

Issue 41  
March 2012



SCOTTISH  
BIODIVERSITY  
FORUM

SCOTTISH BIODIVERSITY FORUM

**THE FORUM**

## Scotland's Biodiversity: Updating the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy – an update!

Climate regulator.  
Larder.  
Tourist attraction.



More than just the sea.



  
**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
**Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba**  
All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

### NEWSFLASH:

The new Biodiversity Scotland Website is now live:

<http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/>



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## Contact details

Do you have a news story? Are you involved in a project? If so, then let the Biodiversity Implementation Team (BIT) know! Ask for our article guidelines to help you make the most of your article.

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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Scottish Biodiversity Forum. The editors reserve the right to edit or exclude articles; the editors' decisions are final. For further information about the Biodiversity Implementation Team, log on to: [www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk](http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk)



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# Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Review Update

Many of you will be aware that the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is being updated to take it forward towards new International and European 2020 biodiversity targets.

Quite a lot has happened in biodiversity circles since the original strategy was published in 2004. In particular the CBD strategic plan and EU biodiversity strategy have set ambitious new international targets for biodiversity and ecosystems. There has also been a much greater understanding and acceptance of the benefits which healthy biodiversity brings the UK, notably through the publication of the National Ecosystem Assessment in 2011.

An early draft of the supplement to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 'The 2020 challenge for Scotland's biodiversity' was discussed at a workshop at Battleby on 15<sup>th</sup> February. About 100 people attended and we received many comments both at the workshop and subsequently in writing. We are extremely grateful to all those who commented. Two main threads emerged: the document needs to have a clearer focus upon its target audience; and it needs to be shorter, a lot shorter!

The document is aimed towards a target audience of policy and decision makers, emphasising a clear link between biodiversity and wider benefit. The document is now half the length it was our creative writer Michael Scott is now hard at work putting the finishing touches to the text.

Don't worry if you have not had a chance to have your say - there will be a further opportunity to comment when the draft strategy goes out for formal consultation this summer.

Debbie Bassett  
Biodiversity Team Leader



## NGOs launch statements on planting for pollinators and on invasive non-native plants

### Right Flower – Right Place

In preparation for the 2012 planting season Plant Link UK and Invertebrate Link have joined forces to highlight the important connection between flowering plants and pollinating insects.

The joint Statement titled “Creating habitat for pollinators in Britain & Ireland” contains guidelines on planting at sites where natural regeneration is unlikely to be successful.



Honeysuckle

Davie Black of Plantlife Scotland said “The purpose of the statement is to encourage best practice right from the start of a planting project. There are times when planting non-natives can benefit biodiversity e.g. gardens or parks. However wherever possible we recommend the planting of native species which have been sourced locally.”

### Wrong Flower – Wrong Place

Plant Link UK has also issued a separate statement on “Invasive Non-native Vascular Plants in Great Britain. The aim of the second statement is to identify where there is consensus regarding invasive non-native plants. For example prudent risk assessment and early intervention following establishment can prevent biological and economical problems at a later stage.



*The joint statement on planting for pollinators can be downloaded at either the Plantlife or Buglife websites. The statement on invasive non-native species can be downloaded from the Plantlife website.*

<http://www.plantlife.org.uk/about-us/partnerspolicy/>

Giant Hogweed

## NTS—Horn home to rare fungi

Shepherds watching their flocks by night might be concerned if one of their charges loses a horn, but for National Trust for Scotland experts that could lead to the discovery of rare fungi.

That's exactly what happened in December last year at the Trust's Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve near Killin. Ms Ali Murfitt who is a fungi apprentice with the Trust and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers found a very rare form of fungus on a decomposing sheep horn a few weeks back. The tiny white mushrooms, known as horn stalkball (*Onygena equina*), are only a few millimetres in height and are rarely recorded.

Ali said:

“The horn was so decomposed we weren't sure what this tiny fungus was growing on, it was only the terrible smell that gave it away. It took some dedication to take the horn back to the laboratory and find out what species of fungi it was. I've never seen it before, so curiosity won out.

“Horn stalkball grows on the keratin present in horns and hooves and is classed as “near threatened” on the second edition of Red Data list for conservation of fungi. It's one of a number of very specialist species that grow only in very particular places - there are other very rare species in this remarkable group which grow on feathers and bone.”



