# Derbyshire Mammal Group News

Autumn 2009
(Issue 14)

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**Annual Membership**
**£5**

The Derbyshire Mammal Group
is affiliated to
The Mammal Society

**In this issue:**



## National Small Mammal Monitoring Scheme

The Mammal Society has announced the launch of its latest monitoring project; The National Small Mammal Monitoring Scheme (NSMMS). The scheme targets a range of small mammal species and includes the following field methods:

- Field Vole Sign Searches.
- Harvest Mouse Nest Searches.
- Bait Tubes.
- Low Density Live Trapping.
- Intensive Live Trapping.
- Barn Owl Pellet Searches.

The different field methods allow people with a wide range of experience and expertise to be involved. If you want to take part please contact The Mammal Society office for more information:

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New Road
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SO14 0AA

Tel: 02380 237874

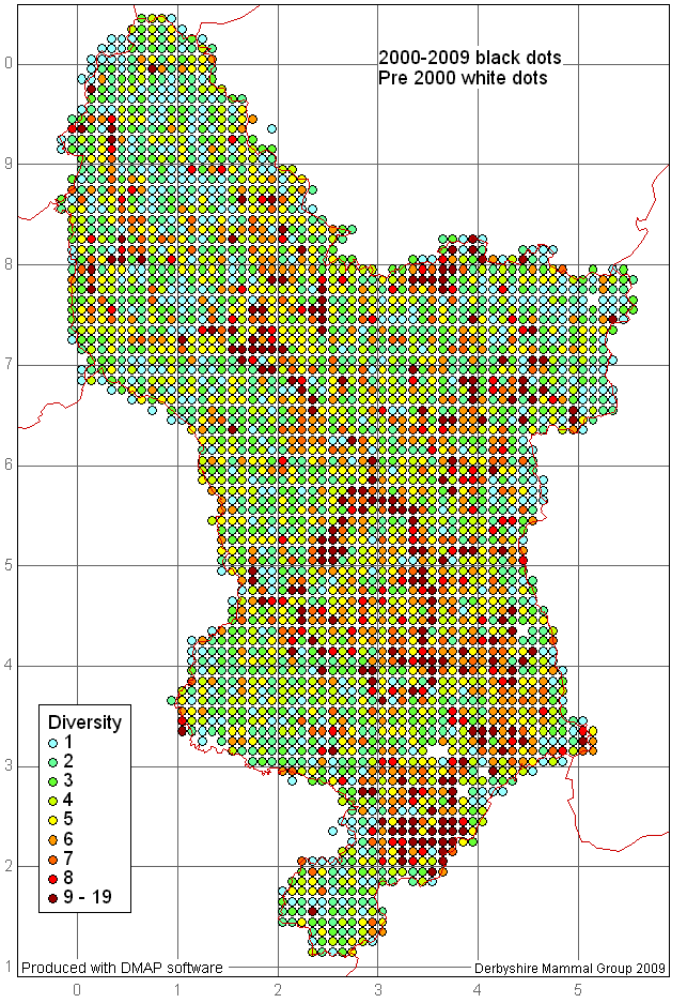
small.mammals@mammal.org.uk (Ed)

## Recorders Report

Debbie Alston

In my last report I recorded that we had less than 50 1km grid squares in the county with no mammal records at all. Thanks to the huge efforts by dedicated volunteers I am very pleased to say that now there are just a handful of 1km grid squares, which fit wholly within the county, where we do not have any records. Those with public access will obviously be targeted for recording, so in the Atlas we can show that we have done our very best to minimise geographical bias in the recording. The monthly updated species distribution maps have continued to show increased recording and the colour coincidence maps, which show the number of species recorded in every 1 km grid square, has helped to target efforts in those under-recorded parts of the county. The September coincidence map showing records since the year 2000 is shown below.

