

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve

January 2014 News Bulletin

1. Views of the Reserve in January.



Picnic area on 07.01.14



Pond on 16.01.14

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Jay, Kingfisher, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Mandarin, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pintail, Raven, Reed Bunting, Robin, Sparrowhawk, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer.

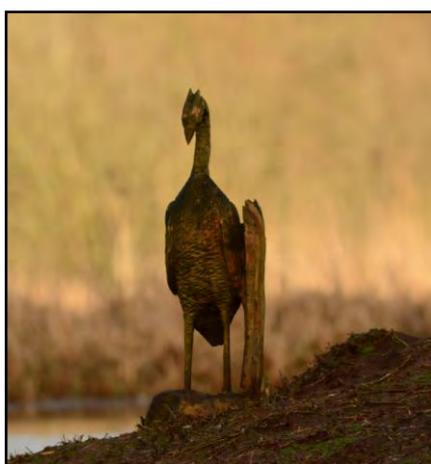


b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Brown Hare, Common Shrew, Mole, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer.

Photographs by Jim Rae

3. January Photo-gallery



Photographs
by Jim Rae

4. Tree Diseases In Our Area

Pests and diseases are a natural part of any biological system but climate changes and the huge increase in the international plant trade over the last decade have introduced new and potentially very damaging threats to Scotland's woodlands. We are currently facing three significant diseases – one affecting larch, another pine and, more recently, ash trees.

Larch

Phytophthora remorum is a fungus-like organism that arrived in ornamental shrubs (rhododendron, viburnum and camellia) in the last 10 years and 'jumped' onto larch in 2009. It was first found in Dumfries and Galloway in 2011, with a major outbreak in the Newton Stewart area in 2012. Some 300 hectares were known to be infected. On larch trees this disease causes foliage to wilt and blacken, with resinous lesions (wounds) then forming on branches and the main stem, leading to the death of the tree in as little as a year. Infected trees produce huge quantities of aerially spread spores (not harmful to humans) that can then infect other host plants and, at the moment, the only way to slow its spread is to fell infected trees as quickly as possible.



Pine

Dothistroma Needle Blight is a fungal disease affecting pine trees which has been around since the 1950s but has only become a significant threat over the last decade. It mainly affects Lodgepole and Corsican Pine in Dumfries and Galloway, but it is increasingly affecting Scots Pine elsewhere in Scotland. This disease causes needles to develop brown or reddish bands (most apparent in June and July) with infected older needles then being shed. This leaves a 'lion's tail' tuft of the current year's needles

at the branch ends, a process that significantly reduces growth rates and can eventually kill the tree over the course of several years.

Ash

Chalara Dieback of ash is also a fungal disease which appears to have been 'blown in' as well as being imported on plants from mainland Europe. It too causes blackening and wilting of leaves and causes lesions to appear on the tree – and in young trees it is almost always fatal. It is spread via spores released in summer on fruiting bodies that grow on over-wintered leaves and shed shoots. This disease will significantly reduce the number of young ash trees in the country and we need to act swiftly if we are to give older ash, or ash in more protected locations, a chance to survive longer and help us find and nurture stronger, resistant strains.



How can you help?

These diseases are here to stay but with help from our forestry sector partners and from you we can manage them to reduce their impact. As well as being transported naturally on wind or water, these diseases can be spread by human activity. You can help:

- keep to marked paths
- keep dogs on leads or under very close control
- don't take any plant material away with you
- remove soil and mud from boots and shoes before you leave
- thoroughly wash boots, shoes, bicycle wheels and horses' hooves before visiting other susceptible areas, such as woodlands, gardens or garden centres and nurseries.

Taken from 'The Galloway Ranger 2013' published by Forestry Commission Scotland

5. There were no Planned Activities at the Reserve during January.

6. Maintenance work during January.



2nd - High water level in the silt trap



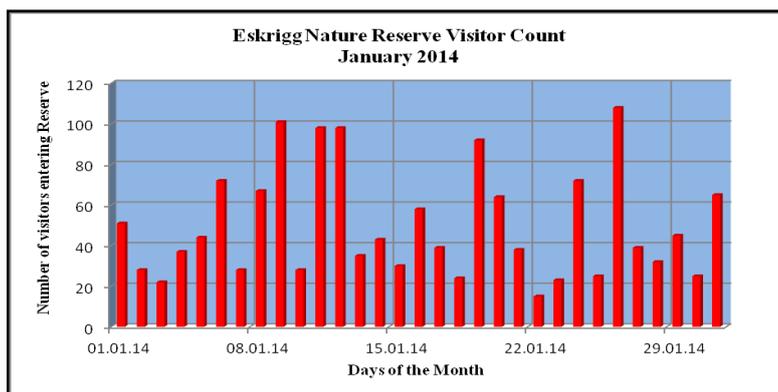
14th - Pam and Ian helped drag logs out of the pond

The high rainfall over the past two months has left the ground in the Reserve saturated and maintenance work has had to be restricted to avoid doing further damage.

25th Althaia and Drew helped cut back a fallen willow but were unable to complete the work because of the onset of heavy rain.

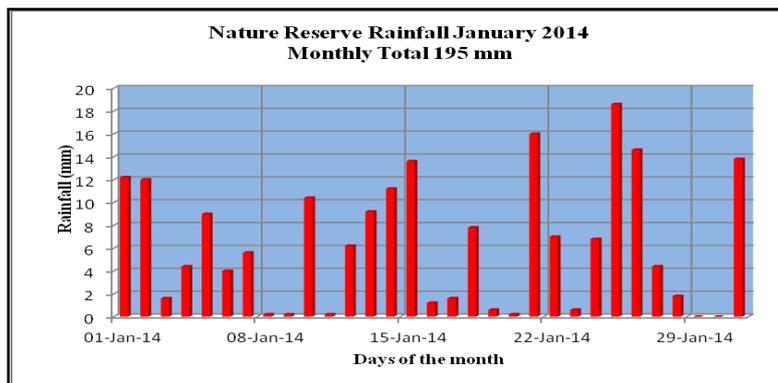
7. Visitor Records

Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
Aug. 2013	1587	51
Sept. 2013	1528	51
Oct. 2013	1937	62
Nov. 2013	1578	53
Dec. 2013	1372	44
Jan. 2014	1546	50



8. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
Aug. 2013	72.4
Sept. 2013	93
Oct. 2013	203.6
Nov. 2013	61
Dec. 2013	221
Jan. 2014	195



For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)
Address: Carradale, 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, DG11 2DZ.
Home Tel.: 01576 203 314 / Mobile No.: 07739 987 009
Email: jim.rae2012@gmail.com