

Lyvennet Red Squirrels

Autumn 2021



A snowy scene in Flass Wood – Photo: Trail camera

The main news being:

- Very quiet with few reported sightings
- A lot of road deaths (4) of reds – mainly Crosby Ravensworth area
- Greys are knocking about, making the occasional, but sporadic appearance.
- In a few places reds ‘disappeared’ for a good number of weeks, but have subsequently ‘reappeared’.
- Reds still very active though on the feeders that I manage
- Reds now have their winter coats and are much darker in appearance
- New feeders put up by the river on Hopper Hill are doing well

General

X9 Greys Dispatched Year Total = 40

No reports of S/Pox cases.

Road Deaths – four Year Total = 5

X1 Morland Bank

X1 Crosby Ravensworth school

X1 Near Castlehowe Scar (Crosby Ravensworth to Shap road)

X1 Harberwain



Other Deaths – none Year Total = 2

Cat Attacks - one reported from Reagill early September and quite nasty

“We were worried because there are numerous farm cats in the village and couple of days ago Jon actually saw 2 cats fighting over a squirrel they had caught, our dogs ran over and startled the cats and the squirrel was able to escape- no idea if any injuries, fingers crossed it was ok. “

Greys dispatched this year in locality = 40

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

Report

This is the first of the now quarterly/seasonal reports and overall it has been fairly quiet.

The reds have certainly taken on their autumnal colours of a darker, more russet, red and the ‘pale-tails’ of summer are long gone.

Reports of sightings have been few, but fortunately that also applies to sightings of greys, although they are about and do make the occasional appearance.



In some places reds had 'disappeared' for a good number of weeks, but have now 'returned' at the start of December.

In the various locations that I monitor I am seeing a good number of reds and they are prolific visitors to the feeders – I have put additional feeders up ** over the last few months, but with mixed results.

Following a sighting of a grey up on Meaburn Edge/Appleby road, I popped a feeder up in the St. Croix plantation (it had been a wood that I'd been considering anyway) – and absolutely nothing!

Not even a dickie bird – over a 3 week period the camera only took about four photo's.

I've had more success on the River Lyvennet between Maulds Meaburn and Crosby Ravensworth (in the area of Hopper Hill, but viewable from the footpath) and these are being visited regularly.

However, it poses the question of where do these reds come from as they certainly don't appear to 'live' in the two copses by the river.

Greys – until the start of February when we get back in the woods around Flass, we don't know what the true position is.

However, as they were in those woods at the end of August when we came out, I do expect to find them still in there.

That is also partly supported by the fact that there is the occasional grey that turns up at the feeder next to the tunnel at Flass – and this in itself is curious as I (the camera) won't see a grey for a good few days and then one turns up and then will be there at exactly the same time the next day and then 'disappear' again.

However, these visits are fleeting and often for a minute or less.

It is at least encouraging that come the end of November that one hadn't been seen for while.

There continues to be greys in and around Morland, but see the update from Jerry below.

Road Deaths – at the start of December there was an additional death up Harberwain – upsetting for the person who found it and particularly as this was the second that they have found this year.

I can only ask that people ... slow down.

Morland – as below, Jerry has had further issues/success in Town Wood

On the 12th November Jerry Moss informed me:

Greys around Morland/Cross Rigg, I have had another six in Town Wood.

Also, three in a wood in Morland that belonged to Freddie Markham.

Been a lot of greys about last couple of months and still is, but tide turning now , leaf is coming off rapid and all the natural feed is on the deck so they have to come down for it now.

Cheers Jerry

**for a while and I had previously mentioned this, I had intended to put a feeder up in the plantation on Oddendale Fell to see ‘what moves in there’.

This is a plantation that was planted 40yrs ago – I chose the wrong week – got there and it had been chopped down!!!!

Egg on my face!?

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.



Keep up the good work and have a merry Christmas.



www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk/

www.facebook.com/PDRSG01

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

4th Sept – Maulds Meaburn grey on the feeder at Flass tunnel – Gary updated

5th Sept – Morland seen near the tennis court

16th Sept – Littlebeck – 0810 hrs – as I was taking daughter to school this morning saw a grey running up the road just above Littlebeck between Kings Meaburn and Maulds Meaburn, about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on the Maulds Meaburn side of Littlebeck – I guess that it was slightly lost!

22nd Sept – heard that Gary has been informed of a grey at Holesfoot.

