

# Lyvennet Red Squirrels

Summer 2023



Branthwaite House, Crosby Ravensworth -- Credit: George



The main news being:

- Plenty of reds ... but
- Probably the most challenging time ever known for greys.
- Greys are being reported virtually on a daily basis and nowhere seems immune to them turning up
- Too many greys and not enough rangers

## General

X 26 Greys Despatched

Year Total (2023) = 64



Reds with S/pox despatched this year in locality = 1

Early June at Sleagill

## ROAD DEATHS



= 1 (?) – Morland Bank Year Total = 1

Other Deaths – one (see Oddendale) Year Total 2023 = 1

## Report

I would never want to be the '*prophet of doom*' but at present with the number and frequency of greys being seen, it isn't easy not to be a little melancholy.

However, we must not lose sight of the fact that there are plenty of reds out there and that the work to conserve them must continue, but ...

I know that from what I have seen and from talking to Jerry and Gary that things are bad at present and that



they have not known it to be as bad ... but the work must go on.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> August these are the following locations (local to us) where I know that greys seem to have become 'resident':

- **Maulds Meaburn** - Longhill Wood, Lyvennet Bank, Morland Bank, Brackenslack and Barnskew
- **Crosby Ravensworth** – Harberwain Lane, Crosby Gill and one is floating about the village somewhere

And no doubt there will be others

In Maulds Meaburn we no longer have access to a number of woods due to the pheasant season and when access stopped on 4<sup>th</sup> August these were broadly clear of greys, but such as at Orchard Wood, they soon returned (shot) and continue to pop up occasionally.

Regrettably the grey in Longhill Wood was a late find and with just one or two days to 'get it', I didn't!

Even more regrettably was the fact that it was a female and looked as though it was pregnant or had been suckling.

What was even more regrettable was that this grey appeared just a few days after I had sent out the '*Longhill Montage*' of a number of fine and cute photos of a pair of reds, some of which are included in this report.

And of late, into September, greys are being sighted in **Morland** on a more regular basis, especially the area around the church.

Jerry tells me that sightings in general are a daily occurrence and nowhere seems immune to one turning up.

We are at the time of year when the greys are still moving about, a lot, and they now have a natural harvest to go at as well (so visits to feeders may become less – and which during the last week as certainly been the case) and it looks like things will only get worse.

Put simply ... too many greys and not enough rangers.\*\*

And this year's weather could play a part in making the job of grey management even more difficult and that is a 'delayed autumn' – it's quite simple really, if the leaves stay on the trees for longer into the autumn then Jerry's cheerful cry of "*the tides turning, the leaves are falling*" won't be heard until later than normal.

Already in September I have fallen foul of suspecting a grey is up in the canopy above a feeder, but just couldn't be sure nor see enough to get/take a shot.

As usual time is my biggest enemy. The lack of it prevents me from doing the things that I want or need to and with the greys turning up in Lyvennet Bank and elsewhere then the available time becomes even less.

Putting up feeders in Crosby Gill, Lankaber Wood and 'Banger' Wood are the main ones that I want to get done, but it all comes down to time.

Times are challenging, but please keep reporting any sightings and supporting P&DRSG.

**\*\*P&DRSG need £180k per year just to stand still and that cost will undoubtedly go up ... and they need/want more rangers.**

Just about the only charity who put 100% of monies raised directly into their stated cause.

A few thanks:

**Crosby Ravensworth Lunch group** – at their gathering on 6<sup>th</sup> July the collection was very kindly for P&DRSG and it raised a magnificent £50.40.

Many thanks to Joan and the rest of the group.

**My wife** – who, after the 'mice had of Reagill' had chomped through one of our trail cameras, took it upon herself to start baking cakes and popping them in the village shelters for sale.

Over a number of weeks £115.00 was raised and indeed via Gift Aid, etc the monies go to the group with the stated purpose of '*for a camera(s)*' and they have given me two.

Cameras are such a useful tool and much used – thank you to everyone who bought the cakes and made donations.

Finally, just my usual plea to keep sightings coming in and to send me any photographs – any of reds that are not sat on feeders are especially welcomed.



[www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk/](http://www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk/)

[www.facebook.com/PDRSG01](https://www.facebook.com/PDRSG01)

**Also if you are not already a member of P&DRSG please join – they really do need more members, follow the link above to the website - thank you.**

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

Also refer to the relevant section within the report for more details

**3<sup>rd</sup> June - Kings Meaburn** - Seen crossing road near Keld Farm

**5<sup>th</sup> June** - on the Bolton Road near Crossriggs as you go down towards the river – 0620h

Also photo of two grey kittens on feeder in Town Wood yet again.

**10<sup>th</sup> June – Crosby Ravensworth** – one maybe two at Raven Gill NY624126.

**12<sup>th</sup> June – update from Jerry:**

*“Getting a few greys about area still never ending*

*And a chap I know **\*\*despatched 3 greys in his wood at Sleagill\*\*** and had to **despatch a pox red***

*Seen another grey at Kings Meaburn Ford this morning. Same place but it ran off but I’m back here now sat watching feed ride and 3 reds here at moment.*

***\*\*Despatched another at Crossrigg\*\*** this morning (Whittbarrow Wood) and know there is another in Town Wood”*

**15<sup>th</sup> June – Hopper Hill, Crosby Ravensworth** - Seen crossing the road

**Brackenslack Lane, Maulds Meaburn** – near the cattle grid

**17<sup>th</sup> June – update from Jerry:**

*“Yeah it’s not good at moment can’t seem to get anywhere clear.*

*Still another grey at Kings Meaburn at least, checked camera yesterday and another one on scatter feed, sat and watched and 4 reds.*

*Checked camera and feeder at Newby another grey plus reds*

*Town Wood grey again, Whittbarrow grey again*

*Constant circle and that’s without other areas.*

*Trapped and shot 83 greys in two weeks over at Gamblesby - Greys all over shop.”*

**22<sup>nd</sup> June – Maulds Meaburn** - at Holesfoot.

**23<sup>rd</sup> June – Orchard Wood** – now here, possibly the one from Three Cornered Wood

**24<sup>th</sup> June – **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - Orchard Wood (Maulds Meaburn)**

**26<sup>th</sup> June – Barnskew (Maulds Meaburn)** – Jerry informed

**27<sup>th</sup> June – Orchard Wood and Three Cornered Wood** – a grey or greys still there

**29<sup>th</sup> June – Gunnerwell, Towcett \*\***

**Crosby Ravensworth – on road up to Bank Head**

\*\* update from Jerry - Yeah have been down to Towcett and lad down there is on the ball, also has air rifles and shot one last year there.

Sorted a feeder, camera on and he will watch and sort and I will also take him traps if need be.

It's going mad again with sightings around Morland – despatched another 2 in **Crossrigg Town wood**, now another 3 have shown up on camera at 3 different feeders.

