

## Red Squirrel Sightings – May and June 2020



**Longhill Wood** – my new friend

### General

#### X13 Greys Dispatched

- One at Sideway Bank Farm near Kings Meaburn
- Four in Longhill Wood above Flass, Maulds Meaburn - over a number of days.
- Five on Brackenslack Lane (lay-by next to footpath/stile back down to Harry's Barn) over a 10 day period
- Three in 'Three Cornered Wood'

**No reports of S/Pox cases.**

#### Road Deaths –

**Year Total = 3**

Inc' One this month (Dalebanks)

#### Other Deaths –

**Year Total = 1**

**Cat Attacks** - none reported

Greys dispatched this year in parish = 13

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

These last two months, but June in particular, have been very busy and eventful. There is much good news with numerous sightings of reds in many locations and with a good number of those sightings including young reds.

However, in these two months we have gone from no reports of greys having been seen to 13 having now been dispatched.

These sightings of greys have been quite localised and at present are confined to the eastern part of our area, namely, Brackenslack, Longhill Wood and Three Cornered Wood.

There has been one sighting within Crosby Ravensworth, but this may have been of a grey in transit or connected to those later found in Three Cornered Wood.

But in all of the locations where greys have been seen, there are also reds.

We are gaining a better understanding of our local population and possibly of the routes that greys may use to access our area.

Dealing with these greys is both time consuming and a matter of patience and perseverance; Gary has been in our villages 2-3 times per week to deal.

From the end of May when one grey was spotted at the rear of Flass, we managed to locate a 'family' of five in Longhill Wood and at present one remains outstanding.

During June this grey was joined by another and then another family suddenly arrived in Three Cornered Wood.

Three greys have been dispatched in Three Cornered Wood and it now appears that there are now only reds visiting the feeder there.

Longhill Wood has become a bit of personal mission for myself, almost a crusade and Gary knows how desperate I am to get the last two (two were captured on camera on the 30<sup>th</sup>) out of there.

Once they have been dispatched I can re-position the two feeders there before the start of the pheasant season.

In mid June a number of greys were seen on Brackenslack Lane, with three quickly dispatched and a further one several days later.

Several greys have subsequently been seen in Brackenslack Wood and immediate steps were taken to deal – 1<sup>st</sup> July saw two greys dispatched.

The use of traps and motion 'trail' cameras have been utilised to assist in the process.

We now have nine feeders in various locations with two motion cameras.

The cameras are great for monitoring for any greys and also on the health of any reds and most days I am viewing in excess of 300 photo's to aid this process.

Thanks goes to John Heath for his donation of a feeder which is now in woodland at the top of Brackenslack at the point where '*Littlebeck*' rises.

Sadly, one red has been run over, this being on the road up to Dalebanks in Crosby Ravensworth.

The report below details some locations that are on private land with no public right of access and myself and Gary thank the owners for granting permission for us to venture there.

There is still much to learn and discover about our local red population and one look at a map shows just how much woodland we have locally – so if you do have knowledge, please share.

Below is a chronology of when the greys 'landed':

19<sup>th</sup> May – grey seen at the rear of Flass

27<sup>th</sup> May onwards – greys located in Lnghill Wood

6<sup>th</sup> June - Grey seen Nr. Snowdrop Barn Maulds Meaburn – then x2 young on the 7<sup>th</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> June - An adult female and two juvenile males dispatched

12<sup>th</sup> + 13<sup>th</sup> June - More greys seen Brackenslack – feeder erected.

13<sup>th</sup> June - Grey Seen Silver Street, Crosby Ravensworth

14<sup>th</sup> June - Greys seen Brackenslack + on wall opposite Meaburn Hall a.m.

15<sup>th</sup> June - X1 grey trapped and dispatched Brackenslack Lane

19<sup>th</sup> June – x2 greys seen hopping over the wall into the woods (Maskrigg) on Bank Moor, just opposite the tumulus, the bit with the beech trees.

20<sup>th</sup> June – x1 grey trapped Brackenslack and dispatched.

x1 grey (possibly 2) seen in Three Cornered Wood.

Possibly the one from Longhill Wood on the move

21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Grey visiting feeder in Three Cornered Wood

22<sup>nd</sup> June – female grey dispatched in Three Cornered Wood

Another grey seen at footpath entrance to Brackenslack Wood

24<sup>th</sup> June – x1 red found run over on road up to Dalebanks, Crosby  
Ravensworth

25<sup>th</sup> June – x1 large grey female dispatched Three Cornered Wood

26<sup>th</sup> June – x1 grey juvenile male dispatched Three Cornered Wood



**Green End** - photo by Pennie Bennett

## When you go down into the woods today

Look out for these – a perfect example of one eaten by a squirrel – but was it a grey or a red?

