

# conserving wildlife

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE FOUNDATION FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

£1.50 • Autumn 2009 • 8th Edition  
[www.ffes.org.uk](http://www.ffes.org.uk)



INCLUDING CENTRE PAGE PHOTO  
WORTH £14.95

## Battle Cries

of the Monk Parakeet

TURNING THE TIDE

COASTAL CLEAR

CAMP SEAHORSES?

**FES**  


## Regular Features

---

- 3 Message from the Founder
  - 8-9 Unique centre page photo worth £14.95
  - 12 Correspondance Page
  - 13 Unique Wildlife Crossword from the 'Environmental Concern Adviser' for UNESCO Schools' Group UK. Pit your wits against him ... now!
- 

# conserving wildlife

Autumn 2009

## Features in this Issue



4

Battle Cries of the Monk Parakeet - in their defense by Andy Mydellton



8

Superb image taken by our wildlife photographer, Andy Mydellton



10

Time to turn the tide - Marilyn Graves talks about the problems with UK beaches



11

Keep the coast clear by Margie Chadwick



**Hi everyone,** welcome to the September issue of *Conserving Wildlife*. I hope you all enjoy the new format that we started in the June issue; we had some excellent feedback so have decided to continue with the overall format, but develop some of the content.

*Conserving Wildlife* has increased its readership to over 6,000 with the June edition, and is set to increase its circulation even further in the near future. We would like to say hello to many new readers throughout West London, in particular. Quality, not quantity will always count, and our efforts may well be a factor in our continuing success. The e-zine and the magazine contain much of the same material, and are both official publications.

We would like to welcome John Bishop on board with the Foundation for Endangered Species. He works at Colin Bibra, a major Estate Agent in Ealing, and is interested in helping the charity develop in all sorts of ways. It shows that some ethical businesses and businessmen really do care for the rest of society and will make the world a better place. I'm sure at least some species of animal may be saved as a result of this burgeoning relationship. John is an enthusiastic athlete, and now runs on behalf of the Foundation, raising money to prevent animals from the risk of extinction. There are more details about John's sponsored runs in the 'Wildlife Zone Newsletter' and on a number of websites. Let's give John all of the support he deserves.

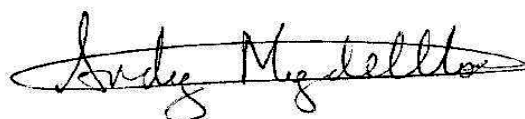
September was the month of the worldwide Beachsweep, and it is fitting that our theme is coastal care. It is also a most important facet of UK conservation and is constantly in the news. A small group of us went to Rottingdean Beach to do some more BBC work, where we were interviewed by the wildlife correspondent Yvette. This news item concerned the awful fact that our beaches have been getting dirtier over the last few

years, and that we are losing more Blue Flag status beaches all of the time. Indeed, coming hard after the ITV news bulletin featured in the last edition of *Conserving Wildlife*, it sadly reinforces the UK's need for constant coastal care programmes by such groups as the Foundation for Endangered Species and the Marine Conservation Society.

This year my summer holiday was ten days away at a Blue Flag beach in Snowdonia, in a Special Area of Conservation (the northern part of Cardigan Bay). I have known this beach for 45 years (my grandparents also knew the area for nearly as long) and it seems home from home. We compared the two different beaches of Rottingdean and Fairbourne for cleanliness: Fairbourne beach fared the better. Occasionally I remembered my childhood years when I enjoyed many hours of discovery, rock-pooling and collecting shells. I also spent a fair amount of time photographing matters of interest to conservationists and enjoyed 'chilling out' in the ice-cool wind. One really interesting thing I learned was why Fairbourne beach has had so many jellyfish washed up there; a spectacle that I first witnessed way back in the 1960s. I discovered that the massive Loggerhead turtles are feeding locally and eat the tentacles of the jellyfish, after which they drift ashore. Because of this, Fairbourne also promotes the 'Jellyfish Survey' which the Foundation supports throughout the country.

