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Newsletter - August 2020



Dear Recorder,

Although the CBDC offices doors are still firmly shut, we have had a busy summer.

Our Data Officer Moustafa has been occupied by updating the Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base (CBEB) for the local authorities and has responded to data enquiries from ecologists and recorders. Income from these services is vital to the running of CBDC and whilst it is not the best year so far, it is not looking the worst.

Stuart our Recording Officer is on furlough. We are looking forward to him returning in a few weeks time. There is a mountain of records waiting in his in-tray that need sorting and uploading to our database. We also need to get him back to plan for our next Recorders' Conference early next year. I have been busy reading about Nature Recovery Network Strategies and Maps. Cumbria has been selected by DEFRA to pilot this new Government initiative, which comes out of its 25 Year Environment Plan. CBDC sees this as an opportunity to extend the Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base (CBEB) service that it currently provides to the local authorities in Cumbria. We would not be able to provide this service without your records and the support of the county verifiers. I would like to extend our appreciation and thank you to you all.

Hope to see you soon.

Debs, CBDC Manager

Special Summer finds

As you all know recording is a past-time that has been less restricted than others this summer. Here are a few interesting finds that have made their way to CBDC in the last couple of weeks. Photo credits go to the recorder.



Hypomyces chrysospermus, Bolete Eating Fungus;

Borrowdale; 6th August 2020.

Richard Suddaby discovered this parasitic fungus walking in Lodore Woods and posted it to the Cumbria Fungus Group's Facebook page. It adds a new tetrad to the distribution map for this species previously recorded at 19 other locations.

Pipiza austriaca, a hoverfly;

Broughton in Furness; 11 August 2020

Nigel Gilligan sent us the verified details of this hoverfly (female) that he spotted at Donkey Rock. There are only a handful of records for Cumbria, most recently at Acorn Bank in 2014 and prior to that a record from Dorothy Iveson in 2004 at Gilsland Gorge. This is a new hectad record.



Dicranopalpus caudatus, a harvestman;

Millom; 1 August 2020

Nigel Gilligan also submitted this harvestman with distinctive forked pedipalps. There are around 45 records of *Dicranopalpus ramosus* for Cumbria, but in 2015 the species split into *D ramosus* and *D caudatus*. You need a microscope to tell the difference but this specimen fits the descriptions for the female of this new species. Nigel is looking for a verifier for what could be the second UK record.

Aromia moschata, Musk Beetle;

Manesty, Keswick; 10th August 2020.

This distinctive longhorn was spotted and the photograph posted on iNaturalist by PaulB66. A Notable-B species with 5 records (3 hectads) in Cumbria. The last record was one from D Iveson in 2011, also near Manesty



Lagria hirta, Hairy Darkling Beetle;

Cumrew; 10th August 2020

Lagria hirta is a pollinating beetle observed on open flowers like daisies. All but one previous records are coastal as the beetle prefers habitats with sandy soil. A new hectad record for Guy Broome and the furthest inland in Cumbria

Cellar Spider Survey - it only takes 10 minutes



Summer is a time when many of us will see a Cellar Spider, also known as the Daddy Longlegs Spider, lurking in the darker corners of our homes. Usually sitting on a large, messy web complete with food parcels and eggs; and usually its not one spider but many! Their webs may look a mess and you may be tempted to sweep them away, but think of all the good they do. As ferocious predators they will be eating mosquitoes, flies and even other spiders. Where are they though? As our climate changes, so do the distributions of many species. To better understand the current distribution of these spiders and how that might change in the future, we need to record them. Cellar Spiders, being relatively easy to identify and very widespread, make excellent candidates for such a survey. So please join the Cellar Spider Survey!

