## Lyvennet Red Squirrels

## July / August 2021



Well Head, Crosby Ravensworth – Photo: Andrew Wallis

The main news being:

- Greys are present in the woodsbetween Maulds Meaburn and Crosby Ravensworth.
- Reds are still there though
- Sightings in peoples gardens appear to have reduced in places
- The pheasant season has begun and hence there is now no access to some of the woods, some of which have the greys in
- Some of the reds are displaying fantastic pale tails
- A fantastic sighting of x5 reds in Crosby Ravensworth
- A 'potted' history of the feeders up at Oddendale Plantation

#### **General**

X6 Greys Dispatched and x1 ran over

No reports of S/Pox cases.

Road Deaths– noneYear Total = 1Other Deaths– noneYear Total = 2

Cat Attacks - none reported

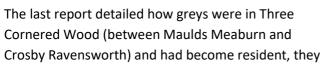
Greys dispatched this year in locality = 31

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

#### **Report**

How quickly the situation can change!

Whilst two months ago all was generally positive, the same no longer applies – greys are here and extending their range.









are still there and it would now appear that at least two are also in Longhill Wood.

They then started to visit the feeder in Orchard Wood (next to Flass) and then at the time of completing this report (4<sup>th</sup> Sept') they had ventured further out and were seen on the feeder aside Flass tunnel.

Gary has made several trips to locate and deal, but they have proved elusive.

And of course the timing could not have been any worse ... the pheasant season is now upon us and we no longer have access to these woods.

What the position will be come the 1<sup>st</sup> February once that season has finished is obviously a significant concern.

Last year we got away with it, ie: greys staying away, this year ...? It is imperative on us all to report any sightings of greys immediately.

Otherwise, the main subject that I have been hearing is the reduction of visits by reds to people's gardens – at this time of year it isn't of great concern as they can obviously find the food that they need closer to home without having to incur unnecessary air-miles to go and find food.

Sourcing of monkey nuts as also been challenging!

Whilst there are negatives there are still plenty of reds about and even though I have been away at times over the summer, upon my return and the feeders topped up, it soon goes.

Closer to Morland Jerry has had some success with clearing greys from 'Caravan Wood' and from the woods around Morland Hall – but the odd grey still pops up in and around the village.

Finally, **Oddendale Plantation** – thanks to Liz Kerry who is the *'custodian'* of the feeders that are up there and who makes regular trips to go and check that all is well and to top up the feeders has provided me with a potted history of the feeders up there and it is well worth a read.

Finally, I have had a good number of photographs sent through this time and thank you to all for that – do keep sending in any photos and reports of sightings.





Well Head, Crosby Ravensworth - Photo: Andrew Wallis

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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> July on the Crosby Ravensworth to Shap road, early morning crossing the road on the corner of the Oddendale Plantation. Not reported until the 13<sup>th</sup>
- **3<sup>rd</sup> July** x2 greys dispatched by Jerry in Hagg Wood (next to Morland Hall)
- 5<sup>th</sup> July x1 grey on camera in 'Caravan Wood' (discovered when viewing camera on 7<sup>th</sup> and had still been there on the 6<sup>th</sup>) Jerry informed

#### 8<sup>th</sup> July – <u>UPDATE</u> Caravan Wood

#### From Jerry

I popped over late morning and scattered some fed about at caravan wood on the right side as seen from the gate.

Went back over about <u>1.30pm</u> and watched two blonde tail reds for a while, then about 5 minutes ago(14.50hrs) a grey turned up which I have dispatched - adult female that has been suckled.

Have scattered a bit more feed about.

I see you have called in and put a camera up. Let me know if anymore images of greys. If I can I will pop back tomorrow some time.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> July – <u>UPDATE</u> Caravan Wood

SD card retrieved from camera at 1310 hrs – one photo of a small grey on the ground near to feeder at 1615 hrs on the 8<sup>th</sup> Jerry aware that there are more and will keep popping back.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> July – <u>UPDATE</u> Caravan Wood

Camera shows x1 large adult grey visiting the feeder

#### 13<sup>th</sup> July – <u>UPDATE</u> Caravan Wood

Jerry dispatched x1 large adult male grey and x1 grey kit – morning

#### 13<sup>th</sup> July – <u>UPDATE</u> Three Cornered Wood

X2 greys still present

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug - UPDATE Caravan Wood

Jerry dispatched x1 grey

- **9-11<sup>th</sup> Aug** greys now going into Orchard Wood presumably the ones from Three Cornered Wood
- 14<sup>th</sup> Aug the grey up at Chitty Hill (Colby Road) has finally had its day run over
- 16<sup>th</sup> Aug rec'd call from resident on Jackson Croft stating have had a grey in their back garden.
  Jerry informed and he will make contact with the lady.

