

Red Squirrel Sightings – July and August 2020



Holesfoot

General

X6 Greys Dispatched

- Two in Brackenslack Wood 1st July
- Two in Three Cornered Wood 3rd July and 7th August
- One in Orchard Wood 6th July
- One up at Lankaber 11th July
- **No reports of S/Pox cases.**

Road Deaths – one

Year Total = 4

Other Deaths –

Year Total = 1

Cat Attacks - none reported

Greys dispatched this year in parish = 19

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

July and August have proved to be another two very busy months – however, and whilst never wanting to speak to soon, I'm fairly happy with the position that we now find ourselves in regarding greys.

But as for the reds ... I'm very happy.

Firstly the greys, yes the odd one is knocking about and they make occasional appearances in odd locations, but these are becoming much rarer.

Some such as near to the Methodist church (Crosby Ravensworth) and in a garden in Maulds Meaburn were quite random, the one in Brackenslack Wood (after the wood had been cleared of the family of six) was more concerning, but after being there for two days, it would, at present, seem to have moved on.

Three Cornered Wood and Orchard Wood appear to have been cleared of greys, but it has been a battle.

Whilst up at Longhill Wood, where we always knew that one from the family of five was outstanding, it is still there, but its movements and whereabouts are becoming more indiscriminate and it can go days without appearing.

The **REDS** – certainly at the numerous locations where I am feeding there is at least one red on each feeder; we have a good and healthy population and one that appears to have grown.

Sightings are frequent and numerous.

FEEDERS – I have had a few more feeders donated and my thanks to Mr and Mrs Haggar (also for the bag of squirrel feed) and to Kitty.

These are now sited locally (Crosby Ravensworth) and hopefully we will soon be seeing reds visiting them.

My intention and something which I have already made a start on, is to get feeders out in locations where they can be seen by everyone, but which are secure and in a safe location for any reds that will visit them.

I am conscious that I have written plenty about feeders that are out in various woods, but which are in locations with no public access – these feeders are very important, not just for the reds, but especially for monitoring for any greys, but can not be ‘enjoyed’.

To that end I now have feeders in the Church, by the river along from the footbridge at the end of Silver Street (Crosby Ravensworth), near the tunnel at Flass and one overlooking the green in Maulds Meaburn (just inside the grounds of Lyvennet Bank on the other side of the wall).

The last two are already getting numerous visits from reds and I have one more feeder to put up along the footpath by the river at the top side of Crosby Ravensworth.

The feeders by the river in Crosby Ravensworth also serve the dual purpose of monitoring for greys.

The ‘Pheasant Season’ is now upon us and a number of the local woods are used for their rearing, this means that until February access for myself and Gary becomes limited and in some cases will stop all together.

As ever, I hope that you enjoy the report, keep photo’s and sightings coming in and report any greys immediately to Gary (dropping me an e-mail as well please)

Please take Care - a red has been run over (5.9.20.) on the Maulds Meaburn to Morland Road, on the bends after the long tree lined straight (heading Maulds Meaburn to Morland) and reds have also been seen on the Brackenslack road.

Fund Raising -

Following on from Sass Robertson in May and then Karen and Frankie Winder in June (both for Eden Valley Hospice), Katie and Sarah Rogers undertook the '*mile a day*' fundraising initiative/challenge with '*Eden Animal Rescue*' and '**Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group**' being the beneficiaries.

Their walks were both local and further afield when they were able to get over to the North Yorkshire coast, their daily walks ranged in length from 1½ miles to 9.77 miles (Ravenscar to Scarborough) ... in total they walked 114.11 miles over the 31 days.

However, a good number of the walks included '**The Squirrel Round**' of just over 2 ½ miles in checking and topping up the various feeders and changing the memory cards in the motion feeders around Maulds Meaburn and Crosby Ravensworth.

With an amazing amount of kindness and generosity from all who sponsored them the final total raised was a very impressive **£330**

Below are Katie and Sarah with Gary handing over £165 to P&DRSG



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

1st July – grey in trap at Brackenslack - when Gary attended to deal another turned up – both dispatched

2nd July – grey seen on camera at new feeder in Orchard Wood.

3rd July – grey dispatched in Three Cornered Wood

6th July – grey dispatched Orchard Wood

11th July – grey dispatched Lankaber
many thanks to the resident who took it into their own hands

13th July – they are still there in Orchard, Longhill and Three cornered Wood.

15th July – be it one, or be it two – the grey(s) in these three woods are putting two fingers up to us.

17th July – becoming a little curious now around the woods to the south and east Of Flass – there is at least one grey there and to be honest I'm unsure if it is more than one.

It pays the odd visit to Orchard Wood, is hammering the corn at Longhill Wood (which worries me as the amount going is a lot), but then hardly touches feeder 2 which is only 50 yards away!

Also I have now placed a feeder that was donated to us back in Flass Pasture Wood and it has been found straight away and I suspect may be a grey **.

But is it the same grey that is just moving about and then 'retiring' back to Longhill Wood at night?

