

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

## Eskrigg Reserve

### June 2013 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538



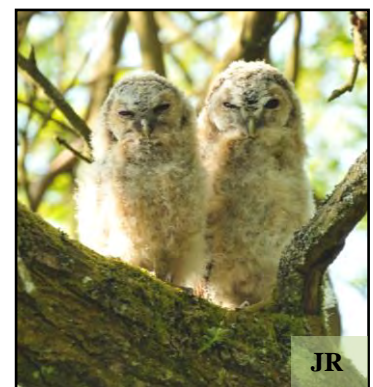
**1. View of the pond taken on the 13th of June.**

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

**a. Birds**

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Jackdaw, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Magpie, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pink-footed Goose, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Swallow, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Whitethroat, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Woodcock, Willow Warbler, Wren, Yellowhammer.

This is the last photograph taken of the two owlets together on the 11th of June. Unfortunately, the younger one died from starvation on the 12th. The mother was spending most of her time feeding the older one and teaching it to hunt.



**b. Mammals**

Bank Vole, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Woodmouse.

**e. Invertebrates**

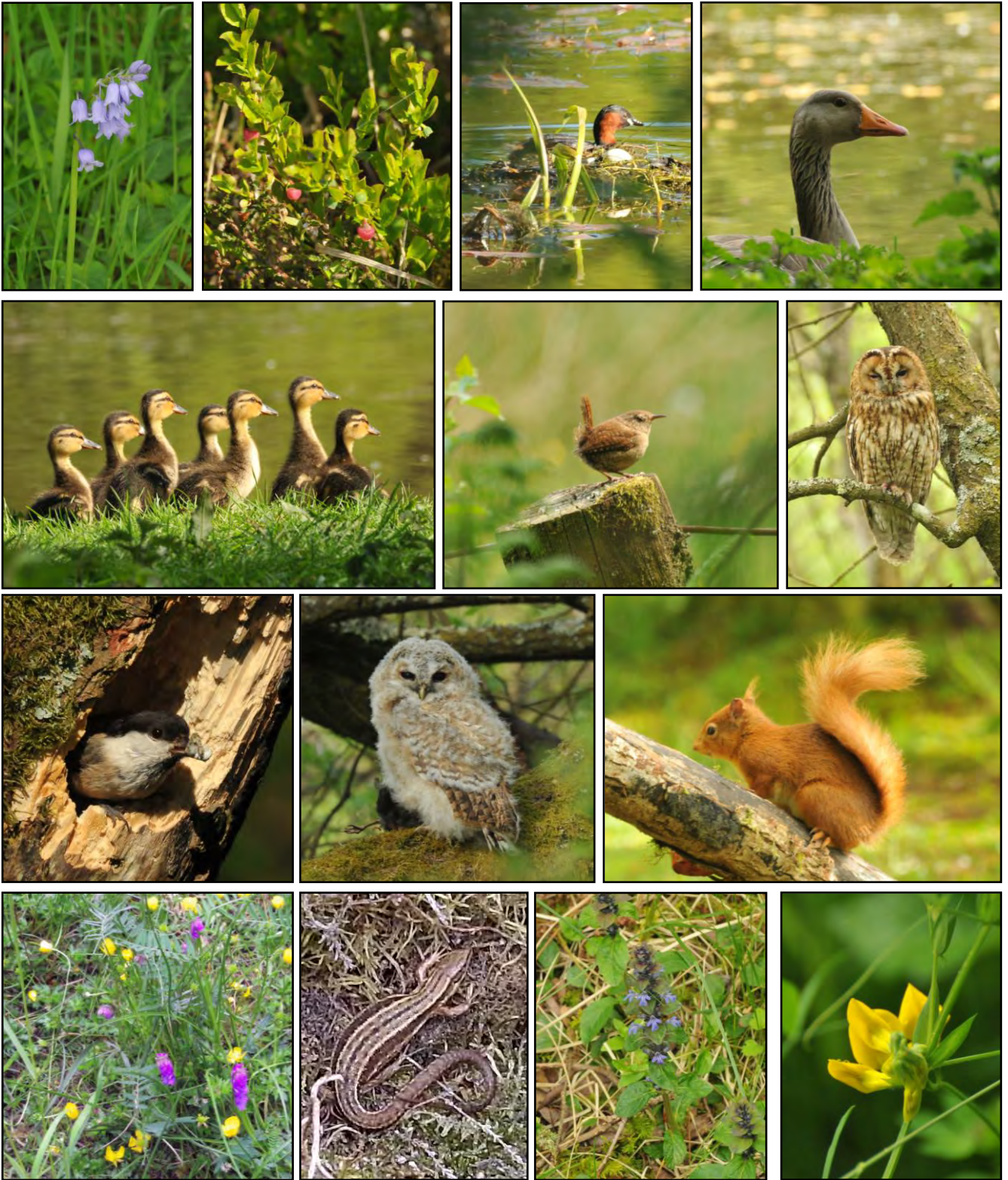
Green-veined White, Orange-tip and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterflies, Common Blue and Blue-tailed Damselflies, Chimney Sweeper, Clouded Border, Scalloped Hazel and Spruce Carpet Moths, Grasshopper, Sunfly, Dor Beetle, White-tailed Bumblebee and Black Slug.



