

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

## Eskrigg Reserve

### October 2012 News Bulletin



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1. This picture of Eskrigg Reserve was taken on the 7th of October.

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings:

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, House Martin, Jay, Kestrel, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Meadow Pipit, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Tawny Owl, Tree Creeper, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals:

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

c. Amphibians:

Frog, Newt, Toad.

d. Reptiles (R):

Lizard.

e. Moths:

The moth trapping in October was cancelled due to the cold, wet weather.



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### 3. Activities at the Reserve during October:

#### a. Mon. 1<sup>st</sup>: ITV Border News and Lookaround.

The Border News team visited Eskrigg Reserve to photograph the Red Squirrels, interview Heinz Traut and help publicise the National Red Squirrel Week which ran from the 2nd till the 9th of October 2012.

‘Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels’ has merged with the long-running ‘Red Squirrels in South Scotland’ project to become a single strategic national project under the SSRS banner. Heinz Traut is the new project officer for Southwest Scotland. He joins us from Red Squirrels in Northern England, bringing with him a BSc in conservation and forest ecosystems, experience as a ranger involved in managing a number of nature reserves in Wales and, much further afield, management of an estate in South Africa’s Kruger National Park. “I am very pleased to be part of the SSRS team and delighted to have a part to play in the conservation of such an iconic species.”



Come along to the Community Rooms at Lockerbie Town Hall on 14th November 2012 (19.00 to 21.00 hrs) to hear all about red squirrel conservation in South Scotland. We will be talking about the challenges facing the species and the work being done to secure their future in Scotland. Come along and see how you can get involved. There is no charge and no booking required.

#### b. Mon. 1<sup>st</sup>: Environmental Studies Class

The four students from Lockerbie Academy visited once again to help with some maintenance work. Paul, Pamela, Danny and Terri worked as a team to pull the weeds from the path near the shelter and clean the area around the shelter itself.



#### c. Tues. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mighty Mushroom Hunt with Duncan Ford

The weather on the morning prior to the hunt was wet and windy and this possibly deterred some people from coming along. However, with ten minutes to go, the rain stopped and the conditions remained fair throughout the foray. The range of fungi identified was excellent:

Amethyst Deceiver, Ashen Chanterelle, Bay Bolete, Blackening Russula, Blusher, Brown Rollrim, Chanterelle, Clustered Brittlestem, Common Inkcap, *Cordyceps longisegmentis*, *Cortinarius pseudosalor*, Crested Coral, False Saffron Milkcap, Fly Agaric, Grey Knight-cap, Oak Milkcap, Ochre Brittlegill, *Oudemansiella mucida*, Penny Bun, Red-cracked Bolete, Rufus Milkcap, *Russula integra*, *Russula paludosa*, Sickener, Slimy Milkcap, Split Fibrecap, Tawny Grisette, Ugly Milkcap, Wood Hedgehog, Yellow Grisette.

#### d. Wed. 24<sup>th</sup>: Photography Workshop with Keith Kirk

Keith held another very successful workshop for digital SLR users down at Eskrigg. Some participants had been at previous workshops, others were attending for the first time. Despite the wide range of cameras in use, Keith gave everyone useful tips and individual help when requested.



**e. Wed. 24th: Mid-Annandale Playcare (MAP)**



Eight youngsters from MAP, and a young friend, visited the Reserve for the afternoon. They first explored the picnic area, looking for minibeasts and other signs of animal life like the lizard skin opposite. They then had a Gruffalo Hunt before investigating the life in the pond. They found many interesting creatures including sticklebacks, caddis larvae, water boatmen, pond snails, mayfly nymphs, water mites, pond snails and freshwater limpets.



**f. Fri. 26<sup>th</sup>: Den Building with Ross Gemmell and Jim Rae**



Several families came along for the afternoon and the boys and girls made some excellent dens. Perhaps they will last a whole year like the ones made in 2011.