## LBAP Round up—Highland-Work on Dragonfly Atlas

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Work on the UK Dragonfly Atlas is entering its final field season, lots of new records have been collected and the knowledge of the distribution of the species in Scotland (and the UK) has never been so good. However in Scotland the story isn't quite the same as the rest of the UK. There are still quite a few squares, marked red on the map that have no records since 2000 or have never been surveyed. Some of these are tiny bits of land at the coast whose 10km square is made up mainly of sea and can be discounted; and some are in remote areas such as the hinterlands of Rannoch, the Cairngorms and the north and northwest Highlands that are hard to get to. However there are quite a few in Ayrshire, the Borders and Angus that are relatively easy to get to and I would encourage you to get out and have a look if one of these under-recorded squares is near you.

Strangely enough Harris on the Western Isles seems to have had no surveying done on it at all but I have been in contact with the recorders group there and I am sure that situation is about to change. There is also a lot of red in Shetland but there is only one breeding species there, the Large Red Damselfly, it is not certain if it is a regular breeding species but hopefully the surveying done there will be able to tell us.



I have asked the biodiversity officers in the under-recorded area and also any recorder's groups that are there, to pass this information on to the local recording community. The British Dragonfly Society is hopeful that we will be able to colour the map mainly yellow or green by the end of this field season.

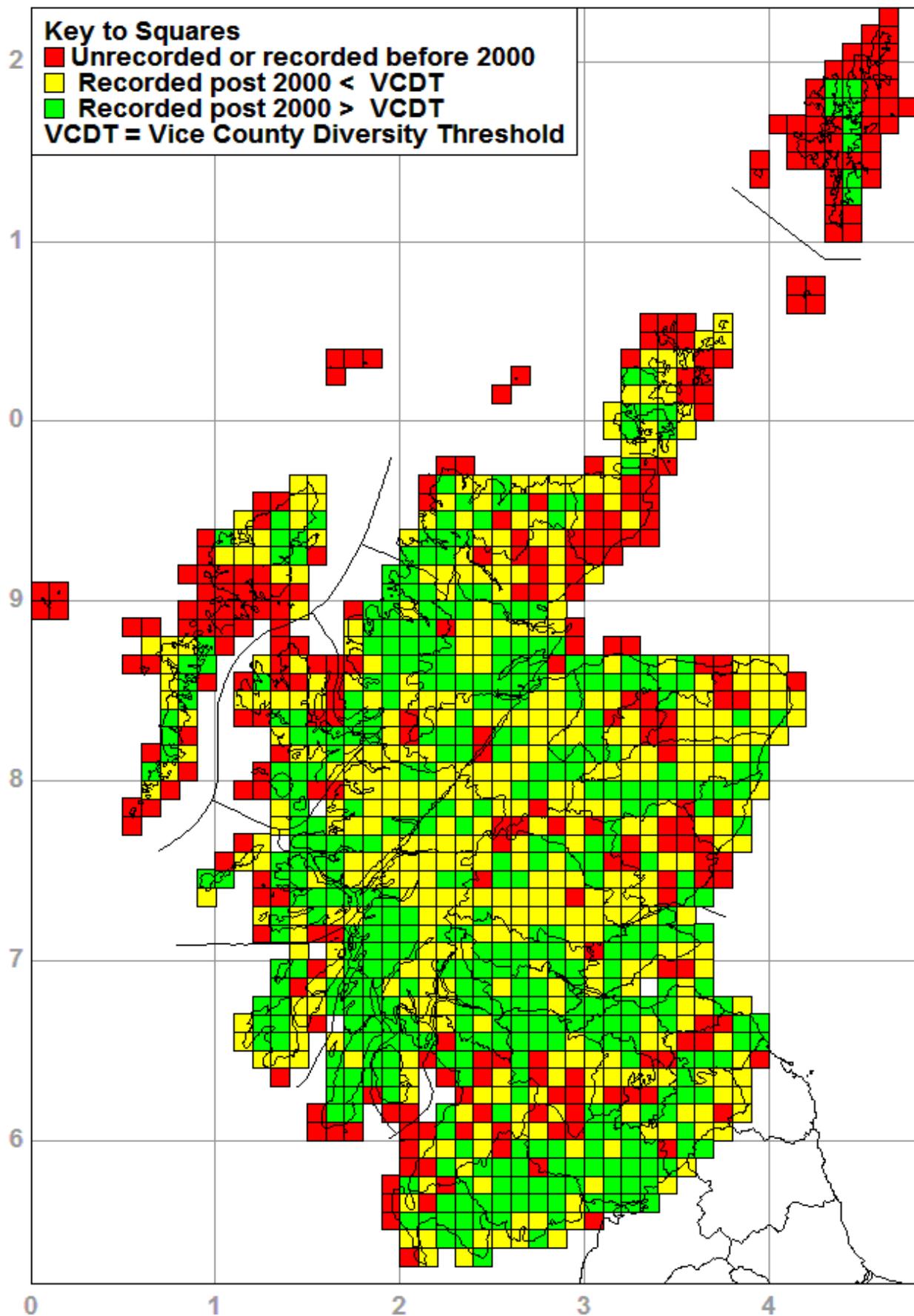
*Northern Emerald dragonfly © Laurie Campbell*

