

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

## Eskrigg Reserve May 2025 News Bulletin

### 1. The Swans at Sunrise - 11.05.25



Eskrigg Pond at 5.15pm - 31.05.25



### 2. Reported wildlife sightings at the Reserve during May

#### a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Cuckoo, Curlew, Dunnock, Garden Warbler, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goshawk, Grasshopper Warbler, Great Egret, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Greylag Goose, Grey Heron, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Mandarin, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Red Kite, Reed Bunting, Robin, Rook, Sedge Warbler, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Spotted Flycatcher, Starling, Stock Dove, Swallow, Treecreeper, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer.

#### b. Mammals:

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

#### c. Amphibians & Reptiles:

Frog, Lizard, Toad.

#### d. Insects:

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

Moths: Chimney Sweeper.

Dragonflies: Common Hawker.

Damselflies: Common Blue, Large Red.



Greylag Mum and her  
3 goslings - 4th May

Photographs by Jim Rae



### 3. May 2025 Photo-gallery



**Row 1:** Grey Heron eating an Eel (AF), Yellow Flag Iris, Little Grebe with young on its back

**Row 2 (JR):** Common Osier, Mandarin Duck, young Horse Chestnut

**Row 3:** Grey Heron, Marsh Marigold, Mute Swan

**Row 4:** Bush Vetch, Carrion Crow, Apple blossom

**Row 5:** Greylag Family, Silverweed, Ducklings

**Row 6:** Honeysuckle, young Moorhen, Hawthorn blossom

**Photographs by Anthony Fox (AF) & Jim Rae**



#### 4. Maintenance Work

**Fri. 02** **Gordon Reid** and **Sam Pattinson** treated the fence at the Cemetery Entrance with Algon and the Centre hand rails with preservative. Meanwhile, **Terry Fallows** and **Jim Rae** treated two of the bench seats, the base of the Red Squirrel Hide, the trellis and other structures with wood preservative.



**Sat. 03** In the morning, **Felicity Jackson** treated the ramp of the Red Squirrel Hide with wood preservative while **Jim Rae** started treating the ramp of the Eskrigg Centre, also with wood preservative. In the afternoon, **Jim** completed the Centre ramp then delivered a bench seat to **Alistair Gordon** for repair and picked up a donated barrel for use as a table.

**Sun. 04** **Jim** treated the Kingfisher Hide, both inside and outside, with wood preservative.

**Tue. 06** The bench seat, that had been repaired by **Alistair Gordon** a few days ago, was found vandalized once again, and had to be taken to **Alistair** for yet another repair.



Lockerbie Academy teacher, **Mr. Williamson**, brought a group of 7 pupils down in the afternoon to assist with the clearing of some self-seeded trees from part of the Northern Loop. Mr. Williamson and two of the students preferred not to be photographed.



**Wed. 07** **Jim** strimmed the grass in the seating area near the Centre, and spent the rest of the day clearing up areas of fallen trees, broken branches and stacking any logs that had still to be sold.



**Thu. 08** **Jim** gave the door of the Compost Toilet a coat of varnish and the gate at the Cemetery Entrance a coat of wood preservative.



**Fri. 09** **Gordon Reid** and **Jim Rae** strimmed and raked the paths at the north end of the Reserve.



**Sat. 10** **Felicity Jackson** helped **Jim** to remove the self-seeded trees from the sides of the path along a section of the Northern Loop. In the evening, **Jim** set out the moth traps for the for the Moth ID event on the Sunday.

**Wed. 14** **Jim** strimmed the sides of the path through the Reserve and removed the self-seeded trees along the western side of the path.



Photographs by Jim Rae



**Thu. 15 Jim** cleared the reed-grass from the front of the jetty so that visitors could see the hundreds of tadpoles that were growing up in the pond.



**Fri. 16 Megan Ansdell** cut the self-seeded birches along the banks of the feeder burn while **Sam Pattinson, Derek Campbell, Gordon Reid** and **Jim Rae** removed the accumulated mud from the bottom of the dried up burn itself.



