



## HAM NEWS Winter Bulletin Nov-2012~Feb 2013

### HAM AGM - FRIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

Withington Village Hall, Herefordshire, HR1 3PP

7.30pm - 8.00pm

Followed by a talk given by Philip Mugridge ARPS

8.00pm onwards

### of WILLRIDGE WILDLIFE IMAGES On Wildlife Photography



A fascinating photographic insight into wildlife - <http://www.willridgeimages.co.uk>

Free entry to members and non members, so please bring a guest.

Leaving Hereford on A4103 you pass Radway Nursery and then the HTC (Car showroom and garage) on right hand side. Take next left hand turn, signposted 'Withington' & 'Westhide'. This is Withies Road; the hall is on the left hand side about 300 m along Withies Road; the entrance road is signposted as 'Coppice Close'.

From Worcester, also on A4103, pass Whitestone Business Park on the left, continue towards Hereford, past Chapel on the right, rear of houses on a small estate, a lane and bungalows. Look for the second sign post on the right for 'Withington & Westhide', and on that left hand bend turn RIGHT onto Withies Road - the hall is 300m on the left.

If you have any queries, then please contact Jessica Lamerton on Tel: 01432 341837 or [jessicalamerton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jessicalamerton@yahoo.co.uk)

## BAT BCT NEWS

### New report from Vindval research programme on Wind Turbines, Bats & Birds

This report, published by the Swedish Vindval research programme, summarizes the research from Europe and the U.S. that has been done so far in the field of wind turbines. The main conclusion is that if wind turbines are placed correctly, with proper knowledge of bird and bat behaviour, risks will be minimized. The full report (in English) is available to download from: [www.naturvardsverket.se/Start/Om-Naturvardsverket/Vara-publikationer/ISBN1/6500/978-91-620-6511-9/](http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Start/Om-Naturvardsverket/Vara-publikationer/ISBN1/6500/978-91-620-6511-9/)

### Sheep's Wool Insulation

We have been notified of an issue with sheep's wool insulation where it has been installed without consideration for roosting bats. A serotine pup completely entangled in the sheep's wool and a similar situation with *P. pygmaeus* has been reported where there were a number of pups found dead. If you have any properties with this material installed, it has been suggested that commercial dust sheets are possibly a means of preventing this occurring.

### Nathusius pipistrelle in Great Britain & Ireland - request for records

Jon Russ has been collecting records of Nathusius' pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*) in Great Britain and Ireland since 1997 and is currently in the process of analysing this data to investigate the current status, habitat associations, distribution and migratory habitats of the species. In addition, these records may help answer the question of whether the species has been overlooked previously in Great Britain and Ireland or is possibly expanding its range. Jon is keen to base his research on the most up-to-date dataset as possible and therefore if you have any records of Nathusius' pipistrelle he would be extremely keen to hear from you. Records can be submitted either via an online recording form at [www.nathusius.org.uk/SubmitRecord.htm](http://www.nathusius.org.uk/SubmitRecord.htm) or via email to [jonruss@ridgewayecology.co.uk](mailto:jonruss@ridgewayecology.co.uk). If you have a large number of records Jon can provide you with a multi-record recording form.

Jon has also set up a Yahoo discussion forum for sharing information on Nathusius' pipistrelle in the UK and Europe. If you would like to join, send an email to [nathusius-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nathusius-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). You can also find more information about the species by visiting [www.nathusius.org.uk](http://www.nathusius.org.uk)

### Mapping Resources for Partner Bat Groups

We are currently in the process of digitising all our bat data into a GIS database. We have almost completed this first stage and are now looking into the exciting part of using and creating informative maps. Using GIS allows for greater flexibility in spatial mapping and data interrogation. This is resulting in more information being generated about habitat use, distribution and the production of predictive maps. One outcome of this GIS project is to deliver local maps and supporting resources for our partner Bat Groups. For now BCT would like you to have a think about what your local group would find useful terms of mapping, maybe a map indicating species distribution for your local area, predictive mapping showing the areas bat species might occur in the future? Liat Wicks, Head of Biodiversity will be formally consulting

partner Bat Groups for their ideas on what they would find useful in terms of mapping for their local area before the end of the year, but she will also be available to chat about this informally at the South East conference.

## Bat Hotspots and the Big Bat Map

The Big Bat Map is being very well used by members of the public to register their bat sightings as well as find places near them where they can go to see bats. Last year we asked for bat groups to recommend bat hotspots suitable for new bat spotters to have a good chance of seeing bats, thank you to everyone who responded. There are still some big gaps across the UK (check out the map at: [www.bigbatmap.org](http://www.bigbatmap.org)) so please email [hmcfarlane@bats.org.uk](mailto:hmcfarlane@bats.org.uk) with your recommendations of good places to see bats and stunning spots to watch bats at sunrise or sunset. Please provide the following information:

- Your name, your bat group and your bat group's web address
- Name of Hotspot/ location (e.g. Battersea Park)
- Info (e.g. head to the lake in the middle of the park)
- Species you are likely to see
- Postcode AND/ OR Grid ref
- BUT if possible latitude and longitude, you can find this out from [www.findlatitudeandlongitude.com](http://www.findlatitudeandlongitude.com)

NB we need hotspots which are publically accessible so hotspots on private land or for example parks closed to the public at night will not appear on the map. THANK YOU!

