

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve

March 2017 News Bulletin

1. Eskrigg Pond on the 31st of March, after hours of heavy rain.



JR



JR



JR

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in March.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Cormorant, Curlew, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Redwing, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Wood Pigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer.

b. Mammals

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

c. Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles

Common Frog, Common Toad



AL

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

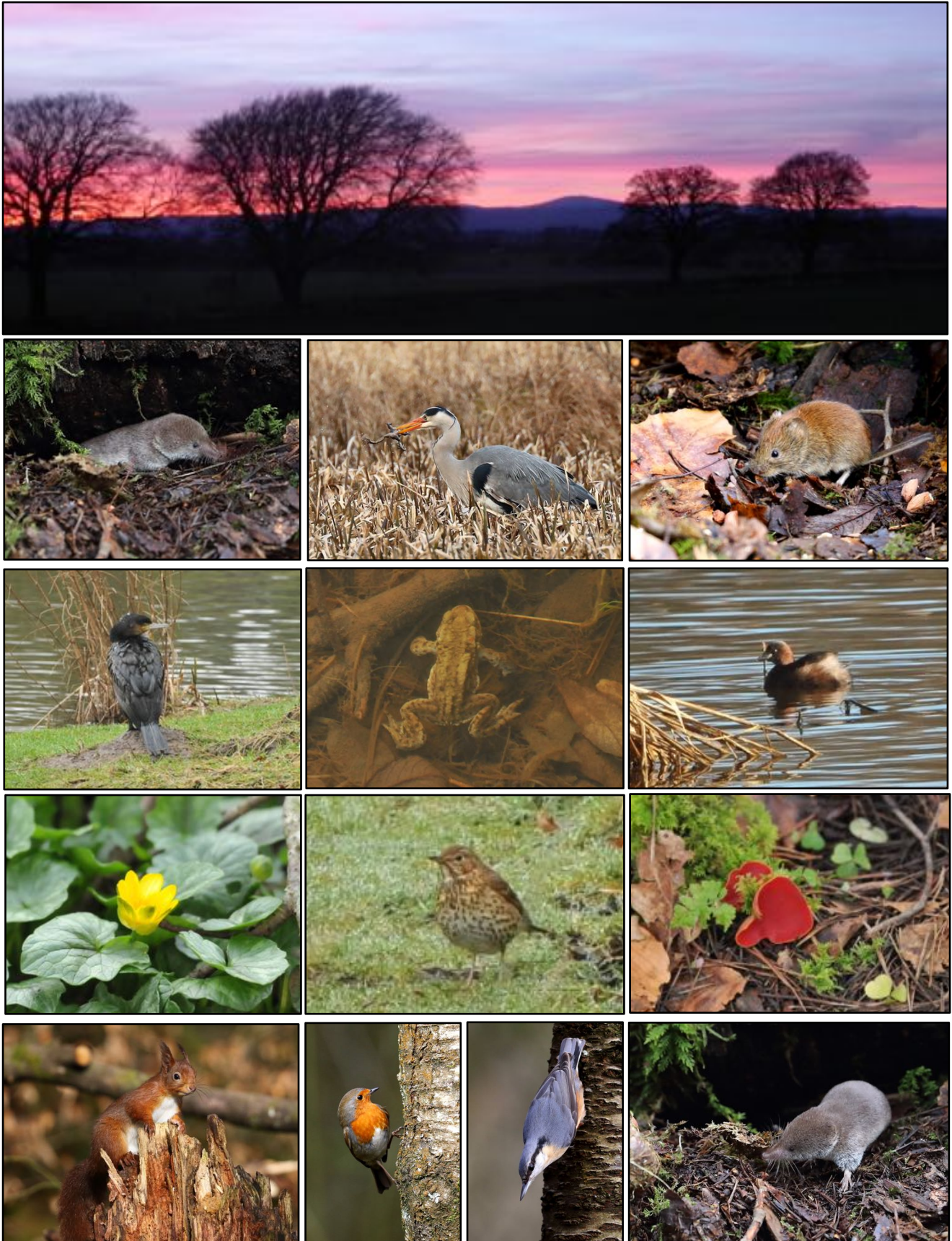


JR

False Morel (*Gyromitra esculenta*)

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR), Andrina Laidler (AR).

3. March Photo Gallery



Row 1: Queensberry at sunset (JR).

Row 2: Common Shrew (A&RL), Grey Heron eating Frog (A&RL), Bank Vole (A&RL).

Row 3: Cormorant (JR), Common Toad in pond (JR), Little Grebe (JR).

