

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

## Eskrigg Reserve

### February 2012 News Bulletin

#### 1. View of the pond taken on the 7th of February.



#### Pheasants foraging around the duck-feeder.



#### 2. Confirmed wildlife sightings:



Long-tailed Tit



Marsh Tit



Buzzard

##### a. Birds:

Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Jay, Kestrel, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Marsh Tit, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Tree Creeper, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

##### b. Mammals:

Bank Vole, Fox, Mole, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Stoat, Weasel.

##### c. Fungi:

Scarlet Elf Cup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*)



Photographs by: George Trudt (GT), Howard Denton (HD), Jim Rae (JR).

### 3. Activities at the Reserve during February:

There were few planned activities at the Reserve this month due to the Reserve Manager being on holiday.



Photographs by Jim Thomson

On the 19<sup>th</sup> the Trust held its Annual Nut Race. Over seventy people took advantage of the sunny weather to support the event, join in the fun and help the nuts on their way down the burn. The first prize of £25 was won by Tom Laurie, second prize of £15 by Ruari Glendinning and runner up Elizabeth Miller won the Easter egg. The £510 raised will be used to buy nuts and seed for the birds and red squirrels. Thanks to all who sponsored a nut or supported the event on the day.

On the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Maintenance Day, David Hughes gathered up any litter he found around the reserve and woodland walks.

### 4. The Bramble Leaf Miner (*Stigmella aurella*)

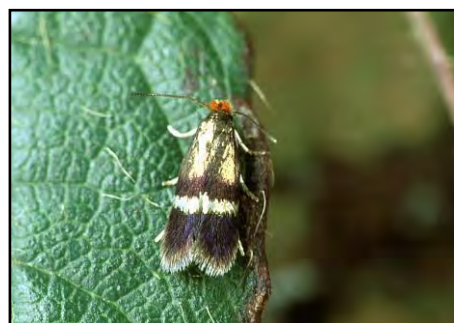
The Bramble Leaf Miner belongs to a large group of moths known as the Nepticulidae.

The adults have a metallic sheen to their wings and a cream-coloured streak running across the middle of them. They fly in May and again later in the summer. The moths lay their eggs inside the leaves of its food plant - the bramble (*Rubus*).

When the larva hatches it slowly snakes its way through the leaf by eating a tunnel just below the outer cuticle of the leaf. The shape of the pale gallery or blotch created by the larva as it feeds is usually a better means of identification than comparing the adult moths. As the caterpillar chomps its way through the leaf tissues it inevitably grows, and consequently the tunnel gets bigger and wider. Inside the tunnel the caterpillar leaves behind a little dark line of what entomologists politely call "frasse" (it's faeces), and this shows up well if you hold the mine up to the light. The larvae over-winter in their mines.

Eventually the caterpillar reaches full size and come out onto the surface of the leaf to form a cocoon in which it pupates ready to emerge as an adult moth. You can sometimes see a small slit in the largest end of the tunnel where the caterpillar came out.

Look out for the tracks on brambles growing in your area.



Adult Moth – wing span 6-7 mm.



Track left by the Bramble Leaf Miner



Cocoon on leaf surface

## 5. Visitor Records:

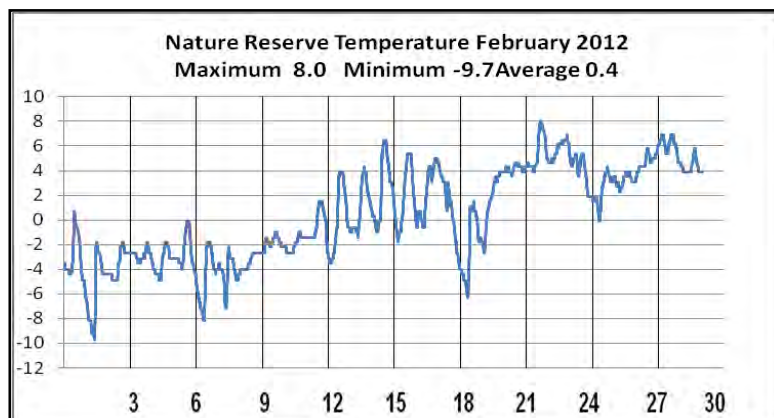
Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
September	1515	51
October	1763	57
November	1432	48
December	1373	44
January	2180	70
February	1597	55