Do report such sightings.



## Maulds Meaburn

### General

Eventful. Many sightings of reds, some with young and in locations not recently frequented.

Incursion of greys, mainly in June, created much work.

I've started to add sunflower hearts in with the monkey nuts and these are proving quite popular

Lyvennet Bank – Feed going every day – consistently throughout the two months.

Now enjoying the sunflower hearts as well

7<sup>th</sup> June – 1600 hrs - Red seen on the feeder one hour after  
being topped up – appeared in good health

Flass - through May still active most days, visits slowed after I stopped feeding due to the grey, but resumed soon after.

30<sup>th</sup> May new feeder erected.

Consistently a red(s) visiting.

Orchard Wood –

**MAY**

**11<sup>th</sup>** - two seen together at same time

**19<sup>th</sup>** - grey seen at entrance to wood

Gary attended 20<sup>th</sup> – seen briefly but not long enough to be able to dispatch.

Extra feeder with corn erected and motion camera

After a further sighting of the grey during the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> it has not been seen since.

The feeder in the wood used to go 2-3 weeks with little feed taken, but in the days preceding the grey been seen, the feed had been going every day.

The camera was in-situ x6 days and a red was seen every day, usually twice, between 7-7.30 a.m. and any time between 2-5.30 p.m.

Some photo's can be seen at the end of the report.

Red seen by Gary 0750 hrs 29<sup>th</sup>

We are as confident that we can be that there are only reds in the wood.

When walking through Lyvennet Bank and Flass in the search of the grey, this was spotted on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> May – if only it had caught and eaten the grey!



Photo: Darren Rogers





**Orchard Wood** – photo by Darren Rogers

## JUNE

- 14<sup>th</sup> – food going every day and camera placed back on feeder to monitor  
**RED** from 1315 hrs all the way through to 1944 hrs
- 15<sup>th</sup> – **RED** from 1114 hrs to 1204 hrs and 1538 hrs to 1546 hrs
- 16<sup>th</sup> – **RED** all morning then at 1522 to 1623 hrs
- 17<sup>th</sup> - **RED** 1111 to 1129 and 1438 to 1626 hrs
- 18<sup>th</sup> - **RED** 0841-0900hrs and 1109-1152hrs and 1300-1352hrs and 1423-1623hrs  
1737 to 1746 hrs – different RED?
- 19<sup>th</sup> – **RED** 0623 to 0839 hrs and then variously between 1028 and 1640 hrs
- 20<sup>th</sup> – **RED** 0616 hrs + 0858 to 0905 hrs + 1616 to 1642 hrs
- 21<sup>st</sup> – **RED** 0734 – 0845 hrs + 1133 – 1135 hrs Camera removed
- 23<sup>nd</sup> – no signs of the corn having been touched

## Longhill Wood

An old, disused feeder was located in Longhill Wood (LW) and brought back to life on 26<sup>th</sup> May and re-sited 20 yards from the original in a slightly less open setting.

The motion camera from Orchard Wood was moved to now monitor this feeder.

**27<sup>th</sup> May** – visited site and downloaded the camera – on the first morning it had been visited by both a red and a grey.

Gary informed.

Photo's at end of report.

**29<sup>th</sup> May** – with Gary and no sightings of any, grey or red and no photo's taken on the camera.

**30<sup>th</sup> May** - A red must have been watching us yesterday because captured on the motion camera at 0917 hrs it is on the tree!

Today (**30<sup>th</sup>**) it has been back at 0530, 0910 and 1010 hrs – no greys.

Now seems to have the confidence to take feed from the feeder.





**31<sup>st</sup> May** - the grey is back.

I was there on the 31<sup>st</sup>, leaving about 3p.m. and from the camera:  
from 1702 to 1915 hrs (31<sup>st</sup>) the grey has completely emptied the feeder –  
(previously it did not have any corn in it – but it has now).

There are hardly any shells on the ground and it is obviously going and coming  
back within that time – not sure where it is going to.



Time stamp correct

**1<sup>st</sup> June** - the grey came back at 0711 hrs.

Just after 0800 hrs a red came as well – the other feeders haven't been visited yet.