#### Maulds Meaburn



Longhill Wood, Maulds Meaburn Photo: Darren Rogers

## Lyvennet Bank

X1 feeder looking out over the green

X1 feeder on a tree in the main garden next to the river.

Feed goes constantly from both of the feeders – fairly good chance of spotting a red feeding.

12<sup>th</sup> July – having just topped up the feeder overlooking the green and walking towards the second feeder, a red was scampering along towards me.
I stopped before it did, but it kept coming – it then stopped, sat up, looked at me and then exited stage right.

13<sup>th</sup> July – red in tree going to the feeder this afternoon and both feeders empty

5-7<sup>th</sup> Aug – after a two week period of not getting to the feeders they were all empty – but come the 7<sup>th</sup> they were empty again.

Come the end of the month the position remains the same

## <u>Flass</u>

Feed goes constantly from the three feeders, the one by the tunnel is very popular.

Now fairly certainly that the reds are based in the nearby farm buildings

**F1** – on a yew tree to the left of the swimming pool – not viewable to public.

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

**13**<sup>th</sup> **July** – all the feeders are now empty on a regular basis.

I've still to see a red on F1, but they are visiting it.

- 5-7<sup>th</sup> Aug after a two week period of not getting to the feeders they were all empty but come the 7<sup>th</sup> they were empty again
- 8<sup>th</sup> Aug all the feeders empty

Come the end of the month the position remains the same.

However, after coming back from holiday, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September I put a camera on F2 and straight away it had a red on it and the next morning two at the same time – and then a grey appeared!

Also put a camera on F1 on the 4<sup>th</sup>

## **GREEN ENDS + THWAITES COTTAGES**

21<sup>st</sup> August – What's happened to the red squirrels this Summer?

Other than a few sightings in the spring there's been no sign of the little fellas rushing along the river's edge, scooting across our garden and making a dash up our fir tree.

No two have been spied chasing each other playfully through our fruit trees as per usual and none seen burying or digging up nuts in our soil, leaving behind the telltale holes.

What has been seen is a large rat climbing up to the feeder in next door's front garden . . . enough to put any squirrel off his nuts!

ED: fairly typical of numerous locations, but they are there.However, with feeders now out in the woods nearby they can get what they Need/want 'locally', with no air-miles involved

## **Orchard Wood**

This is one of the woods where the feed does go constantly, but as per the intro', Greys have been visiting the feeder.

I suspect that they are not resident in the wood, but are those from nearby woods out on their travels.

I would love to know how many reds are in this wood as it is still the only wood where I have never seen together at the same time.

13<sup>th</sup> July – feed going constantly – camera positioned here today

- 7<sup>th</sup> Aug after a fortnight of being away, filled the feeder up
- 8<sup>th</sup> Aug feeder empty and a camera positioned here
- 9<sup>th</sup> Aug whilst feeders in nearby woods have gone quiet these last few days, this feeder is getting hammered

Oh Dear! Greys now visiting the feeder

Because it's not the best camera and I don't have a spare SD card for it, I did not pull the camera out until the 13<sup>th</sup>.

It shows one very active red (still never had x2 reds seen at the same time in this wood) who visits for prolonged periods of time.

However, on each of the 9-11<sup>th</sup> a grey visited – presumably one of the two from Three Cornered Wood, but hopefully not new arrivals.

However, the greys did not visit the feeder on the 12-13<sup>th</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> Aug – but it's back!

Spent time last two mornings on the feeder, early doors

At the month's end the position remains the same

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> September - due to the start of the pheasant season

attended to remove the camera and clean out the feeder.

## **Three Cornered Wood**

This has become a little bit of a frustration and bad news story – greys have become resident and established themselves.

There are now x2 reds and 2 greys resident and established and making regular visits to the feeder – come the end of the period the greys are more prevalent than the reds.

