The mammal atlas project is getting along very well and we have nearly reached the 6000 record mark, so keep them coming.

Marina Pacheco
CEO, The Mammal Society, mpacheco@themammalsociety.org

It’s unusual for me to start an editorial with sad news but as many of our members will know our President Derek Yalden died in early February. His death came as a shock to all of us for it was very unexpected. There is a brief obituary for Derek on page 5 and we will have a fuller article on Derek’s life and achievements in the summer. In the meantime please do take a look at the last article Derek wrote for us on Moles on page 4, it was one of a series of articles Derek wrote for the mammal atlas to raise awareness of gaps in our data collection and to encourage everyone to get outside and start recording mammals, especially the more neglected, ubiquitous species. Far be it from me to urge you to put down our magazine, but when you do finish it and venture outside once more, take a look to see whether you spot any mole hills and then please do send your records to us either via the website or any other means at your disposal. The mammal atlas project is getting along very well and we have nearly reached the 6000 record mark, so keep them coming.

The Mammal Society has a few staff developments to let everyone know about. We are very pleased to announce that from April we will have a Mammal Monitoring Project Officer based in Wales. This one year post is funded by the Countryside Council for Wales (which will be known as Natural Resources Wales from April) and will support surveying for harvest mice and hedgehogs and building up and supporting mammal surveyors in Wales. If you live in Wales, look out for further information on the project; we look forward to your participation. Most of you will also know that Alex Dunlop left us as our Training and Events Officer in January. Over the past two years, Alex transformed our conferences and training and we’ll miss him. Lexie Munroe will be taking over from Alex as of the 4th April and we’ll have an introductory piece from her in the summer magazine. This edition of Mammal News has a somewhat Scottish theme following on from the excellent regional conference in Scotland with an article on Scottish beavers, the battle against squirrel pox and an article highlighting the problems of tackling wildlife crime in Scotland all having been presented at the conference. We hope that the article on killer kerbs and what can be done to prevent small animals from becoming trapped and drowning in drains will be very useful to our consultant members. I hope you have a sunny spring filled with outdoor activities and don’t forget that should you spot a mammal, either through a chance encounter or a planned survey, please send us the records for our mammal atlas (see page 5).
Mammals in the News

Proposed Urban Fox Cull

POSITION STATEMENT

Following the recent press focus on foxes harming or threatening babies and a call for a cull from politicians and some sections of the media, The Mammal Society felt it was important to put out our position statement on this issue.

The Mammal Society's position on the control of wild mammal populations:

Populations of wild mammals in Britain have been affected by the activities of humans for thousands of years. These activities include culling predatory species, hunting for meat and fur, and altering the habitats and food supplies that wild mammals use.

Today humans often wish to manage wild mammal populations because of real or perceived threats either to their own interests or to the conservation of other species. Frequently this involves ‘control’, by lethal means.

The Mammal Society recognises that populations of most species of wild mammals are significantly affected by human activities and that on some occasions it may be necessary to control (i.e. cull) wild populations to achieve particular ends. The Society accepts the need for this provided certain conditions are met:

1. control is carried out for legitimate purposes in legitimate, humane ways
2. no reasonable alternative exists
3. a clear need for control has been demonstrated and the cull has clearly stated objectives
4. an evaluation has been carried out which shows that control is likely to achieve the stated objective(s)
5. where appropriate, an evaluation is carried out to demonstrate that the stated objectives are being or have been achieved

The Proposed Fox Cull

The Mammal Society believes that a fox cull in urban areas fails to meet the conditions laid down by our overarching principles because:

1. a clear need for control has not been demonstrated. There is no evidence of a growth in populations of foxes in our urban areas; however, there is evidence of some changes in fox behaviour that could be addressed sustainably through appropriate changes in human behaviour
2. no evaluation has been carried out to show that control is likely to achieve the stated objective – in fact there isn’t a very clearly stated objective, just a knee-jerk reaction to a very small number of fox attacks on babies (far fewer than the number of domestic dog attacks on children) and it is unlikely that a fox cull would solve the problem
3. there is no time-line or evaluation procedure embedded in the proposal to determine when an appropriate ‘stopping point’ has been reached

The life-history strategy of any animal being considered for a cull needs to be taken into account. A critical factor in the life-history strategy of foxes is that populations can bounce back very quickly from culls. The aim should therefore be to have an ecologically-based control strategy that minimizes the total number of individuals involved. Whereas what usually happens are repeated control efforts because none of them is implemented effectively enough.

The Mammal Society suggests that the best way to deal with problems caused by urban foxes is to:

1. make sure excess/waste food is not accessible to foxes, especially close to residential properties; it should be the responsibility not only of householders but also local councils to make sure that refuse is appropriately managed;
2. encourage people to see wild animals as exactly that, wild; and to maintain an appropriate distance from foxes by resisting the temptation to tame or befriend them;
3. fox-proof domestic houses to minimise the risk to humans (e.g. use an ID-triggered cat flap).
4. record all fox sightings via The Mammal Society’s website or your Local Record Centre so that we can obtain a more accurate picture of fox numbers in the UK, which can be then used to inform policies on urban foxes.
The National Mammal Atlas Project (NMAP) has now been running for a year. The project, which aims to determine mammal distribution and abundance across the British Isles to facilitate appropriate mammal conservation, has had a great response from the public. 5800 mammal records have been submitted via our online form alone!

Records of marine mammals submitted online, including whales, dolphins and seals, have generally stayed low. Although this is not particularly surprising, there must be some sightings occurring, so please let us know of any marine mammals that you see! In contrast with this, the most popular mammal records submitted by the public include the expected hedgehogs, foxes and grey squirrels, as well as roe deer and brown hare.

There are currently 27 volunteer verifiers dedicating their time to ensuring that the records we receive for their county are checked (a map of counties covered by verifiers can be found on our website). We are aiming to recruit volunteer verifiers for every county in Britain, so if your county is not covered and you are an expert at mammal identification and would be happy to verify records, please get in touch at the email below.

We would like to thank all of you who have submitted records in the last year, it is your records that will help us to paint a fuller picture of mammal distribution in Britain, so please keep submitting records and spread the word! And remember, if you have multiple records that would take too long to submit individually, you can either send them to your county mammal recorder (details on our website) or directly to us at atlas@themammalsociety.org.

Good luck mammal spotting!

Louise Sleeman, Atlas Co-ordinator

The Mole was the most recorded mammal in the previous atlas, with 10808 records from 2240 hectads – rabbits were actually recorded from more hectads (2294), but with 8000 records. In most local atlases, too, the mole is the most recorded species. Even the recently published Atlas of Highland Land Mammals (Scott 2012), covering perhaps the geographical area least suitable for moles, the species was second only to the otter. Molehills are such distinctive and readily recorded signs of the species’ presence, and the species is so well distributed across Great Britain, that it is probably present throughout. So this is the ideal species to check just how well we are doing to achieve our target of a new mammal atlas. If we look at the map for all records, coverage looks pretty complete. However, if we look at the map covering only the last 12 years (we expect to cover 2000-2012), there are some serious gaps. Rather obviously these do not indicate that moles have become extinct in about a third of its range. Instead they indicate hectads where the recent records have not been submitted yet to NBN. Mostly it is evident that the apparently blank areas relate to counties that have still to submit their records. Several have actually published local atlases in the last few years, so we know that moles are indeed still present.

Our basic need is one record of presence per hectad in the survey period, but records from every possible tetrad would allow us to estimate abundance (strictly, ubiquity), as the BTO has done for its breeding atlases. One thing already very clear even from this map is the absence of moles from Man, Ireland, Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides. Interesting, then, to see that they are present on Skye and Mull – they weren’t naturally present, but have been introduced (accidentally?) by humans. Are there any other islands where this has happened?

Good hunting!

D. W. Yalden

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Good hunting!

D. W. Yalden
Site Surveys

Mini Mammal Monitoring Scheme 2012 Review

The Mammal Society’s Mini Mammal Monitoring Scheme has now completed its sixth season. It was the biggest season so far in terms of participation, with 109 tetrads being surveyed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers who have given their time and effort in order to make this programme a continued success. Due to their hard work we are able to observe important trends in small mammal data across the British Isles.

