

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

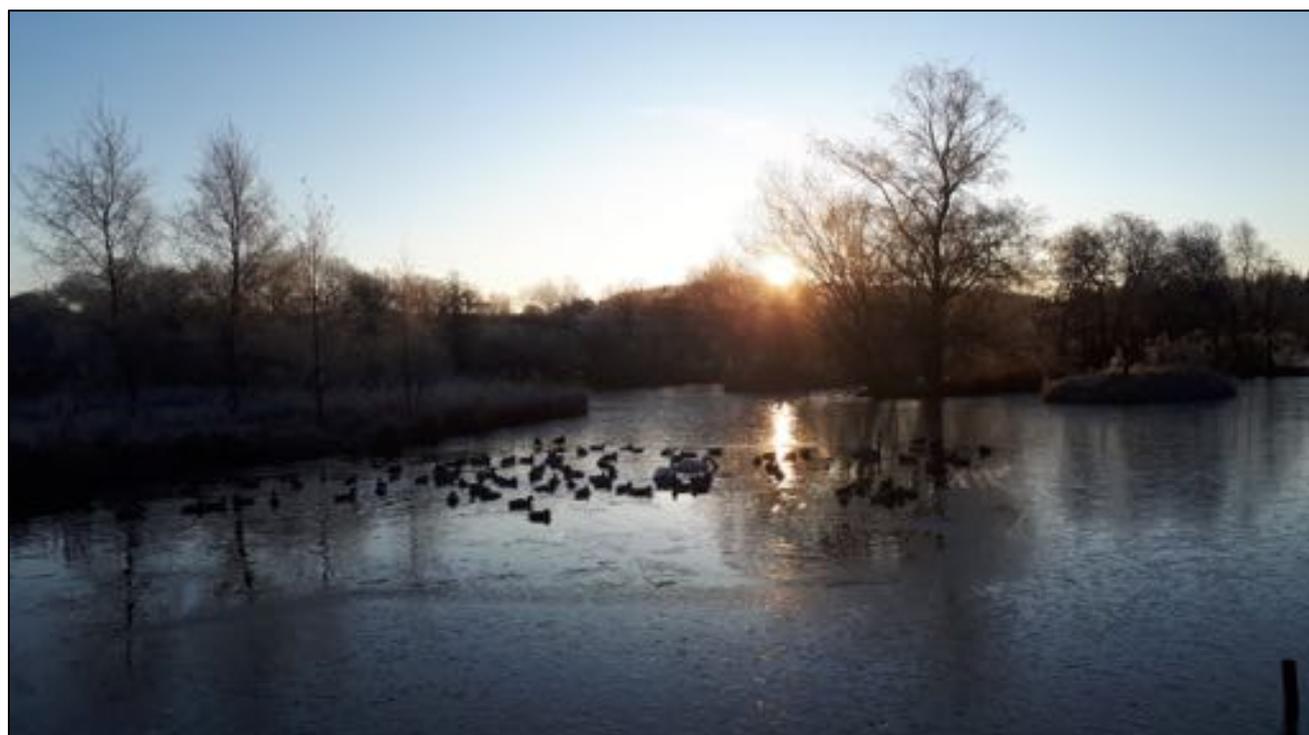


Eskrigg Reserve

November 2019 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Eskrigg Pond at sunrise on the 18th of November.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during November.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Cormorant, Crossbill, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Partridge, Hooper Swan, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pink-footed Goose, Raven, Red Kite, Redwing, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Snipe, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Wood Pigeon, Wren.



BJ



BJ



BJ



SR

b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Fox, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Woodmouse.

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR), Billy Jardine (BJ) and Sandy Robertson (SR)

3. Eskrigg Reserve November Photo-gallery



Eskrigg Shelter and Eskrigg Centre at Night (BJ)

1st Row: Eskrigg Shelter and Eskrigg Centre at night (BJ)
 2nd Row: Red Squirrel; Small birds on feeder; Red Squirrel (BJ)

Fungi photographed during the year at Eskrigg Reserve (JCP)

3rd Row: Dyer's Mazegill, Plums and Custard, Turkeytail

4th Row: Purple Jellydisc, Devil's Bolete, Yellow Brain

5th Row: Bank Vole (JR), Conifer Cone Cap & Earpick Fungus on Scots Pine Cones (JeR) and Red Squirrel (PW)

Photographs by Billy Jardine (BJ), Jane Cooper Purdie (JCP), Jim Rae (JR), Jean Robson (JeR) and Paul Wharton (PW)

4. Volunteer Activities at Eskrigg Reserve in November

Tue. 5th **Steven Dalglish, Norah Muirhead** and **Jim** removed another section of the boardwalk.