1<sup>st</sup> July – the month opened with a grey squirrel having made itself resident.
 Visits by both the grey and a red were prolific

4<sup>th</sup> July – we now have x2 greys – Gary updated



Whereas before the grey was just trying to get at the corn via the bottom of the Perspex screen, it has now discovered that it can get via the lid! The red is hanging on in there at present.

I have moved the camera as where it was on the tree was a bit close for comfort should any grey be on there when Gary dispatches it! The downside is that at this time of year the light isn't very good looking back the other way

# 8<sup>th</sup> July – SD card retrieved and greys still very much in-situ The images are a little dark from this side, but believe may have captured x2 reds, which would be the first time that have two have been seen together/at the same time

#### **13<sup>th</sup> July** – a mixed bag.

X2 greys still present and prolific on the feeder. However, now I know – there are two reds in the wood. I had a recent dodgy photo which suggested two reds (or was it a grey and a red), but now I have a photo



**16<sup>th</sup> July** – still the same.

X2 reds and x2 greys making very frequent visits to the feeder. Gary is away at present and aims to visit when back on the  $22^{nd}$ 

And at present the reds are arriving at 0450 hrs in the morning – now that is an early alarm call!

21<sup>st</sup> – situation remains the same with both reds and the two greys Curiously no greys on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but they have been prolific since.

I was away for a week from the 24<sup>th</sup>, and Gary tells me that: *'spent 4 hours in Three Cornered Wood - just reds'*  In fact it took me another week before I could visit and the feeder was obviously empty, but no squirrel of any colour had visited the feeder since the 30<sup>th</sup>; obviously fed up of just seeing an empty feeder.

In the photo below - who wins?



**8**<sup>th</sup> **Aug** – having filled the feeder up yesterday in the 24hrs following, just ... Greys.

They spent a few hours there last night and from 0930-1330 hrs today after which the feeder was empty -- Gary advised of the position.

9<sup>th</sup> Aug – feeder empty again, but whilst the grey was there a long time last night and for a while this morning, a red spent a lot of time there today.

Gary tells me that he will be there Wednesday (11<sup>th</sup>)

Gary spent time here on both the 11-12<sup>th</sup>, but didn't see a squirrel, red or grey. However, reds and greys do remain constant visitors.

The greys are tending to be at both ends of the day now, but still with some visits late a.m.

Gary appraised and updated re the greys now visiting Orchard Wood.

13<sup>th</sup> – heard today that the pheasants might be arriving soon ...! Not good news with greys still at large!

The red(s) are still visiting frequently though and one was on the feeder at tea-time when I arrived.

- 14<sup>th</sup> grey there 1139-1203 hrs and disappeared as I arrived at 1204 hrs
- 15<sup>th</sup> from the camera x2 greys there for prolonged visits morning, afternoon and Evening.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Gary attended this morning and no grey had been to the feeder before him and none had been by the time I arrived this afternoon!
- **18**<sup>th</sup> again Gary attended and did not see any greys.

I was then on holiday and from viewing the camera upon my return, it shows multiple visits by both reds and greys, but those by the grey, of which there are two, have become the most frequent.

Last visit by a red was  $2^{nd}$  September at 0753 hrs and that by a grey was also the  $2^{nd}$  at 0824 hrs.

As my comments in the introduction – I worry what the position will be come the  $1^{st}$  February when we will again be able to access the woods.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> September - due to the start of the pheasant season

attended to remove the camera and clean out the feeder.

## Longhill Wood

At the start of the period I had only been seeing x1 red which was a little concern, therefore I erected a temporary feeder to try and ascertain if there are more than two reds in the wood.

Regular visits from reds – this is one wood where the food is always taken ... and quickly

However, come late August



greys have arrived and appear to established themselves in the wood and due to the start of the pheasant season will have five months to get really settled in.

#### July

- 3<sup>rd</sup> erected a temporary feeder towards the opposite end of the wood so as to try and gauge how many reds there are in the wood.
- 4<sup>th</sup> no visits to the new feeder yet (apart from Jays) and only the one red on the main feeder both last night and today.
- 8<sup>th</sup> still no visit to the temporary feeder if still the case when I next attend I will re-locate.

Still only x1 red going to the main feeder.