**2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Gary shot x1 large male grey at 1230 hrs.

Approx' 140 photo's of greys on the camera over the last 24hrs

When the camera was checked the following day another grey was  
back on the feeder just 1400 hrs and then had a party from 1754-1948 hrs, during  
which time the feeder was decimated.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Weather has changed from the sunny conditions to cooler and cloudy.  
Gary on site from 0700 hrs, but nothing seen.  
Camera checked and nothing seen on feeder all morning.  
Gary left mid morning – camera checked and showed:  
From 1130 hrs x2 greys (possibly 3) have had the party of their lives.  
Feeder was effectively empty apart from a bit of corn at 1300 hrs.  
But still they came back and back and back at regular intervals until the  
final time at 2031 hrs – a total of 9 hrs



Time stamp correct

**4<sup>th</sup> June - Gary dispatched x2 young greys between 0830-1000 hrs.**

Camera showed a grey visiting at 0720 hrs

A red at 0946 hrs and again at 1040 hrs after the two had been dispatched.

**Feeder cleaned and disinfected.**

During his time in the wood Gary saw x3 reds

Camera checked on 5<sup>th</sup> and saw two more greys (possibly female and young) first visit at 1217 hrs with the last visit at 1932 hrs.

They had a party with another 140+ photos with very regular visits to the feeder, during which time they ate everything

**4<sup>th</sup> June** – having found a second disused feeder now on the floor in the wood, have now cleaned and replaced it towards the far end of the wood (towards Hulls Wood) – Feeder No.2

**5<sup>th</sup> June** – visited approx' 1540 hrs

At least, but believed just two, greys have been making regular visits from 0718 hrs through to 1446 hrs.

Feeder re-filled at 1600 hrs - Camera showed:

X2 greys present from 1644 hrs to 1946 hrs – just corn left.

**6<sup>th</sup> June** – (camera) greys back at 0554 hrs and ever present through to 1447 hrs.

Re-filled at 1537 hrs

**Feeder 2** – food now been taken – no detritus on the floor underneath.

Still corn in feeder.

**Feeder 1** (camera) – Greys return at 1655 hrs and leave at 2028 hrs

Save for corn the feeder was emptied.

**7<sup>th</sup> June - Feeder 1** – Greys return at 0822 hrs and stay to 0908 hrs

The young grey on its own returns 1149-1226 Hrs

Re-filled at 1540 hrs

Greys return 1809 hrs to 2020 Hrs and empty the feeder apart from the corn.

**Feeder 2** – feed taken from top, does not appear to have gone below to the corn and still no detritus on the floor.

Motion camera installed to monitor this feeder as well.

**8<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – Greys present from 0824-0900 hrs and then from 1120 hrs

**Gary dispatched X1 large adult female 1350 hrs**

The remaining one (?) young grey returned at 1519 hrs and fed to 1642 hrs – I arrived 1650 hrs

(Camera) – grey back 1829-1939 hrs

**9<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – Mouse seen on top of feeder overnight – half way up a tree!  
Grey from 0549-0610 hrs then 1200-1221 hrs  
The same grey and hopefully the last one.  
Gary attended and no greys seen.  
Grey back at 1600-1646hrs – I attend at 1650hrs - not seen.  
Grey from 1819-1953 hrs

**Feeder 2** - small amounts of feed going – unable to get a good camera view of it

**10<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – mouse (or is it a rat?) back on the feeder again overnight.  
The remaining grey on feeder at:  
0734-0754hrs 0819-0823hrs 0940-0946hrs 1900-1932hrs  
I attend at 1945 hrs and don't see anything.

**11<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – mouse and rat again overnight!  
Grey from 0937 – 0959 hrs  
**RED** 1323 hrs – seen on tree once, not on feeder  
Grey from 1612 to 1733 hrs

**12<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – mouse and rat again, including x2 mice together.  
Visited at 0930 hrs – no greys or reds so far today.  
**RED** 1423 - 1441 hrs – young and healthy – but then  
GREY 1443 – 1457 hrs and again eve' 1820 – 1845 hrs

**13<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – several mice again overnight.  
Grey 0717 – 0729hrs then at 1222hrs and 1713 – 1733 hrs

**14<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – several mice again overnight.  
Still the same grey  
0644 – 0700 hrs + 1713 – 1726 hrs and 1822 – 1845 hrs

**15<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – several mice again overnight.  
**RED** 0854 – 0900 and 1300 hrs  
At time of visit to feeder (1525 hrs) no grey had visited.  
GREY 1716 – 1731 hrs  
**RED** 2134 – 2146 Hrs

**16<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – several mice again overnight.

GREY 0655 – 0710 hrs

**RED** 0954 – 1034 hrs

GREY 1115 – 1126 Hrs

**RED** 1137 – 1159 hrs

I arrive at 1212 hrs and see nothing.

