

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Eskrigg Reserve

January 2020 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

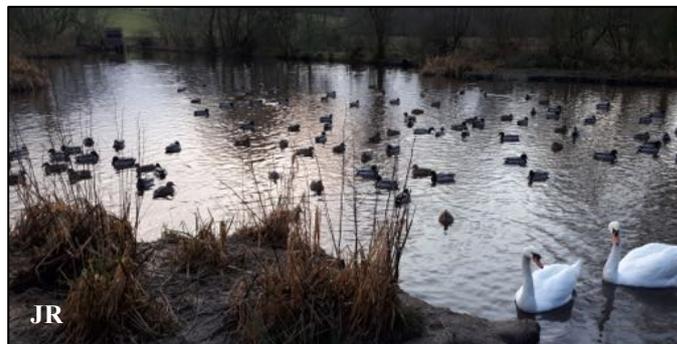
1. 'Broken Rainbow' (26th January)



'Skating Goosander' (21st January)



Breakfast time at Eskrigg Pond



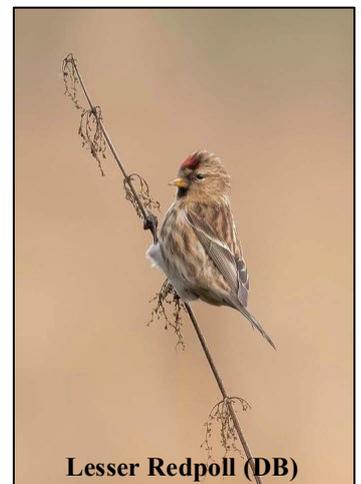
2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during January.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Brambling, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Crossbill, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goosander, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Mandarin, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pink-footed Goose, Raven, Reed Bunting, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

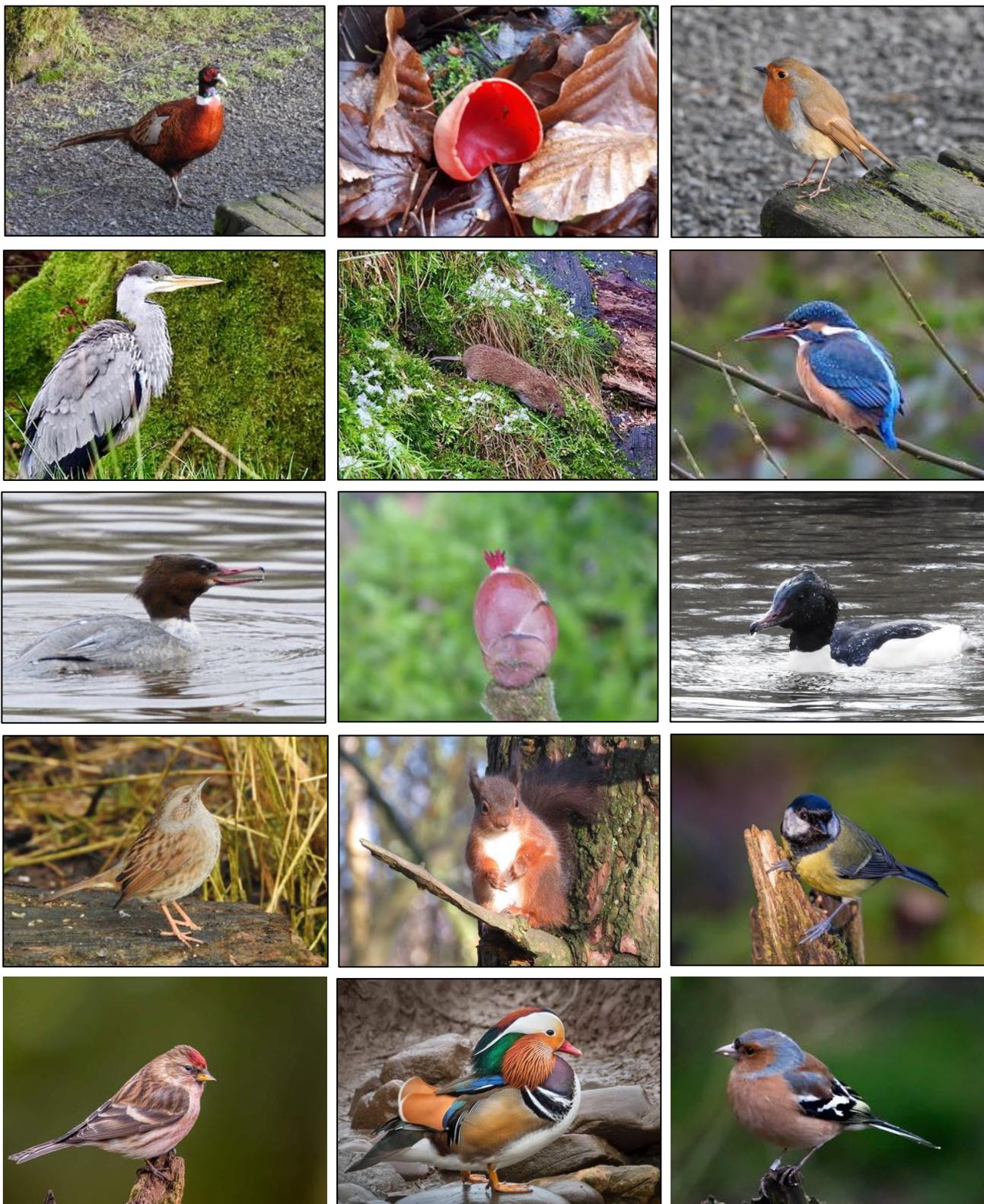
b. Mammals

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



Photographs by Bob Glaister (BG), Alistair Moulstone (AM), Jim Rae (JR) and David Brantom (DB)