I should explain that the yellow and green squares represent the number of species recorded in that square in comparison with what is expected to be found there. The magic number is known as the Vice-County Diversity Threshold, this is a proportion of all the species that have been recorded in that Vice-County to give an indication of how well recorded a square is. Yellow is under-recorded in terms of species and green represents sufficient recording. Looking at the map, with this in mind, gives an indication of under-recording due to inaccessibility etc. or it could also indicate that a lack of habitat in that square is leading to a low number of species being recorded there.

If you would like more information on the under-recorded 10km squares near you then please do get in touch with me, Jonathan Willett at [chair@brisc.org.uk](mailto:chair@brisc.org.uk)  
To see more maps go to the atlas pages of the British Dragonfly Society

<http://britishdragonflies.org.uk/content/national-dragonfly-atlas>

# ...Dragonfly Atlas of the UK: Last year of Field Work



## Scottish river transformed to help wildlife

### Logie Burn off the straight and narrow

Logie Burn, once a straightened watercourse through farmland, has been transformed back to its old, meandering ways to help wildlife thrive.

The Logie Burn in Scottish Natural Heritage's **Muir of Dinnet NNR** had been straightened to improve drainage at some time in the past. Straight burns tend to move sediment farther and faster, supporting fewer wild plants and animals.



### Meander

The Dee Catchment Partnership carried out the work using well-tested techniques for restoring rivers. The new 'design' allows for plants to trap more sediment in the burn. This means that any flooding will be in a part of the reserve where it will benefit wildlife and reduce sediment getting into the lochs, without affecting nearby farmland.

Reserve manager Catriona Reid said: "Since last autumn when the works were completed, the burn has started to look a lot more natural. Dead trees, snapped off by the wind, have fallen into the burn and will provide hiding places for young fish, while nearby 'scrapes' have filled with water and will provide feeding areas for wading birds and breeding areas for dragonflies. The habitat here should continue to improve and benefit wildlife in years to come."

### Flood prevention

Drainage has been part of land use in Scotland for centuries. However, the benefits that it brought for forestry and farming down the years were rarely good for wildlife. Quick drainage may also increase the risk of flooding downstream, and the sediment may damage the gravel beds where fish such as salmon need to breed, as well as affecting the water quality of lochs into which the burns run.



This Dee Catchment Partnership project was supported by SNH, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Dinnet & Kinord Estate, River Restoration Centre, James Hutton Institute and River Dee Trust.

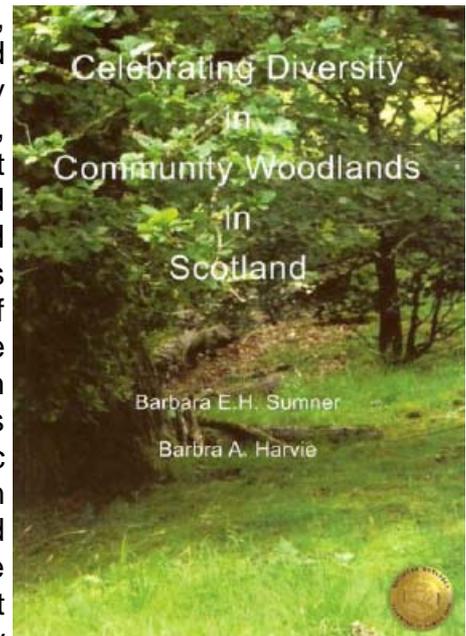
# Celebrating Diversity in Community Woodlands in Scotland

