

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Eskrigg Reserve

February 2020 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Aerial shot of the Reserve pond taken by Paul D Cullen on the 12th of February.



The flooded conditions on the 9th of February, by Jim Rae



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during February.

a. Birds

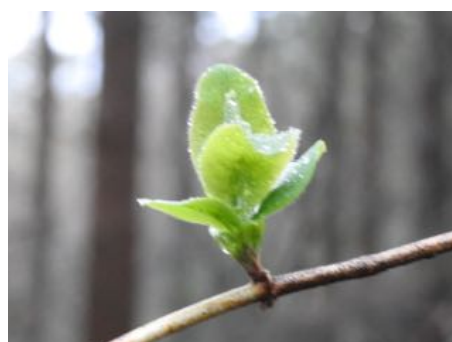
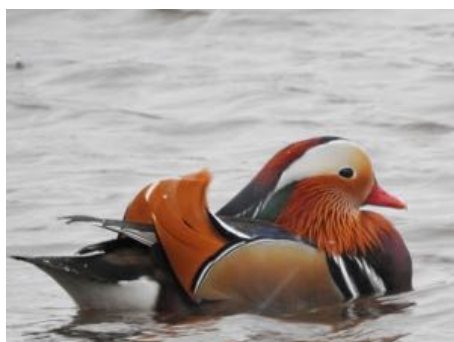
Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Brambling, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Crossbill, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goosander, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Lesser Black-backed Gull, 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.



Sparrowhawk
by Gary Shanks

3. Eskrigg Reserve - February Photo-gallery



1st Row (JR): Grey Heron, Flock of Snipe, Grey Heron
2nd Row (JR): Female Pintail, Smooth Newt, Male Mandarin
3rd Row (JR): Male Mandarin, Honeysuckle Bud, Female Pintail
4th & 5th Rows (GS): Fieldfare, Bank Voles, Wren, Kestrel

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR) and Gary Shanks (GS)

4. February Volunteer Activities at Eskrigg Reserve

Sun. 2nd The DofE Team, (LtoR: Finlay Lennox, Dominic Holden, Alasdair Thomson, Ewan Armstrong, James Vatcher, Anthony Ison and James Cotton) helped transport gravel to the boardwalk replacement path.

Tue. 11th Jim Rae and Steven Dalgliesh started to strim and rake the banks of the feeder burn but had to stop because of the deteriorating weather.

Tue. 18th In the morning, Jim strimmed the top of the burnside bank while Steven worked on the boardwalk replacement path. In the afternoon, Jim worked on the path.

Fri. 21st Throughout the day, Jim strimmed the sides of the banks of the feeder burn and cleared the waterway ready for the Annual Nut Race.



Sat. 22nd In the morning, Jim Rae filled up the pot holes with gravel on the first half of the Eskrigg Farm road. In the afternoon he raked the tops of the banks of the feeder burn and pruned the bushes in the same area.

Sun. 23rd The Dof E Team helped to fill up the pot holes on the second section of the Eskrigg Farm road.

Tue. 25th In the morning, Steven worked to erect timber sides for the new path while Jim collected a load of gabion stones and laid them on a new section of the path.

Wed. 26th In the afternoon, Jim cleared the mud from a section of the path.

Thu. 27th Jim collected and laid a trailer load of Gabion stones on the new path and dug out the mud from the next few metres.



The new path is nearing the bend.

5. February Events at Eskrigg Reserve

Fri. 7th Members of the RY Youth Organisation visited the reserve during the evening between 5.30 and 9.00pm. Chief Executive, James Craig, is to be congratulated because the large group left no evidence of their visit at all.

Sun. 23rd The Annual Nut Race was held at the Reserve.



The attendance was down on previous years. However, those that came along enjoyed a dry, sunny afternoon for a change. With a few generous donations, on top of the nut sponsorship, the total raised was £660. Many thanks to all who contributed to the successful event.

Results: 1st Prize of £25 - Allan Devlin; nut - light blue no. 29.
2nd Prize of £15 - Andrew Kirton; nut - black no. 76.
3rd Prize of £5 - Mr & Mrs Dodd; nut - light blue no. 74.

Photographs by Jim Rae

6. Wetland Visitors - 6. Pintail

The male has a chocolate-brown head with a broad white stripe running down the neck. The body is finely barred grey with a black line along the side. Its tail is black and white, with two elongated black feathers.

The female has a shorter tail. It has a slender grey bill, pale brown head with slender grey bill, neatly scalloped brown and buff flanks.

Pintails moult between July and September. In eclipse, males resemble females, but are greyer and more uniformly marked. Both sexes are flightless for about 4 weeks.

Pintails feed on a variety of plant and animal materials taken from the water - often by up-ending and using its long neck to reach into deeper waters. Plants include pondweeds, docks, sedges and grasses. Animal matter includes water beetles, fly larvae, snails and leeches.

They nest on the ground amongst grasses or other cover within 200m of water. A hollow is lined with leaves and grass and always with down feathers from the female's breast. The female incubates 7-9 eggs for 22-24 days. The male generally leaves the female during incubation. The young can swim and feed themselves soon after hatching and are able to fly after 40 days.

Pintails from Iceland, Scandinavia, the Baltic States and Russia winter in Britain and Ireland. British breeding pintails stay here.

Photographs by Jim Rae



7. Double presentation on Saturday 29th.



Dumfries and Galloway Through the Lens members very generously donated the profits from the sale of their 2020 calendar to Eskrigg Reserve. **Rene MacDonald** presented **David Hughes**, Chairman of Lockerbie Wildlife Trust, with a cheque for £300.

Photograph L to R: **David Hughes, Jade White, Rene MacDonald, David Summers, Bruce Hart, Jan Bell and Kathryn Hughes.**



Dumfries and Galloway Through the Lens members awarded a trophy to the winner of their 2020 photograph competition.

Jim Rae, Eskrigg Reserve Manager, was honoured to be asked to present the trophy to

Rene MacDonald for her beautiful and historically important photograph of 'The Haaf Netters'.



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