

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve April 2025 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Eskrigg Pond on 24th April



2. Reported wildlife sightings at the Reserve during April

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Garden Warbler, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goshawk, Great Egret, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Greylag Goose, Grey Heron*, House Sparrow, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Robin, Sedge Warbler, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals:

Grey Squirrel, Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Roe Deer.

c. Amphibians & Reptiles:

Frog, Lizard, Toad.

d. Insects:

Butterflies: Large White, Orange-tip*, Peacock, Small White.



Grey Heron*



Orange-tip*

Photographs by Jim Rae

3. April 2025 Photo-gallery - April Flowers



Row 1: Lesser Celandine, Primrose, Wild Daffodil, Yellow Archangel
Row 2: Wild Cherry, Wood Anemone, Wild Garlic, Blackthorn
Row 3: Dog Violet, Bitter Vetch, Bush Vetch, Marsh Violet
Row 4: Broom, Marsh Marigold, Welsh Poppy, Whin
Row 5: Wood Sorrel, Pink Purslane, Wild Hyacinth, Daisy
Row 6: Barren Strawberry, Pignut, Lily of the Valley, Bird Cherry
Row 7: Cuckoo Flower, Bilberry, Water Avens, Germander Speedwell

Photographs by Jim Rae

4. Maintenance Work



Mon. 07 Castlemilk's forestry workers had felled the conifers near Pearl's Place but had not dealt with the ones near the seats in case the seats were damaged. **Jim** therefore dismantled the seats and moved them clear of the site so that the forestry work could be completed.

Thu. 10 **Jim** started clearing the path from the forest road to Pearl's Place and got as far as the second bridge.



Fri. 11. **Gordon Reid** and **Derek Campbell** helped **Jim** clear more of the path and nearly reached Pearl's Place. The harvester was there to clear more trees. However, he could not extract some without damaging the fence round the field. **Jim** therefore cut the ends off the fallen trees to allow them to be cleared.

There was still a hanging tree which the harvester managed to cut down. But, once again, he could not extract the tree without damaging the fence.



before



after



after



before



after

Sat. 12 In the morning, **Felicity Jackson** worked with **Jim** to cut the tops off the trees that had come down over the fence into the Roberthill field so that the harvester would be able to extract the trees next time he was working in the area. In the afternoon, **Jim** raked up the tree debris and tidied up Pearl's Place ready for the seats to be replaced.



Thu. 17 In the morning, **Alistair Gordon** and **Jim** re-fitted the seats at **Pearl's Place**. In the afternoon **Jim** raked up the tree debris in the area behind Pearl's Place.



Fri. 18 **Jim** cleared the sides of the path on the final approach to **Pearl's Place** during the morning and, during the afternoon, cleared some of the tree debris from along the fence beside the Roberthill field.



Sun. 20 Volunteer Maintenance Day



Jim started work on the "Red Squirrel Fence". During the morning he was helped by **Gordon Reid** and in the afternoon by **Terry Fellows**. The picture on the right shows the view through the window in the fence. People can now watch the wildlife at the feeders without disturbing anyone in the Red Squirrel Hide.



The timber was supplied by **James Jones & Sons Ltd.** and the screws were supplied by **McDermid Supply Co. Ltd.**, both obtained courtesy of the **Lockerbie and District Rotary Club**.

Wed. 23 Jim gave the Red Squirrel Fence a coat of wood preservative and cleaned the skylight of the compost toilet.

Fri. 25 Following the clearing of the windblown conifers next to Pearl's Place, there were branches left stacked beside the fence alongside the Roberthill field and a timber section of fence had got broken. **Jim** cleared the branches and repaired the timber section of the fence.



Sat. 26 Felicity Jackson helped **Jim** to treat the timber fence beside the ramp into the Eskrigg Centre with Algon.



Tue. 29 Jim took delivery of two whisky-barrel seats, kindly donated by **Lockerbie and District Rotary Club**, and positioned them next to the bench seats at the entrance from the forest road.



He also spread clean gravel in front of the recently erected Red Squirrel Fence.

5. The Little Grebe Nest Building



6. April Events

Tue. 29 Ali Wyllie from 'Early Years Scotland' ran a **Book Bug Travels - Story and Rhyme Session** for 0-5 year old children in the forest classroom at Eskrigg Reserve.



Meet 'Bookbug'
Mascot of
The Scottish Book Trust

Tue. 29 - Wed. 30 Moth Trapping/Identification

Common Name	Scientific Name	Pond Margin	Scots Pine Wood
Clay Triple-lines	<i>Cyclophora linearia</i>	-	1
Clouded Drab	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	5	-
Common Pug	<i>Eupitrhecia vulgata</i>	-	2
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	1	-
Early Tooth-striped	<i>Trichopteryx carpinata</i>	1	-
Engrailed	<i>Ectropis crepuscularia</i>	-	6
Grey Birch	<i>Aethalura punctulata</i>	1	2
Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	11	2
Herald	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	-	1
Least Black Arches	<i>Nola confusalis</i>	1	1
Lesser Swallow Prominent	<i>Pheosia gnoma</i>	1	-
Lunar Marbled Brown	<i>Drymonia ruficornis</i>	-	2
Mottled Grey	<i>Colostygia multistrigaria</i>	1	-
Nut-tree Tussock	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	1	3
Pebble Hook-tip	<i>Drepana falcataria scotica</i>	1	-
Pebble Prominent	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	2	1
Pine Beauty	<i>Panolis flammea</i>	1	-
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	3	1
Sallow Kitten	<i>Furcula furcula</i>	1	-
Scalloped Hazel	<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	1	-
Scorched Wing	<i>Plagodis dolabraria</i>	1	-
Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	1	-
Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera britannica</i>	-	1
Water Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	-	4

Wed. 30 Moth Trapping/Identification



New species for Eskrigg Reserve

Total people count for April = 871, Average number per day = 29.

Photographs by Jim Rae

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)

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