** no, it's a red!

23rd July – definitely a grey in Three Cornered Wood and also Longhill Wood – but unsure on numbers

26th July - Hi Darren. Sad to say we have just seen a Grey squirrel in our garden. I reported it straight away to Gary and he says he will try to get here tomorrow (Monday) – Bob Kirk, Rowans, Maulds Meaburn .

7th August – x1 grey dispatched in Three Cornered Wood

13th August – Garth House, Crosby Ravensworth – 7 p.m. ish
Just to let you know that a grey squirrel ran past our house a few minutes ago.

We have seen many reds but this is the first grey!

Gary notified

17th August – slightly further afield:

Saw a grey squirrel near Bolton this morning at 10.30am.

It was on the road heading west from the village about half a mile from the last house.

It disappeared through the hedge on the left hand side of the road.

24th August – grey seen in Longhill Wood – if it had gone away, its back!

25th August – grey back in Brackenslack Wood – Gary to go tomorrow.

First, a slightly interesting story (only slightly mind):

Back in May when I first saw a grey at the back of Flass and Gary and I went looking for it, he said to me:

“Go to WCF and get a bag of whole maize (corn) and keep all the feeders half full.”

The next day off I went, an assistant showed me where it was and then I stopped, it was a 20kilo bag, I was never going to use that much.

I pointed this out to Gary and told him that he would have to take some, most of it, but again he insisted that I keep it and that I would use it.

I never got round to telling him that I also bought a 100ml bottle of aniseed as well - £11.50.

Whilst I had gulped at the quantity of the maize, now I was gulping at the cost of something quite small – but it was ok, I was assured that 100ml was enough to treat 10 tonnes!!

Anyway, now at the beginning of August and I'm on to my second 20kilo bag of maize.

Greys like corn, reds don't – and the aniseed just adds to it.

So when it appears that you have greys, half fill the feeder with corn and if it starts to go ... it could be a red chucking it out, but probably not.

Maulds Meaburn

General – despite the odd grey turning up and then disappearing, the picture remains healthy.

Plenty of sightings of reds and new feeders erected, including two near footpaths which are viewable to the public

Lyvennet Bank – food taken consistently throughout the whole period

New feeder (**F2**) erected 23rd August near to wall looking out over the village green – as with several others, I want some feeders in locations that are visible to the public, but sited safely for any reds.

The original feeder (**F1**) is a dead cert to be empty when I visit and then on the 31st some feed had gone from **F2** (continuing into September)

Flass - feeding regularly

New feeder (**F2**) put up on 7th August near to the tunnel and clearly visible from the footpath.

As with several others, I want some feeders in locations that are visible to the public, but sited safely for any reds.

The original feeder (**F1**) has food taken consistently, but not always every day – however, F2 has been a great success

17th Aug – delightful this morning and part of the reason I do this.

The main feeder (above photo) was empty and I went to check on the new feeder near the tunnel, which up to the 15th hadn't been 'found'.

Policeman's tip here – look around a corner before you walk around it – and sat on the feeder with a monkey nut in its mouth was a small, young **red**.

Upon checking the feeder all the good stuff had been taken.

If you had been on the footpath around this time you would have seen it.

23rd Aug – did my rounds today after a few days away and needed to top up both.

After having done all the other feeders I went back to check **F2** and a **RED** was there with a monkey nut in its mouth

24th Aug – same as yesterday, did my rounds today and after having done all the other feeders I went back to check **F2** and a **RED** was there, going up the tree with a monkey nut in its mouth!



Flass – photo' by Jodie Cass

26th Aug – big shock this morning at **F2**, which was empty, put my hand in feeder when topping up and out popped a mouse – the mouse suddenly learn to fly as it fled; I don't know who was shocked the most, myself or the mouse!

31st Aug – yet again **F2** was empty and yet again after doing my rounds and coming back to check this feeder, there it was, a red

Orchard Wood

- 1st July** – possibly a little corn gone from feeder – now to be '**Feeder 1**'
Second feeder (**Feeder 2**) put up 50 yards before far exit out towards
Three Cornered Wood and motion camera (from Longhill Wood) to
monitor
- 2nd July** – **Feeder 1** – feed taken, probably no corn
Feeder 2 – no corn taken, but camera shows a grey was here this a.m.
- 3rd July** – as usual feed taken from **Feeder 1**, but no corn
Feeder 2 not touched but Gary seen walking through – I then went to
Three Cornered Wood ... what would I find?
- 4th July** – **Feeder 2**
Grey from 0541 to 0620 hrs
RED from 0705 to 0816 hrs and again at 1049 hrs then 1423-1445 hrs
Grey from 1449 to 1509 hrs
RED 1509 hrs and 1738 to 1918 hrs
- 5th July** - **Feeder 2**
RED – made two brief visits during the day at 0644 hrs and 1757 hrs
But now there is only corn left in the feeder
- 6th July** – **Feeder 2** grey from 0606 hrs
RED at 0714 hrs
Gary first seen 0931 hrs – later dispatched a grey near to feeder2
I don't think that there are greys in this wood, but that they 'visit' from Three
Cornered Wood and Longhill Wood
Feeder 1 – only corn left
- 7th July** – **Feeder 2** - **RED** from 1500 hrs
Feeder 1 – no corn taken
- 8th July** – **Feeder 2** – curious visit and this looks like a fairly young RED who
wasn't quite sure what to with the feeder.
First visit from 0523 hrs with some time spent at the feeder, looking – but the
feed was still inside.
Only at 0827 hrs did the feed start to go and then it took no time at all

9th July – a couple of visits during the day, including deer.