Finally the Foundation has established a new diving team who participated in the Beechsweep mentioned above. In future they also intend to survey and monitor the habitat and animals on the seabed. I am one of many people who intend to join them soon. More exciting news about this team will appear shortly. ☒

All the Best,



**Andy Myddelton**

**Andy Myddelton is Vice-Chairman and Environmental Concern Advisor, UNESCO School's Group UK**

# MONK PARAKEETS

BATTLE CRIES

BY ANDY MYDELLTON

*Andy Mydellton discusses the Monk Parakeet's interests as the bird is desperately fighting for survival in our countryside. It is the first time that this particular argument has been presented. In this contentious issue, the public are usually given an anthropocentric and biased view of an animal; this article tries to restore some of the balance to the whole Monk Parakeet debate.*

**IN REPLYING** to peoples' enquiries about the recent Wildlife Zone's article, published independently, about the Ring Necked Parakeet, it has emerged that many people are becoming increasingly concerned about the Monk Parakeet's future survival. This lesser known Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) is in a perilous situation and is staring at annihilation as it desperately tries to survive here in the UK.

The Monk Parakeet is not yet accepted as a new 'British' bird, unlike perhaps the feral Ring Necked Parakeet that

seems to have been accepted by many people. However, many birders and conservationists are not yet completely relaxed about the Ring Necked Parakeet's

situation either. The 'feral' status is achieved when an animal has been living in the wild for some years, and has successfully established a Minimum Viable Population, or MVP. There are about 100 to 150 Monk Parakeets living

in Borehamwood, northwest London, and have been doing so for 10 years.

The bird is one of the smaller parakeets and measures only 29 cm in length. The Monk Parakeet's colour is mostly green but has a bluish-grey forehead with a pinkish beak, and a pale-grey cheek and throat. It's large creamy white bib contrasts with its yellow belly. Another field marking that may be visible when it is airborne are some blue flight feathers.

The Monk Parakeet's origins are in steamy Brazil where I was lucky enough to see it a few years ago when I visited Iguazu Falls and the surrounding sub tropical rainforests, the Pantanal and the Amazon. During this busy and important working tour, I set up the partnership of the Foundation for Endangered Species and the Jaguar Conservation Fund. In this partnership, the Foundation would principally be the window on the western world for the Jaguar conservationists, and would help raise global awareness. On my

'time off' I went on bird-watching escapades and saw a number of Monk Parakeets in the distance.

Upon my return from Brazil, I organized a small trip for the Foundation for

Endangered Species' supporters to study some of the Monk Parakeet's behaviour here in the UK. We could do this quite easily as they live at Borehamwood, within a few miles of the Foundation's registered office. The particular site that I

had chosen for this study was very close to the 'Big Brother' studios, the home of 'reality' TV. It was situated in a public park where people went about their daily lives, completely unaware, of these



©iStockphoto.com/clarky100

fabulous

creatures that were first reported to have bred here in 1993.

In fact, on this particular occasion we were the only people studying the behaviour of these nesting birds. Fortunately we visited the site on a day that had a sunny blue sky with only a few

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are only 100-150 monk parakeets in the UK.

light clouds, high up in the atmosphere. The Parakeets were unmistakable as they continually visited the nest to feed their chicks, flying backwards and forwards throughout our study. Despite this, we could only just about distinguish the nest of twigs itself through the drooping branches of the willow tree that dominated the small island at the centre of the park's large pond. This was a rare spectacle as most Parakeet species live in tree holes; but nesting with twigs gives some of the Monk Parakeet's human enemies a sword to use as they want to exterminate the colony.

Monk Parakeets are usually meant to nest in colonies, so are said by some to be a nuisance. I neither saw nor heard of any evidence of this during our visit, on the contrary it was a single nesting pair.

Another query I have about the Monk Parakeets' supposed problems, is that the Ring Necked Parakeet is condemned for



NOT nesting with twigs – but for nesting in tree holes. So whatever the Parakeet and whatever the style of nests, someone will have a gripe and create something negative about these Parakeets. For others, there is clearly something wrong about these present day mind sets.

Despite other peoples'

#### DID YOU KNOW?

A strategy was launched in 2008 that could possibly lead to exterminating all feral species.

ambivalence on the day of our visit, I was completely enthralled at seeing a pair of Monk Parakeets doing what they are born to do: flying freely, feeding and rearing their young in the wild. Moreover

...ornithologists, 'twitchers', birders, conservationists and members of the public all have the rare chance to view and study these wonderful birds.

ornithologists, 'twitchers', birders, conservationists and members of the public all have the rare chance to view and study these wonderful birds. Many of these groups of people who cannot afford, or are not able to go to South America for whatever reasons, might be enchanted to experience this new and exotic addition to our countryside. Meanwhile, others can opt to ignore them, as do many locals.