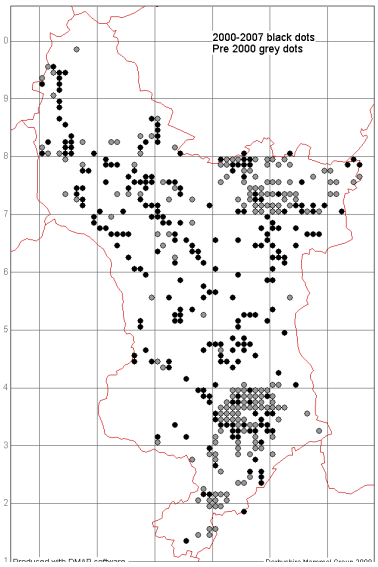
Concidence Map post 2000 records (Sept 2009)



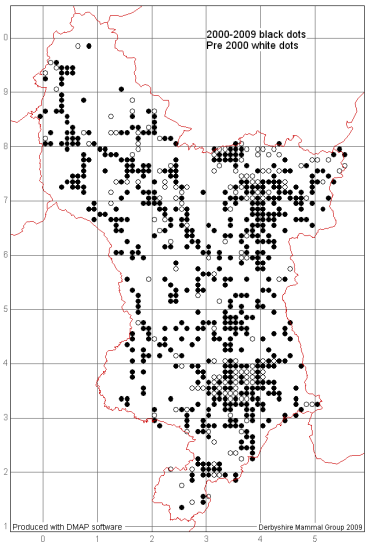

Records, since March 2009, have been received from many DMG members and other volunteers including (in no particular order) Shirley Cross, David Gravenor, Derek Yalden, Liz & Steve Lonsdale, Dave Mallon, Shirley Freeman, Rich Bacon, Jo Bissell & Ian Wilbur, Debbie & Dave Alston, Steve Docker, Nici Bowler, Simon Roddis, Dan Martin, Bryan & Kate Barnacle, Chris Burnett, Bill & Viv Cove, Kath Patrick, Marion Bryce and the Long Eaton Natural History Society. We have also continued to receive a steady stream of records from the public via the DMG on-line recording form.

Just for fun, and to show the huge distance we have come since January 2008, here are the Jan 2008 (left) and Sep 2009 (right) species distribution maps for some of our commonly recorded species.

