

January 2011

1. View of pond



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings:

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Brambling, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Sparrowhawk, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon.



Lesser Redpoll

Male on left & female on right.

This is the first year the Lesser Redpoll has been spotted at the reserve. They can be seen feeding with the siskins on the niger feeders and the ground below.

In winter they often feed on alder seeds and in spring on flowers and seeds of sallow and insects attracted to opening buds of the larch. At other times they feed on the seeds of grasses and small, low-growing plants, especially willowherb, dandelion, chickweed and sorrel.



b. Mammals:

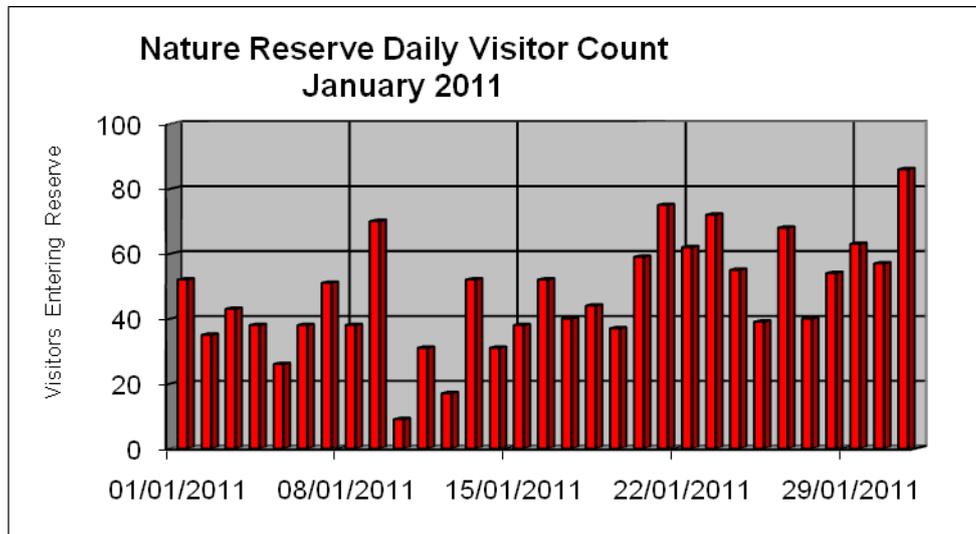
Bank Vole, Fox, Mole, Rabbit, Roe Deer, Red Squirrel, Stoat, Weasel, Wood Mouse.

Throughout January there were several sightings of the stoat in its winter ermine. This is the first year I have seen a stoat in its full winter coat and it is the first time one has been recorded at the reserve. In previous, milder winters the stoat has retained its normal 'red and white' fur. At the very end of January the stoat had a 'pie-bald' look with red and white patches. It had started to moult and revert to its normal colouration.



3. Visitor Records:

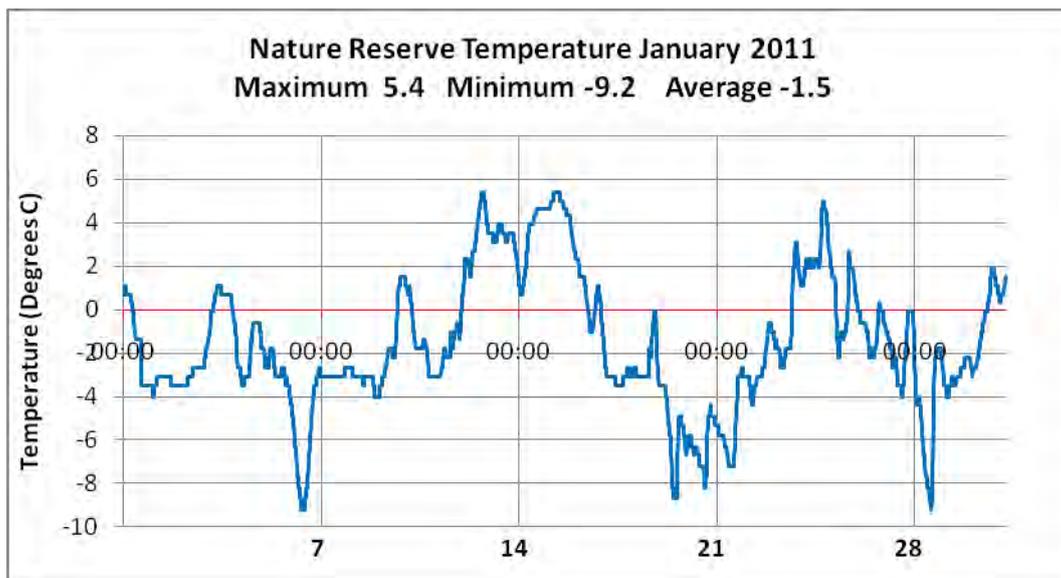
Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
December	1251	40
January	1472	47