#### INTRIGUING INSIGHTS

So will this small colony of Monk Parakeets survive? Well with a huge dollop of luck, it is possible. However,

...this existing colony could be a flame that shines brightly, but is snuffed out well before its time leaving different groups of society rueful over its ashes.

my gut feeling is that the species will need every bit of that luck as well as getting a decent break from human beings. Otherwise this existing colony could be a flame that shines brightly, but is snuffed out well before its time leaving different groups of society rueful over its ashes.

The Monk Parakeet's

population needs to be greater than 150 individuals before we are able to celebrate the creation of a true MVP. After all, this total means that there may be only about 30-40 breeding pairs. If so,

these nesting pairs must continually raise chicks to adulthood; and at a rate that is above the annual death-rate. Only when the breeding rate exceeds the mortality and morbidity rates will any feral species have a real chance of becoming a permanent British species.

If the Parakeets breeding success continues for a number of decades, then sooner or later their population numbers may balloon to become an accepted MVP. This has already happened with the Ring Necked Parakeet (originally from Nepal) and it may be possible to draw a parallel for the Monk Parakeet. It may be too early to predict any success at the moment, but its supporters are hopeful.

However some advisors to DEFRA, and possibly some members of DEFRA themselves hold an opposite opinion. They have drawn parallels with Monk Parakeet populations abroad and fear that this feral bird will become an invasive species. They may be making some positive points, but claims of 'crop damage', noise pollution and 'dangerous droppings' of the present colony seem exaggerated and beyond realistic

proportions. There seemed to be a bias, rather than real evidence, that could become an example of distorted decision making.

Neither the ‘feasibility study’ nor the ‘desk study’ have yet become the ‘eradication policy’ although some people soon want to see



developments along these lines. But there are problems with the quality of information presented to the public on the website, including some of the points raised online. For instance, nowhere on the ‘desk study’ did I see anything that defended the Monk Parakeet, or anything written in its favour. The overall impression is that the bird has no right to life and that every argument is seemingly cut and dried against the creature. This one sided onslaught leaves some conservationists thoroughly suspicious of the status quo’s public information and even the initial reports themselves.

Moreover, these prejudices may lie behind and inside future reports about Monk Parakeets and other feral animals. It has been suspected that other researchers, or people in charge of them, can use the cloak of precaution to disguise their prejudice against certain

animals and then use supposed ‘evidence’ for scaremongering and to install a sense of fear. To halt this process, intelligent and thinking conservationists must scrutinise the legitimate intellectual merits of any such reports. Then any pre-determined postures and prejudiced mind sets can be more easily uncovered.

So where does this initial prejudice and fear of Monk Parakeets come from?

The Foundation is fully aware that species’ isolation by the planet’s climate and geophysical boundaries creates our

bountiful biodiversity. Feral species can sometimes, but not always, cause invasions that result in wholesale changes when injected in originally well balanced ecosystems. Furthermore when these feral species become invasive species, it is one of the destructive processes that can eventually cause other native species to become endangered. This process has been described by the United Nations and the IUCN, and accepted by many non government organizations such as the Foundation for Endangered Species. So it may be the status quo’s fear

of this potential that really does create a desire to eradicate all feral species *per se*. When this happens in the ruling bodies, they will often adopt a strategy where they create and ‘feed’ the public ‘evidence’ to

gain their support. Perhaps it may be this that is doctoring the case against the Monk Parakeet?

The Foundation understands the need for caution when feral species such as the Monk Parakeet are to be permanently accepted into our countryside. This precaution is well derived from the Berne Convention, the Biodiversity Convention and the European Strategy. However many conservationists believe that any risk based precautionary approach report should still be balanced and contain its own null hypothesis and alternative viewpoints, rather than omitting or minimizing them. Moreover they believe that negative belief patterns should not be formulated and broadcast for public consumption. One example of constructing an unnecessary negative reputation is that the Monk Parakeet already has a ‘nuisance value’ as it eats fruit!

Furthermore, without a balanced argument in any reports, there is always someone gullible enough to believe the judgements given. Another example of this is that the Monk Parakeets’ living

habits have already been judged to be “a crime” and therefore they all ‘must be exterminated’. Others find these negative judgements debateable

as nearly every animal could also be given a similar ‘nuisance value’ just as easily. Compared to human waste or destruction, the amount of fruit we waste every day in the UK is far more than is eaten by

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Monk Parakeets originate from South America.

the Monk Parakeet. So how much fruit do the 150 Monk Parakeets actually eat every week? What percentage of that crop grows naturally, and costs us nothing? And how much of that percentage is 'cash crop' cultivated by farmers?

