

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

June 2012 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. View of pond from jetty on 18th.

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings:

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Crossbill, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, House Martin, Jay, Kestrel, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Spotted Flycatcher, Sparrowhawk, Swallow, Tree Creeper, Whitethroat, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wood Warbler, Wren, Yellowhammer.



Mother and 9 ducklings on the 2nd June



Mother and 1 dabchick on the 10th June

At the end of the month the Mallard still had 7 ducklings and the young Dabchick was doing well. The Little Grebes have built another nest and started laying again.

b. Mammals:

Bank Vole, Fox, Mole, Otter, Rabbit, Red Squirrel.
The otter visited the pond for a second time on the 7th June.

c. Amphibians:

Common Frog, Common Newt, Common Toad, Palmate Newt.

d. Reptiles:

Common Lizard.



Photographs: Jim Rae (JR), Roddy Armstrong (RA).

e. Invertebrates

1. Moths

Moth traps were put out on two nights at the Reserve, 13/14 Eskrigg Monthly Trapping and 28/29 June for Collin Primary School) and occasional sightings were recorded at other times during the month. In total we had the following:

Macro-moths.

Barred Red (4), Bordered White (2), Brimstone (3), Buff Ermine (3), Chimney Sweeper (5), Cinnabar (2), Clouded Border (12), Clouded Silver (1), Clouded-bordered Brindle (2), Common Carpet (1), Common Marbled Carpet (3), Common White Wave (3), Coxcomb Prominent - dark form(1), Coxcomb Prominent - light form (2), Elephant Hawk-moth (2), Engrailed (1), Flame (2), Flame Carpet (2), Flame Shoulder (7), Four-dotted Footman (1), Foxglove pug (2), Gold Swift (1), Green Arches (3), Green Carpet (8), Grey Pine Carpet (1), Large Yellow Underwing (11), Light Emerald (1), Map-winged Swift (9), Marbled Minor (4), Middle-barred Minor (1), Mottled Beauty (14), Northern Spinach (3), Nut-tree Tussock (1), Ochreous Pug (2), Peppered Moth (1), **Phoenix** (1), Poplar Hawk-moth (2), Purple Clay (12), Red-necked Footman (1), Scalloped Hazel (3), Scorched Wing (1), Silver Y (1), Silver-ground Carpet (5), Small Angle-shades (1), Small Fan-foot (1), **Small Seraphim** (1), Small Square-spot (1), Smoky Wainscot (1), Spruce Carpet (4), Tawny Marbled Minor (2), Tawny-barred Angle (1), True Lover's Knot (1), Welsh Wave (1), White Ermine (7).



Micro-moths

Aptomis turbidana (1), *Celypha lacunana* (2), ***Cnephasia conspersana* or *C. stephensiana*** (1), *Eliophila nymphaceata* - Brown China-mark (2), ***Hedya pruniana* - Plum Tortrix** (1), ***Pandemis corylana* - Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix** (1), *Scoparia pyralella* - Meadow Grey (11).



The moths highlighted in red are new records for Eskrigg Reserve.

Photographs: Jim Rae (JR), UK Moths (UKM).

2. Butterflies

The following butterflies were seen in June at the Reserve:



JR

Green-veined White



RA

Large Skipper



JR

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



RA

Orange-tip

3. Spiders:

The hunting spiders, *Pardosa lugubris*, are frequently seen on the pond fringe near the duck feeders and sometimes on the ramp into the Centre. The females are most noticeable carrying their large egg sacs. They frequently sit out on a stone or piece of wood to warm up in the sun before going hunting.



JR



JR

The nurseweb spiders, *Pisaura mirabilis*, are to be seen in the heathland area. The egg sacs are carried under the abdomen. Before the spiderlings emerge, the egg sac is attached to low vegetation and a tent of silk is spun over and around it. The egg sac is partially opened by the female who then stands guarding the nursery tent.

4. Grasshoppers and other insects:

Over the summer, the heathland is a good area to find a whole range of grasshoppers, damselflies, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, wasps, bees, flies, hoverflies and beetles.



RA



JR



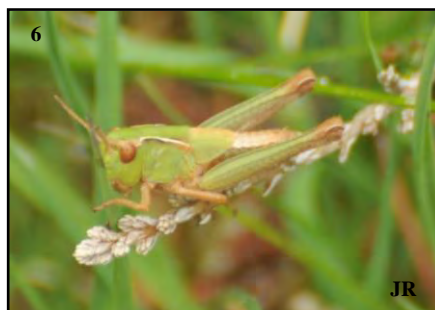
JR



JR



JR



JR



JR

1. Hover Fly - *Volucella pellucens*

3. Azure Damselfly - *Coenagrion puella*

5. Meadow Grasshopper - *Chorthippus parallus*

7. Yellow Dung-fly - *Scathophaga stercoraria*

2. Blue-tailed Damselfly - *Ischnura elegans*

4. House-fly - *Phaonia viarum*

6. Common Green Grasshopper - *Omocestus viridulus*

Photographs: Jim Rae (JR), Roddy Armstrong (RA).

f. Flowering plants:

These are some of the plants seen flowering in June.



