

Lyvennet Red Squirrel Sightings – September/October 2020



Trainlands

General

No Greys Dispatched

- No reports of S/Pox cases.
-

Road Deaths – one

Year Total = 5

Other Deaths – none

Year Total = 1

That road death on Morland Bank road (Saturday 5th Sept) was reported to me via x2 emails, which read thus:

- 1.) 1422 hrs - For the last three days I have driven past a baby red squirrel in the road: the hilly bit after the straight road out of MM towards Reagill. I am surprised it has not been run over. Perhaps its siblings have as I only ever see the one
- 2.) 1524 hrs - Hour ago, cycled past a dead red on the road between MM and Morland. Along that very long straight stretch through woodland, then a left, then a right.....on poss 15 yds .

Cat Attacks - none reported

Greys dispatched this year in parish = 19

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

Report

At the time of writing (2nd Nov') the general picture is very positive – reds are numerous and well scattered across the patch and sightings of greys have virtually dried up.

As previously mentioned, I wanted to get some additional feeders erected that would be 'viewable' to all, mainly from adjacent footpaths and these are now generally complete and proving to be very successful.

Two of the four are in Maulds Meaburn, one near the tunnel at Flass and the other just inside Lyvennet Bank looking out over the green – these two feeders have reds visiting every day.

The other two are along the river in Crosby Ravensworth, one on the opposite side of the river at the rear of Stoneworks (Bank Coppice) and the other in the copse of trees near to Gilts.

The former is always empty when I visit, the latter is not quite so prolific, but still gets visited.

It would be quite useful if there was someone in Crosby Ravensworth who could look after these two feeders for me – just get in touch.

There is also a feeder behind '*the Shed*' next to the river (just up from the Bank Coppice), which has always been empty whenever I've passed by, so I put a few nuts in occasionally and these have also been taken

Greys – sightings have become infrequent and rare.

Those that have been reported have been of a single grey with no additional sightings in the same location and would appear to be of the '*passing through*' variety.

Whilst all have been reported to Gary the chances of finding and dispatching these is really quite remote.

Reds – reports of sightings have become relatively few and far between over the last few weeks, 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.

(*) with the road death at Morland Bank Wood I have tried, but so far failed, to encourage any reds to keep to feeders well away from the road.

I erected x2 feeders and whilst the camera has shown that both have had reds visit them, they have never bothered with the contents of either.

This may be explained by there being a decent natural larder for them at present. I have now taken down one of the feeders and scattered on the floor nearby are a large number of partially eaten cones.

The other main news is that at present we do not have access to a number of woods due to the pheasant season.

On 11th September I had the e-mail informing/asking me to stop using the feeders in the woods with pheasants and those in which they feed as they were now about to start letting them out of their pens.

Ergo, the two feeders in Orchard Wood, one in Three Cornered Wood, one in Longhill Wood and the one in Flass Pasture were all emptied and cleaned (I did put some nuts into each one – but I made sure that there was nothing that was going to rot).

These will not now be visited until the end of the pheasant season, most likely in February.

At the time of clearing these feeders no greys had been seen in any of the woods since late August.

Hopefully come February no greys will have set up home in any of the woods, however the expectation is that greys will be found.

Autem, the hope would be that by being able to get into those woods earlier in the year to deal with any greys will be of great help.

Finally – with the trees now virtually shod of their leaves, in theory, seeing our local reds should be so much easier.

Keep reporting any sightings and keep that camera handy for some decent photo opportunities.

A small prize for the first photo of a red squirrel in a snowy scene.

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

5th Sept – grey back in Brackenslack Wood and would still be there come the 8th but its visits are fleeting

6th Sept – sighting of a grey up Harberwain yesterday at 5-30 it was on the road just past the narrows at the double gate.

14th Sept – 1600 hrs - just seen a grey squirrel at Bell Foot at Crosby, near where Lynn Barnes has her poly tunnels.

22nd Sept – date uncertain, but x1 grey see in a wood above Holesfoot

9th Oct' - Grey crossing the Appleby Orton road into the wilds opposite Nags Head Farm.

19th Oct' – Flass, near to the tunnel

20th Oct' – corner of wood at Dryevers

Maulds Meaburn

Lyvennet Bank

9th Sept – food going every day from both feeders – just need to see a red on **F2**

11th Sept – topped up and went and did my rounds, which included emptying a number of feeders due to the pheasant season and as I have never actually seen a squirrel on **F2**, thought I would move the camera here for a short period. On my return, there may not have been a squirrel, but the food had gone!! Topped up again and set the camera.