Not had time to get to Barnskew yet hopefully tomorrow morning Cheers Jerry

**W/c 3<sup>rd</sup> July – X2 GREYS DESPATCHED – Steele Mill, Kings Meaburn**

**X1 GREY DESPATCHED – Crabstacks, Kings Meaburn**

**2<sup>nd</sup> July - \*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - adult male in Three Cornered Wood  
Maulds Meaburn} Grey in Orchard Wood**

**6<sup>th</sup> July – Still a grey in Three Cornered Wood and now prominent in Barnskew**

**\*\*Update from Jerry –**

“I will go to Barnskew in the morning as popping to Kings Meaburn Ford again. **Despatched 3 there** again yesterday and another 1 today. Also one at Hagg wood (next to Morland hall).”

**8<sup>th</sup> July – REAGILL - Ruth Jackson reports grey in her garden this morning and also her next door neighbours**

**9<sup>th</sup> July – ODDENDALE – Liz got to check the cameras today and one has been there a while**

**11<sup>th</sup> July - \*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - Oddendale**

**\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - Barnholme Wood, Kings Meaburn**

**Crosby Ravensworth – small copse on left just before Bank Head Farm**

**12<sup>th</sup> July – Morland Bank Wood – on the new feeder**

**14<sup>th</sup> July – Morland Bank Wood – could be x2 greys – see section below**

**17<sup>th</sup> July - Kings Meaburn - on the road between the ford and the Morland to to Maulds Meaburn road.**

- 18<sup>th</sup> July – Barnskew** – definitely greys in both woods
- 21<sup>st</sup> July – \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - Three Cornered Wood**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Holesfoot** – grey still there
- 24<sup>th</sup> July – \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED - Crabstacks**
- 25<sup>th</sup> July – Ewe Close, Maulds Meaburn** – the chewed corn is a grey  
**\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED** – Sideway Bank
- 26<sup>th</sup> July** – on the bridge over the M6 on the Shap to Crosby Ravensworth road
- 27<sup>th</sup> July - \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - Barnskew (BW2) – trapped**  
**\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - Longhill Wood (Maulds Meaburn)**  
Sighting - near the bottom end of Brackenslack Lane, Maulds Meaburn
- 29<sup>th</sup> July – Longhill Wood** – there must have been two
- 6<sup>th</sup> Aug – Orchard Wood ('The Avenue')** – grey in the evening and again a.m. 7<sup>th</sup>
- 11<sup>th</sup> Aug - \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - 'The Avenue' / Orchard Wood**
- 13<sup>th</sup> Aug - The FOLLY, FLASS, Maulds Meaburn** – on the feeder this morning.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Aug - \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED** – The Folly, Flass, Maulds Meaburn.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Aug - The FOLLY, FLASS, Maulds Meaburn** – seems that there are two!
- 17<sup>th</sup> Aug – High Lankaber, Maulds Meaburn** - at 07.58h
- 21<sup>st</sup> Aug – Crosby Ravensworth** – Harberwain Lane  
**Maulds Meaburn** – 'The Avenue', Flass
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug – Crosby Ravensworth** - on the wall adjacent to the beck at Brook House
- 25<sup>th</sup> Aug – Crosby Ravensworth** - between Hillcrest and Gilts
- 26<sup>th</sup> Aug – Crosby Ravensworth, Hopper Hill** – running along the road  
**Barnskew, Maulds Meaburn** – rear of the polly tunnels.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Aug – Brackenslack, Maulds Meaburn** – fairly certain saw one
- 31<sup>st</sup> Aug – Weston House, Crosby Ravensworth** – in the garden

## Maulds Meaburn



**Longhill Wood – Photo Darren Rogers**

At the beginning of the period things were OKish.

A grey was in the usual place of Three Cornered Wood and starting to visit Orchard Wood and the odd grey was being seen just about anywhere (apart from in the village).

### Flass (FL) and Lyvennet Bank (LB)

**LB** - X1 feeder looking out over the green (**LB/GF**)

X1 feeder on a tree in the main garden next to the river (**LB/RF**).

**FL** – X1 feeder up at the folly and not viewable to the public

X1 feeder at **The Tunnel** – on a tree, on the left, immediately prior to the tunnel \*\*

\*\*this feeders is now in its fifth and hopefully final position!!

It seems to be working quite well and is located somewhere where the horses can't get at it.



All feeders are visited on a regular, daily, basis. Apart from a 10 minute visit by a grey to LB/RF in the spring, no greys have been seen here for a good number of months.

## June

27<sup>th</sup> – position remains the same, all the food goes from every feeder

## July

21<sup>st</sup> – all seems fine, food going from all feeders

## August

13<sup>th</sup> – everything had generally seemed OK, but for the last few days I have had a funny feeling about the feeder up at The Folly, I had even put a little corn in but this remained untouched.

Then this morning, after having just seen two reds come out of the feeder at Lyvennet Bank, I got near to the folly and there it was, a grey, on the feeder. And in the morning when I am walking the dog I don't have my rifle with me – and I was able to get within 20yds before it moved!

I was so happy having just seen the two reds as well, I knew that there was one in there as its tail was hanging out the feeder, but when two popped out ...!

I guess a case though of '*The Lord giveth and The Lord taketh away.*'

14<sup>th</sup> – but today he giveth!

**X1 GREY DESPATCHED** (adult male, but maybe not fully grown)

At 'The Folly' - Incessant rain all day, footpaths becoming rivers, but very much a case of a soggy perseverance to get this one – are there any more?

16<sup>th</sup> – and today he taunts me! Another grey up at The Folly.

Came back at 2340h on my way home from work to set a trap

17<sup>th</sup> – trap empty this morning

19<sup>th</sup> – hmmm. Over the last few days the grey has been visiting the Folly on fewer occasions and only between 12-13h

I just had my doubts as to where it was coming from and was it visiting the feeder back down at the house (LB/RF).

Today had 12-13h up at The Folly and nothing and then ..... as I walked back to the house and neared the bridge saw a grey on the ground going over the bridge.

I then saw a red on the bridge further along!

As I got to the bridge and had a view over the river to LB/RF saw a grey jump off and go to the back of the tree to myself

Could that be the same grey? Did it have time to get over there?

I have my doubts.

A minute later I saw movement on the handrail of the bridge and it was the grey, but just couldn't get a clean shot, so didn't take it.

The upshot of this ... so like up at the Folly, LB/RF now also has a camera and a trap. With reds about the trap makes me nervous – will just be checking it a lot today and first thing in the morning.

**20<sup>th</sup>** – going to Newcastle today to see Katie so have closed the traps – a stand off



whilst at LB/RF the grey spent most of the morning through to lunch here and then again at tea-time

**21<sup>st</sup>** – as of 09h no grey so far on either feeder. So I suspect that it will turn up soon, traps have been set. Moved the one from The Folly and put it on the bridge.



Had just over an hour here at tea-time, only a red turned up.

And sods law having now checked the cameras, the grey hasn't been to LB/Rf at all today! It had an hour up at Folly at lunch.

And I have put another feeder up next to the river/house – positioned to enable a direct line of sight from the road, to be able to shoot from over the wall.