Thu. 7th till **Mon. 11th** **Billy Jardine** very kindly looked after the Reserve while **Jim** was away in Germany.



Tue. 12th **Steven Dalglish, Norah Muirhead** and **Jim** removed another section of the boardwalk, right up to the corner of the Sluice Dyke.

Tue. 19th **Steven Dalglish, Norah Muirhead** and **Jim** removed the last section of boardwalk and the steps up to the East Hide.



Unfortunately, Jim strained his back whilst working to remove the boardwalk and had to stop working at the Reserve for the rest of the month in order to get treatment and speed up recovery. Once again, **Billy Jardine** very kindly stepped in to look after the Reserve during Jim's absence. This was on top of his own work commitments as a photographer. Many thanks Billy

5. November Events at, or relating to, Eskrigg Reserve

Sat. 9th **The LWT Autumn Coffee Morning** was held in **Lockerbie Town Hall**.

Many thanks to all who supported the event in any way and helped to raise the sum of £436.30 at the usual stalls, plus Calendars and Christmas Cards to a value of £234.00. The proceeds will be used to support the work of the Trust at Eskrigg Nature Reserve. Thanks also to **Gary Shanks** and **Ann Mundle** for stepping in to cover for Jim Rae's absence.

Sat. 16th **LWT** ran a stall in Lockerbie High Street at the turning on of the **Christmas Lights**.

Thu. 21st **Callum Crawford** brought students from the **Barony College** to the Reserve to see the work that had been done in recent years to make the site accessible to all and to see what was being done to help people learn about the wildlife and their habitats.



Sat. 23rd **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust** hosted a **Scottish Badgers Training Course**, run by **Ashleigh Wyllie**, at the Kings Arms Hotel in Lockerbie. Jim provided the laptop, projector and screen. In return, the hotel kindly donated the £80 booking fee to the Reserve. The theory was covered at the hotel between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the Saturday. The practical surveying was covered in the field, in the Lockerbie Area, on the Sunday. Jim had planned to attend the course but had to withdraw because of his bad back.

Mon. 25th **Jim** gave a talk about **Eskrigg Reserve** to the **Business and Professional Women of Annan** at Murray Court in Annan.

Fri. 29th and **Sat 30th** **LWT** ran a **Christmas Stall** at **TESCO, Lockerbie**.

6. Wetland Visitors - 1. Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)



Individual cormorants tend to visit the Reserve when they are ready to moult. Their wing and body feathers moult between June and December. Their head and neck feathers moult before breeding. The picture, taken in March, shows a cormorant with the white thigh patch that is only worn early in the breeding season and often lost by June. A cormorant frequently stands with its wings extended or swims like a large duck, with its bill raised upwards. It dives with a little leap upwards before submerging under water to feed on the fish - mainly sticklebacks and the occasional eel at Eskrigg.

When ready to breed, cormorants come together in colonies, often round rocky coasts and estuaries where they frequently feed on flatfish, but some inland breeding colonies are in trees close to food-rich lochs and rivers. The male builds the nest with some help from the female. The birds will move away from the breeding colonies after the young fledge. Immature and non-breeding birds continue to frequent winter-feeding sites throughout the year.

Wetland Visitors - 2. Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)



Hérons visit the Reserve throughout the year, but especially between mid-March when the frogs and toads start breeding until mid-summer when there are ducklings still appearing on the pond. The adult's bill takes on a reddish hue during the breeding season, as in this photograph taken on the 14th of April. Adults start to moult after the breeding season and complete this by November. They are usually solitary feeders but as many as three or four have been seen around the pond from time to time.

When standing, or perching up a tree, they are often hunched up with the head resting between the shoulders. When hunting, they walk with great stealth around the edges of the pond and stand for long periods with the neck curved ready to strike. Very occasionally one might swim across from one side of the pond to another.



Lockerbie Wildlife Trust - Christmas Message

On behalf of the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust, I would like to thank all who contributed to the success of the Trust's Christmas Stalls at the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Lockerbie High Street on the 16th of November and at TESCO Lockerbie on the 29th and 30th of November. The sum of £1,288.63 was raised and will be used to further the work of the Trust at Eskrigg Nature Reserve. One of the activities involved was to guess the number of hazelnut kernels in a squirrel feeder in order to win the feeder plus nuts or a bottle of whisky. The number of nuts was 592 and the winner, with 593, was Betty Young from Waterbeck. The picture shows Betty with her bottle of 'Cardhu Gold Reserve' whisky.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have helped maintain and improve the Reserve over the past year and to wish them, and visitors to the Reserve, a very Merry Christmas and good health and happiness for 2020.

Jim Rae (Reserve Manager)

Photographs by Jim Rae and David Allen (DA)

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)
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