

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve

January 2022 News Bulletin

1. 27th January: Some of the 125 mallard on the pond this month.



JR



JR

Pre-dawn on the 16th.

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during January.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Crossbill, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Reed Bunting, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Woodcock, Woodpigeon, Wren.



Reed Bunting (SF)



Mute Swan (SF)



2 squirrels, 1 tree,
5 minutes apart.
(KCN)

b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Mole, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer.

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR), Shona Finlayson (SF), Keith Chippy Nicholl (KCN)

3. January 2022 Photo-gallery.



Row 1: Jay (SR), Red Squirrel (CL), Jay (DB)
Row 2: Long-tailed Tit (DB), Red Squirrel (AKM), Treecreeper (DB)
Row 3: Blackbird (SP), Red Squirrel (BT), Nuthatch (CL)
Row 4: Pheasant (BT) Red Squirrel (SR), Mute Swans (BG)

**Photographs by Sandy Robertson (SR), David Brantom (DB), Caroline Legg (CL), Andrew K. Murray (AKM),
Brian Taylor (BT), Steve Parkins (SP), Bob Glaister (BG)**

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

Work carried out this month included:

- 7th **Graeme Urquhart** and **Jim Rae** put in posts for the people counter then constructed a gravel ramp to the duck feeder.
- 10th **Graeme** and **Jim** filled in the potholes on the Eskrigg Farm road.
- 11th **Jim** filled in the potholes on the forest road.



- 14th **Graeme** and **Jim** cut back the branches and pruned the trees at the sluice gate and outfall pipe. They also raked the path to the Kingfisher Hide and along the Bilberry Walk.
- 17th **Graeme, Tom Hargreaves** and **Jim** cut back some of the trees on the forest road then tidied the area next to the storage shed.

- 21st **Graeme** and **Jim** cut back the willows that were encroaching on the heathland.

- 24th **Tom** and **Jim** continued to clear back the willows at the edge of the heathland area.



- 28th **Graeme** and **Jim** cut up and cleared some wind-blown tree debris opposite the silt trap then removed a tree stump and tidied up the area around the apple trees.

5. Filming at Eskrigg Reserve.

- 18th **Jim** met up with **Sandy McCracken** (TV presenter) to organise a film recording session on the 19th for an **ITV Border Life** programme about **The Annandale Way**.
- 19th Once **Sandy** had interviewed **Jim**, **Paul Robinson** recorded some footage around the Reserve including shots of the Red Squirrels, with **Sandy** in the background.



6. RSPB Big Bird Watch – Sunday 30th January.

The following birds were spotted from the Eskrigg Centre between 10.00am and 11.00am.

Chaffinch	19	Great Tit	3	Coal Tit	2	Blue Tit	2
Blackbird	7	Dunnock	1	Nuthatch	1	Woodpigeon	2
G.S. Woodpecker	1	Jay	1	Mallard	65	Mute Swan	2
Long-tailed Tit	5	Carrion Crow	2	Stock Dove	1	Robin	1
Pheasant	11						

Photographs by Jim Rae

7. January Wildlife.

Scarlet Elfcup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*)

This colourful fungus started fruiting at the end of January and will continue throughout February. It feeds on rotting wood, in this case on a moss-covered, decaying, birch twig. Others are growing on decaying willow twigs amongst the leaf litter in the damp soil nearby. The irregularly shaped cups that have a smooth, bright red inner surface and a paler, downy outer surface. The cups are up to 4cm across.



Cockchafer (*Melolontha melolontha*) larva dug up while levelling the ground around the apple trees.



The larvae are sometimes called **rookworms**, because rooks are said to be particularly fond of them. They are fat, creamy-white grubs with brown heads. They live in the soil for three to five years eating plant roots. They especially like cereal crops and grasses and can do a great deal of damage.

The common Cockchafer is also known as the May bug as they often emerge as adults during the month

of May. Adult cockchafers only live for six weeks, using this time to search for a mate. Females lay their eggs in the soil.



Common Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) flowers

Hazel is monoecious, meaning that both male and female flowers are found on the same tree, although hazel flowers must be pollinated by pollen from other hazel trees. The male catkins started growing in the autumn but only start opening up and releasing pollen at the end of January when the female flowers appear. Female flowers are tiny and bud-like with red styles.



Bracket Fungi are visible all year round but more easily seen in the winter.



Hairy Bracket
(*Trametes hirsuta*)



Willow Bracket
(*Phellinus igniarius*)



Blushing Bracket
(*Daedaleopsis confragosa*)

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