

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve

March 2016 News Bulletin

1. View of the Reserve taken on 28th March by Sybille Spägele.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in March.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Brambling, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goosander, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Wood Pigeon, Wren.



Nuthatch (SS)

There was a claimed sighting of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on the 19th March.

b. Mammals

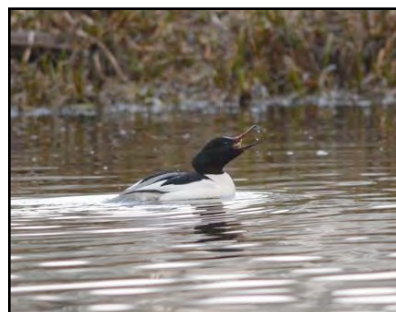
Brown Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Wood Mouse.

c. Amphibia

Frog, Toad and Smooth Newt.



Frog Spawn (SS)



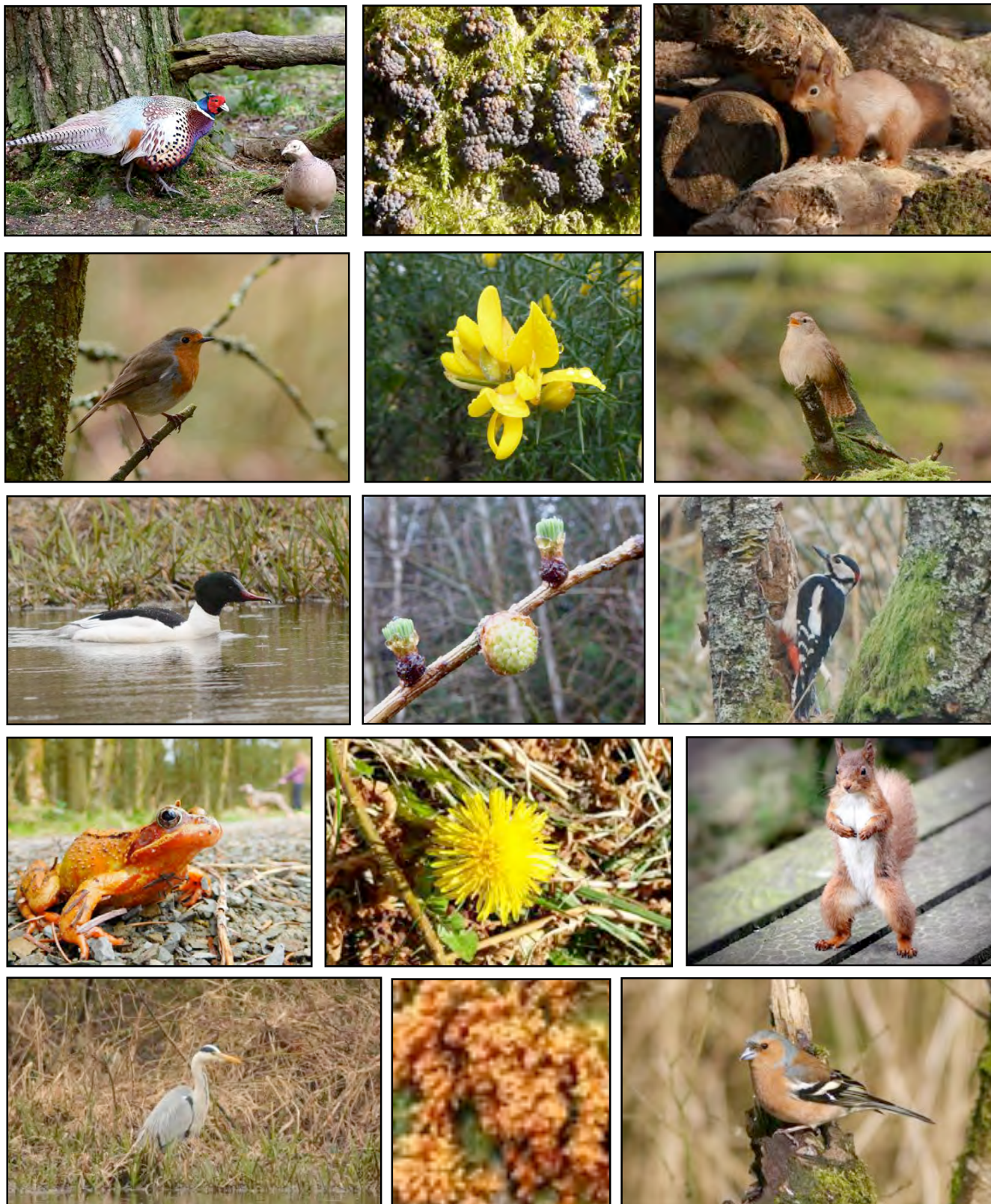
Goosander eating frog (JR)