**Photographs: Jim Rae (JR) and Bob Little (BL)**



**3. June Photo-gallery**



**Bluebells, Bilberry, Little Grebe, Greylag Goose.  
Ducklings, Wren, Tawny Owl.  
Willow Tit, Tawny Owlet, Red Squirrel.  
Tufted Vetch and Creeping Buttercup, Common Lizard, Bugle, Meadow Vetchling.**

**Photographs by Jim Rae**



#### 4. Activities at the Reserve during June

##### 9th - Squirrel Photography Course with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons

Four amateur wildlife photographers attended this course and, in the process of honing their skills, shot some good photographs of the Red Squirrels and other wildlife in the Reserve.

##### 11th - Wild Seasons Familiarization Visit

In order to promote eco-tourism, a number of hoteliers and B & B proprietors were brought to Eskrigg Reserve and other wildlife places in the area by the organisers of D & G Wild Seasons so that they would be better able to advise their guests about the opportunities for observing and photographing wildlife.

##### 13th - Visit by Carrutherstown Primary School

Twenty-eight children and their teachers visited the Reserve. As well as enjoying a picnic lunch the children split into three groups and rotated around a number of activities including Wildlife Orienteering levels 1 and 2, Pond Dipping and the Eskrigg Explorer Challenge.



##### 15th - Visit by a group from the Aldouran Wetland Garden at Leswalt

Jane Sloan and her group came to Eskrigg Reserve to see what we had to offer and perhaps get some help and ideas that they could put into practice in their own wildlife area. They enjoyed their visit and found it useful. They followed up with a visit to the Sculpture Trail at the Castle Loch, Lochmaben.



##### 17th - Visit by Lockerbie Primary 3 Classes.

Sixty pupils and their teachers visited the Reserve. As well as enjoying a packed lunch the children had a go at Wildlife Orienteering Level 1, Pond Dipping, Minibeast Hunt and the Eskrigg Junior Explorer Challenge.

##### 18th - Visit by Langholm Academy S3 Biology Students.

While at the Reserve, the 18 pupils were taught a range of sampling techniques including the use of pooters, quadrats, pitfall traps, small mammal traps, moth traps, tree shakes, sweep nets, stream netting and pond netting. They also discussed biodiversity and the classification of plants, animals and other living things.



Photographs by Jim Rae

## 18th - June Moths at Eskrigg Reserve

The moths trapped during the Langholm Academy sampling activity were later identified.



**Eyed Hawk-moth (*Smerinthus ocellata*)**



**Poplar Hawk-moth (*Laothoe populi*)**

Barred Carpet	1	Eyed Hawk-moth	1	Peppered Moth	1
Brimstone	8	Flame Carpet	2	Poplar Hawk-moth	3
Broken-barred Carpet	6	Flame Shoulder	6	Scalloped Hazel	6
Brown China-mark	1	Foxglove Pug	1	Scalloped Hook-tip	2
Buff Ermine	2	Galium Carpet	1	Scorched Wing	5
Chimney Sweeper	3	Green Carpet	1	Silver-ground Carpet	1
Clouded Border	1	Green Silver-line	3	Small Angle Shades	1
Clouded-bordered Brindle	2	Grey Dagger	1	Small Magpie	1
Clouded Silver	1	Grey Pine Carpet	1	Small Phoenix	6
Common Carpet	1	Lesser Swallow Prominent	2	Small Square-spot	1
Common Marbled Carpet	1	Map-winged Swift	4	Spruce Carpet	1
Common Wave	2	Nut Tree Tussock	8	Square-spot Rustic	2
Coxcomb Prominent	3	Pale Prominent	1	White Ermine	7
Cream Wave f. scotica	1	Peach Blossom	1		

## 19th - Visit by Lockerbie Academy pupils

A small group of eight pupils studying English visited the Reserve to experience a Sensory Trail and get some ideas for a creative writing project. They investigated plant smells, tastes, colours and shapes. They used their skin senses of touch and temperature to explore the texture of a range of living and non-living materials. They identified natural and man-made sounds and were also able to recognize things that were not normally found in the countryside.



## 5. Maintenance work during June.

1st - Strimmed and raked entrance at Dumfries Road, path opposite Dryfesdale Lodge Visitors' Centre and path from lay-by to Muirhead Farm road. Thanks to the young volunteers for their assistance.

25th - Strimmed the edges of the paths within the Reserve and raked up the cut grass.