26th Sept – that grey I saw on the 16th at Littlebeck, seen this morning on the Kings Meaburn side of the show field

Jerry was informed and who said:

“Could be same one, could be a different one. I had a report from farm there last week also but seen once I did go for a look about but nowt.

They are really moving about at moment “

Grey also seen at Lankaber – one and the same?

1st Oct’ – (Approx Date) seen on a wall at Meaburn Edge – feeder to go up.

14th Oct’ – grey very briefly back at Flass tunnel

16th Oct – grey at Flass tunnel again and for longer this time – Gary informed

23rd – 24th Oct’ – grey at Flass again

12th Nov – Jerry informs me that over the last few weeks he has dispatched Another six in town wood and three in a wood in Morland that belonged to Freddie Markham.

Been a lot of greys about last couple of months and still is, but tide turning now , leaf is coming off rapid and all the natural feed is on the deck so they have to come down for it now.

Maulds Meaburn



Longhill Wood, Maulds Meaburn Photo: Darren Rogers

Lyvennet Bank

X1 feeder looking out over the green

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

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

3rd Sept – after a brief spell away, cleaned the feeders up and the food was gone the following morning.

20th Sept – feed going every day, well only the monkey nuts. Doesn't seem to be any interest in anything else.

7th Oct' – feed still going daily.

3.15 p.m. today as walked towards start of lane down to Flass a red run from the tree on the opposite side of the road, went up onto and ran along the wall before going up a tree – I topped the feeder up that looks out over the green and 20minutes later on my return it was on the feeder

16th Oct – reds continue to be active on all feeders

3rd Nov – reds continue to be active on all feeders.

Come the end of November the position remains the same – regular and daily visits by reds.

Flass

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

I have permanently kept a camera on the tunnel feeder due to it being the first feeder out of Orchard Wood and the most likely place where we will first see the greys coming out from those woods.

Indeed greys have made the occasional, if random visit to the feeder

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

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

Folly – up at the folly and not viewable to the public

SEPTEMBER

3rd – after a brief spell away, cleaned the feeders up and the feed had been taken come the following day.

Cameras positioned on the tunnel and the folly.

4th – Feed gone – on the tunnel feeder a red was there at 1850h and then again this morning at 07h and indeed x2 reds.

However, at 0956h a grey appeared – just the one photo though.

Gary updated and to come up with a plan of action.

Saw a red in Flass wood as walking through.

Camera positioned on the feeder in the garden

5th – no greys up to 15h – have a photo of a red on the garden feeder.

I've still haven't personally seen a red on this feeder yet.



And up at the folly



There are x2 reds – one has a black tail but which is starting to go blonde and the others has a ‘normal’ shaded tail.

6th – grey was back on the tunnel feeder this morning

Filled with corn and 'smelly stuff' put on the ground for it.

Gary aware and attended today to assess

7th – Typical ... Gary was here this morning, but no grey turned up

13th – all feeders empty* and topped up

*monkey nuts seem to be the food of choice



Still x2 reds up at the folly with tails getting lighter – not seen together at the same time though.

However, whilst the feeder at the tunnel is visited frequently by reds a grey was there briefly (1-2 mins) at 1047 hrs on the 11th.

20th - feed going every day, well only the monkey nuts. Doesn't seem to be any interest in anything else.

A grey was on the feeder at the tunnel at 0847h on the 19th – but just the one photo

22nd – No greys have visited the last few days – all the monkey nuts have gone, but sunflower seeds and peanuts still remain!

Camera removed from the folly – appears that just the dark tailed red is visiting at present

Appears to be x2 reds visiting the feeder at the tunnel, inc' young(ish) red.



OCTOBER

7TH – Feed still going daily. No greys picked up on the camera at the tunnel

14th – grey visited the tunnel feeder at 1133h – but just the one photo, so didn't hang around and wasn't tempted by any of the maize.

16th – all feeders very active at present

However, today, following on from the 14th greys seem to have started coming back to the feeder at Flass Tunnel -- today one has hung about a while longer (1207-1349 hrs).

Have informed Gary and will obviously visit every day

17th – no greys – red seen on the roof of the coach house.

23rd – 24th – whilst still red(s) the grey has popped up again.

And furthermore, it's all very curious ... it never hangs around and tends to keep to the same time when visiting on consecutive days!
1553 Hrs on both days and literally for just 1-2 mins

27th - GREY - for the first time it has made separate visits; 0921 hrs for about 15 mins and then again at 1313 hrs.

