



Wood Mouse

Apodemus sylvaticus

Quick facts

Order Rodentia

Conservation status

GB *Least concern*



England *Least concern*

Scotland *Least concern*

Wales *Least concern*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Stable*

Size 8.1 - 10.3 cm, tail 7.1 - 9.5 cm

Weight 13 - 27 g

Life span 12 months on average

The wood mouse has sandy-brown fur which is darker along the spine and white-grey fur underneath. Juveniles are greyer over all. Ears, hind feet, and tail proportionately larger than house mouse. Found throughout British Isles.

Habitat

Mainly woodland and fields but is highly adaptable, able to survive in almost any habitat that is not too wet. Rarely recorded on higher exposed ground.

Behaviour

Essentially nocturnal, some individuals active by day. Usually lives in complicated underground burrows used by successive generations. Nests are often built in burrows but may also be found in holes in trees, buildings, bird or dormouse nest boxes.

Diet & Feeding

Seeds, green plants, fruits (often consumes seeds and leaves flesh), invertebrates, fungi. Caches food in underground burrows.

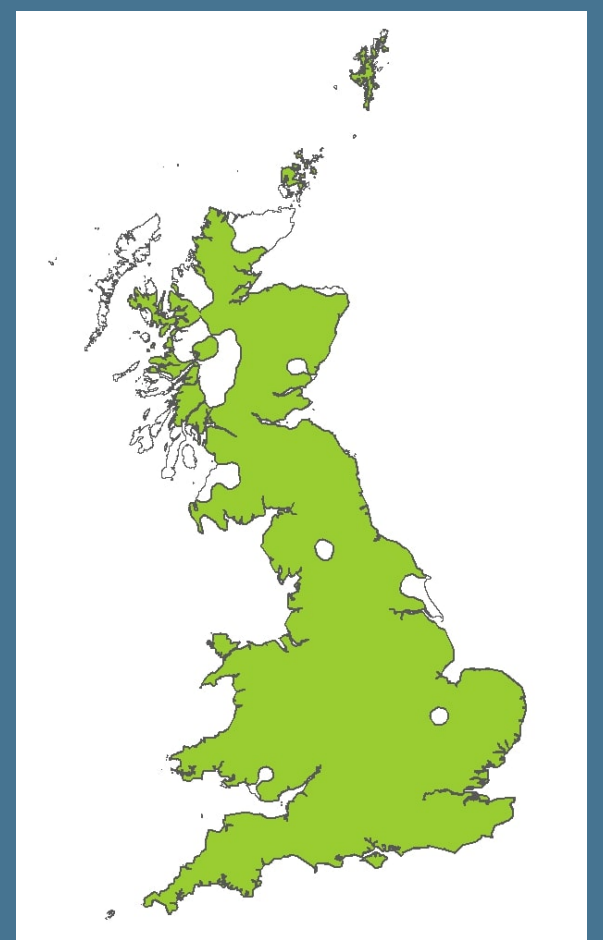
Reproduction

Litters of 4 - 7 born throughout March to October. Breeding may occur during winter if a good food supply is available.

Conservation & Threats

No legal protection, and conservation does not seem necessary as recolonisation after mortality is often rapid. Beneficial to humans by preying on insect pests, and many trees and shrubs germinate from wood mouse food stores. Woodland seed crop size strongly influences wood mouse numbers in the same autumn and following summer.

Range



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