We are observing positive trends in both wood mice (Apodemus sylvaticus) and bank voles (Myodes glareolus). Wood mice were present in 81% of tetrads (up from 45% in 2011) and bank voles present in 63% of tetrads (up from 40% in 2011) when caught using the Longworth trapping method. There were also trappings of field voles (Microtus agrestis) 9%, common shrews (Sorex araneus) 23%, yellow-necked mice (Apodemus flavicollis) 12% and pygmy shrews (Sorex minutus) 2%.

It is encouraging that many of our volunteers have participated in our bait tube survey method. Volunteers have collected faecal samples from the tubes and these have been sent to Ireland for DNA analysis. The results will be released online in the near future.

In our field vole sign survey, many surveyors recorded runs (85%), latrines (74%) and feeding signs (92%) but only 7% of the tetrads had signs of nests. Similarly, only 15% of tetrads had recorded nests in our harvest mouse nest search in December. This season experienced particularly wet conditions and this certainly inhibited both surveyors and the sightings of small mammals. Many surveyors noted waterlogged conditions and this may have had an impact on population data.

We appreciate all feedback given to us and will put this towards making vital improvements to our 2013 programme to help encourage more involvement. We are also close to completing our wider monitoring programme for mammals and habitats which is closely linked to our record collecting efforts for the National Mammal Atlas Project (NMAP). Details will hopefully be announced in the next issue of Mammal News.

Please contact: surveys@themammalsociety.org or visit www.mammal.org.uk/surveys for more information on mammal surveys and monitoring programmes.

Richard Austin, Surveys Intern

Harvest Mouse. Photograph by Jason Parnell-Brookes
Vole on a Branch. Photograph by Gary Cox
Wood Mouse. Photograph by Samuel Hood

Farewell to Derek Yalden

As we were finalising this edition of Mammal News we heard the news that our dear President had died suddenly while on holiday with his wife Pat in the Forest of Dean. We shall miss him enormously and our thoughts are with Pat, especially at this very sad time.

Derek was a towering figure in mammalogy, and was respected for his work in other fields as diverse as ornithology and quaternary science; but we knew him best as the selfless, deeply committed member of our Society over many years. Indeed we can’t think of anyone who has contributed so much, in so many ways, for so long to The Mammal Society. In his latest role as President, Derek’s enthusiasm and polite authority (always softened by a boyish twinkle) set the perfect tone for any gathering of our members, be it a symposium, AGM, field trip, council meeting or training course. His fine intellect and his skills as field-worker, researcher, teacher and writer have left us a wonderful legacy of memories, ideas and publications, and set high standards for us to aspire to. Ever modest, charming and supportive, Derek inspired generations of our members to work more effectively for mammals. The many fond tributes pouring into the Society’s office in the days following his death are testimony to the breadth of his influence and the huge affection in which he was held. While we mourn Derek’s passing, the Society faces a new challenge: where will we find the three or four good people needed to fill his shoes in the future?

A full tribute to Derek will appear in the next edition of Mammal News.
The Mammal Society’s Autumn Regional Seminar 2012

The Lothians and Border Mammal Group hosted the autumn regional seminar in Newbattle Abbey College. This was a delightful setting for a very friendly and fully booked day with over 100 delegates attending.

Graeme Wilson gave the first talk introducing the work that the Lothians and Border Mammal Group were engaged in. Successful otter training days have been carried out, with more to come as well as ongoing hedgehog survey work. There is a strong ethos of collaborative work with joint meetings with both the Lothians and Border bat groups and the local badger group. The importance of this idea of working together is seen in their written constitution and the committee having representation from the bat and badger groups. This had paid off with all the groups experiencing an increase in membership.

Amanda Wilson introduced us to her current PhD work on spatial agricultural habitat usage by wood mice using micro satellite markers to determine individual recaptures. Roisin Campbell Palmer and Andy Riches gave talks on beavers and wildlife crime which are featured in this issue.

Over the lunch period there was a chance to mingle and network. This is one of the most important aspects of a conference as Kirsten Abbott, a first year student discovered by making the contacts at her first ever conference to become a member of the Mammal Society’s student committee.

After the break we had an informative talk by Helen Embleton on the work of the Strathclyde Mammal and Badger Group. They intend to build on the success of their training events, which has seen over 30 volunteers trained. They are particularly looking at the Glasgow East End – Clyde corridor and hope to expand the number of mammal species they are surveying. The next presentation on red squirrels is published on pages 10 and 11. Johnny Birks gave a talk on pine marten suggesting that the tolerance thresholds for this species are low from conditioning over the last 100 years. However the spread has continued and a report on pine marten is coming out soon. Marina Pacheco concluded our talks with an update on mammal monitoring. Overall this was a hugely successful day and much enjoyed by all the delegates.

The Cranbrook Evening: 6.30pm - 9pm, Friday 19th April 2013

Keynote Lecture from Dr Pat Morris & Photo Exhibition

We are very pleased to announce that a showcase of the winning and shortlisted images from our first Mammal Photographer of the Year 2013 competition will be exhibited in the XFI Building of Exeter University before the keynote lecture. The event is free to attend with viewing opportunities between 6.30-7.30pm. Judge Kate Macrae will be there to present prizes to the winners with Dr Pat Morris. Find out more about the competition on page 21.

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Photograph by Gary Cox
A Kerbside Killer
A study of animal deaths in drains

Introduction
In 2010 Perth & Kinross Council Countryside Ranger Service officially started the Amphibians in Drains Project across Perth and Kinross. For a number of years prior to this, observations made by Rangers and Tayside Contracts staff undertaking routine drain maintenance suggested a significant number of roadside gullies contained trapped amphibians. These were mainly toads (Bufo bufo) but also frogs (Rana temporaria), and the occasional palmate newt (Triturus helveticus) – along with numerous small mammals. Roadside gullies can act as pitfall traps when animals fall through the grid at road level, especially over periods of mass movement such as during the breeding season and when animals disperse to find hibernation sites. Once trapped it is unlikely that the animals will be able to escape or survive for any length of time.

It was identified that a more robust study to ascertain the scale of the problem was required. Gullypot surveys were carried out across eastern Perth & Kinross in 2010 and 2011 with the following aims:

- To estimate the number of gullies that may be affected across central and eastern Perthshire.
- To estimate the number of amphibians and mammals that may be trapped.
- To record species of amphibian and mammals affected.

Results
The majority of mammals found were voles, with mice and shrews being found in smaller numbers.

- In 2010 three hundred and twenty two gullies were checked, with 69% containing wildlife – 641 amphibians, 56 mammals and 1 bird were found. These numbers are relatively low compared to 2011 as the data from spring and early summer surveys was lost due to equipment failure.

- In 2011 six hundred and thirty six gullies were checked, with 63% containing wildlife – 1087 amphibians and 114 mammals being found. The majority of animals were found in August and September. Young amphibians will be leaving their breeding ponds in the summer and, along with adults, disperse to their hibernation sites in autumn. The same migration route can be used for many years and these are frequently found in woodland.

The majority of toads should be hibernating by November across Perth and Kinross. It is not possible to say whether this pattern of increased total numbers of animals found in the gullies is reflected in distribution of mammal finds as the numbers of different species per month were not recorded.

These initial findings would suggest gullies could have a significant impact on local populations of amphibians and may have an impact on the number of small mammals.

Future plans
The survey will continue in 2012 to obtain further data. The Ranger Service has obtained SITA funding to purchase a number of ACO wildlife kerbs to replace the standard kerbs at a pilot site in Elm Drive, Blairgowrie. This is a new road close to a pond where there are data from 2010 and 2011 to enable comparison of before and after figures.

Wildlife kerbs contain a recess which allows wildlife to follow the lower edge of the kerb and bypass the gullypot (see photo 1 above). Should the ACO wildlife kerb produce a similar reduction in animals falling into gullies, this would clearly have an impact on welfare concerns with hard landscaping. If the wildlife kerbs are shown to be successful, Perth and Kinross Council Roads Section is interested in using them in suitable locations across Perth and Kinross in future.

