

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

March 2013 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. View of the pond taken on the 20th of March as winter returns.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve

- a. Birds

Barn Owl, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Brambling, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Curlew, Dunnock, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Grey Wagtail, Jay, Kestrel, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Tree Creeper, Tree Sparrow, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon, Woodcock, Wren.



- b. Mammals

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

3. Wildlife sightings worthy of note

On the 4th of March, George Trudt spotted an **Osprey** flying north up the Annan valley at Shillahill Bridge. He was travelling by bus at the time and so could not take a photograph.

On the 28th of March he photographed a **Ring Ouzel** in a neighbour's garden in Lockerbie.



Photographs: Jim Rae (JR), Graham Minton (GM) and George Trudt (GT).

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)

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4. Environment Fair

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust had a stall at the Environment Fair in Dumfries on the 2nd of March. Kathryn and David Hughes promoted the Reserve and answered any questions that visitors posed. Meanwhile Jim Rae ran a Bird Box workshop and helped many youngsters to assemble a Bird Box. Sales of Bird Box Kits and completed Bird Boxes were good.



5. Activities at the Reserve during March

Replacement of West Hide with new Red Squirrel Hide

On the 12th, 13th and 14th of March three teams of **Lockerbie Rotary Club** members, including Ian Sloan, Stuart Martin, Clem Maggiori, Alex Smith, Ian Potts, Roger Claymore and Alan Hanlin, helped Lockerbie Wildlife Trust at Eskrigg Nature Reserve. The first team dismantled the old West Hide and cleared the site, the second constructed the pontoon for the new hide and the third erected the shed that will be converted into the Squirrel Hide over the next few weeks.



Dismantling the old West Hide
L to R: Rotarians Stuart Martin and Clem Maggiori and Reserve Manager Jim Rae.



Constructing the pontoon
L to R: Rotarians Clem Maggiori, Ian Potts, Ian Sloan and Alan Hanlin.



The completed pontoon
L to R: Rotarians Ian Sloan, Ian Potts, Alan Hanlin, Alex Smith, Reserve Manager Jim Rae, Rotarian Clem Maggiori.



The shed erected
L to R: Rotarian Alex Smith, LWT member Bob Glaister, Rotarian Roger Claymore and local volunteer John Higgins.

6. Assistance with maintenance work during March

13.03.13 - S4 Environmental Studies Class

The class had planned to visit the Reserve to carry out some maintenance tasks. However, the weather was not suitable so Jim Rae took the students to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Centre at Caerlaverock instead to learn about the wintering wildfowl. The group were shown round by Brian Morell.



JR



JR

16.03.13 - Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers

Angus Johnstone, Drew Stewart, Megan Johnstone and Charlotte Carruthers helped to clear rubbish from the Dalton Road entrance to the Annandale Way and Woodland Walk. Once again a whole trailer of waste was collected and taken to the Waste and Recycling Centre near Annan.

30.03.13 – D. of E. and Adult Volunteers

Angus Johnstone and Drew Stewart helped John Higgins and the Reserve Manager to treat the new Red Squirrel Hide with wood preservative.



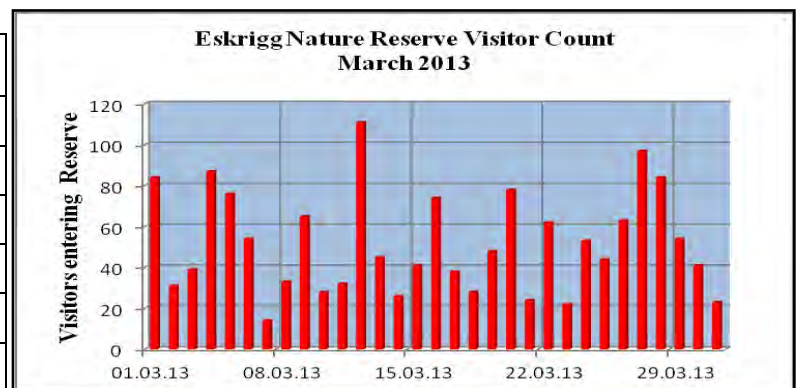
JR

31.03.13 - Trust Maintenance Day

There were no Trust members free on Easter Sunday to help the Reserve Manager treat the Hide pontoon with wood preservative.

7. Visitor Records

Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
Oct. 2012	2864	92
Nov. 2012	1911	63.7
Dec. 2012	1334	43
Jan. 2013	1599	52
Feb. 2013	1665	59.5
Mar. 2013	1599	52



8. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
Oct. 2012	161.9
Nov. 2012	Not available
Dec. 2012	187.8
Jan. 2013	89
Feb. 2013	36.6
Mar. 2013	41.6

