

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Eskrigg Reserve

March 2018 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Views of the Reserve



Pond on 1st March



Eskrigg Farm road on 3rd March



Pond on 28th March

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during March.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Brambling, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Cormorant, Curlew, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goosander, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Partridge, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Meadow Pipit, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pintail, Raven, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Snipe, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Tree Pipit, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

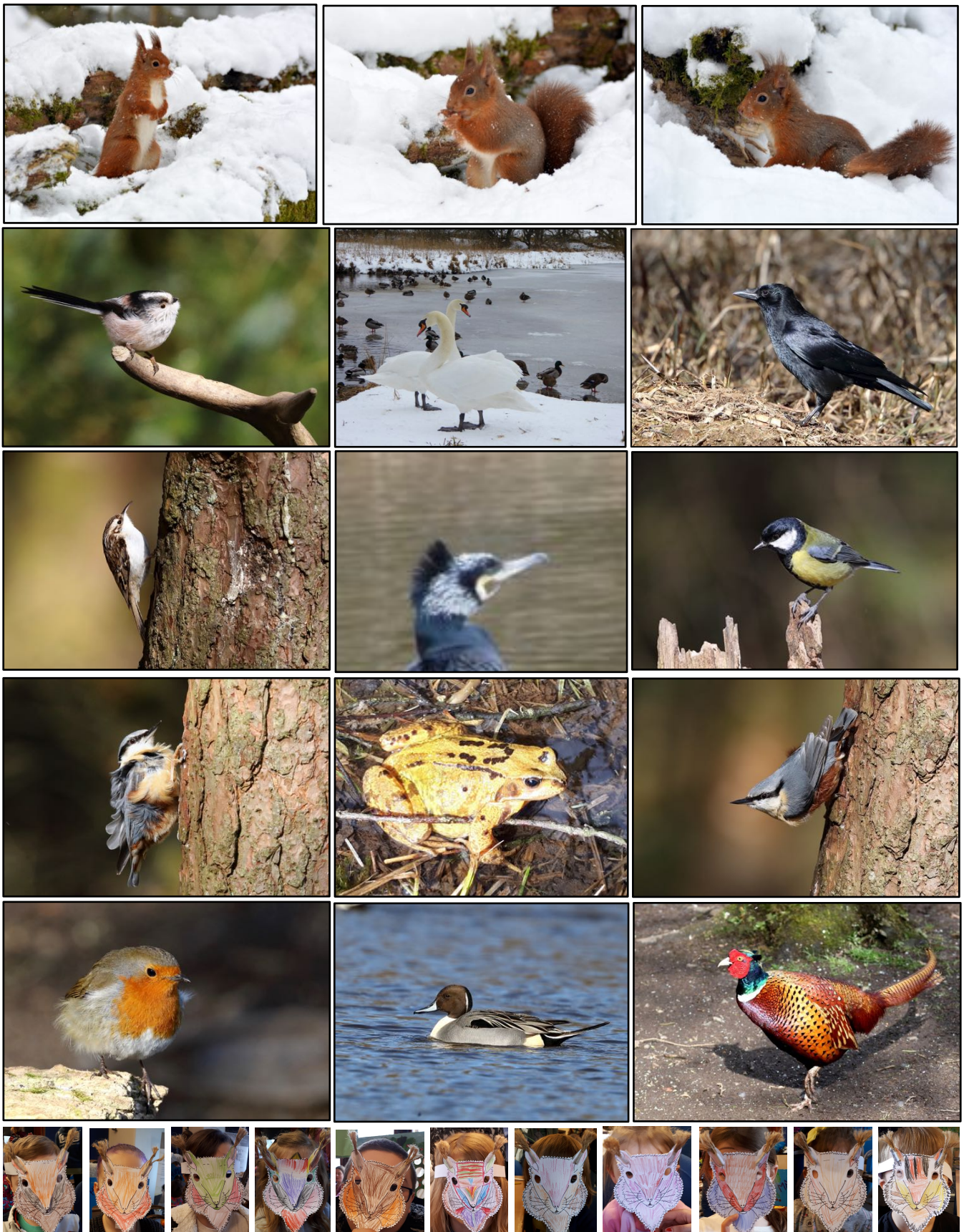
b. Mammals

Brown Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer.



Photographs by Jim Rae (JR) and Paul Wharton (PW)

3. March Photo Gallery



Row 1: Red Squirrels (PW)

Row 2: Long-tailed Tit (AL), Mute Swans (JR), Carrion Crow (AL)

Row 3: Treecreeper (AL), Cormorant (JR), Great Tit (AL)

Row 4: Nuthatch (AL), Frog (JR), Nuthatch (AL)

Row 5: Robin (AL), Pintail (AL), Pheasant (AL)

Row 6: Red Squirrel face masks from the Environment Fair

Photographs by Paul Wharton (PW), Andrina Laidler (AL), Jim Rae (JR)

4. Planned Activities in March

Thu. 1st **Jim** met with **YPI pupils** at **Lockerbie Academy** between 10 and 11, regarding a possible financial award and funding for the Reserve.