[To download full details of the survey click this link.](#)

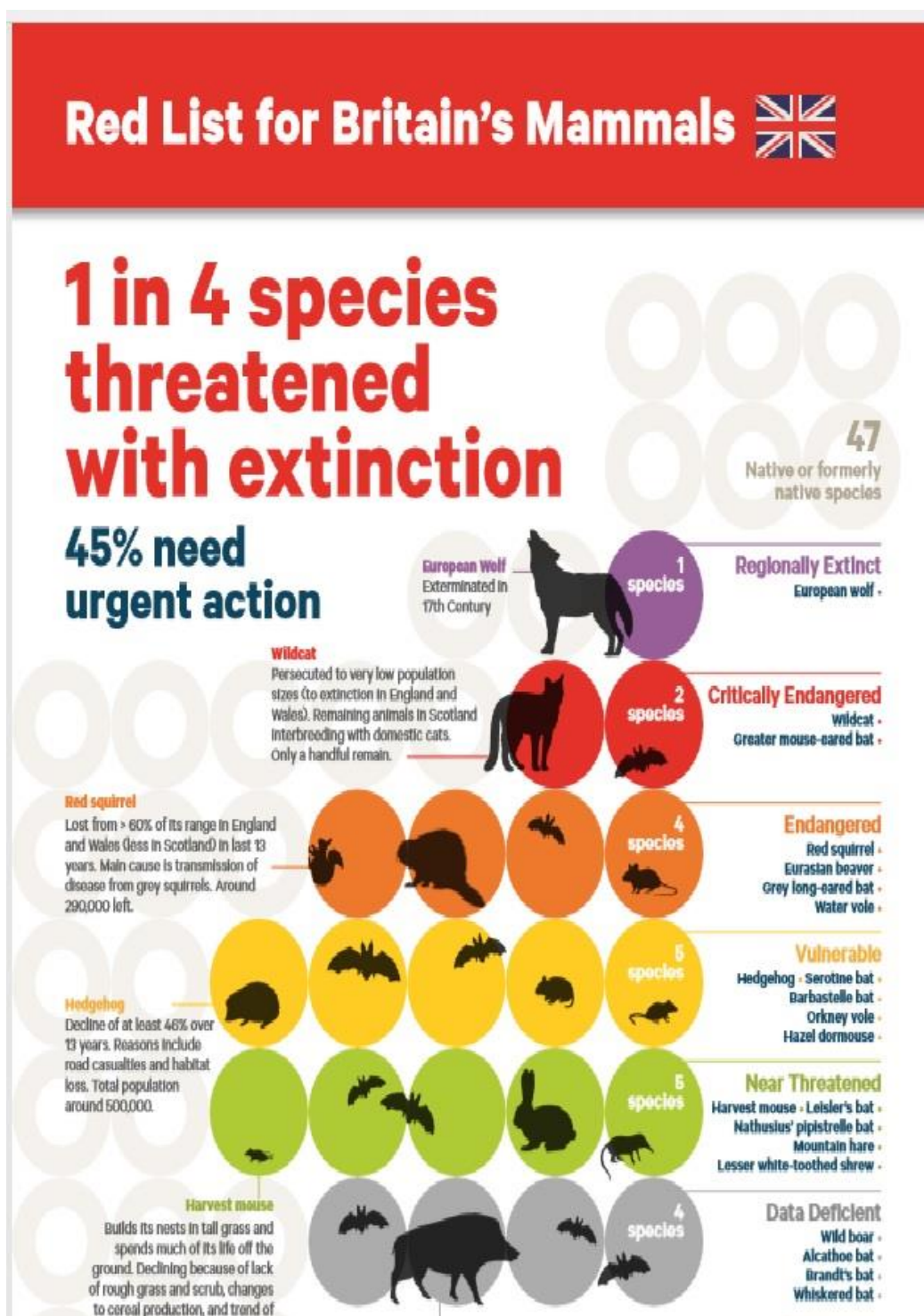
Wanted - old and new photos of Puffins with fish

Project Puffin asking for help in sourcing photos of puffins carrying fish in their beaks as part of RSPB's Project Puffin. As you know, Puffins are in trouble. Changing food availability, related to climate change, is thought to be one of the main reasons. Project Puffin can use photos of puffins carrying fish to better understand changes in diet and how we can help puffin conservation.