**1st row: Germander Speedwell, Bush Vetch, Bugle, Forget-me-not, Wild Raspberry.
2nd row: Marsh Thistle, Ragged Robin, Red Campion, Dog Rose, Marsh Cinquefoil.
3rd row: Tormentil, Smooth Rush, Creeping Buttercup, Marsh Marigold, Broom.
4th row: Heath Bedstraw, Elder, Marsh Orchid, Foxglove, Bramble.**

Can you identify this plant that was just coming into flower when the picture was taken on the 10th of June?



Photographs by Jim Rae

3. Activities at the Reserve during June:

8th June: Eastriggs Primary 4/5 classes visit.

Head Teacher, Ms Grace Leopold, brought 25 pupils to Eskrigg Reserve to practise their orienteering skills. They began with a Level 1 exercise 'Wildlife Clock' which they carried out in the grassland/heathland area at the north of the reserve. They then progressed to a Level 2 exercise where they had to use a map to locate and identify wildlife markers in the Reserve and along nearby woodland paths. After lunch they had a go at pond-dipping and identified many of the organisms living in the pond.



14th June: Moth Trapping:

The results for the monthly moth trapping were given in section 2e. Thanks to David Foreman, Pat Mackay and her friends for their help identifying the macro-moths and to Peter Norman and Keith Naylor for help with the micro-moths.

29th June: Collin Primary 1-4 visit.



The 16 pupils were accompanied by their Teacher Annie Thompson and 5 parents. The first activity was to learn about moth trapping and identification. The Robinson trap was put out the night before and despite heavy rain there were over a hundred moths caught including two of the larger species, the Elephant Hawk-moth and the Poplar Hawk-moth.



The pupils then made Red Squirrel face masks before doing a practical activity designed to help them appreciate the effect of competition between Red and Grey Squirrels. They went on to look at how the Trust feeds and monitors the Red Squirrels. After lunch the pupils had a go at pond-dipping and learned how the pond animals were adapted to their aquatic habitat.

Photographs: Jim Rae (JR), Alison Boyd (AB), UK Moths (UKM).

4. Promoting Eskrigg Reserve:

13th June: Magnox North organised an event at Chapelcross to encourage their workforce to develop a health and work balance and to increase their awareness of the opportunities to get out and about in the local area and perhaps get involved with some physical voluntary work. Jim was invited to put up, and man, an LWT stand at the event. Many people showed interest in the Trust's activities and have visited the Reserve since this event.

21st June: Eastriggs Natural History Club invited Jim to speak to members of the club about the work of the LWT and about Eskrigg Reserve in particular. There was a good turnout at the meeting and, once again, several people expressed an interest in visiting the Reserve in the near future.

22-24 June: Stand at Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, Edinburgh.

Jim joined a team from Dumfries and Galloway who were trying to foster wildlife tourism in the region under the banner of Dumfries and Galloway Wild Seasons. Eskrigg Nature Reserve was one of many sites in the region being promoted. The weather during the show was not good and some visitors to the D & G Village may well have been put off by the muddy conditions underfoot. Nevertheless, there was considerable interest shown in the Reserve and in the Red Squirrels in particular.



5. Mountain Biking:

Some years ago some young bikers showed interest in developing a mountain bike trail at Eskrigg. A basic trail was created for them but the bikers soon lost interest in developing it further. Recently another three youngsters, Brad, Sam and Josh, have shown interest and have begun work to improve the trail and will, in time, construct a number of special features. In return for some assistance these lads have agreed to help with reserve and path maintenance from time to time.

6. Volunteers:

On the 6th, Ian Little helped clear some of the trees growing over the burn around the eastern edge of the Reserve.

On some Saturday mornings Innes, Green, Duncan Burgess and Lewis Carruthers helped with a variety of maintenance tasks.

On the 26th, Ian Dunn helped to fill up some of the pot holes on the forest road with gravel (supplied by Castle Milk Estate).

Thanks to John Reid for clearing another part of the burn and apologies to him for the last-minute cancellation of the June Maintenance Day.



Ian Dunn repairing forest road

7. Donation:

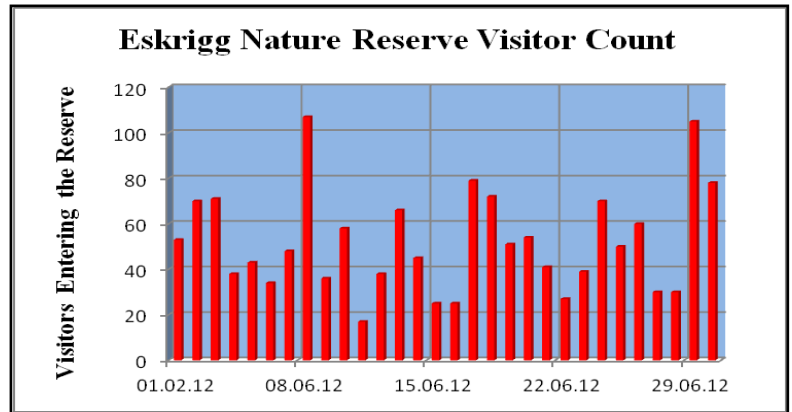
We would like to thank Stuart Dodd, from Grange Quarry, for the generous donation of 10 tonnes of fine gravel for renewing the surface of the path through the Reserve.



