

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

July 2012 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. View of pond from duck feeding station on the 12th.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings:

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, House Martin, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Sparrowhawk, Swallow, Tree Creeper, Tree Pipit, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer.



b. Mammals:

Bank Vole, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Stoat.

c. Amphibians:

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

d. Reptiles:

Common Lizard.

(a. Red Squirrel; b. lizard peeking through heather; c. lizard shedding skin.



Photographs: Roddy Armstrong (RA), Bob Little (BL), Jim Rae (JR), Sybille Spägle (SS).

e. **Invertebrates**

1. **Moths**

On the 12th of July David Foreman and Jim Rae identified the 283 moths caught in the four moth traps set out the previous evening.

Macro Moths:

Barred Red (14), Barred Straw (1), Bordered White (4), Cinnabar (1), **Cloaked Minor** (3), Clouded Border (36), Clouded Magpie (1), **Common Wainscot** (4), Common Wave (5), Common White Wave (1), Coxcomb Prominent (1), Dark Arches (1), Drinker (1), Double Square-spot (1), Engrailed (1), **Garden Tiger** (3), **Gold Spot** (1), Green Arches (3), Green Carpet (10), Ingrailed Clay (15), July Highflyer (11), Large Yellow Underwing (5), Light Emerald (6), Map-winged Swift (1), **Marbled Beauty** (1), Marbled Minor (1), Mottled Beauty (61), Northern Spinach (4), Pebble Prominent (1), Pinion-streaked Snout (1), Plain Golden Y (2), Poplar Hawk-moth (6), Small Rivulet (1), Small Square-spot (Scottish) (1), Smoky Wainscot (3), Snout (Dark) (1), **Square-spot Rustic** (1), Straw Dot (1), Tawny-barred Angle (1).

Micro moths:

Acleris ferrugana* or *A. notana (1), *Apotomis turbidana* (1), ***Chrysoteuchia culmella*** (1), *Cnephasia conspersana* (1), *Elophila nymphaeata* (3), ***Endothenia quadrimaculana*** (1), ***Lozotaenia forsterana*** (1), ***Pseudagyratozoa conwagana* or *Aleimma loefingiana*** (1), *Scoparia umbigalis* (71).

Moths highlighted in red were recorded for the first time at Eskrigg Reserve.

The following pictures show a selection of the moths that were caught:



1. Garden Tiger - *Arctia caja*,

3. *Endothenia quadrimaculana*

5. Poplar Hawkmoth – *Loathoe populi*

7. The Drinker – *Eurthrix potatoria*

2. Gold Spot – *Plusia festucae*,

4. *Chrysoteuchia culmella*

6. Smoky Wainscot - *Mythimna impura*

2. **Butterfly or moth caterpillar:**

Can any reader identify this caterpillar found by Bob Glaister on the 24th of July?



Photographs: Bob Glaister (BG), Bob Little (BL), Jim Rae (JR).

3. Butterflies seen at the Reserve in July:

Adult Green-veined White, Large White, Meadow Brown and Ringlet butterflies.
Peacock caterpillars.

4. Hoverflies: I am trying to get photographs of as many of the Eskrigg hoverflies as I can.
If any readers get photographs of other species at Eskrigg I would be grateful for a copy.



1. *Helophilus pendulus*, 2. *Alophora hemiptera*, 3. *Sericomyia silentis*, 4. *Anasimyia lineata*
5. *Eristalis tenax*, 6. *Epistrophe grossulariae*, 7. *Eristalis arbustorum*, 8. *Melanostoma scalare*

5. Beetles: I am trying to get photographs of as many of the Eskrigg beetles as I can.
If any readers get photographs of other species at Eskrigg I would be grateful for a copy.



1. Green Dock Leaf-beetle (*Gastrophysa viridula*) 2. Four-banded Longhorn Beetle (*Strangalia quadrifasciata*)
3. Speckled Longhorn Beetle (*Pachytodes cerambyciformis*) 4. Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus vespillo*)
5. Red-breasted Carrion Beetle (*Oeceoptoma thoracica*) 6. Two-banded Longhorn Beetle (*Rhagium bifasciatum*)
7. Pine Weevil (*Hylobius abietis*) 8. Soldier Beetle (*Rhagonycha fulva*)

Photographs: Jim Rae

f. Flowering plants:

These are some of the plants seen flowering at the Reserve in July.