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A field project on community woodlands in Scotland, organised by the Botanical Society of Scotland (BSS), and carried out in collaboration with members of the Community Woodlands Association (CWA), has culminated in a 60-page, illustrated report, published by the BSS in 2011. This report is intended for a popular readership, including woodland groups and anyone interested in plants and the woodland habitat. The report begins with introductory sections describing the background to the 5-year project, the aims of the study and the survey methods used. These sections are followed by an overview of the woodland sample. Then each of the 15 community woodlands studied during the project is briefly described in terms of structure and floristic composition, and illustrated with a photograph. The location of each woodland is shown by means of a sketch map and an OS grid reference. Some of the plants found are illustrated with line drawings. The woodland management groups were given a chance to contribute to the report by providing an update on their woodland if they wished. The updates reveal their enthusiasm, their plans for the future and their resilience in the face of adversity. The final sections of the report summarise the findings and make suggestions for the future. Books and websites which may be of interest are listed. Species records, including a few records of bryophytes, lichens and fungi are summarised in an Appendix.

For further information:

[http://www.botanical-society-scotland.org.uk/content/Celebrating\\_Diversity\\_in\\_Community\\_Woodlands\\_in\\_Scotland](http://www.botanical-society-scotland.org.uk/content/Celebrating_Diversity_in_Community_Woodlands_in_Scotland)



## **GWCT—East Lothian Farm is tops for grey partridges**

THE 2011 Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust Dodseed Grey Partridge Trophy has been awarded to JH Younger and Co in recognition of their activities on Baro Farm near Gifford in support of wild grey partridge conservation.

The magnificent life-sized bronze grey partridge was presented just before the New Year by Joe Harper the Managing Director of Dods of Haddington to Jamie Younger. Jamie's home at Baro was selected as the worthy winner by Hugo Straker, Senior Advisor for the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT).

The trophy underpins ongoing farmland conservation work being carried out by East Lothian farmers as part of the East Lothian Grey Partridge Recovery Project. The project represents the firm partnership between East Lothian Council and GWCT which has raised local awareness to the plight of this iconic farmland species. The project started back in 2002, bringing together farmers, landowners, land managers, conservation bodies and other grey partridge enthusiasts from within the county.

Our indigenous partridge deserves this recognition as it has declined in number by 90% since the end of the 1960s; it is now on the RSPB red-list and a Biodiversity Action Plan species and furthermore GWCT research has shown that what is good for the grey partridge is also beneficial for a wide range of other farmland wildlife.

Commenting on the award, Hugo Straker said:

“The support given by Dods of Haddington has been brilliant as they have not only sponsored the trophy but have provided participating farmers with bags of appropriate seed mixes to be strategically sown on their land in places where partridges are known to favour. Baro Farm further impressed the judging process through their provision of supplementary food through the winter to ensure valuable grain supplies for birds when natural sources are scarce. Very often feeders are placed adjacent to Baro's network of grass margins which last year were retained even without the support of Scottish Rural Development funding – a true testament to the farm's commitment to farmland conservation”.



*From left to right-  
Managing Director  
of Dods of  
Haddington Joe  
Harper; Jamie  
Younger of JH  
Younger and Co  
and Hugo Straker,  
GWCT*

# Launch of - The Integrated Habitats Design Competition: emphasising nature in the built environment

This competition seeks to inspire urban designers to put nature at the heart of their work. The Integrated Habitats Design Competition champions working with nature and natural systems, ensuring biodiversity and biodiverse green infrastructure are integral to the design, construction and management of the built environment. The IHDC is open to all, and welcomes interdisciplinary approaches that show how to combine ecological, spatial and social understanding.



## The Brief

Even where ecology and biodiversity have been identified as considerations in the design process, there is often a tendency to relegate them to a subordinate role. Yet the natural world offers goods and services that will solve the problems we have of biodiversity loss, climate change and the long-term sustainability of the planet. The design of the built environment has traditionally been the preserve of professionals that have all too often ignored the essential life-giving support of soil, plants and animals. This competition seeks to inspire designers who wish to put nature at the heart of their work.

## Climate Change Adaptation

It is highly likely that within our lifetimes we will be living in an environment that is 2 degrees centigrade warmer. Sustainable designs should take a long-term approach to 'futureproofing' that incorporates awareness of this.

