

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

## Eskrigg Reserve

### May 2014 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

#### 1. View of the Reserve pond on the 25th of May.



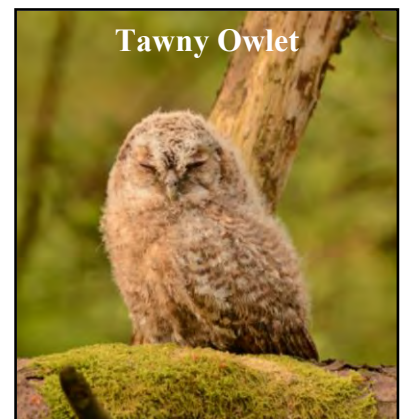
Great Spotted Woodpecker chick on 30<sup>th</sup>, two days before leaving nest.

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

##### a. Birds

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Greylag Goose, Grey Heron, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Sand Martin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Starling, Swallow, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wood Warbler, Wren.

The Tawny Owl chicks started to leave the nesting barrel on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May this year.



Tawny Owllet

##### b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Mole, Pipistrelle Bat, Rabbit, Red Squirrel.

##### c. Other wildlife

Green-veined White, Large White and Orange-tip butterflies, 7-spot Ladybird, Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Carder Bee, Wasp, Black Slug, Stickleback, Frog, Toad, Common Lizard.

After dark, on the 20<sup>th</sup>, there was a mass movement of frogs along the path away from the pond.



Frog migrating at night

Pictures by Jim Rae

### 3. May Photo-gallery



Left to right and top to bottom:  
Blackcap, Spider, Wren, Orange-tip, Bog Beacon, Marsh Violet, Red Squirrel, Tawny Owl, Red Squirrel,  
Germander Speedwell, Greylag Gosling, Dandelion, Tawny Owlet, Bank Vole, Willow Tit.  
Photographs by Jim Rae (JR) and Bob Little (BL).

#### 4. Planned Activities in May.

##### **Sat. 10th – Visit by members of the Hamilton Natural History Society.**

15 members of the HNHS enjoyed a few hours exploring the Reserve and noting the wide range of plants and animals around. They then visited the Castle Loch at Lochmaben before having afternoon tea at the Dalton Pottery.



##### **Sun. 11th – Visit by some members of Hamilton RSPB and a few more members of the Hamilton Natural History Society.**

This group paid a short visit to Eskrigg Reserve on the way home from visiting a number of RSPB coastal reserves.

##### **Mon 12th – Visit by Scruffs Childcare from Castle Douglas.**

This group of nine children and their carers investigated the wildlife in the pond, enjoyed a picnic in the heathland area and then took part in a Gruffalo Hunt.



##### **Tue. 13th – Visit by Annan Cubs.**

The Cubs enjoyed an evening investigating the wildlife in Eskrigg Pond and in the Pinewoods. They discovered a wide range of organisms in both habitats.

##### **Thu. 15th – Capturing Spring Wildlife (Digital SLR workshop) with Keith Kirk.**

Four other keen amateur wildlife photographers and myself, spent another session with Keith trying to hone up our skills and put into practice all the useful tips and advice we were given. Thanks Keith for yet another excellent workshop.



##### **Sat. 17th – Visit by Torch Fellowship for the blind and partially sighted.**

Members of the group enjoyed a pleasant afternoon at the Reserve, noting the wide range of plants and animals and listening to the calls of the many bird species around them. They then headed off to the Somerton House Hotel for afternoon tea.

**Mon. 19th – Visit by Scruffs Childcare from Castle Douglas.**

A second group of youngsters from the Castle Douglas area visited the Reserve to learn about the pond animals, enjoy a picnic and search for the Gruffalo and his friends.



**Wed. 28th – Stronger than Steel (A study of Spiders) with Keith Kirk.**

This event went ahead despite the low turnout. It was very informative and enjoyed by all. Several species of spider were photographed and identified during the workshop. We were shown how to make a simple observation trap in order to examine and photograph the specimens.

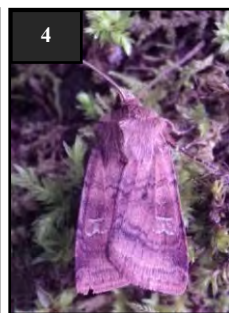
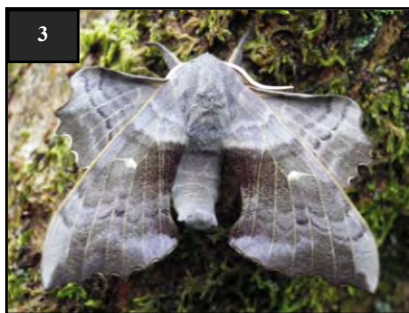
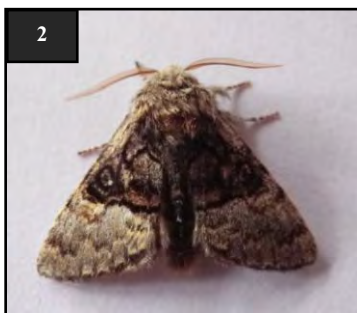


All spiders were released, unharmed, at the end of the exercise.