We're looking for any photo of a puffin carrying fish, so long as you know where and when the photo was taken. We're particularly interested in old photos! Photos can be submitted through the Project Puffin website. Submissions close 31 August.

[Click here to find out more.](#)

11 UK Mammals are facing imminent extinction



July 2020 saw the publication of the first official Red List for British Mammals. It shows that 11 of the 47 mammals native to Britain are classified as being at imminent risk of extinction. A further 5 species are classified as “near threatened” and 4 are “data deficient”.

The reasons for the declines vary between species. For some, such as the wildcat, pine marten, and beaver (which is doing well in the scattered locations where it has been reintroduced), there has been extensive historical persecution. For bats and the hazel dormouse, habitat loss is the main threat; while the water vole, red squirrel and Orkney vole suffer from the combined effects of habitat degradation and the introduction of non-native species.

[Find out more here.](#)

The Saga of Submitting Records to CBDC continues

CBDC has long been coping with records submitted in different formats and the harder people try to make it simpler the more complex it gets. Recently, CBDC has received a number of questions like "Which is best?", "What online site should I use? ", "How can I avoid duplication?". There is no single answer to these questions, it will depend on the species you are recording, your knowledge, your personal preference and maybe your broadband speed.

There are many established formal national recording schemes, for example Birds, Butterflies, Dragonflies. These have their own online scheme or use IRecord. CBDC has data sharing agreements with a range of national and local organisations and we download IRecord data. So, if this is where you send you records we will get them.

Not all Facebook groups collate the data posted to their site and so we advise that you check with the group administrator.

For those of you who keep your records on an Excel spreadsheet, Recorder6, or Mapmate then that's OK too. CBDC is happy to receive Excel and CSV files (in fact, this is the best option for us). However, to minimise the chances of duplication we now ask recorders to indicate if they have submitted the record elsewhere and if so where.

INaturalist

The Summer lock-down has seen people studying the wildlife in their garden and local neighbourhood like never before. Whilst this is a good thing, it has generated a lot more "What have I seen questions?" Existing recorders have turned to Facebook Pages, traditional identification hierarchies and even iRecord. However, the less experienced and the public don't know about these methods and if they did the level of requests for help could be an overwhelming burden on a small group of expert recorders.

Working with the staff at the Get Cumbria Buzzing project CBDC has been experimenting with INaturalist, encouraging the public to upload a photograph of what they have seen. INaturalist uses Artificial Intelligence to try to identify the species, eg. Peacock Butterfly, Soldier Beetle, and sometimes Unknown. This provides a rapid response to the member of public's "What's This?" and hopefully leaves feeling informed enough to keep them motivated to upload more photos in the future.

The photograph is then reviewed by other INaturalist users and curators (verifiers). However, the identification is only as good as the photograph and as we know not all species can be identified by photograph alone! Like IRecord, INaturalist data can be downloaded and CBDC will be reviewing the Get Cumbria Buzzing data to see if the records received outweigh the effort needed to download and process the information into a format that can be uploaded into our database. However, as PaulB's photo of Musk Beetle demonstrates it does allow CBDC to pick up rarity records that we may not otherwise have seen in this vast and biodiverse county.

Training to Get Cumbria Buzzing



© N Gilligan

Training to Get Cumbria Buzzing

The following **free** webinars are being organised by the Get Cumbria Buzzing team. If you are pollinator friendly person already, perhaps there is a friend or neighbour that you can nudge in the right direction.

To book your place on the Cumbria Wildlife Trust's events page [click here](#).

- Thursday 20th August, 1:00-3:00pm – **Bumblebee identification and recording.**
 - Wednesday 26th August, 1:00-2:00pm – **Edible plants to attract pollinators.**
 - Monday 31st August, 1:00-3:00pm – **Specialist Butterfly identification and recording.**
 - Wednesday 2 September, 1:00-2:00pm – **Creating new plants for pollinators.**
 - Monday 7 September, 7:30-8:30pm – **Identifying and recording hoverflies.**
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