## Innovative Approaches

Entrants are encouraged to interpret "innovation" in a broad sense. We are looking beyond the product-based or bolt-on approach towards sustainability, climate change and biodiversity. Instead an approach that demonstrates a sensibility to natural processes is encouraged.

IHDC 2012 Awards include categories for completed projects and creative design ideas, as well as an overall IHDC Winner 2012. Awards will be made at a prestigious ceremony in Central London in October 2012, with an accompanying public exhibition and conference.

## Entry Period - 20th March - 30th June 2012

Submissions will be judged on the integration of biodiversity and biodiverse habitats into built environment developments, to provide ecosystem services and help us adapt to climate change.



There are two categories within the IHDC:

**Category 1** - Best Implemented Projects +3 Years - 1st Place winner £1000

**Category 2** - Best Creative Design Project - 1st Place winner £1000

For more information on this year's entry:

<http://www.ihdc.org.uk/Biodiversity>

## RSPB— Big Garden Bird Watch Results

Almost 600,000 people from across the UK took part in what must be one of the world's most popular biodiversity surveys. Over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January, more than nine million birds were noted in UK gardens, comprising over 70 different species in 285,440 gardens! In Scotland alone over 12,700 Scottish school children from more than 390 schools took part in the schools version of the survey "Big Schools Birdwatch".



In Scotland the number one spot for the species with the largest number of birds per garden went (for the first time) to the humble house sparrow with an average of 5.5 birds per garden. The house sparrow also topped the list for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Number one on the Scottish Big Schools Birdwatch went to the blackbird.

The top ten species recorded in Scotland in 2012 are:

Rank (number of birds per garden)	Species	Average count per garden	Percentage of gardens from which the species was recorded
1	House Sparrow	5.6	70
2	Chaffinch	4.7	70
3	Starling	3.7	43
4	Blue tit	3.0	82
5	Blackbird	2.9	92
6	Great tit	1.7	59
7	Woodpigeon	1.5	54
8	Coal tit	1.4	55
9	Robin	1.4	89
10	Goldfinch	1.3	26



## RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

The results make interesting reading. For those of you over a certain age, the arrival of goldfinch might raise an eyebrow or two. When some of us “were a boy” goldfinches were a bit like gold, somewhat precious. Their numbers have steadily been moving up the ranks since the survey started more than thirty years ago, now at number 7 in the UK, one place higher than last year and having only reached the top ten in the UK in 2008.



The bird found in most Scottish gardens is perhaps less surprising—it was the blackbird. T h o u g h interestingly the woodpigeon was recorded in over half of Scottish gardens. Formerly considered a shy species of open farmland, they seem to have replaced the feral pigeon and collard dove as our most regular garden pigeon.



There is less good news regarding the starling which was recorded at an all time low in the UK. In 1979 when the survey first started the average number of starlings seen in UK gardens was 15. This year only an average of three starlings were recorded per garden. This decline has also been noted in Scotland where the survey recorded a 17% decline over the last decade. The drop in numbers has also been noted across much of northern Europe making the starling species of high conservation concern.

However the results were not all bad news for the starling. In the Shetland Islands, Orkney Islands and Western Isles it knocked the house sparrow off the top spot! Overall in the UK it was second, only beaten by the house sparrow.

For further information contact:  
[www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)



## DNA reveals a plant on Beinn Eighe, found nowhere else on the planet!.....

The stunning Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve in Wester Ross, has been confirmed as the only known location on the planet for the Northern prongwort, a large and colourful liverwort.



The reserve is Britain's oldest, having been created in 1951 and is owned and managed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

*Northern prongwort*

The discovery came to light when scientists at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh (RBGE) investigated the DNA of prongworts from around Europe as part of a larger study of Britain's rich liverwort flora. They also discovered a species completely new to science and which they have christened the 'Viking prongwort'. The Viking prongwort is known from only two remote sites in Shetland and along one fjord in western Norway.

Scotland's islands and west coast—with their cool, wet summers and mild, wet winters provide the best conditions in Europe for an astounding diversity of mosses and liverworts. The Northern prongwort is a member of a unique community of plants that thrive on cool, damp north facing mountain slopes. Populations of these species are highly fragmented, so scientists are stressing the need for sensitive management.