Photographs: Jim Rae (JR)

8. Visitor Records:

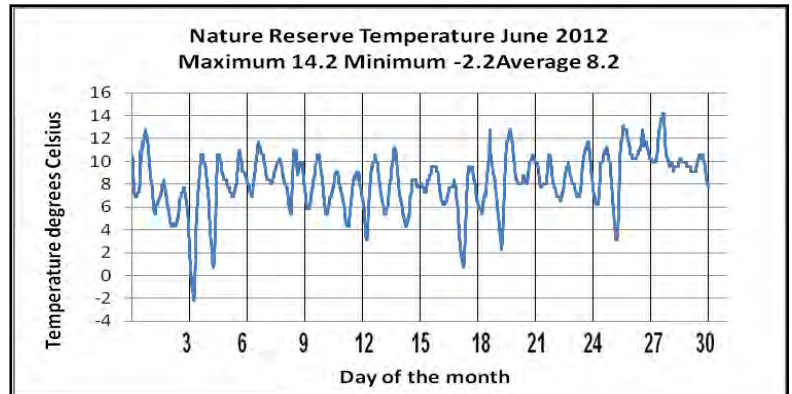
Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
January	2180	70
February	1597	55
March	2795	90
April	4262	142
May	2681	89
June	1560	52



9. Weather Records:

a. Air temperature

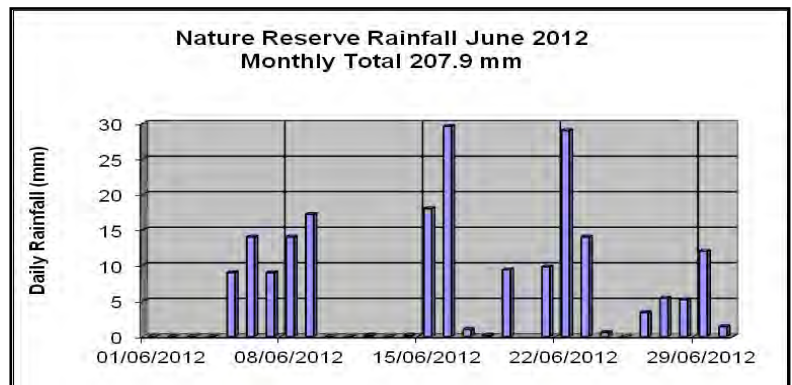
Month	Maximum	Minimum	Average
January	5.8	-8.2	-0.24
February	8.0	-9.7	0.39
March	-	-	-
April	11.7	-7.2	3.4
May	20.9	-6.3	7.2
June	14.2	-2.2	8.2



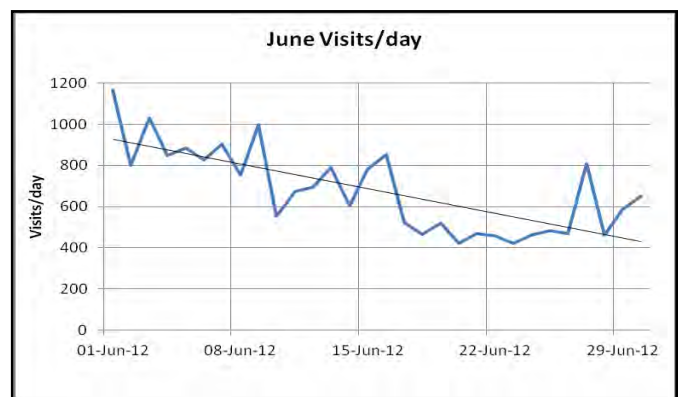
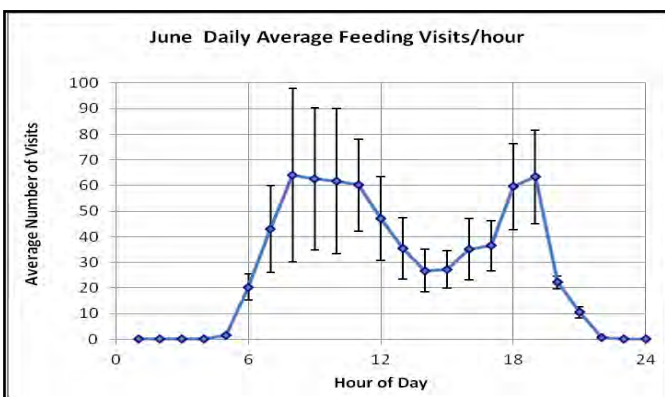
The readings for June are too low by 4 degrees Celsius so the sensor needs recalibrated/replaced.

b. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
January	88.5
February	36.6
March	37.4
April	78.8
May	61.1
June	207.9



10. Monitoring Red Squirrel Feeding Behaviour



Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)
Address: Carradale, 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, D11 2DZ.
Home Tel.: 01576 203 314 / Mobile No.: 07739 987 009
Email: jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk