

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels - Autumn 2020

Autumn 2020 saw a bumper harvest of natural foods. This has kept most greys away from traps, and even feeders full of peanuts, for much longer than usual. Some were entering the traps, but only in low numbers. The last month or so has seen them a lot more eager to take the bait.

Our volunteers have made amazing progress over the last two months. In the Black Wood/Swarland Burn area grey numbers began to rise quickly at the start of December. However culling in Swarland Wood, Swarland Village and up through Newton Hall Woods has helped to dramatically reduce the greys. Meaning that this creates a lot more territory for our red squirrels to move into and occupy.

Great news that red squirrels are now being reported at Overgrass Farm, Newton Hall Woods, Coronation Woods, Shiel Dykes Farm, Swarland Woods and Golf Course, Swarland Hall Cottage, and various gardens in Swarland.

All of the reds our group are monitoring seem to be doing extremely well. So the regular cleaning and disinfecting (does this sound familiar?) of feeders and keeping them topped up with food, seems to be working. Continuing vigilance is required and constant monitoring of trail cameras is needed to spot any greys which turn up and then take the necessary action.



This gorgeous picture was taken by one of our volunteers doing sterling work locally. It is one of two reds which moved into the area in the summer once greys had disappeared. They have been a permanent fixture since then.

If you should see either a grey or red squirrel, please do report this on the sightings page of our website. This helps us to keep an overview of the situation, and to know where and when action needs to be taken, given sufficient volunteers.

If you would like to get more involved with our group, please do join us (membership is via our website and is free), or contact us direct if you wish to become more involved and help practically.

Cherry Hambrook, Secretary, LCReds