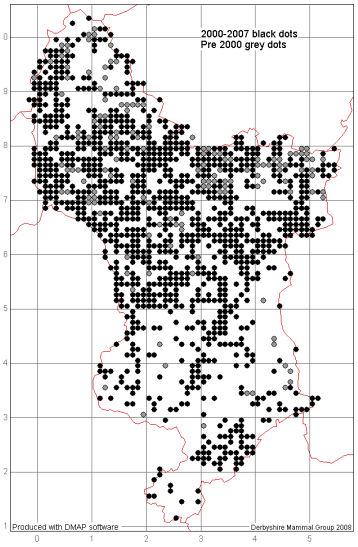
Hedgehog



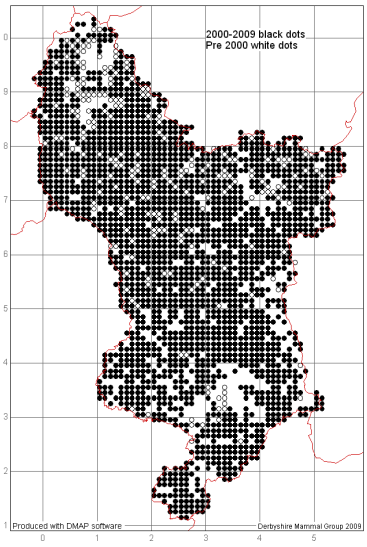

Hedgehog



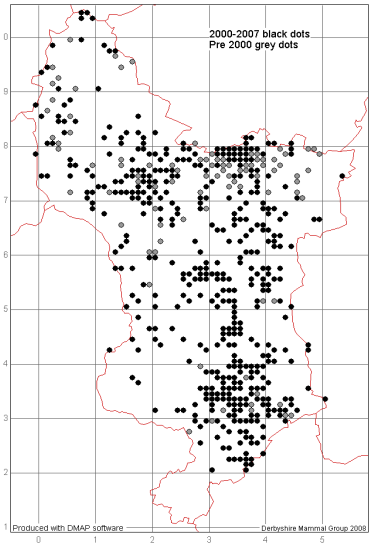
Mole



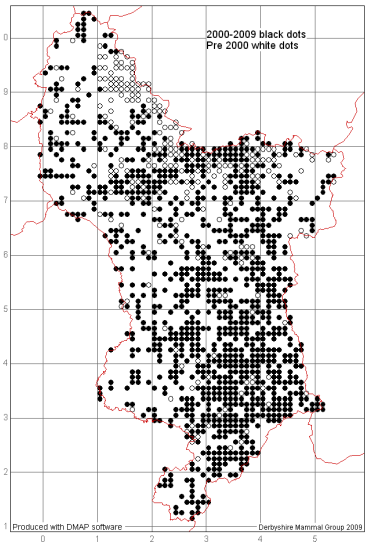

Mole



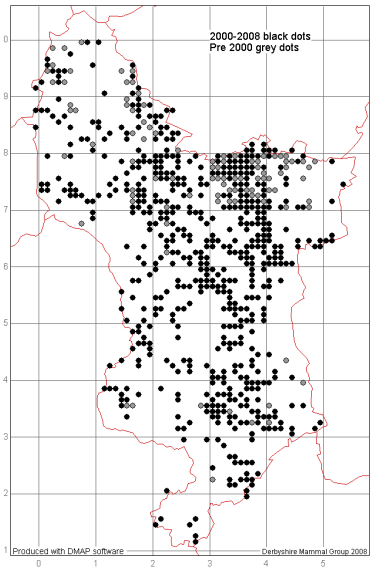

Fox



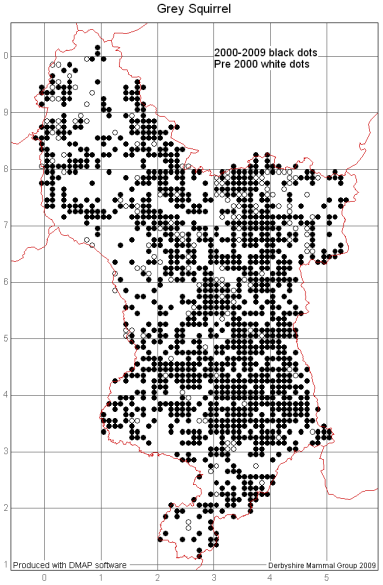

Fox




Grey Squirrel




Grey Squirrel




The DMG 'small mammal trapping team' has been busy carrying out weekend trapping sessions all over the county to help improve our knowledge of the distribution of mice, shrews and voles.

We are now in the 'final push' stages of the Atlas recording work with just over a years worth of recording to go.

When you are out and about don't forget to record signs of mammals such as droppings (especially rabbit, fox and badger), nibbled hazelnuts and pinecones (especially wood mouse, bank vole and grey squirrel), nests/burrows (squirrels, rabbits and badgers) as well as molehills. Mammal 'signs' are just as important as live sightings and records of dead mammals. About a third of the records on the DMG database are from mammal signs.

Thank you for all your records, they all count. At the end of August we had **44,680 records** on the database. Please keep sending in your mammal records to help us have an Atlas which is both great and useful.

You can submit them on-line at:
www.derbyshiremammalgroup.com

e-mail them to:
mammalrecorder@derbyshiremammalgroup.com

or send them in the post to:

90, Over Lane, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0HN

**Top Tip**

When spotting small mustelids (Weasel/ Stoat) look first for the tail tip (black on the stoat) and then at the line between dorsal and ventral pelage – **W**avy in the **W**easel, **S**traight for the **S**toat.

## Scottish Beavers

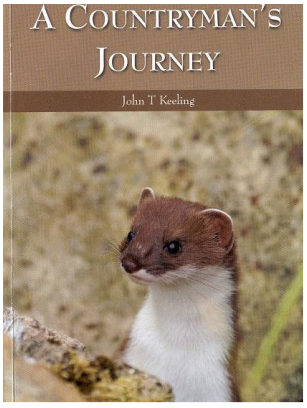
The much delayed reintroduction finally began on 28th-29th May 2009 when three families of beavers from Norway were released at three sites in Knapdale Forest, Argyll. One of these soon began to construct a lodge. Unfortunately, one juvenile male was found dead from unknown causes and an adult female in another group disappeared at about the same time that some unauthorised shooting was heard. A comprehensive monitoring programme is under way. Details of progress including advice on visiting the area can be found on the website www.scottishbeavers.org.uk

## Derbyshire Dormice

The population at one local site is continuing to do well. Two litters were found in Jun 2009 which were calculated to have been born in mid-late May - a very early date for such a northern - and relatively high - site. This is an encouraging sign and we hope to find second broods later this autumn. PTES will be organising another national Nut Hunt in 2009: details and dates for local searches to follow when available. A dormouse nest was found in brambles not far from a second site earlier this year, so this population seems to have spread out into the surrounding area.