GREY 1644 and 1658 hrs then 1809 – 1813 hrs

**17<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – the mice yet again – usually for an hour from mid-night.

GREY 0602 and 0608 hrs

**RED** 0654 hrs and 0748 to 0845 hrs

I visited at 0928 hrs and nothing seen

**RED** 1122 to 1149 hrs

GREY at 1301-1316hrs + 1507-1521hrs and 1916-1927 hrs

**RED** at 1929 to 1947 hrs **appears to be two different Reds**

**18<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – Mice again overnight

**RED** 0535 to 0542 hrs

GREY 0544 to 0555 hrs

**RED** 0633 to 0652 hrs and 0721 to 0728 hrs

GREY 1603 to 1718 hrs

**RED** 1839 to 1904 hrs

**19<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1** – no mice last night!

**RED** 0619 to 0758 hrs

GREY 0810 to 0825 hrs

**RED** 0833 to 0841 hrs

0905 hrs **RED** and GREY on the tree at same time

**RED** 1259 to 1358 hrs

GREY 1513-1529hrs – the same one, but as now grown big

**RED** 1533 hrs

GREY – 1626 to 1634 hrs

**RED** 1638 to 1645 hrs + 1734 to 1820 hrs

## 20<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1 –

Today a second grey arrived at the feeder. This could easily have been the one seen earlier at Three Cornered Wood, having made its way up the hill.

It was together with the 'resident' grey for a long period in the evening.

Whilst the resident grey has never been too bothered about the corn in the feeder, this new (adult) grey was and ate rather a lot.

GREY 1205 hrs

**RED** 1214 to 1228 hrs and 1449 to 1611 hrs

GREY 1648 to 1719 hrs – Inc' grey and **RED** at 1711 hrs

**RED** 1721 to 1735 hrs

GREY 1759 to 1818 hrs

**RED** 1844 hrs

GREYS (X2) 1923 to 2033 hrs

## 21<sup>st</sup> June – Feeder 1 –

Still believed to be the two greys, but not seen on camera together

**RED** 0510 hrs and 0534 – 0540 hrs

GREY 0549 – 0625 hrs

**RED** 0626 hrs

GREY 0627 hrs

**RED** 0726 – 0734 hrs

GREY 0734 – 0808 hrs

**RED** 0817 – 0853 hrs

GREY 0905 hrs – but with a **red** inside the feeder

**RED** 0909 hrs – inside the feeder

GREY 0910 – 0935 hrs

**RED** 1044 hrs

**RED x2** 1104 hrs

**RED** 1500 to 1557 hrs and 1732 to 1745 hrs

GREY 1753 to 1809 hrs

**RED** 1817 hrs

GREY 1825 to 1906 hrs

**RED** 1913 hrs

GREY 1916 to 2114 hrs



This new grey to the wood appears to be a very large female and is devouring the corn like there is no tomorrow.

Of the reds, one appears to be relatively young and it can often be seen sat wholly inside the feeder and for some time, occasionally coming out with something to eat.

It is also proving to be quite tenacious



I got in, now I've just got to find the way out



Just Hanging about



## 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Feeder 1

A lot of corn gone from the feeder in last 24hrs

**RED** 0504 to 0612 hrs

GREY 0728 – 0825 hrs

**RED** 1028 hrs

**REDS x2** 1052 hrs

**RED** 1225 –1241 hrs

I attend and top up at 1526 hrs.

**RED** 1800 to 1832 hrs

GREY 1901 to 1910 hrs

**RED** 1913 hrs

GREY 1914 hrs

**RED** 1916 to 1918 hrs

GREY 1920 to 2035 hrs – this being the new large grey

**Feeder 2** – just monkey nuts taken



It's quite comfortable in here!

## 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Feeder 1 –

Once again when I visited the corn had been decimated

**RED** 0502 hrs

GREY 0528 – 0611 hrs – relatively early for these greys

**RED** 0717 hrs

**GREYS X2** 0728 to 0839 hrs – the new grey along with the resident grey

GREY 1013 hrs – resident grey (the smaller of the two)

**RED** 1139 – 1146 hrs – the young one, who seems quite happy on its own

Me at 1549 topping up

GREY 1656 – 1725 hrs

Whilst the grey was there a **RED** visited at 1710, 1713 and 1717 hrs

**RED** 1759 to 1827 hrs

GREY 1928 to 2143 Hrs

Including x2 greys at 1938 hrs

**Feeder 2** – just monkey nuts gone again

## 24<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1

Today was something of a battle between the species – also the reds will pay many visits even though there is only corn left

**RED** 0531 to 0542 hrs + 0627 to 0800 hrs

GREY 0900 hrs

GREY + **RED** 0920 to 0951 hrs

**RED** 1023-1024 hrs

GREY 1025 to 1046 hrs - Inc' x2 greys at 1035 hrs

**RED** 1059 to 1106 hrs

GREY 1107 hrs.

