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Inside this issue of mammals uk



Welcome

Inevitably summer is the time when we get most opportunities to be outside. So many people are now helping us with our various surveys that we have put together an overview in this edition to celebrate our volunteers. Conservation is a wonderfully inclusive area of endeavour – anyone can get involved and make a real contribution by simply recording what they see, through one of the many surveillance schemes.

Our *Mammals on Roads* survey has just started again so if you are driving and able to tell us about the mammals you see, please do. For further details please contact David on 020 7498 4533 or david@ptes.org.

It is wonderful to be able to report that at last beavers have been reintroduced in Scotland with help from PTES and our supporters. I was lucky enough to be there and it was a very special event. Now we watch to see how they get on in their new home.

There are still places left on some of our wildlife watching events. Why not introduce a friend to us by booking together on one of them? Please contact Zoe on 020 7498 4533 or zoe@ptes.org.

With best wishes

Jill Nelson
Chief Executive



People's Trust for Endangered Species. Registered Charity No. 274206

2 WATCH THIS SPACE Summer evenings down by the river are great wildlife spotting opportunities – just don't forget the insect repellent!

4 LIFE & TIMES With this edition of *Mammals UK* celebrating the many surveys run by PTES, David Wembridge takes a timely look at the importance of naming and cataloguing species.

5 WHAT'S ON Looking ahead to autumn, there are some great PTES events coming up. Book your place soon, as many dates sell out early!

6 NEWS IN BRIEF A whistle-stop round-up of recent news in mammal research and conservation.



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8 2009 INTERNS HARD AT WORK ALREADY We present five reasons to be cheerful about the future of conservation – the young researchers to whom we have awarded internships. Meet them as they get started on important projects helping threatened mammals.

9 BADGER EXCLUSION: MIGHT IT WORK? 2008 intern Andrea Barden is back to tell us about her project investigating means to keep badgers and cattle a safe distance apart.

10 WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS Jill Nelson and David Wembridge explain why volunteer surveys are so important to our cause, and invite you to join in the great work!

14 HANDS ON Water is of crucial importance to wild mammals at any time of year, but can be hard to find in midsummer. You can help matters greatly by providing a safe, reliable watering hole in your garden.



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16 WEBSTER'S CORNER Webster meets some prehistoric mega mammals and introduces his exciting new scheme harnessing your power to save the planet... discover the Eco-hero in you, today!

18 BEAVERS ARE HOME AGAIN IN SCOTLAND Those of you who have been following our long-running campaign to have beavers restored to the wild in Scotland might have been forgiven for thinking it would never actually come about. But it has, and Jill Nelson and Nida Al Fulaij were there to see it happen.

19 BOOKSHELF Landmark publications are few and far between, but the *Handbook of the Mammals of the World* is aiming to be just that. Find out what we thought of this and another mammal guide with an altogether more local flavour.

20 A MOMENT IN TIME It's easy to see why this issue's stunning back page picture by Stephen Oachs won a prestigious international photography contest run by National Geographic magazine last year. If you love it as much as we do you'll be interested to discover how you can buy the print for yourself.

WE WELCOME LETTERS AND PICTURES FROM READERS
If there's something you'd like to see featured in a future issue of *Mammals UK*, we will be only too happy to consider your ideas.

Watchthisspace... Lazy days by the river

Lowland rivers offer a great deal to wildlife and wildlife-watcher alike. The banks are home to water voles, water shrews, otters and mink, which, welcome or not, make an exciting sighting. The water is a magnet to a wide range of other mammals – deer come to drink, foxes and badgers enjoy the worming opportunities to be had in lush meadows alongside.

Several species of bat will be drawn in by swarms of tiny insects that gather above the water, and crevices in the sunwarmed stonework of old bridges make excellent roosts.

PICTURED: RIVER DERWENT, NORTH YORKSHIRE



Amy-Jane Beer

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