Maybe time to consider putting another feeder up on one of the trees out near the coach house – Gary has said no at the present time

29th – no greys last few days

NOVEMBER

3rd – Feed gone from all the feeders and no greys at the tunnel feeder, which has been hammered over the intervening days.

11th – feed still going daily and no greys at the tunnel feeder

18th – haven't been able to visit for the last few days and the greys have shown up again!! But, once again, only briefly.



14.11.21. @ 0916 hrs



16.11.21. @ 0722 hrs – a bit longer this time

But up at the folly all remains well



20th – no greys last two days

23rd – red on the folly feeder this morning and judging by the number of empty monkey nuts shells inside the feeder, they are going into the feeder to eat them.

29th – because everyone likes a snowy picture:





Come the end of November the position remains good with regular and daily visits by reds to all feeders – as soon as I top them up the food goes.

Grey not since the 16th.

Meaburn Edge – St. Croix Plantation

14th Oct – following the sighting of a grey in the vicinity – feeder sited in the wood

25th Oct – not one visit from anything, not even a bird!

29th Oct – not one visit from anything, not even a bird!

12th Nov – absolutely nothing!

Camera and feeder removed – I'm slightly surprised by the outcome and don't know if it's good or bad.

GREEN ENDS + THWAITES COTTAGES

4th Sept – we saw a baby red squirrel running along the wall out the front between ourselves and next door - the first we've espied for weeks!

Three Cornered Wood

3rd September - **due to the start of the pheasant season**
attended to remove the camera and clean out the feeder.

At this time there is known to be x2 greys in the wood, but also x2 reds.
Will have access back from 1st February

Orchard Wood

3rd September - **due to the start of the pheasant season**
attended to remove the camera and clean out the feeder.

Unsure if any greys are resident in the wood or coming from Three Cornered Wood, but they have been visiting the feeder on a fairly regular basis.

However, I think that with the visit to the feeder at Flass tunnel that come the 1st February we are going to find that greys are in there.

19th Oct – after leaving Flass saw x1 red running along the avenue towards Flass

11th Nov – Callum tells me that he hasn't seen any greys in any of the woods to which we don't have access at present.

Longhill Wood

3rd September

due to the start of the pheasant season attended to remove the camera and clean out the feeder.

At this time there is known to be x2 greys in the wood, but also x3 reds.

Will have access back from 1st February



Above also applies to:-

Edge Close - Wood above Flass Pasture NY 632 146



Other sightings from the village:

September -- None reported

October

31st – Green Ends

I spotted a little red running along the river bank this afternoon from our direction towards Flass and, no doubt, making for your delish feeders!

I've only seen about four this Summer . . . usually it's been about four a week
Pennie

November -- None reported

Brackenslack Wood

September

This is also one of the woods with pheasants, but unlike the others, it has a public footpath going through it.

15th – I hadn't been to this wood for a little while and throughout all of 2021 the feeder hasn't been touched -- today I found an empty feeder!
Topped up and if this feed also goes I will put another feeder up, but nearer to the footpath so that I can have a camera on it to monitor.

17th – some feed, but not a lot may have gone.
Erected 2nd feeder (with camera) just off the footpath over the bridge – same location as the temporary one last year when greys were present

20th – and of course today none of the food has been taken

22nd – still none of the food has been taken – beginning to look like whatever had the food (probably a grey) was passing through.

29th – still none of the food has been taken, from either feeder – camera removed

October

7th – still none of the food has been taken

25th – still none of the food has been taken, from either feeder – temporary feeder removed

Come the end of the period the position remains the same

Brackenslack Lane

September

15th – I hadn't checked this feeder for a little while, but throughout the summer it hadn't been touched - still looks that way with some feed still there, but I have been told that the feeder was seen empty quite recently!!
Cleaned out and just 8 monkey nuts left – to see what happens.

Trainlands Wood

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

14-15th Sept – I hadn't been for a while – but the feed was soon gone

17th Sept – feed going well.

22nd Sept – at 09h saw Gordon Shaw who told me that Gary had told him of a grey at Holesfoot – happened to have a spare camera with me and hence sited here.

29th Sept – reds all the way, all the time and frequent visitors – camera removed



1st Oct – food all gone – these reds take all the food and not just the monkey nuts

red also seen at the top of the Colby road

7th Oct – feed still going daily

11th Oct' – Red on the feeder at 1630h when I attended

Come the end of the period the position remains the same

Morland Bank Wood

I get the occasional report of sightings of reds at various spots within the wood, usually on the first set of bends as you exit the main part of the wood.

