

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

## Eskrigg Reserve

### May 2013 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

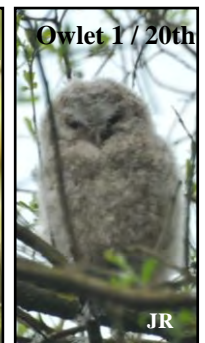
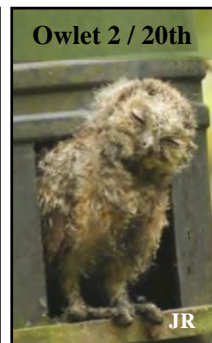
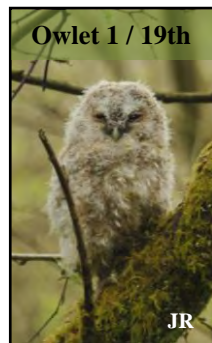
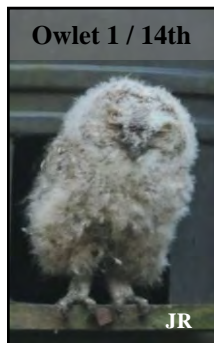


1. Views of the pond and the squirrel feeding area taken from the Red Squirrel Hide on 24th May.

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, House Martin, Jay, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Rook, Sedge Warbler, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Swallow, Tawny Owl, Tree Creeper, Whitethroat, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wood Warbler, Wren, Yellowhammer.



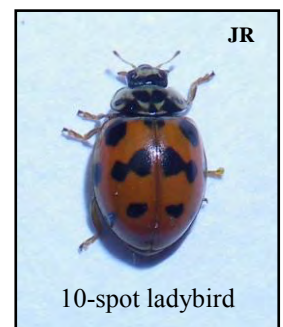
b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Hedgehog, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Woodmouse.

e. Invertebrates

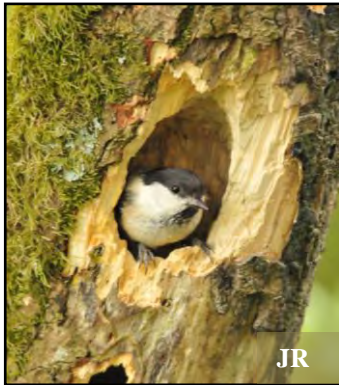
Green-veined White, Orange-tip and Peacock Butterflies, White-tailed Bumblebee.

Ten-spot Ladybird (*Adalia 10-punctata*).



Photographs: Jim Rae (JR).

### 3. May Photo-gallery



L to R: Tawny Owl, Elder Owlet, Younger Owlet, Tree Creeper, Little Grebe, Lady's Smock flower with egg of Orange-tip butterfly, Willow Tit at nest, Willow Tit gathering food, Willow Tit returning to feed young.

Photographs: Tom Langlands (TL), Bob Fitzsimmons (BF), Jim Rae (JR).



That's the time delay set, nice of somebody to leave their camera around, bet I can do better. 10, 9, 8, 7....



3,2,1...How about this for a close up?

Photographs and captions: George Truett

#### 4. Activities at the Reserve during April

**9th May: Beattock Primary classes 3 & 4** came down to the Reserve for a picnic lunch then carried out a minibeast hunt and some pond dipping. Due to the long winter the aquatic invertebrates were not as well developed as in previous years.



**12th May: Lockerbie Rotary Club** held their annual Charity Walk and visited the Reserve en route.

**13th May: Lockerbie Academy S4 Environmental Studies** students helped to line the inside of the Red Squirrel Hide with panels of sheathing ply.



**15th May: Keith Kirk** ran another photography workshop. This time, pictures were taken of the squirrels and then Keith demonstrated how he handled RAW and JPEG files on his computer using the Nikon ViewNX software. As usual the session was very informative and greatly appreciated by all who attended.

**16th May:** The planned **Moth Trapping** was cancelled due to the low temperatures and poor weather.

**19th May: 25th Anniversary of Eskrigg Reserve.**

The Trust celebrated the 25th Anniversary by running a day of mammal related activities entitled 'Mammal Magic'. The day started by examining the small mammal traps set out by Stuart Spray and Dr. Louise Hussey the previous evening. We caught several male and female woodmice, had faecal evidence that some traps had been visited by shrews, but trapped no bank voles despite the fact that several voles had been photographed in the Reserve a few days earlier.



