

# Lyvennet Red Squirrels

January/February 2021



Bank Head, Crosby Ravensworth – Photo: Linda Bainbridge

## General

### No Greys Dispatched

- No reports of S/Pox cases.

Road Deaths – none

Year Total = 0

Other Deaths – none

Year Total = 0

Cat Attacks - none reported

Greys dispatched this year in parish = 0

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

## Report

Obviously the main item this time is now that the pheasant season has come to a close and we have access to the various woods, *'what's the situation like in those woods?'*

Early in February and ahead of my first visit, Gary went round and filled up all of the feeders and replaced several older ones with new.

These really are good feeders, you will see them in some photos later and worth investing in.

A few days later I was able to attend and get the motion cameras up so as to monitor the feeders.

I still have my own camera, but Gary has very kindly sourced a further two for me and now our ability to see what is going on has not been compromised by the theft of one of our cameras last year.



Hopefully most of you have seen the little video that we got from Longhill Wood shortly after putting the camera up.

One of the things that I have noticed over the last two months and others have commented as well, is that there are some reds that appear almost grey! I'm seeing a variety of shadings of red at present and indeed some when viewed from the rear do have a slight 'greyness' down their backs. I'm sure that the light at the time and maybe the wind has ruffled their coats, but they are red.

I've only had the one report of a 'grey sighting' (Colby Lane) and with no subsequent reports from the area.

Whilst monkey nuts seem to be the perennial favourite of the reds, I've found that over the last two months, sunflower seeds in their various forms are also popular and even plain peanuts are being taken.

Jays are proving a nuisance out in the woods, As soon as you fill a feeder, they arrive and I have had to pin the Perspex screens in some of the feeders to prevent them from lifting it up to gain access to the food.

Reports of sightings with or without photos from yourselves still come in and I thank you all – the more the better.

It would appear that no-one has managed to take a certain photo for me for which I was offering a small bag of feed – a red squirrel in the snow from this winter.

Maybe next year, unless we do get more snow in the spring.

All the feeders that I manage are enjoying daily visits from hungry visitors and so back to the situation out in the woods.

Well the news is ... good.

Orchard Wood, Three Cornered Wood, Longhill Wood and Flass Pasture all have reds, at least two in each and all making regular visits to the feeders.

I haven't seen any signs of greys and certainly the cameras haven't captured any. Slightly surprising, but definitely a pleasant surprise.

These woods are important to us as if we do get any greys then they tend to arrive from the east and they all make good homes for them and from where they then spread out.

It was a steady 'reintroduction', with visits fairly brief at first, but by the month's end they were emptying a virtually full feeder in less than a day!

Brackenslack is the one wood where we are still waiting for a red to visit.

Keep reports of sightings coming in – they are all used.

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

Mid Feb – seen on the Colby Road, tope end near turning to Kings Meaburn

## Maulds Meaburn



Thwaites Cottages, Maulds Meaburn Photo: Pete Button

## Lyvennet Bank

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

Slightly surprising that I've not heard many people tell me that they have seen a red on the feeder that looks out over the green.

## Flass

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

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

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

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

F2 is the most viewable of the three and I have had the odd report of a sighting on this feeder.

Once we were back in Orchard Wood I expected that visits to the feeder might tail off – but no, the food goes every day.

## ROWANS

**21<sup>st</sup> Jan** - Red on our bird feeder this morning.

Seems to prefer the bird feeder to the squirrel box.

First sighting for a few days.

End of Feb – Bob tells me that is a few weeks since they last saw a red.

## GREEN ENDS + THWAITES COTTAGES

**No Reports**

## Other Sightings:

### January –

**NO REPORTS**

### February

**4<sup>th</sup>** - **Howebeck** - spotted a red squirrel in the garden today, very healthy but with quite an attitude (he came up to me) - Paul

He came vertically down the tree trunk and made 'tsk tsk' noise, he stayed motionless for a bit of time before I retreated.

A bit like a typical Glaswegian train passenger after a few cans of strong lager! He came from Margaret's garden to where I was standing.

**16<sup>th</sup>** – See a dark russet squirrel almost every morning down by the river between MM and CR (between the two stone styles where the path's next to the river) – Simon Asquith.

