

Lyvennet Red Squirrels

May / June 2021



Well Head, Crosby Ravensworth – Photo: Andrew Wallis

General

X24 Greys Dispatched first of the year

No reports of S/Pox cases.

Road Deaths – none **Year Total = 1**

Other Deaths – one ** **Year Total = 2**



** found in the garden of Weston House, Crosby Ravensworth at the end of May.
Gary collected it and thought that it had a virus which causes dehydration.

Cat Attacks - none reported

Greys dispatched this year in locality = 24

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

Report

Generally things remain positive at present, but with a few caveats.

These last two months have seen '*reds back in Morland*', reds generally been seen in numerous locations, healthy and in good numbers along with a number of young and there are many reds with '*pale tails*' being seen at present.

The main caveat is that we have had some greys.

There has been just the one at Crosby Ravensworth and Maulds Meaburn, but a fair number in the vicinity of ++Town Wood (Morland) and **Keld Farm, to the north of Kings Meaburn.

++ 16 dispatched

** 8 dispatched.

The 16 at Town Wood only started out as half a dozen, but Jerry Moss just kept on finding them. However, aided by a sighting from our very own Reverend with Jerry notified immediately and his quick response, the have been dealt with expeditiously.



However, even at Town Wood there is positive news as reds are also present. The one grey at Maulds Meaburn has been seen in woods above the village and seems to have settled down to one particular wood and will hopefully be dealt with very soon.

The odd single grey at Crabstacks/Chitty Hill also remains outstanding.

How technology can help - Town Wood sounds as though Jerry has been able to put technology to good use, he tells me:

“The spy point cellular cameras I have been using in Town Wood have been valuable as they send photos to an app on my phone.

So if I was sat watching a feeder, checked my phone and a grey was at another feeder in the wood off I would go and see if I can get it.

Have got five that way.”

(In the Morland section there is a report on Town Wood with some of those photos).

Since the second week of June it has become noticeable that the feeding pattern at several locations has changed.

This has seen the amount of feed been taken drop off quite markedly.

Whilst it has remained fairly constant at some sites, at a good number, including Oddendale, Orchard Wood and some near Flass, feed is no longer taken with gay abandon and there will often be quite a bit left.

Jerry commented that:

“May well be due to a few things, few seeds and buds about now, the weather also warmer and not the movement and need for as much energy (food).

I have seen things like this over the years, feeders that have been used hard all of a sudden they slow right down.

But that above may also not be the reason.”

An example of this maybe at ‘Caravan Wood’ (Morland Bank) – when I put the feeder up in April there were many cones scattered on the floor and now those cones have been partly or nearly eaten and within just a few metres of the feeder.

This report also owes a small debt to Andrew Wallis from Crosby Ravensworth who apart from his numerous updates, has provided me/us with some absolutely cracking photographs.

One of them you have already seen above, but there are several more in the Crosby Ravensworth section and anyone of them could have been the title photo' and no doubt I will use them again in future reports.

I was somewhat hampered at the very end of June by having to (Covid) self-isolate and hence not able to get out.

Once I can, apart from checking all my feeders and cameras, I need to get up to Brackenslack to see if anything has changed there (previously no reds at all) and I will put an extra feeder up in Longhill Wood to try and gauge just how many reds are up there.

I will also try to visit Trainlands Plantation, to the south of Holesfoot, to see what moves about in there.



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

Do keep sending in any photos and reports of sightings.

P&DRSG will have a new website up and running shortly and all our sightings will be fed into that to create an 'heat map' of those sightings.



www.penrithredsquirls.org.uk/

www.facebook.com/PDRSG01

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

End May, start of June -- x8 greys dispatched at Keld Farm, Kings Meaburn

10th June – Morland - on the bridge over the river by Lyvennet Mill.

Jerry Moss informed and would attend 11th

14th June – update on above

Four greys shot at feeders.

Seen 6 reds as well. Also know there is at least another grey

15th June – update on above

Got another be this morning when I was in there but then had to go other places, checked my camera app and there is yet another one so back I will go.

18th June – Longhill Wood

After nothing at all, one large adult caught on camera early morning for a few minutes.