Daniele Muir, Countryside Ranger, Perth and Kinross Council

A study by the Vale of Glamorgan Pond Survey at Roose in 2006 showed that moving the gullypot 10cm away from the kerb led to 80% fewer great crested newts falling into the gullies by allowing the animals to bypass the danger zone. No data was available on mammal numbers in this report.

A Kerbside Killer
A study of animal deaths in drains
Reintroduction is seen as a viable means of reversing biodiversity loss and achieving ecological restoration. Such projects tend to be popular with the public and easier to fundraise for compared with other ecological restoration measures such as invasive species removal or habitat protection projects. However, this is very species-dependent and no reintroduction can be deemed straightforward or a guaranteed success. It should also be remembered that reintroductions are only one aspect of species conservation.

Potentially reintroductions can lead to conflicts with existing wildlife and human land uses as well as creating challenges for evidence-based monitoring and managing concepts of individual welfare. So should conservation efforts prioritise reintroduction projects? If we accept that they should, then which species do we bring back and focus limited conservation funds and efforts on? Flagship species, such as red squirrels, can generate large sums of money and capture public support; however, it is well documented that certain species will have a disproportionate effect on ecological restoration. Iconic flagship species generate funds and capture public imagination, but may not have the desired ecological restoration effects that keystone species can have.

Fortunately beavers are not only charismatic mammals, but are real keystone species, that is a species which plays a unique and crucial role in the way an ecosystem functions. Without keystone species, the ecosystem would be dramatically different or cease to exist altogether. However, these ecological engineers can create conflicts with human land-use, especially as their former native range has become progressively more developed. In order to address these concerns, the first formal reintroduction of a mammal to Britain is a time-limited, scientifically monitored trial.

The Scottish Beaver Trial (SBT)
The Scottish Beaver Trial (SBT) is a partnership project between the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and the Scottish Wildlife Trust hosted on Forestry Commission Scotland land. The independent monitoring of this trial reintroduction is coordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage, and the licence from the Scottish Government has conditions relating to the number of animals released, release area and length of time the trial runs for. This makes the process different from a full reintroduction in the sense that no population supplementation occurs; the final decision on the future of beavers to Scotland has yet to be made by the Scottish Government and therefore an exit strategy is in place to facilitate the removal of these animals. The longer term future of beavers in Scotland will be decided in 2015 when the Scottish Government considers the outcome of the Scottish Beaver Trial, in conjunction with the findings from the monitoring of the unlicensed wild beaver population now found across the River Tay catchment. In 2012 the Scottish Government took the decision to tolerate and monitor this unlicensed population of beavers, which is thought to have been founded by escaped beavers from private collections, in order to provide additional information on beavers and their effects and to complement the scientific monitoring work carried out in the official trial in Knapdale. SNH recently published a survey report on the Tay beaver population which estimates that as many as 150 beavers could...
be living wild across the Tay catchment. Reintroducing beavers to Britain is not a new concept, with proposals gathering momentum a couple of decades ago. Considerable background research and feasibility studies have been undertaken by a range of scientists. The IUCN reintroduction guidelines have provided the framework for much of this work. SBT has strived to fulfil these recommendations that extend across a range of disciplines from veterinary science to ecology. The cause of the beaver’s original decline has been identified and removed, vital for any reintroduction success. Much research has already been undertaken on beaver population status and biology, population and habitat analysis have been undertaken with special reference to Scotland. One of the main purposes of the trial is to monitor the effects of beavers and their activities in a Scottish context. SBT has also seen the most thorough veterinary screening programme of any beaver reintroduction in consideration to Britain’s island status. Vital to any reintroduction programme is public support and information dissemination.

A number of assumptions were made prior to the onset of the Scottish Beaver Trial in the Knapdale forest, Mid Argyll in 2009. Four beaver families were presumed to be enough to achieve the main aims of the trial, in a catchment area that was predicted to act as a closed system, thereby retaining dispersing beavers which would, in turn, form new breeding pairs and establish territories. It was also presumed that the beavers would have hydrological impacts through their damming activities that could be monitored. Given advances in animal tagging, it was determined that every individual would be tagged throughout the length of the trial so that their locations could be monitored. In reality, animal losses in captivity during the long rabies quarantine period resulted in changes in social structure and the need to form additional pairs and import replacement animals. Dispersing beavers, especially those reaching sexual maturity without forming new breeding pairs within the trial area, led to questions about the functionality of a single, ‘enclosed’ catchment as the sea did not act as an effective barrier. Beaver-induced hydrological changes have been less than expected, with little damming activity witnessed so far, with habitat use remaining mainly around the original release points. Long term tag attachment methods and retention times vary and remain an ongoing issue.

Reintroductions
Eurasian beaver reintroductions have occurred widely across Europe and many lessons can and should be drawn from these. After an absence of 400 years and being a scientific trial as opposed to a full scale reintroduction, certain limitations and presumptions were made during the development of the project proposal and independent monitoring programme. In theory, monitoring the effects of four beaver families caught in Norway and then reintroduced to Scotland within a specific area appears straightforward, especially given our increased knowledge in conservation, veterinary, animal welfare and wildlife monitoring science. However, much can be learnt through practical application and ability to continually review and adapt the reintroduction process. This is a crucial element for success whereby developments in best practice and scientific knowledge can be implemented, thereby not only raising the welfare of individual animals involved and providing robust data to inform future reintroductions, but also hopefully encouraging greater public acceptance and support for the value of reintroductions as a means to aid ecological restoration.

The Eurasian beaver
The Eurasian beaver was almost hunted to extinction largely for its fur. By the late 19th century it is estimated that only around 1,200 individuals existed in eight very isolated populations across Europe and parts of Asia. Hunting bans and active conservation measures have seen the recovery of this species across much of its former native range. The first recorded beaver reintroductions occurred in Sweden in 1922; currently over 203 separate reintroduction/translocation events have occurred across the species’ range; these have been a mix of government sanctioned and illegal/unofficial releases. The return of the Eurasian beaver can definitely be described as a conservation success story; however, this comes with a caution sign. This species was almost totally extirpated through human actions, and the European population could in theory fall again in the future should some key factors exert a widespread influence and begin to depress population levels. Such factors would include an accelerated rate of wetland habitat loss across large parts of Europe, or increased levels of human intolerance to the flooding and tree felling behaviour of beavers leading to unsustainable culling practises or illegal persecution. Lastly, an established and spreading population of North American beavers (Castor canadensis) can be found across Finland and Russia, with smaller pockets now turning up in parts of Germany, Belgium and Luxemburg. Without the appropriate management this non-native species is likely to continue its spread across Europe with undetermined consequences for the Eurasian beaver.
The grey squirrel (Sciurus vulgaris) is one of our best loved native mammals. Lost from much of the British Isles the species remains widespread in Scotland which holds approximately 75% of the British red squirrel population.

Over the last 80 years there has been a permanent contraction in range recorded since the introduction from North America of the grey squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis). The dramatic decline has been attributed to both direct and disease-mediated competition.

Grey squirrels compete more successfully than red squirrels for food and habitat; they are larger and more robust, and can digest seeds with high tannin content, such as acorns, more efficiently. This means grey squirrels can access a more abundant food supply than the red squirrel. Consequently the arrival of grey squirrels in an area occupied by red squirrels tends to cause reduced red squirrel breeding and survival rates leading to a gradual decline in their numbers. As a result the red squirrel is considered a threatened species in the UK and is protected under UK legislation.

The Grey Squirrel in Scotland

Compared with the rest of Britain, the expansion of the grey squirrel populations has been slower in Scotland, where the species was introduced to a few lowland sites, but replacement of the native red squirrel has ensued here also. By the end of the twentieth century, red squirrels had all but disappeared from the Central Belt of Scotland and greys were continuing to spread through southern Scotland, Stirling and Tayside. A separate population of grey squirrels, introduced into Aberdeen in the 1970s, became established in the Aberdeenshire countryside, posing a threat to Scotland’s core red squirrel populations of Grampian and the Highlands. Today, there are estimated to be between 200,000 and 300,000 grey squirrels in Scotland and around 121,000 red squirrels.

