

Lyvennet Red Squirrel Sightings – November/December 2020



Well Head, Crosby Ravensworth – Photo: Andrew Wallis

General

No Greys Dispatched

Belated reported of x1 grey having been dispatched a few months ago in Reagill

- **No reports of S/Pox cases.**
-

Road Deaths – none

Year Total = 5

Other Deaths – one

Year Total = 2

Cat Attacks - none reported

Greys dispatched this year in parish = 20

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

The dead red was found at Lyvennet Bank on the 12th November.

It was near the feeder, in between it and the bridge – no obvious cause of death and otherwise appeared healthy.

See the entry for that day within 'Lyvennet Bank'.

Report

A relatively quiet period with 'sighting reports' of reds having totally dried up. Although likewise, there have been very few and certainly no recent reports of any greys.

What we do have though is a continuation from early autumn of a positive picture with reds being numerous, healthy and well scattered across the patch.

As already mentioned, reports of sightings, especially in December are practically zero - but all the feeders (*) that I manage are enjoying daily visits from hungry visitors.

It still amazes me how quick they are to visit a feeder once I've topped it up, sometimes it can be only a matter of minutes.

The other main news is that I had a 'Trail Motion Camera' stolen and which will have an impact on my monitoring of our local population, especially for any greys and especially in February and beyond when we regain access to a number of woods come the end of pheasant season.

*I have erected x2 two feeders during the period – one is in Flass Wood which can't be seen from a footpath/public place and a second to the left of the tunnel at Flass when exiting out into the field.

Both have been 'found' and are visited daily – the second of the two is most likely only temporary until February when we are back in Orchard Wood.

With the cold weather at the end of December I've found that whilst the feeders are still been visited daily, not all of the feed is going.

Monkey nuts remain popular, but the other seeds that I include are not always taken.

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

21st Nov - I'm hearing on the grapevine that the 'shooting syndicate' have seen x2 greys 'in the bottom wood at Flass', presumably Orchard Wood.

End of Nov' – GREY seen Morland Bank Wood

crossing the road within the long straight of the wood where there is a gate on the left

Unknown date in December – one grey seen in vicinity of Crosby Lodge

Maulds Meaburn



Thwaites Cottages, Maulds Meaburn Photo: Pete Button

Lyvennet Bank

9th Nov – feed going every day

Today saw a red on the lawn and when I returned 15 mins later from having done the other feeders it was now on the feeder.

10th Nov – after topping up the two feeders and then going over the bridge to get to **F3** at Fass, there was a red coming towards me, nut in mouth and who then went about 10ft up a tree – we then had a chat.

“Good afternoon – how do you do?” I asked

He cocked his head to one side and stared at me; not a hard stare, just one of slight bemusement

I then informed that ***“I’ve topped your feeders up for you.”***

At which he headed off towards Lyvennet Bank.

I continued my rounds and about 15 mins later when I walked past the

house, there he was on the feeders – clear and irrefutable evidence that we had been engaged in a two way conversation and that he had listened to my every word!

11th Nov – red seen on the drystone wall, other side of river, making its way towards the feeders.

Camera mounted on the metal bridge to try and get a picture of a red crossing over.

12th Nov – **A BAD DAY** -

Rec'd an email informing me that there was dead red in the garden of Lyvennet Bank, in between the tree with the feeder and the bridge.

Went straight down to recover it and thought that I would check the camera that I had only put out the day before.

The camera was missing, presumably stolen.

I'm sure that it was coincidence that the dead red lay only 6-7 yards away from where the camera had been sited.

It would appear that person(s) have been seen going into LB over the last few days and then into the wood beyond – the assumption is that whoever has taken the camera has gone into the woods and when returning over the bridge, seen the camera, realised that they would have been captured and hence taken it.

P&DRSG are now approx' £60-65 down and my ability to monitor reds in more than one site is compromised.

As for the dead red – no obvious cause of death.

Otherwise appeared healthy and it could be that a cat or bird of prey has had hold of it and I did notice that there were a few broken pieces of wood close by and it could even be that the branch that it was on gave way and it fell to its death, but whichever way, I don't know.

Body recovered and suitably interred.

A bad and very annoying day.



16th Nov – In spite of being a red down, the feed is still going.

13th Nov – Feed from both feeders is always gone

24th Dec – feed constantly been taken from both feeders

28th Dec – with the cold weather at the month's end I've found that whilst the feeders are been visited daily, not all of the feed is going.

Flass

2nd Nov – new feeder **F3** erected in Flass Wood (opposite side of river to the house) up in the top left hand corner near the '**Folly**'.

9th Nov – **F3** 'found' for the first time this morning. Red was a little nervous at first but then tucked in.

10th Nov – **F3** well and truly found and the food was all gone – as were **F1** and **F2**.

The even better news is that yesterday (9th) after I had topped it up in the afternoon a red was there within 30 mins and would have been around the same time as the red was on the feeder in Lyvennet Bank.

I'm slightly curious though, there are only six photos and the feeder is empty! I wonder if it is staying inside the feeder whilst eating – camera position changed.



- 15th Nov** – red was on the feeder **F3** this morning when I attended
- 19th Nov** – walked up to F3 this afternoon and suddenly up popped the lid and from inside out came a red – was he feeding or ‘at home’?
- 25th Nov** – following the reports of greys have sited a temporary feeder near the tunnel to see what turns up.
However, as I was approaching Flass there were x2 reds scampering About.
- 5th Dec** – The temporary feeder was found today for the first time ... by a red.
It then stayed all morning and ate all the feed – I guess that having emptied all the other feeders it finally decided to take a look at this one.



