

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

March 2014 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Views of the Reserve pond on the 11th and 23rd of March.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve

a. Birds

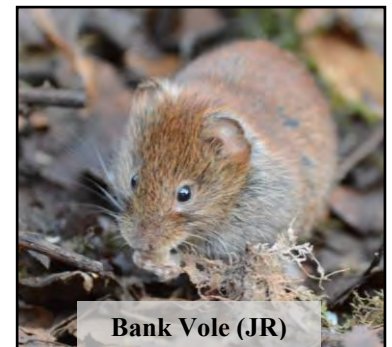
Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Cormorant, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Greylag Goose, Heron, Jay, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Sparrowhawk, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

The Chiffchaff arrived on the 17th and the Willow Warbler on the 18th. The Cormorant visited from the 22nd till the 27th.



b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Brown Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Water Shrew, Wood Mouse.



c. Other wildlife

7-spot Ladybird, Black Slug, Frog, Toad.



The Frogs and Toads arrived to breed on the 15th of March 2014.

Photographs by Jim Rae

3. March Photo-gallery



Photographs by Bob Little (BL) and Jim Rae (JR)

4. Maintenance work during March.

Mon. 3rd - I replaced the broken lock on the window security shutter of the Centre.

Tues. 4th - Pamela Beeton and Ian Dunn helped fill in the potholes on the forest road.



Fri. 7th - I removed a crocus from the edge of the Reserve path. Every so often some well-meaning person introduces one or more garden plants to the Reserve. If you know who is doing this, could you point out to them that the Trust is trying to stick to native wild species where possible?



Sat. 15th - The E-team (Althaia, Justine, Angus and Drew) helped with path construction and maintenance around the Reserve.

Tues. 18th - Ian Dunn and Crispin McCreery helped fill in yet more potholes on the forest road and then raked the Reserve path while I cleared the forest ditch running alongside the path.

Tues. 25th - Pamela Beeton and Ian Dunn helped me to remove weed from the pond then repair the door to the Red Squirrel Hide. The door had been left open and was damaged by the wind. We then fixed a bolt to the door, accessible from inside and out, so that users of the hide could keep the door closed and help prevent a repeat of the damage.



Sat. 29th - The E-team (L to R - Drew, Angus and Althaia) cleaned and treated with preservative many of the timber structures within the Reserve, including the Red Squirrel Hide.



Sun. 30th - Maintenance Day
Sybille Spägele and David Hughes helped me rake and weed the Reserve path from end to end.

5. Planned Activities

Wed. 5th - Wild Books on World Book Day

Free books were distributed around the Reserve for visitors to find, read and pass on.

Photographs by Jim Rae

6. Flooding on the 6th/7th March

We had 39.4 mm (1.5 inches) of rain in 24 hours. The exit pipe from the pond could not cope with the extra volume of water and eventually the water overflowed the bank. The Centre was built on sleepers and the jetty constructed to allow for just such an eventuality.

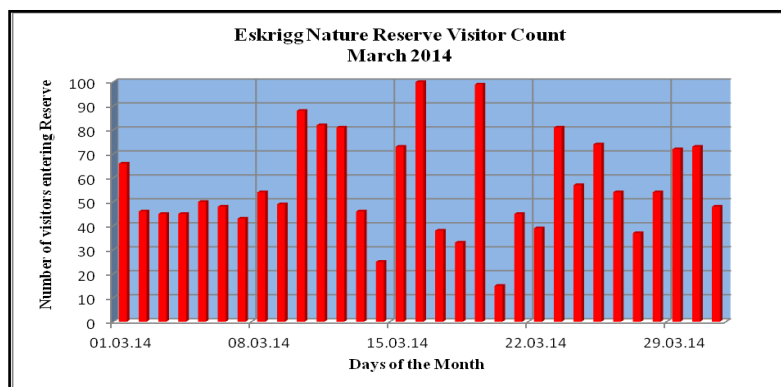


The Red Squirrel Hide suffered no damage because it too was constructed on a raised pontoon. Parts of the paths and wildlife feeding areas were under water for the 24-36 hours it took for the water level to drop to the normal seasonal level.



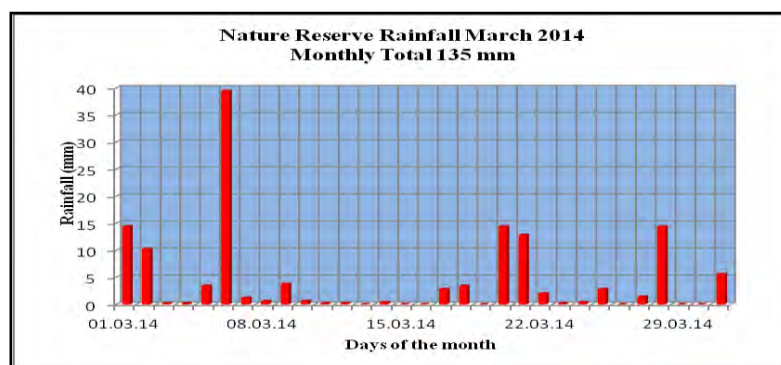
7. Visitor Records

Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
Oct. 2013	1937	62
Nov. 2013	1578	53
Dec. 2013	1372	44
Jan. 2014	1546	50
Feb. 2014	1285	46
Mar. 2014	1760	57



8. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
Oct. 2013	203.6
Nov. 2013	61
Dec. 2013	221
Jan. 2014	195
Feb. 2014	199.2
Mar. 2014	135



For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

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