**RED** 1109 hrs - and this is when it all became a little fractious

The photo shows a red trying to get in the feeder with a grey sat on the top of it whilst another red looks on (1111 hrs)

But then at 1112 hrs there was just the one ... red ... the young tenacious one



However, at 1116 we were back to two greys

But then in no time back to **RED** at 1119 hrs

GREY 1125 hrs

**RED** 1129 to 1136 hrs - the young one who spent three minutes sat inside the feeder

**RED** 1356 to 1424 Hrs

Me at 1520 hrs to top up

GREY 1751 to 1815 hrs

**RED** 1847 to 1902 hrs

GREY 1905 to 1911 hrs - Inc' a **RED** at 1912 hrs

**RED** 1919 to 1933 hrs

## 25<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1

Today was strange in that no grey turned up until the afternoon.

With a grey having been dispatched down at Three Cornered Wood the question now will be do we still have two greys here or was the one dispatched on its walkabout from here?



Also, is it just this group of squirrels or is it standard that reds wake up earlier than greys?

**And then ...** I'm really beginning to like this little fella.

Young, tenacious and with a bit of fun about him

**REDS X2** from 0443 hrs all the way through to 1239 hrs with only a few breaks.

GREY arrived at 1350 hrs, stayed 45 minutes and then it was a case of very brief visits from a **RED**.

But then the GREY returned at 1741 and stayed through to 2031 hrs with myself arriving shortly after to top up.

**Feeder 2** – just monkey nuts gone again

## 26<sup>th</sup> June – Feeder 1

Both **RED** and GREY this morning through to 0809 hrs.

The **RED** from 0454 hrs with a few visits and the GREY from 0520 hrs  
Before the grey arrived there was still some monkey nuts left, within five minutes they had gone.

**RED** paid a few visits in the afternoon, but then the GREY from 1909 to 1948 hrs

## 27<sup>th</sup> June – **RED** from 0534 hrs to 0545 hrs

GREY 0552 to 0652 hrs and cleaned the feeder out.

**RED** from 0934 to 0948 hrs and again 1103 to 1106 hrs

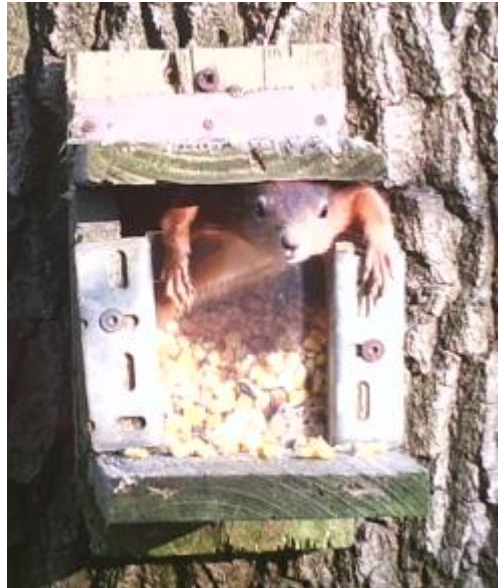
I topped up at 1110 hrs

**RED** 1212 to 1253 hrs and also at 1256 hrs

GREY 1252 to 1328 hrs

**RED** 1329 to 1330 hrs and 1420 to 1439 hrs

GREY 1635 to 1746 hrs and 1939 to 1940 hrs - only some corn left



**28<sup>th</sup> June** – GREY 0515 to 0551 hrs and 0625 hrs

**RED** 0657 to 0708 hrs

We attend at 1035 hrs and top up and disinfect

**RED** 1241 to 1335 hrs and again at 1426 hrs

GREY 1641 to 1848 hrs

**Feeder No.2** – all monkey nuts and also some of the other feed taken.

**29<sup>th</sup> June**

**RED** 0511 to 0525 hrs - again at 0538 to 0603 hrs - 1008 to 1021 hrs

GREY only made two fleeting visits at 0528 hrs and 0906 hrs

GARY seen at 1100 hrs – but did not see the grey

**RED** 1113 to 1211 hrs - again at 1347 to 1350 hrs

GREY 1608 to 1717 hrs

**30<sup>th</sup> June** - despite visiting almost every day, apart from on 200+ photo's a day, I've yet to see a squirrel in this wood! Today I did.

I started by going to **Feeder No.2** and as I approached there were no signs, but when I got about 20 yards away, the lid opened and out popped my little mate!

He doesn't know that he's my mate and that I've adopted him, but I do.

Off he went and I topped up – a large proportion of the feed had been taken.