- \*because of greys elsewhere I have removed both cameras from this wood, I now truly feel naked!
- 13<sup>th</sup> the temporary feeder remains untouched re-located.
   It is now where we originally had the feeder last year camera back here.
   The main feeder still had corn in the bottom, so seems good.

16<sup>th</sup> – both feeders empty, including the re-positioned temporary one.
I put the temporary one up on the 13<sup>th</sup>, there was a red on it by 1858 Hrs.
Regular visits on each day since – but only one red seen.
I now have another camera back on the main feeder and thus both feeders are covered – just need to see a few on each feeder at the same time!!!

21<sup>st</sup> – camera recovered from the temporary feeder and on the 17<sup>th</sup> it was hammered with visits from 0700 hrs through to 2041 hrs.
Visits principally from a red that is very dark in colour and including its tail. Have had the odd photo of two reds.

Also think that there is a another dark red but with a pale tail visiting. Or could it be the dark tailed squirrel but with a pale underneath to his tail?

I was then away for a while, longer than I would like ... not being until the 7<sup>th</sup> August when I would get back

In that time the cameras on the two feeders showed constant visits, obviously slowing significantly once the feed had gone ... but still with the odd visit just to check if I had been to top up.

What the camera did show me though is that there will be at least x3 reds in the wood.

On two occasions there are simultaneously two reds on one of the feeders with one red on the other feeder.

### August

- 8<sup>th</sup> after filling the x2 feeders up yesterday afternoon absolutely nothing at all has visited either feeder -- let's hope it's just because of the bad weather.
- 9<sup>th</sup> the temporary feeder was well visited this morning, but still a little feed left, whilst the main feeder had one brief visit at 0702 hrs and that was it.
- 14<sup>th</sup> visited, topped up and pulled the SD cards out.
   The temporary feeder has been well visited and also by a grey on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
   There for two spells, 1140hrs for a hour and again at 1626 hrs
   However, it did not visit the main feeder and to date has not been back.
   Main feeder empty, but only visited by one and the same red
- 16<sup>th</sup> no more greys on the temporary feeder, but a blond tailed red is visiting very regularly with some visits by a dark tailed red

   I think that this red's blonde tail is getting blonder by the day!
   The main feeder is mainly visited by a dark tailed red and I think that there's also a third red, this one having a dark tail that is just starting to go blonde





The grey(s?) were very regular visitors during 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August with its last visit on the 22<sup>nd</sup> by which time there was just a little corn left.

The last visit by a red was on the 24<sup>th</sup> and no visits at all after this point.

When I attended on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September I cleaned the feeder out and left just a few monkey nuts.

But then it all went downhill – greys have become regular visitors and then x2 were seen together.

Initially when it was just one grey I thought that it could be one of Three Cornered Wood greys exploring, but with two greys I think that it is more likely that we now have two separate greys in this wood



The temporary feeder appears to be the most frequented, even after all the food had gone.

The last visit by a grey was 1122 hrs on  $1^{st}$  September and the last visit by a red at 1205 hrs on  $3^{rd}$  September



#### 3<sup>rd</sup> September - due to the start of the pheasant season

attended to remove the camera, clean out the main feeder and remove the temporary one.

#### Edge Close - Wood above Flass Pasture NY 632 146



The really good thing about this wood is that I can try different camera angles and the results have so far turned out well.

Seems to be a cheeky little pair of reds who make regular visits to the feeder and what food I put out for them is always taken.

- 13<sup>th</sup> July feeder is always empty (apart from the corn)
- 21<sup>st</sup> July feeder empty
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Aug after a fortnight away topped up the feeder
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Aug possibly a little feed has gone
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Aug some feed gone, but something (a Jay?) has managed to partially lift the Perspex screen up – now double pinned!)

**end of the month** – the feeder was empty, but because I've not had a camera in this wood for a while I cannot say with any certainty whether any greys have turned up or not.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> September - due to the start of the pheasant season

attended to remove the camera and clean out the feeder.

## Other sightings from the village:

## July

**30**<sup>th</sup> – Rowans - Just seen a Red in our garden for the first time in quite awhile.
 We're not around as much as we used to be so it could be visiting us more than we think.

## August

3<sup>rd</sup> – Rowans - Just seen a young red in the garden.

Came across the garden and drank from our pond and then went on to find one of our feeder boxes.