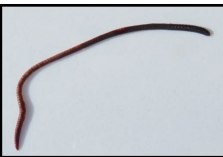

Thu. 8th **Jim** gave members of the **U3A from Castle Douglas** a guided tour of the Reserve.
In the early afternoon, **Jim** met with other **YPI Pupils** at **Lockerbie Academy**.

Fri. 9th **Jim** met with the **Head Boy** at **Lockerbie Academy** to discuss the **S6 Charity Event** at Eskrigg Reserve, planned for the 17th of March.

Sat. 10th **Jim** set up the **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust** and **Annandale Red Squirrel Group** stalls at the Environment Fair in Dumfries. He was joined by Kath Davidson. The children's activity offered by the Trust, between 10.00am and 3.30pm, was the making of Red Squirrel Facemasks.

Wed. 14th **Primary 2 pupils** from **Gretna Primary School** came to the Reserve in the morning to study the **Woodland Mini-beasts**. (See 'March Woodland Mini-beasts' below.)

In the afternoon, **Jim** checked his allocation of squirrel feeder boxes as part of **Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels 2018 Squirrel Survey**.

March Woodland Mini-beasts						
						
Ground Beetle larva	Millipede	Spider	Springtail	Rove Beetle	Larch Ladybird	Midge
						
Round Snail	Woodlouse	Beetle larva	Slug	Earthworm	Fly	

Thu. 15th **Jim** gave a talk about the **Conservation of Red Squirrels** to retired **Unison Members** at the Georgetown Library.

Sat. 17th **The S6 Charity Event**, at Eskrigg Reserve, was cancelled because of the atrocious weather forecast.

Kath Davidson kindly ran a LWT stall at the SOC conference at the Barony College.

Tue. 20th **Johnstonebridge Primary** pupils visited the Reserve to study the **Woodland Mini-beasts**. (See 'March Woodland Mini-beasts' above.)



Several toads were found

The **Rural Skills Class** from **Lockerbie Academy** carried out a **Scavenger Hunt** to become more familiar with the wildlife that was around at this time of the year.

Tue. 27th Due to bad weather the **Rural Skills Class** could not work at the Reserve so **Jim Rae** gave them a talk about the Reserve at the school instead.

Photographs by Jim Rae

5. Volunteer Activities in March

Sun. 4th **Jim** raked some of the woodland paths.

Mon. 5th **Jim** raked more woodland paths and the Reserve path.

Tue. 6th The **Rural Skills Class** from Lockerbie Academy helped **Jim** to clear branches from the roadside along the section that was felled and from the path down the hill beside the Larch.



In the afternoon, **Jim** cleared a path through the snowdrifts on the Eskrigg Farm road to allow pedestrian access to the Reserve.

Tue. 13th The **Rural Skills Class** from **Lockerbie Academy** helped **Jim** to plant a selection of tree saplings on either side of the shelter at the Reserve. The trees were donated by Lockerbie and District Rotary Club. The class also helped to clear debris from the tree felling near the sleeper bridge over the feeder burn.



Sat. 17th **Michael Kerr** and **Patrick Malone** helped **Jim** to clear timber debris from the gravel path and field, left by the forest workers when they trimmed the old beech hedge.

Sat. 24th The **E-team**, **Heather Donaldson**, **Michael Kerr**, **Patrick Malone**, and **Neil Stewart**, together with **Jenny Forsyth** and **Jim Rae**, put 10mm sub-base topping on part of the pipeline path in the morning. **Jenny** and **Jim** continued to lay topping during the afternoon.



Sun. 25th Maintenance Day

David Hughes and **Jim Rae** laid more topping on the pipeline path throughout the day.

Thu. 29th Some members of **Lockerbie and District Rotary Club** came down to plant some tree saplings in the woods below the Reserve (see next page).

Photographs by **Jim Rae**

6. Tree Planting at Eskrigg Reserve thanks to Lockerbie and District Rotary Club

The Rotary Club had taken delivery of 170 tree saplings, in February, from "The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) - I Dig Trees" and donated them to Lockerbie Wildlife Trust. Jim Rae heeled them in at the Reserve until the weather was right for planting.

These trees included 10 Mountain Ash/Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), 10 Aspen (*Populus tremula*), 10 Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), 20 Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), 10 Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), 20 Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*), 10 Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), 20 Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), 20 Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), 10 English Oak (*Quercus robur*), 10 Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), 10 Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), 10 Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and 10 Green Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*).

The first fifty saplings were planted by members of the Rural Skills Class from Lockerbie Academy on the 13th of March. The remaining 120 saplings were planted on the 29th of March by members of the Lockerbie and District Rotary Club themselves.



L & D Rotary (LtoR): Frank Wight, Ian Sloan, Roger Claymore, Ving Thomson, Jenny Lowles and David Rothwell.

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust would like to thank the pupils from the Lockerbie Academy Rural Skills Class and the members of Lockerbie and District Rotary Club for helping to make the area in and around Eskrigg Reserve an even better haven for wildlife.

7. Lockerbie Wildlife Trust would like to record its thanks to Joanne Barnett for the very generous donation of £5000 she made on behalf of her dear friend Nigel Render, who died on the 25th of September 2016 aged 53.

The donation is to be used to pay for a new hide, with disabled access, at the end of the boardwalk. Work to construct the new hide and replace the boardwalk with a hardcore path will begin in 2019.

Photographs by Jim Rae

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