Pictures: Jim Rae

Row 1: Selfheal, White Clover, Common Ragwort, Hedge Woundwort, Honeysuckle.

Row 2: Marsh Valerian, Greater Plantain, Meadowsweet, Broad-leaved Willowherb, Meadow Vetchling.

Row 3: Pale St. John's-wort, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Common Nettle, Nipplewort, Cat's-ear.

Row 4: Meadow Crane's-bill, Rosebay Willowherb, Burdock, Marsh Woundwort, Herb-Robert.

3. Activities at the Reserve during July:

3rd July: The S3/4 Environmental Studies class from Lockerbie Academy presented Jim Rae with a cheque for £60.78. The students had used their initiative to research, finance, manufacture and market Chocolate Crispy Cakes and then donate the profits to the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust. The Trust is extremely grateful for the support given by the youngsters.

Picture: Ann Good



11th July: The Gruffalo's Child visits Eskrigg.

Ross Gemmell and Jim Rae worked with a group from Dumfries YMCA (left) in the morning and with a group of local children (right) in the afternoon.



Each session began with a reading of the Gruffalo's Child and a reminder of how the Gruffalo's Child followed the tracks of several woodland creatures as she attempted to find the 'Big Bad Mouse' her father



had told her about. The children then made their own impressions of the Gruffalo footprints using modelling clay and plaster of Paris. The casts were set aside to dry so as to be ready to take home at the end of the session.

After a short quiz on animal tracks and signs the children went into the Reserve and neighbouring woodland to look for and identify any tracks they found and to hunt for the Gruffalo characters – fox, snake, owl, squirrel and mouse.

12th July: Moth Trapping and ID - Details given on page 2.

LWT Wildlife Weekend

14th July Morning: Mammal Trapping and Identification

Stuart Spray was unable to assist with the workshop as planned but we were pleased to welcome Glen Norris who came down from Edinburgh for the event. We caught both wood mice and bank voles. Shrews visited two of the traps and left their droppings behind for identification. They were able to escape through the 'shrew holes' that each trap must have by law. The turnout for the event was excellent.



14th July Afternoon: Pond dipping with Jim Rae

As always, this event proved popular with local families.

15th July Morning: Bird Box Workshop with Jim Rae and Ross Gemmell

The workshop was attended by six people, working in groups of three, two and one. All three groups successfully constructed a birdbox from scratch and were able to take it home. The remaining timber will be used to construct bird boxes and squirrel feeders for the Reserve at a later date.

15th July Afternoon: Wild Food Foray with Ross Gemmell

Once again Ross's excursion through the woods was very informative and enjoyed by all. En route the group collected bilberries and wild raspberries. Back at Eskrigg Centre the fruits were used to make bilberry and raspberry pancakes. A few Chanterelles had escaped the attention of local fungi collectors and these were added to by Ross so that everyone could taste them lightly sautéed in butter. Delicious!

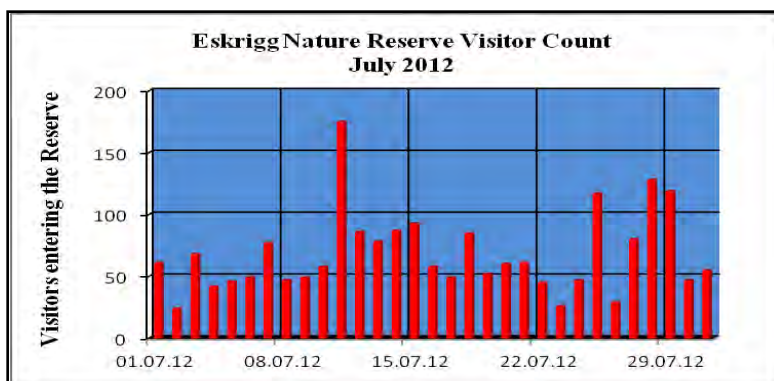


Many thanks to Ian Dunn and Innes Green for their invaluable help this month.