Hopefully it will return now it knows what's on offer.

 $\mathbf{4^{th}}-\mathbf{Rowans}$  - And it's there again this morning

**21<sup>st</sup> - Far Lankaber** – somewhere that doesn't tend to get visits from squirrels (of any colour), but this one was seen by both Hilary and Vicky.

Hilary - Had a visit from a Red this morning (9.15am), briefly and then it appeared again on the wall 10 minutes later.

The only other time I have had a visit was about 4 years ago, so not quite sure why it is this far away from its general habitat.

Vicky - I thought you might like to hear of a red squirrel visiting us this morning; it hopped along the wall adjacent to Far Lankaber (Hilary's) and had a good look around then disappeared from whence it came!

There are a few trees up here but not much in the way of other cover so we don't get a visit very often.

## **Brackenslack Wood**

July

3<sup>rd</sup> – at the start of the month there have been no visits to the feeder since we returned at the beginning of February

 $21^{st}$  – as above

#### August

 ${\boldsymbol 8}^{{\rm th}}-{\rm still}$  the same – the feed has not been touched

End of month - still the same

## **Brackenslack Lane**

July

 $\mathbf{3}^{rd}$  – still food in the feeder – visits from a red have stopped.

August – nothing further, feed hasn't been taken.

## Trainlands Wood

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

8<sup>th</sup> July – camera located here at 2345 Hrs

**9**<sup>th</sup> July – 0930 hrs – young healthy red on feeder when attended and feed gone. Having checked the camera ... two reds together.

13<sup>th</sup> July – as before

8<sup>th</sup> Aug – for a third time I find that the Perspex screen has been removed and is now some distance from the tree!
 This is in spite of having been pinned down – I'll try again!

End of month and the position remains the same

### 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.

However, I have occasionally seen a red just up from the bends at the Maulds Meaburn end

## **Caravan Wood**

- **3<sup>rd</sup> July** back to the wood following my Covid isolation and still regular visits by a red ... and then one poor quality photo's showing ... two reds
- 5<sup>th</sup> July grey captured on camera Jerry informed
   Pulled the camera out at 2350 hrs on the 6<sup>th</sup> and viewed it a.m. 7<sup>th</sup>.
   Regular visits by a red, then the grey turned up still there on the 6<sup>th</sup>
- 8<sup>th</sup> July From Jerry XI female grey dispatched X2 blonde tail reds seen
- 9<sup>th</sup> July SD card retrieved from camera at 1310 hrs one photo of a small grey on the ground near to feeder at 1615 hrs on the 8<sup>th</sup> Jerry made aware that there are still greys he will pop back. Otherwise, there are two reds quite regularly visiting the feeder.
- 11<sup>th</sup> July camera shows x1 large adult grey having visited the last few days.Also at least one grey kit feeding from off the ground nearby.
- **12<sup>th</sup> July** Jerry spent some time there this afternoon:
   *"No show sat for 2.5 hours just couple of reds and a few milking cow Birds -- will be back first thing in the morning."* He even popped back for ½ hour in the evening – but no greys seen

13<sup>th</sup> July – Jerry there from 0550 hrs this morning!!
 X2 greys dispatched – one adult male and one kit
 There will probably be a few more kits, but Jerry will monitor
 Update – Jerry has now met the owner of the wood and whilst he is happy for

him to shoot there, he doesn't want a camera in the wood. Initially he wasn't too keen on the feeder, but Jerry has assured him that he will clean up any spilt food, etc that builds up under the feeder and thus the feeder stays.

Jerry has now 'adopted' the feeder from me and I will no longer go in.

And there is more – **Jerry saw x3 pale tailed REDS** whilst there. To view the videos of the '*Caravan Wood Reds*' follow the link. <u>https://we.tl/t-Xx46KJ3nsx</u>

#### <u>AUG</u>

2<sup>nd</sup> - It went quiet at caravan wood so I left it alone for a bit.
 Scattered feed Wednesday afternoon went back this morning and I have dispatched a grey and seen 3 reds -- Jerry

## **Crosby Ravensworth**



Photo: Andrew Wallis - Well Head

Generally there is little news from the village, but that which has come through is all good with some great sightings and starting with this one.

