

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve February 2025 News Bulletin

1. Sunrise on the 1st of February



2. Reported wildlife sightings at the Reserve during February

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Common Gull, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great White Egret, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Greylag Goose, Heron, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kingfisher, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Redwing, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Tree Sparrow, Woodpigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals:

Grey Squirrel, Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Woodmouse.



Song Thrush

Photographs by Jim Rae

3. February 2025 Photo-gallery



Row 1: Moss (*Polytrichum commune*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) - Male catkins, Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) - Female flower, Moss (*Hylocomium splendens*)

Row 2: Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*), Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*)

Row 3: Foam on Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*), Round-leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus omiophyllus*), Honeysuckle shoots (*Lonicera periclymenum*)

Row 4: Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), Common Water-starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*), Lesser Pondweed (*Potamogeton pusillus*), **Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) new species.**

Photographs by Jim Rae

4. Maintenance Work



Sat. 01 Felicity Jackson helped **Jim Rae** concrete in a remembrance post at a Gean (Wild Cherry) Tree. She also helped cut back and clear branches from some of the fallen trees along the Forest Road.



Wed. 05 Ross Gemmell cut down the Scots Pine tree that had fallen on the container and then worked with **Stuart Black** to cut up and clear the trees that had come down in the area in front of the containers and along part of the Forest Road. Meanwhile, **Jim Rae** cleared away the debris and tidied the site.



Fri. 07 Gordon Reid and Jim Rae cut back some more of the trees and cleared away the branches along another section of the Forest Road.

Sat. 08 Felicity Jackson and Jim Rae continued the work to clear the Forest Road.



Mon. 10 Jim raked up more of the storm debris from part of the Southern Loop and cleared the ditch.

Sun. 16 Volunteer Maintenance Sunday

Four volunteers joined the Reserve Manager on the day.

In the morning, **Jilly Polson, Gordon Reid, Karen Miller and Derek Campbell** all helped to clear the stream north of the Reserve of plants ready for the Annual Nut Race. They then replaced the base for the duck feeder with fresh Terram Membrane and Type 1 Sub-base. In the afternoon, **Karen and Derek** helped **Jim** to clear some more parts of fallen trees from the Forest Road.



Sat. 22 During the morning, **Jim Rae** filled in the potholes on the Eskrigg Farm Road.



Thu. 27 Zack Nicholson and Jim Rae started work to remove the sleeper bridge over an old ditch on the Northern Loop. Four of the six sleepers were lifted and the ditch filled with stones and gravel.

Fri. 28 Gordon Reid and Jim Rae removed the last two sleepers and completed the new section of gravel path.



Photographs by Jim Rae

5. February Events

Wed. 12 Visit by Mount Cameron Primary (East Kilbride)

Twenty-three P7 pupils and three staff were divided into three groups and they then rotated round three activities:

- Guided Tour around the Reserve with David Hughes
- Woodland Minibeasts with Karen Miller
- Pond Dipping with Jim Rae



Woodland Minibeasts



Slug



Ground Beetle



Ground Beetle larva



Spider



Harvestman

Pond Organisms



leech



pond snail



whirlygig beetle



great diving beetle



lesser water boatman



midge larva



alderfly larva



mayfly nymph



stonefly nymph



damselfly nymph



stickleback

Sun. 23 Annual Nut Race

Unfortunately, the weather was very wet and windy and there were no spectators for the event and no youngsters to help the nuts along. So, the event was cut short. Three nuts were drawn at random from each of the twelve bags containing 50 nuts. These 36 nuts were then released into the burn and the first three nuts that crossed the 100-metre finishing line were deemed the winners.

1st prize - £25 - Pale Blue no. 9 - Borthwick Family

2nd prize - £15 - Red no. 52 - Arran Johnstone

3rd prize - £5 - Green no. 60 - Black Family

The Lockerbie Wildlife Trust committee would like to thank all who sponsored a nut or made a donation and helped to raise the sum of £611 in support of Eskrigg Reserve.



6. Castle Milk Forest Operations

Fri. 21 The 'digger' started mounding the area north of the Northern Loop.

Fri. 28 New trees were planted in the area that had been mounded.



Total people count for February = 1077, Average number per day = 38.

Photographs by Jim Rae

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)

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