Arrival of Squirrelpox in Scotland

The squirrelpox virus (SQPV) is a viral disease enzootic at a sub-clinical level in the grey squirrel populations of England and Wales. Carried asymptomatically by the grey squirrel, it is transmissible to the red squirrel in which it causes severe symptoms and is invariably fatal. In 2005, SQPV was detected in the border area of Scotland, first appearing along the Rivers Esk and Liddel where grey squirrels carrying the antibodies to the virus had spread northwards over the border from Cumbria. Over the next two years grey squirrels that had been exposed to the virus dispersed along the Liddel, Annan and Esk Waters, and the first known disease outbreaks among red squirrels in Scotland occurred in May 2007 close to Lockerbie. The presence of the disease has been found significantly to increase the rate of replacement of the red squirrel by the grey squirrel. A study by Armitage and co-authors in a 1997 paper entitled “Modelling the dynamics of red squirrel populations in relation to invasion by grey squirrels: an individual-based modelling approach” estimated that the disease speeds up the replacement of red squirrels by greys by a factor of about 20; thus its arrival in Scotland has greatly increased the vulnerability of our red squirrels. It has become clear that, without management to counteract the spread of grey squirrels and the disease, red squirrels would be liable to eventual extinction in Scotland.

Since 2007, there have been several subsequent pox outbreaks in the red squirrel populations across southern Scotland at Langholm, Dalton, Lockerbie, Thornhill, Newcastleton, Moriaive and Paxton. At present SQPV in the grey squirrel population is confined to seven main river corridors including the Liddel, the Esk, the Nith, the Annan, the Tweed, the Blackadder and the Whiteadder. The southern arm of ‘Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels’ is focussing current work on containing the spread of the virus.

Strategic Approach to Red Squirrel Conservation in Scotland

Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels (SSRS) is a Project run by the Scottish Wildlife Trust in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), Red Squirrel Survival Trust (RSST) and Scottish Land and Estates; it constitutes the official national route for the delivery of red squirrel conservation action in Scotland. Phase 2 of the Project runs over two years from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2014.
and builds on earlier work to set up robust conservation measures to protect red squirrels north of the Highland Line and to address the threat of squirrelpox spread in southern Scotland. Under the partnership SSRS has two overarching aims: (i) to sustain the current range and populations of the red squirrel in Scotland and (ii) to gather systematic evidence on the efficacy of targeted grey squirrel control, such that robust conclusions can be drawn about its contribution to red squirrel conservation in Scotland.

The Project has three different regions where targeted action to tackle the risk to red squirrel populations has differing aims: in the Central Lowlands the aim is to prevent grey squirrel spread northwards into the vast Highland areas that currently only support red squirrels; in Aberdeenshire the project aims progressively to reduce grey squirrel range in rural areas and reduce populations in urban areas to prevent overspill into the countryside; and in South Scotland the work focusses on containing the spread of Squirrelpox virus.

In addition, complementary action by FCS promotes forest management for red squirrels by identifying red squirrel stronghold areas and working with forest managers to make red squirrel conservation a high priority in these forests.

Red Squirrel Protection Network
To be successful the project requires a strategic grey squirrel management plan and a programme of targeted grey squirrel control to reduce the most significant, immediate and long term threat to red squirrels in Scotland. To do this the project has established a network of coordinated and sustained grey squirrel control operations across key areas of the landscape.

SSRS has its own grey squirrel control officers and co-ordinates the work of FCS’s control officers as well as hundreds of volunteers on the Project’s trap-loan scheme. In addition, a critical component of the red squirrel protection work consists of a network of neighbouring landowners trapping on their land in concert with one another and with Project staff. The project has achieved this comprehensive network of control by providing support to landowners by assisting them to access Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) funding for grey squirrel control under 5-year contracts. To date there are a total of 152 estates controlling grey squirrels under SRDP across the SSRS Project area; where possible control efforts are monitored so that results can be used to determine the success of the project.

SSRS surveys of red and grey squirrel distribution in interface areas between red and grey squirrel distributions indicate early successes in limiting grey squirrel numbers and halting their spread, with some evidence of red squirrel recovery. However, we need a longer run of data in order to make predictions on the level of resources that will be needed to sustain red squirrel protection over the long-term.

In south Scotland it is almost certain that grey squirrel control has slowed the rate of spread of Squirrelpox virus (SQPV), although this is very difficult to prove in the absence of a scenario in which no control work has taken place. What is more evident is the success that the Project has had in limiting SQPV outbreaks in red squirrels, as robust red squirrel populations continue to survive in a number of areas previously subject to the disease. This suggests that, by maintaining pox-carrying grey squirrels at significantly reduced densities by intensive control in and around pox outbreak areas, it is possible to reduce the disease risk to red squirrels sufficiently for red squirrels to survive on site or quickly recolonise from neighbouring sites.

The Future
Secured funding for a further two years will produce a more extended time series of squirrel population data so that we can establish whether there are consistent trends that can be attributed to the Project’s activities. From this the Project will aim to make recommendations on the intensity and extent of grey squirrel control needed over the long-term. In the meantime it is paramount that conservation efforts continue if we are to secure the future of the red squirrel in Scotland.

For more information on work done to evaluate the efficacy of the Project’s grey squirrel control, you can download reports at the links page of www.scottishsquirrels.org.uk.
ANNUAL REVIEW

November 2011 to October 2012
Achievement and Performance

The year in brief

The past year has been an exciting one for The Mammal Society. The second year of data collection for the Mammal Atlas has seen a big increase in records received and we are expanding the number of people involved in the Mini Mammal Monitoring. This increase in activity has boosted our membership, which has grown for the first time in seven years. Whilst the financial situation continues to be challenging, both for The Mammal Society and the world in general, we have worked hard to maintain our income and control our expenses, so we are feeling very encouraged by the progress we have made.

Our current levels of activity couldn’t be sustained without the great efforts of our staff and the dedication and energy of The Mammal Society’s members, volunteers and interns. We currently have the same number of interns working at the office as we have paid staff, which has massively boosted our productivity. We are fortunate to have such a resourceful team working for The Mammal Society, and we wish to thank everyone for their efforts and support; and we look forward to working with more of you in the coming year.

Surveys, Recording and Monitoring

This year has seen the growth of the National Mammal Atlas Project (NMAP), involving vital work to determine mammal distribution and numbers across the British Isles. With these records, we are looking forward to being able to confirm the status of many species and using the data to inform conservation plans.

Since the start of the atlas, just over a year ago, we have received over 5,300 records through our online submission system. We have also received datasets from organisations including iSpot, local record centres and the RSPCA and continue to build partnerships to enhance data sharing. Verification of these records is carried out by 28 species experts, typically County Mammal Recorders. Their work is vital to the atlas’s progress and we are grateful to recorders, verifiers and partners for their efforts.

Public involvement is crucial to the atlas’s success so we have focused our efforts on raising public awareness of the poor state of Britain’s mammal records and the need for a new atlas. Our NMAP work was highlighted on BBC’s Autumnwatch TV series in October, resulting in a 95% increase in mammal records received from the public that week.

The pilot hedgehog survey, funded by PTES, and carried out in partnership with Richard Yamell from Nottingham Trent University, has been very successful in its second year and we’d like to thank all the mammal groups who took part and provided invaluable data. The footprint tunnels have proved very effective at picking up the presence of hedgehogs as well as providing footprint evidence of a wide variety of other species. Owing to their popularity the tunnels are available to buy so that our members can use them for surveys in the field or at home. We have also made DNA kits available for sale for use in identification of small mammals and have doubled the number of kits sold.

Mini Mammal Monitoring has enjoyed its most successful year with over 100 surveyors now registered. We made significant changes to the scheme after consultation with our volunteers in the field which included a simplified methodology and site allocation process. We will continue to seek feedback on our surveys and to implement improvements in the future including greater involvement of volunteers. This year we have been working on a Surveys Strategy, the aim of which is to create a full surveys calendar with volunteers able to survey throughout the year and to collect data for the Mammal Atlas. The Surveys Committee has been invaluable in the support they have provided, especially to our Surveys Intern. We are very thankful to them for the time and effort they put in.

The Mammal Society continues to work in partnership with other organisations involved in surveying for mammals; including on the National Biodiversity Network and Biological Records Centre’s Recording Invasive Species project, for which we verify Muntjac records submitted by members of the public.