**Feeder No.1**

The mice were back overnight.

**RED** 0508 through to 0738 hrs with the odd break

GREY 0525 hrs to 0530 hrs - again at 0808 to 0843 hrs

**RED** briefly at 0856 hrs

I topped up at 0944 hrs

GREY 1051 to 1119 hrs

**RED** during the afternoon

GREYS during the evening and now x2 greys, one of which is relatively young

NOTE:- I should add that on all my visits, every day, I disinfect the cleaner

Footnote:- on 1<sup>st</sup> July the camera was removed from feeder No.1 and relocated  
Into Orchard wood.

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

**30<sup>th</sup> May** - put my own feeder in the wood – is on a tree in the middle of the wood  
on one side of a stone wall – corn in the bottom of the feeder.

As of 23<sup>rd</sup> June, not been touched

Footnote:- we decided to move this feeder and place in Orchard Wood near to the  
exit out towards Three Cornered Wood.

When I attended on 1<sup>st</sup> July to take it down most of the food including corn had  
gone.

### 'Three Cornered Wood' – beyond Orchard Wood

**4<sup>th</sup> June** – new feeder mounted in wood

**20<sup>th</sup> June** – one, possibly two greys seen – no activity yet on feeder

**21<sup>st</sup> June** – camera located in wood

GREY at 1554 to 1651 hrs

**22<sup>nd</sup> June** – GREY from 0802 – 0827 hrs

GARY then seen at 0832 hrs - Dispatched

**23<sup>rd</sup> June** – corn in feeder devoured over the last 24hrs – therefore grey present

**24<sup>th</sup> June** – corn in feeder eaten, not quite as much as yesterday

**25<sup>th</sup> June** – some feed and corn taken – x1 large grey female dispatched

**26<sup>th</sup> June** – x1 juvenile grey male dispatched a.m.

**27<sup>th</sup> June** – feed gone, but unsure at present if before or after Gary dispatched the  
grey yesterday.

**28<sup>th</sup> June** – feed taken. All of the monkey nuts and possibly a little corn

From his visits, Gary believes that there are REDS in the wood.

**30<sup>th</sup> June** – all monkey nuts gone, possibly a little corn

## Holesfoot

New owners there feeding 4-6 Reds

## Trainlands Wood

This wood is unnamed on the map, but is adjacent to Brackenslack Lane and is on the left just past the entrance to Holesfoot – it is where 'LittleBeck' rises.

**22<sup>nd</sup> June** – new feeder located on right of beck about 60 yards in from the road.

**This feeder was very kindly donated by John Heath of Kings Meaburn**

This is considered a 'strategic location' as it could either be an entry point for greys coming over from Hoff Lunn or coming up the stream from the north.

Still no activity come the 26<sup>th</sup>, but on the 27<sup>th</sup> x2 **REDS** seen on the concrete strip at the side of the road

**30<sup>th</sup> June** – all monkey nuts gone

Footnote: - on 1<sup>st</sup> July at 0945 hrs there were two reds on the feeder when I Attended – motion camera now located here.

## Brackenslack Wood

Whilst there is a footpath through the wood, we are there and able to dispatch with the kind permission of the Seymour family at the farm

**22<sup>nd</sup> June** – after the dispatch of several greys further down the lane, feeder with monitoring camera located in the wood.

Grey was seen at the entrance to the wood in the morning by Gary.

When you put a new feeder up you do wonder how long it will take '*to be found*'. Sometimes not very long at all.

23<sup>rd</sup> June – this was actually the first photo’.



But then this:



After its first brief visit at 1118 hrs it revisited at 1319 hrs, 1415 hrs and then with increasing confidence spent an hour from 1428 hrs on the feeder. Several visits throughout the evening up to 2047 hrs.

According to David Seymour's the greys are using the far edge line in the wood to make their way about.

**24<sup>th</sup> June** – GREY from 0722 to 0811 hrs and again steadily throughout the morning and into the afternoon then at 2003 to 2008 hrs  
Unsure of numbers as have only seen one at a time on feeder

**25<sup>th</sup> June** – GREY from 0600 to 0800 and then at 0641 x2 greys for the rest of the Period.

GREYS from 1615 to when I arrive at 1644 hrs.

A grey is shown at 1644 hrs and I'm shown 20 seconds later and I never saw it!!

**RED** - seen by Gary this morning – but when he was there, no greys.  
GREY from 1811 to 1818 hrs and two greys 1846 to 1954 hrs

**26<sup>th</sup> June** – GREY from 0645 hrs and have lifted the Perspex front up.

Gary at 0837 hrs and lunch-time - Feeder 'locked' and x2 traps set

Greys from 1727 to 1730 hrs and again at 1839 hrs

trying to weigh the rock up.

