

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

([www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk](http://www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk))

## Eskrigg Reserve

### April 2021 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

#### 1. Late afternoon on the 6th April.



#### 2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during April.

##### a. Birds

Blackbird, Blackcap, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Grey Wagtail, Jay, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Mandarin, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Reed Bunting, Red Kite, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren.

##### b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Hare, Mole, Pipistrelle Bat, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer.

##### c. Reptiles and Amphibians

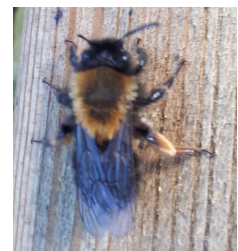
Common Lizard, Frog, Toad.

##### d. Invertebrates

Black Slug, Bumblebees: Buff-tailed, Tree, and White-tailed,  
Butterflies: Green-veined White, Orange-tip, and Peacock.

##### e) Plants in Flower

Bilberry, Bluebell, Celandine, Daffodil, Daisy, Dandelion, Dog Violet, Marsh Marigold, Round-leaved Water Crowfoot, Tormentil, Wood Sorrel.

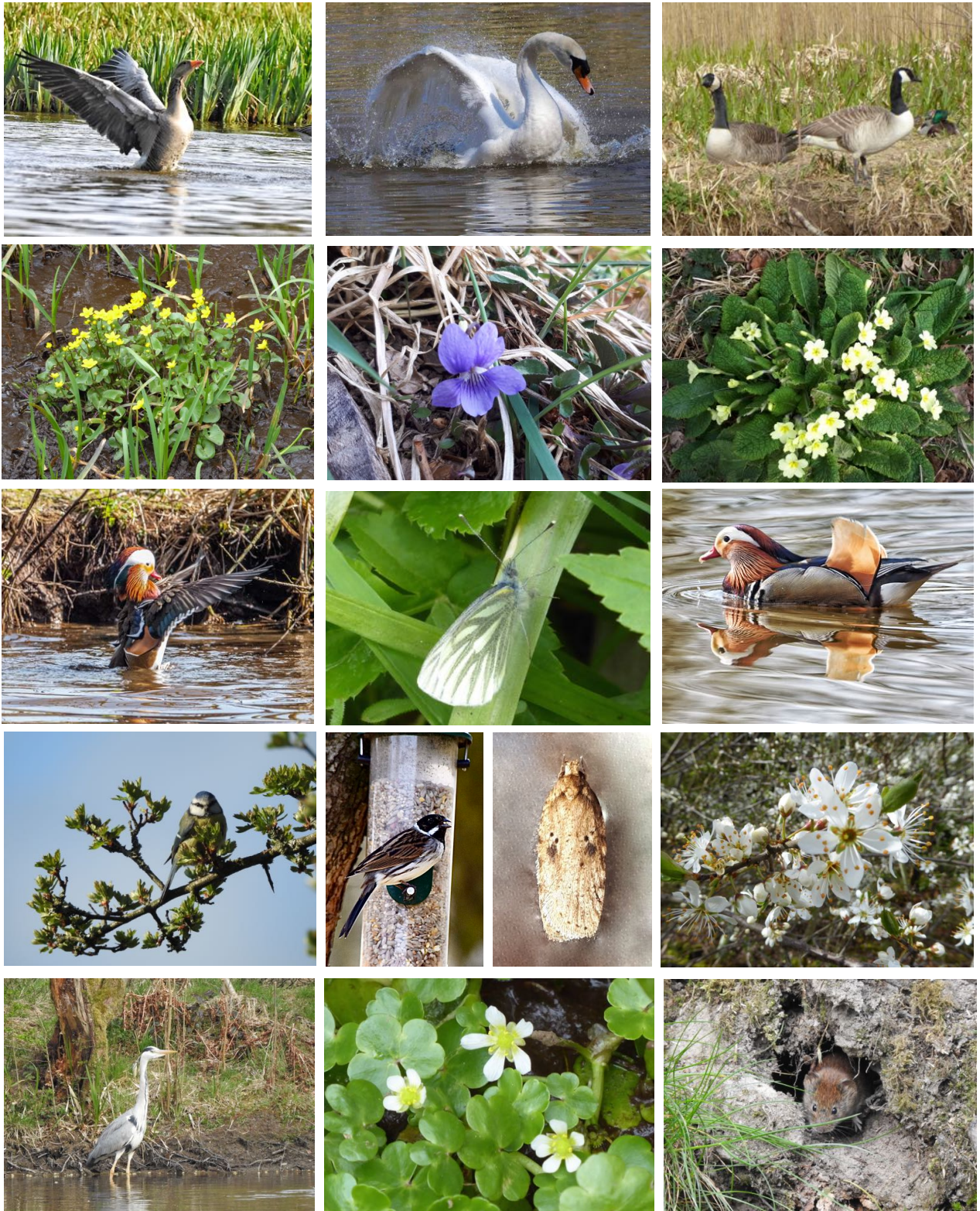


Tree Bumblebee

Photographs by Jim Rae



### 3. Eskrigg Reserve - April 2021 Photo-gallery



**1st Row: Greylag Goose (BB), Mute Swan (CT), Canada Geese (JR),**  
**2nd Row: Marsh Marigold (JR), Dog Violet (JR), Primrose (JR)**  
**3rd Row : Mandarin (IR), Male Green-veined White (JR), Mandarin (BB)**  
**4th Row: Blue Tit (JR), Reed Bunting (DM), *Agonopteryx* sp. (JR), Blackthorn Blossom (JR)**  
**5th Row: Grey Heron (JR), Round-leaved Water Crowfoot (JR), Bank Vole (JR)**