Conservation and Management

The Mammal Society has continued to engage with the media to provide news and advice about mammals. Our community of members all work to better understand the problems mammals face, which include habitat destruction, competition with introduced species, and conflicts with human environments. Their involvement in research, surveying and conservation projects ensure that more information becomes available on how best to help vulnerable species and mitigate against conservation challenges.

We respond when mammals hit the headlines and put out press releases and position statements explaining our position on often controversial issues. We highlighted the issues surrounding the proposed badger cull, and the potential decline of our smaller mustelids without better research and recording. We also work behind the scenes with the BBC, which resulted in a mention of our Mammal Atlas project on AutumnWatch in 2012. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) continues to support The Society and has produced a position paper in response to the allegation that pine martens in Scotland are a threat to capercaillie, which is available on our website.

The Mammal Society has continued in its role as the species lead for a number of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) mammals. Working together with numerous partners, we successfully published, with Cresswell Associates, an important document for consultants and others that provides guidance for surveying, competition with introduced species, and conflicts with human environments. Their involvement in research, surveying and competition with introduced species, and conflicts with human environments. Their involvement in research, surveying and conservation projects ensure that more information becomes available on how best to help vulnerable species and mitigate against conservation challenges.

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Raising Skills
The Mammal Society training courses have continued to cover wide ranging subjects, from general information on species ecology and conservation, to training in specific survey techniques and courses on law and mitigation for consultants. Our aim is to provide relevant training to suit all interest areas and levels of experience, delivered by knowledgeable and engaging trainers. We continually develop new courses so that there is something for everyone.

Overall, our training programme was very successful in 2012, welcoming more participants than ever before and increasing the pool of skilled supporters able to make a difference for mammal conservation in the British Isles. We pride ourselves in providing relevant and up-to-date training on mammals, delivered by the most knowledgeable species experts. Feedback has been very positive and we will continue to deliver this level of quality for 2013.

In November, The Mammal Society visited north Wales for the 2011 regional seminar which replaced the more traditional London-based Autumn symposia that ran until 2010. The new series of regional seminars is intended to focus on a wide range of mammal-related subjects relevant to the region. In 2011, the event was co-hosted by the Snowdonia Mammal Group and included excellent talks on local projects and practical breakout sessions on subjects such as Longworth trapping and bat detection. Following this successful, pioneering effort, we hope that local mammal groups will be able to manage much of the organisation of future regional seminars with support from The Mammal Society.

Our spring conference was a great success, as always, with a high calibre of presentations and a wide diversity of delegates. In response to requests from our membership and as a result of very kind sponsorship from Greenwich University, the conference held in Chatham was the best value conference we have ever been able to run. Delegates arranged their own accommodation and had the option of paying for meals or bringing their own. It gave a different feel to the conference as there were fewer opportunities to mingle across the day, but the low-cost option was generally appreciated by the membership and places sold out very quickly. Where possible we will attempt to provide similar events in the future.

June 2012 saw the first student conference, skillfully organised at Reading University by our Student Committee, where students were able to present posters and talks to their peers, network with experts and learn more about other work being done for and on mammals. This was also an excellent driver for recruitment with The Mammal Society gaining 50 new student members.

Membership
Our membership grew by 7% this year; the first time we have had growth in seven years. Membership retention was slightly down on the previous year though, and has led us to test a number of ways of persuading lapsed members to return to The Mammal Society. We ran a lapsed members’ campaign offering a 10% discount to imminent closures, which encouraged many to renew their overdue memberships. Mammal Review subscriptions have remained steady, but anyone still paying a shortfall was informed that they would no longer receive a postal copy of the journal until the subscription was brought up to date.

Although we have the option for members to pay monthly or annually by standing order, we aim to replace this in early 2013 with Direct Debits. This will make it easier for members and The Mammal Society to automatically manage payments. Affiliated members have remained steady this year, including among them an expanding network of local mammal groups, colleges and small consultancies.

In 2012, we began planning a joint membership scheme for local group and national membership, aimed at both increasing recruitment for organisations and involvement in local conservation projects. We will roll this out to the local groups in early 2013 and hope for a good take up.

Communication and Publications
The Mammal Society is using a multitude of platforms to meet its aim to provide information on British mammals. We had a brand new website developed this year for security reasons, but this has...
also increased accessibility to our services and brought the image of The Mammal Society up to date. The Society’s e-bulletin, which started going out in 2010, now reaches 1,900 members and supporters and gives people regular updates on activities within the mammal world. Our Twitter followers have tripled to over 6,000 in the last 12 months, with around 1,700 followers on Facebook. Our publications are continuing to sell well. Using a range of social media sites, including our own website, we are continually promoting them on any available platform. In the year 2011-12 we published three new books; Squirrels, The Hedgehog and Interim Guidance on Surveying, Impact Assessment and Mitigation for BAP Mammals. This year saw us produce our first eBook with The Hedgehog being available via Amazon for the Kindle. More of our titles will be made available via Kindle in the coming years.

Financial Review

In 2011-12, The Mammal Society continued its drive to protect and grow its income, and to cut costs in a sustainable and balanced way, with a view to taking us back to a break-even position by the end of the year. Despite the ongoing difficult economic climate and the significant pressures this continues to exert on small charities such as ours, results have exceeded expectations. For the first time in some years staff have delivered a net surplus (£5,059, compared with a net deficit at the end of 2010-11 of £2,612). This is an impressive achievement and Council is extremely grateful to the staff, trainers, members and supporters who have played a part in this.

Income has been maintained at prior year levels, (£224,220 compared with £224,411 in 2010-11), but we achieved a further reduction in costs of 3% on the prior year. The significant improvement in the bottom line means we end the year with unrestricted reserves of £136,966 (2010-11: £131,680). Allowing for stocks of £58,951, the balance of liquid funds at the year end was £78,015 (2010-11: £66,459). This represents just over 4 months unrestricted expenditure of £191,617, these are 3% lower than the prior year (2010-11: £219,023) and 15% lower than 2009-10 (£259,064). Reduced costs have been achieved in a number of ways, and despite temporary cost-cutting measures from 2011 coming to an end. One member of staff who voluntarily worked shorter hours returned to standard hours, and trainers are being paid standard fees instead of some working unpaid. We have managed to slice a further 17% off governance costs this year and achieved a further 9% reduction in central costs (22% reduction on 2009-10).

Insurable risks are suitably covered and Council has agreed various written policies on Health and Safety etc. The management sub-committee reviews such policies and develops new policies according to requirements. In line with the need to maintain a certain flexibility in the access to cash, investments are currently confined to mid-term arrangements and to best value deposit accounts with our bankers.

Reserves

The Mammal Society receives two forms of income: unrestricted funds from membership, sale of books, equipment, training and Mammal Review, which are available to cover any costs of running the organisation; and we receive restricted funds in the shape of grants and bequests which have to be used for a specific purpose, such as student bursaries to attend the spring conference, or grants to undertake hedgehog or other surveys. It is The Mammal Society’s policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to at least four months unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance held on unrestricted funds, after designations, at the year-end was in line with this policy.

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Over the last year we have seen a shift in the audience for Mammal Review, with an increase in sales to institutions via the publisher and a slight reduction in sales income from members. This is likely to be as a result of the change in pricing model and the end to subsidised rates for members. Handbook sales have continued to be sluggish and we decided to start writing down the value of the remaining stock in order to ensure our stock valuation remains prudent. This £5,500 write-down is reflected in the accounts.

We have continued in the vein of the last three years by further cutting costs, although at a lower rate. With total costs of £219,161, these are 3% lower than the prior year (2010-11: £227,023) and 15% lower than 2009-10 (£259,064). Reduced costs have been achieved in a number of ways, and despite temporary cost-cutting measures from 2011 coming to an end. One member of staff who voluntarily worked shorter hours returned to standard hours, and trainers are being paid standard fees instead of some working unpaid. We have managed to slice a further 17% off governance costs this year and achieved a further 9% reduction in central costs (22% reduction on 2009-10).