Quantifying all of this and presenting the evidence is admittedly difficult and time consuming. However, if we are really to become a proper conservationist minded nation, then extra time, effort and money should be spent to evaluate fully the role all animals play in our countryside.

Bearing this in mind, I believe that we must be vigilant when we are given supposed evidence that lacks specific quantification, especially if this is the basis of exterminating animals such as the Monk Parakeet. This is especially important when judgements are made on grounds of 'cost', or that the animal is given a heavily prejudiced label as being a 'pest'. If we do not question the lack of quantifiable evidence, some conservationists suspect that we shall be told that every animal eats something 'valuable'; every animal could carry a dangerous disease; every animal's droppings could be considered a threat to health and safety; and every animal will be given a 'cost' to the government/taxpayer/household or council.

Putting money as a priority can cause people and organizations

to cut corners. In evaluating situations, this monetary imperative can drive public information and policy into a position that is less than completely honest. This is what the Monk Parakeet is suffering from, as

**For a nation of supposed animal lovers, it is strange that when we are deciding the fate of wildlife, a lack of funding could lead to extermination plans and policies.**

we are not being given a true reflection of the real circumstances of the colonies. Presentations are sometimes doctored for fiscal convenience. Could this lead to 'Big Brother' evicting the Monk Parakeet from the Borehamwood house? Or could they be kept in the Big Brother Diary Room to be constantly monitored and controlled?

Many conservationists sincerely believe that we do not spend anywhere near enough on our wildlife.

A greater allocation of taxpayers money could still be spent on understanding, protecting and managing our urban animals. For

a nation of supposed animal lovers, it is strange that when we are deciding the fate of wildlife, a lack of funding could lead to extermination plans and policies.

Furthermore, once the nation has decided to live *inside* nature, as opposed to controlling and being outside *it*, as we presently do - and at a minimum cost to the government - then our mind sets

and values will change. Only then shall we be able to be more open about our relationships with all animals in our countryside and act more responsibly.

From this standpoint, some conservationists provisionally

welcomes the Monk Parakeet into the UK as it increases our biodiversity, even if it is a feral and non indigenous species. Many conservationists believe that it is not yet proven that this particular colony of birds will automatically become an invasive species or a genuine threat to our indigenous wildlife.

As with human beings, the Monk Parakeet could also be considered innocent until proven guilty. However, if the Monk Parakeet really does turn into an invasive species, then there are still plenty of other options. Several plans for controlling the population will be open to us rather than proceeding with the last possible resort of total extermination. Money, effort and anthropocentricity could distort our decision making, but living inside nature may be a much better existence for human beings as well as certain animals. In the meantime the monk parakeet is fighting for its right to life... ✨

N.B Website: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Monk Parakeets are escaped pets.

Marilyn Graves

# Time to turn the tide

*As we approach the close of another summer and our thoughts are turning away from beach holidays and days by the sea, Marilyn Graves reminds us all to spare a thought for the armies of volunteers who are engaged in cleaning up the messes left behind by the selfish and the thoughtless.*

**W**e all love a day out on the beach. The British Isles have over 16,000 km of coastline, which no doubt accounts for that very British passion for seaside holidays. The trouble is that, as more and more of us flock to our favourite beaches year after year, the amount of litter we leave behind us is rising proportionately.

Marine Conservation Society (MCS) reports show a staggering 110% increase in litter since annual records began in 1994.

Marine litter isn't just unsightly, it costs millions to clear up and it's dangerous too. It's hazardous to people and it kills wildlife. It is estimated that marine litter kills thousands of marine creatures including whales, seals, dolphins and turtles every year. 177 species of marine animals are known to swallow items of litter. Cigarette butts or plastics can damage the digestive tract and block the passage of food leading to starvation and death. Swallowing debris can also result in the absorption of toxic pollutants. This can affect marine ecosystems at every level - from the tiniest microscopic organisms to the very largest animals

Carried by wind and ocean currents, pollution can reach even the most remote and uninhabited sites. In February 2004, a rare Cuvier's beaked whale washed up on the Isle of Mull was rescued by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust. The entrance to the whale's stomach was completely blocked with a cylinder of tightly packed shredded black plastic bin liner bags and fishing twine.