Apart from some corn in the bottom of the feeder it was empty, but it wasn't seen again, with me arriving approx' 1630hrs.

Gary informed and e-mail to group.

23rd June – Three Cornered Wood

Grey caught on camera at 1007 hrs and stays for the rest of the day.

On the feeder when I attend on the 24th at 1545 hrs – this equals first knowledge of its presence.

One large adult and gorging itself silly.

Gary informed and hopes to attend 25th.

27th June – update on Town Wood

"I know there is at least one more in Town Wood, think it's a kitten and I will be after that again tomorrow. Also got one on camera in the other wood over from the bridge which I will be checking again tomorrow and if been at feeder traps will be going live tomorrow."

28th June - update on Town Wood

One further grey dispatched, but now another one has been spotted.

Maulds Meaburn



Longhill Wood, Maulds Meaburn Photo: Darren Rogers

Lyvennet Bank

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

19th June – the main feeder in the garden is always empty, but the one looking over the green has become very sporadic and some days pass with no feed having been taken.

Flass

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

Moved **F1 on 13th May** – to the yew tree to the right of the swimming pool as you look from the garden back towards the house – not viewable from the footpath.

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

13th May - Always forget to report, but see a Red down by the river between Flass and CR most mornings around 6.40a.m. – 7.00a.m.

It was there this morning (and the previous two days – along with the roe deer).

Also – inevitably, regularly on your feeder by the Flass tunnel.

Thanks for this, as ever -- Simon.

20th May – the repositioned feeder **F1** was for the first time this morning ... empty

22nd May – after doing my rounds and returning back to Flass, a small, young red was on **F2**.

19th June – **F1** has become sporadic over the 2-3 weeks, but some more had been taken in the last 24hrs

F2 is always empty

F3 still tends to have feed taken, but unlike before when it would all have been taken, now there tends to be some left.

23rd June - seen two at Flass - adjacent to the gates in the lower garden – Jodie

GREEN ENDS + THWAITES COTTAGES



25th May – in the garden at Thwaites Cottages:

Photo: Pete Button

23rd June - I saw a red dancing along by the river from us towards Flass twice 3 weeks ago but forgot to report it as I was busy.

None since then which is very rare.

Where are they all?

Pennie.

Orchard Wood

This is one of the woods where the feed does go constantly, although during June the amount taken did decline and become a little more sporadic. Yet the feeder about 200yds away at Flass tunnel would always be empty!

Three Cornered Wood

Regular visits, feed always gone.

19th June – feed is always taken when I attend.

Camera placed here following sighting of grey at Longhill Wood yesterday

21st June – only red visiting the feeder – was there shortly after I left at 1530 hrs

22nd June – up to time of visit (1530 hrs) no visits today
But arrived at 1559 hrs after I had left!

23rd June – grey squirrel arrived on scene and makes itself resident.



Red from 0615 hrs this morning, the grey arriving at 1107 hrs and then gorging itself silly for the rest of the day.

The red did make the occasional appearance later in the day.

Gary has been informed and will hopefully attend 25th.



24th June – grey back at 0748 hrs and has several prolonged visits up to the point that I arrive, 1545 hrs when it is still on the feeder.

No red at all today (up to my arrival) – but did arrive at 1631 and spent just over an hour on the feeder.

25th June – red from 0844 hrs and still there at 0830 hrs when Gary arrived at 0930 hrs.

Grey arrived at 1114 hrs and just sat there until 1315 hrs – trying to get at the corn from under the Perspex screen – it didn't move away.

I was there at 1555 hrs.

29th June – over the last few days there has been multiple visits by both the red and the grey.

When either visit they tend to stay for some time.

30th June – the grey is visiting more often now.

Longhill Wood

May

All good at the start of the period, regular visits, can't keep the food coming fast enough for them and there is one prominent visitor whom I call '*pale tail*'.

This photo below I found quite interesting:



Something has spooked this red as it is lying flat, keeping a low profile as opposed to the normal head up and looking where it is going.

20th – for the first time this year I actually saw a red in person in the wood.



Still one of my favourite poses!

Feed still going within a day!