**27<sup>th</sup> June** – traps empty

greys x2 from 0643 to 0705 hrs

greys again at 1527 to 1625 hrs

**28<sup>th</sup> June** – greys x2 from 0522 hrs with breaks through to 0915 hrs

Traps still empty at 1120 hrs

Greys again at 1628 to 1836 hrs

**29<sup>th</sup> June** – greys from 0520 hrs through to 0800 hrs

Greys back again at tea-time

The owl visited twice again at night

note the rock on the feeder preventing access and trying to divert the greys to the traps.





30<sup>th</sup> June – greys from 0713 for  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a hour and really trying to shift the rock  
Back again at 1627 hrs

Footnote:- on 1<sup>st</sup> July a grey was present from 0634 to 0729 hrs  
When I attended at 0930 hrs x1 grey female was in the trap.  
When Gary attended later to dispatch he also dispatched a second  
Female - these two will be added onto the next set of totals

## ROWANS

### JUNE

3<sup>rd</sup> – 1100 hrs - Red Squirrel feeding in our garden.

7<sup>th</sup> – 1000 hrs - young red in the garden at the moment.  
It doesn't yet know how to get into the feeder.  
Not seen this one before.

8<sup>th</sup> – Another visit from the young red this morning.  
But it still can't work out a way of opening the box.

9<sup>th</sup> – Both Squirrels together this morning.  
Not sure if they are parent and child as they were scrapping.  
We think the little one has spent the last 10 minutes inside the box.

**I had an exchange of e-mails with Bob over the few days when the 'young' red couldn't get into the box – they have to learn these things, foraging for food in the wild.**

**Didn't take it long though.**

## Morland Bank Wood

No Reports

### Other Sightings:

**MAY 1<sup>st</sup>** – Second field after Flass towards CR - in the first tree by the river as we went over the stile - Vanda

### JUNE

5<sup>th</sup> – BRACKENSLACK

We do get the occasional sighting up here, usually on the lane near wooded areas, but this one has visited one of our bird feeders three times today.

Only the 2<sup>nd</sup> time I've seen one in the garden in all the time we've been here.



Brackenslack – Photo Nick Thomas

**6<sup>th</sup> June** – grey seen about ¼ mile up Brackenslack Lane from the cattle grid – Nr. Footpath/stile down to Harry's Barn – reported to Gary.

David at Snow Drop Barn reports no sightings of reds for a long time.

**Yew Tree Cottage** - red has been in the garden over the last few days.

**7<sup>th</sup>** – further sighting of x2 young greys today in the same place as yesterday up Brackenslack Lane.

Whilst in a road side location, feeder put up evening of 7<sup>th</sup> on the tree where they have been seen – possible that they have made home in the tree.

**8<sup>th</sup>** - **Gary attended Brackenslack and dispatched x3**

(x1 adult female (suckling) and x2 juvenile males)

Curious in that they had indeed made home in a roadside location

Trap left for any remaining – empty when checked.

**TRAINLANDS** – Gary spoke with occupants who informed him that they only see reds, no greys

### **GREENENDS – is this normal?**

We had a red in our garden today and yesterday. What is extraordinary is the squirrel in the garden on Monday was sitting still and bending forward when a blackbird swooped down on it and it looked as if it hit the squirrel's bottom.

The squirrel moved on but stayed in the garden for a while as did the blackbird.

Very odd.

**13<sup>th</sup> Yew Tree Cottage** –

Breakfast viewing – red spent some time in garden.

He hid from the rooks/crows for a bit then came back to the feeder.



**Yew Tree Cottage – photo by Gill Rutherford**

**13<sup>th</sup>** – Following further sighting of greys up at Brackenslack - feeder erected in the same lay-by where the three were dispatched. But when we were driving back down Brackenslack Lane, about 150 yards before the cattle grid there was a grey running down the road – I won't tell you that I tried to run it over and that the car went over the top of it, but not the wheels and so it survived.

15<sup>th</sup> – Gary attended Brackenslack and dispatched x1 grey

There is at least x1 grey left – trap set - seen in tree at 1600hrs same location

**GREENENDS** - This little red with a very long tail and white tum' ran along the river's edge and I called out to Robert to grab the camera as it was heading for our garden. So here are two photos Robert took of him, quite a long way away from the camera, as he dug away at our lawn looking for goodies (or hiding them?)



15<sup>th</sup> June

Greenends, Maulds Meaburn – Photos by Bob Mcivor



**19<sup>th</sup> June – REDS** – on the feeder at Flass and then also in Orchard Wood  
First time had reds on both feeders at same time.