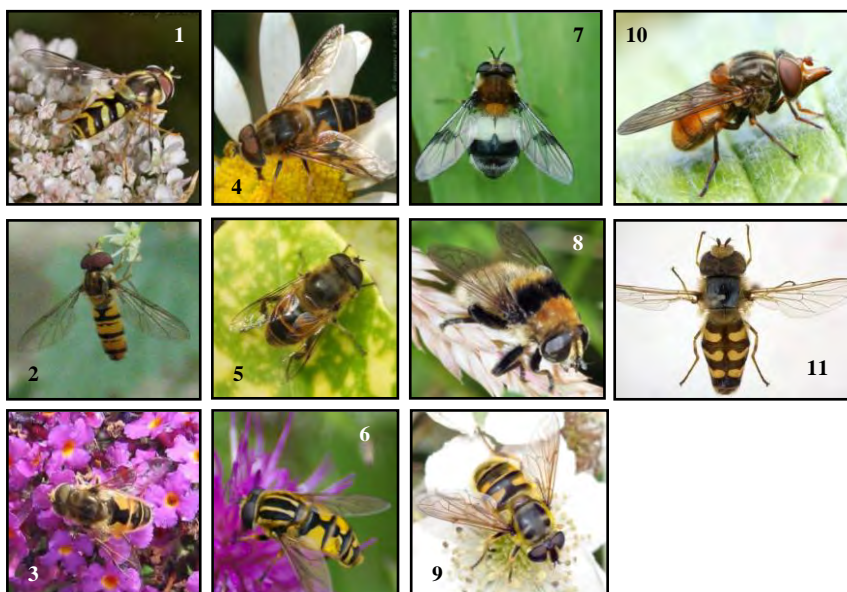
27th – Started levelling the path opposite Dryfesdale Lodge Visitors' Centre so that it can be used by people on mobility scooters.

Photographs by Jim Rae



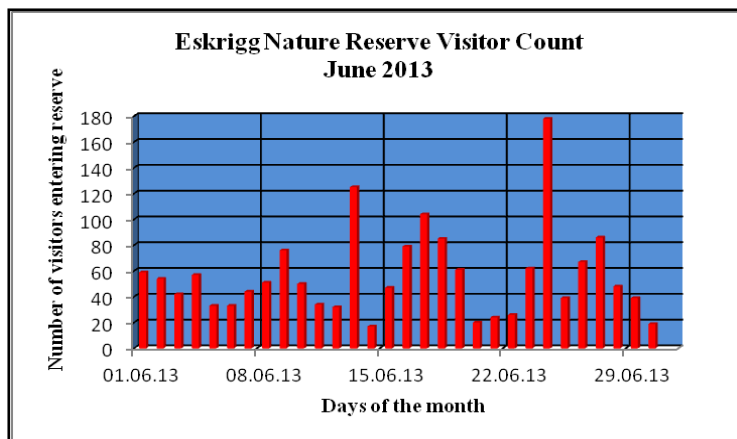
## 6. Hoverflies identified at Eskrigg Reserve by Andy Riches in June 2013

1. *Dasyrphus albostrigatus*
2. *Episyrphus balteatus*
3. *Eristalis arbustorum*
4. *Eristalis pertinax*
5. *Eristalis tenax*
6. *Helophilus pendulus*
7. *Leucozona lucorum*
8. *Merodon equestris*
9. *Myathropa florea*
10. *Rhingia campestris*
11. *Scaeva selenitica*



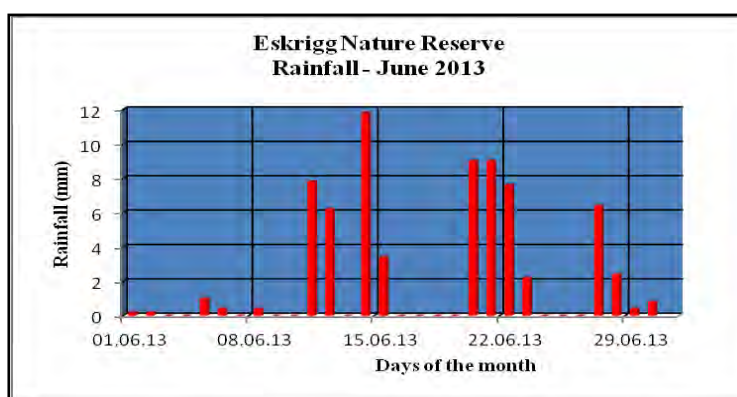
## 7. Visitor Records

Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
Jan. 2013	1599	52
Feb. 2013	1665	59.5
Mar. 2013	1599	52
<b>Apr. 2013</b>	<b>3071</b>	<b>102</b>
May 2013	2056	66
June 2013	1691	56



## 8. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
Jan. 2013	89
Feb. 2013	36.6
Mar. 2013	41.6
Apr. 2013	72
May 2013	118
June 2013	69.2



**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