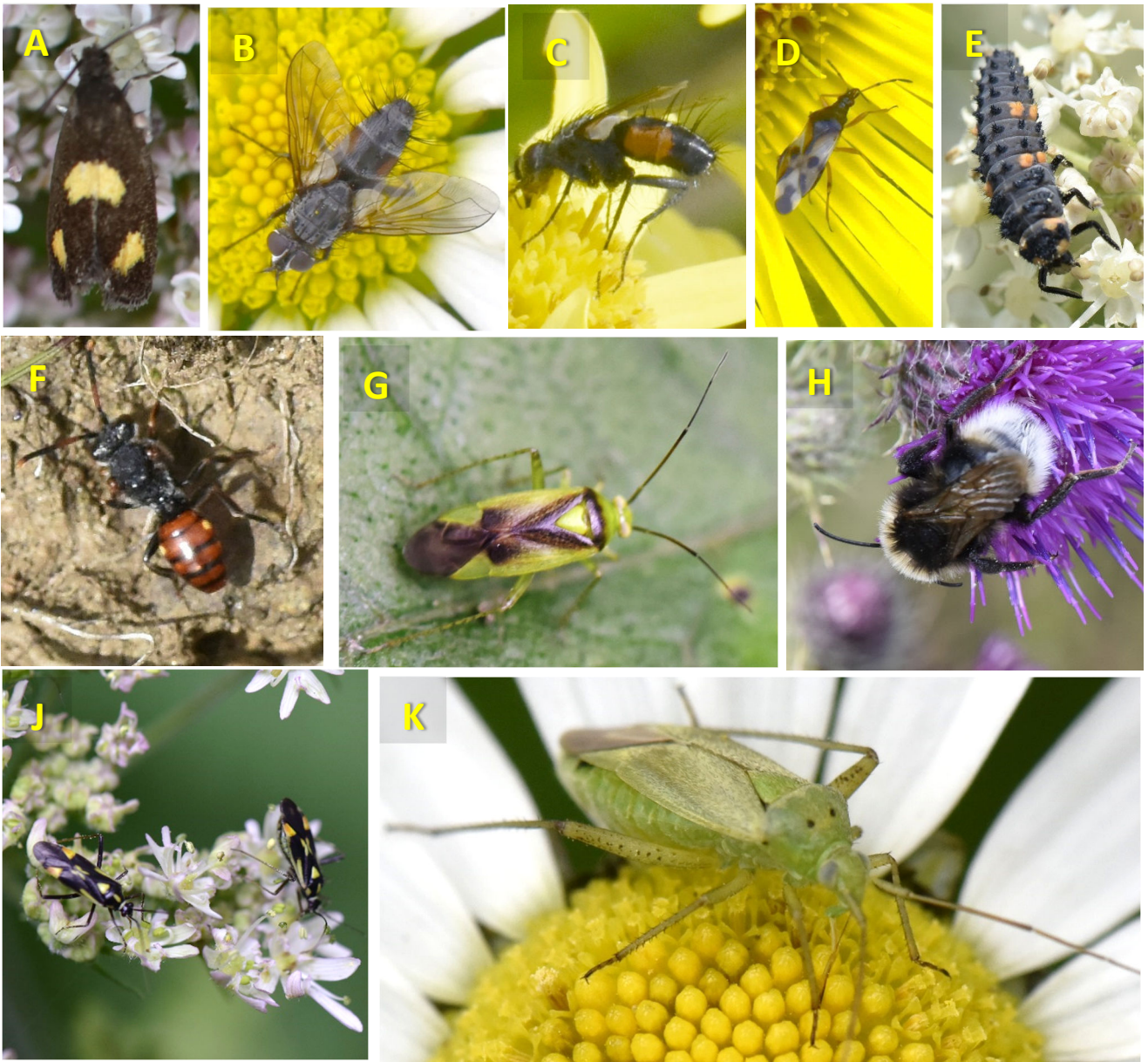
(sluice) end have raised one chick ('humbug'), while those at the west appear to have been unsuccessful in raising a second brood, but towards the end of the month were seen courting and nest-building for a third time. A fifth, unattached, adult Great Crested Grebe also appeared at that end briefly. **Kingfishers** paid a couple of visits to the Loch in July, with one present on 9th and two on 13th (both records by PW); both appeared to be juvenile males that had dispersed from their breeding sites. Andy Pay was fortunate to watch a **Peregrine** flying fast across the Loch on 22nd, carrying prey in its talons. Paul Williams saw two **Kestrels** on 21st while the next day I saw a male perched on a telephone wire between the Great North Road track and Woodland Rise.