I topped up late eve' - more notable for this:

Two woodpeckers at the same time.



Neil McCall tells me:- *“At first I thought it was a male and female pair but I think it’s a male and a juvenile, which has the greater area of red on the crown. You don’t often get to determine this unless you get a very good view or with a photo such as this.”*

10th July - no feed gone overnight and nothing on camera

11th July – camera on feeder shows visit by a red at 0527 hrs and 1421 hrs

12th July – grey returned today (but see Bastern Gill).

RED from 0658 hrs with occasional visits and then a grey at 1050 hrs and 1454 hrs

RED returned in the afternoon before grey there again at 1935 hrs

13th July – unable to check over the weekend as I was away, but feed gone from both feeders, including corn, especially feeder 2.

- 14th July** – Gary spent time here this morning – a red seen on feeder 1, but no Greys – a few visits from a red on feeder 2
- 15th July** – Gary here again at lunch-time with no gain.
Whilst there had been a red for a while this morning a grey then had half an hour here from 1830 hrs
- 17th July** – feed still going from both feeders – no greys on camera at feeder 2
- 18th July** – feed still going from both feeders - however, a grey, 0815 hrs
- 19th July** – feed going from both feeders, but might have to move the camera as I think it is failing to pick up some visits.
- 20th July** – red only today, both a.m. and p.m.
Camera re-positioned – hope it works out
- 22nd July** – both feeders still being used.
Whilst predominantly by a **RED**, still the odd visit by a grey (1800 Hrs 21st).
I think the new camera position worked (see photo below) but now moved to Three Cornered Wood
- 23rd July** – when visited at 1530 hrs there was a red on feeder 2.
Feed from both feeders going every day
- 3rd Aug** – after having been away for 10 days feeder 1 was empty, but feeder 2 was only empty of the good stuff.
- 5th Aug** – feeders topped up
- 7th Aug** – Gary saw **REDS** on the feeders
third feeder erected at top of wood to monitor for greys going in between here and Longhill Wood
- 14th Aug** – after a week away due to work commitments all feeders are showing positive signs – still plenty of corn left and only the good stuff taken this included feeder No.3
camera from Three Cornered Wood re-located back to feeder 2
See entry for same date at Three Cornered Wood
- 15th Aug** – all three feeders empty of good stuff – and all the corn left.
Feeder No. 3 removed due to arrival pheasant poults



I was hung upside down by my ankles for hours just to get this photo – but worth it

17th Aug – all three feeders empty of good stuff – and all the corn left.

Camera on feeder No. 2 shows visits by reds

Feeder No 3 removed due to arrival of pheasant poults

23rd Aug – feeder 1 emptied and cleaned – will not now be used until February due to the pheasant rearing

Feeder 2 can still be used until such time as the poults are 'let out'

24th Aug – food from yesterday gone

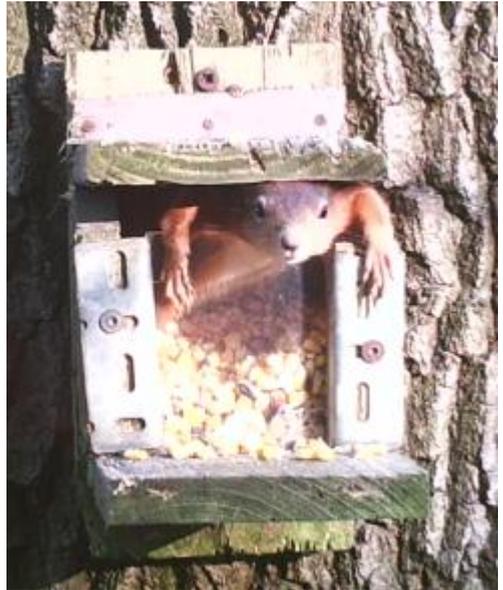
31st Aug – all the feed gone

Longhill Wood

From the last report you will remember this is where my 'friend' lives.

My friend – when will I see you again?

On the 2nd



1st July – **RED** from 0503 hrs variously and numerous through to 1243 hrs
GREY made a few fleeting appearances visits during the morning and at 1126 hrs two were seen together.
Appears to include a younger one
GREY again over lunch-time
I attend at 1424 hrs and remove the camera.

Feeder 2 – some corn as well as the **red** food taking

2nd July – I attend late afternoon and get within 5 yards of Feeder 1 and up pops the lid and who gets out ... my friend!
I explain to him why I am there and that if he comes back down after I have gone, he will get first call on the food that I have left.

Feeder 2 – just the **Red** food taken

3rd July – Went feeder 1 first, the usual sight and top up.