Row 4: First Celandine of Spring (JR), Song Thrush (JR), Scarlet Elfcup (JR).

Row 5: Red Squirrel (A&RL), Robin (A&RL), Nuthatch (A&RL), Common Shrew (A&RL).

Photographs: Andrina and Raymond Laidler (A&RL), Jim Rae (JR).

4. Planned Activities in March

Thu. 2nd Visit by **Cummertrees Primary School**. **Wed. 29th** Visit by **Tarporley Primary School**.



Fri. 31st The planned visit by a **Home School Group** had to be cancelled because of bad weather.

5. Volunteer Activities in March

Sat. 4th **Patrick Malone** and **Brodan Gough** helped construct a new bridge and, for safety, attached wire netting to the top.

Sun. 5th **Jim** removed four small birch trees, erected a sleeper wall and created a gravel ramp up to the bridge.

Mon. 6th **Stuart Black** kindly cut up the extracted trees into log-sized lengths.

Tue. 7th **Connor Jardine** and **Ross Taylor** helped **Jim** split the logs and deliver them to a client.

Wed. 8th **Jim** gave a talk to children at **Mid-Annandale Playcare** about the birdlife at Eskrigg Reserve.

Fri. 10th **Jim** gave an illustrated talk to the **U3A Camera Group**, in Kirkton Village Hall, about Eskrigg Nature Reserve.

Tue. 14th **Connor Jardine** helped **Jim** with a new section of path.

Thu. 16th **Jim** gave an illustrated talk to the **Unison Retired Members Group**, in Georgetown Library, about Eskrigg Nature Reserve.

Fri. 18th **Jim Rae** and **Sybill Spägle** ran a **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust** stall at the **D & G Environment Fair**, held at the Glasgow University Crichton Campus in Dumfries.

Tue. 21st During the day, **Connor Jardine** helped **Jim** with a new section of path.



- Connor Jardine
- Section of path with turf removed, covered by terram membrane and then a layer of Type 1 gravel.
- Section of path still to complete.
- Final dust topping still to apply.



During the evening, **David Hughes**, **Kath Davidson**, **Sybill Spägle** and **Jim Rae** manned a display about the work of **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust** at the **Lockerbie Town Hall Open Evening**.

Thu. 23rd **Jim Rae** gave an illustrated talk to the **Penpont Friendship Group** about the **Developments at Eskrigg Nature Reserve in the past two years**.

Photographs by Jim Rae

Fri. 24th



Jim set up and manned a stand at the Theatre Royal in Dumfries, to support the **Wild Film Festival Scotland** and promote the work done by **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust** at **Eskrigg Nature Reserve** and explain the role played by the **Annandale Red Squirrel Group**.

Sat. 25th **David Hughes** came along to help **Jim** at the Theatre Royal for the day. **Norah Muirhead** also kindly covered the stall at lunchtime to allow Jim and David to attend one of the talks.

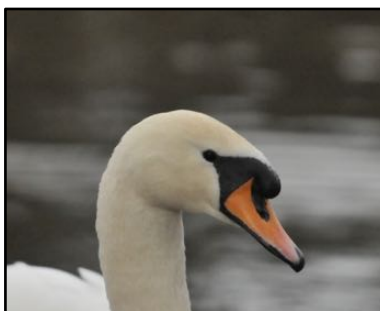
Sun. 26th **Sybille Spägle** came along to assist **Jim** and also to let him attend the talk by Sacha Dench about her epic journey - "**Flight of the Human Swan**".

Wild Film Festival Scotland - A weekend celebration of the natural world through nationally acclaimed film, photography, music, art and conversation.

6. Mute Swan



**Basking in the sun
in the middle of March.**



**Keeping a low profile in heavy
rain at the end of March.**

Mute Swans sometimes graze on short grass, but mainly feed on aquatic plants and aquatic invertebrates such as insects and snails. They start to breed when they are 3 to 4 years old.

The pair now at Eskrigg were too young to breed this time last year. Hopefully, they will be successful this year. They have successfully driven off the Greylag Geese, established a nesting territory and were seen courting and mating during the past month. They have started a nest on one of the islands, even though the amount of nesting material is rather limited. Mute Swans normally lay 5-7 eggs which are then incubated by the female and guarded by the male. The eggs hatch after 36 days. The young feed themselves and can fly after 120-150 days. They usually leave their parents' territory during their first autumn.

Photographs by Jim Rae

For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)
Address: Carradale, 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, DG11 2DZ.
Home Tel.: 01576 203 314 / Mobile No.: 07739 987 009
Email: jim.rae2012@gmail.com