Dr David Genney, SNH's specialist on mosses and liverworts, confirmed: "These are exciting and significant discoveries. We have an amazing wealth of bryophytes—mosses and liverworts—in Scotland and some of them are found nowhere else in the world. Beinn Eighe in Wester Ross is the only location on Earth for *Herbertus borealis*—the plant's botanical name—where luckily it grows in profusion on the mountainside. Beinn Eighe has a special example of the 'Scottish Liverwort Heath' a miniature forest of liverworts which grows among the heather of the hills in the West Highlands.

The major risks to these special habitats are uncontrolled fires the likes of which swept through the West Highlands last spring. These could spell disaster for this important area of liverwort heath.

## ..... and new species on Shetland

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Dr Genney added: We are urging caution when people light fires. Ireland, for example, has already lost much of it's liverwort heath. Land managers can of course look at the Scottish Muirburn Code if they are in any doubt and we would be happy to provide further advice. Care should be taken with grazing too, because if we lose these plants they may take many generations to recolonise an area, if they manage it at all."

David Bell, a researcher with the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, said:" This population of Northern prongwort is of global importance as this is the only location it is known on Earth. Its closest relatives are in Asia and further research is needed to determine whether the Northern prongwort has it's origins in the Himalayas. We are fortunate that this population is so well protected on the reserve because the liverwort heath as a whole is extremely sensitive to burning. We now think that the species' conservation status should be reassessed due to it's rarity".

Dr David Long, Head of the cryptogamic plants and fungi section at the RBGE, said: " We are still finding out more about this remarkable community with molecular work revealing two new species in the past few years. Northern prongwort as far as we know is unique to Scotland and can justifiably be treated as an endemic.

In Shetland the newly revealed species now named the Viking prongwort is just as important in that its global population is even less than that of the Northern prongwort and no close relative of this species are known anywhere.

These exciting and important revelations show how new molecular techniques using DNA for species discovery, in which RBGE is one of the leading research centres can turn up dramatic and unexpected novelties in our own Scottish flora like these spectacular prongworts."

Eoghain Maclean, the Beinn Eighe Reserve Manager, stressed that careful management has played a vital role in preserving the Northern prongwort:

"We are committed to sensitive and sensible management practices across all our reserves and it is highly encouraging to see that this species is flourishing at Beinn Eighe. We are delighted that the reserve has such rare species on our plant list."



*Viking prongwort . Both Images courtesy of David Long*

## RSPB—Good news for Black Grouse Numbers

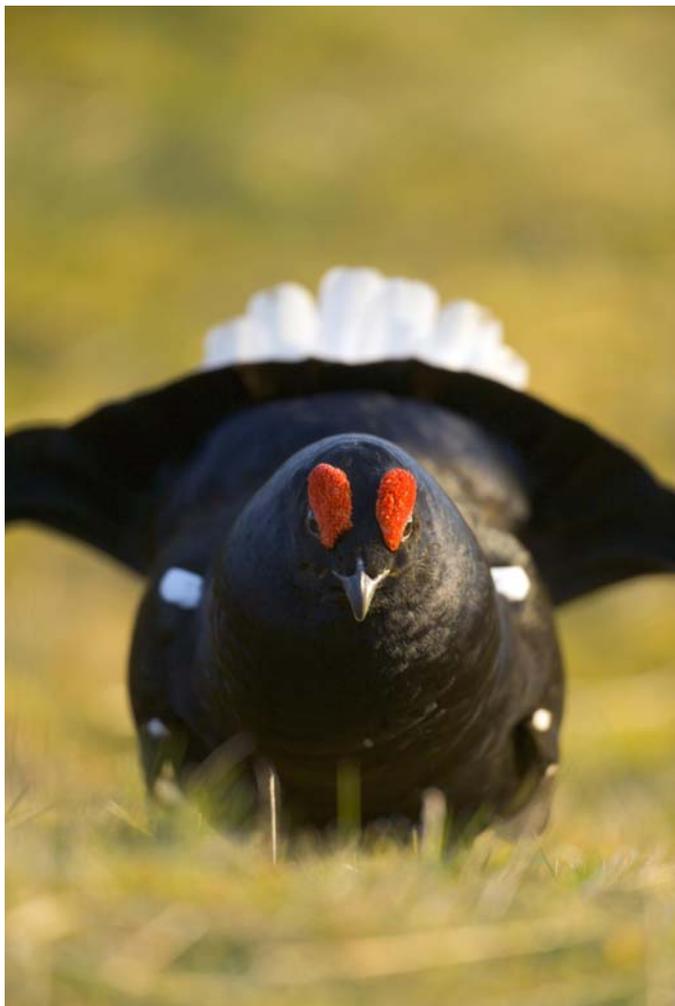
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The number of black grouse in Scotland has risen, according to new figures.