At 11.00am, Sir John Buchanan-Jardine kindly opened the new Red Squirrel Hide to the public. This event was not only attended by members of the Trust but by a surprise visitor as well (see below).



After a picnic lunch a number of other 'Mammal Moments' were provided for children. Andy Riches let people see a fascinating range of mammal artefacts including bones, skulls, faecal pellets, traps and coloured food samples. Youngsters completed a Mammal Orienteering Challenge and then had a go at making



squirrel masks and bat finger puppets while supervised by members of the LWT committee,

In the evening Freda Seddon talked about bats and her work doing bat suveys, before teaching people how to use bat detectors to monitor the bat species in the area.

**Photographs: John Reid (JoR), Jim Rae (JR).**

**22nd May: Lockerbie Academy Photography Group** visited the Reserve in the morning to practise their skills once again.

**22nd May: Pupils in the English Department at Lockerbie Academy** spent the afternoon at the Reserve doing a variety of tasks that were designed to stimulate creative writing.



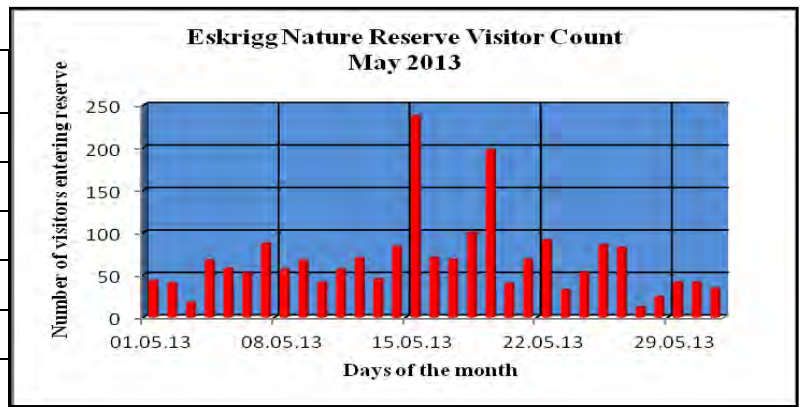
**29th May: Youngsters from Lockerbie Learning Centre** visited the Reserve, as they do most weeks. Cameron was particularly interested in seeing the tawny owl and her chicks.

**5. Assistance with construction and maintenance work during May.**

Up to the 19th of May most time was spent getting the Red Squirrel Hide ready for the opening. Special thanks to Bob Fitzsimmons for his help fitting the windows. Later in the month the students doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award helped repair parts of the boardwalk. Thanks also to Ian Dunn for spraying the weeds on the path. The path was raked the following week. On the maintenance day members of the Trust treated the shelter, interpretation boards and inside of the Red Squirrel Hide with wood preservative.

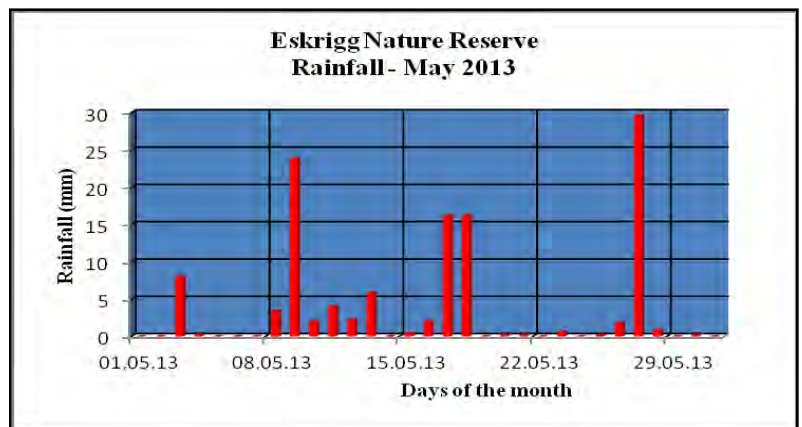
**6. Visitor Records**

Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
Dec. 2012	1334	43
Jan. 2013	1599	52
Feb. 2013	1665	59.5
Mar. 2013	1599	52
<b>Apr. 2013</b>	<b>3071</b>	<b>102</b>
May 2013	2056	66



**7. Precipitation**

Month	Rainfall (mm)
Dec. 2012	187.8
Jan. 2013	89
Feb. 2013	36.6
Mar. 2013	41.6
Apr. 2013	72
May 2013	118



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