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Our current levels of activity couldn’t be sustained without the great efforts of our staff and the dedication and energy of our members and volunteers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2012</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Statement of Funds as at 31 October 2012</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOMING RESOURCES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total incoming resources</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from Generated Funds:</td>
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<td>Total resources expended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary income</td>
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<td>Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources</td>
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<td>Subscriptions</td>
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<td>Total Funds at 31 October</td>
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<td>139,560</td>
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<td>Legacies</td>
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<td><strong>Income from Charitable Activities:</strong></td>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Stock</td>
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<td>Debtors</td>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Incoming Resources</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Analysis of Funds</strong></td>
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<td><strong>RESOURCES EXPENDED</strong></td>
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<td>Costs of Generating Funds:</td>
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<td>Restricted</td>
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<td>Costs of generating voluntary income</td>
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<td>27,896</td>
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<td><strong>Charitable activities:</strong></td>
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<td>Training workshops</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
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<td>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year</td>
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<td>-2,612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds brought forward</td>
<td>139,560</td>
<td>142,172</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds carried forward at 31 October</td>
<td>144,619</td>
<td>139,560</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These Summarised Accounts are an extract from, and are consistent with the Statutory Accounts but may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society. Our Independent Examiners, David Hancock & Co have reported on the full Statutory Accounts following their Independent Examination and the accounts were approved by the Trustees on 25th February 2013. They will be presented for approval of the members at the Annual General Meeting on 21st April 2013. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities, issued March 2005.

Copies of the full Statutory Accounts will be lodged with the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission. The full accounts may be inspected at the offices of The Mammal Society at 3 The Carronades, New Road, Southampton, SO14 0AA and copies are available to members on request.

Signed on behalf of the Council
Abi Bunker, Hon Treasurer, 25th February 2013

Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of The Mammal Society
We have examined these summarised financial statements.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiners
You are responsible as Trustees for the preparation of the summarised financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised statements’ consistency with the full financial statements on which we reported to you on 25th February 2013.

Basis of opinion
We have carried out the procedures necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion
In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the period to 31st October 2012.

25th February 2013
David Hancock & Co
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
Webb House, 20 Bridge Road, Park Gate, Southampton, SO31 7GE
People

Officers of Council

President Derek Yalden
Chairman Johnny Birks
Vice-Chairman Adam Grogan
Company Secretary Kate Williamson
Honorary Treasurer Abi Bunker
Conference Secretary Elizabeth Chadwick

Ordinary Members

Edward Wells
Simon Boulter
Jon Bramley (until 11.03.12)
Phoebe Carter (until 11.03.12)
Catherine O’Reilly
Sara Churchfield (until 11.03.12)
Grahame Madge
Derek Crawley (from 11.03.12)

Co-opted Members

Mammal News
Editor Marian Bond
Hilary Conlan
Mammal Notes
Editor Dawn Scott
John Gurnell
Mammal Review
Editor Kläus Hacklander
Managing Editor Nancy Jennings

Management Committee

Johnny Birks (Chair) Kate Williamson
Abi Bunker Adam Grogan
Marina Pacheco

Surveys Committee

Phoebe Carter (Chair) Marina Pacheco
John Flowerdew Nigel Reeve
Jonathan Adey Paul Johnson

Scientific Advisory Committee

Fiona Matthews (Chair) Catherine O’Reilly
Phillip Baker Sugoto Roy
Elizabeth Chadwick Stephen Carter
Adam Grogan Roger Trout
Kate Jones Richard Shore

Student Committee

Mel Orros Amanda Wilson
Rebecca Thomas Ciara Powell
Keri Russell

Staff

Chief Executive Officer Marina Pacheco
Membership & Marketing Laura Drake
Co-Ordinator
Training & Events Alex Dunlop
Co-Ordinator
Finance & Publications Officer Sally Williams

Consultants

Design Impress
IT Support Martin Newman
Website Support Steven Swann

Trainers

Johnny Birks John Haddow
Marina Pacheco Bob Boyce
Hazel Ryan Kate Williamson
Adam Grogan Georgie Starkie
Simone Bullon Sam Dyer
Reoin Campbell-Palmer Penny Lewns
Rob Strachan Chris Hall
Phoebe Carter Pol MacCana
Jenny Fuller Helen Harvey
Jim Jones Dave Lewns
Jackie Underhill Roger Trout

Volunteers

Lyn Elkins John Elkins

Internships

Richard Austin Louise Sleeman
Libby Nixon Anna Rogers
Elle Passingham

Thanks To

Derek Bensley
Cole Museum, Reading University
Gayle Dower
University of Greenwich
Impress
Herefordshire Action for Mammals
Wiley-Blackwell
Cornwall Mammal Group
Guy Troughton

All who contributed to our illustrations and editorial for our new publications

Funders/Donors

Wales Mammal Group
RSK
Belos Ecology
National Grid
Bramley Associates
IEEM
Untyped
RSPCA

You can join The Mammal Society, make a donation, enrol in our courses, order publications and find out more about our work on our web site.

www.mammal.org.uk

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Pine Marten. Photo by Alex Berryman
Wildlife Crime in Scotland

Wildlife crime is the unlawful taking, damaging, destroying or interfering with natural flora or fauna and in practice also includes the poaching of deer, fish and game.

The law concerning wildlife is too extensive and complex to be covered fully in such a short article but I hope to give an idea of the things to look out for and what to do when you find them.

There is a national antipathy towards acts of cruelty to wildlife and this is reflected in a number of laws that control the way in which animals may be hunted, trapped and killed. With limited exceptions hunting with dogs has been illegal since 2002. In Scotland strict rules govern the use of spring traps and snares.

From April 2013 anyone using snares will have undergone training and all snares will have a tag attached bearing a unique number which will enable the police to trace the operator if necessary. The main problems that one is likely to encounter are: the capture of a non-target species; a snare being placed where an animal caught in it can become fully or partially suspended or drown; failure to check and remove any catch every 24 hours.

Although the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is intended to prevent unnecessary suffering to domestic animals, it also applies to vertebrates that are temporarily in the care of man. This means, for example that birds caught in Larsen traps, badgers caught in snares or small mammals in Longworth traps are all covered. Certain species, such as bats are afforded protection because of their conservation status, while others, like badgers, have special protection because they are subject to persecution.

Badger baiting is a very common crime. Often a terrier dog wearing a locating collar is sent into a sett to corner a badger. When it does so a hand-held receiver picks up a signal from the collar enabling the baiters to dig down to the exact spot where the badger is, remove it and set dogs to rip it apart. In smaller setts, badgers may be flushed from underground by a terrier and then pursued and pulled down by lurcher-type hounds which are bred for this role. Groups of men in or around woodland, or walking on open land near badger setts, accompanied by terriers and lurchers should be viewed with suspicion. Badgers are often also targeted by people who damage setts and obstruct or block entrances. Beware of...
entrances that appear to have been blocked with loose soil. The soil may have been placed to seal the entrance after cyanide crystals have been put inside. The cyanide which has killed the badgers will kill you if you break the seal. Lurcher-type dogs are also used in hare coursing. This activity, which is particularly prevalent in arable landscapes, usually occurs in autumn when the crops have been harvested and access to fields is easier. When a hare is seen the dogs will be released and will hunt it by sight. The hare is usually killed as a result of crush injuries to the ribcage caused by the dogs’ jaws. Close attention should be paid to vehicles parked across field entrances or driving over fields, especially in areas where hares are known to be present. Birds are frequent victims of crime. A determined minority of criminals steal eggs, which has resulted in prison sentences for repeat offenders. The killing of raptors continues unabated with poison baits, spring traps set on roosting posts or near baits, and straightforward shooting being reported. Poisoned birds and baits may be encountered and should not be handled. Baits are often gutted rabbits which may have been staked to the ground and sometimes show signs of crystals where the entrails have been removed. There may also be dead flies which have been attracted to the bait and succumbed to the poison.