3. Eskrigg Reserve January Photo-gallery



1st Row: Cock Pheasant (JR), Scarlet Elfcup (JR), Robin (JR)
2nd Row: Grey Heron (GS), Bank Vole (GS), Kingfisher (GS)
3rd Row: Female Goosander (JR), Female Hazel Flower emerging (JR), Male Goosander (GS)
4th Row: Dunnock (JR), Red Squirrel (GT), Great Tit (NC)
5th Row: Lesser Redpoll (GN), Mandarin (CL), Chaffinch (TS)

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR), Gary Shanks (GS), George Trudt (GT),
Neil Calder (NC), Greg Nicholson (GN), Caroline Legg (CL), Tony Scruton (TS)

4. January Volunteer Activities at Eskrigg Reserve

5th Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers (LtoR: **Finlay Lennox**, **James Cotton** and **Ewan Armstrong**) helped fill in the potholes on the Eskrigg Farm road. They were later joined by **James Vatcher**.



9th & 12th **Jim Rae** raked up the leaves and pine needles in the area beside the equipment store, the direct access car park and several woodland paths.



15th **Steven Dalgliesh** and **Jim Rae** extended the timber wall at the side of the boardwalk replacement path in the morning and Jim later raked some of the woodland walks.

19th The "Duke of Edinburgh Team", **Finlay Lennox**, **Ewan Armstrong**, **James Cotton** and **James Vatcher**, laid Terram membrane along the path and then added a layer of gabion stones.



21st **Steven Dalgliesh** and **Gary Shanks** dug out the soft mud on the next section of the path while **Jamie Davies** and **Jim Rae** collected loads of



40mm clean gravel to form a layer over the gabion stones. (LtoR: Steven Dalgliesh, Gary Shanks and Jamie Davies)

Over the next week **Jim** raked up the leaves and needles from the Reserve path in preparation for laying a new surface layer of 10mm gravel.

5. January Events at Eskrigg Reserve

4th Bryophyte expert, **Liz Kungu**, kindly returned to the Reserve to show **Jim** the uncommon liverwort, *Colura calyptrifolis*, found there in December. Further exploration turned up a second *Colura* specimen and a few other bryophytes that had been missed in December because of the frosty ground conditions.



A full list of the identified bryophytes will be included in a future bulletin.

Above photographs by **Jim Rae**

19th Donation in Memory of Ann McNeill

Jim Rae, met with **Ian McNeill**, his daughter Caitlin, son Duncan and his mother-in-law Rene MacDonald at the Eskrigg Centre.

Ian presented Jim with a cheque for £1,300 by way of a donation to Lockerbie Wildlife Trust for use, as the Trust saw fit, at Eskrigg Reserve. The money was raised from collections taken at Memorial Services for **The Life of Ann McNeill** held at the Saint Andrew's Parish Church of Scotland in Annan.



(Photograph by **Rene MacDonald**)



(Photographs by **Jim Rae** - 28.05.14)

Ann was Head Teacher at Elmvale Primary School in Annan, where she had taught for her whole career. Ann, and her mother Rene, enjoyed visiting the Reserve to watch and photograph the red squirrels and other wildlife. One of their fondest memories was of watching the female Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding its young.

6. Recent Slime Mould sightings by Jean Robson in the Wells Springs Plantation



Cribraria aurantiaca



Cribraria rufa



Cribraria sp.



Trichia botrytis

Photographs by Jean Robson

7. Wetland Visitors - 5. Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

The Kingfisher is the size of a sparrow with a large head and long dagger-like bill. The tail is short and the wings broad and rounded. The male has an all-black bill and the female has a red base to the lower part of the bill.

They fly fast, straight, and often low over water but usually higher when flying across land. They perch motionless when fishing, or sometimes hover, before diving into the water after a fish. Once the prey is caught it is taken to a perch where the kingfisher will hit the fish against the perch to stun it before turning the fish in its bill in order to swallow the fish head first.

Courtship involves high-speed chases. Despite its bright colours, its small size and rapid flight makes it hard to observe. Its distinctive 'chreee' or 'chee-kee' call is usually the best clue to its presence.

Kingfishers usually breed beside slow moving waterways with suitable banks for nesting and shallow edges for fishing. They feed on small fish such as bullhead, loach, minnows, and sticklebacks and some aquatic insects including mayflies, stoneflies, dragonfly nymphs and some water beetles.

Birds pair in February or March. They both dig a tunnel and nest chamber in a vertical bank near a river. First clutches of 5-7 eggs are laid in early April and incubated by both parents for 19-21 days. Both parents also feed the young until they fledge at 23-27 days. The young become independent within a few days. The parents may go on to rear a second or even a third brood. Kingfishers are a protected species.



Photographs by Bob Little (BL) and Jim Rae (JR)

LWT 2020 Wildlife Photograph Competition

Lockerbie Academy pupils in S3-S6 are invited to enter up to three wildlife photographs, that they have taken at Eskrigg Reserve, between now and the end of August 2020.

The photographs must be in landscape format and entered as JPEG images.

The photographs will be printed out on A4 photo-paper and judged by the S3-S6 pupils themselves.

Cash Prizes will be awarded as follows:

1st prize £50, 2nd prize £30 and 3rd prize £20

The winning entry will be displayed on the front cover of Lockerbie Wildlife Trust's 2021 calendar.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)

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