Buzzards and **Sparrowhawks** were each seen on three days, all by PW. A **Mistle Thrush** alarm call heard by me

on 17th seemed unusual for the time of year, suggesting that there is a resident bird (or pair) at the Loch. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen by PW on 22nd and 24th. **Pied Wagtail** was only seen once (4th, PW) but **Grey Wagtail** was seen on at least five dates. **Linnet**s were seen on 18th, 22nd and 26th by PW and by myself on 28th. Paul Williams also recorded **Starling** on 5th, **Goldcrest** on four occasions, **Treecreeper** on 3rd and 6th, **Reed Bunting** twice (5th and 17th), **Skylark** on 5th and 22nd, and **Yellowhammer** on 4th, 9th and 21st. The full list of birds recorded at the Loch during July 2023 is: *Blackbird, Blackcap, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Common Gull, Common Whitethroat, Coot, Dabchick (Little Grebe), Dunnock, Farmyard / hybrid geese, Feral Pigeon, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Crested Grebe, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, Greylag Goose, Herring Gull, House Martin, Jackdaw, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Linnet, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Peregrine, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Reed Bunting, Robin, Sand Martin, Skylark, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Swallow, Swift, Treecreeper, Tree Sparrow, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer.*

Mammals, amphibians and fish: The most notable mammal record was a **Common Shrew** seen by Paul Williams (25th). **Brown Hares** were seen by Stephen Sorbie on 1st (Kinghorn District Wildlife Group [KDWG] Facebook page) and by PW (3rd, 17th). Paul also saw **Roe Deer** on 4th and 5th. As last month, **Grey Squirrels** were frequently seen and **Mole** hills widespread. PW saw **Toadlets** (young Common Toads) on 4th and 5th.

Invertebrates ('minibeasts'): July's cool, often wet or showery weather somewhat affected the abundance and diversity of these, which, being cold-blooded creatures, need reasonably warm dry weather to be at their most active. Even so, almost half of July's NLRs were invertebrates. I recorded only four **butterfly** species: **Meadow Browns** (8th, 18th, 23rd), **Ringlets** and **Small Whites** on the latter two dates and a **Comma** near the Loch edge (5th). In addition to these, Paul Williams saw **Red Admiral** and **Speckled Wood** during the month. **Day-flying moths** included one NLR, of **Orange-spot Piercer (*Pammene aurana*)** on 13th, as well as two 'grass moths', **Straw Grass-veneer** (13th) and **Satin Grass-veneer** (22nd). The very distinctive yellow-and-black caterpillars of the **Cinnabar** moth were found on their food-plant, Ragwort, beside the Throne on 23rd. The mines of two leaf-mining moths, **Common Oak Midget** and **Common Oak Purple**, were found on the same oak tree on 23rd. Ten Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants etc.) were recorded during July, three of which were new Loch records: **Patchwork Leaf-cutter Bee (*Megachile centuncularis*)** visiting a flower-head of *Inula hookeri* in the pollinator beds (13th), and both **Fabricius' Nomad-bee (*Nomada fabriciana*)** and **Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee (*Bombus bohemicus*)** on 23rd. Both the latter species take over the nests of other bee species, just as Cuckoos take over the nests of other birds and lay their own eggs in them for the host species to rear as if they were their own. The Fabricius' Nomad-bees were in fact entering the nest hole of a solitary bee, most likely **Gwynne's Mining-bee (*Andrena bicolor*)**, on the sandy bank next to The Ecology Centre's car park; once, I watched a solitary bee and a nomad bee go into the same hole. **Large Red-tailed Bumblebee** was seen on four dates and **Tree Bumblebee** on 18th. Many **Black Ants** were scurrying on the ground in front of the Throne on 23rd, while a **sawfly** belonging to the *Tenthredo notha* species aggregate was seen on 18th.