## 6. Weather Records:

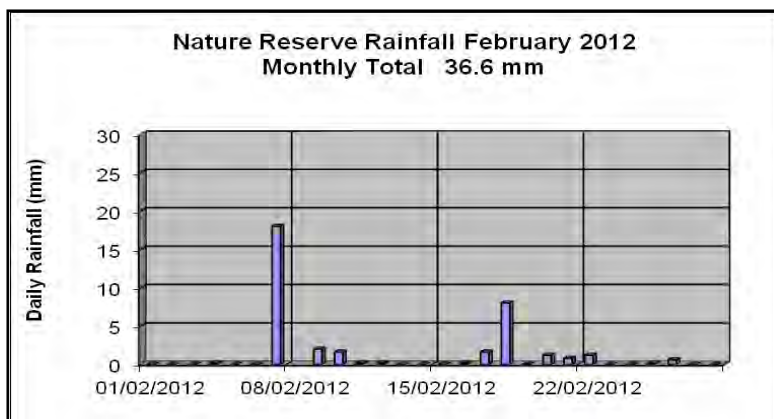
### a. Air temperature

Month	Maximum	Minimum	Average
September	20.2	3.9	12.1
October	17.0	-1.8	9.2
November	12.4	-3.5	6.6
December	14.1	-3.5	2.89
January	5.8	-8.2	-0.24
February	8.0	-9.7	0.39

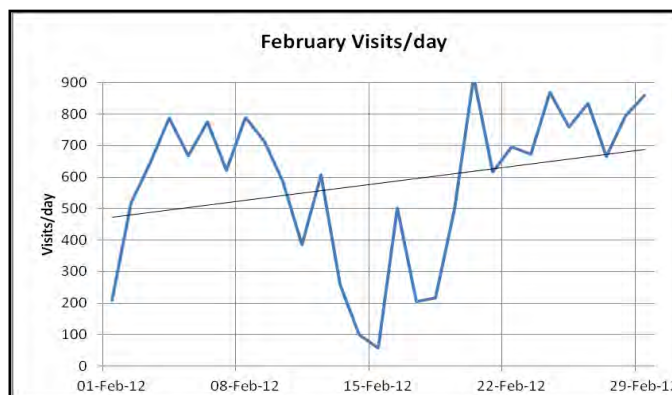
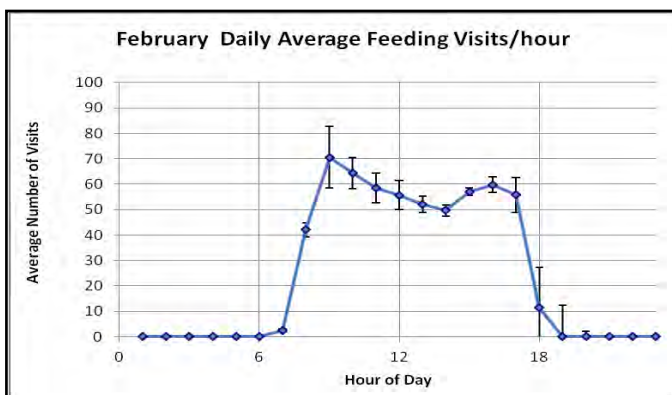


### b. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
September	151.6
October	167.6
November	96.8
December	148.8
January	88.5
February	36.6



## 7. Monitoring Red Squirrel Feeding Behaviour



**Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)**  
**Address: Carradale, 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, D11 2DZ.**  
**Home Tel.: 01576 203 314 / Mobile No.: 07739 987 009**  
**Email: jim\_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk**