

Out this month — August

Mammals to look for in and around Dumfries · 29 species

☐		American Mink <i>Neogale vison</i>	Escaped from fur farms, and the single biggest reason the water vole has all but gone.
☐		Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	The striped face is famous; the sett beneath it may be centuries old and dug by generations.
☐		Bank Vole <i>Myodes glareolus</i>	Blunt-nosed and chestnut-red — the vole most likely to appear under a Dumfries bird feeder.
☐		Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Long black-tipped ears, golden eyes and a flat-out sprint that no rabbit could manage.
☐		Brown Long-eared Bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Ears nearly as long as its body — and it hunts so quietly it is known as the whispering bat.
☐		Brown Rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Introduced, adaptable and genuinely clever — and never as far from you as you think.
☐		Common Shrew <i>Sorex araneus</i>	Must eat every few hours or die — a life lived at a pace nothing else here can match.
☐		Daubenton's bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	A low, fast flier that skims insects straight off the water's surface.
☐		Field Vole <i>Microtus agrestis</i>	The animal that feeds half the region's predators — kestrels, owls, foxes and stoats all run on voles.
☐		Grey Squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Introduced from North America, and the main reason the red squirrel is in retreat.
☐		Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	A gap the size of a CD cut in a garden fence is the single most useful thing you can do for one.
☐		House Mouse <i>Mus musculus</i>	Greyer, smaller-eyed and mustier than a wood mouse — and it came here with the first farmers.
☐		Mole <i>Talpa europaea</i>	You will see the molehills long before you see the mole — most people never see one at all.
☐		Natterer's Bat <i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Gleans insects straight off leaves and bark, and can take a spider out of its own web.
☐		Noctule bat <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	The UK's biggest bat, cutting fast and high overhead on summer evenings.
☐		Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	A sleek, whiskered hunter that slips along the Nith and Solway shore mostly unseen.

☐		Pipistrelle bat <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	The UK's commonest and smallest bat, flickering over gardens and hedgerows at dusk.
☐		Pygmy Shrew <i>Sorex minutus</i>	Britain's smallest mammal — an adult weighs less than a two-pence coin.
☐		Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Brought here by the Normans as livestock, escaped, and reshaped the British countryside.
☐		Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	The scream on a January night is not distress — it is a vixen advertising for a mate.
☐		Red Squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Dumfries and Galloway is one of the last strongholds in Britain — and holding the line takes active work.
☐		Roe Deer <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	The deer you are most likely to meet around Dumfries — small, neat, and gone in three bounds.
☐		Soprano Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Identical to the common pipistrelle by eye — it took a bat detector to prove it was a separate species.
☐		Stoat <i>Mustela erminea</i>	The black tail-tip is the whole identification — a weasel has no such thing.
☐		Water Shrew <i>Neomys fodiens</i>	Britain's only venomous mammal, and it swims with a silver skin of trapped air.
☐		Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	'Ratty' from The Wind in the Willows — and Britain's fastest-declining wild mammal.
☐		Weasel <i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Britain's smallest carnivore — small enough to hunt a vole down its own tunnel.
☐		Whiskered Bat <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	So similar to Brandt's bat that for two centuries nobody realised they were two species.
☐		Wood Mouse <i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	Huge black eyes, enormous ears and a habit of getting into the shed every autumn.

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