**A Countryman's Journey** by Derbyshire wildlife film maker and poet John Keeling.

Other works include short wildlife films for the BBC, Stately Stoats, The Stoats of Kedleston Hall, Water Voles of Cromford Canal, also Springwatch and Autumnwatch.

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### Bank Vole Name Changed!

The scientific name for the Bank Vole has now changed from *Clethrionomys glareolus* to *Myodes glareolus* *(Ed)*

## The Black Fallow Deer of Stanton

Dave Mallon

An ancestor of the fallow deer once occurred in Great Britain and its fossil remains have been found in caves in Derbyshire, but the modern species of fallow deer *Dama dama* is not native and was introduced, almost certainly by the Normans in the 11th century for hunting and for meat. Many subsequent imports took place to provide stock for deer parks, especially when it became fashionable to maintain herds of these graceful animals for decorative purposes.

Among the most prominent Norman sites for fallow deer in Derbyshire was the Royal Forest of Duffield Frith which covered a large area of central and southern Derbyshire (for details see the fascinating book on Duffield Frith by Mary Wiltshire et al[1]). In the 14th century there were 54 deer parks owned by monasteries and private individuals. The *Victoria County History*[2] lists 12 parks in 1905 (Alderwasley, Alfreton, Bretby, Calke, Chatsworth, Drakelow, Hardwick, Kedleston, Locko, Stanton-in-the-Peak, Sudbury, Sutton Scarsdale) containing a total of about 1,950 deer. In the late 19th century there were 600 deer in Kedleston alone. Nowadays only Chatsworth Park (over 250) and Calke Park hold substantial populations of fallow deer while a small number are kept at the Chestnut Centre near Chapel-en-le-Frith and in one or two private collections.

There are currently three wild or feral populations in Derbyshire, all descended from escapes or releases from parks. The *Victoria County History* does not refer to any wild deer populations in Derbyshire, implying that these became established during the 20th century. The most widespread wild population occurs in south Derbyshire in the Melbourne - Ticknall - South Wood - Repton Shrubs area. Another is found in the south-eastern Peak District in Clough Wood and Stanton Moor area. The third is in the Morley Frith - Locko Park area where they have been known since at least the 1970s. Deer may wander widely and individual animals are occasionally seen elsewhere. A very unusual record concerns a dead fallow buck found in January 2008 at an altitude of 400m on open moorland at Danebower, 350m west of the county boundary. The nearest park herd is at Lyme Park in the Cheshire sector of the Peak District; the animal had presumably strayed from there or one of the other park herds in NE Cheshire.

Fallow deer are also the most variable species of deer in Great Britain, with four main colour varieties – typical, pale, white and black. The typical form is a rich tan

dappled with white spots, becoming duller with less distinct spots in winter. The pale or 'menil' form has a paler coat with prominent spotting and no black round the tail. A white variety (not an albino) is less common. The black form appears black from a distance, but has a handsome dark, glossy dark charcoal to chocolate brown coat with a lighter grey-brown throat, chest and undersides and a clear cut-off along the flanks. Most of the Chatsworth herd is of the typical form, while all four varieties are found in Calke Park. The Clough Wood - Stanton population consists entirely of the black variety and is descended from animals originally kept in Stanton Park.

Black fallow deer seem to have long been known in the UK, but the most prominent occurrence concerns a group that were sent from Norway or Sweden to King James I in 1611 and were later transferred to Epping Forest. As a result, black fallow deer are sometimes known as 'Norwegian' fallow deer - including locally. However the *Victoria County History* records that black fallow deer were brought to Stanton Park in 1800 from Chartley Park in Staffordshire and says that 70 were present at the beginning of the 20th century. Escapes have been established in the area for several decades. Derek Yalden[3] studied this population and in 2001 found them in 10 1-km squares. Additional records since then and surveys as part of the Derbyshire Mammal Atlas project show a wider distribution and by mid-2009 they had been recorded in 28 1-km squares (25 of these in 2000-2009). Their range extends from Clough Wood across Stanton Moor to Harthill Moor, south to the northern part of Bonsall Moor, and for some years they have been established on the north side of the river Lathkill.