It was never in doubt that it was red ... but two!

A **RED** from 1700 hrs through to 1909 hrs and at 1835 hrs



12th Sept – the mice have already found the feeder as well!

Red again from 0619-1041 hrs with further visits in the afternoon/eve'.

13th Sept – Red at 0750 hrs and the occasional visit, but the feeder was empty up to 1630 hrs when I topped up.

Red back at 1727 hrs

14th Sept – Reds back during 0745-0857 hrs – feeder virtually empty when I attend at 0930 hrs - camera moved.

16th Sept – I'm thinking that I may not just be coincidence but that the drey is very nearby as today within 10 mins of topping up there was a red on **F2**

18th Sept – they are greedy, they take everything!

28th Sept – still greedy, every day and to the point that everything goes, nothing is left to waste!

Flass

9th Sept – food gone every time I visit and yet again today there was a red on **F2**
When I returned from completing my round

11th Sept – I like this - yet again today there was a red on **F2** when I returned from completing my round

12th Oct' – feed still completely gone from both feeders when I visit and from what is on the ground under **F2** they obviously eat at the feeder.
Red on **F1** when I visited today

19th Oct' – possibility of a grey having been seen here, near the tunnel, **F2**.
Informed late on 20th and camera mounted a.m. 21st
Food still going daily and now ½ filled with corn.

22nd Oct' – visited at 1600 hrs, the corn was still there.
The camera had 380 photos in a 29hr period!
On the 21st a Red was there 1237-1419 hrs and again 1712-1808 hrs
22nd – red from 0821-1026 hrs and included two reds at 0907 hrs
Red again 1315-1600 hrs (with two at 1504 hrs)

Will keep the camera in-situ, but at present

23rd Oct – visited at 1430 hrs and only 223 photos today!
After my visit yesterday at 1607 hrs a red was back at 1612 hrs and stayed there until 1753 Hrs .
For a lot of the period there was ... two red squirrels vying for the food.



Today, the 23rd, a red was back again at 0803 hrs and it/they stayed until all the food was gone at 1143 hrs.

What I find curious is that I've not had any comments/emails from anyone letting me know that they have seen a red on this or the new one at Lyvennet Bank. They are so well positioned and you virtually walk past them and quite evidently the reds are spending a lot of time here.

The photo above is cropped, but the footpath/top of the wall is about 2 yards to the right.

Will keep the camera in-situ – I'm away for six days and I will remove it then.

23rd to 30th – no greys and only reds.

From when I topped the feeder up on the 23rd, the visits were regular and long. Once the feed had gone the visits became less frequent, but were still made. The first red always arrived just after 0700 hrs and the last visit just as it got dark. On several occasions two reds were seen at the same time.

31st – as soon as I had visited yesterday it wasn't long before a red was back and making swift progress with the food

Orchard Wood

Whilst there are two feeders in the wood **Feeder 1** is out of action due to it being the pheasant season, **Feeder 2** remained in use for a short period.

9th Sept – food gone every time I visit

11th Sept

Following an e-mail re the pheasants now being ready for letting out, **F2** was cleaned and emptied.

Now no feeders in use until the end of the pheasant season

Longhill Wood

Due to it being the pheasant season the original feeder is now out of use and the new one put up during August remains in use at present ... it is very active!

1st Sept - REDS x2 from 0607 hrs and then numerous times throughout the morning and throughout the day up to 2017 hrs.

At 0853 hrs a bird – not any bird, but one wanting to eat a squirrel
The photo isn't great, but you get the idea ... I'm fairly confident that it failed although the photo before this one has them within inches of each other!



2nd Sept – **RED** from 0617 hrs with Gary there at 0844 hrs
RED there variously up to my arrival at 1522 hrs
The stoat that was seen on the feeder on 31.8.20. briefly visited
at 1457 hrs.

5th Sept – relocate the camera here at 1053 hrs
At 111 hrs the first **RED** arrived and stayed to 1350 hrs.
Various visits during the rest of the day.
Stoat was back at 1813 hrs.

6th Sept – **RED** from 0728 hrs and then x2 at 0828 hrs
Various and numerous visits throughout the day.
Stoat again at 1739 hrs

7-9th Sept – all the good food had been taken over the previous days and for these few days the visits all started with an early call and just brief fleeting visits during the day – I guess they were checking to see if I had been to top up!