## Orchard Wood

Following the end of the pheasant season now able to visit, as of 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Gary visited 8<sup>th</sup> Feb' and replaced the feeder with a new one.

I visited on the 11<sup>th</sup> and a red was on the feeder – camera set up.

He soon came back after I had left!



Only made one brief visit on the 12<sup>th</sup>, but was back morning and afternoon on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

When I visited just before 1500 hrs on the 13<sup>th</sup> he was just leaving the feeder.

What was even better was that when I then went through to Three Cornered Wood there was a RED sat on that feeder.

**16<sup>th</sup>** – red visiting daily

Camera moved

**End of Feb** – still visited daily by a red(s) with the feed being taken



## Three Cornered Wood

Following the end of the pheasant season now able to visit, as of 1<sup>st</sup> February.  
Gary visited 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and filled the feeder.

I visited on the 11<sup>th</sup> and slight signs of some feed having been taken

**13<sup>th</sup>** – RED on the feeder at 1500 hrs when I visited - Camera set up



**Photo: Darren Rogers**

**15<sup>th</sup>** – regular visits from a RED

**16<sup>th</sup>** – not sure about this, but, plenty of food taken, but the camera has failed to pick anything up!

Checked and was working fine yesterday and again today when I swapped the SD cards!

**17<sup>th</sup>** – RED made a brief 12 minute visit this morning at 1112 hrs

I can't explain yesterday's mystery of the food having gone, but image captured as the camera is working fine!

**End of Feb** – still visited daily by a red(s) with the feed being taken

## Longhill Wood

You may recall that when we left this wood at the end of September no greys had been seen for a while and one of the last photos was of x3 reds on the feeder.

Following the end of the pheasant season now able to visit, as of 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Gary visited 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and replaced the feeder with a new one.

I visited on the 11<sup>th</sup> and there were signs of some feed having been taken

Camera set up.

**13<sup>th</sup>** – the feed is been taken.

Slight issue with the SD card in the camera – able to view the photo's in the camera (121 of them – looked at about 10 and only saw a RED), but when try to view them back at home the card is empty!

**14<sup>th</sup>** – feed taken – still an issue with the SD in the camera

**15<sup>th</sup>** – noticeably more food taken today when I visit.

Still the issue with the SD card and so now took the camera home.

Sorted – the camera had been left in the video format, not camera!

Lots of 10 second videos to watch – but all have been of reds.

The visits tend to be early, around 0720 hrs for at least a hour.

And then today – two reds visited – which might explain why more food has gone.

What is quite noticeable from the videos is that when one red is on the feeder no matter what the other red may do, it isn't going to dislodge the one already on it.

**16<sup>th</sup>** – food taken and camera put back.



**17<sup>th</sup>** – still x2 REDS – visits becoming longer – 1 hour a time x2 this morning.

**18<sup>th</sup>** – this pair of reds do arrive early (0742 hrs – just after sunrise) and today they stayed until 1236 hrs!



And then this – I can count to 3!



It isn't the best of photos (a little blurry), but it's good enough for me!

**End of Feb** – still visited daily by reds with all the feed being taken.

The first arrival is between 07-0800 hrs, but now they last all morning.

Many photos capture just the one red, but not a day goes by without several photos of two at the same time.

When the camera was in video mode, they could be seen running back off up the hill – still unknown where the drey is.



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

When we left this wood in September we had two cheeky chappies making regular visits.

Following the end of the pheasant season now able to visit, as of 1<sup>st</sup> February. I visited on the 11<sup>th</sup> and filled the feeder.

**13+14<sup>th</sup>** – reasonable amount of feed had been taken.

**15<sup>th</sup>** - virtually all the food has been taken in one day.

**16<sup>th</sup>** - all the food has been taken in one day – camera set-up, just in case.

**RED** visited for ½ an hour at 1630 hrs



**17<sup>th</sup>** – the photo above is of the RED this morning.

However, I have a problem with a Jay, who is a regular visitor and has learnt to lift the Perspex screen up!

Will have to pin it – the screen, not the Jay.