Black Fallow Deer

Black Fallow Deer

The habitat consists of hilly terrain with a patchwork of coniferous plantations, mixed woods and copses, small fields, scrub, bracken and heather moorland. The main land use is sheep and cattle rearing, but an increase in the amount of maize grown in the area brings the potential for greater conflict with farmers. Deer have been reported to cause damage to gardens in some of the surrounding villages. A small amount of shooting for meat takes place in at least one part of their range. The deer can be seen grazing in the same pastures as sheep and cattle and may be active during the middle of the day, not only in the early morning and evening. They seem to be able to move about the area without too much difficulty, often preferring to crawl through fences (when the dark hair snagged on the barbed wire becomes clearly visible) rather than jump over them. Fallow deer can build up to a high density in an area and tend to be slow colonisers. There is some scope for further expansion within the current area of distribution, but the possibilities may be limited, as Yalden suggested, by the rivers Wye and Derwent and the open terrain of the limestone plateau.

References

[1] Wiltshire, M., Woore, S., Crisp, B. and Rich, B. (no date). Duffield Frith. Landmark Collector's Library, Ashbourne.

[2] Jourdain, C.H. 1905. Mammals. In: The Victoria History of the Counties of England. Derbyshire. Pp. 150-158. Archibald Constable & Co., London.

[3] Yalden, D.W. 2001. Fallow deer *Dama dama* in the S.E. Peak District. Sorby Record 37:31-33

## Water Vole: An Update

Helen Perkins

The scientific name for the Water Vole (or Northern Water Vole) has now changed from *Arvicola terrestris* to *A. amphibius,* with some now using 'Eurasian Water Vole' as the common name for the species. The change of scientific name is a 'change of label' following a strictly correct interpretation of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature.

*Arvicola amphibius* has a large range extending from France and the UK in the west, through much of continental Europe and Russia, as far as the Lena Basin and Lake Baikal in Siberia (Russia). It occurs as far north as the Arctic Circle and south into Iran and the Near East. Although there are ongoing declines in some areas (e.g. UK, Italy, the Netherlands), the overall population trend is believed to be stable at the global level.

There are two other species of *Arvicola* currently recognised in Europe. The Southwestern or Southern Water Vole *Arvicola sapidus* is a declining species that occurs in freshwater habitats in parts of France, Spain and Portugal. Two subspecies of *A. sapidus* have been recognised*: A. sapidus sapidus* (present in Portugal and southern Spain) and *A. sapidus tenebricus* (occurring in France and northern Spain).

The Montane Water Vole *Arvicola scherman* has only recently been separated following work by Russian scientist Panteleev. In his 2001 monograph on *Arvicola,* which comprises a review of the fossil history and all other aspects of the genus, A. *scherman is* described as a fossorial water vole, smaller than *A. amphibius* and differing in colour, social behaviour, mating, cranial morphology and incisor protrusion. Several authors agree with this separation and/or have produced supporting research. *A. scherman* occurs mainly in mountainous areas in southern and central Europe. It is not under serious threat and is considered a pest in parts of its range. Even though we have water voles behaving in a fossorial way in the UK (on islands in the Sound of Jura, Scotland, water voles occupy large areas of continuous habitat and feed exclusively on underground roots and rhizomes) and though such fossorial behaviour has been documented in the UK previously, there is no evidence that UK fossorial water voles are anything other than *A. amphibius.*

As a species, the Northern/Eurasian Water Vole *A. amphibious* shows a lot of morphological, ecological and genetic variability. This is likely to reflect the fact that it is an inherently variable and adaptable species and that there was temporary isolation of populations during Ice Age glaciations. The ecological variability includes populations or forms that are aquatic, fossorial and a combination. UK water voles demonstrate some of this variability, e.g. occasional fossorial behaviour, colour variations and some genetic differences. In reference to the latter Piertney et al (2005) found that contemporary Scottish populations have a different ancestry to their cousins south of the border. He suggested that post glacial re-colonisation of the UK by water voles occurred in two waves, with the first wave of colonisers coming from the Iberian peninsula and the second wave from eastern Europe. In England and Wales the second wave of colonisers displaced those water voles that had originated from Iberia, with the Iberian derived populations remaining in Scotland. Recent genetic tests have revealed that current Lake District water vole populations are more like the Scottish voles than those in England and Wales.