Go to feeder 2 and no signs of corn being taken, but top up with that and 'Red feed'.

When returning back past feeder1 who is sat on the feeder ... my little Friend.

He takes and eats a few bits and then comes out with monkey nut and scampers off down the bank – he's doing me proud!

6th July – feed going from both feeders, but still some corn left in feeder 1

10st July – visited and topped up.

Still some corn in feeder 1 – but the good food taken from both feeders.

Feeder 2 moved – now nearer to feeder 1

Camera located back on feeder 1

Red and grey throughout the afternoon, often at the same time

11th July – Feeder 1

Red from 0517 hrs - grey from 0636 hrs

Periodic visits during the morning from both, becoming less frequent after 0800 hrs

12th July – Feeder 1

With only corn left in the feeder, not many visits from either today.

Red at 0443 hrs, but briefly and only with four other brief visits during the day.

Grey at 0605 hrs and that was it.

13th July – Feeder 1

Do you get the impression that they know and/or are just waiting for us?

Having been away for the weekend and therefore not able to top the feeders up there was only a little corn left in the feeder – a **red** paid just three brief visits from 0525 hrs and then at 1520 hrs Katie arrived and topped the feeder up; it didn't take long after that!

1526 hrs a **RED** who then stayed all the way through to 1800 hrs and took the majority of the new feed.

A grey arrived at 1802 and stayed a while finishing off what the red hadn't finished.

RED popped back at 1943 hrs

I arrived after 2000 hrs to replenish and also recover the card from the camera, something that my usually reliable trainee would have done (she'd forgotten to take the spare card to swop over!).

She had also forgotten to check feeder 2! Only a little corn left, topped up.

14th July – now when I go in the woods it is a case of *'in and out'* and if I am lucky I might see a red - Gary spent time here this morning, sat down incognito but didn't see a grey ... however,
He felt something on the back of his coat, turned around and a **RED** jumped off and went and sat next to him!
They had a chat for 15 minutes before the red moved on!!!!
Grey from 0559 hrs this morning and a **RED** from 0633 hrs
Various visits from both through to 0830 hrs
RED returned on several occasions during the afternoon.
Grey returned in the evening

17th July – feeder 2 has only had the good stuff taken and probably no corn, whereas feeder 1 has been hammered on the corn

18th July – same as yesterday

19-20th July – same as before – little corn going from feeder 2, just the good stuff, but everything going from feeder 1 – it is slightly odd as they are only 50 yards from each other.

22nd July – both feeders been hammered for corn

23rd July – feeder 1 hammered for corn – less so in feeder 2.
Camera once again located back here

Having spoken with Gary he is hoping to get back here soon(ish) – I am also away all next week.

3rd Aug' - I was then away and during my 10 days away there are 1300+ photos to view (feeder 1).

Summary – Both feeders were empty.

I have been viewing x2 **REDS** (adult and juvenile) and x1 grey (this being the one which is outstanding from the family of five).

The reds are the most regular visitors to the feeder, but the grey has visited on most days and several times, often for a lengthy period of time.

The reds arrive early, often before 0600 hrs and make numerous visits during the day.

The grey makes less visits, but tends to stay longer.

Gary attended twice during the period (28th and 30th) – the grey was not seen on camera at all on the 28th and then also on both the 30th and 31st!!

Gary topped the feeder up with corn on his first visit and curiously the adult red has spent some time on the feeder since and has accounted for a reasonable amount of that that went.

Intriguing – as per the last report, mice often make nocturnal visits to the feeder and they are still quite prevalent.

However, on the 28th and 29th an owl made regular visits to the feeder, especially the 28th when it stayed for over 4 hours.

It would appear in several photos and then disappear only to reappear in the next photo – a hunting we shall go.

Both feeders disinfected

4th Aug – The owl was at it again overnight

Both **REDS** and greys from early in the morning and after Gary had visited only a **RED** visited but which was there most of the afternoon.

5th Aug – **REDS** and the grey were again early visitors, the grey this time paying x3 visits through to 0935 hrs

Possibly a new **RED** on the feeder, very light (sandy) in colour

Camera now moved to Flass Pasture

7th Aug – Gary attended and found a **RED** asleep in feeder No.1 – the feeder was completely empty.

Have now taken down feeder No.2 – we want the focus to be on just the one feeder – this feeder is now at Flass

14th Aug - after a week away due to work commitments the feeder was empty.

Disinfected and topped back up.

Camera from Edge Close re-located here

15th Aug – there was still corn left in the feeder and on the camera – no greys in the last 24 hrs

But what was delightful was that there was a Red on the tree with the feeder and it wasn't too keen to 'get away' and watched me top the feeder up

17th Aug – encouraging signs – still no greys have visited.

I'm beginning to wonder (hope) that the last one we knew about which evaded its dispatching has now grown up and moved on.

Anyway due to the arrival of the pheasant poults this could be the last photo from this particular feeder until Feb of 2021.

It really has been a very prolific feeder.



23rd Aug – feeder 1 emptied and cleaned out

Can't now be used until end of pheasant season.

