

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

April 2015 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. View of pond on the 26th of April.



Visiting
Cormorant
12.04.15

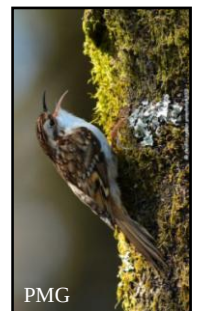


Moorhen's
nest (4 eggs)
22.04.15

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in April.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blackcap, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Cormorant, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Grasshopper Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Jackdaw, Jay, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren.



b. Mammals

Badger (road kill), Bank Vole, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Stoat, Wood Mouse.

c. Other Vertebrates

Common Lizard, Frog, Toad, Stickleback.

d. Invertebrates

Black Slug, Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Orange-tip & Peacock Butterflies, 7-spot & Eyed Ladybirds, Rove Beetle, Spiders, Wasp.



Photographs: Pauline Mellor Greenhalgh (PMG), Alex Hillier (AH), Jim Rae (JR)

3. April photo-gallery



Row 1: False Morel (JR), Bay Polypore (JR), Scarlet Elf Cup (JR).
Row 2: Common Lizard (JR), Amorous Amphibians (JR), Buff-tailed Bumblebee (JR).
Row 3: Frosted Whin Flower (JR), Dog Violets (JR), Marsh Marigold (JR).
Row 4: Chiffchaff (JR), Wren (PMG), Female Chaffinch (JR).
Row 5: Red Squirrel (AH), Cuckoo Flower (JR), Peacock Butterfly (AH).

Photographs: Alex Hillier (AH), Pauline Mellor Greenhalgh (PMG), Jim Rae (JR)

4. Volunteer Work

Sat. 4th - Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers



Angus Johnstone, Patrick Malone, Rory Holden, Keir Stewart and Taylor Trodden extended the gravel section of a woodland path and treated timber structures within the Reserve to remove algae.



Sun. 26th - Maintenance Day

Sybill Spägle helped Jim dig a ditch beside the Eskrigg Farm road. This will help with drainage and hopefully prevent the flood waters from washing away the gravel at the start of the gravel path from the car park to the Reserve. Thereafter, the algal scum was cleared from the pond.



5. Planned Activities

Tues. 7th - Annandale Red Squirrel Group (ARSG) Training Session



In preparation for the training session, Ian Kerr (Grey Squirrel Control Officer) set out six traps in the pine wood next to the Reserve, baited them, fixed the trap doors open and left them for five days for the squirrels to get used to them. On the evening of the 6th, the traps were set and fresh bait distributed in and around them. During the training session the following morning members of the ARSG examined the traps and the Red Squirrels caught in three of them were released unharmed. Ian explained the techniques and laws regarding the use of the traps and let the members of the group handle the traps.

Thur. 9th Apr. - Wild Spring - Wee Woodland Beasties

There was a good turnout for the event. The children first examined the pitfall traps that had been put out the previous day and transferred any 'beasties' to some sample tubes. They then explored the woodland and some log piles to see what other organisms they could find. The specimens were transferred to trays on the table beside the Centre where they could be examined more closely and photographed before being returned to the woodland.



Small animals:

Earthworm; black, grey and white slugs; snails (2 species); woodlouse; centipede; millipede (3 species); insect larvae (4 species); springtail; plant bug; ground beetles (2 species); ground beetle larva; rove beetle; burying beetle; 7-spot Ladybird; Buff-tailed Bumblebee; harvestman; spiders (2 species); unfertilized frog spawn.

Other organisms:

Fungi: False Morel (*Geomytra esculenta*), Bay Polypore (*Polyporus durus*) and Scarlet Elf Cup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*).

Slime Mould (*Lamproderma puncticulatum*).



Photographs: Jim Rae

14th Apr. - Annandale Red Squirrel Group Open Day

Karen Ramoo (South of Scotland Project Officer for 'Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels') gave an illustrated talk on the work being done to conserve this iconic species in Scotland and in Annandale in particular. Ian Kerr (Grey Squirrel Control Officer) demonstrated the use of squirrel traps to control the numbers of the American Grey Squirrels in the area, in order to stop the spread of the squirrelpox virus and protect our native Red Squirrel. Bob Little (Powfoot Photography) was at the Red Squirrel Hide to give tuition in photographing the Red Squirrels. Several budding wildlife photographers appreciated the opportunity to chat with Bob and learn how they could improve their camera skills. Andy Riches (D & G Mammal Recorder) kindly put together a 'Bones Quiz' that fascinated both children and adults. Kirsty Liddon, Michael Kerr and Keir Stewart supervised a range of activities for children. Members of the ARSG were on hand to answer questions and encourage more people to get involved as volunteers or assist by reporting Red and Grey Squirrel sightings.



16th Apr. - Wild Spring - Pond Dipping

Lots of youngsters had fun investigating the pondlife at Eskrigg Reserve.

Pond animals found:

Three-spined Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*), frog and toad tadpoles, Freshwater Shrimp (*Gammarus pulex*), damselfly nymphs, cased caddis larvae, Water Boatman (*Notonecta glauca*), Lesser Water Boatman (*Corixa punctata*), Great Diving Beetle (*Dytiscus marginalis*), Lesser Diving Beetle (*Acilus sulcatus*), Gnat pupa (*Culex pipiens*), Chironomid midge larvae, mayfly nymphs (2 species), red water mite, pond snail, pond snail eggs, Pea Mussel (*Pisidium tenuilineatum*).



23rd Apr. - April Moths

Thanks to those who helped identify the following moths:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Pinewood	Pond fringe
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	0	1
Chestnut	<i>Conistra vaccinii</i>	3	0
Clouded Drab	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	2	17
Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	6	34
Early Thorn (1st gen.)	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	2	1
Early Tooth-striped	<i>Trichopteryx carpinata</i>	2	0
Engrailed	<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>	7	5
Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	15	28
Mottled Grey	<i>Colostygia multistrigaria</i>	0	2
Pine Beauty	<i>Panolis flammea</i>	0	2
Red Sword-grass	<i>Xylena vetusta</i>	2	0
Small Quaker	<i>Orthosia cruda</i>	0	1
Twin-spotted Quaker	<i>Orthosia munda</i>	2	18

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

For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

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