I take a lot of satisfaction from this.

Last September and through the winter sightings of reds in Orchard Wood were rare and the feeder was infrequently visited, but now ...

**26<sup>th</sup> June – Mason Barn** – “very exciting news - a red, we believe young, certainly healthy with a lovely finish, spotted briefly trotting down our drive.”

**29<sup>th</sup> June – Brackenslack**

“Saw two young red squirrels playing in the road half way up Brackenslack Lane.”  
William Wood

**Crosby Ravensworth is on the next page**

## Crosby Ravensworth



**Northways** – photo by Sass Robertson

### General

Fortunately there has just been the one sighting of a greys in the village and this we believe is connected to those greys mentioned above (Three Cornered Wood) or was just 'passing through'.

Either way, it is a positive picture in the village with plenty of sightings of reds

**1<sup>st</sup> May** – *“I didn't know you kept records of squirrels in the area, if a day goes by when we don't have a squirrel in the garden it's commented upon.*

*Often have one on the front bird table and a second one on the back, our resident squirrel may be favouring Sass (Northways) at the moment though.”*

Joan Raine (Dalefoot)

**1<sup>st</sup> May – Castlehowe Scar**

We now have two home-made road signs up on the Shap-Crosby road [in that easterly direction] outside our houses both here at Scar and at the Oddendale road end.

Sadly no reds here since about end of Feb when there used to be a pair.

**Northways** – Regular morning visits at start of May on window sill of house and continuing through the month.

Continued into June and included:

*“I caught it in the peg bag the other day, but wasn't quick enough with the camera! “*

**Low Dalebanks – MAY 11<sup>th</sup>** - First sighting of a red for quite a few weeks.

It's presently eating the peanuts in the bird feeder.

08:00 **JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>** - Red seen this morning in the garden.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>** - In the seven days from June 7<sup>th</sup> there were seven sightings on six days. Two sightings were of a different squirrel, it being smaller and darker than the other.

## Other Sightings:-

### June

**10<sup>th</sup>** – Spotted a Red this a.m. by the Lyvennet Beck near Stoneworks Garth (just near the wooden bridge).

It was in the trees eating something and looked very well.

**12<sup>th</sup>** – Driving about 300 metres beyond Woodfoot towards Orton (afternoon) a red, possibly a young one, crossed the road in front of me.

**13<sup>th</sup>** – Grey seen Silver Street – Gary informed.

**19-20<sup>th</sup>** – The joys of rural living.

From my window!

Yesterday we saw a red squirrel with bedding in its mouth, we commented upon it, thinking it was late in the season for them to be making a nest.

This morning we saw a squirrel with a baby in its mouth, still exciting even if it was moving at the speed of lightning – Joan Raine.

**19<sup>th</sup>** – Dalebanks



Photo Andrea Davis

## Hopper Hill / Wood

NO REPORTS

## Harberwain

NO REPORTS

## Reagill

NO REPORTS.

## Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck

X1 grey dispatched mid May at Sideway Bank Farm



**Kings Meaburn** – photo by David Natrass

## Morland

**30<sup>th</sup> May** - near Hesley's chicken farm on the road to Great Strickland – it had run across the road before going up the tree.



### **17-19<sup>th</sup> June**

Crown Inn Fields - in the last three days we have been blessed with some amazing visits from a red squirrel.

We have lived in our house since autumn 2000 and in the early days we did see red squirrels occasionally.

Since then we have sometimes seen them in or around Morland but very infrequently.

We have always had a well stocked bird feeding station outside our garden room and we are privileged to have a wide range of birds visit us.

Currently there is an almost continuous invasion ... beautiful to see, all members of the tit family, chaffinches, goldfinches, greenfinches and this week, a bullfinch.

Other regular visits are made by sparrows, nuthatches, siskins, greater spotted woodpeckers and of course blackbirds.



On Wednesday at about 5pm, we were so pleased to see a red squirrel at the feeding station ... it had a marvellous feast of mainly sunflower hearts ... obviously loved the fat content.

It stayed with us for almost 15 minutes and clearly trusted us as we watched through the window some 2 metres from it.

We had a repeat performance yesterday and today, on each occasion, the lovely creature delighting us for at least quarter of an hour .... an absolute joy !!!

John Gore







Photo's from John Gore

**Newby** – No Reports

A selection of Photo's from Orchard Wood 20-25<sup>th</sup> May – time stamps are incorrect





○ 📍 46F 08C 2020/06/20 15:05:40





○ 📶 46F 08C 2020/06/20 15:06:44



Was this a flying squirrel?