New feeder erected about 25 yards into the wood at bottom end near Bastern Gill with camera located on it – this feeder can be used until the poults are 'let out'.

This feeder had been Orchard Wood 3 and I was waiting to speak with the pheasant syndicate to see if it could go in Longhill Wood for a period of time and to save carrying it about with me I had just left it on the floor behind a tree – I put a few monkey nuts in just in case.

Well the monkey nuts had gone today when I attended to put it up.

You just knew that this new feeder would be 'found' relatively quickly and so it proved!

I had put the feeder up at 1620 hrs ... at 1757 hrs there was red on it!

It stayed until 1945 hrs.

24th Aug – not a good day.

I arrived at 1725 hrs and the first thing I saw near the new feeder was a ... grey.

It presented itself perfectly for dispatching, but no Gary, no gun.

Off it went, slowly, as I watched it climb the tree and then go in between the canopy and out of sight.

This morning the first red was there at 0550 hrs and was joined by a second red at 0558 hrs.

X1 Red was there at various times throughout the morning but was then joined by the grey at 1102 hrs, which didn't spend too much time there, but did return at 1357 hrs.

The red returned at 1711 hrs and then myself shortly after.

I have an idea and just need to see what Gary thinks – take this feeder down and hence stop feeding in Longhill (also Three Cornered Wood and Orchard Wood if necessary) and put this feeder up in Bastern Gill.

Monitor it with the camera and see if the grey goes to it – if it does then consider trapping.

Anyway a few photos from today:

Which is the cutest?



And you may recall my friend (see 'When will I see you again?' above)

Different feeder, different location ... same outcome



From the camera the grey did not go to the feeder and the **RED** was back from 1953-2014 hrs

25 – 28th Aug

All very curious, but good - from the camera over this period there has been numerous visits by two reds on every day ... but no grey!

The Reds are there early, earliest being 0615 hrs, and are there morning, noon and night.

On the 28th I made a mistake though – the red had been there all morning and I attended about 1130 hrs, but had forgotten the replacement memory card.

I had also switched the camera off whilst checking it and forgot to switch it back on before I left!!

Therefore, on the 31st when I attended ... with a **RED** sat on the feeder, I have no footage for the last few days.

31st Aug – but then the month finished quite excellently, but also curiously!

REDS all the way from 1640 to 1925 hrs, occasionally two at a time, but at 1843 hrs this ... **three REDS together**:



Not a particularly good photo – but in many ways, simply excellent and has thrilled me to bits.

Now the curiosity – at first there was x2 blurry photo's and I was trying to work out what it was and then it sat still, a stoat – they don't eat reds do they?



The Birds of Longhill Wood.

I've seen owls, a Whinchat, I don't know how many Jays (which have been at all the feeders and then today (15th) this



Now I know that the poults have only just arrived, but by February this is going to take some shooting!

We have lots and lots of Owls in the woods about us



There has been no end of Jays about, wherever I have put the camera, they have been there



This one below is actually from Flass Pasture Wood and I think it was after one of our reds which had just been in picture moments before ... it missed ... this time! I've spoken with Neil McCall and we believe that it is a Peregrine Falcon



Edge Close - Wood above Flass Pasture NY 632 146

Feeder was removed at the end of June into Orchard Wood – but the parents of Andrew Haggard (Crosby Ravensworth) who live at Burnbanks have very kindly donated a feeder to us and this is where it is going to live for a while.

Now a tale of how not to be a boy scout – The Haggards had even left x2 screws with the feeder and off I went on my rounds in the evening of 14th July.

I had Phillips screwdrivers with me ... the screws in the box were flat head!!

Anyway, I filled it with corn and good stuff, propped it up on a wall and on returning the next night the good stuff had gone!

17th July – the good feed and the corn is now been taken – will bring the camera up from Bastern Gill to confirm if grey or red

18th July – just the good food taken – camera now sited here

19th July – a very pleasant surprise ... it's a **red**.

And possibly even better is the fact that it looks relatively young –

Paid its first visit at 0556 hrs and was there through to 0937 hrs with a couple of visits in the afternoon.

It had thrown a lot of corn out of the feeder - photo below

20th July – regular visits by a **red** throughout the day from 0536 hrs

21st July – regular visits by a **red** throughout the day from 0542 hrs

22nd July – regular visits by a **red** throughout the day from 0540 hrs

23rd July – brief visits by a **red** in the morning

Camera move back to Longhill Wood

3rd Aug – after been away for 10 days the feeder was completely empty

5th Aug – the feeder has been touched as something has tried to lift the Perspex cover up, but not much food taken.

Camera brought back and mounted here to check if any greys have 'found it'

7th Aug – very little activity, but a **RED** visited the feeder this morning at 0736 hrs
Quite possibly the Jay that visits regularly that is trying to lift the Perspex screen up.

14th Aug - after a week away due to work commitments the camera only shows
REDS.

Visited every day – always very early and at least one other time during the day. Just corn left.

15th Aug – **RED** on the feeder this afternoon when I visited – it leapt from the feeder onto the wall and then back onto the tree behind the one with feeder and then watched me top it up.