Surveys of traditional 'lek' sites across black grouse strongholds of Dumfries and Galloway, Deeside and Speyside, revealed a rise in numbers on the previous year - an encouraging sign for this scarce bird which is red listed as a species of high conservation concern. The results could imply that a combination of factors including major woodland initiatives and conservation efforts, boosted by a good breeding season in 2010, may be beginning to pay off.

The results have been compiled by RSPB Scotland, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and a number of dedicated localised study groups in Perthshire, Central Scotland, Deeside and Speyside.

Black grouse were once widespread across the UK but have suffered steady declines and range contractions over the past 40 years, with populations falling from an estimated 25,000 displaying males in 1970 to just over 5,000 in 2005 (when a national survey was last conducted).



Good weather in 2010 resulted in a very productive breeding season for black grouse across Scotland and even the severely threatened populations in the south bred well. In Dumfries and Galloway surveyors counted 194 lekking males at over 71 lek sites in 2011, a 31% increase on 2010. Monitoring coordinated by the Southern Uplands Partnership in the Scottish Borders revealed 390 lekking males.

In areas north of the central belt conservationists credit a boost in numbers counted in 2011 to a combination of the good weather and conservation organisations working with land managers on how to benefit black grouse. These measures aim to improve survival and breeding rates, through positive habitat management such as woodland regeneration and moorland management, alongside predator control supported by private investment and targeted Scottish agri-environment support.

Figures collated by the Speyside Black Grouse Study Group, including 19 private sporting estates and the Abernethy and Creag Meagaidh nature reserves, revealed the highest annual total of displaying black grouse since surveying began in 2001.

*Images courtesy of Andy Hay RSPB*

## Black grouse numbers on the rise in Scotland



*Images  
courtesy of  
Andy Hay  
RSPB*



Duncan Orr-Ewing, Head of Species and Land Management with RSPB Scotland, said: “The black grouse is one of Scotland’s most iconic species. Anyone who has witnessed their impressive courtship display will bear testament to a great wildlife experience. It is fantastic to see a rise in the number of lekking males but more work must be done to create increasing populations across all suitable areas of Scotland. Figures from Argyll have shown a relatively stable population over the past three years, demonstrating that rises are not uniform across their entire Scottish range. Black grouse continue to face tough challenges with the loss of heather moorland in some places as well as the loss of ground vegetation within maturing conifer forests.”

Adam Smith, Director Scotland for Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust noted the key role of land managers saying “This remarkable species needs a diverse array of habitat and low levels of predation and disturbance to thrive. Well focussed advice and the support of farmers, gamekeepers and foresters have surely helped the black grouse exploit a couple of years of good weather to the full in some of the more northern parts of Scotland, with many parts of the Cairngorms showing strong populations. Making sure the publicly funded advice and support land managers receive for critically threatened black grouse populations from our organisations is appropriate to the very different conditions in southern Scotland is a key challenge.”

Both RSPB and GWCT highlight that government support continues to be a vital means of encouraging positive black grouse management. They point out that any cuts to the overall spend on such conservation by Scottish Government is worrying when there is still such a clear need and demand for this kind of support. An innovative and successful partnership with The Famous Grouse, via sponsorship from their Black Grouse Whisky, has raised new funding from the private sector, but this – though a key primer for positive work at important sites - cannot begin to match Government support.

## Diamond Jubilee Woods.....

This year marks Queen Elizabeth's 60<sup>th</sup> year as monarch. Other than Queen Victoria she is the only British sovereign to achieve this milestone. It is a hugely historic event, and to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, the Woodland Trust is encouraging people across the UK to come together to plant six million native trees.



*Tree Planting*  
*Photograph courtesy of-Woodland Trust*  
*Picture Library/Niall Benvie*

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity and has created the **Jubilee Woods** project to mark this Royal occasion. It is an inclusive celebration for everyone, whether it is creating a new large native wood, a smaller one in the local community, or simply planting a single tree in the back garden. Anyone who wants to be involved can be, and by paying a very special tribute to the Queen, they will create something living and lasting to hand on to future generations.