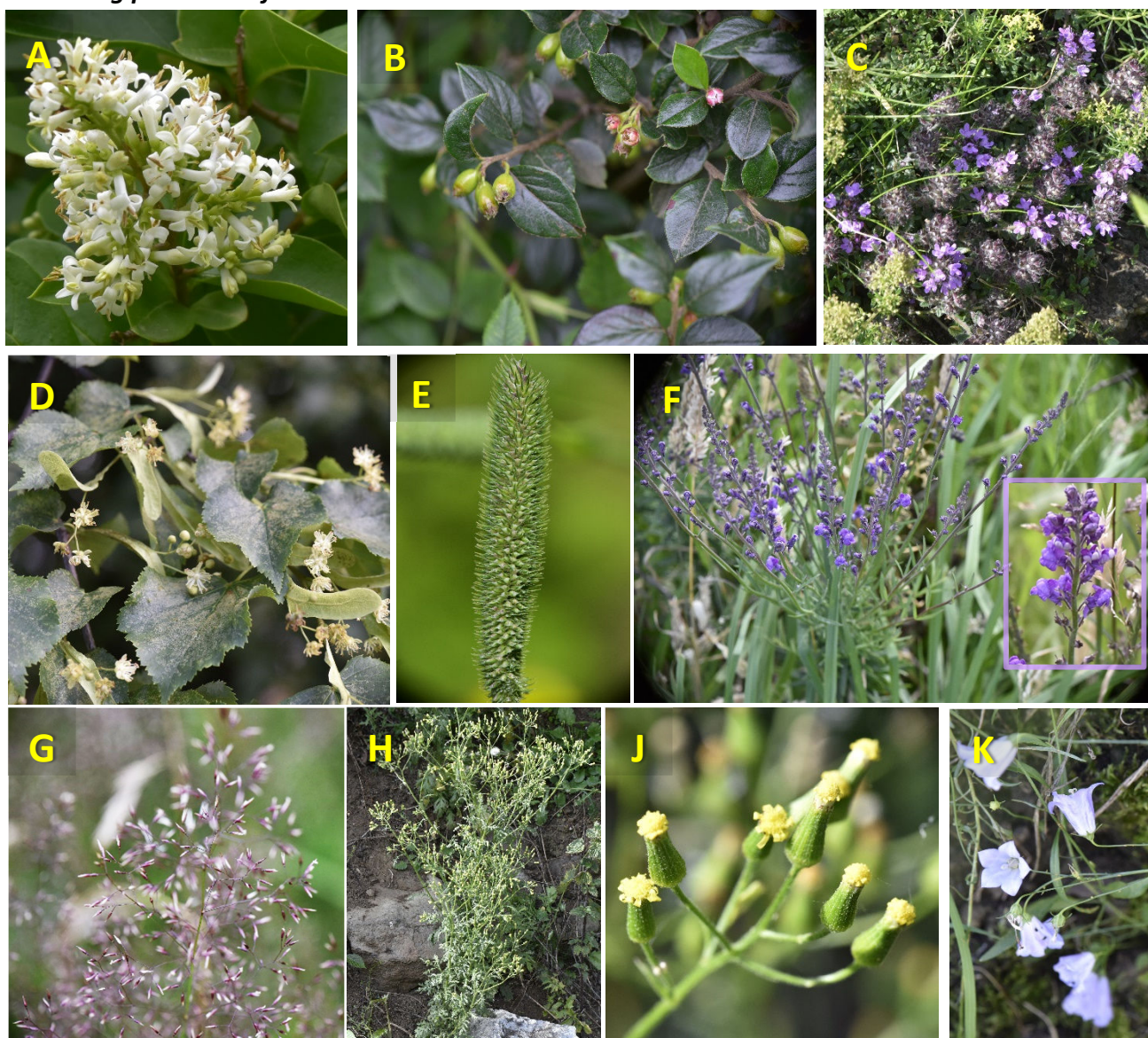
July Loch invertebrates: **A**, Orange-spot Piercer moth (*Pammene aurana*), 13th. New Loch record. **B & C**, the fly *Eriothrix rufomaculata*, 18th (B) & 23rd (C), NLR. **D**, Common Flower-bug (*Anthocoris nemorum*), 13th. **E**, larva of 7-spot Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*), 23rd. **F**, Fabricius' Nomad Bee (*Nomada fabriciana*), 23rd, NLR. **G**, the bug *Neolygus viridis*, 18th, NLR. **H**, Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee (*Bombus bohemicus*), 23rd, NLR. **J**, two *Grypcocoris stysi* bugs on Hogweed, 18th. **K**, Potato Capsid Bug (*Closterotomus norwegicus*), 22nd, NLR. All photos Robert Mill.