**22<sup>nd</sup> – May Moths - with Jim Rae**

After a rather cold night, only eight moths were caught and identified:

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Engrailed (1)         | <i>Ectropis bistortata</i>   |
| 2. Nut-tree Tussock (4)  | <i>Colocasia coryli</i>      |
| 3. Poplar Hawkmoth (1)   | <i>Laothoe populi</i>        |
| 4. Small Square-spot (1) | <i>Diarsia rubi</i>          |
| 5. White Ermine (1)      | <i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i> |



The Chimney Sweeper (*Odezia atrata*), Galium Carpet (*Epirrhoe galiata*), Pale-shouldered Brocade (*Lacanobia thalassina*) and Peppered Moth (*Biston betularia*) were also spotted towards the end of the month, as was and this caterpillar of the Drinker Moth (*Euthrix potatoria*).



Pictures by Jim Rae

## 5. Maintenance work during May.

**Sat. 17<sup>th</sup>** – Drew Stewart and Angus Johnstone helped clear soft turf from the path behind the shelter, laid down Teram membrane and covered it with gravel.

**Sat. 24<sup>th</sup>** – Drew Stewart and Althaia and Justine Somerville helped make further improvements to the path behind the shelter.

**Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> – Maintenance Day** The Maintenance day was cancelled due to the forecast of heavy rain. Unfortunately there turned out to be only a few light showers and work could have been done after all.

**Tue. 27<sup>th</sup>** – Ian Dunn and Pamela Beeton helped prune back the trees alongside the forest road.

**Sat. 31<sup>st</sup>** – Drew Stewart and Althaia and Justine Somerville treated the picnic tables with wood preservative.

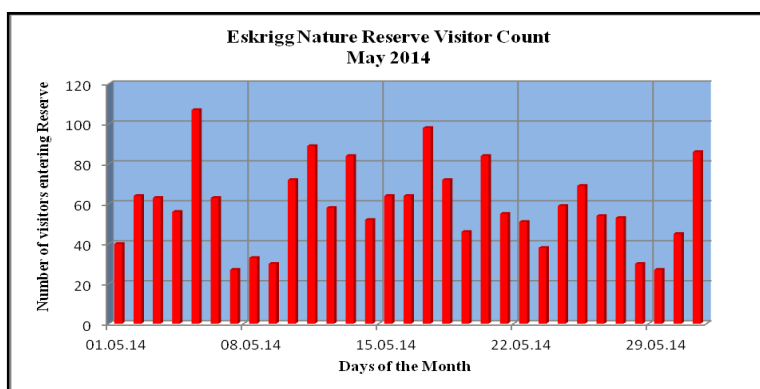
With the help of ‘The Argo’ several patches of reed-grass were cleared from the pond at various times throughout the month.



**Althaia. Justine and Drew**

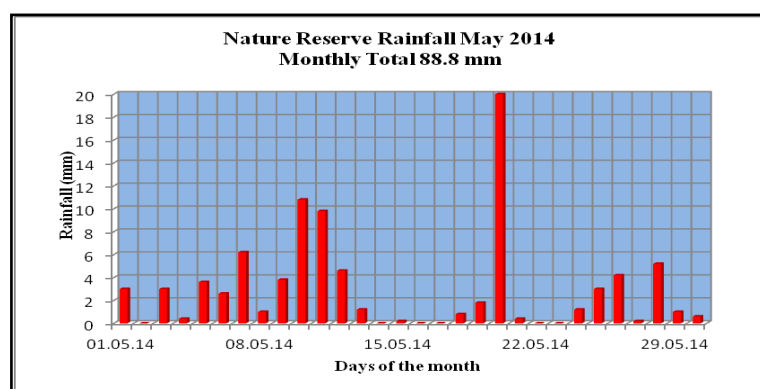
## 6. Visitor Records

| Month     | Total number of Visitors | Daily Average Visitors |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Dec. 2013 | 1372                     | 44                     |
| Jan. 2014 | 1546                     | 50                     |
| Feb. 2014 | 1285                     | 46                     |
| Mar. 2014 | 1760                     | 57                     |
| Apr. 2014 | 1911                     | 64                     |
| May 2014  | 1833                     | 59                     |



## 7. Precipitation

| Month     | Rainfall (mm) |
|-----------|---------------|
| Dec. 2013 | 221           |
| Jan. 2014 | 195           |
| Feb. 2014 | 199.2         |
| Mar. 2014 | 135           |
| Apr. 2014 | 89.6          |
| May 2014  | 88.8          |



**For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.**

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