There is no doubt that there's more waiting to be discovered on the subject of *Arvicola* species, and it's worth emphasising that IUCN consider that the current distribution of the Northern/Eurasian Water Vole *A. amphibius* and the Montane Water Vole *A. scherman* should be considered as tentative (see: www.iucnredlist.org).

In the meantime, in addition to genetics, there are other factors to consider when developing strategies for water vole conservation. There may, for example, be a case for considering the different water vole 'ecotypes', i.e. looking at the full genetic, ecological and behavioural variation of the species. Such an approach might lead to fossorial and amphibious (and possibly other) water voles in the UK being considered separately.

In addition to the above, the preferred scientific name for the water vole's arch enemy, the American Mink, is now *Neovison vison*.

### What a lotta otter!

The comeback of the otter continues and they have now been recorded in every English county. The 5th national otter survey is currently under way and the results in 2010 are expected to show further recolonisation. Otters have been seen or photographed in the centre of several large cities including Newcastle, Shrewsbury and Winchester: in 2009 otters were caught for the first time on automatic cameras in Leicester. In Derbyshire, spraints are regularly found on the River Dove and Henmore Brook in the centre of Ashbourne.

## Derbyshire Pine Marten Survey

Steve & Liz Lonsdale

On Sun 30th Aug twelve Derbyshire Mammal Group (DMG) members carried out a survey for pine marten *(Martes martes)* scats in the Cromford area as part of the nationwide survey currently being undertaken by the Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT). The VWT are following up a number of unconfirmed but promising records of pine martens across England. Presence can be confirmed by DNA-testing likely scats. There have been a number of potential sightings in the Cromford/Crich area in the last few years, though no direct evidence (good photograph, corpse, etc) has been forthcoming.

The aim of this survey was to find pine marten scats to confirm the presence of pine martens in the area. The survey focussed on the woodland in the Cromford/Ambergate area. We split into teams of two or three, and each team walked different areas of woodland. Pine martens are believed to scat along tracks (particularly the edge) and at prominent places (e.g. intersections with other tracks and streams, ant hills, rocks, tree stumps). Areas around intersections were checked within 20 metres of the intersection. Any scats which could not be discounted as fox, dog, etc were individually bagged using wooden spatulas, and the grid reference of the collection pointed noted, along with a picture of the scat and collection bag (individually numbered). Once used, the spatulas were discarded (to avoid any potential cross-contamination of scats). In total we collected some 39 potential scats for analysis.

The scats were sent to Waterford Institute of Technology, where they were DNA tested to determine the originating species. The results from the scats collected on 30th August were all negative for Pine Marten – they were either from Fox or Dog, or indeterminate (but unlikely to be Pine Marten). Some additional sites were visited in September (around Cromford, and also in the north of the county following a recently reported sighting). Scats from these sites have also been sent for analysis, but the results are not yet available.

It should be noted that this is the second year of the survey, and ours was the last survey that will be carried out by VWT as part of this project. Last year there were no positive Pine Marten records from all of the scats collected.

**Pine marten scats:** Recent work has shown that not all 'classical' pine marten scats, as identified in the field, originate from pine martens. This means that many existing pine marten records may be invalid. More recent work has shown that scats whose appearance, smell etc are nothing like classical pine marten scats may be from pine martens.


Many of the potential pine marten records for the area over the last 10 years have scored 7-9 out of 10 on the VWT scale for likelihood. That implies a high likelihood that pine martens are in the area. If none of the scats we found on the survey prove to be from pine martens, then I assume we should question the VWT scoring system, the VWT survey methodology, or the DNA testing procedure.

## The House and Home Quiz

The Secretary of Derby Natural History Society has compiled a quiz sheet to raise funds to help **Derbyshire Mammal Group** publish an **Atlas of Derbyshire Mammals**. It features general knowledge questions, puzzles and clues linked by a theme of house and home, though the questions relate to sport, music, TV, literature etc. There are monetary prizes to be won. The closing date is 20th April 2010. To obtain a copy please send s.a.e and cheque for £1 payable to DMG to Quiz,12 Chertsey Road, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 0RA.