Pictures: Parent (P), Jim Rae (JR)

4. Visitor Records:

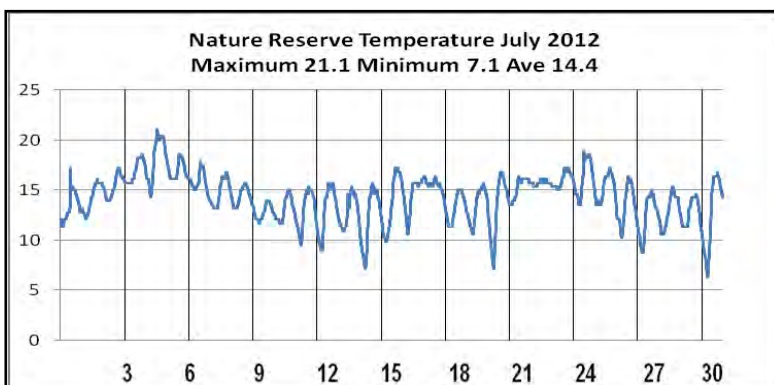
Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
February	1597	55
March	2795	90
April	4262	142
May	2681	89
June	1560	52
July	2098	68



5. Weather Records:

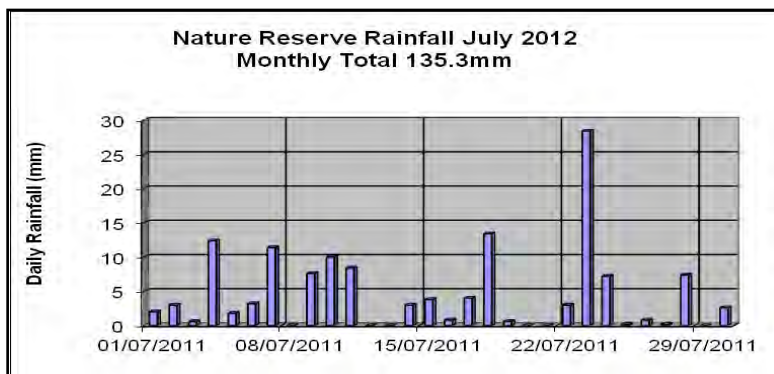
a. Air temperature

Month	Maximum	Minimum	Average
February	8.0	-9.7	0.39
March	-	-	-
April	11.7	-7.2	3.4
May	20.9	-6.3	7.2
June	18.7	2.3	12.7
July	21.1	7.1	14.4

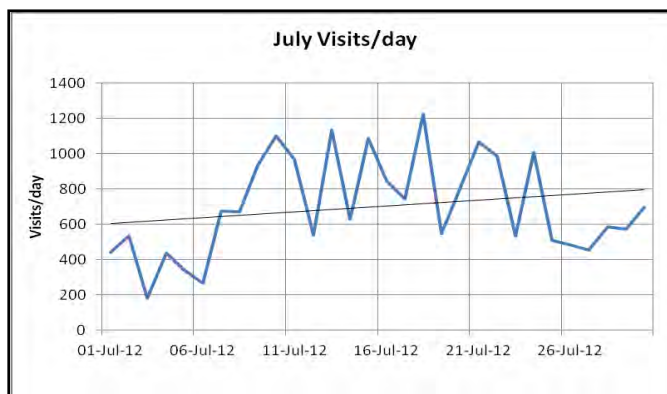
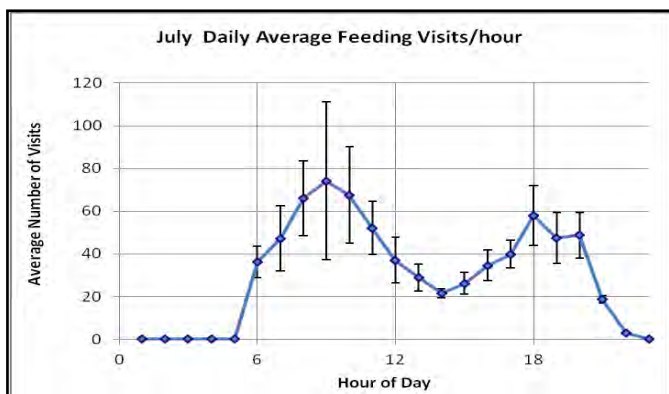


b. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
February	36.6
March	37.4
April	78.8
May	61.1
June	207.9
July	135.5



6. 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