Tends to be just two visitors, pale tail and one with a darker tail, looks fairly young

Full marks if you work out the following caption:

That's the wrong tree!



A synchronised approach



18th June – had still been reds all the way ... until this morning!



Just the one grey seen and didn't stay more than a few minutes – but it is big and ugly -- Gary informed.

I topped the feeders up at 4.30 p.m. and will check again tomorrow.

I'm slightly annoyed that before I popped up to Longhill Wood this afternoon (on way back from work) that I had first been to Trainlands and Morland Bank and put cameras up there, as tomorrow (19th) I would have gone put them in the other woods adjacent to Longhill – but there we go.

19th June – no greys

Attended at 1600 hrs and the camera shows no greys in the last 33 hrs
Not all of the feed had gone – camera still shows numerous by x2 reds.

21st June – only reds visiting the feeder –arrived 17 mins after I had left (1451 hrs)

22nd June – only reds visiting the feeder – visits all morning and into the afternoon.

23nd June – only reds visiting the feeder – visits all morning and into the afternoon.

24th June – only reds visiting the feeder – visits all morning and into the afternoon.

End of the month – still two reds visiting daily and eating well.

I was a bit worried when I saw this (and it was there again the next morning), but a little like Brian Hanrahan in 1982:

"but I counted them all out, and I counted them all back"



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 I put out for them is always taken.

20th May – this is actually quite strange, but I've actually never seen a red in this wood – that is, in person – but today saw x2!

As I was walking to the feeder (midday) suddenly a red flew out of the feeder and went off up the bank.

Then another first - as I was walking down the avenue in the field towards Flass, but only about 200 yards from the wood, a red was running up the fence line towards the wood – I wonder where he had been?

27th May – I topped up at 1152 hrs and 6 minutes later a red was there



MINOX

12:04:55

2021/05/27 15 °C ●

DTC 550



MINOX

15:24:26

2021/05/27 15 °C ●

DTC 550

19th June – feed tends to go, but on occasions there might be a little left ... same again over the last 24hrs this time.

Camera placed here following sighting of grey at Longhill Wood Yesterday.

21st June – only reds visiting the feeder

22nd June – only reds visiting the feeder

23rd June – reds from 0524 to 0823 hrs, again for 30 mins from 0915 hrs and then from 1506 hrs through to 2013 hrs

24th June – reds from 0546 hrs, but visits far less frequent than yesterday.



Other sightings from the village:

May –

NO REPORTS

June -

28th - Rowans - Well they are back.

This morning we observed a single red feeding from our box.

Holesfoot

NO REPORTS REC'D

Brackenslack Wood

May

14th – still nothing, all the food in-situ

21st – as above

June

End of month – position remains the same

Brackenslack Lane

May

12th – still food in the feeder – visits from a red appear to have stopped.

18th – 0630 hrs ran through the front yard of Snow Drop barn, went round the back of the house and out of sight.

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

Trainlands Wood

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

21st May – located a camera here and I'd barely left before they were back for some food!



25th May – arriving early now, 0435 Hrs!!
Beat my 0605 hrs this morning

18th June – food still going regularly
Camera sited back here

19th June – attended at 1030h to top up and remove the camera (due to grey at Longhill Wood).
Camera shows red at feeder last night for a hour up to 2045h
Red returned at 0430h this morn' and stayed till after 9 ... usually with a very large crowd for company.

End of June – due to a (covid) isolation did not manage to get up to the wood for 10 days

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.

19th May – 0900 hrs – red seen running along road at the Maulds Meaburn end Of the wood, not far up from the very first bend (where the track goes straight up for Reagill) – have not had a sighting here before

On the 25th April I mounted a feeder in the wood past the bends after the left turn to Reagill, the wood with the caravan in it (now known as *Caravan Wood*). It took until the 5th May for a red to find/visit it – but it took no food. It returned on the 7th and again took no food. It returned on the 11th and took everything!

Caravan Wood

14th May – visit by a young red who struggled for a while to work out how to get into the feeder.

Finally it worked it out, but you could just tell he was never that confident about the lid and would have to climb into the feeder to get something out.