All this, traps (checked x4 per day), new feeders, etc for what may only be one grey!

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – it got lucky again today!

Popped down for the 12-13h feed up at The Folly (it had been on LB/RF a while this morning), but as I walked across the bridge I suddenly saw movement in the undergrowth about 10 yards back at the opposite end of the bridge – it was the grey and I've not seen it again today.

This was the same place where I had seen it on the 19<sup>th</sup> – obviously has a nice leisurely stroll around the wood, eats a few birds eggs before deciding to go for a bite to eat by the river, getting there by using the bridge ....!

At least the reds tend to cross the river via the tree canopy.

**25<sup>th</sup>** – had an hour at tea-time. Good show from the reds, but no grey.

The Dents are now here for the weekend so no sitting up with a rifle.

**29<sup>th</sup>** – the grey is going back up to The Folly a little more, hope it isn't a second one! And quite possibly wasn't at LB/RF at all yesterday.

LB/RF has a rock on it at present to try and encourage them to go to the new temporary feeder – very little success with that one at present!



**30<sup>th</sup>** – the grey has become slightly absent from LB/RF, possibly due to people being at home?

It is however visiting The Folly that little bit more; but not this tea-time when I had a hour here!

This morning I actually saw a red on the feeder at The Tunnel for the first time

**End of period** – the grey is still there, but becoming a little hard to predict when it might turn up at The Folly.

### **Other sightings from the village:**

**8<sup>th</sup> July – Rowans** – a young red this morning

**12<sup>th</sup> Aug – Rowans** - Red in our garden this morning. First sighting for 2-3 weeks.

**26<sup>th</sup> Aug – Howebeck** – (my garden) 0820h red ran through.

Not seen one here for a few years – and to be truthful, with cats either side of me and the probability that it had to cross a road, I don't want them in my garden.

Key to map below:

F – Flass    1 – The Avenue    2 – Orchard Wood    3 – Three Cornered Wood  
H – Hulls Wood    L – Longhill Wood (LX – Where the feeders are)    4 – Ewe Close





## Orchard Wood and The Avenue

X2 feeders here – one just past 'The Avenue' and near to the gate out into the field (the field through the tunnel and with the footpath through to CR).

The second is at the far end of the wood on the Three Cornered Wood side.

At the start of the period all was fine with a pair of reds visiting both feeders on a regular basis

## June

6<sup>th</sup> - Gary saw the two reds on the feeder this morning on his way to Three Cornered Wood

24<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - adult male – evening.

A grey had been in Longhill Wood for some time and at the beginning of June it disappeared only for one to turn up the same day in Three Cornered Wood!

Over the last 2/3 days it hasn't been about as much in Three Cornered Wood, but ... one turned up in Orchard Wood – and the reds seemed to go quiet after about 05h.

27<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** – pulled the camera out this morning and a grey has been here every day from the 25<sup>th</sup> (and also on Three Cornered Wood)

29<sup>th</sup> – the grey is still visiting

## July

1<sup>st</sup> – grey still making visits to the feeder

2<sup>nd</sup> – a confession. I'm seriously beginning to wonder if I'm any good at this! I thought that there was just the one grey, it being in Three Cornered Wood and venturing out into Orchard Wood – but no, there's two, one in each wood.

Tonight as I was walking through Orchard Wood to get to Three Cornered Wood a grey was sat on the feeder here.

I saw it from 50 yards, which with a springer rifle is just a bit too far away to take a shot and especially in windy conditions.

Then, if you disturb a squirrel it may come back or it may not, for some hours.

So I snapped a twig, that alerted it and it went slowly and quietly away, not in a rush – I got into position and 30 minutes later it returned.

So far, so good, but then ... I missed!

Slightly dejected, but we go again another day.

6<sup>th</sup> – curious.

Effectively no grey in the last few days. Just x1 photo early today  
But see Three Cornered Wood.

11<sup>th</sup> – as above, no grey

21<sup>st</sup> – all seems Ok, food going, but the corn isn't

24<sup>th</sup> – again all seems ok. Have seen the odd red last few days as I walk through.

25<sup>th</sup> – my daughter saw what she thought could have been a grey on 'The Avenue'  
Might tie in with Ewe Close?

## August

3<sup>rd</sup> – and now that's it until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024!

Pheasants arrive tomorrow and now we have no access until the end of the season – fortunately, in this wood at least, I've not seen any greys of late  
However, I hope to keep the feeder going at 'The Avenue' end and on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
I popped a camera on it.

7<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** - recovered the card from the camera and a grey was here last night  
and again this morning ... wonderful!

11<sup>th</sup> – grey still here. Had a hour last night and at lunch today, but no show.

**\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - adult female on 'The Avenue'  
Had to really disinfect the feeder afterwards though!

19<sup>th</sup> – only reds to 'The Avenue'

21<sup>st</sup> – GREY – at 'The Avenue' 0846-0850h for just x3 photos  
Otherwise it has just been reds, including x2 at a time

22<sup>nd</sup> – up to 1530h no more greys

28<sup>th</sup> – no greys



**31<sup>st</sup>** – GREY – for a short while at 1330h.

End Of period:

two reds visiting the feeder at 'The Avenue', but just seems that a grey is making the occasional visit – it would also be there a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept'.

However, this is very much what I expected to happen.

The feeder on 'The Avenue' will no doubt be very important over the next five months as the greys move about and inevitably start showing up more nearer to Flass.



## Three Cornered Wood



**In many ways this photo sums up the position in this wood – photo from 2022**

After clearing the last grey out of here a while back, on the 1<sup>st</sup> June another turned up and was a prolific guest on the feeder.

The reds are doing Ok and includes one kit – not bad for a postage stamp of a wood

## June

24<sup>th</sup> – there are x2 reds, one is young and at present they are visiting the feeder regularly – but the grey!

But see today's entry for Orchard Wood – think I've got it

26<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** – I may have got that one, but there is still at least one more to go!  
As been here every day from the 25<sup>th</sup> – Gary informed.

29<sup>th</sup> – over the last few days the grey has been prolific and the red(s) hardly seen

## July

1<sup>st</sup> – grey is becoming the dominant visitor to the feeder

2<sup>nd</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** adult male and it has taken some getting as well

6<sup>th</sup> – curious! As been a grey here all week; looks like it is fairly young.

So I hadn't got rid of them all – however ...

The grey in Orchard Wood seems to have gone, even though I believe I missed it – all very curious.

10<sup>th</sup> – grey remains dominant

12<sup>th</sup> – had a hour from 7 p.m. grey was on the feeder, but legged it as I approached and never came back!

17<sup>th</sup> – over the last four days it has mainly been a red(s) (there is definitely a young one) that have been visiting and the grey is 'about', but not much!

21<sup>st</sup> – position remains the same, both the reds and the grey are visiting on a very regular basis – I've included this photo because it is so rare to see x2 reds here at the same time – trust me though, there are two



Was here from 1120 – 1305h and no grey.