**Sat. 17 Jim** spent the day clearing a 20m stretch of reed-grass from the area where the feeder burn enters the pond.



**Sun. 18 Maintenance Sunday**



During the previous week, Castlemilk Estate had completed the clearance of timber from the areas either side of the Pipeline Walk. So, on the Sunday morning, **Sam Pattinson** and **Gordon Reid** helped **Jim** tidy the northern end of the Pipeline Walk. In the afternoon he was helped by **Anthony Fox** and **Joanne McInnes**.

**Mon. 19 to Thu. 22** With it being a long, dry spell of weather, **Jim** started clearing the mud from the dried-up feeder burn, between the silt trap and the pond. He worked all day Monday 19, Tuesday afternoon, all day Wednesday and by lunchtime on Thursday he had dug out a 50m stretch.



At lunchtime on Thursday **Tommy (Tucker) McGuinness** arrived with his mini-digger, to help clear the remaining 50m stretch of burn during the afternoon. Many thanks to Tucker.

**Fri. 23** During the morning, **Gordon Reid** and **Jim** tidied another stretch of the Pipeline Walk.

In the afternoon, **Jim** strimmed and raked the area in front of the Red Squirrel Hide.



**Mon. 26 Joe Borthwick** and **Jim** cleared a wind-blown tree and pruned some broken branches at Pearl's Place and then tidied another section of the Pipeline Walk before being rained off in the late afternoon.

**Fri. 30** In the morning, **Gordon Reid, Derek Campbell, Joe Borthwick** and **Jim** cleared a further length of the Pipeline Walk. In the afternoon, **Joe** and **Jim** strimmed and raked the Cemetery Entrance and roadside path.



Photographs by Jim Rae



## 5. May Events

**Mon. 05 The Cinnamon Trust** had organized a **Group Dog Walk** round the Eskrigg Reserve and Woodland Walks, starting at the Reserve Car Park at 2.00pm. For some reason, several of the people who had booked to attend, pulled out at the last minute and **Jim** led only two local dog walkers round a 4.5km route.

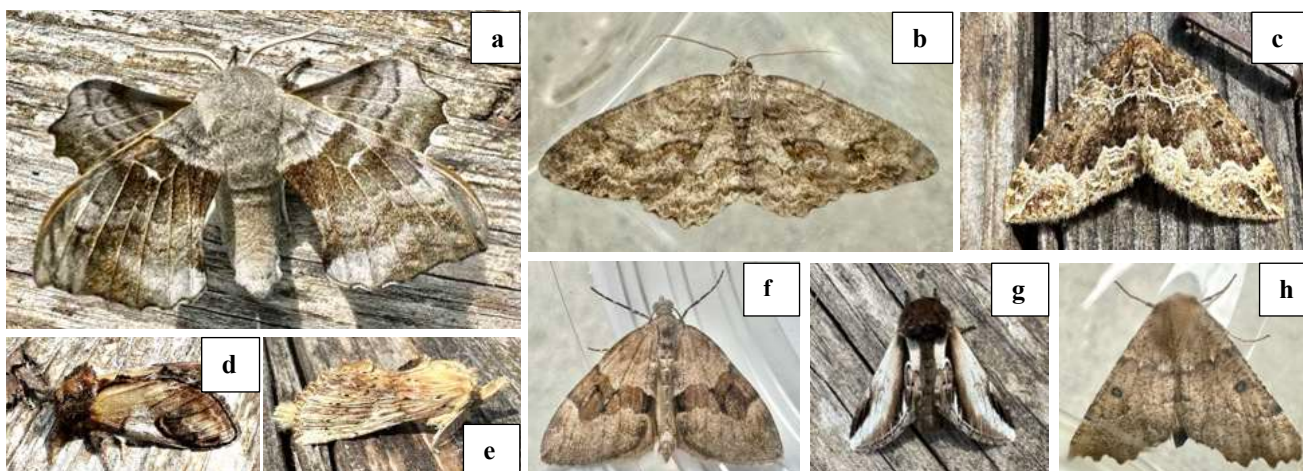
## Thu. 08 VE Day

The **Poppy Cascade**, created by members and friends of the **Lockerbie Craft Group** for the Eskrigg Reserve, was fittingly used to help 'decorate' Lockerbie Town Hall for this remembrance occasion.