In contrast to June, only four **hoverfly** species were recorded at the Loch in July. **Great Pied Hoverfly** or **Pellucid Plumehorn** (*Volucella pellucens*) was seen by myself on 5th and 8th, the much smaller and dissimilar but confusingly named **Pied Hoverfly** (*Scaeva pyrastris*) on 18th (Paul Williams) and 22nd by myself, and **Humming Syrphus** (*Syrphus ribesii*) by myself on 13th and 18th. **Marmalade Hoverflies** (*Episyrphus balteatus*) began to become numerous from 13th.

Fifteen other **flies** were recorded in July, six species as adult insects and the other nine as larval leaf mines on various host plants. Two were NLRs: the rather striking (particularly in side view) black, red and white *Eriothrix rufomaculata* (18th near the market garden, 22nd in the meadow designated as the KCLA ecocemetery), and the large blotch mine of *Pegomya betae* (**aggregate**) on beetroot leaves (13th). The bright iridescent green fly *Gymnocheta viridis* was seen by me on 13th and 23rd, as well as on 19th by Pauline Bell who posted a stunning photo on the KDWG Facebook group's page of one probably meeting its end in a pool of water. *Tricholauxania praeusta*, one of May 2023's NLRs, was found again on 18th, as well as a **Flesh Fly** (*Sarcophaga* sp.) and the red-and-black *Tachina fera*. Nine species of **bug** were recorded, three of them being

NLRs. These were *Neolygus viridis*, a very strikingly marked green bug, on 18th, **Potato Capsid (*Closterotomus norwegicus*)** on 22nd, and a pale green leafhopper on Small-leaved Lime on 28th that, from my previous experience of it on lime trees at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh was most likely to be *Edwardsiana lethierryi* although the weather at the time was too windy to get a photograph. As well as these, **Common Flower Bug (*Anthocoris nemorum*)** was found both on *Inula hookeri* and on nettles on 13th (both adults) and 18th (a nymph), an adult **Common Froghopper** on 13th, two *Grypocoris stysi* bugs on a Hogweed umbel on 18th and the **Common Sycamore Aphid (*Drepanosiphium platanoidis*)** on its host on 13th and 18th, while **Pond Skaters** were seen on the surface of the small pond near the dam on three occasions. The only **beetles** recorded in July were **7-spot Ladybird** (adults on 22nd, 23rd and 28th, with a larva also found on 23rd) and **Red Soldier Beetles** which remained ubiquitous on Hogweed umbels and some other flowers (particularly thistles) throughout the month. **Common Blue Damselflies** were again abundant all month but no **Blue-tailed Damselflies** were seen. The only **gall mite** found was *Eriophyes laevis* on Alder (18th and 23rd in different parts of the Loch area). **Hairy Snail (*Trochulus hispidulus*)** was the only **mollusc** record at the Loch during July.