However, after 40mins a red ran through the scene, then 35mins later arrived back and went to the feeder and then about 10mins later was joined by another red! Red No.2 could not dislodge red No.1 from the feeder and soon disappeared. Red No.1 stayed on the feeder and even when I got up to go, it just carried on eating!

Came back at tea-time (1640h) and only had a hour to spare (because I had to go home for my tea!) – **X1 GREY DESPATCHED**

After 55 mins a red turned up and then from a different direction ... *'was that a grey?'*

It was and then it was on the feeder ... and then it wasn't.

Timing was good though, I was about to go!

22<sup>nd</sup> – as of 1045h no greys since

24<sup>th</sup> – only reds

27<sup>th</sup> – only reds. Wonderful and whilst this may not be the best photo, it makes me happy!



## August

3<sup>rd</sup> – and now that's it until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024!

Pheasants arrive tomorrow and now we have no access until the end of the season – fortunately, in this wood at least, I've not seen any greys of late.

19<sup>th</sup> – visited to empty out and clean the feeder – the corn was still there.

## Longhill Wood and Hulls Wood

This wood is the main one used for pheasant rearing – there is a ravine that runs through it with the main pheasant pens on the hill to one side. The X2 feeders are on the other side of this ravine, about 125 yards apart. The original feeder (F1) is lower down the second feeder (F2) is further into the wood.



A feeder was put up in Hulls Wood (HW) for the first time during May.

All feeders are popular and visited daily

At the start of the period there were no known issues, ie: no greys

### June

**24<sup>th</sup>** – and so the case remains, daily visits and no greys

**26<sup>th</sup>** – a grey visited today (**F2**)– 0615-20h and 1824-2034h

### July

**1<sup>st</sup>** – no grey since that visit on the 26<sup>th</sup>

**11<sup>th</sup>** – position in both woods seems fine

**21<sup>st</sup>** – generally everything is fine, in both woods and all feeders.

The only caveat is that a grey made an appearance on both the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, but only briefly and just the one photo!

**24<sup>th</sup>** – all seems fine, no greys on the camera (F2) and the corn is still in the feeders. Today the photos from F2 are just superb and I even sent an e-mail out to the squirrel group with a montage of them.



Just  
cute



Don't mind me!

26<sup>th</sup> – with a grey having turned up in Ewe Close, only some 197 metres away, from F2, keeping a closer eye out here.

There was a grey on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 0845h, but just like the previous times, only for one photo - strange.

27<sup>th</sup> – from the above to this:



**However, it was despatched just a few minutes later!**

Had spent a hour in Ewe Close, saw nothing, so decided to walk through to check here, just in case.

There is an oak tree in the margins of the field, which is level with F2 and which I can 'hide behind' – and lo and behold, there it was sat on the feeder ... and then it wasn't!

It had arrived yesterday afternoon and dominated the feeder today, so a good outcome.

**29<sup>th</sup>** – hang on ... there must have been two!

From the camera a grey has been a virtual ever present on F2 yesterday and today. I also think that it is a female – chewing a lot of corn and spending just as much time inside the feeder.

## **August**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – and now that's it until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024!

Pheasants arrive tomorrow and now we have no access until the end of the Season.

I had a hour here at tea-time, but nothing turned up

Regrettably the grey is still in here and even more regrettably I think it is a female and either pregnant or recently given birth.

So come Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> how many will be here?

**19<sup>th</sup>** – visited Hulls Wood to empty out and clean the feeder – the corn was still there.

## Edge Close – (Ewe Wood) above Flass Pasture NY 632 146



At the beginning of the period a red(s?) was making the occasional visit to the feeder

### June

24<sup>th</sup> – position remains the same

### July

11<sup>th</sup> – position remains the same

21<sup>st</sup> – position remains the same and all seems OK

24<sup>th</sup> – hmmm. All the food was virtually gone, but on the table part of the feeder was some corn that had been well chewed.

Enough to concern me – camera set up

25<sup>th</sup> – well, unfortunately I was right, there is a grey.

As I arrived at 1545h to swap the card in the camera a grey jumped up from the ground onto the tree and headed for the tops, it didn't come back.



However, I was slightly surprised that (from the camera), the grey had only been there for 45 minutes and hadn't shown up earlier in the day.

There are X2 reds

I've made the uneasy decision to pop a trap in tonight – brought from Barnskew this evening – back in the morning!

26<sup>th</sup> – No joy. Red visited as did the grey just after 11h

I'm guessing that because this grey doesn't visit early a.m. that it lives elsewhere and just pops through here for some food.

27<sup>th</sup> – nothing in the trap and had a hour here from 4-5 p.m. then walked through to Longhill Wood and shot a grey! See Longhill Wood.

But I guess that after the fuss of the last few days we should have a photo of a red from here – only one on this photo but there are two



## August

3<sup>rd</sup> – and now that's it until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024!

Pheasants arrive tomorrow and now we have no access until the end of the season – fortunately, no greys over the last few days – the reds have really been hammering the food though.

## GREEN ENDS + THWAITES COTTAGES

### June

19<sup>th</sup> – Saw a red squirrel running along the bank of the river towards our garden at the beginning of the week.

It was strange because having just got out of bed at 6.30am and only half awake, with my eyes barely focused as the sun was so bright. I drew back the bedroom curtains and saw what looked like a greyish red squirrel with a very blond tail run along the river's edge from the Flass direction to us.

I ran downstairs to try to see it in our garden to confirm the colour but it didn't appear. I was thinking I should contact you or Gary at a suitable hour but around two hours later I espied what looked like the same squirrel, as it was the same size (quite small) with the same very blond tail, running back along the river's bank towards Flass. This time it was obvious the squirrel was red.

I'm wondering if the first time I saw it, it was the bright sun on the squirrel and in my eyes that made it look greyish. I'm still not 100% sure -- Pennie.

ED: I'm happy that it was a red, apart from anything else the 'blond tail' helps

### August

29<sup>th</sup> – **Green Ends** - red squirrel in our garden. It was still dusk but he was foraging around the base of our Victoria Plum tree then disappearing to the end corner of the garden.

I saw him more clearly on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>. He was a very dark russet with a matching tummy and tail. Usually 'our' squirrels have had cream chests and pale tails. He was doing the same thing; he foraged around the ground below the plum tree then dashed up to the corner of the garden and whizzed up the tree there by our far shed, then back to the plum tree, back to the shed corner tree, on and on. The little chap obviously has a plan!!

FYI Just to say that we've lived here over five years and I've never seen a grey either in or around our garden or close by along the river bank. Lucky us!

## BRACKENSLACK

This is a wood also used for pheasants, but which has a public footpath running through it – the feeder is above the top of the ravine on the R/hand side of the footpath and is viewable from the FP

Because it is a wood with no reds, I only used to pay it passing attention, but an incursion of four greys at the end of March has seen me visiting more often.