4. Weather Records:

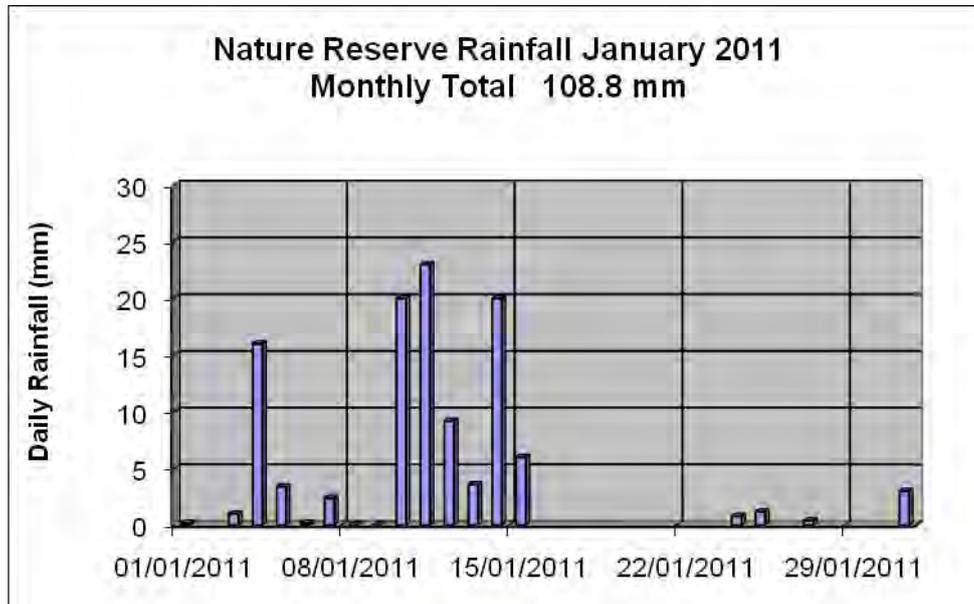
a. Temperature:

Month	Maximum	Minimum	Average
November	5.4	-8.7	-1.3
December	2.3	-17.6	-6.5
January	5.4	-9.2	-1.5



b. Precipitation:

Month	Rainfall (mm)
November	57
December	29.7
January	108.8



5. Maintenance work carried out in reserve during January 2011

In addition to the routine daily maintenance of the centre and feeders the following were done:

- a. Ongoing repairs to boardwalk.
- b. Pruned right bank of feeder burn.
- c. Installed security camera.
- d. Partly cleared burn for nut race.
- e. Completed construction of battery box for squirrel feeder monitor.

6. RSPB Big Birdwatch

As part of the RSPB Big Birdwatch the numbers of each bird species was recorded at Eskrigg Reserve on the 25th of January between 10:00 and 11:00hrs.

The results were as follows:

Common name	Scientific Name	Number
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	2
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	2
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corine</i>	2
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	56
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	5
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	5
G.S.Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	2
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	3
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	4
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	1
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	2
Willow Tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>	1

7. Lockerbie Academy activities at the reserve:



On the 13th of January the 2nd year Environmental Studies class helped make the battery box for the squirrel feeder monitor.



On the 18th of January the 1st year Environmental Studies class carried out a practice birdwatch.

The 3rd year Rural Studies class from Lockerbie Academy came down on the 21st and 28th of January and carried out some repairs to the boardwalk. They will finish the job in February.



**Lockerbie Academy
S3 Rural Studies class**