22nd May – now visiting every day





I think it is just the one, but the visits are regular

But then this one below turned up which I think is a different red ...

Just got to hang in there ...!



18th June – food still going regularly
Camera re-sited here

19th June – attended at 09h – red in nearby tree
Removed camera (due to grey at Longhill Wood)
From camera - red most of this morning feeding

I have noticed over the last few days that there are now quite a few partially eaten cones in the vicinity of the feeder.

In April when I put the feeder up, there were cones, but none had been eaten.

End of June:

Due to a period of Covid Isolation, I haven't been able to get up to the wood

However, from the camera, I have one poor quality photo which shows ...

two reds

Crosby Ravensworth



Photo: Andrew Wallis – Well Head – 19th June

Camera: Canon EOS7D

Lens: Canon 70-200mm F4 IS USM

Photo shot at: ISO 1250, F4 & 200mm

Shutter speed: 1/200s

Well Head

8th May - Red squirrel feeding at Well Head at the moment.

I scared it when I went out for a few minutes but it came back immediately I went indoors.

14th June - We have daily visits now to the two feeders in the garden.

The squirrel has been seen crossing the road though, some drivers fail to heed the sign requesting them to drive slowly past the area.



19th June - Some good news: We now have an adult with one young red squirrel feeding daily in our garden at Well Head.

ED: - Now check the photo below, the squirrel and the bowl – below is Andrew's reply re my enquiry as to whether it is a young red

22nd June – "I'm not sure if it's a young one though we have had two together than makes it easier to differentiate on size.

However, this one is darker than some we have had recently.

I need to get photos of all of our visitors to try and identify each one.

I suspect we have more than two on site.

Yesterday evening we had two feeding simultaneously at the front and rear of our garden.

It was great hearing the lids of the feeders banging down regularly as they fed."



Photo: Andrew Wallis – Well Head – 22nd June



***Mother & Child:* Photo: Andrew Wallis – Well Head – 26th June**

26th June – see the '*mother and child*' photo above.

27th June - I have just seen one adult with one young on one of our feeders like yesterday evening.

However there was also another young squirrel on the lawn - great news.

Dale Foot

Still visiting on a daily basis

22nd May - Saw a pair cavorting in the garden at the bottom of Dalebanks this afternoon , sadly they scarpered into a thick hedge just as I was about to show them to some ramblers -- Neil

Weston House

6th May - Thankfully it has been a busy early May report.

Have seen two in our garden at Weston House on 5th and 6th May.

4th June - sorry to report that I found a dead red squirrel in my garden last week.

I called Gary and he was kind enough to collect the animal.

He thought it had a virus which dehydrates the animal.

What a shame because it looked perfectly healthy.

Keep up the good work and hopefully happier news next time I write.

Crosby Ravensworth South – Gilts

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

Checked 19th May and the feed is slowly going – especially the hazel nut that had been at the bottom

The Bank Coppice (by River)

Having spoken with Shirley, reds are still visiting regularly.

Camera located here on the 12th and indeed the visits are very frequent



Summer House

No Reports

Low Dalebanks

23rd June - We still have a daily visitor, I am only seeing one at a time but it is very healthy, no grey sightings so far where we are.

Other Sightings:-

May

13th – Often see one (e.g. this morning on the Lifeboat lorry!!) outside the school. It often runs along the roadside wall immediately to the north of the School -- Simon Asquith.

18th - First sighting from me this month, one red near bridge over Lyvennet at end of Silver Street in the evening -- Neil

June

7th – I can't say that the reds are regular visitors to Silver Street at the moment, I have put out nuts for them but had no garden visits, however next door Weston House has an abundance of tall trees so they may be more regular there. I'll keep a lookout - Neil McCall.

Hopper Hill / Wood

20th May – morning about 0830 Hrs – in tree near river on the footpath side.

Harberwain

6th May - two reds were seen on separate days at the start of May -- Mark

8th June - on the Shap road at the top of Haberwain near the farm, running alongside the car -- Neil

Oddendale Plantation

18th June – following report of grey at Longhill Wood

Thanks, Darren, I'll go up early to Oddendale over the next few days and keep looking.

