

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

April 2018 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. View of the pond on the 15th of April.



JR

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during March.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Brambling, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Common Gull, Cormorant, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goshawk, Grasshopper Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Reed Bunting, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Swallow, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Tree Pipit, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wood Warbler, Wren, Yellowhammer.

b. Mammals

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



ZM

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR) and Zoe Meadows (ZM)

3. April Photo Gallery



Row 1: Celandines, Early Mining Bee, Marsh Marigold (all JR)

Row 2: Toads in amplexus (AL), Pink Purslane (JR), Fertilised Frog spawn out of water (JR)

Row 3: Mute Swan, Red Squirrels feeding on antlers, Blue Tit (all JR)

Row 4: Robin on Reserve sign (GT), 'stumped' Red Squirrel (JR), Brambling on feeder (JR)

Row 5: Male Lesser Redpoll, Swan's nest with six eggs, Female Lesser Redpoll (all JR)

Row 6: Twin-spotted Quaker, Early Thorn, Queen Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Early Grey, Pine Beauty (all JR)

Photographs by Andrina Laidler (AL), George Trudt (GT), Jim Rae (JR)

4. Planned Activities in April

Fri. 6th Charity Sports Scavenger Hunt

Calum Graham (Annandale and Eskdale Active Schools and Community Sport)

and his team organised the scavenger hunt. Whilst going round the woodland walks beside Eskrigg Reserve, 250 participants had to find 20 items of sports equipment and identify the sports they were associated with. They also had to try and identify the flags of 6 Commonwealth Countries and find 15 wildlife items.



Organisers - Hayley Powell, Andy Mair, Sandra Proudfoot and Calum Graham.



Jim Rae with the total raised at the scavenger hunt.

Two groups - the Dick family from Templand, who were joined by their cousins from London, and the Browns from Annan and Kirtlebridge - scored full marks. The £250 raised was kindly donated to Lockerbie Wildlife Trust to help with the management of the Reserve.

Wed. 11th **Jim Rae** was interviewed by young film-maker, **Scott McKeown**, for a short documentary about Eskrigg Reserve that Scott was filming as part of his college course at Carlisle.

Wed. 11th **Jim Rae** completed the final round of his **Red Squirrel Spring Survey**. He was accompanied by Gill Hatcher from the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the presenter of BBC Radio Scotland's Saturday morning programme, Out of Doors. The short feature on the Annual Spring Survey was broadcast on the 14th April.

Thu. 12th **Jim Rae** attended a **BSAC training course**, on the Forrest Estate near Dalry, in order to be able to assist with the control of Grey Squirrels in the Annandale area.

Fri. 13th **Mid-Annandale Playcare** had planned a visit to the Reserve but had to cancel due to staff illness. The Woodland Mini-beast pitfall traps that had been set out in advance were gathered in and examined. The following types of animal were found:

Earthworm	Flat Snail	Woodlouse	Spiders	Harvestmen
Violet Ground Beetle	Black Ground Beetle	Rove Beetle	Other Beetles	Springtail
Bumble Bee	Millipedes	Centipedes		

Mon. 16th **Jim Rae** helped organise a Hair Sample Training Event at Lochfield Cottage, Lochmaben. Alexa Seagrave (Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels - SSRS) showed 14 members of the South of Scotland Red Squirrel Conservation Groups how to distinguish the hairs of Red Squirrels, Grey Squirrels and Pine Martens. It was hoped that some of those trained would go on to assist with the Annual Squirrel Survey.

Wed. 18th **Jim Rae** gave a talk to members of the **Moffat Probus Club** about Eskrigg Reserve.

Thu. 19th **Jim Rae** gave a talk about Eskrigg Reserve to members of the **Friends and Neighbours** at the Gillbrae Centre, Dumfries.

Fri. 20th Two students doing the **Nat. 4 Rural Skills Course** at Lockerbie Academy, **Nathan McKenzie and Oliver Woodman**, came down to the Reserve to practise putting in fence posts and to familiarise themselves with the various tools involved.



Nathan

Oliver

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR), Calum Graham (CG), Ms Rogerson (MR)

Fri. 20th Moth Trapping

The following moths were caught during the previous night in 3 traps.

Brindled Beauty (<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>)	2	Early Tooth-striped (<i>Trichopteryx carpinata</i>)	36
Chestnut (<i>Conistra vaccinii</i>)	2	Engrailed (<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>)	4
Clouded Drab (<i>Orthosia incerta</i>)	15	Hebrew Character (<i>Orthosia gothica</i>)	45
Common Pug (<i>Eupithecia vulgata vulgata</i>)	1	Pine Beauty (<i>Panolis flammea</i>)	2
Common Quaker (<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>)	48	Small Quaker (<i>Orthosia cruda</i>)	15
Early Thorn (<i>Selenia dentaria</i>)	1	Water Carpet (<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>)	1

Tue. 24th The John Muir Trust Award students from Lockerbie Academy started work on the northern loop of the all-user woodland path. They cut lengths of Terram membrane, cleared turf, laid the membrane and covered it with a layer of gravel (type 1 sub-base).



5. Volunteer Activities in April

Thu. 5th Jim Rae met up with the **Annandale and Eskdale Active Schools and Community Sport** team to set up the Scavenger Hunt for the next day.



Sat. 7th Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers, **Patrick Malone, Michael Kerr, Neil Stewart** and **Heather Donaldson**, helped Jim take down the tent used the day before and then lay gravel on another section of the pipeline path.

Sat. 14th Neil Stewart and **Stuart Black** helped **Jim** complete the surfacing of the pipeline path with 10mm sub-base.



The southern loop of the all-user woodland path is now complete.



Sat. 21st Patrick, Michael, Neil and **Heather** again helped **Jim** apply 10mm sub-base, this time to the area around the Eskrigg Centre and parts of the Reserve path.

Sun. 29th Maintenance Day

David Hughes and **Jim Rae** laid membrane and type 1 sub-base on another 25m of the northern loop of the all-user woodland path.

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR)

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