Always a pleasure when you see reds of successive feeders, following having just seen the one in Longhill Wood

17th Aug – **RED** on the feeder this morning when I visited – went up the tree with its monkey nut and then watched me top it up.

Always a pleasure when you see reds of successive feeders, following having just seen the one on the new feeder at Flass

23rd Aug – feeder virtually empty and topped up

24th Aug – feeder empty

28th Aug – feeder empty

31st Aug – feeder empty and all the corn – I will bring the camera back soon to make sure no grey – camera back on 2nd Sept'.



Can you see me?

No, I'm not on the feeder, I've emptied that of all that I want.

At some point I'm going to try propping the camera up on the wall with a few monkey nuts nearby ... worth a go.

A bigger picture of that Peregrine



'Three Cornered Wood' – beyond Orchard Wood

- 1st July** – just monkey nuts taken
- 2nd July** – monkey nuts and a little corn
- 3rd July** – I'm guessing that when Gary came here this morning there was a grey sat on the feeder, the Perspex front of which is now completely smashed! Most importantly though ... did he get it?
Once home e-mail pinged off to find out – now of to Longhill Wood
E-mail back from Gary ... x1 grey adult male dispatched
- 4th July** – whilst it didn't have a Perspex screen, it was completely empty
New screen put in and topped up.
With the grey having been dispatched in Orchard Wood today, I wonder just how many are left in this wood and Longhill Wood
- 7th July** – topped up
- 9th July** – visited late eve' – all feed gone and corn as well – camera located here
- 10th July** – feeder untouched and nothing on camera
Had to move camera (up to Longhill Wood) as the branch it was on broke.
- 13th July** – not checked over the weekend due to being away, but virtually empty this afternoon apart from a little corn.
Checked again this evening and only one monkey nut left.
- 14th July** – Gary spent time here this morning – nothing seen
- 15th July** – slightly unexpected, but no corn has been taken since last topped up
- 17th July** – slightly curious as appears only the good food and no corn taken.
- 18th July** – again only the good food taken.
- 19th July** – quite a bit of corn gone today
- 22nd July** – not much corn taken - have managed to position a camera to monitor
- 22nd July** – grey from 1202 to 1255 hrs
Red from 1741 to 1800 hrs

I was then away and during my 10 days away there are 900+ photos to view.

Summary – the feeder has been visited by a grey on a regular basis.

There has only been the very occasional visit by a red.

It appears to be the same grey that visits each time and it appears relatively young.

Its visits tend to be early through to about 1030 hrs and then again early evening.

Even with all the feed gone its visits could still be in excess of one hour.

Needless to say, that when I visited on 3rd August all the feed was gone.

Comparing the timings for the visits by the grey with those up at Longhill Wood, there has been a grey on each feeder at the same time and hence we have x2 greys, one in each wood.

Disinfected

3rd Aug – a **RED** and for a long period of time (1243-1600 Hrs)

However, the grey was there from 1623 -1752 hrs

4th Aug – Gary revisited and was in all morning - only saw 2 reds

When the camera was checked no grey had visited at all on the 4th

5th Aug – **RED** briefly 1404-1411 hrs, but the for a couple of hours at tea-time

No grey today

6th Aug - Predominantly **RED** today (from 0545 hrs) and the visits are also becoming longer as well as frequent.

Grey did visit x3 today though (0830-0846 + 1022-1027 + 1232 hrs)

7th Aug – Gary attended and x1 grey dispatched

When he arrived there was a **RED** on the feeder – he waited and suddenly a grey (adult female) appeared on a nearby fence post – dispatched.

The **RED** had been there from 0737 hrs and through to my visit at 1550 hrs it was a fairly regular visitor.

However – despite the one grey having been dispatched at 1044 hrs another turned up and stayed until 1110 hrs



‘That’s it, right there, the third peanut from the back’

Trust me, I've looked at hundreds of photo's of this squirrel and he knows how to get into the feeder alright – he/she has a very distinctive dark, almost black, back

14th Aug - after a week away due to work commitments I was very pleasantly surprised when I viewed the camera, albeit I was encouraged to see that there was still quite a lot of corn left in the feeder.

The last time that a grey was on this feeder was 2005 – 2018 hrs on the 7th
No more visits at all – but a **RED** has been ever present.

Just about every day, unless it was raining, it was there before 0600 Hrs, the earliest being 0517 hrs and on most days it made multiple visits, many of which were long duration

15th Aug – still corn left and only the good stuff taken

23rd Aug – as above

24th Aug – feeder empty

28th Aug – feeder empty apart from some corn and the camera put back here.

28th – 31st

All good news, a **RED** feeding regularly every day and often ... and no grey.

It's always there early for a good while, but when it comes back in the afternoon, it stays through into the evening

Bastern Gill

This gill rises above Longhill Wood, passes through the wood and continues down into Orchard Wood, exiting out and joining the Lyvennet.

It would seem a natural conclusion that this would be a natural 'corridor' between Longhill Wood and Orchard and Three Cornered Wood's.