**\*\*from the camera – x2 reds at 1731 hrs\***



I have put a camera on the wall to try and get that real close up cute photo as they approach the feeder – will it work?

**End of Feb** – still visited daily by a red(s) with the feed being taken

## Holesfoot

**NO REPORTS**

## Trainlands Wood

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

## Brackenslack Wood

Following the end of the pheasant season now able to visit, as of 1<sup>st</sup> February.  
Gary visited 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and filled up the feeder.  
I checked 19<sup>th</sup> and none of the food had been taken

**End of Feb** – the feeder is still to be visited

## Brackenslack Lane

David tells me that the feed is going, but that he has not seen a squirrel on or near the feeder for quite a while.

**End of Feb** – still as above

## High Lankaber

25<sup>th</sup> Feb' a.m. - Here at Lankaber, I caught this fella on my iPhone! Right place, right time for once! Vicky







## Morland Bank Wood

No Reports

## Crosby Ravensworth



**Photo by Joan Raine**

What comes next could be 'photo of the month' – P&DRSG certainly liked it and used it on their Facebook page



Scroll down to go – *'Oh isn't that lovely'*

## Dale Foot

Still visiting on a daily basis



**Bookends - Photo by Joan Raine**

## The Bank Coppice (by River)

**Now managed by Mr. Bowness – but I've had no updates**

If empty when I pass I do top it up

## Summer House

I was putting food in the feeder and it always go – but I've not been by for a for weeks

## **Crosby Ravensworth South – Gilts**

Andrew Wallis kindly checked on this feeder for me and topped it up – still being visited, but not daily

## **Low Dalebanks**

**No Reports**

## **Other Sightings:-**

### **January**

I regularly see a red squirrel just below Bank Farm, in a tree just at the end of the footpath up from Silver Street. It's not at all camera shy, and I have lots of photos, but unfortunately none of them are great due to the light and the quality of my point-and-shoot zoom - Linda Bainbridge.



**Photo's by Linda Bainbridge**



**Lyndene** - Red on our feeder on riverbank every day.  
It always feeds upside down!  
Likes to eat from the bird feeder rather than its own.  
I'll have to have a word with it! Keith Golding





**0830 hrs Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Keith Golding**

- 11<sup>th</sup>** - Just spotted on wall on the other side of the road from Well Head.  
There has been no evidence of one taking food from my two feeders for about 6 weeks at Well Head.
- 17<sup>th</sup>** - Hurragh spotted a healthy Red at Weston House last Sunday! Mark

## February

### 7<sup>th</sup> – WELL HEAD

I have just seen one today at our feeder at Well Head having had evidence that one was feeding at it several days ago -- Andrew Wallis

Incidentally, a couple of days ago, we put a few monkey nuts in their cases in the feeder in the small copse 150ish yards to the north of Holme Bridge (**Gilts**). We haven't been to check yet.

7<sup>th</sup> - Topped up the feeder this afternoon (**Gilts**) and there was evidence of feeding.

We will carry on for a bit.

10<sup>th</sup> – **WELL HEAD** - We've had one red squirrel feeding frequently this morning and then I spotted two!



Photo: Andrew Wallis

17<sup>th</sup> – David at Brook House tells me that they have x2 REDS visiting daily, seems he spoils them and puts hazelnuts out for them.

## Oddendale Plantation

**29<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Food still going well at Oddendale and saw two reds up there during a very brief visit this morning, three last Sunday - Liz

**3<sup>rd</sup> Feb** - 5 reds seen in the morning - very lively in the cold! Liz

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb** –

Oh how lovely!! Thank you for sending that clip (reds in Longhill Wood).

I had a camera for a few years at Oddendale but it finally succumbed to the rain.

Food going well still over here - twice as fast as usual during the snow last week!

I was there filling up feeders again yesterday, and one that I recognised jumped on a feeder while I was there which was nice! Liz

## Hopper Hill / Wood

Spoke with Keith Mid Jan' – stated that reds were still visiting, not necessarily every day and didn't appear to be taking all of the food that he put out for them

## Harberwain

### **February**

**5<sup>th</sup>** - Barbara saw one not far below Harberwain on Harberwain Lane  
Andrew Wallis.



## Reagill

No Reports



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

## 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