## June

14<sup>th</sup> – check of the wood. Food still there and seems Ok

15<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** – see down at the bottom of the lane, just up from the cattle grid.  
Possibly a young one

21<sup>st</sup> – check of the wood. Food still there and seems Ok

## July

10<sup>th</sup> – I've been told of a few sightings of a grey on Brackenslack Lane, but they could be old sightings.

11<sup>th</sup> – walk through the wood today, food still there and no signs of squirrels

27<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** – *“Today I saw a grey squirrel near the bottom end of Brackenslack Lane where the footpath from the village meets the road”* – William

Have informed Gary, but will go in the morning and set a trap

28<sup>th</sup> – trap set as above – some food had gone from the feeder in the wood, but not much and which has now been cleared out and replaced

## August

28<sup>th</sup> – for various reasons haven't been here for a while and a shame as all of the food has gone!

29<sup>th</sup> – had a hour here from 11a.m. Fairly certain (99.9%) that I saw a grey up in the canopy not that far away, but not able to get a shot.

Looked like a little food had gone.

Had another hour from 1810h and nothing turned up – the feeder hadn't been touched.

30<sup>th</sup> – had a hour here this morning from 1020h – no show and none of the food as gone.



## Trainlands Wood,

## Holesfoot

## Sideway Bank

## Crabstacks +

## Hawkrigg

Trainlands (TW) is the wood at the point where 'Little Beck' rises.

From MM – go past the entrance to Holesfoot and

down into the dip, the wood is on the left - Feeder is on the R/hand side of beck, 50 yards in.

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

**Holesfoot** – the large country house on the opposite side of the road

They have ten feeders out for guests to be able to see.

**Sideway Bank** - is a farm on the left when going towards Kings Meaburn from the Appleby Road

**Crabstacks** is a farm on the left after Sideway Bank when going towards Kings Meaburn from the Appleby Road

**Hawkrigg** is on the Colby Road – turning right just past Crabstacks

## June

22<sup>nd</sup> - **GREY** – spotted at Holesfoot. Gary informed - Neil.

23<sup>rd</sup> – Gary popped out and: “had a look, filled your feeder with corn saw no Squirrels. Two reds in Holesfoot

26<sup>th</sup> – checked TW this morning at 06h, all the corn is still there

## July

### **W/c 3<sup>rd</sup> – X1 GREY DESPATCHED CRABSTACKS**

**11<sup>th</sup>** – corn still in the feeder TW

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – **Holesfoot** – still a grey kicking about. Due to the venue being full Gary can't get in until Tuesday. When I topped 'my' feeder up the other day all the corn was still there, but will pop a camera on it

### **24<sup>th</sup> – X1 GREY DESPATCHED @ CRABSTACKS**

Another grey is still there and a red

### **25<sup>th</sup> – X1 GREY DESPATCHED @ SIDEWAY BANK**

**28<sup>th</sup>** – all seems OK in TW, but camera set up here just in case

## **Morland Bank (Inc' Caravan Wood and Mains Wood)**

At the start of the period the felling of one half of one side of the wood had just about finished and the positioning of a feeder in Mains Wood had resulted in absolutely nothing and had been terminated - a new location for that feeder will be found.

There are at least X2 reds in Caravan Wood (a pair of greys had been dealt with in the spring)

## **June**

**17<sup>th</sup>** – had the camera in Caravan Wood a few days and only reds seen

**30<sup>th</sup>** – popped a feeder deep into the part of the wood that survives the felling on Morland Bank – haven't a spare camera at present though.

## July

**4<sup>th</sup>** – well the new feeder in Morland Bank was empty and there are loads of partly eaten cones scattered on the floor.  
However and just in case, until I get a spare camera, half filled it with corn today.

**11<sup>th</sup>** – corn gone, everything gone – camera put up

**12<sup>th</sup>** – pulled the camera this morn' and only four photos, but all of a red and the corn was still there.

**12<sup>th</sup>** – a red and a GREY – the new camera is taking very few photos, have adjusted the settings to see if that helps – I've also realised that the date is a day ahead!



The date should read the 12<sup>th</sup> on both



**14<sup>th</sup>** – make that two reds:



**14<sup>th</sup>** – **Update from Jerry:** Went first thing seen 3 reds to right of feeder in the Hazel on the edge of the wood.

No grey seen - checked camera and just reds on camera. One red has a tail that looks like a grey - then I popped back dinner time.

When I pulled up one of the lads who are in the area inoculating badgers pulled up and told me he had seen X2 greys at his bait points / traps. They use peanuts. Anyway he took me and showed me where and we set a trap which he is going to look at as he goes to the trap site twice a day.

**26<sup>th</sup>** – had been a grey on both the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

**28<sup>th</sup>** – a grey is clearly spending more time here – set a trap at lunch-time





**Mains Wood** – this was the wood where I tried a feeder and not even a bid visited. However, today (4<sup>th</sup> Aug) Jerry tells me that it is somewhere near here that the ‘badger lads’ are doing their work and where the traps were placed ... with no joy. Jerry did go and have a look, saw a grey as he approached and subsequently put up a feeder to which he hasn’t yet been able to get back to. Hope to go in the next day or three.

9<sup>th</sup> – Morland Bank – popped a camera in at midnight

11<sup>th</sup> – slightly concerning, could this be pox?

A zoomed in photo of a red on the feeder with the ‘natural’ photo below  
Albeit the more that I look at it, the less convinced I am.

Grey is still about, not excessively, hardly at all today, but 12-13h seems to be the optimum time.

Photos below sent to Jerry and Gary for their opinion







**Jerry's opinion:** Not sure on the red it looks more like an injury but not 100%

Checked the feeder that Jerry put up on the edge of Mains Wood – full of food and no signs of any activity there.

## August

**26<sup>th</sup>** – in Mains Wood only the monkey nuts have gone from the feeder, none of the other food had been touched.

In Morland Bank the grey was last there on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, but had been active daily up to that point

**28<sup>th</sup>** – **GREY** in Morland Bank this morning and afternoon – Jerry informed Mains Wood – still looks like it hasn't been touched, but put a few monkey nuts on the top

**Road Death (?)** – was told of a possible dead red on the road this afternoon, but when I went by about 45 mins later it wasn't there

# Barnskew, Lankaber Wood and environs

Between Maulds Meaburn and Kings Meaburn

1 = Barnskew Wood No.1 (BW1)