With Kitty Smith having donated an old feeder, on Friday 10th July it was located half way along the gill to see if it was that corridor.

Checked evening of the 13th – only a little corn left.

After speaking with Gary we will put a camera on this feeder and if only grey(s) visit then will probably set a trap.

14th – Evening and the feed has not been taken – camera sited here.

15th – still not touched in the last 24 hrs ... annoying

17th – still not touched in the last 48 hrs ... annoying – will move camera now.

18th – still not touched in the last 24 hrs ... camera moved to Flass Pasture

After having been away for 10 days I checked the feeders again on 3rd August. This feeder was almost empty!

Can only presume that with all the other feeders nearby having been emptied that attention must have turned to this one

5th Aug – the good food had been taken, but no corn

7th Aug – ditto above

Feeder now moved and re-located to the church

Maybe yet re-visit this location as a potential trapping site

Holesfoot



The new owners tell me that they have two distinct groups who visits their gardens, usually early (0500 hrs) and then at night.

One group is quite dark in colour and the other group, light in colour.

They arrive from different directions

Trainlands Wood

1st July – attend 0945 hrs to erect motion camera – x2 reds on the feeder

RED – 1007 to 1405 hrs – a young red

Back at 1824 to 1828

2nd July – **RED** from 0507 hrs through to 1228 hrs

I attended at 4 p.m. to top up

3rd July – **RED** from 0510 hrs and still on the feeder when I attend at 0940 hrs

RED from 1802 to 1930 hrs

4th July - **RED** from 0507 to 1056 hrs (Inc' x2 reds at 0516 hrs)

A red re-visits at 1452 hrs and 1718 hrs before I attend at 1730 hrs to top up - camera removed back to Brackenslack Wood

9th July – topped up in the evening

10th July - I only topped it up last night! All gone

18th July – I've been topping up every second day - the feed is always gone

4th Aug – after being away for 10 days when I visited, all the food was gone

6th Aug – food all gone

14th Aug - Continue to visit every other day and feed always gone

31st Aug – as the 14th

Brackenslack Wood

1st July – GREYS on camera from 0634 hrs

I attend at 0930 hrs and x1 grey in the trap (other trap empty)
camera removed to Trainlands Wood
Gary attended and another grey seen – both dispatched

2nd July – traps empty

3rd July – traps empty a.m. and tea-time

4th July – feeder not been touched in the last 24hrs – camera re-positioned back here to monitor if any more greys

5th July – only thing to have visited in the last 24 hrs is ... me.

7th July – since I last checked on the 5th (work has prevented me visiting) the only thing to have visited is the owl.

9th July – no squirrels of any colour.

We are fairly confident that the greys have been cleared from here.
Camera moved to Three Cornered Wood

14th July – no food taken at all – good that it shows there are no greys at present, but just need a red to find the feeder now

18th July – still full of food

6th Aug – feeder has not been touched at all and still full of feed

16th Aug – moved the feeder today, but a small amount of feed had been taken.
It is now slightly further down Scattergate Gill and is quite visible from the path.

From the farm – enter the wood and after about 35 yards and well before the bridge, look over to your right where there is a 'bowl' in the gill and it is on the right hand side of a tree standing proud above that bowl.

Curiously I picked the tree that it was going to go on and then realised that it already had some nails in it – must have been a feeder there previously – camera located here to monitor.

23rd Aug – first visit back since the feeder and camera re-located.

It has been 'found' by a ... **RED**

First visit was the 18th and apart from the 19th has visited most days

25th Aug – went to retrieve the camera and at first all look good with a red, but then a grey at 1056 hrs on the 24th and again in the afternoon.

Grey was back at 0946 hrs this morning.

Gary notified and to attend on 26th

26th Aug – during the time that Gary spent in the wood this morning no squirrels of any colour seen.

31st Aug - some food taken, but no corn.

Brought the camera here from Three Cornered Wood and when I went to switch it on, the batteries needed changing and did not have 8 AA's with me – will sort tomorrow – camera back on the 1st

Update: on the 2nd and 3rd only a red was seen

ROWANS

JULY

9th – Darren sorry I should have let you have an update on our Squirrels earlier but other things have rather got in my way.

However, we have seen at least one and mostly two every day since we had the one who couldn't find its way into the feeder box.

As I write there are two feeding - one at the box and the other at the peanut hanger which we put out for the birds.

The wild life in this garden is truly amazing.

26th – Sad to say we have just seen a Grey squirrel in our garden – it went straight across the garden and wasn't seen to go near the feeder.

However, it hasn't been seen since.

And – the usual red had been on the feeder earlier in the day.

August

5th – still seeing reds every day – no more sightings of any greys

Morland Bank Wood

23rd July – side of road

Several other sightings, usually on the bends after the long straight.
However, refer to my introduction and '*Please take care*'.

Other Sightings:

JULY

3rd – a.m. on dry stone wall opposite Hill Top House

8th – bit of a turn-up this one, RED at Howebeck – first time in a year

Seen running over from the Kindleysides, sitting on the front for a while
Before climbing over No.3 and going into the garden and trying to get at
The peanuts before going out of sight.