Road Death – approx' 1st of September

20th Sept – x2 reds on the road and still only went to the side of the road as a car Approached -- going towards Morland, on the uphill section after the bends.

Caravan Wood

Not had any updates from Jerry

Crosby Ravensworth



Photo: Andrew Wallis – Well Head

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

Well Head

28th Sept – We've been away for the first half of the September and not much food had been taken from the feeders during our absence. However, we are now seeing a squirrel feeding almost every day.

At the start of December Andrew had not seen any reds for some 10 weeks, but then two returned

Crosby Ravensworth South – Gilts

- 3rd Sept** – feeder empty and topped up
- 13th Sept** – all the feed gone – topped up
- 20th Sept** – still some feed left
- 29th Sept** – feeder empty apart from a few sunflower seeds – camera placed here
Maize added
- 1st Oct** – a rather clever nut hatch lifted the screen up on the 29th and started on the maize!
However, a red spent some time on the feeder during the morning of the 30th.
- 16th Oct** – feed hasn't been taken
- 29th Oct** – just the monkey nuts taken
- 3rd Nov** – just about all the feed gone
- 11th Nov** – feed hasn't been taken
- 20th Nov** – feed still there, emptied and just half a dozen monkey nuts left
At the end of the period all is quiet

The Bank Coppice (by River)

- 3rd Sept** - after a period away the feeder was empty – topped up
- 4th Sept** – possibly a little feed has gone
- 13th Sept** – all the feed gone – topped up
- 20th Sept** – all the feed gone – topped up
- 22st Sept** – still some feed left, but most of the monkey nuts have gone
- 29th Sept** – feeder empty apart from a few sunflower seeds – maize added
- 30th Sept** – feeder empty, all part from the maize (which is good)
- 1st Oct** – feeder empty

- 16th Oct** – feed hasn't been taken – curious then that it hasn't been taken from the feeder at the coppice just some 300 yards away
- 29th Oct** – feed all gone
- 3rd Nov** – feed all gone
- 5th Nov** – red on the ground at base of tree when I attended late afternoon and all the feed gone
- 11th Nov** – somewhat curious given that on the 5th there was a red at the feeder, none of the feed has been taken ... but up at the summer house ...
- 20th Nov** – some, but not all of the feed gone – but all had gone at the Summer House!
- 29th Nov** – some of the feed has gone
- At the end of the period the feed is going regularly.
- Also noticed the feed out of the feeder at 4 The Lonning on Silver Street is going regularly as well.

Summer House

- 3rd Sept** - after a period away the feeder was empty – topped up
- 13th Sept** – all the feed gone – topped up
- 20th Sept** – all the feed gone – topped up
- 22st Sept** – all the feed gone – topped up
- 29th Sept** – feeder empty – why have the nuts and sunflowers gone from this one, but not elsewhere? Maize added
- 30th Sept** – **RED** on the feeder at 1515h when I attend
- 1st Oct** – feeder empty
- 16th Oct** – feed has been taken – strange then that it hasn't been taken from the feeder at the coppice just some 300 yards away
- 29th Oct** – feed all gone

3rd Nov – most, but not all the feed gone

5th Nov – some feed gone, but still quite a bit left

11th Nov – feed all gone

20th Nov – feed all gone

29th Nov – feed all gone

At the end of the period the feed is still be taken regularly

Other Sightings:-

September

8th - A lovely healthy red ran down the lane from Haberwain cottage, down the bends and disappeared into the verge just before the last big tree, and Crosby sign. It was really striking had a dark brown tail -- Pam.

24th – red **run over** opposite Crosby Ravensworth school – early morning.

26th – **Willow Croft** - Just a note to let you know have just been watching the red with the dark brown tail, burying hazelnuts from a tree in the hedge in our field. He also seems to be very active on the patio by the number of discarded shells!
Pam

October

14th – **Weston House** - Saw a Red in my garden.

Healthy looking with a dark tale digging up nuts -- Mark.

November -- No Reports

Hopper Hill / Wood

Over the period I have erected x2 new feeders here – both are visible from the footpath along the river.

6th Sept – sited a new feeder here.

In the copse on the road side of the river, but very viewable from the footpath along the river (between MMeaburn and CRavensworth)

7th Sept – just about all of the food has gone!

