

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

## Eskrigg Reserve

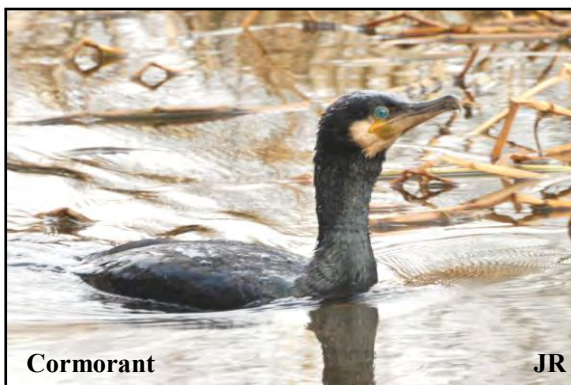
### April 2013 News Bulletin

#### 1. View of the pond taken on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

#### 2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve

##### a. Birds

Black-headed Gull, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Brambling, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Common Gull, Common Sandpiper\*, Cormorant\*, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goosander\*, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, House Martin, Jay, Lesser Redpoll, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Sparrowhawk, Swallow, Tawny Owl, Teal, Tree Creeper, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wood Warbler, Wren, Yellowhammer.



Cormorant

JR



Common Sandpiper

JR

\* These are new species for Eskrigg Nature Reserve. The Magpie is seldom seen in the Lockerbie area although it is common nearby, e.g. around Corrie. The Tawny Owl is nesting in the black barrel for the second year running.

##### b. Mammals

Badger, Bank Vole, Common Shrew, Fox, Mole, Otter, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Woodmouse.



Roe Deer crossing Reserve

GT



Red Squirrel being hand-fed.

JR

Photographs: Bob Little (BL), Jim Rae (JR), George Trudt (GT)

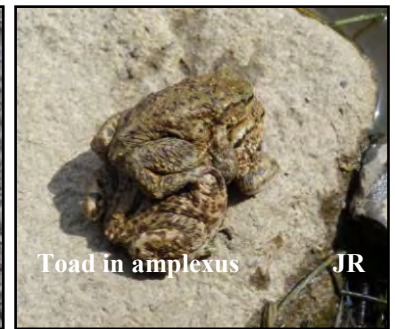


**c. Amphibians**

The frogs and toads arrived at the pond to breed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April this year. In 2012 it was the 10<sup>th</sup> of March and in 2011 it was the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.



Frog on Reserve path JR



Toad in amplexus JR

**d. Reptiles**

The Common Lizards were first seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April.

**e. Invertebrates**

The Peacock and Small White Butterflies were seen on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. Bumble Bees (unspecified), Field Slugs and Carrion Beetles were also seen towards the end of April.



Small White on Dandelion JR

**3. Activities at the Reserve during April**

**02.04.13 - Wild Seasons - Water Wonders**

Several people came along to the first pond-dipping session of the year, despite the cold weather. The catch was reasonable, but the organisms were much smaller than normal at this time of the year because of the cold weather.



P



P

**07.04.13 – Wild Seasons: Spring at Eskrigg**

Since Spring was still some way off it is hardly surprising that no-one booked in for this Guided Walk.

**09.04.13 – Wild Seasons - Water Wonders**

Once again a few hardy individuals came along to the pond-dipping.

**11.04.13 – Wild Seasons - Early Moths - Cancelled due to bad weather.**

**14.04.13 – Wild Seasons - Spring at Eskrigg**

Several people had booked in for the guided walk. However, the event was postponed due to the inclement weather.

**20.04.13 – Squirrel Photography Course**

Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons intended running this course on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> but had to bring it forward to the Saturday due to the bad weather forecast for the following day. Unfortunately only one of the four photographers who booked originally could make it.



Photographers in action

JR

Photographs: Jim Rae (JR), Parent (P)



**4. Assistance with construction and maintenance work during April**

**10.04.13 & 12.04.13 - Mature Student**

Chris Trott helped construct the wheelchair ramp for the Red Squirrel Hide on the 10<sup>th</sup> and give it a coat of wood preservative on the 12<sup>th</sup>.



**13.04.13 – Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers**

Charlotte Carruthers and Megan Johnstone barrowed gravel from the trailer on the forest road into the area around the new Red Squirrel Hide.



**16.04.13 & 23.04.13 – Adult Volunteer**

Ian Dunn helped insulate and line the inside of the Red Squirrel Hide with sheathing ply.

