

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



## Eskrigg Reserve

### February 2014 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

#### 1. Views of the Reserve in February.



Silt trap during  
and after the  
heavy rains (JR).



#### 2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve

##### a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greylag Goose, Jay, Kingfisher, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Sparrowhawk, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon, Wren.



Long-tailed Tit and Willow Tit by Bob Little

##### b. Mammals

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



Red Squirrel and Bank Vole by Jim Rae



### 3. February Photo-gallery



JR



JR



JR



JR



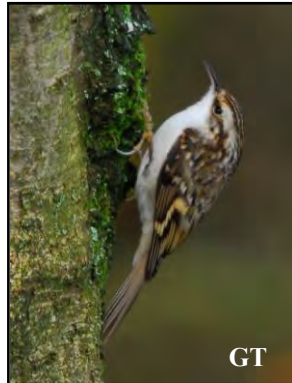
JR



JR



GT



GT



GT



JR



JR



JR

### 4. Maintenance work during February.

Many thanks to Stuart and Robbie Dodd from Grange Quarry for the donation of a half-load of tar scrapings for road repairs.

**Tues. 4th** Ian Dunn, Roy McQuirter and Pamela Beeton helped fill in pot-holes on the forest road.

Unfortunately the weather was so poor during the rest of the month that no other volunteer days were possible.



JR

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR) and George Trudt (GT).



## 5. Access for All project.

**Mon. 3rd. Work started on the new Reserve Car Park next to the Eskrigg Farm Road.**



**3rd. Turf removed.**



**4th. Stone base laid and rolled.**



**6th. Stone foundation complete.**



**7th. Safety barrier erected at Isle Court children's play park.**



**15th. Most of car park area fenced off.**



**18th. Burn-side fenced off and burn cleaned out.**



**19th. Field gate erected.**



**19th. Wooden fence erected at field gate.**



**19th. Wooden fence erected at field connection.**

The next stage in the project is the construction of the path from the car park to the Reserve. We have to wait until the beginning of April till we learn what support will be given by the Dumfries and Galloway Council and their budget for Core Paths in the area. Once the path is in place, the car park will have a layer of fine gravel and 'dust' added and the road-side gates will be erected.

## 6. Looking forward to March

For many years, the frogs and toads turned up at the Reserve pond on the 17th of March ready to breed. In 2012, they arrived a week earlier than usual - on the 10th of March. In 2013, the long cold spring caused them to arrive late – on the 10th of April. What will happen this year? With the unusually mild winter and early spring, perhaps they will come early again.

If anyone spots the frogs and toads migrating to the pond this year, please inform Jim.



**Photographs by Jim Rae**

## 7. Planned Activities at the Reserve during February.

**Sun. 2nd. Eaglesfield Primary School** held a sponsored walk which passed through Eskrigg Reserve. Afterwards, the school donated part of the proceeds (£88) to Lockerbie Wildlife Trust. Many thanks to Head Teacher, Sybil Williamson, and all the parents and pupils who took part.

### Sun. 23rd. LWT Annual Nut Race

Fourteen stalwarts braved the wild, wet and windy weather to support the Annual Nut Race at Eskrigg Nature Reserve. The Trust would like to thank all who sponsored a nut or gave a donation and helped to raise **£510**. These funds will be used to further the work of the Trust at the reserve. The Trust would also like to thank Liz McDonnell who donated the prizes and cream eggs for the ‘youngsters’ who took part.

The winners of this year’s race were as follows:

1st prize £25 – Red 37 – Emily Wardrope

2nd prize £15 – Red 32 – Rory Wardrope

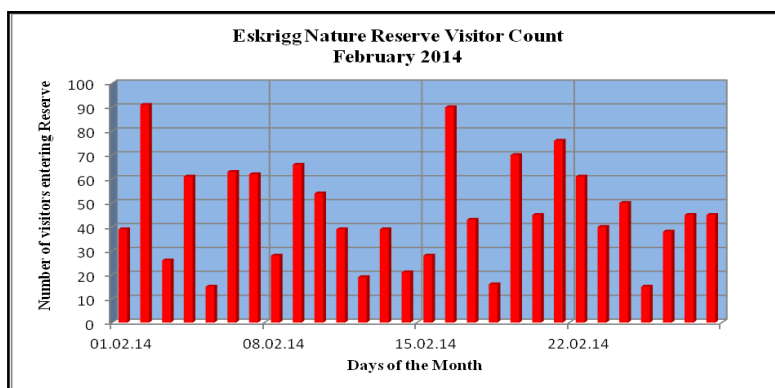
3rd prize £5 – Yellow 51 – Chrissie Robinson



Photographs by Jim Rae

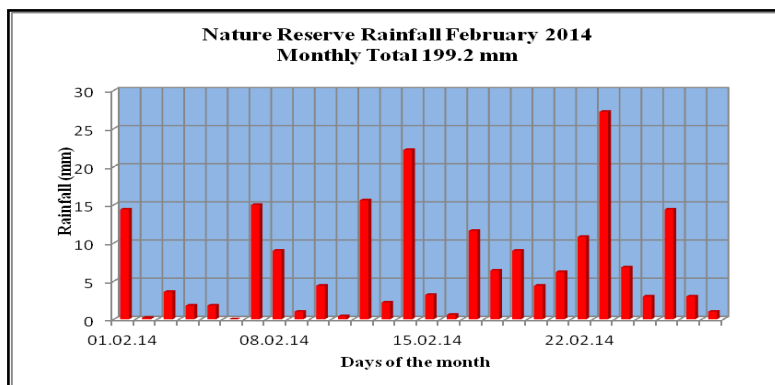
## 8. Visitor Records

Month	Total number of Visitors	Daily Average Visitors
Sept. 2013	1528	51
Oct. 2013	1937	62
Nov. 2013	1578	53
Dec. 2013	1372	44
Jan. 2014	1546	50
Feb. 2014	1285	46



## 9. Precipitation

Month	Rainfall (mm)
Sept. 2013	93
Oct. 2013	203.6
Nov. 2013	61
Dec. 2013	221
Jan. 2014	195
Feb. 2014	199.2



For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

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