I'm going to make a small prediction, today (9th) I topped up at 1524 hrs – I bet by 1600 hrs there is a red on the camera who then stays for most of the rest of the day.

However, just as important is the fact that no greys have visited.

9th Sept – was my prediction correct?

On this occasion ... yes.

RED arrived at 1550 hrs, stayed until 1632 hrs and made two further visits (1738 – 1826 hrs and 1928 – 1941 hrs)

10st Sept – **Red** from 0644 hrs and made numerous visits during the day.

As the two visitors had already eaten the good stuff these visits became shorter in duration, although the final visit was long (1817 – 1940 hrs)

11th Sept – Curiously no visits at all today, not even to check for new food.

Following an e-mail re the pheasants now being ready for letting out, the feeder was cleaned and emptied and the camera removed.

Now no feeders in use until the end of the pheasant season

This is one of the final photo's from the wood, a wood that has been a pleasure and pain in equal measure.



Edge Close - Wood above Flass Pasture NY 632 146

2nd Sept – I attended at 1537 hrs to top up, etc and at 1559 hrs a **RED** was there.
Sandy coloured.

It was then there for the rest of the day.

3rd Sept – This was a good day – now two **REDS** visiting the feeder.
Believe one is relatively young.

There from 0615 hrs and at various times for the rest of the day.**

4th Sept – **RED** from 0620 hrs with further visits during the day.

5th Sept – **RED** from 0622 Hrs and during the morning.

I attend at 1043 hrs and remove the camera

9th Sept – all the feed gone

11th Sept – all the feed gone.

Following an e-mail re the pheasants now being ready for letting out, the feeder was cleaned and emptied.

Now no feeder in use until the end of the pheasant season

**Photo1 – got me excited, but can you spot both reds?

Photo2 – helps with spotting both

Photo3 – is just for the sake ofaaaargh, isn't it cute with a possible caption of '*where are you going mum?*'





Photo 1 was one inside the feeder and the other up on the bank on the left hand side near the two trees.

Photo 2 has one still inside the feeder



Must be a relative of my friend in Longhill Wood

'Three Cornered Wood'

9th Sept – feed has always gone when I visit

11th Sept – feed all gone

Following an e-mail re the pheasants now being ready for letting out, F2 was cleaned and emptied.

Now no feeder in use until the end of the pheasant season

Holesfoot

NO REPORTS

Trainlands Wood

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





28th Sept – food always gone, but whilst I don't think it likely, due to the grey having been seen nearby last week, have put a camera up.

30th Sept – camera shows that x2 **REDS** are visiting frequently

2nd Oct - still **REDS** making frequent visits – but once I top the feeder up they don't take long to get it eaten

6th Oct - still **REDS** making frequent visits, every day. They are always quite early as well, always just after 0700 hrs
Camera moved to Brackenslack

22nd Oct - heard a report of a grey having been seen nearby at Dryevers. However, today I saw a red roadside at the wood at Dryevers, just up from Trainlands.
I understand that there is a gamekeeper at Dryevers who pro-actively deals with any greys – Gary informed

31st Oct – had popped the camera up here on the 30th and still only Reds visiting and looking quite healthy.



Brackenslack Wood

- 2nd Sept** – **RED** at 1701 hrs for ½ an hour
- 3rd Sept** – **RED** at 0714-0912 hrs and again at 1333 hrs.
- 5th Sept** – GREY at 1238 hrs
- 7th Sept** – **RED** between 0717-0900 hrs
- 8th Sept** – GREY at 1637 hrs – no other photos at all!
- 9th Sept** – food barely touched – camera moved to Crosby Ravensworth
- 14th Sept** – food taken, but only the **good** stuff with no attempt on the corn
Camera re-located here
- 16th Sept** – no visits from squirrel's of any colour
- 18th Sept** – still no visits at all – camera moved
- 26th Sept** – no food taken at all
- 6th Oct'** – the decent food had been taken from off the top.
Camera put back up.
- 12th Oct'** – camera checked and no visits whatsoever
- 16th Oct'** – camera checked and no visits whatsoever
- Contacted by the 'shooting syndicate' who have a pheasant pen in the wood, to remove the feeder.
- They said that it could be placed nearer to the public footpath.
- 22nd** - due to it been an older feeder, it was emptied out and left in-situ as to re-commence its use at the end of the pheasant season.

Appleby to Orton Road

Several sightings this side of Hoff Lunn with REDS verge side or indeed crossing the road.

9th Oct' - Grey crossing the Appleby Orton road into the wilds opposite Nags Head Farm.

