

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

December 2021 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1.

Sunrise on the 30th December (SS).



Moonrise on the 17th December (JR).



Sunset on the 14th December (JR).



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during December.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Jay, Kestrel, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Woodpigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Hare, Mole, Pipistrelle Bat, Red Squirrel, Woodmouse.



Photographs by Gary Shanks (GS), Sybille Spägle (SS), Jim Rae (JR).

3. December 2021 Photo-gallery



Row 1: Goldcrest (AM), Red Squirrel (AM), Long-tailed Tit (BT)

Row 2: Jay (AM), Red Squirrel (AM), Robin (DJH)

Row 3: Blue Tit (DJH), Bank Vole (AM), Great Spotted Woodpecker (BT)

Row 4: Nuthatch (BT), Red Squirrel (BT), Great Tit (DJH)

Row 5: Coal Tit (KCN), Red Squirrel (DJH), Dunnock (DJH)

Photographs by David J. Holt (DJH), Keith Chippy Nicoll (KCN), Alistair Moulstone (AM), Brian Taylor (BT),

4. Maintenance and construction work at the Reserve and Woodland Walks in December.

During the first week of December **Jim** spent most of the time clearing up after **Storm Arwen**.

5th Part of the clear-up:

Removing fallen willows and stripping branches from Scots Pine.



7th **Storm Barra** struck the UK and the gales brought down many more trees, both in the Reserve and around the Woodland Walks.

Same section of Reserve path as above.



9th **Jim** raked up the storm debris between the toilet and the store. Meanwhile the forestry workers for Castle Milk and Corrie Estate made safe, and cleared, any trees that impacted on the Reserve. They had to take a tractor along the Reserve path to the north-west corner, where the most serious damage had occurred. In doing so, they kept the resulting damage to the path itself to the absolute minimum.

10th After shots, showing where Castle Milk forestry staff had been at work.



Same area as the above photos, but looking north instead of south.



Middle section of Reserve path.



North-west corner of path.

11th **Jim** reinstated the Reserve path as best he could.



13th **Tom Hargreaves** and **Graeme Urquhart** helped **Jim Rae** remove the smaller branches from some of the fallen trees in the area of the Red Squirrel Hide and stack them up near by. The bigger branches were cut into approximately six-foot lengths and taken out to the forest road using the quad bike and trailer.



14th **Jim** re-opened the Reserve Car Park and the Reserve itself.

Photographs by Jim Rae

20th **Tom** and **Graeme** helped **Jim** rake up and blow aside storm debris from the Honeysuckle Walk. However, all areas west of the forest road are out of bound for walkers, and could be for some time until Castle Milk forestry staff get a chance to clear the many trees brought down along and across the Woodland Walks.

23rd **Ross Gemmell** cut up the large Scots Pine tree, which had been blown over in the heathland area at the north end of the Reserve, into log-length pieces. **Jim** loaded these onto the quad bike trailer and took them out to the forest road where they were stacked. **Ross** also cut up some logs and tidied up the tree stumps at the centre of the feeding area outside the Red Squirrel Hide.



31st In the morning: **Sybille Spägelle** and **Jim Rae** removed the side branches from the fallen trees in the area of the **Red Squirrel Hide**. **Ross Gemmell** cut up the remaining tree trunks into log lengths and these were loaded onto the quad bike trailer, to be taken out to the forest road where they were stacked beside previously extracted timbers. **Ross** also cut these other lengths of timber into log lengths. **Scott** and **Zack Nicholson** chopped some of the log lengths into actual logs for **Sybille** and **Jim** to put into bags. **Ross** also used his chain saw to tidy up some tree stumps near the Red Squirrel Hide.

In the afternoon: **Jim** used the leaf blower to clear the sawdust away from the area of the tree stumps.

5. Interesting Fungi

a) Veiled Oyster (*Pleurotus dryinus*)

This fungus has thick flesh and remnants of a veil on the margin and stem. It differs from other oysters by its grey, felty, sometimes scaly cap. The gills are decurrent, developing into grooves or ridges running down the stipe. It usually grows on deciduous trees, rarely conifer wood. The fungus is widespread but generally uncommon, mostly fruiting between August and November. This specimen was, and still is, growing on an inner wall of the Red Squirrel Hide. The fungus spores must have been in the timber used to construct the hide.



b) Capitite Truffleclub (*Tolypocladium capitatum*)

This truffleclub, like many fungi, has had a name change as more has been learned about its genetic makeup. In old books it either had no English name (Latin name - *Cordyceps longisegmentis*) or was referred to as the Drumstick Truffleclub (Latin name - *Cordyceps capitata*)



Photographs by Jim Rae

Happy New Year Everyone

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