In Scotland all offences are prosecuted by the Procurator Fiscal Service and there are dedicated wildlife fiscals based in Glasgow and Edinburgh who deal with wildlife and environmental cases countrywide. They decide whether there is sufficient evidence to proceed to prosecution and whether doing so would be in the public interest. In many cases reckless acts, as well as those that are intentional, are illegal, as is knowingly causing or permitting offences. Attempts to commit crimes, or providing material help in their commission, can be prosecuted under the Scottish principle of art and part liability. Most wildlife cases are heard in the Sheriff Court under summary procedure. The average fine is £240 but confiscation orders for dogs, cars and other equipment can be made and, where the offender is a landowner, subsidies may be withdrawn. When you discover a wildlife crime you should remember four priorities: your welfare, the welfare of any animal involved, protection of the locus (as a crime scene is known in Scotland), and informing the police. If you find an on-going crime with persons at the locus, or any crime where you believe poison may be involved, you should contact the police urgently on 999. If the crime has occurred in the past, or is on-going but with no suspects at the locus, inform the police using the non-emergency number. When the police attend, make sure you get an incident number which is essential to facilitate follow-up. If there is an injured animal present contact the S.S.P.C.A. (03000 999 999). A description of any suspects should be recorded, although this can be very difficult in a stressful situation where a number of individuals may be involved. The best plan is to select one person, concentrate on him and mentally note all you can. Trying to make written notes in the presence of suspects or take photographs of them is not advisable. It is however, possible to use a mobile ‘phone or small camera to photograph the rear of a vehicle without the occupants becoming aware. This can provide you with the number, make, colour and much other useful information at the click of a shutter – ensure the flash is not on! Finally, plan ahead. Be aware of the range of your mobile ‘phone. Carry a notebook and pencil. Keep alert for signs of wildlife crime and the chance of stumbling into the midst of a group of wildlife criminals is greatly reduced.

If you are interested in finding out more about the wildlife and the law in Scotland then Scottish Badgers provide training at various levels and there is now a book by Alan Stewart, retired Wildlife Crime Officer for Tayside, “Wildlife and the Law”. This can be obtained by contacting Alan at alanstewart164@btinternet.com.
Beaver Ecology & Conservation: Course Review

Set in the beautiful Cotswold Water Park, this course offers a detailed insight into the behaviour and ecology of the Eurasian beaver, once native to Britain. The course covers everything you could possibly want to know about beavers from their reproduction and feeding habits to their role as ecological engineers.

The trainer, Phoebe Carter, has been working with the beavers at Lower Mill Estate for the last six years and has been working with riparian mammals for the last ten years. She has an interactive approach to teaching, adapting the course to encompass the needs of those with a basic knowledge of beavers as well as professionals in the field. In addition to their ecology, beaver distribution in the British Isles over time is discussed, with a focus on the current controversy surrounding reintroduction programmes. It was very encouraging to learn about the progress of beaver reintroductions in Britain, including the well established Scottish Beaver Trial, the proposed Welsh Beaver Initiative, plans for reintroductions in England and the long-running beaver project on the Lower Mill Estate in the Cotswold Water Park. Drawing on the trials currently running, as well as evidence from beaver reintroductions across Europe, the many potential positive benefits to having beavers in Britain, as well as potential areas for human-beaver conflicts are discussed.

After lunch there is the opportunity to spend several hours visiting the large beaver enclosure at Lower Mill Estate and looking for the field signs of these fascinating creatures before returning at dusk for a chance to see the animals themselves.

Looking to learn more about mammals? Take part in one of The Mammal Society’s numerous courses. Upcoming courses include ‘Mammal Survey Methods Taster Weekend’ at Chester Zoo in April to broaden your range of surveying skills or for those in consultancy, or looking to get into this area, develop your knowledge of river-dwelling species in May in our ‘Management of Riparian Mammals’ course in Wiltshire.

To book: email training@themammalsociety.org or visit our website www.mammal.org.uk.

Mammal Survey Methods Taster Weekend

Date: 27th & 28th April 2013
Venue: Chester Zoo, Cheshire CH2 1EU

Suitable for those new to the subject or looking to broaden their range of surveying skills and experience. This two-day, largely field-based course requires a reasonable level of fitness. Delegates will get a brief taste of a range of species and survey techniques, including otter spraint surveying, bat detecting and trapping, bat box checks and ID in the hand, using footprint tunnels and footprint tracking skills, harvest mouse nest surveys, Longworth trapping and more. Where possible we will encounter the animals themselves but our ‘detective’ skills will be used to find the diagnostic signs of others.

Management of Riparian Mammals

Date: 14th & 15th May 2013
Venue: Cotswold Water Park, Gloucestershire GL7 5QF

Aimed specifically at consultants or those looking to move into consultancy, this two day course provides practical information and guidance relating to this unique group of species and the important legislation that covers them. As well as classroom talks and case study work, the course involves in-situ practical work on field signs, surveying and mitigation techniques. Please note, this event is non residential.
Have your say - Proposed Changes to Articles of Association

Mammal Society members are consulted whenever we make a change to our governing documents. The Mammal Society Council is proposing changes to our Articles of Association, which you have the opportunity to debate and vote upon at the Society’s AGM on the 20th April 2013. If you can’t attend, do e-mail info@themammalsociety.org or post comments to us. The changes are as follows:

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY
Current phrasing: Clause 26. The Society shall have a:- President, Chairman, Two vice chairmen, Honorary Secretary or Secretaries, Honorary Treasurer, Publications Officer, Conference Secretary.
Proposed change: Not less than one but no more than two vice chairs. Removal of Publications Officer and Conference Secretary as officers on Council.

APPOINTMENT AND RETIREMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
Current phrasing: Clause 29 (c). At each AGM such Ordinary Members as have completed three consecutive years in office shall retire and shall not be eligible for re-election until the next AGM.
Proposed change: ... and shall be eligible for re-election for a further period of three consecutive years. After the completion of such second period in office such members shall retire and shall not be eligible for re-election until the next following Annual General Meeting.

Additional proposed clause 29 (d):
Any council member who misses three consecutive Council meetings may be asked to step down from Council.

AUDIT
Proposed change: Auditors shall be appointed and their duties regulated in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 which permits an independent review provided the charity’s gross income is not more than £500,000.

ACCOUNTS
49 (1) The directors must prepare for each financial year accounts as required by the Companies Acts. The accounts must be prepared to show a true and fair view and follow accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board or its successors and adhere to the recommendations of applicable Statements of Recommended Practice.
49 (2) The directors must keep accounting records as required by the Companies Acts.

Direct Debit is now available!

We are very pleased to announce Direct Debit is now available to all members. All members who make a manual payment for their membership each year (by card, cheque or online) will be sent a DD mandate form with your next renewal request. Your membership will continue while the DD is being set up, which can take up to 4 weeks, and you can choose whether to pay monthly or annually. For those who pay by annual or monthly Standing Order, you will need to cancel it with your bank (we can not do this for you unfortunately) and send us a Direct Debit mandate form, available online at: www.mammal.org.uk/join_us or by emailing us. Even so, I will write to all those paying by standing order as your payment date approaches to remind you that you can move over to Direct Debit with immediate effect. Any questions at all about this or other aspects of your membership, please email me!

Photo Competition a huge success - vote for your favourites!

As you saw on page 6, The Mammal Society ran the 1st Mammal Photographer of the Year competition from Autumn 2012 to 31st January 2013. Choosing from nearly 370 images, the winners were selected by renowned wildlife expert Kate MacRae and photographer Steve Magennis on 14th February, and South West Water have generously sponsored an exhibition to take place on Friday 19th April, on the eve of the Spring Conference, alongside the Cranbrook Lecture. You can find links to the top 200 shortlisted photos and the winners at: www.mammal.org.uk/photo_competition, which will take you to our public Flickr accounts.

And that’s where we need you! There we need you to vote for your favourites, the top 50 of which, along with the winners, will be displayed at the exhibition. But in the meantime, here’s the winning Member’s image; a roe deer in the mist by Becky Cartwright. She wins a Bushnell TrophyCam worth £250. The 1st Overall Winner’s prize was a Spypoint HD-10 camera, worth £250, courtesy of www.scottcountry.co.uk.