Photographs by Bob Brown (BB), Caroline Thom (CT), Ian Roberts (IR), David Milner (DM), Jim Rae (JR)



#### 4. April Activities at Eskrigg Reserve

**26th** The Scottish Government relaxed the Covid-19 restrictions. Lockerbie Wildlife Trust was able to open the Eskrigg Centre, Red Squirrel Hide and Kingfisher Hide to visitors, albeit with certain safety precautions in place.

##### **27th Pink Supermoon Walk**

Members of the **Lockerbie Craft Group**, led by **Sybil Williamson**, met at the Reserve car park at dusk (9.00pm) for a stroll round Eskrigg Reserve and Woodland Walks to celebrate the Supermoon. On arrival at Eskrigg Centre the group was able to watch the Pipistrelle Bats feeding over the pond.

**Jim Rae** had set out some moth traps but unfortunately the evening turned out to be colder than hoped for and the moths were not flying. Later in the evening, the moon appeared above the horizon and when the clouds dispersed at midnight **Jim** was able to take a photograph of the moon.



**Sybil** had researched the following information:

The term "supermoon" was coined by the astrologer **Richard Nolle** in 1979 and refers to either a new or full Moon that occurs when the Moon is within 90% of perigee, its closest approach to Earth.)

This month's **Pink Supermoon** is named after pink flowers called Wild Ground Phlox, which bloom in early spring throughout the United States and Canada. The moon itself was not pink, but it was its usual 'golden' colour. April's full moon is the first of two Supermoons in 2021, with the next one occurring on 26 May.

**29th** The **RH Youth Organization** organised a Scavenger Hunt for 4-7 year olds between 6.00 and 7.30pm at the Reserve and Woodland Walks. The group had a super 'Scavenger Night' - everyone worked hard, exploring the Reserve, collecting natural materials and having a look at the ducks and swans. They finished off with a picnic and created '100' collages in memory of Sir Captain Tom.



Being a responsible group, they finished off by tidying the site so that they left no evidence of their visit. The group raised £30 from fees and donations and intended to buy flowers for Dryfemount, Trinity House and Westfield. Well done all. (Pictures from the RH Youth Organisation Facebook Page.)

#### 5. Maintenance work at the Reserve and Woodland Walks in April.

**1st** **Jessica** treated two bench seats and the toilet fence with wood preservative, while **Jim** started to spring-clean the Centre.

**2nd** **Jim** continued with the spring-cleaning of the Centre.

**3rd** **Zack** started work to create two ditches in order to drain the water away from the field gate on the Northern Loop of the Red Squirrel Trail.

**5th** **Zack** and **Zander** continued to work on the new ditches.



Photographs by Jim Rae (JR)

**5th Alastair Gordon** had finished repairing Dod's bench seat, so Jim collected the seat, gave it a fresh coat of wood preservative and then put it back at its chosen site along the southern loop of the Red Squirrel Trail. Dod's wife, Karen, was pleased to be able to visit the seat once again.



**9th Zack and Jack** helped **Jim** to fill up the pot holes on the Forest Road and Eskrigg Farm Road. They also helped to remove the mud at the Cemetery entrance and lay Terram membrane and gravel.

**11th Zack and Jack** helped **Jim** to cut down and clear two large branches of a Birch tree that were threatening to fall on to the Red Squirrel Hide.



**14th Jim** cleared the area under the Scots Pines south of the Reserve where four magnification posts were to go.

**16th Jim** concreted a magnification post into position in the heathland area.

**17th Zack and Jim** put in place four magnification posts in the area of Scots Pine south of the Reserve.



**22nd** The previous few days had been quite warm and the timber walls of the Kingfisher Hide had dried out to expose thin lines of untreated wood. **Jessica** treated as much as she could but found some slots between the boards so thin that she could not get a brush into them. A finer brush was needed. Meanwhile, **Jim** concreted in the posts for the rails up the side of the steps to the hide.



**23rd Jim** purchased some fine paint brushes to enable **Jessica** to finish the timber treatment while he attached the rails to the posts and then cut the tops off the posts ready for fitting the hand rail.

**24th Jim** concreted in two more posts and attached the wooden rails round the right side of the platform behind the hide.

**29th Jim** cleared the cut branches away from the area immediately north of the Centre so as to create a less cluttered background for photographers who are trying to capture shots of the birds near the feeders and the bank voles on the stumps.



Photographs by Jim Rae

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