6th Dec – All feeders empty and including the temporary one.

11th Dec – all feeders always empty and the temporary one has only ever had reds visit it – one has a distinctive white tip on the underside of its tail
camera moved to Flass Folly

13th Dec – **Flass Folly** – now being visited by **two reds**
All other feeders empty as well

15th Dec – all is well – two reds on the feeder yesterday



24th Dec – having topped up yesterday, this afternoon the feeders at the Folly and in the garden had been visited, but still had some feed left – maybe the coldness of the weather

End of Dec – still being visited daily.

Orchard Wood

Currently out of action due to it being the pheasant season.

Longhill Wood

Currently out of action due to it being the pheasant season.

Edge Close - Wood above Flass Pasture NY 632 146

Currently out of action due to it being the pheasant season.

'Three Cornered Wood'

Currently out of action due to it being the pheasant season.

Holesfoot

NO REPORTS

Trainlands Wood

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

5th Nov – topped up – from the camera, still only reds visiting and frequently

11th Nov – greedy reds up here – camera moved.



The story behind this photo was that wherever I put the camera the little blighter would then climb the tree from the other side – it took a while just to get this, only half decent, one.

20th Nov - for the first time, not all of the food had gone.

End of Dec – always empty when I visit

Something (rat?) has really been trying to get into the feeder and has virtually stripped the wood next to the Perspex screen, on both sides.

Brackenslack Wood

Currently out of action due to it being the pheasant season.

Brackenslack Lane

10th Nov – spoke with David today and he has seen a red on the Lane in the adjacent trees and field and erected a feeder – going up the lane from the cattle grid it is on the R/hand side just past the end of the railings.

15th Nov – red seen on the feeder and the food is going

16th Nov – went to top the feeder up and a young red was sat on the feeder quite happily eating away.

Wasn't bothered about my presence, but I didn't disturb it.

Left food with David to top up later and from the photo that I took he seems to think that there could be two of them.



20th Nov – food still going every day.

End Dec' – David tells me that he hasn't seen the red for a little while now.

ROWANS

17th Nov - We continue to see the red squirrel almost daily although we suspect there are two, but hard to distinguish.

If only they would wear tags or different coloured jackets!

GREEN ENDS + THWAITES COTTAGES

1st Nov – in the garden at Thwaites Cottages (also see photo at the start of the report)



Photo: Pete Button

23rd Nov – 1130 hrs climbing the front gate to Green Ends and then running along the wall towards the neighbour.

Morland Bank Wood

2nd Nov – still with absolutely no food having been taken, **F1** now removed

Both feeders now removed – were visited, but no feed was ever taken.

End of Nov' – **GREY** seen crossing the road within the long straight of the wood where there is a gate on the left

2nd Dec – x2 reds seen together on the road and adjacent tree at the wood with the caravan in it

Other Sightings:

November

1st - garden of Linden House – did not stay for long

5th – 0810 hrs – crossed the road from Howebeck side and went into the copse opposite Hill House

15th – Saw a single red squirrel run from the river to Croft Ends barn circa 11.45 am today. Looked fit & well. Philippa
This is quite possibly the red that has 'moved in' on Brackenslack Lane

December

No Reports Received

Crosby Ravensworth



Well Head – photo: Andrew Wallis

The Bank Coppice (by River)

4th + 6th Nov – visited and all the feed had been taken

Feeder is now being managed by Brian Bowness

Reminder – the feeder is on private land with no public right of way.

Still being visited regularly and feed been taken

Summer House

I mentioned this feeder in the last report and it is on the footpath side of the river and is part of a garden for a property at Stoneworks.

Visited 6th Nov' and the feed previously left at the end of Oct' had been taken – topped up.

From the owner – reds do visit

End Dec' – topped up regularly and the feed is going

Crosby Ravensworth South - Gilt

Feed was been taken during November, but gradually became less used

Low Dalebanks

Still see one or two together most days in the garden and up at High Dale banks as well

Other Sightings:-

November

14th – WELL HEAD - Yesterday morning I filmed a squirrel in our garden.

Over a 2 minute period it was unable to open the lid of the two feeders in view.



End of Dec' – still believed to be visiting the feeders

December

NO REPORTS

Oddendale Plantation

Going back to October - Liz has let me know that:

"My record for the number of red squirrels spotted at once up at Oddendale in October - 6 young kits, squabbling over and around the feeders!

So good to see a decent number at last after the taking down of so many trees from the plantation a couple of years ago.

No greys seen."

5th Nov – x4 reds seen together

25th Nov - Healthy red squirrel on tree by corner in wall south of Oddendale (GR 593133).

Hopper Hill / Wood

No REPORTS -

Harberwain

NO REPORTS

Reagill

November

19th - Healthy red squirrel seen just west of Town Head Farm in Reagill this afternoon.

26th – Jonathan – Dunkirk

I walk around the parish daily and keep my eyes open.

Happy to have people contact me if any greys are seen**

We had 7 reds in the garden this week which is the most for a couple of years.

Usually we are down to Max 3 simultaneously

Feral cats have been an issue here!

**if you live in Reagill and see a grey and do not have Jonathan's details, contact me and I'll put you in touch.

In case you don't know, Jonathan is also



<https://birdsbistro.co.uk/>

Also from Dunkirk from a few weeks ago – one red that was determined to get to the food





Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck

NO REPORTS

Sleagill

NO REPORTS

Morland

NO REPORTS

Newby

NO REPORTS

And Finally

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



On a wall near Lyvennet Bank – the mice loved the small amount of food that I left out!



Quite rare to see a woodpecker on a feeder, can only remember one other occasion