Flowering plants and ferns:



Plant records at the Loch, July 2023. **A**, Garden Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*), 18th. **B**, Himalayan Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*), 18th. **C**, Wild Thyme (*Thymus drucei*), 28th. **D**, Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) leaves, flowers and young fruits, 28th. **E**, Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), 18th. **F**, Purple Toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), short bushy form, 23rd (inset, flowers close up). **G**, Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), 22nd. **H & J**, Heath Groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*; **H**, habit; **J**, flowers), 23rd. **K**, Form of Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) with small whitish flowers about two-thirds size of the typical blue ones, 28th. All NLRs except **K**. Photos Robert Mill.

Two horsetails, three ferns, 178 wild or naturalised flowering-plant species of which 162 were in flower (including a further 8 NLRs), and 47 obviously cultivated flowering-plants were noted during my July visits to the Loch. Three of the eight NLRs were shrubs or trees. The identities of flowering privet bushes or hedges near the water mill and the hen run were checked on 5th and 18th and they were found to belong to **Garden Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*)**. Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) is on the original list that I received from TEC when I started recording at the Loch two years ago, based on a record made at the 2018 BioBlitz. It is possible that there could be a bush of the wild species somewhere but all bushes would have to be checked when in flower (Wild Privet has a much shorter corolla tube than the Garden Privet). Until this has been done, Wild Privet is being kept on the list but the 2018 record may well have been based on a misidentification.

Himalayan Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*) was found beside the Craigenalt access road from Red Path Brae on 18th. Lastly, I was surprised to find a lime tree in flower on 28th beside the track down from the Farm that I had never previously noticed despite walking up or down it many times. Even more surprisingly, it turned out to be **Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*)** rather than the much commoner hybrid *Tilia x europaea* (Lime). The other five NLRs were all herbaceous. They included two grasses, **Timothy (*Phleum pratense*)** on 18th and **Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*)** on 22nd. A somewhat unusual very bushy form of **Purple Toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*)** was found at the northwest of the KCLA ecocemetery land near the track connecting this with the Throne on TEC's land (23rd). Numerous plants of **Heath Groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*)** were flowering along the Great North Road track from just beyond the Farm to near its summit (23rd). These had not been seen in previous years. The bank on which they were growing did show signs of disturbance, which this species apparently likes. Lastly, **Wild Thyme (*Thymus drucei*)** was flowering on 28th on a presumably limy or base-rich outcrop opposite the covered reservoir together with more **Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*)**, **Biting Stonecrop (*Sedum acre*)**, **Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)** and many more plants of **Smaller Catstail (*Phleum bertolonii*)** than I found last year beside the Great North Road. Two new locations at the Loch for **Chinese Mugwort (*Artemisia verlotiorum*)** were found on 18th, one near the lochside and the other beside the market garden area. Both are within dispersal distance of the two original plants found last year. On the much smaller outcrop where I found the original Loch plants of **Common Rock-rose** last month, I found not only the typical blue-flowered form of **Harebell** but also a form with much smaller, nearly white flowers (28th).

Selected first-flowering dates in July 2023 were: **Square-stalked St John's-wort (*Hypericum tetrapterum*)** and **Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*)**, 13th (2022, both 30 June); **Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)**, 13th (2022, 4th); **Common Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*)**, **Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*)** and **Great Willow-herb (*Epilobium hirsutum*)**, 13th (2022, 16th in all three cases); **Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*)**, 18th (2022, 19th); **Wood Burdock (*Arctium nemorosum*)** and **Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)**, 22nd (2022, 16th in both cases); **Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*)**, 22nd (2022, 26th); **Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodona*)**, 23rd (2022, 1 August); and **Smaller Catstail (*Phleum bertolonii*)**, 28th (2022, 27th). There was no obvious pattern, with some dates more or less identical, some up to two weeks later and one or two (such as Wood Sage) more than a week earlier. However, I only made seven recording visits although these were fairly evenly spaced through the month.