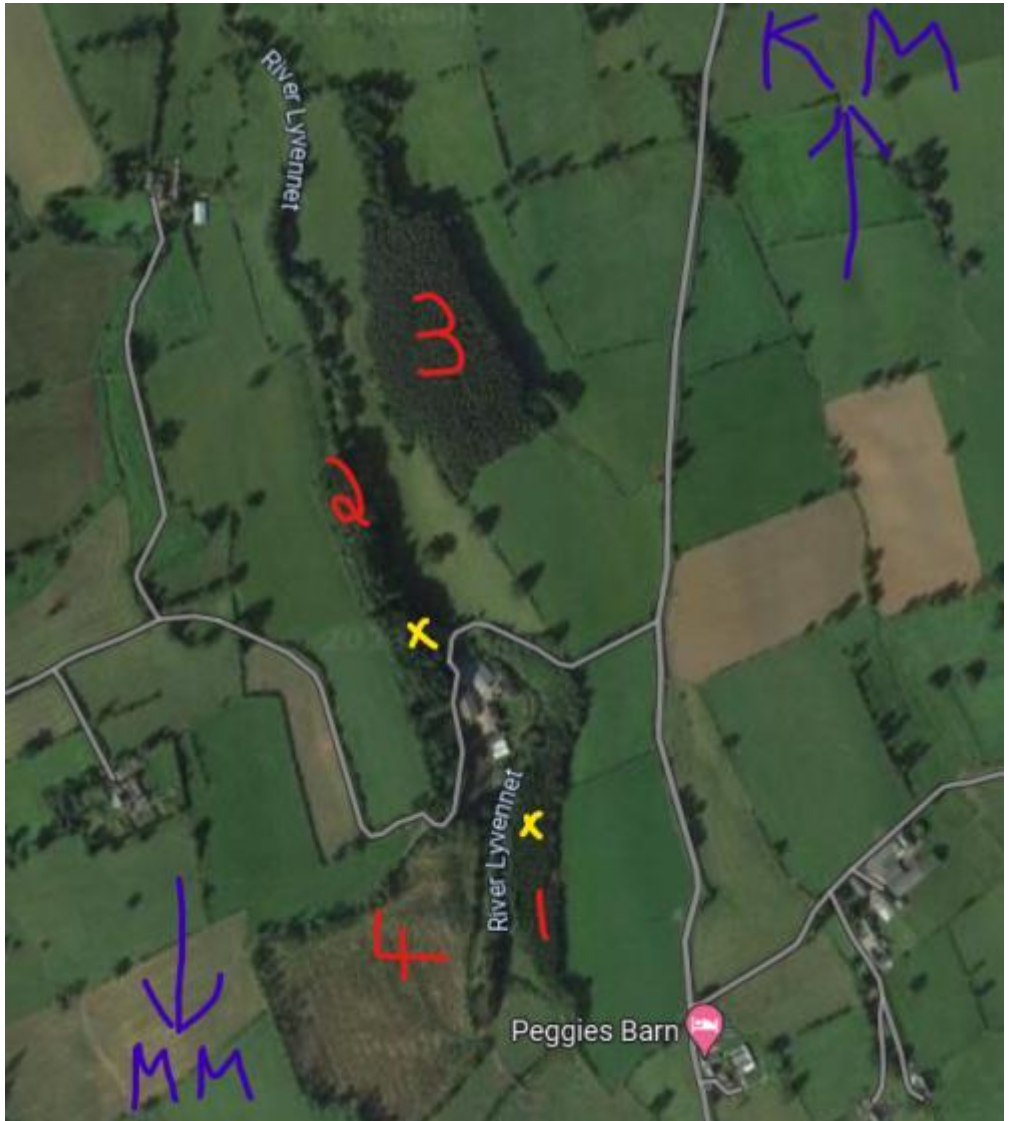
2 = Barnskew Wood No.2 (BW2)

3 = Lankaber Wood

4 = Barnskew Bank

The yellow crosses mark the feeders.

I have yet to put a feeder in 3, but as it is due to be felled next year ....



Start of the period - all is well with at least a pair of reds in each of BW1 and BW2

## June

Up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> all seemed well and then I put a camera back in BW1.

Pulled the card from the camera on the 26<sup>th</sup> and a grey had arrived on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and was still there on the 26<sup>th</sup> – Jerry informed.

28<sup>th</sup> – could only manage a short while in BW1 this morning, from 09h

Didn't see a grey but did see two reds chasing each other through the tree-tops.

And rather annoyingly the camera in BW1 'failed' – either I didn't re-set it properly (most likely) or the batteries are on their way out.

## July

6<sup>th</sup> – GREYS - have had a problem with the camera this week as for some reason it hasn't recorded. However, yesterday at 17h I swapped the card and returned today at 17h and I find 501 photos in that time of which about 300 are of grey(s).

Jerry is popping in tomorrow.

11<sup>th</sup> I had a hour at tea-time in BW1

X3 reds and a pigeon and no grey turned up – previously had only seen x2 reds in here

13<sup>th</sup> – popped a camera in BW2 – the corn had gone

18<sup>th</sup> – definitely greys in both woods

20<sup>th</sup> – had a little while here this morning, just reds

In BW1 the grey hasn't been quite so prevalent, but it's still there

22<sup>nd</sup> – spent 1600 to 1720 hrs tonight in BW1, just a slightly nervous red, but when I Got home and checked the camera grey had been there up to 1559h!!!

The photo below from the 20<sup>th</sup> is a now fairly typical picture in the wood. Just prior to this photo there had been two reds on the feeder. The grey comes and go. A little awkward to pin it down to a time and often its visits are just 10 minutes at a time.



In BW2 there are X2 greys – but for some reason the camera stopped taking photos on the 21<sup>st</sup>

**24<sup>th</sup>** – frustrating.

After a chat with Jerry, popped x2 traps in BW2 last night, in the pouring rain.

Returned this morning at 0740h, nothing.

A grey had been here early this morning as well.

Had a hour in BW1 and only saw X2 reds – the grey is avoiding me.

Returned at 1230h and nothing in the traps – but the camera would show x1 photo of a grey at 12Md.

However, what I did notice at tea-time when I popped back, the corn from just outside the entrance to one of the traps had gone.

Back at 20h and still nothing – moved one of the traps into BW1

Will be back in the morning!!

**25<sup>th</sup>** – the frustration continues.

Was here in BW1 for 0720-0820h then again at 1220-1320 and then 40 minutes this evening, plenty of reds, but the grey avoided me again as for the trap in BW2 – empty. Also the visits are becoming virtually rare ... but, tonight I checked it before going to BW1 and whilst I was there, a grey visited here for X1 photo!!!

**26<sup>th</sup>** – the trap is coming out in the morning – still nothing

27<sup>th</sup> – the trap is staying ... BW2 **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - adult male, trapped

28<sup>th</sup> – trap removed from BW2 and I've done what I didn't really want to do, but it's gone into BW1!

Put it in there at 12MD and by 1630h I'd checked it twice

Not much at all on the camera in BW2, a red this morning.

## August

11<sup>th</sup> – for various reasons I've just not visited for a while.

BW1 empty and up to the 8<sup>th</sup> a grey had been visiting often, but not see since

BW2 needed cleaning out, not much activity, grey briefly on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see what a feeder full of food brings!

12<sup>th</sup> - Had a hour here tonight – nothing.

But on checking the cameras, since yesterday it has only been reds in both woods – two reds in the BW2.

17<sup>th</sup> – **GREY - High Lankaber** - at 07.58h. Dog frightened it off immediately. Hilary.