Camera sited here

13th Sept – had been no visits ... until this afternoon

A special mention to the three ladies, the

'*Maulds Meaburn Marauders*', who this morning set of on a quest to locate the feeder ... they didn't!

Forwarded a map to them to pinpoint it.

22nd Sept – feed is going constantly, but just like all the other feeders, it's just the monkey nuts that are going!

29th Sept – all the monkey nuts have gone, but not the other food.

30th Sept – all the monkey nuts have gone, but not the other food.

7th Oct' – feed going daily

14th Oct – popped a camera up at site

15th Oct – typical, feed not taken

16th Oct – feed still there!

17th Oct – red back today, but not all the feed taken

25th Oct – all very sporadic at present – no feed has been taken

Put up another feeder today – this one is in the copse on the bend of the river with the steep bank, before the second wall as you enter the last field before Crosby Ravensworth

29th Oct – Feed taken from the first feeder

There has been visits every day to the feeder that I put up on the 25th
But I think I will have to swop the feeder ...

It's one of two that I have been given and because the lid overhangs at the back it doesn't open very well and it is also quite deep – we've already put a baton on the feeder to push it away from the tree trunk, but I think it's going to take another piece of wood to move it further away and let the lid open properly!!



3rd Nov – Feed taken from the original feeder, but no more visits to the new one. I will swop it for a different one next time.

12th Nov – swapped relocated the second feeder, it now is on the tree that stands on its own just outside of the copse on the Crosby Ravensworth side.

18th Nov – no feed has been taken from either feeder!!

20th Nov – feed taken from the original feeder, but not the re-positioned new one.



22nd Nov – the new feeder has been found and the red stayed and emptied it!

29th Nov – curiously all the feed had gone from the new feeder, but not from the 'old' one.

I've always wondered just where do these reds come from?

I certainly don't think that they 'live' in either of these two copses and whilst it could be Flass, they should have plenty of food in there and I've not seen them travelling in between.

At the end of the period the feed is going on a regular, although not daily basis.

Oddendale

30th Sept - No big change, just that I popped in to buy squirrel feed today and Carol mentioned you'd been in.

The cattle are back in at the moment so I'm not hanging around much, but still I've only seen reds, and the food consumption is back up to normal amounts. I've heard of a few houses in **Shap** recently that have had visits from reds so hopefully it's been a good year for them! Liz

19th Oct – problem with a few of the feeders having been damaged – believed accidental

20th Oct - I'm sorry to report a dead red squirrel hit by a vehicle on the road just east of Castlehousescar plantation on the road from CR to Shap -- Andrew

25th Oct - afternoon, surprised two reds who shot up the trees chattering, but by the time I'd filled my 5th feeder they were back down on them again

Then on way back to car, spotted a third feeder has been put up by the stile!

Don't know if that was you or another 'squirrel advocate', but I was so inspired I filled those three too!

Hopefully the reds won't eat the lot by tomorrow! Liz

At the end of the period the feed is going on a regular basis.

Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck

16th Sept - As I was taking Katie to school this morning saw a grey running up the road just above Littlebeck between Kings Meaburn and Maulds Meaburn.

It was about ¼ to ½ mile on the Maulds Meaburn side of Littlebeck – I guess that it was slightly lost!

Sleagill

NO REPORTS

Newby

NO REPORTS

Reagill

7th Sept - Hi Darren, we've not had any squirrels in our garden in Reagill since the last week of July. We've been aware of the odd one in the woods, just not at the feeders.

We were worried because there are numerous farm cats in the village and couple of days ago Jon actually saw two cats fighting over a squirrel they had caught, our dogs ran over and startled the cats and the squirrel was able to escape- no idea if any injuries, fingers crossed it was ok.

Fortunately one appeared back in the garden today - hopefully some more will return soon -- Jackie

Morland

On 12th November Jerry informed me that:

"Greys around Morland/Cross Rigg - I have dispatched another 6 in Town Wood. Also 3 in a wood that belonged to Freddie Markham in Morland.

Been a lot of greys about last couple of months and still is, but tide turning now, leaf is coming off rapid and all the natural feed is on the deck so they have to come down for it now." -- Cheers Jerry

And Finally

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



Flass Tunnel and the same ghostly apparition was also there the next night

I tried a camera at the new feeder at Hopper Hill, initially pointing up the tree from its base, but it didn't work.

Although, I wonder if this chap made it up?



Yes he did



Darren Rogers

16th December 2021