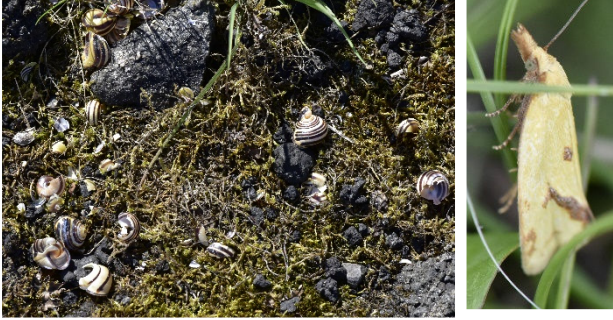


Left: *Ramularia triboutiana*, 22nd, NLR. Right: *Erysiphe urticae*, 22nd, NLR. Photos Robert Mill.

Cryptogams Eighteen different **fungi** species were found at the Loch in July, two of them (both recorded on 22nd) being NLRs. They comprised **Campion Smut**, seven mildews (*Erysiphe urticae* on Stinging Nettle being one of July's two fungal NLRs), three 'white moulds' (*Ramularia triboutiana* on Common Knapweed being the other NLR), two rusts, the leaf-galling fungus ***Taphridium umbelliferarum*** (a June NLR, now known from more than one location around the Loch) and four other

leaf-spots. Other cryptogam records were broadly similar to June: three **lichens**, two **viruses (EMARaV virus on Rowan, RVCV on Raspberry)** and a couple of areas of scum on the Loch caused by unidentified **cyanobacteria**.

VILLAGE, BEACHES AND COASTAL PATH



A, Brown-lipped Snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*) shells at probable Song thrush 'anvil', North Mire, 9th. B, Common Yellow Conch (*Agapetes hamana*), coastal path, 21st. Photos Robert Mill.

After June's Red Kite, an even more unusual bird of prey for our area arrived on July 8th: a dark-morph **Honey Buzzard** seen over Pettycur Bay by Graham Sparshott. Graham also saw another **Corn Bunting** near the entrance to Banchory Farm from the Kissing Trees road on 15th, north of where June's was seen. Some of the more notable **seabird** records in July were single **Arctic Skua** and **Arctic Tern** off Pettycur (Graham Sparshott, 28th and 9th respectively); **Common Guillemots** off Seafield (10th and 26th, Paul Williams) and off Kinghorn on 25th (six) and 31st (one, Lukasz Pulawski, eBird); **Mediterranean Gulls** at Seafield (18th, Paul Williams), East Braes (23rd, Graham Sparshott) and Pettycur (31st,

