

Lyvennet Red Squirrels

March / April 2021



Ewe Close Wood, Maulds Meaburn – Photo: Darren Rogers

General

No Greys Dispatched

- No reports of S/Pox cases.

Road Deaths – none

Year Total = 1

Other Deaths – one*

Year Total = 1

* 16th April - young, apparently healthy red found in wooded area to left of Footpath at rear/side of Flass – no obvious cause.

Cat Attacks - none reported

Greys dispatched this year in parish = 0

Reds with S/pox dispatched this year in parish = 0

Report

At present everything remains positive.

Gary has one troublesome grey up at Chitty Hill (at the Kings Meaburn end/turn-off), but otherwise there are no known issues with greys.

Our reds are appearing in good numbers and in good health and a number of last seasons' young are also been sighted.

The only wood at present that does not appear to have any reds is Brackenslack.

From about the second full week of April I noticed that the amount of feed being taken was reducing, although still with regular visits to the feeders and this remains the case into early May.

During the last two months I have replaced the following feeders:

Flass – (near the tunnel) with a brand spanking new one

Lyvennet Bank (looking out over the green) – the somewhat decrepit old wooden one in which the mice were starting to cause an issue (!) with a fairly decent wooden one, but which has at least stopped the mice!

I've also put one new feeder up just beyond Morland Bank in the '*wood with the caravan*' and after nothing and then a few visits to take a look, food starting going on the 11th May.

I still find it curious that whilst in some woods I see several reds at a time, but in others (Three Cornered Wood and Orchard Wood),

I've only ever seen one at a time, be that in person or on the camera - I look forward to the day when I get to see two (or more) at a time in these woods.

Finally, I have had a good number of photographs sent through this time and thank you to all for that – but the normal request:



Do keep sending in any photos and reports of sightings



Photo: Andrew Wallis

The photo above was actually taken in May, but is so good I will have to use it twice (at least) – I would possibly venture that it is the best yet.

I asked Andrew what the photo was taken with, the details being:

Camera: Canon EOS 7D

Using a Canon Zoom Lens EF 75-200mm F4 IS and 1.4x extender.

At ISO 1250, aperture F6.3 and 1/160sec

Below is a chronology of sightings of greys over these last two months:

Just that troublesome one up at Chitty Hill

Maulds Meaburn



Thwaites Cottages, Maulds Meaburn Photo: Pete Button

Still a good number of reds in all directions around the village, all apart from Brackenslack.

Occasionally, such as at The Rowans, they disappear for a while but then do return a while later.

Feeding as slowed down, especially in the second half of April



Lyvennet Bank

Feed goes constantly from both of the feeders - cast iron cert' to spot a red feeding.

22nd March – topped up the feeders this morn' and went off on the rounds, then when I walked by 45mins later, all the feed had gone from **F1**!

Mice were becoming a problem at **F2** and the very old and slightly rotten feeder was replaced

Flass

Feed goes constantly from the three feeders, not always from **F1**, but **F2** and **F3** are constant.

May have to move **F1** as a nearby tree has been cut down leaving the tree on which it is sited somewhat out on its own.

F1 – on a tree near river in the garden – hard to view from the footpath.

F2 – on a tree, on the right hand side approx 30yards before the tunnel

F3 – up at the folly and not viewable to the public

9th April - F3



Always warming to see more than one red at the same time
The amount of feed taken over the last few days has actually decreased.

ROWANS

17th March - Spotted a red in our garden this morning on the feeder.
First one for 2-3 weeks.

29th March - a visit today - eating from our feeder.

19th April – x1 red visited a.m.

23rd April - We seem to have had an explosion of reds.

Seen single reds over the last few days and this morning we have two young ones at the same time. Bob

26th April - Observing a red on our feeder box at the moment.
Not sure which direction it came from.

GREEN ENDS + THWAITES COTTAGES

March

6th - Hi Darren, thanks for the squirrel report...very interesting and encouraging. We've had several visits over the last month but they're running across the lawn and along the wall, so too quick for me to get my camera out! I'll keep trying to capture one...a photo that is!
Thanks again - Gill



24th – Hi Darren, this little one ran out of my yard onto the green this morning as I returned from dog walking. Pretty sure he's eating a hazelnut. He was happy for me to take pictures!
Lovely morning Gill



April

13th I forgot to let you know a red was seen by our gate a few weeks ago and this one, caught quickly on camera by Robert, was in next door's garden to the front of us. It was very small -- Pennie





21st - Just briefly, we saw this little red dancing around our garden and trees and digging for nuts - He/she looks very healthy - Pennie

26th – 1800 Hrs - Just spotted this little fellow in the garden Darren.



Orchard Wood

20th March - Red(s) all the way and constant visitors to the feeder.

Not yet seen two together, but think that it could be two separate reds that are visiting.

Put the camera here on the 18th and I quite like this photo



Three Cornered Wood

Regular visits, feed always gone.

20th March – placed camera back here

21st March – they are arriving earlier and earlier!



22nd March – had a lie in the morning, arriving at 0652 Hrs

As Orchard Wood – just the one red ever seen at a time – but feeds constantly

Longhill Wood



RedSquirrel3.mp4

March

6th – visiting from 0647 hrs and staying for virtually all the morning.

Often x2 at a time.

7th – visits lasted all day.

