



Watchthispace... Stubble field

The end of summer might not always feel like something to be celebrated in the wildlife calendar, but the fall of leaves, the dieback of undergrowth and the harvesting of crops deprive many animals of cover and improve our chances of spotting them. Add to this the fact that populations are high following the summer breeding season, and there's every reason to get out on a mammal watching excursion at this time of year. Visit recently harvested arable farmland to spot brown hares crouching amongst the stubble. Their tawny fur blends beautifully with the dun landscape, but once on the move, they are easy to see.

PICTURED: Brown hare, Derbyshire



Amy-Jane Beer

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THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF PEOPLE'S TRUST FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES.

ANDREW PARKINSON

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5 WHAT'S ON Check out a selection of this season's PTES *Wildlife Encounters* – exclusive events that get you closer to some of our most exciting wildlife, in the company of experts.

6 NEWS IN BRIEF It's been a busy few months in the world of mammal research and conservation. As always, we've compiled a quick round-up of some of the latest news.

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9 SAVERNAKE BAT BOX SUCCESS Supporters of PTES who attended last summer's bat box checking event in Savernake Forest were there to witness the exciting discovery of a new species for the project: the rare Natterer's bat is the latest to benefit from this amazingly successful bat box scheme.

10 COMING OF AGE: 21 YEARS OF DORMOUSE CONSERVATION The National Dormouse Monitoring Programme is 21 years old. We celebrate with an extended feature on dormice and the many ways we are helping to stabilise their decline, here and overseas.



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20 WATCHING MAMMALS Join wildlife photographer Oliver Smart for a visit to Donna Nook seal colony and share his tips on how to get up close and personal with these beguiling creatures.



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.



Welcome

As part of our celebration of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme reaching its 21st birthday, we have launched the *Golden Great Nut Hunt*. We need thousands of people to take part by looking for dormouse-chewed hazel nuts on the ground under hazel trees in woodlands and hedgerows.

To add an incentive we have hidden one golden and 20 silver hazel nuts across the dormouse range. To claim one of these you have to look out for the special flag (see page 11). All the details are in a survey pack which you can get at www.greatnuthunt.co.uk or by phoning Susan on 020 7498 4533. In 1993 for the first *Great Nut Hunt* we received over 13 000 nuts for checking by our 'Chief Nutter'. Please help us to beat that record!

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our *Living with mammals* and *Mammals on roads* surveys this year. We are busy looking at all the returns and preparing the analysis.

With best wishes

Jill Nelson
Chief Executive



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