Photographs by Jim Rae

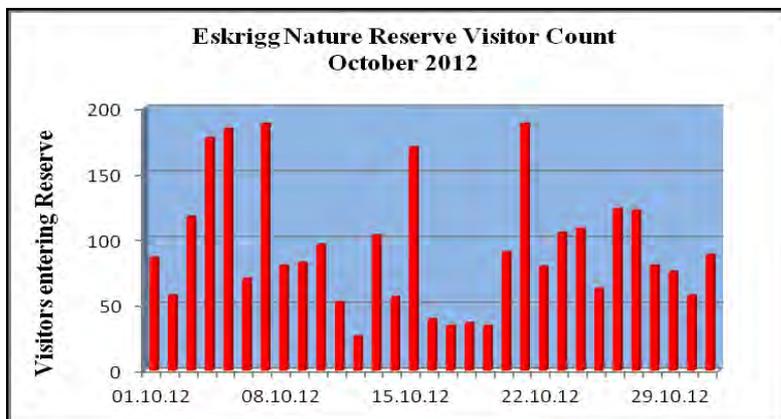


**g. Maintenance work**

We are grateful to Ian Dunn and a new volunteer John Higgins for their assistance in improving the path through the Reserve.

#### 4. Visitor Records:

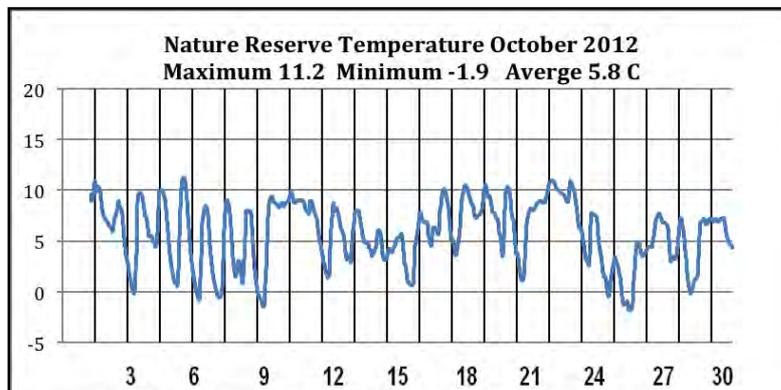
Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
May	2681	89
June	1560	52
July	2098	68
August	1960	63
September	2384	79.5
October	2864	92



#### 5. Weather Records:

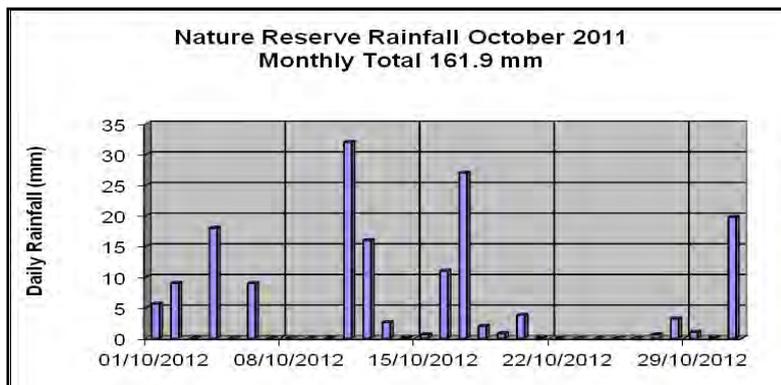
##### a. Air temperature

Month	Maximum	Minimum	Average
May	20.9	-6.3	7.2
June	18.7	2.3	12.7
July	21.1	7.1	14.4
August	22.4	8.1	16.1
September	19.2	2.3	12.9
October	11.2	-1.9	5.8

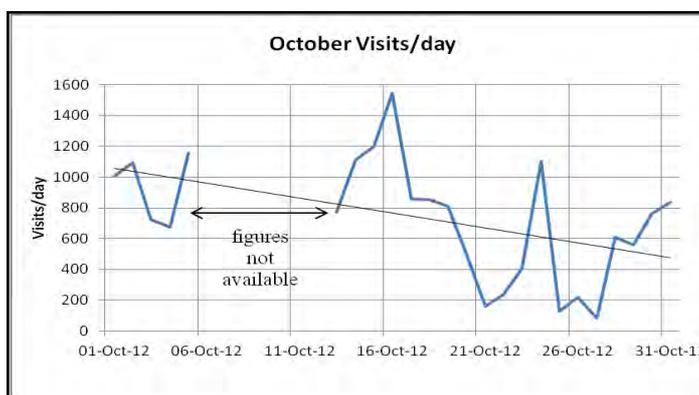


##### b. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
May	61.1
June	207.9
July	135.5
August	160.2
September	98.4
October	161.9



#### 6. Monitoring Red Squirrel Feeding Behaviour



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