Red Squirrel eating frog (JR)

Photographs: Sybille Spägele (SS), Jim Rae (JR).

3. March Photo-gallery.



Row 1: Courting Pheasants (AL), Slime Mould at sporulation stage (JR), Red Squirrel (RC).

Row 2: Robin (JR), Whin Blossom (JR), Wren (JR).

Row 3: Goosander (JR), Larch needles and cone (JR), Great Spotted Woodpecker (JR).

Row 4: Frog (GT), Dandelion (JR), Red Squirrel (JH).

Row 5: Grey Heron (JR), Slime Mould at plasmodial stage (JR), Chaffinch (SS).

**Photographs: Richard Clark (RC), Jim Halliday (JH), Andrina Laidler (AL),
Jim Rae (JR), Sybille Spägle (SS), George Trudt (GT).**

4. Planned Activities

Mon. 7th - Lockerbie Academy Rural Skills Class came down for an hour and helped replace a marshy section of woodland path with a hardcore area.



Fri. 11th - Castle Milk Estate forest workers felled trees along the boardwalk that posed a potential safety risk. The small branches were stacked in piles and the trunks and large branches were winched across the pond and cut into log-sized pieces. We appreciate that the work was done in such a way as to minimise the impact on the Reserve habitats.

Mon. 14th - Lockerbie Academy Rural Skills Class cleared the tree branches and logs from the edges of the pond and stacked the logs at the side of the forest road.

Mon. 21st - Lockerbie Academy Rural Skills Class cleared the remaining logs from the side of the boardwalk and stacked them at the side of the forest road. They then began to make repairs to part of the boardwalk itself.



5. Volunteer Activities

Sat. 5th - Members of the E-Team, Rory Holden, Rory Morford, Maya Saunders, Michael Kerr and Keir Stewart, helped **Jim** to reinstate part of the path near the car park and fill in holes on Eskrigg Farm road.



Rory Morford and Maya Saunders



Michael Kerr, Rory Holden & Keir Stewart

Thu. 10th - Connor Jardine helped **Jim** resurface a section of hardcore path.



Sat. 12th - Members of the E-Team, Keir Stewart, Rory Holden, Patrick Malone and Maya Saunders, helped **Jim** to clear logs from the side of the boardwalk and stack them at the side of the forest road.

Thu. 24th - Connor Jardine helped **Jim** fill in the potholes on Eskrigg Farm Road.

Mon. 28th & Wed. 30th - Sybille Spägle replaced the wire netting on the jetty.

Wed. 30th - Michael Kerr helped **Jim** with repairs to the boardwalk.

Thu. 31st - Sybille Spägle and Jim worked on the borders to the boardwalk.



Photographs: Jim Rae

6. Dumfries and Galloway Environment Fair

Sat. 19th - Jim Rae set up an exhibition stand at the **Environment Fair in Dumfries** to promote the activities of the **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust (LWT)** and **Annandale Red Squirrel Group (ARSG)**. The fair was open from 10:00 till 15:30. There was a good turnout on the cold but sunny day. He was assisted for a couple of hours by **Sybille Spägle**.



The stand was set up in the Trust's new tent.



On the left was the Trust display.



On the right was the ARSG display.



Children made Red Squirrel face masks.

Above photographs by Jim Rae

Note: Occasionally a Red Squirrel will catch some sort of infection, injure itself or get attacked by a predator such as a Buzzard. For some reason this Red Squirrel lost some of the hair on its tail. The hair is now growing again and the squirrel is none the worse for the experience.

Photograph by Gill Pettigrew



For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

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