## The Mammal Society Autumn Symposium

Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution
20th and 21st November 2009
London Zoo

## UK BAP Mammals

Conference hosted by Staffordshire Mammal Group
16th & 17th January 2010
Alton, Staffordshire

Conference Day 1: Sat 16th Jan 2010 at Alton Village Hall, Staffs (09.15 – 16.30).

- Updates and advice from local & national mammal experts.
- Quizzes.
- Plenty of opportunities for socialising with like-minded bods!
- Locally sourced hot food for lunch.

Optional Day 2: Sun 17th Jan 2010 (09.00 – 16.00).

- BAP Mammal Species Surveys in the beautiful Churnet River Valley
- Finishing for afternoon tea at the superb Ramblers' Retreat!

To book your place for one or both days, please complete the booking form and send to:

Frances Horsford
fran.horsford@staffordshiremammalgroup.org.uk
Tel: 0845 4795172

## The Mammal Society Easter Conference

26th to 28th March 2010
Bangor

**A *colour* copy of this newsletter may be downloaded from our website**
**www.derbyshiremammalgroup.com**

## Useful Contacts

| | |
|---|---|
| **The Mammal Society:** (TMS) | Tel: 02380 237874<br>enquiries@mammal.org.uk<br>www.mammal.org.uk |
| **Derbyshire Badger Groups:** | |
| High Peak: | Tel: 01298 269557<br>brian@ashton8533freeserve.co.uk |
| North East Derbyshire | Tel: 07711 506012 |
| Mid Derbyshire: | Tel: 01773 852647 |
| irene_brierton@btopenworld.com<br>www.irenebrierton.co.uk/badger%20group.htm | |
| South Derbyshire: | Tel: 07754 094177 |
| info@southderbyshirebadgergroup.co.uk<br>www.southderbyshirebadgergroup.co.uk | |
| **Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group:** c/o DWT | |
| enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk<br>www.derbyshirebats.org.uk | |
| **Sorby Mammal Group:** | secretary@sorby.org.uk<br>www.sorby.org.uk |
| **Derbyshire Biological Records Centre** (DBRC): Nick Moyes | Tel: 01332 716655<br>nick.moyes@derby.gov.uk<br>www.dbrc.freeserve.co.uk |
| **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust:** (DWT) | Tel: 01773 881188<br>enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk<br>www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk |
| Water Vole & Otter Projects: tbc | Tel: 01773 881188 |
| **Lowland Derbyshire LBAP:** Biodiversity Project Officer Debbie Alston | Tel: 01629 585611<br>debbie.alston@derbyshire.gov.uk<br>www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk |

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this issue of Derbyshire Mammal Group News.

Also, a special thanks to Liz Docker who helped with the layout and design, to Debbie and Dave Alston, Steve and Liz Lonsdale and Dave Mallon for their excellent photographs and illustrations and to AES Ltd for the use of their reprographic facilities.

Please send material, details of forthcoming events, comments etc to Steve Docker: Tel: 01335 345253 or email: steve@busypeople.force9.co.uk

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that material is factually correct opinions expressed are those of individual authors and may not represent the views of the Derbyshire Mammal Group.

# The National Small Mammal Monitoring Scheme

## Want to get close-up and dirty with real live mammals?

## Want to get involved in some real mammal ecology?

## Want to contribute to our knowledge of the distribution of small mammals?

Well, The Mammal Society is very excited to announce the launch of its latest monitoring project; The National Small Mammal Monitoring Scheme.

Many of you who have followed The Society's surveys, or even been involved over the last few years, will be aware that we have been developing this project for some time now. In 2006, Stephen Sibbald, Phoebe Carter and I produced a desk study on field methods for monitoring small mammals with proposals for a national monitoring scheme. This was followed by a two-year pilot of the methods, run by Emma Stone and, more recently, a harvest mouse pilot in collaboration with WildCRU and Waterford Institute of Technology. During this time, Phoebe also ran The Society's water shrew survey and we have drawn on the yellow-necked mouse survey in 2000, let by Aidan Marsh.