## Well Head

#### $\mathbf{16}^{\mathsf{th}}$ July – ANNA WELL – JUST FURTHER UP FROM WELL HEAD

#### Hi Darren

Just a brief note to let you know that I have seen and watched 5 red squirrels over the past week – 2 mature and 3 young – and all bar one at the rear of our house. One mature dashing about on the grass slope, one mature delving into Andrew's feeder and the 3 youngsters speeding along the top of the low fence, the top of the low wall within one foot of where I was sitting and one coming along the paved area right up to my feet as I sat on our bench – when it saw my shoes it stopped dead, skirted the obstacles and made off in the direction of the feeding station. A joy!

Without exception they all came from due south of our property, on the far side of 'The Haven'. Hope this helps. Dorothy

ED – now I love a competition!

I've challenged Andrew at Well Head to get a photo of all five together and when I let him know about the sighting he said:

"What great news and a fantastic sighting.

All we could manage were two feeding at adjacent feeders whilst we had a barbeque yesterday evening."

16<sup>th</sup> July – Two more photos, one taken yesterday when this squirrel raided our caged bird table for the first time!



18<sup>th</sup> Aug - We have squirrels feeding daily at Well Head. There are two with dark tails and at least one with a pale tail.

One of the latter has a dark region half way along its tail.





## Dale Foot

Still visiting on a daily basis

4<sup>th</sup> July - As mentioned in your report we get reds on a daily basis in our garden. Today a young one was spotted with an injured front foot, broken or sprained is anyone's guess.

The squirrel struggled to get both up and down the pole to the feeding station, unable to clasp the food in both feet it was resting the food on the back of the damaged foot and holding it in place with the other. It stayed quite a while and was eating well -- Joan Raine

16<sup>th</sup> July – UPDATE ON ABOVE

The squirrel with the poorly leg has not been seen since

#### **Brook House**

#### 31<sup>st</sup> July

Hi Darren

I have just photographed a disfigured red squirrel in our garden which is probably suffering from squirrel pox.

It is one of our regulars that I photographed earlier this year when it had a small mark on his nose. The mark has spread and become very scabby; he has lost most of the fur on the last half of its tail and the tufts on his ears are also largely missing; and there are bald dwellings around the eyes.

He seems well enough in himself (it is a male) and is feeding normally but looks very shabby.

ED: I requested the photos from Steve and asked that he also forward them to Gary - I think the main thing here is the 'I photographed earlier this year'.
S/pox will do for a red in a very short period of time and why I don't think that it is S/pox.



Steve correctly stopped putting feed out for the squirrels in his garden to try and limit the spread should it be S/pox, although they no doubt feed communally elsewhere nearby.

He also adds that this red was alone on his last visit but that they have had **four youngsters** visiting together in two pairs or a three.

And the opinion from Gary and Jerry:

'Having seen the photos and Jerry and I think it's not pox'

## Crosby Ravensworth South - Gilts

 $\mathbf{12}^{\mathsf{th}}\,\mathbf{July}-\mathbf{cleaned}$  out and topped up the feeder

I then didn't get back until 3<sup>rd</sup> September when the feed was all gone

It is slightly difficult for me to keep an eye on this feeder during Feb-Aug' as my time is usually spent in other woods

## The Bank Coppice (by River)

12<sup>th</sup> July – I suspect that M. Bowness is not topping the feeder up at present. Topped up today.

I then didn't get back until 3<sup>rd</sup> September when the feeder was empty – topped up

#### Summer House

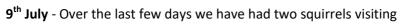
12<sup>th</sup> July - topped up the feeder

I then didn't get back until 3<sup>rd</sup> September when the feeder was empty – topped up

## Low Dalebanks

2<sup>nd</sup> July - We still have a daily visitor







## **Other Sightings:-**

July

- $\mathbf{12}^{\text{th}}$  on wall at Glebe House in the morning
- **18**<sup>th</sup> running along church wall late afternoon

#### August -- none

Finally for Crosby Ravensworth an old photograph, from November 2020 – I didn't get to use it at the time, but as it is one of my favourite poses ...



**By Andrew Wallis** 

#### Hopper Hill / Wood

#### **NO REPORTS**

#### <u>Harberwain</u>

16<sup>th</sup> July – 1620 hrs just before Harberwain Cottage.