26<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** – seen at the rear of the polly tunnels

28<sup>th</sup> – somewhere else that I haven't got to recently – with the food in the feeders now gone, recent activity has been minimal, but the grey is still here



## Crosby Ravensworth



**Branthwaite House, Crosby Ravensworth -- Credit: George**

This is where I have to put my hands up and say “*I don’t get to Crosby Ravensworth much*”, at least over the summer.

And in one sense it means that there are few issues re greys, but ...

## Well Head + Anna Well

5<sup>th</sup> July – WH - After a long gap, we had a red squirrel at one of the feeders at Well Head a few minutes ago (1245h).

25<sup>th</sup> July – WH - Our red squirrel has been returning to our feeder most days now.

## Crosby Ravensworth South – Gilts

25<sup>th</sup> Aug – empty and topped up

29<sup>th</sup> Aug – food still there

## Summer House

25<sup>th</sup> Aug – empty and topped up

29<sup>th</sup> Aug – empty and topped up

## The Bank Coppice (by River)

25<sup>th</sup> Aug – empty and topped up

29<sup>th</sup> Aug – empty and topped up

## Other Sightings:-

## JUNE

10<sup>th</sup> – GREY - John saw a grey twice, or two greys at Raven Gill NY624126 -- Joan

29<sup>th</sup> – GREY – on road up to Bank Head

Saw young red today on the Appleby-Orton road approx NY 638145.  
crossing in direction of M Meaburn.

Looked healthy and dodged traffic OK - Ruth

ED: it will get run over, reds have no road sense at all

However, this is under the heading of 'interesting and coincidental'  
This is very near to a wood in which I intend to pop a feeder.  
Alan Ling's Wood is its proper name, but I'm going to call it 'Banger Wood' due to the fact that it's next to where they used to do banger racing

## JULY

11<sup>th</sup> – GREY – copse on the left with horse paddock just before Bank Head Farm  
I went and had a look tonight – nice set-up, but it must have been passing through, but will look again.

23<sup>rd</sup> – DALEFOOT A red running along our fence yesterday, first one we have seen for ages, it went into next doors garden - Joan

## AUGUST

21<sup>st</sup> – GREY – Harberwain Lane - the first sharp corner with the wood on the left hand side.

But I was told that:

*'it must have been a young squirrel as the witness thought it was a baby rabbit'*

Gary is on holiday, so I'll pop along and have a look

23<sup>rd</sup> – GREY - on the wall adjacent to the beck at Brook House @ 8.15am today.  
Seems safe to presume that it is the one from the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Gary will be going to have a look

25<sup>th</sup> – GREY - sighted between Hillcrest and Gilts.

This will most likely be one of how ever many are located in Crosby Gill.

For Gary next week

31<sup>st</sup> – GREY – Midday - Grey in the garden of Weston House.

*'Got my rifle out but sadly it was gone.'* Mark



## Hopper Hill

**15<sup>th</sup> June – GREY** - Seen crossing the road, bold as brass, between CR and MM, just before the national speed limit signs.

It was crossing left to right in front of us as we were going from CR towards MM, and disappeared into the bushes on our right hand side (second photo).

We think it looked quite young, which is probably not a good thing!

Janet Douglas

ED: it doesn't seem to have appeared anywhere else. Where they go sometimes is beyond me and they do it very quickly!

**22<sup>nd</sup> Aug** – popped along to have a look at the copse above the river on the bend, Maulds Meaburn side of the wall and the feeder by the river.

Seemed OK and the food from a long time ago was still in the feeder – exchanged!

**26<sup>th</sup> Aug – GREY** - was running towards CR along the left hedge about 100m before before the CR sign.

It went under my truck (not sure if the wheels caught it) then jumped on the bank. I went back but couldn't see it.

ED: I've had this twice, think that you are about to get it only for it to jump out the way!

I will closely monitor the wood across the river from Flass, where I still have x1 grey to get.

**30<sup>th</sup> Aug** – the six monkey nuts that I had put in the feeder by the river is now ... 3!

# Reagill

The feeders that I have are:

**Pithills Plantation (PH) – X2** – regular visits by at least two reds

**Wyeigill Plantation (WP) – X1** – very regular visits from at least two reds.

**There are other feeders in resident's gardens**



**Prickly Bank Wood – photo by Robin Woodstrover**

## **Start of the period**

All was positive with reds abundant and making regular visits to the feeders that I have out and there were no on-going reports of greys

Additionally the reds here seem to eat everything that is put out for them and don't just eat the monkey nuts.

I still want/need to put a feeder up in Spring wood

## June

**26<sup>th</sup>** – position remains the same – daily visits from reds and no greys

Matt – Woodman's Cottage.

"We have seen the squirrels regularly south of Reagill in the woods but this year after having feeders out for quite a while we are regularly getting two or three every morning which is either a good thing or a bad thing not sure (hopefully good). I know there has been forestry disturbance in the woods just recently.

We have also seen plenty on the road between Wyebourne and Ploveriggs farm and plenty in Oddendale wood.

Luckily our dog tolerates the squirrels, but not the cats so fingers crossed we keep the visitors.

They are hiding plenty of nuts around our garden so hopefully they plan to hang around."

## July

**8<sup>th</sup> – GREY** - Had a voice message from a Ruth Jackson grey in her garden this morning and also her next door neighbours they have reds also.

**Jerry did pop round the next day – not seen again, advised to ring if seen**

**11<sup>th</sup>** – all seems ok in the plantations, but camera put up in **PH**

**13<sup>th</sup>** – Saw one red at the top of our track half way to the junction.

And then another down towards Reagill Grange.

Still keeping eyes wide open and fortunately haven't seen any greys ... Jane

**14<sup>th</sup>** – all seems ok – no greys on the camera, but the photos are not brilliant, nor that many (new camera and have changed the settings).

However, the carpet of pine needles in the wood isn't good for 'the light' with any photos.

Had a walk around Reagill and I'm now not that sure about the benefits of popping a feeder in Spring Wood (when there are other woods where I do want/need to put feeders); but we will see.

**19<sup>th</sup>** – all still seems fine. Removed the camera

## August

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Beechtree Farm – 1800h** - Just saw a beautiful red with a black tail on our squirrel feeder.

**And at the end of the period all remains good, although I've not been able to get to Reagill too much of late.**

## Oddendale + CastleHowe Scar

11<sup>th</sup> June - update from Liz:

A couple of pics from this week, food going much slower than usual, the few pics I have show healthy-looking reds so I'm hoping it's because other food is available as well ..... Cheers!



July – 9<sup>th</sup> - a series of emails from Liz re a **GREY**:



She checked the cameras this morning and it shows a grey on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4-5<sup>th</sup>

She went back today and the grey is still there:

“Yes, just seen the new pics, that grey has visited again three times on July 6<sup>th</sup> - at 04.58, 19.46 & 21.11, just once on the 7<sup>th</sup> at 06.48, not shown on the 8<sup>th</sup> & twice so far today, at 07.00 & 07.32.

Someone has put food in the two feeders by the stile this week so he's maybe been feeding there in between times.

**I've disinfected the feeders as usual before refilling them.**

Have sent you another pic of a red meeting a grey..... Liz”

Jerry to go first thing in the morning.