Graham Sparshott); **Manx Shearwaters** seen by Graham Sparshott off Pettycur or East Braes (Kinghorn) on four dates between 8th and 23rd, the highest counts being 17 off Pettycur (8th) and 35 off East Braes (23rd); a **Puffin** off Seafield (10th, Paul Williams); and **Razorbills** off Kinghorn and Seafield. The **Fulmars** had all but deserted their breeding cliffs at Kinghorn and Pettycur, with only single birds present (25th and 31st, Lukasz Pulawski, eBird). **Goosanders** were off Seafield throughout July, the highest counts being over 120 on 12th and 67 on 20th (Paul Williams). There was a large movement of 158 **Common Scoters** off Pettycur on 8th (Graham Sparshott), with much smaller numbers seen by him there and off East Braes on 14th, 23rd and 31st. Graham also noted 27 **Teal** off Pettycur on 8th with small numbers on 15th and 28th. Three **Wigeon** were at Kinghorn on 25th (Lukasz Pulawski, eBird). Single **Kingfishers** were at Seafield (20th, Paul Williams) and off Pettycur (31st, Graham Sparshott). The most notable **wader** record was a **Spotted Redshank** flying west up the Forth (9th, Graham Sparshott). Other waders began returning from breeding grounds. **Whimbrels** were at Seafield (7th, Paul Williams) and Pettycur (two, 31st, Graham Sparshott). A **Greenshank** was near the Fife Coastal Path between East Braes and Seafield late in the month (23rd, Graham Sparshott; 25th, 26th and 27th, Paul Williams). **Common Sandpipers** were at Seafield from 7th onwards, with six present on 12th (Paul Williams); two others were seen at East Braes (14th, Graham Sparshott) and singles at Kinghorn and Pettycur (25th and 31st, Lukasz Pulawski and Graham Sparshott). Between one and three **Dunlin** were at Seafield from 18th onwards while **Common Redshank** were there from 5th, **Ringed Plover** from 8th and **Turnstone** from 20th (Paul Williams). Away from the coast, Graham Sparshott began regular bird migration watches in the Red Path Brae/Mid and North Mire area during July and noted small movements of **Crossbills** on 8th (7), 21st and 28th, **Siskin** (15th and 21st), **Lapwing** (25 on 28th), **Meadow Pipits** (21st, 28th) and **Tree Pipits** (14th, 21st), as well as 18 **Blackcaps**, a **Lesser Whitethroat** and six grounded **Tree Pipits** on 28th. Three **Roe Deer** were at Grange Hill on 22nd (Paul Williams) and my wife and I saw a **Rabbit** on the grassy picnic area beside Seafield beach (1st). Another **Minke Whale**, or the same one as June's, was off Pettycur on 28th (Graham Sparshott) and 30th (Ronnie Mackie). **Common** and **Grey Seals** remained on the rocks off Seafield all month.

Northern Brown Argus butterflies were very active in bright sunshine at North Mire on 9th, confirming a 1998 National Biodiversity Network (NBN) record from near what is now Lochside Grange as well as five much older records from Kinghorn in early August 1915 based on specimens in the Natural History Museum (London) and six other NBN records from the Kinghorn/Pettycur area between 1963 and 2005. **Meadow Brown** butterflies were seen at Seafield and Mid Mire, **Red Admirals** at Seafield and Pettycur, **Ringlets**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Small Whites** at Mid Mire and Seafield, **Speckled Wood** along the coast path and **Green-veined White** at Mid Mire. A **Humming-bird Hawkmoth** was at Mid Mire on 9th, hovering in front of thistle flowers, and a **Common Yellow Conch** moth was seen by me along the coastal path on 21st. **Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee** was seen at North Mire on 30th, and **Common Blue Damselflies** along the Mire Path on both 9th and 30th. Also at North Mire, numerous **Brown-lipped Snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*)** shells were found by what appeared to be a Song Thrush's 'anvil' (9th). A **Moon (Common) Jellyfish** was found washed up on Seafield beach (1st) while Paul Williams photographed both a **Blue Jellyfish** and a **Lion's-mane Jellyfish** there later in July.



Plants of the Mid Mire area, July 2023. **A**, Scarlet Pimpernel (*Lysimachia arvensis*), 28th. **B**, Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*), 9th. **C**, Honesty (*Lunaria annua*), 28th. **D**, Henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule*), 28th. Photos Robert Mill.