ROWANS

We still see a red squirrel most days.

We had a large amount of the garden remodelled a few weeks ago which meant some large plant and men disrupting things for over three weeks.

At first we thought that the squirrels had deserted us but at least one is around again.

We don't plan on any more work to the garden so hopefully more will come in the future.

GREEN ENDS

1st Sept - red running from Flass along the river's edge into our garden.
Has a russet coloured tail 2 days ago

2nd Sept – same red, same route

Morland Bank Wood

5th Sept – For the last three days I have driven past a baby red squirrel in the road: the hilly bit after the straight road out of MM towards Reagill. I am surprised it has not been run over. Perhaps its siblings have as I only ever see the one.

Hour ago cycled past a dead red on the road between MM and Morland. Along that very long straight stretch through woodland, then a left, then a right.....on poss 15 yds.

8th Sept – early eve - red seen crossing the road in the same place

9th Sept – early eve - red seen crossing the road in the same place, close to being run over!

13th Sept – x2 **REDS** seen on the bends.

14th Sept – visited and location** found on which to place a feeder.
Will use one of the two now unused feeders from Orchard Wood.

**from Maulds Meaburn, wood on the right side (about 100 yards in) just past the point where the long straight bends left – looks down towards the Lyvennet.

17th Sept – checked a.m. – possibly a small amount of food taken, possibly?

18th Sept – checked p.m. – no food taken.
All around on the floor are half/fully eaten cones, so I am slightly surprised that no food has been taken.
Will persevere before moving to the other side of the road.
Camera located here.

21st Sept – checked 1600 hrs and all the food still there.
A RED visited very briefly at 1034 hrs on the 19th (just one photo) and that has been it.

23rd Sept – checked 1600 hrs and all the food still there.
A RED visited very briefly at 1656 hrs on the 22nd (again just the one photo) and that has been it – all very curious.

26th Sept – no food gone but there was one visit at 1301 hrs today
+ New feeder (F2) erected on the opposite side of the road, near to the shooting bench and camera moved to here

28th Sept – how long to find a new feeder?

Well the new one was put up on the afternoon of the 26th and the first visit was at 0651 hrs on the 27th.

There was then another visit at 0655 hrs on the 28th.

However, each is just the one photo and no food has been taken

30th Sept – still no food taken from either feeder.

F2 shows that a red has made the odd visit, but does just stays on the tree and does not go to the feeder.

6th Oct – visited just before 1300 hrs to see a **RED** verge side (Right side going towards Morland) and thinking about crossing the road!

I'm convinced that it had a monkey nut in its mouth – but certainly doesn't appear to be from one of the two feeders that I have nearby!

From checking the camera at **F2** a red has now actually been on the box twice (1st and 3rd) as opposed to just on the tree – maybe there is just too much natural food about for them at present.

I include the photo below for two reasons:

- 1.) Spot the squirrel
- 2.) It looks a little spooky!



37F 03C

2020/10/05 07:26:09



65%

12th Oct – no feed taken from either feeder and no visits caught on camera at **F2**
I have now seen someone use the picnic table though!

16th Oct' – **F1** feed still there, all of it.
F2 feed still there - camera shows just one visit on the 12th

21st Oct' – **F1** feed still there, all of it.
F2 feed still there – no visits and camera now moved as needed at Flass

Other Sightings:

Sept'

16th – 1020 hrs running across the road near to post box

21st – 0900 hrs – south of village, crossing the road from near the farm towards
the cattle grid as leave the village

Brackenslack Lane – left hand side – ¼ mile up from the cattle grid.

October – no reports

Crosby Ravensworth

The Bank Coppice (by River)

This feeder was put up towards the end of August and by the end of the month the feed was starting to be taken.

That continued into September and on the morning of the 9th I put the camera there to check what was visiting – the food that was going suggested that it would be a **RED**.

9th Sept - from the camera, a **RED** was there at 1320 hrs and again 1755-1819 hrs



10th Sept – red back again briefly at 0641 hrs and 1600 hrs – all the good food had Gone though.

11-13th Sept – this red keeps good time, arriving at 0704 hrs (11th), 0701 hrs (12th) and 0700 Hrs (13th).

Visits are not lengthy, but occur every day.

Camera moved to Crosby Ravensworth south (Gilts)

16th Sept – still some food left.