*Planting a sapling*  
*Photograph courtesy of-Woodland Trust*  
*Picture Library/Niall Benvie*

The Trust is delighted to have the support of Buckingham Palace and honoured that HRH The Princess Royal has agreed to be the Jubilee Woods Patron. The project is creating hundreds of new native woods in some of Europe's least wooded countries and making a real and meaningful difference for many years to come.



A Diamond or Jubilee Wood could look like this in years to come  
*Photograph courtesy of-Woodland Trust Picture Library/Niall Benvie*

## .....60-60 Vision

Our vision is to create 60 **Diamond Woods** in 2012, each being new native woods of at least 60 acres in size. All Diamond Woods will feature in a commemorative book that the Woodland Trust will present to the Queen at the end of the project and owners will be invited to an exclusive celebration to thank them in person for their invaluable contribution. At the time of writing, there are seventeen Diamond Woods in Scotland.

For those with less land but who still wish to celebrate by planting trees, the Trust is encouraging landowners of all types (e.g. individuals, local authorities, businesses and communities) to plant a **Jubilee Wood** on their land. A Jubilee Wood can be anything from an acre upwards and 21 landowners in Scotland have decided to mark the occasion in this way. A Jubilee Wood is both a lasting tribute to the Queen and a valuable asset and it opens up the opportunity to involve local people in the celebrations. The Woodland Trust will list all the Jubilee Woods in the special Jubilee Woods commemorative report to The Queen and UK Government and provide a special certificate of recognition.

If a Diamond or Jubilee Wood is a step too far free tree planting packs are available to communities and schools for autumn planting. Community Packs come in two sizes, either 105 or 420 trees. Each pack contains a Royal Sapling collected from one of the Royal Estates and the choice of themes includes wildlife, year round colour, wood fuel or wild harvest. School tree packs contain a Royal sapling and come along with curriculum linked resources. Communities and schools can sign up for a tree planting pack on the Woodland Trust website. Single trees can also be purchased from the website.

To enquire about Jubilee Woods visit :  
[www.moretreesmoregood.org.uk/jubilee](http://www.moretreesmoregood.org.uk/jubilee)

Andrew Fairbairn,  
Policy and Communications Manager,  
Woodland Trust Scotland,  
South Inch Business Centre,  
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Perth  
PH2 8BW  
Tel: 01738 635829



Community tree planting at Kingussie  
Photograph courtesy of-  
Woodland Trust Picture Library/S. Grant



# Diary Dates

**3rd-4th April 2012—SAC-SEPA Conference. Agriculture and the Environment IX. Valuing Ecosystems: Policy, Economic and Management Interactions.** Held at John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls Campus Edinburgh University. It will present scientific understanding of the complexities associated with the delivery of multiple ecosystem services and also provide a forum to discuss what still needs to be done to have an ecosystem approach recognised and supported by land managers, researchers and policy makers.  
<http://www.sac.ac.uk/research/projects/landeconomy/featured/sacsepaconf/>

**16th –18th May 2012-Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association:Scottish Sea Lochs & adjacent waters.** To be held at The Scottish Marine Institute, Oban The conference will cover all aspects of the sciences and management of these fascinating systems. For further information:  
<http://www.smi.ac.uk/sealochs>

**19th-20th May 2012— Scottish Bird Fair.** Held at Hopetoun House near Edinburgh. Activities and events for all ages covering a wide range of birding and wildlife topics including photography, introduction to bird ID, seabird cruises on the Firth of Forth as well as gardening for wildlife will all be on offer. Tickets cost £12/£10 and can be purchased at [www.scottishbirdfair.org.uk](http://www.scottishbirdfair.org.uk)

**19th –20th May 2012—Dingwall Bioblitz—.** 19th - 19:00 to 22:00, 20th - 09:00—17:00 During a Bioblitz event, experts and members of the public work together to survey a natural space; seeking, identifying and recording as many species as possible over 24 hours. For further information contact: Meryl Norris on 07282 140392 or email: [merylnorris@gmail.com](mailto:merylnorris@gmail.com)

## Biodiversity Week 2012; 19th—27th May 2012.

This year's theme is -

"Biodiversity is Life - Biodiversity is Our Life".

To find out more about Biodiversity Week 2012 check our website at :

<http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/area/biodiversity-week/>

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19–27 May