Probably the most exciting botanical find in July was **Scarlet Pimpernel** (*Lysimachia arvensis*, formerly *Anagallis arvensis*) at several spots along the north edge of the big Mid Mire cereal field (28th), in ‘classic’ cornfield-margin habitat with other cornfield weeds such as **Wintercress** (*Barbarea vulgaris*), **Field Forget-me-not** (*Myosotis arvensis*), **Pineapple-weed** (*Matricaria discoidea*), **Scentless Mayweed** (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*) and, in one spot, **Henbit** (*Lamium amplexicaule*). According to the NBN database, the only inland records from the Kinghorn area date from 1798 and 1903, although there are two much more recent (2019 and 2020) records from the beach at Pettycur. **Stinking Iris** (*Iris foetidissima*), whose orange berry-like fruits I found near Mire Path last winter, was found in flower at the site on 9th; the single flower was somewhat past its best and had gone by the next time I passed the site on 28th. Other plants found in flower in the Mid / North Mire area in July included **Bladder Campion** (*Silene vulgaris*), a grove of several large **Buddleia** bushes (*Buddleja davidii*) and **Rest-harrow** (*Ononis repens*) on 9th and 28th and, on 28th only, **Lesser Stitchwort** (*Stellaria graminea*), **Bugloss** (*Lycopsis arvensis*), a second flowering of **Honesty** (*Lunaria annua*) and even a **Potato** plant (*Solanum tuberosum*).

I did relatively little botanical recording in the village during July but during a walk along the various Doo Dell paths on 20th I found **Sea Plantain** (*Plantago maritima*) and **Seaside Daisy** (*Erigeron glaucus*) on the rocks on the beach, and **Meadowsweet** (*Filipendula ulmaria*) by a tiny rivulet or spring by one of the paths where **Brooklime** (*Veronica beccabunga*) was also present, while **White Stonecrop** (*Sedum album*) was flowering on the cliffs. My return from that walk was via the Burnside Path, where I was pleased to re-find **Hooker’s Fleabane** (*Inula hookeri*), first found there last year, though less pleased to discover its site overgrown by tall thistles that made visiting the plant impossible.

On my only July visit to Pettycur (6th), **Shrub Ragwort** (*Brachyglottis ‘Sunshine’*) was turning the cliffs yellow along Pettycur Road, complemented by the lilacs, purples and violets of **Hedge Veronica** (*Hebe x franciscana*; also on the rocks below the sea wall) and more **Seaside Daisy**, whilst by the track along the base of the cliffs that separate Pettycur and Burntisland Bays I found some late-flowering **Wallflower** (*Erysimum cheiri*, now mostly in fruit), **Common Rock-rose** (*Helianthemum nummularium*), **Rest-harrow** and **Biting Stonecrop** (*Sedum acre*), among others. **Sand Sedge** (*Carex arenaria*) and **Sea Rocket** (*Cakile maritima*) were in flower at various spots in front of the dunes along the top of the beach while a very unusual find amongst the marram on the dunes was **Blue Lawn-lobelia** (*Lobelia pedunculata*), a native to Australia.



Coastal and village plants, July 2023. **A**, Hare's-foot Clover (*Trifolium arvense*), coastal path, 21st. **B**, Common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), Seafield, 1st. **C**, Sand Sedge (*Carex arenaria*), Pettycur beach, 6th. 12th. **D**, Hooker's Fleabane (*Inula hookeri*), Burnside Path, 20th. **E**, Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Pettycur beach, 6th. **F & G**, Blue Lawn-lobelia (*Lobelia pedunculata*), dunes at Pettycur, 6th (**F**, habit; **G**, flower). **H & J**, Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Kinghorn beach, 20th (**H** habit; **J**, flowers). **K**, White Stonecrop (*Sedum album*), cliff at Doo Dell Path (Kinghorn), 20th. Photos Robert Mill.

On a walk along the coastal path on 21st I found more **Sea Plantain** in flower on the beach as well as **Sea Sandwort** (*Honckenya peploides*). By the coastal path itself, an unusual find was **Hare's-foot Clover** (*Trifolium arvense*), a few plants of which were found flowering slightly off the path at one spot. Besides this, there was plenty of **Agrimony** (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), **Hemp Agrimony** (*Eupatorium cannabinum*) and **Bloody Cranesbill** (*Geranium sanguineum*), while **Corn Sow-thistle** was found again at one place. **Common Toadflax** (*Linaria vulgaris*) was in flower at Seafield on 1st.

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