## The New Scheme

So, after what I hope is adequate preparation and plenty of piloting, we are ready to embark on the real thing! We are interested in all the small mammal species that are routinely encountered in small mammal trapping programmes (Table 1). You will see that we are focusing on four mouse species, two voles and three shrews, but we are also interested in the four species that are only found on a few islands. "What about dormice?" I hear you cry. Well, they are a bit different from these species, partly because they rarely come down to ground level and partly because of their specific habitat requirements. They also have a very successful monitoring scheme, using specific field methods, already running. The other obvious species missing from this list are the water vole, the brown rat and black rat. All three of these species are too big to fit into Longworth traps and, like dormice, water voles are habitat specialists that already have their own specific field techniques. Brown rats are currently being monitored by the Commensal Rodent Survey.

**Table 1.** Species Targeted by NSMMS

| *Ubiquitous Species* | *Britain* | *Ireland* | *Islands** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wood Mouse | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Yellow-necked mouse | ✓ | | |
| Harvest mouse | ✓ | | |
| House mouse | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Bank vole | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Field vole | ✓ | | |
| Common Shrew | ✓ | | |
| Pygmy shrew | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Water shrew | ✓ | | ✓ |
| ***Island Species**** | | | |
| Orkney & Guernsey voles | | | ✓ |
| Millet's shrew | | | ✓ |
| Lesser white-toothed shrew | | | ✓ |
| Greater white-toothed shrew | | ✓ | ✓ |

* Islands here only refer to Orkneys, Scillies and Channel Isles

A brave harvest mouse on "parallel bars"!
Photo: D. Crawley

## The Harvest Mouse; Our Flagship Species

We are declaring the harvest mouse as our first flagship species. Not only are they Britain's smallest rodent, they are also the only BAP species in our list. So, we will be asking volunteers to target habitats that are especially attractive to these elusive creatures, such as reed beds or hedgerows with lots of tall grasses and bramble. But we also want to include other interesting habitats for small mammals, such as woodland, scrub, ditches, moorland, coastal or suburban habitats. In fact, we know so little about the relationships between small mammals and their habitats that you

Can you spot the harvest mouse nest?
Photo: A. Halcrow-Johnston / M. Ryan

could include any habitats, even some where you might not expect to find much.

There it is – in the clump of cock's-foot!
Photo: A. Halcrow-Johnston / M. Ryan

The first autumn season will run from 1st October to 30th November this year. At this time of year, small mammal populations are at their highest, having spent the fruitful summer months having several litters of young. The next season will be in April/May 2010, when populations will have declined over the winter. But this season gives us the most valuable data on the core, breeding populations. We intend to repeat this pattern of spring and autumn fieldwork over the coming years, to pick up the peaks and troughs of these highly variable mammal populations.

## How Can You Get Involved?

If you volunteer to take part, we will send you a Volunteer Pack and give you a choice of a couple of nearby squares; the one you choose will become "your" square. We have designed the scheme to allow volunteers to contribute in a number of ways. The different field methods allow people with a wide range of experience and expertise to be involved. There are six different methods to choose from (Table 2), all except the barn owl pellet searches based around 100m transects – you can select whichever you feel most confident with. We would encourage volunteers to try more than one method within each square. For example, you could easily do a bait-tube transect or search for harvest mice on your own, but maybe you could join a local mammal group to get involved with live-trapping and learn more about small mammals.

**Table 2.** Field Methods for the NSMMS

| | |
|---|---|
| Barn Owl Pellet Searches | Easy to do with little experience, but allows you to gather good quantities of data. |
| Bait-tubes | Quick and easy to do and provides very good data on a range of species. "Cutting-edge science" |
| Harvest Mouse Nest Searches | Relatively quick (with some training), and gives a real "hands-on" feeling. |
| Field Vole Sign Searches | Also relatively quick with a chance of actually spotting our commonest small mammal. |
| Low Density Live-Trapping | This simple trapping method allows you to actually see small mammals "close-up" |
| Intensive Live-Trapping | A more time-consuming method, but the "gold-standard", providing the best quality data. |

A Bait-tube in bankside vegetation
Photo: P. Carter

## What To Do Next

If you want to take part, you can either do so through your local mammal group or as an individual. Return the Expression-of-Interest form to
small.mammals@mammal.org.uk
or
3 The Carronades, New Road,
Southampton, SO14 0AA

Contact The Mammal Society office; (02380 237874) for more information.

A Longworth trap in the base of a hedge
Photo: S. Poulton

We hope you'll be keen to be involved in this exciting project.

**Simon Poulton**
**Surveys Manager**