**20.04.13 – Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers**

Charlotte Carruthers, Megan Johnstone, Angus Johnstone and Drew Stewart helped to brush and clear a section of the Annandale Way between the Reserve and the Dalton Road.



**22.04.13 – S4 Environmental Studies**

The three youngsters helped to secure the posts for the safety rail and then measured the height of the posts to establish the levels at which the posts should be cut.



**Paul O'Neil drilling holes for the coach bolts**



**Pamela Beeton inserting the coach bolts.**



**Danny Brannan measuring and marking posts.**

**Photographs: Claire McKie (CM), Jim Rae (JR)**

### 28.04.13 - Trust Maintenance Day

David Hughes and Sybille Spägele helped clear the used (waste) timber from the heap beside the forest road near the Reserve and take it to Knockmains where John Beattie had kindly agreed to burn it.

### 5. Progress with the Red Squirrel Hide by the end of April

**Exterior:** The construction of the hide, front platform, wheel-chair ramp and safety rail is complete and all timber surfaces treated with wood preservative.

**Interior:** The inner walls have been insulated and lined, a display shelf constructed and the interpretation boards mounted on the south wall.

**Doorway:** Short wheel-chair ramps have been installed to bridge the sill, retaining hooks have been fitted for holding both doors open when necessary and a self-closer fitted to the right hand door so it cannot be left open unintentionally.

**Windows:** Work has started to make the windows.

### 6. Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eskrigg Nature Reserve on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

The theme for this family day is ‘Mammal Magic’.

**09:00 – 10:45** Small Mammal Trapping with Stuart Spray.

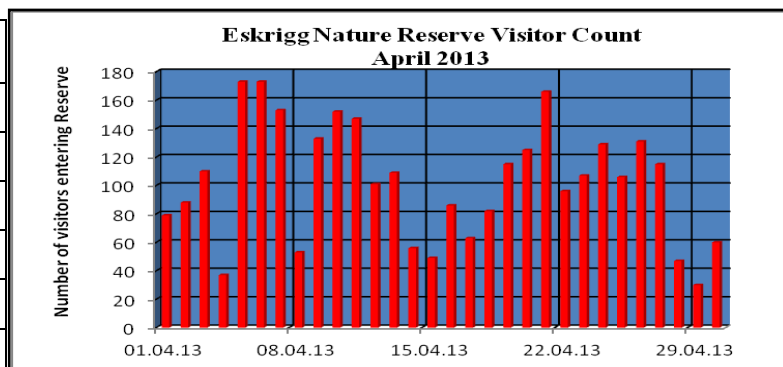
**11:00 – 12:00** Opening of the Red Squirrel Hide by Sir John Buchanan-Jardine.

**12:15 – 13:00** Picnic Lunch (bring your own).

**13:15 – 15:30** Mammal Moments - a series of short mammal-related activities that ‘children’ can have a go at.

### 7. Visitor Records

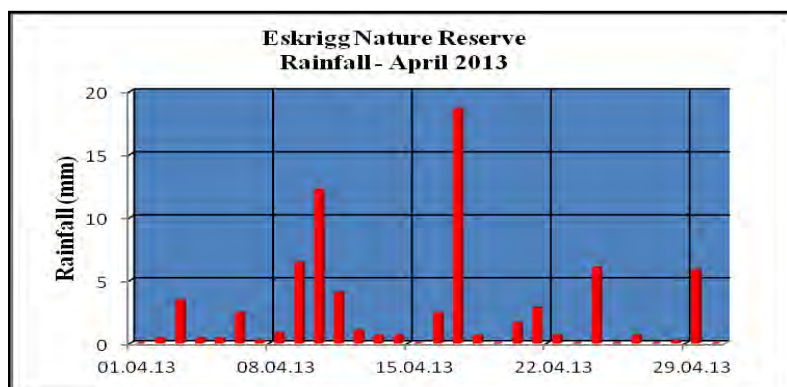
Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
Nov. 2012	1911	63.7
Dec. 2012	1334	43
Jan. 2013	1599	52
Feb. 2013	1665	59.5
Mar. 2013	1599	52
<b>Apr. 2013</b>	<b>3071</b>	<b>102</b>



**The figures for April are artificially high – they are boosted by birds visiting the box containing the Infra-red transmitter hoping to find a suitable nesting site.**

### 8. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
Nov. 2012	Not available
Dec. 2012	187.8
Jan. 2013	89
Feb. 2013	36.6
Mar. 2013	41.6
Apr. 2013	72



**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.rae2012@gmail.com**