Appeared to be fairly young – slight problem is that it has probably crossed
the road to get here

14th - Hello Darren . . . just to report I saw the same red as before run along the
river bank from the Flass direction 2 days ago and then again today.

Same squirrel and both times he headed for our garden and our trees.

Regards, Pennie

14th – Old Police House – report have a red paying regular visits to their garden

22nd – Green Ends - the same red as before, I believe, running from us towards
Flass along the river's edge the day before yesterday - Pennie.

30th -Green Ends – a red in the garden 5 days ago and again today - Pennie

AUGUST

13th – red seen on Brackenslack Lane close to the junction with the Kings Meaburn Road – seen on several days

20th – in the garden of Judith Cove

25th – Thwaites Cottages

“Our dark tailed squirrel... we have a blonde too!
Eating us out of house and home at the mo”!!



Photo – Gill Rutherford

GREEN ENDS: Squirrel report from 3.9.20.

1 x red running from road down to Flass 2 weeks ago

1 x red running from Flass along river's edge to our garden a week ago

1 x red running from Flass along river's edge into our garden five days ago but this one had a deep red russet tail, not like the other one reported before that had a creamy coloured tail.

1 x red (same journey) same russet tail 3 days ago

We've not espied more than one squirrel at a time in our garden so far this Summer.

Much hiding and digging up of nuts has taken place so the lawn is full of holes!

Crosby Ravensworth

General

Again the odd random sighting of a grey, but otherwise all seems well with many sightings.

Two new feeders put up (as per my introduction)

1st July –

Dalebanks - I have a feeder you can have as my reds aren't bothered about it.

They just go on my feeders & eat raisins off my window sill, will try to get a photo they are just young & lovely.

I will drop the feeder off to you - Kitty

6th July – quite a few sightings today

Dalefoot - Baby red seen in the garden every day for a week, first day came with its mum, ever since on its own.

One day we had three reds in the garden at the same time.

Well Head - Some great news! We have a red squirrel back feeding at Well Head. I've loaded a video onto the Crosby Ravensworth Facebook page. The date on the clip is incorrect unfortunately.

The Haven - Just to let you know that we've just had a red in our garden, the first for ages.

Unfortunately it was too quick for me to get a photo. It was sort of orange/ ginger in colour with a fair bushy tail.

Just realised I forgot to send the record fir sightings of squirrels.

We've seen one in the garden every day bar last Friday since I last sent a record on June 15th.

Low Dalebanks - Just realised I forgot to send the record for sightings of squirrels. We've seen one in the garden every day bar last Friday since I last sent a record on June 15th.

7th July –

Dalefoot - Two red squirrels eating and playing in the garden, jumping on the step and looking through the French window.

Low Dalebanks –

July 22nd - just to let you know that we are seeing two squirrels on a daily basis and both look very healthy.

Today however we have been treated to something very special and have had four of them at once!!

The Church

7th August – put up a feeder (Kitty's old one that had temporarily been in Bastern Gill).

Along with the extra one at Flass, I want to put a few up that can be seen from footpaths/public places

As of the end of the month no feed had been taken



The Low Dalebanks Four – photo by Andrea Davis

Other Sightings:-

July

1st – on grass verge just uphill from Low Row

August

3rd – Just saw a very health looking Red on the lawn and in the apple trees of The Coach House, Crosby Ravensworth.

I tried to get a photo but sadly was outsmarted by technology and a very agile squirrel !!

Better luck next time maybe - Regards - Ann Moorhouse

Castlehowe Scar Wood

Alex tells me that there are four or more feeders in the plantation and which are regularly topped up, although she does not know who sees to it.

18th July - Road Death – opposite Hardendale quarry.

Follow the dog-leg of the road round to the left following the plantation and it is lying on the left hand verge just as the plantation ends.

Thing is, there are feeders on that plantation boundary but there are also irresponsible racers who use it as a track.

Hopper Hill / Wood

Keith and Margaret possibly had a grey visit during July, but at most seems to have been only passing through

Otherwise, the reds remain regular visitors.

They seem to 'stock up' on food and then are not seen for a few days and then repeat the process

Harberwain

NO REPORTS

Reagill

NO REPORTS.

Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck

15th July - You mentioned about letting you know about red squirrel sightings, and it just happens that they were back in the garden at the end of last week. We managed to get some video footage of one of them – Peter Baines

Morland

Crown Inn Fields

Many thanks for sending me the May/ June “Squirrel Report”. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading it and browsing the information and photographs.

Well done to you and others for all the work which you do GREAT.

We now have our squirrel feeder in situ and our regular visitor is much enjoying eating from it.

He/she is coming every day. Visiting times vary but they are becoming more frequent, almost always for breakfast and evening feast.



Crown Inn Fields, Morland - Photo by John Gore

More Photo's at the end of the report

18th July – this was is a bit of a surprise – morning at the rear of 26 Jackson Croft.
In 14yrs of living there the occupant had never seen one before

Newby – No Reports

More Photo's from Crown Inn Fields, Morland



Bit of a stretch and hang on in there





This young red is somewhat cute