And so it continued throughout March with the visits gradually getting earlier and earlier – it really was difficult for me to keep them fully supplied with feed.

I would literally fill the feeder and the next day it would all be gone.

Who got there first?



April

Continues as in March.

X2 reds visit regularly and on occasions they will be joined by a third





No room for two

In many ways this wood remains a success, greys driven out last year and only reds being seen.

Will be interesting to see how many kittens pop up.

Edge Close - Wood above Flass Pasture NY 632 146

This became a small crusade – to try and get a really good photograph.

Some of the efforts can be seen at the end of the report in the '*And Finally*' section.

But now on the 11th March – still reds visiting regularly and the feed is going.

At the end of the period – still daily visits with the feed always taken.

What about the photos?

The camera was left on top of the wall that is adjacent to the tree on which the feeder is sited.

After a few days I moved it further back along the wall and this seemed to get better results.



I'm fairly happy with this one!



Still not quite what I'm after

By the 11th the visits were now quite early, just before 0700 hrs and whilst not as prolific as down at Longhill Wood, were still for a hour or so at a time.



I gave it till the 18th when I moved the camera

Other sightings from the village:

April –

NO REPORTS

May -

NO REPORTS

Holesfoot

NO REPORTS REC'D

Trainlands Wood

I still top up every 2nd/3rd day and the food is always gone

Brackenslack Wood

March

7th – still no food has been taken
Camera located here

12th – still no visits at all – camera moved

24th – still no visits.

April

2nd – still no feed taken.

25th – still no feed taken and Steven at the farm tells me that he has not seen any running the hedge line up towards the wood near Holesfoot.

Brackenslack Lane

March

7th – the food is still been taken, just not sure by what!

Red was seen on the feeder mid month

31st – camera sited here

Come the end of April no red had been seen for a while

Morland Bank Wood

I get the occasional report of sightings of reds at various spots within the wood, usually on the first set of bends as you exit the main part of the wood.

But as you will recall, last year and in spite of numerous sightings roadside, the x2 feeders that I put up just never got visited!

Sunday 25th April – mounted a feeder in the wood past the bends after the left turn to Reagill, the wood with the caravan in it.
Stood at the gate, straight ahead 60 yards and 10 yards to the left - see what happens (see very top of report in the introduction)

Crosby Ravensworth

Dale Foot

Still visiting on a daily basis

18th April - We had the tiniest squirrel at the bird table today it was here ages, no adult in sight. The small squirrel ate and ate and ate.

It has huge ear tufts for a baby squirrel but we think it must be this year's, what is your opinion? Best wishes Joan



Gary's opinion is that it is a juvenile from the back end (August) of 2020

The Bank Coppice (by River)

Having spoken with Shirley, reds are still visiting regularly.

Summer House

No reports and unsure if any food is being put out in the feeder.

I did top it up during the last week of April and it was taken.

Crosby Ravensworth South – Gilts

Visited in the last week of April and re-stocked.

Checked again in May and someone had very kindly re-stocked the feeder

Low Dalebanks

17th March - Lots of activity up here over the last few weeks.

Only seen two together so far though.

Other Sightings:-

March

6th – Weston House - Saw a Red in the garden this morning.

Per your last report, this one appeared to have a grey tinge to its back. Mark

Mark tells me that come the start of May he has several reds visiting his garden

April

5th - Spotted in last field opposite school this Easter Monday - Vanda

26th - I had a sighting of a red squirrel feeding at Well Head this morning - Andrew.

Oddendale Plantation

6th March – Managed to get there early this morning and was rewarded by six visiting at once! As there were only 4 feeders there was a fair bit of squabbling so only managed this pic! Liz



5th April - The reds up at Oddendale continue to look well.

I've replaced 3 of the feeders which were on their very last legs.

Had 5 on the feeders at once last time I was up, all 'adults', tried to get some photos but they were either too far away or moving too fast!

Liz

Hopper Hill / Wood

13th March - I just spotted a Red on my morning run 10.15 am crossing the CR road at the junction of Craketrees -- Mike Lippert

Harberwain

No reports – however, two reds were seen on separate days at the start of May.

Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck

NO REPORTS

Sleagill

NO REPORTS

Newby

NO REPORTS

Reagill



Dunkirk – an entry to the ‘red with food in its mouth other than a monkey nut’ Competition.

Walnuts were proving quite agreeable



<https://birds Bistro.co.uk/>

Morland

March

1st - a very little one, seen on the road late this morning between the Great Strickland crossroads and Syke Farm.

It was pottering about on the road doing nothing in particular - we couldn't get past, so we just stopped and waited, probably a full minute, until it decided to toddle off into the grass verge.

In retrospect, we should have taken a photograph, but we were just mesmerised, watching this little creature showing no fear and just being itself. David

And Finally

A little selection of some ad-hoc photos that I have captured

As mentioned above in '*Flass Pasture*' I tried the camera on the wall to try and get that perfect photo – these were the ones that failed:



Nice tail, but a long way off perfect



Hello Mr. Fox



Plenty of photos of birds and especially the nuisance Jays



It's not too bad a photo – let's hope for better

But the after I moved the camera further back along the wall I seemed to get better results as seen in the section above.



One that avoided the pot



This next one could have been perfect ... but wasn't



Again ... almost, but not quite



Just a little blurry



Longhill Wood



Orchard Wood



Jay in flight