## Herefordshire Bat box checks

The new bat box checking programme is underway for this winter 2012-2013 and we have started with some excellent results. Septembers check took place in Ast wood near Ledbury, where we found 11 pipistrelle and 5 brown long eared bats. Bat boxes help to provide resting places for bats all year round and can be used as maternity sites in the summer. They also provide us with a way of collecting bat records and are one of the best ways of getting up close and personal with them. People who have not seen bats up close before never cease to be amazed and I would highly recommend attending these checks if you are interested in bats and don't mind climbing ladders. Please contact Dave Smith for details.



Pipistrelle bats in a box at Ast Wood

# HEREFORD DORMOUSE NEWS

## Dormouse tube surveys

A big thank you to all the HAM members who have helped me throughout the summer with my dormouse tube project, there are too many to mention here but you know who you are! It has involved a lot of hard work but has been well worth it. Dormice have been found in all the sites we have surveyed, both in the low tubes and the high tubes. Results to follow! Dave



## OTHER MAMMAL NEWS - (BBC News Wales Report)

### Pine marten carcass in Powys first in Wales since 1971



Pine martens are thought to exist in parts of Wales, including Snowdonia and areas near Aberystwyth

A dead pine marten has been found in Newtown, Powys, the first carcass reported in Wales since 1971.

Experts say it provides important evidence that the rare protected mammal still exists in Wales.

The Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT) has investigated hundreds of reports of sighting of the animal - part of the weasel family - in the last 20 years.

"The significance of this find cannot be overstated," said chief executive Natalie Buttriss.

"It adds to the body of evidence supporting the long-held view of mammal experts that this attractive tree-dwelling animal does exist in Wales, but in such low numbers that very few people ever see one."

The carcass was found on the roadside close to the village of Aberhafesp near Newtown by a local resident. DNA analysis carried out at the Waterford Institute of Technology in the Republic of Ireland has provided unequivocal evidence that the animal was a young male pine marten native to the British Isles. Pine martens are about the size of a domestic cat, and in the past 20 years, the Vincent Wildlife Trust has received more than 300 credible reports of sightings of pine martens in Wales and has built up a map of "hotspot" areas.

Until the carcass discovery, the most recent unequivocal evidence was a dropping found in Cwm Rheidol forest in 2007 which was positively DNA tested. The trust has been gathering and evaluating reported sightings of pine martens from England and Wales since the mid 1990s. It says data analysis suggests that pine martens are still present in broadly the same parts as in earlier decades - including in Wales, the Cambrian Mountains, Snowdonia and Carmarthenshire.

The trust has said pine marten numbers had grown in Scotland in recent years, but they had not recovered in Wales and England. It has, in recent years, organised numerous hunts for pine marten droppings - using teams of volunteers, deployed remote cameras and set up baited hair tubes. Despite this, no unequivocal evidence had been found in the last five years.

A new VWT pine marten project officer, based in mid Wales, will start work later this month.

The two-year project aims to determine the status of the pine marten in Wales and help develop long-term conservation plans to ensure a safe future for the rare mammal.

## EVENTS

### Bat Box checks

Sunday 16th Dec - Ast wood

Sunday 20th Jan - Lea & Pagets

Sunday 17th Feb - Doward

Sunday 17th Mar - TBC

Sunday 21st April - Ast wood

Contact Dave Smith if you want to attend and for more details.

Tel: - 01432 266937 Mob: 07905849842 Email: [davetreesmith@aol.com](mailto:davetreesmith@aol.com)

## MAMMAL RECORDING

If you're a member of both the Herefordshire Nature Trust **and** HAM you will have seen articles written by me in the Nature Trust's Wildside magazine, mainly introducing myself as the current County Mammal Recorder, but also drawing attention to gaps in some of the mammal distribution maps in our county. I've started with the Brown Hare and the Red Fox as these are easily recognised, and have moved on to Hedgehogs and then Stoats and Weasels: the latter being tricky if you only catch a quick glimpse of them - which is more than likely to be the case. In the event that you aren't HNT members it seems a good idea to draw your attention to my efforts, and we will show you the initial distribution maps for the Brown Hare and the Red Fox at the AGM alongside another distribution map showing an increase in the records of these two species.

HAM and the Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) both have electronic forms that can be provided to anyone who would prefer this form of recording, so please let me know if you would like either of these sent to you. As a last resort I still get paper forms which are just as welcome. Also if you need help with the 6 figure grid reference that we require I can talk you through this, or the Records Centre have a very helpful leaflet to guide you along your way. Please keep a look out for any signs of mammals, dead or alive, and if possible take a photograph if you're not sure of, say, a road kill (making equally sure you don't cause any accidents whilst doing this). Even species like mole and rabbit are very under-recorded and are just as welcome.

My details are at the end of the newsletter and HBRCs details are:-

Email: [hbrc@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hbrc@herefordshire.gov.uk)

Address: P.O. Box 230, Hereford HR1 2ZB

Tel: 01432 261538

Many thanks  
Felicity Burge

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Check out our new website!! It is still in the early stages, but we hope to add to it and improve it over time. Any suggestions or ideas would be gratefully received!!

<http://sites.google.com/site/herefordshiremammals/>

## OTHER

Since Hilary Smith and Fiona McGloughlin have stepped down off the committee, we have openings on the committee for more members. Also Helen Franks would like to step down as Treasurer as of next year, so if anyone is interested in stepping up for any committee positions, then please contact Jessica Lamerton on 01432 341837 or [jessicalamerton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jessicalamerton@yahoo.co.uk).

# HAM CONTACTS

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