

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



## Eskrigg Reserve

### January 2015 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

#### 1. Views of the Reserve taken on the 29th of January.



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

##### a. Birds

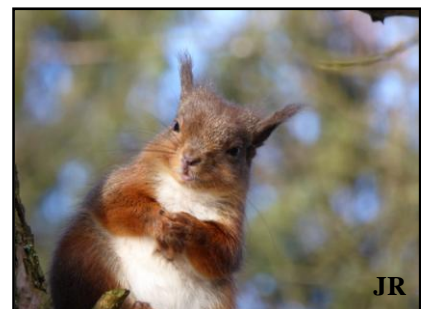
Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greylag Goose, Jay, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Sparrowhawk, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon, Wren.



##### b. Mammals

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

I would be grateful for copies of any photographs of mammals, other than Red Squirrels, taken at Eskrigg Reserve.



Photographs: Bob Little (BL), Graham Rew (GR), Jim Rae (JR).

### 3. January Photo-gallery



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

#### 4. Planned Activities

There were no educational activities planned for January.

#### 5. Youth Volunteers

13<sup>th</sup> Thomas Gibbs helped make improvements to a woodland path by replacing a large drainage pipe with a smaller one, topping up the gravel and rolling the surface.



24<sup>th</sup> Angus Johnstone, Keir Stewart and Michael Kerr all helped with the RSPB Big Bird Count before clearing a fallen tree from a woodland path.



27<sup>th</sup> Thomas Gibbs helped to open up the Centre and top up the bird feeders before heading up to Applegarth Primary to help clear some scrub.



#### 6. Adult Volunteers

The Reserve path was raked a number of times during the month in order to remove wind-blown debris.

#### 7. Maintenance Day

David Hughes, Sybille Spägelle, Michael Kerr and his dad filled in the pot-holes on the forest road before helping to rake the Reserve path while I strimmed the burn-side in preparation for the Annual Nut Race.



#### 8. Hair Ice and Frost Flowers



When it rains, dead logs soak up the moisture like a sponge. When the water freezes, it expands out from the pores in the frozen wood, creating fine threads of ice. Respiring fungi and bacteria in the wood contribute carbon dioxide and water and the carbon dioxide helps push the water out through the pores in the wood. The growing 'hairs' or 'beards' of ice are quite distinct from one another and have enough hydraulic power to strip the bark off.

Frost flowers normally occur in late autumn or early winter, when plants are just alive and still have moisture in them. As the temperature drops on a frosty night, the sap in the stem of the plants will expand causing long thin cracks to form. Water is forced through these cracks by capillary action and freezes on contact with the air. As more water is extruded through the cracks it pushes the thin ice layers further from the stem, causing a thin "petal" to form. The petals of frost flowers are very delicate and will break when touched. They are usually visible in the early morning and melt or sublimate when exposed to sunlight. The first frost produces the most prolific display, but also the shortest window in which to capture images.

For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

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