## Sat. 10 / Sun. 11 Moth Trapping/Identification

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Pond Fringe	Scots Pine	Willow Car
	Brown Silver-line	<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>	1	-	-
	Engrailed	<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>	-	1	-
	Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	1	-	-
c	Galium Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>	1	-	-
g	Lesser Swallow Prominent	<i>Pheosia gnoma</i>	1	-	-
	Mottled Grey	<i>Colostygia multistrigaria</i>	-	1	-
	Nut-tree Tussock	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	3	5	1
e	Pale Prominent	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>	-	1	1
d	Pebble Prominent	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	5	-	-
	Pine Beauty	<i>Panolis flammea</i>	1	-	-
a	Poplar Hawkmoth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	1	-	-
	Scalloped Hazel	<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	3	-	1
b	Small Engrailed	<i>Ectropis crepuscularia</i>	-	1	-
f	Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera Britannica</i>	-	1	-
	Square-spot Rustic	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	1	-	-
	Water Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	-	1	1



**Mon. 12 Jim** had a meeting with **Wendy Downes** and **Shirley Dugan (Parents Inclusion Network)** at the Reserve, to discuss some possible activities for their group to carry out during their visits in August - these could include Pond Dipping, Woodland Minibeasts, Stream Sampling, Scavenger Hunt and Clock Orienteering.

**Thu. 15 Alison Wyllie** had the forest classroom set up for her "Early Years Scotland Activity session.



**Sun. 25** Over the last month there had been over fifty Greylag Geese on the pond at Eskrigg Nature Reserve and they were consuming a whole bag of wheat (costing £10) per day. **Jim** took part in the "Walk the Walk" organized by the **Lockerbie and District Rotary Club** to raise funds to pay for the extra bird food. Thirty-nine people kindly sponsored **Jim** to complete three laps of the Castle Loch at Lochmaben, a distance of 9 miles. He completed the walk in approximately three and a half hours, including stops at Lochfield Cottage for refreshments.

**Many thanks to all who sponsored Jim and helped him to raise £710.**

**Sat. 31** **Jim Rae** played host to ladies from local branches of the **Scottish Rural Institute** at Eskrigg Nature Reserve. He gave the ladies a guided tour of the Reserve and outlined the history of the site. The ladies kindly invited **Jim** for Soup and a Roll at the Girl Guide hut afterwards.



## 6. The Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

The Little Grebe, or Dabchick, is a small, compact waterbird, about half the size of a Moorhen and is found on canals, ponds, lakes and rivers throughout the country.

It has a very distinctive shape. It has a white, fluffy, rounded bottom with no tail. It has a thin neck, small head and a short, pointed bill. It can be a noisy bird, making a distinctive whinnying trill.

The Little Grebe is adapted for swimming underwater, propelled by its lobed feet, which are placed towards the back of its body, making it rather clumsy on land. It feeds on

small fish and aquatic invertebrates such as insects and their larvae, and also snails. Such food is easy to find in richly vegetated water with masses of plants. It only really comes ashore to breed. The sexes are alike in appearance, although females are usually slightly smaller than males.

In the breeding season, its throat and cheeks are a rich chestnut-brown and there is a pale greenish yellow patch at the base of the bill. The crown and upper body parts are darker in colour and the sides of the body are a mixture of brown and buff.

Non-breeding adults have a paler plumage, with greyish-brown upper parts and whitish underparts. Juveniles resemble non-breeding adults but often show striped facial patterns. The eyes are bright yellow in all plumages.

Grebes nest on floating platforms made up of waterweed. When the chicks are young, their parents will sometimes carry them on their backs.



Here the eldest chick is swimming behind the male parent on the left, while the female is carrying the three younger chicks on her back between her wings.



Here the three eldest chicks are swimming beside the male parent on the left, while the youngest chick is swimming beside the female parent on the right.

Photographs by Jim Rae (JR) and Anthony Fox (AF)

**Total people count for April = 1051, Average number per day = 34.**

**Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)**

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