

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve

February 2013 News Bulletin



1. View of the pond taken on the 5th of February.

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings

a. Birds

Black-headed Gull, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Jay, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Sparrowhawk, Tawny Owl, Tree Creeper, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals

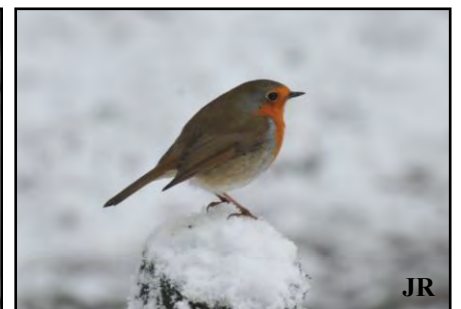
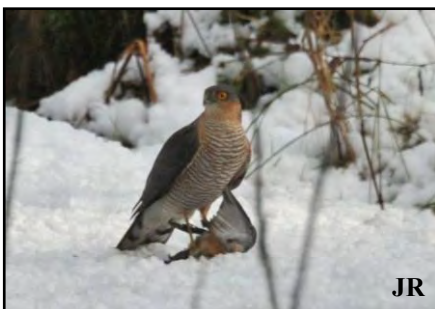
Bank Vole, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Wood Mouse.

c. Fungi

Scarlet Elf Cup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*)

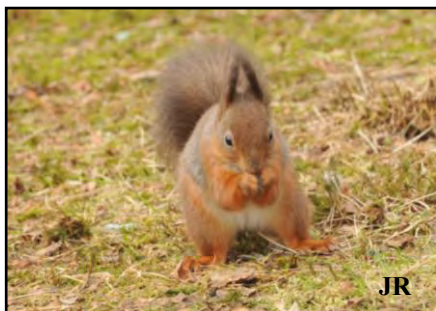


3. February Wildlife Pictures



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

4. Eskrigg's Red Squirrels



The red squirrels have attracted a lot of visitors recently, including many wildlife photographers. On one occasion eighteen different red squirrels were spotted at the same time within sight of Eskrigg Centre and the West Hide.

Squirrel Photography Course

Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons ran the first of a series of Photography Courses, on the 23rd of February, outside the West Hide, using the Eskrigg Red Squirrels as the main subjects.

West Hide Unfortunately the West Hide is no longer fit for purpose. It is too small for family groups and for photographers wanting to capture the activities of the red squirrels. It was erected at a time when the focus of attention was the wildfowl activity on the pond rather than the woodland birds and squirrels. A new, larger hide will be constructed on the site to meet the present demand.



5. Activities at the Reserve during February

14.02.13 After the heavy rain and snowmelt, it was noted that the field ditch had become blocked and that water was flowing over and eroding the footpath making the access to the Reserve very marshy and



difficult. The situation has been drawn to the attention of Castle Milk Estate. It is hoped that the Estate will clear the ditch and that funds may be found to pay for a hard core path down the public right of way. Castle Milk Estate are willing to supply the hardcore material.



18.02.13 S4 Environmental Studies

Due to the poor weather the class did not visit the Reserve but made bird box kits at the school instead.



Paul preparing bases



Pamela cutting hinges for the lids

Bird box kits are available for £10, completed bird boxes for £15.99.



Danny preparing lids

Photographs: Jim Rae (JR), Lockerbie Academy Pupil Support Staff (LA)

21.02.13 Neo's Neuk

The small triangular plot beside the Centre is being used at the moment as a tree nursery. A variety of trees supplied by Castle Milk Estate is being brought on in the nursery and will be planted out later in the year within the Reserve and within Beattie's Clump – St Mungo Primary's forest classroom.



23.02.13 New Seat

A small bench seat has been constructed next to Neo's Neuk so that people can relax and enjoy the view across the pond. Once the trees have been replanted the plot will be developed into a wildlife area for insects - bees, butterflies, moths, hoverflies and other invertebrates.

24.02.13 Afternoon - Annual Nut Race



Once again the weather was fair and there was a good turnout for the nut race. The Trust would like to thank all who sponsored a nut or gave a donation and helped to raise £550. Thanks also to Liz McDonnell for donating the prizes.



The winners of this year's race were as follows: 1st prize of £25 - Emily Wardrope, 2nd prize of £15 - Kate Thomson and 3rd prize of an Easter Egg - Marjorie Smith.

6. Assistance with Maintenance Work

02.02.13 Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers

Charlotte and Drew helped to top up the gravel on the path through the Reserve.

09.02.13 Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers

Charlotte and Lewis helped to top up the gravel on the path through the Reserve.

19.02.13 Adult Volunteers

Ian Dunn helped to replace the boards at the side of the path to the boardwalk.

23.02.13 Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers

L to R – Charlotte, Lewis, Drew and Angus.