I popped up at 14h to put some corn in the feeders – a red on the feeder

**10<sup>th</sup>** – Jerry here 06-09h and then again for half a hour lunch-time – only x4 reds

**11<sup>th</sup> – X1 GREY DESPATCHED – 0700h.**

Jerry filled feeders and disinfected them.

Liz will be visiting every day this week in case another turns up

There was **5 reds** running about as well , 2 had real blonde tails.

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – well it continues to happen up here – a DEAD RED

E-mail and photos from Andy Haggar, who acted very promptly to tell us about a dead red which was just down from where the feeders are, but was right up against the fence – I'll save you from the photos.

I went and collected it and took more photos for Jerry – I don't think it is S/pox and Jerry states:

To me it looked as though someone had found it and put it against the fence 'out of the way'.

Liz tells me that: “I've been checking the cameras daily for the first week after Jerry's visit [the grey], currently every 2 days, no greys.

As far as I know, I have just two squirrels with blond tails (that's the most blonds I've seen together at once). Rechecking today's photos, the two were last seen together at 08.37am today and both looked well then so I doubt it's squirrel pox unless this was a third blond squirrel.

There is still feed in the feeders from when you filled them up on the 10<sup>th</sup>, it does seem to be going pretty slowly which has been worrying me - fewer visits lately?

On camera I seem to have just four recognisable reds lately, two blonds, one mid brown-tail and one with a dark tail with a fair tip.....”

**24<sup>th</sup>** - Today's pictures are still thankfully grey free but also a bit sad - looks like now I only have three regular reds - one blond tailed, one brown tailed, and one dark tailed with light-coloured tip. Liz

**26<sup>th</sup>** – GREY – kind of nearby - on the bridge over the M6 on the Shap to Crosby Ravensworth road - Liz informed

“Nipped up to change the SD cards, can clean the feeders out in a dry spell tomorrow. No greys seen today, my 'usual 3' were all on the feeders and looking OK - I'll check again tomorrow.

Thanks for sending the warning.” Liz

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Today's pics show no greys too but especially nice is this photo - TWO blond tailed reds, so there's at least 4 reds up there still, not a wonderful number but better than 3!!! Liz





## August

1<sup>st</sup> - Some must have been young & very playful - 2 ran up my back while I was sitting on a tree stump!

Still no sign of greys on camera, just blond-tailed squirrels and the dark tailed squirrel seen since yesterday.

There are still some monkey nuts in the feeder by the stile .....! Liz

4<sup>th</sup> – one, two, three



## Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck + Sleagill + Newby

**3<sup>rd</sup> June – GREY** – Seen crossing road near Keld Farm, Kings Meaburn.

**12<sup>th</sup> June – update from Jerry**

**Sleagill - X3 GREYS DESPATCHED and X1 RED with squirrel pox**

“Getting a few greys about area still never ending

And a chap I know shot 3 greys in his wood at sleagill and had to **dispatch a pox red**

**17<sup>th</sup> June – update from Jerry:**

“Yeah it’s not good at moment can’t seem to get anywhere clear.

Still another grey at Kings Meaburn at least, checked camera yesterday and another one on scatter feed, sat and watched and 4 reds.

Checked camera and feeder at **Newby** another grey plus reds

Town Wood grey again, Whittbarrow grey again

Constant circle and that’s without other areas.

Trapped and shot 83 greys in two weeks over at Gamblesby,

Greys all over shop.”

**W/c 3<sup>rd</sup> July – X2 GREYS DESPATCHED – Steele’s Mill**

**5<sup>th</sup> July – \*\*X3 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\* - Barnholme Wood, Kings Meaburn**

**6<sup>th</sup> July – \*\* X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - Barnholme Wood, Kings Meaburn**

**11<sup>th</sup> July – \*\* X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - Barnholme Wood, Kings Meaburn**

**SLEAGILL** – Red spotted 09.00 ish - Appeared to be a young one and healthy.

On a wall near David Strong's farm (Sleagill House.)

East end of the village -- Cheers TT

**18<sup>th</sup> July – GREY – Kings Meaburn** - on the road between the ford and the Morland to Maulds Meaburn road

## Morland

**There are a good number of woods hereabouts, they are, with an overview from Jerry:**

**Cross Rigg Hall** - See three reds in the grounds.

**Town Wood** - regularly see 6-8 reds

**Whittbarrow Wood** - Have seen three reds at one time at feeder

**Hagg Wood** - Two reds at feeder

**Crow Wood** and **Arthur's Wood** - reds are regular visitors to feeders.

**5<sup>th</sup> June – GREY** – on the Bolton Road near Crossriggs as you go down towards the River – seen by myself at 0620h as I was going to work

Update from Jerry, who just happened to be in Crossrigg at the same time:

*“No (I didn't get it) but it was on camera again late morning so back again tomorrow; not sure if same one as you seen.*

*Also photo of two grey kittens on feeder in Town Wood yet again.*

*I am totally flat out again it's gone bloody daft not just with me but other lads as well. Don't know which way to go next for the best.”*

**12<sup>th</sup> June – update from Jerry (X1 GREY DESPATCHED):**

“Getting a few greys about area still never ending

Seen another grey at Kings Meaburn Ford this morning.

Same place but it ran off but I'm back here now sat watching feed ride and 3 reds here at moment.

Despatched another at Crossrigg this morning (Whittbarrow Wood) and know there is another in Town Wood”

**29<sup>th</sup> June – Crown Inn Fields**

Just to let you know that, after a long absence (late last autumn) the red squirrels are visiting us again.

It (they) is (are) certainly taking plenty from our feeder in the garden !!

Have seen one a few times but think that the main feeding time is early on. Much of the food that I put out in the evening has gone by the time we get up.

I haven't managed to get a photo yet but if I do, I will send it to you.  
Thanks for your excellent reports and for all you do for these beautiful creatures.  
All the best -- John.

And from Jerry:

*"It's going mad again with sightings around Morland – **despatched another 2 in Crossrigg Town wood**, now another 3 have shown up on camera at 3 different feeders."*

**7<sup>th</sup> July – \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - Hagg Wood**

**26<sup>th</sup> July- Crown Inn Fields**

We are still blessed here and have an almost daily visit from one or more red squirrels. He (they) are eating me out of house and home at present !!!

As I mentioned in my last email to you at the end of June, he (they) tend to have breakfast early, certainly before our rising time.

However, last Saturday he must have slept in and arrived for his monkey nuts, etc, at about 9 30am.

He was our breakfast companion and stayed for almost 15 minutes. We are less than 2 metres away from him when sitting in the garden room.

I have attached one of the many photos which I took during his visit. I was also able to take several wonderful video sequences of its antics.



Where are all these woods hereabouts that Jerry is currently dealing with?



1 = Whitbarrow Wood

2 = Cross Rigg (Main House)

3 = Crow Wood

4 = Arthur's Wood

5 = Town Wood

6 = Strawberry Wood

**Darren Rogers 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023**