We are very pleased to announce Direct Debit is now available to all members. All members who make a manual payment for their membership each year (by card, cheque or online) will be sent a DD mandate form with your next renewal request. Your membership will continue while the DD is being set up, which can take up to 4 weeks, and you can choose whether to pay monthly or annually. For those who pay by annual or monthly Standing Order, you will need to cancel it with your bank (we can not do this for you unfortunately) and send us a Direct Debit mandate form, available online at: www.mammal.org.uk/join_us or by emailing us. Even so, I will write to all those paying by standing order as your payment date approaches to remind you that you can move over to Direct Debit with immediate effect. Any questions at all about this or other aspects of your membership, please email me!

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Brilliant Mr Badger

By Rodney Dearing, Illustrations Bill Paynter (Published 2012), ISBN 978-0-7552-1493-8, 70 pages (colour)

As none other than our own Chairman said in a recent conference presentation, mustelids generally aren’t particularly fairly represented in literature. From the badger folk that try to capture Tolkien’s character Tom Bombadil, through the rather gruff Mr Badger in Wind in the Willows to the rather unsavoury Tommy Brock of Beatrix Potter, it seems that the largest of Britain’s mustelids in particular are often unfairly maligned. These literary misrepresentations are thrown into sharp relief by the ongoing plans for the badger cull. The notions conceived at an early age can be hard to counteract and if people have a distorted view of badgers, will they feel sympathy for their current plight?

This may well have been part of what inspired Mammal Society member Rodney Dearing to pen Brilliant Mr Badger.

To support me in reviewing this book, I called on the assistance of my seven year old daughter and it is interesting that the first thing she said was “Brilliant Mr Badger, that’s a bit like Fantastic Mr Fox” and to be honest, fans of Mr Fox’s adventures will find the story comfortably familiar. It follows the story of three farmers, who don’t like the brilliant Mr Badger or his friends and want to dig them out. There are plots and schemes, there are traps and diggers, there is cunning and bravery and there are close shaves but ultimately, you won’t be surprised to hear this, Brilliant Mr Badger triumphs and the evil politician flounders.

So no complaints from my daughter or me there.

The book is fun and brightly illustrated throughout and badgers get a positive portrayal which can only be a good thing.

Book Review by Alex Dunlop

Atlas of Highland Land Mammals

Edited by: Ro Scott. Published by: Highland Biological Recording Group (HBRG)

Price (general public) – £7, (members of HBRG, BRISC, Tain & District Field Club and Inverness Field Club) – £5.

This atlas collates the data from members of the HBRG, local Mammal Society members and many others over a twelve year period from 1999 to 2010 and only covers terrestrial mammals.

The maps in the atlas are based upon a total of more than 25 000 records submitted by 1200 people which is quite a feat for an area which has a low population density and therefore fewer volunteers to call upon. It has the standard atlas problem that rarer or more conspicuous animals have more records submitted whereas commoner but more discrete or less spectacular animals such as mice, voles and shrews are underreported.

This is, however, a very useful reference booklet for anyone living in the Highlands of Scotland or planning to visit the area, especially if they are planning to do some mammal watching. The area appears to have a good distribution of wild cats, otters and pine marten which are rare in other parts of the UK. Aside from the all important distribution data this booklet also has nice sections of species accounts which covers, amongst other things, recognition and signs, ecology and behaviours, Highland history of the species, past and current management, where to look and guiding facts. This makes it enjoyable to dip into for mammal information even if you aren’t after distribution information.

Copies of the booklet are available from the HBRG website (http://www.hbrg.org.uk/Atlases.html).

Of course it goes without saying that should you spot any mammals or mammal signs please report it either to your Local Record Centre, mammal group or The Mammal Society via our website (http://www.mammal.org.uk/nmap). We share our records so sitings only need to be sent to one of the above.

Book Review by Marina Pacheco

British Bat Calls – A Guide to Species Identification

By Jon Russ, ISBN 13 978190787251

Following The Bats of Britain and Ireland: Echolocation Calls, Sound Analysis, and Species Identification published by Alana in 1999, this book still has its origins very much rooted in the realm of a practical field guide. It is possibly the definitive work for identifying British bat species using heterodyne and time expansion detectors. A very visual guide that certainly has more illustrations than text and one of the key areas this guide furthers is the analysis of the range of calls emitted related to behaviour. With many of our UK bat species being scarce it could take a lone researcher a lifetime to accumulate such a collection. In this publication, with the expert input of some of the country’s finest bat researchers we have a comprehensive guide presented by a researcher who has over 20 years of experience in bat conservation. This publication is not a one stop guide for population sampling of British bat species, however once you have your experimental design this guide will ably assist you with data collection and analysis. There are some very readable chapters at the beginning of the book that introduce the theory underpinning echolocation and the way in which sound waves are sampled. It also provides some very useful guidance on selecting the specialist equipment required to do so. Bat researchers, enthusiasts and ecological consultants will all find this book to be worth the investment.

Book Review by Matt Rogers
Camera traps

Camera traps are a fantastic way of discovering which animals are around, catching snapshots or video of their behaviour without disturbing them. Having set a number of camera traps up in Wicken Fen as part of a MSc module at Anglia Ruskin University, we hoped to record natural behaviour so were very surprised and amused to find this deer wanting star billing.

Weasel surprise

I managed to snap this little weasel at Hanningfield Reservoir back in the summer of 2010. I was walking along the path which between the Lyster Hide and the RAWL Hide which runs along the meadow. Walking ahead of my group I heard some rustling in the undergrowth. Expecting to see a bird, a pair of large black eyes looked up at me and took off. After following the weasel for a few hundred yards (with it popping in and out of dozens of hideaway holes), it finally posed for me and I did not waste any time in catching the beauty in front of me.

We at The Mammal Society extend our sincere condolences to his wife Karen and step-children Rebecca and Ben for their loss.

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Farewell to Bob Boyce

We are saddened to relay news of the death of Bob Boyce on New Years’ Eve 2012.

Bob was involved in a very wide array of different activities related to mammal conservation. In addition to running his farm, guest house and nature reserve on Exmoor with his wife Karen, Bob was volunteer co-ordinator for The Perch Project in Cheddar, bred dormice for re-introduction programmes, repaired Longworth traps for a variety of organisations, was a key member of Somerset Mammal Group and delivered a range of courses for The Mammal Society.

There isn’t space here to provide a comprehensive list of the other aspects of Bob’s life and work beyond mammalogy except to say that it seemed like every time you talked to Bob, another hitherto unmentioned aspect of his life would pop up in conversation. It is an indication of Bob’s seemingly boundless energy that, in addition to all the activities already listed, he also somehow managed to fit studying for a degree with the Open University in around all this.

As with all the best trainers, Bob’s enthusiasm and passion for his subject shone through in his delivery and he had the great ability to balance his considerable depth of knowledge with a very approachable manner. He also provided extensive advice and support to The Mammal Society Training and Events Co-ordinator, acting as a vital sounding board and providing valuable feedback that helped improve our courses. We regularly had delegates who would seek out courses he was due to deliver purely on the basis that it was Bob. It is a testament to Bob’s skills that so many delegates on his courses went on to volunteer with schemes like The Perch Project.

Bob’s departure will be keenly felt by many people and groups and we know that those who were close to him are working hard to ensure that the activities to which he gave so much to in his life will weather the storm of his passing. And make no mistake, Bob’s shoes seem, to many of us, to be almost impossibly large to fill. Bob himself always finished his calls to the office by saying “I’m sure between us, we’ll sort something out”

We at The Mammal Society extend our sincere condolences to his wife Karen and step-children Rebecca and Ben for their loss.

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Smallest of its kind. The least we easily hear. Which mammal am I?

Mammal Haiku by Aidan Rooney
UK BAP Mammals: Interim Guidelines for Survey Methodologies, Impact Assessment and Mitigation

This new publication, co-produced by Cresswell Associates and The Mammal Society, is designed for ecologists and addresses standard survey protocols and guidelines for impact assessment and mitigation, in the context of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) for the following UK BAP mammals:

- Brown hare
- European hedgehog
- Harvest mouse
- Mountain hare
- Pine marten
- Polecats
- Red squirrel
- Wildcat

Price £15 (Mammal Society Members) or £19.90 (Non Members) Plus £2.95 P&P

Remember, The Mammal Society has a range of publications ideal for enthusiasts and professionals alike. All our books and equipment can be ordered at www.mammal.org.uk or by calling the Sales Office on 023 80237874.