On this occasion the volunteers helped to clear away all the litter from the lay-by and woods beyond the Dryfesdale Cemetery. This has become an annual event, unfortunately, because drivers still prefer to litter the countryside rather than use the bins provided. A whole trailer-load of rubbish was taken to the Recycling and Waste Centre at Annan.



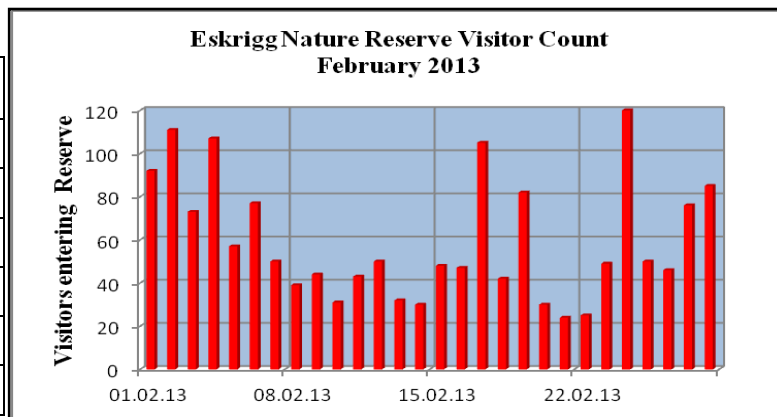
24.02.13 Trust Maintenance Day morning.

The reserve and feeder burn were tidied and prepared for the Annual Nut Race in the afternoon.

Photographs – Jim Rae (JR)

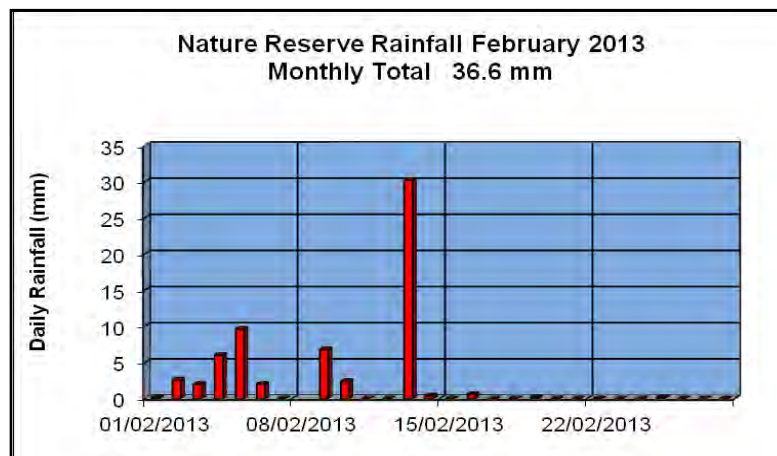
7. Visitor Records

Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
Sept. 2012	2384	79.5
Oct. 2012	2864	92
Nov. 2012	1911	63.7
Dec. 2012	1334	43
Jan. 2013	1599	52
Feb. 2013	1665	59.5

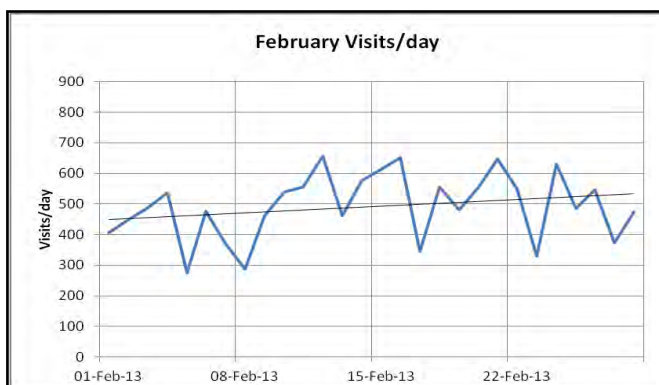
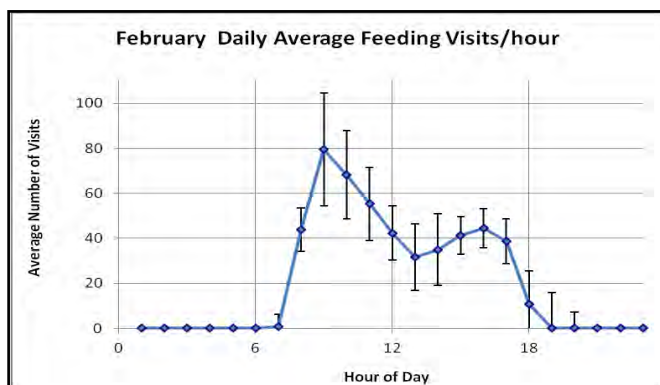


8. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
Sept. 2012	98.4
Oct. 2012	161.9
Nov. 2012	Not available
Dec. 2012	187.8
Jan. 2013	89
Feb. 2013	36.6



9. Squirrel Feeding Pattern



Please note that details of the squirrels' feeding pattern will not be included in future editions of the Eskrigg News Bulletin until such time as the new Red Squirrel Hide is up and running.

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