22nd Sept – food taken

26th Sept – feed taken and quite a lot of the corn gone to – but laying on the floor.
Probably a red throwing it out to get to other food

28th Sept – visited 0915 hrs and the red came down the tree, took a look in the feeder, went for a walk about and then just sat at the base of the tree.
Topped the feeder up.

30th Sept – quite a greedy RED we have here and back to chucking any corn out to get to the good stuff (which includes seeds).

Visited on both the 2nd and 4th October and all the food had gone – this remains the case at the end of the month – food always taken

Crosby Ravensworth South - Gilt's

9th Sept - erected a new feeder just off the footpath at the south end of the village
A photo best explains its location – the red circle in the trees



13th Sept – visited and I think that a very little bit of feed may have gone.
Camera mounted here.

18th Sept – checked p.m. and no feed taken, but when I checked the camera, what a surprise!

A **Red** briefly visited on the 16th at 1454-1456 hrs!

Will persevere.

22nd Sept – other than Gary taking a look there have been no visits at all.

Yet *'The Bank Coppice'* is getting visits – will give it another week before re-locating.



26th Sept – when I arrived this afternoon all the food apart from the corn had gone – the news is good.

Camera showed that for the last three days there had been a red at the feeder.

23rd there 1635 to 1708 hrs

24th there 0845 to 0858 hrs and then again 1738 to 1800 hrs

25th there 1731 to 1748 hrs



28th Sept' – visited a.m. and apart from a local who went to have a look (must have read about it on the village Facebook page!) – no visits camera moved.

Additionally on the **28th** – people visiting Neil McCall who came in from the South were delighted to see a red near Gilts

2nd Oct' – visited a.m. and a little food had been taken

4th Oct' – visited a.m. and a decent amount of food had been taken

End of Month – the feeder is still being visited with the feed going, but it is a little irregular.

Low Dalebanks –

NO REPORTS

Dalebanks

7th Sept - We have a few reds up at Dale Banks, regular visits by a young red to our bird feeders.

Will try to get a photo. Kitty

The Church

On the 26th Sept with no feed having been taken at all, the feeder was removed

Other Sightings:-

September

3rd – **REDS** seen near the church and at rear of the pub.

6th – Saw a beautiful deep-russet red up at the barn on the way to up to Johnie Hall Trees from Low Row last evening – Simon Asquith.

10th – from Claire Kerr told that they have recently put their feeder back up (**Stoneworks Garth**) and that a red has started to visit

October

NO REPORTS

Oddendale Plantation

Have spoken with Liz Kerrey at Shap (9th Sept) and she tells me that she has a couple of feeders out in the plantation which she tops up about twice a week. She is unsure of how many reds there may be.

Both she and Stuart Lewis advised about the grey seen on Harberwain.

Hopper Hill / Wood

28th Sept - Saw one crossing road just past Hopper Hill going towards Crosby this Morning - Vanda.

Harberwain

6th Sept – sighting of a grey up Harberwain yesterday at 5-30 p.m.
it was on the road just past the narrows at the double gate.
Gary and Stuart Lewis at Shap informed

18th Sept – **RED** sighted just out of the village going up towards Harberwain

8th Oct' – Spotted up Harberwain Lane



Photo: Mike Lippert

Reagill

September

I have seen a red on consecutive days (Wed' 2nd and Thurs 3rd), in the same place on the road heading south, out of the village just beyond High Green.

Jo Tombs

Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck

17th Sept - saw a lovely red squirrel running across the road to Morland (the sharp left $\frac{3}{4}$ mile outside Kings Meaburn)

Great to see but I worry about them there because they visit a bird table at the house on the left as you head to Morland and I have seen them killed on the road.

Tim Evans

Sleagill

7th Sept

My brother always forwards on your squirrel report for me to read.

I live in Sleagill and I rarely see red squirrels in the village itself, although I know they are round about.

However on Tuesday 1st September I saw a red in the middle of the village, heading towards Orchard Hill and Leather Lane and then on Friday 4th watched one out of our back upstairs window down the back garden of AshTree Farm, which is the property next door to me.

It's nice to be able to contribute a sighting or two for a change....

Best wishes,

Jo Tombs

Morland

NO REPORTS

Newby

NO REPORTS

And Finally

Everyone likes an '*And finally*' – maybe not this one though, it's about mice.

This photo is fairly typical of many that I see from the feeders – a mouse trying to get in!

I've had mice jump out of feeders when I've been topping them up, dead mice trapped by the lid having coming back down on them and having died 'in-situ' – so do wash your hands after you've topped your own feeder up!



'Let me in'