Haven't been stopping to watch after filling feeders as the cattle were in with their young, but was a bit worried today - food going unusually slowly and no sight of squirrels ...

May be nothing and just the wrong time of day but will be extra vigilant! Liz

21st June - Still not much food gone but two very lively kits racing around tonight.... Liz

Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck

David tells me that there is a healthy number, mainly down at the river, not so much in the village.

However, the main news is as per the introduction and the dispatching of a good number of greys at Keld Farm

Sleagill

NO REPORTS

Newby

NO REPORTS

Reagill

Beech Tree Farm

12th May - Lovely, healthy-looking red squirrel seen here yesterday morning - Jane

Morland



Photo: John Gore – Crown Inn Fields

May

26th - Squirrel spotted this morning, running across Church Alley and up into the trees around Morland House.

June –

10th - Sadly, I saw a grey squirrel here in Morland today - on the bridge over the river by Lyvennet Mill.

People have been seeing **reds** again recently in the village, so we want to Deal with it quickly if we can.

Jerry Moss was notified and he would attend on the 11th

Jerry also stated that:

“I am monitoring town wood which is the big wood next to the bridge I also have feeders in the other wood on other side of bridge.

Will pop over tomorrow and set cameras and have a good look about.”

14th – Re greys in Town Wood – from Jerry.

“Was in there today the big wood on top - shot 4 greys at feeders.

Seen six reds as well.

Also know there is at least another grey.

Nothing happening in the other wood as yet”.

18th June -

Chatting to neighbour today in **Jackson Croft** who said he was in his garage and a red squirrel walked in.

Said it had been in neighbours' garden too.

Red squirrels continue to go for breakfast every morning in my son's garden in **Great Strickland** -- Pamela

22nd June - 13 Jackson Croft

We had a red squirrel in our back garden at lunch time.

He popped up on the fence between us (no13) & no 14; we were sat quietly talking on our deck chairs.

He spent a good 10 seconds looking at us then bobbed back down into no 14.

I stealthily got to the fence and he was about 6 feet away but then he turned and scampered straight back towards me. I stepped back as I didn't want to scare him/her ... sadly when I dared look again he was gone -- Liz



Town Wood Greys



Well this one is red



23rd June – Crown Inn Fields

Thank you for all your updates and more recently the disturbing news about the incidence of greys.

Anyway, thanks to the vigilance of several folk and subsequent reporting, together with the excellent work of the rangers, the situation appears to be under control.

We have personally not seen any greys in Morland and were quite surprised to hear about the sightings here.

We thought that you would be pleased to know that we have the red squirrels coming to our feeders again.

We see one almost every day, sometimes more than once and there is certainly nothing wrong with their appetite !!!

The feeders are only a metre away from our garden room window and so, when the red squirrel makes his/her daily call we are entertained, often for quarter of an hour at least.

As a consequence, I have been able to take some really good video sequences. Nevertheless, I am attaching four pictures :-

Next page ... Our squirrel is back ... a lovely sighting in the tree above the feeding station.

Morland Title photo ... surveying the scene and deciding which feeder to go for.

Not only do we have the red squirrel at present, but we always have a large contingent of birds visiting our feeders.

I have attached a few snaps showing a small selection of our feathered friends. If you want to use any of them then that is fine.

Thanks as always Darren for the work that you do in disseminating information and helping in so many ways to ensure the continued survival and spread of the red squirrel in our area.

John and Margaret





Left ... and soon tucking in from the conventional box,

Right . but then the decision was made to change feeders and practice some acrobatics !!!

27th June - Back to Town Wood and the greys:-

Update from Jerry:

I have had 15 up to now in last couple of week, I know there is at least one more in Town Wood, think it's a kitten and I will be after that again tomorrow. Also got one on camera in the other woods over from the bridge which I will be checking again tomorrow and if been at feeder traps will be going live tomorrow.



28th June – one further grey dispatched in Town Wood – still one left

And Finally

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



Photo: John Gore



Photos: John Gore



A lot going on – x2 reds, a Jay and the back end of a deer!



Who got the nut?



Two together!



Darren Rogers
4th July 2021