As I approached from Shap a car was just stood in the middle of the road (thankfully) and then from infront of the car appeared a red. It seemed to have all the time in the world before exiting left through a farm gate.

## **Oddendale Plantation**

Below Liz has provided us with a history of the feeders in the plantation

When I started going up there in 2011 there were several ancient feeders dotted around the circumference and there was a group of feeders by the gate nearest the quarry that a man from Oddendale itself would fill.

He died several years ago.

The paths have mostly disappeared now but people used the wood as a safe dogwalking area away from the sheep dotted around on the open fell, and several would take feed with them for the birds and squirrels.

In those days, the 'walk' would start up at the gate nearest the main road, go right round and back up to the gate again.

This stopped when the farm started using the wood to graze cows with their calves a few years ago but remnants of some feeders may still remain.

The two near the footpath stile are from that time but someone seems to be using them occasionally which is why I decided to replace them.

I've used them myself in 'emergencies' in the past when gale-force winds (or grazing cattle!) have made it risky going over to mine, but the perspex cover on one disappeared in early spring and it cracked on the other one a few weeks ago and as you saw, they were beyond repair.

As for the small wood further down on the right-hand side of the road, I don't know about squirrels 'living' in there but they'd certainly be using it - the nearest house on the main road used to get daily visits to their bird feeders!

In the past, I've investigated the next nearest plantation across the fell as you would walk to Orton.

It was so crowded with trees I wasn't expecting signs of any life but after standing still for a few minutes I was amazed to count no less than seven adult squirrels, seemingly independently travelling through at ground level.

I decided not to put a feeder up though, thinking I wouldn't be likely to have the time to get there regularly enough .... it's obviously time to do another reconnaissance trip!

I'm hoping, with the change of weather, that I'll start seeing squirrels again though I've seen the odd red on the feeders, it's been very quiet over the last month so I can't be going up early enough.

I bet the place is alive at 3.30am!

The feeders currently up there are:

Cross the stile, you'll see a footpath going straight ahead.

About 2/3 of the way up the path between the stile & the 'cleared' area of trees ahead, stop & look to the right - my feeders are about 20m away.

They used to be more secluded but the vast amount of felling has left them more exposed than I'd like.

At least they're fairly near the stile.

Liz tells me that with two further kits that she has purchased and put up, she now has **seven** feeders up in the plantation.

She found the kits on ebay which are made by Sanjo - around £9 each, and could be handy to get kids making stuff under supervision?? Just a hammer needed.



- 2<sup>nd</sup> July x1 grey seen crossing the Crosby Ravensworth to Shap road on the bend/corner with the right turn to Reagill early morning. However, was not reported until the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **3**<sup>rd</sup> **July** the two feeders were put up.
- 4<sup>th</sup> July I've just popped up to have a look, no squirrels seen, but food has been taken from one of them.
- 8<sup>th</sup> July Went up early (at 5.30am!) first half hour saw just one large rabbit and one heavy looking pigeon.

Around 6.15, first of 4 reds seen around the feeders by the stile. All very lively and playing. Phew.

11<sup>th</sup> July - x4 very lively reds seen this morning, no greys.

- **30**<sup>th</sup> July Oh dear, not much eaten out my feeders since Monday, though a red was on one of the new feeders by the style when I arrived.
   Camera showing little over the last 2 weeks, just the occasional red.
   Going to see if I can site it in a better place.
   It feels like they've moved!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug One seen tonight around 19.45, so not all yet lost!
- 5<sup>th</sup> Aug Went to top up the feeders two days later than usual as food had been going so slowly ... within 30 secs of doing so, 3 reds sitting on the feeders & stayed a good 10-15 mins eating! Think it's going to be OK!

## Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck

**NO REPORTS** 

**Sleagill** 

**NO REPORTS** 

**Newby** 

**NO REPORTS** 

**Reagill** 

#### **NO REPORTS**

#### **Morland**

## July

**7**<sup>th</sup> – seen at rear of 26 Jackson Croft a.m.



Photo – Alan Robertson

## August

16<sup>th</sup> Aug – rec'd call from resident on Jackson Croft stating have had a grey in their back garden.

Jerry informed and he will make contact with the lady.

## And Finally

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



It didn't take the Jays long too discover the feeder once it had been put up. Shame the squirrels didn't!



Darren Rogers 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021