

Reporting on volunteer activities and events with East Ayrshire Coalfield Environment Initiative

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

March - May 2016

Over the last 3 months **24 volunteers** have given a total of **151 hours** to monitoring **4 peatland sites** in East Ayrshire. RSPB Airds Moss, SWT Dalmellington Moss, Sheil Farm Special Area of Conservation, and Cairn Table, part of the Muirkirk and North Lowther Special Protection Area. **THANK YOU!**

Monitoring and Survey results

• Water Level Monitoring— SWT Dalmellington Moss

2 Volunteers helped to record the water level of the bog at 26 dipwells on SWT Dalmellington Moss. This is part of the monthly monitoring programme created after completing re-wetting works at the start of 2015.

• Black Grouse Lek Survey— Muirkirk

7 volunteers surveyed 4 line transects and 2 vantage point for Black Grouse in Muirkirk. **Volunteers recorded 5 'leks' among many other bird records for the area!** This was followed by another visit in May where two of the previously recorded leks were monitored and confirmed present for a second time! A great result for the 4th year of the Co-ordinated Black Grouse Survey!

• Moorland Bird ID survey— Cairn Table, Muirkirk

15 volunteers attended this workshop by Alan Dorman from Starling Learning. Alan not only showed us how to identify birds by sight and sound but explained in detail the ecology of each species. **35 bird species** were recorded for the area!

• Moth Morning and Spider Hunt— Sheil Farm, Airds Moss

5 volunteers helped to survey for moths and spiders on Sheil Farm SAC. Tom Vorsterman set up his 4 home made moth traps around the site and volunteers helped to pot as many invertebrates as possible to be identified by our experts. **8 species of moth** were caught including Red Chesnut and Fox Moth! **Green Hairstreak Butterfly** was also spotted for the first time on the site!

YOUR WILDLIFE SNAPS!



Green Hairstreak Butterfly
Sheil Farm SAC, Finlay Dowell



Cotton Grass Fanner
Sheil Farm SAC
Tom Vorsterman



Canada Goose
RSPB Airds Moss
Robert Carey

STAR species recorded by volunteers:

- GREEN HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLY
- FOX MOTH
- TWO BANDED LONG HORN BEETLE
- BLACK GROUSE
- FOUR SPOTTED CHASER DRAGONFLY
- FURROW ORB WEAVER SPIDER
- COTTON GRASS FANNER MOTH

EVENTS COMING UP!

24th June—Using Your Ears
Bat Identification Workshop, Craigengillan Estate

8th July—Peatland Plant Survey
Dalmellington Moss

12th July—Butterfly Timed Count, Sheil Farm

26th July—Bogblitz, Sheil Farm

3rd August—River Shingle Survey, Airds Moss

10th August - Peatland Plant Survey, Airds Moss

23rd August—Water level monitoring, Airds Moss



Wildlife Records:-

BIRDS	136
SPIDERS	1
MOTHS	50
BUTTERFLIES	9
AMPHIBIANS	2
DRAGONFLIES	2
FLIES	1
BEEES	2
MAMMALS	3
PLANTS	1
BETLES	1