## Top pollutants

Over half of all rubbish in our seas and on our beaches is made of plastic. Apart from staying around for a long time, plastic poses a real threat to marine wildlife. Over half of recorded sewage related debris is made up of these cotton bud sticks which are almost exclusively plastic.

The most common items found on UK beaches are cigarette butts. An estimated several trillion cigarette butts enter the environment every year. With smoking banned in public places indoors, more and more smokers are resorting to puffing away on our beaches; and more and more are simply dropping the butts into the sea or into the sand. Unfortunately, they aren't fully biodegradable and release harmful chemicals into the environment and into the marine creatures which mistake them for food.

Other major sources of litter are balloons. Whilst they are fun at parties, large numbers of released balloons find their way into the sea and onto our beaches. Sadly they can get tangled around wildlife, or are mistakenly eaten.

## What can we do?

Sadly, despite the valiant efforts of campaigners and stalwart cleaners, this tide of litter appears to be on the increase, as suggested by MCS surveys. The litter reported is probably just the "tip of the iceberg" - no-

one knows how much litter is really out there and what effects it is having. So what we can we do? In June of this year, the government vowed to boost efforts to clean up the coastline.

Sewerage has been improved after a European report criticised water quality at more than two dozen resorts. Now attention needs to be focused on our beaches.

The MSC says what is needed is a coordinated Government-led approach to develop a plan of action. At present there is no lead body in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland responsible for dealing with marine litter. It is essential that each UK country has a body which takes on the responsibility for dealing with the problem on its own coastline. Of course, since our seas don't have boundaries, it is vital that these agencies work closely together to develop a coordinated marine litter strategy.

The MSC is aiming for zero waste on Britain's beaches with a goal of halving it by 2015. Emma Snowden, MCS Litter Projects Coordinator is urging everyone to sign the petition calling for a Government Action Plan. You can do this at [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

## Beachwatch campaign

Beachwatch is an annual UK-wide beach litter survey and clean up campaign administered by MCS. As the flagship event of the MCS Adopt-a-Beach project, Beachwatch encourages local volunteers to remove all the litter from a measured area of their local beach, recording every item that they find. The data is gathered every September and then published by MCS in the Beachwatch Report. This information is used at national and international levels to raise awareness of the impacts of marine litter, to promote measures to reduce it at source and to campaign for preventative legislation.

FES has been particularly involved with the work of the Marine Conservation Society over the past year and has adopted Rottingdean Beach in MCS's national Adopt-A-Beach campaign. Andy Mydellton, chief executive of FES has given interviews with the BBC, ITV and other broadcasting units as the South Eastern regional representative of the MCS marine litter projects. In these interviews he presents Rottingdean Beach's fact and figures in particular, as well as the other beaches throughout the region collectively.

Last year volunteers removed over 385,000 litter items from the UK beaches. That was 2,195 items of litter per kilometre or over two items to every metre stretch of beach. This year, on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September, the armies will once again take to the beaches and results will be released early in 2010. Will we see any improvement on last year?

It was ITV in the last issue - NOW it's a BBC Interview at Rottingdean Beach...



© FES Publications

# CAMP SEAHORSES

(COASTAL AND MARINE PROJECT)

» As the Foundation has relaunched its Coastal and Marine Project or CAMP, there has been some really good news, and that is the two species of Seahorse that are found in UK coastal waters have become officially protected. The Foundation welcomes this development even though we believe that the Seahorses' protection has taken a long time to come to fruition. Even so, the Foundation has been raising awareness and advocating for this protection for 5 years; so we feel like celebrating this news!

The Foundation is looking at other species of Seahorses that are cruelly exploited elsewhere throughout the world. This broadening of focus includes Seahorse related species such as Pipefish and Sea Dragons. Lewis Dixon is researching a number of species that may be of importance and feature in our plans.



The Foundation has also formed its Marine Diving Team or MDT. This team is made up of a number of people who are all members of diving teams or are PADI qualified. They had their first dive during the September beechsweep at Rottingdean. Many more dives are planned. If any readers are interested in diving for conservation purposes that can be used by the Foundation, by all means contact us.

On the educational front, Mark Foster is advising the Foundation to get a package together to help some scout groups get their Environmental Badge. Andy Mydellton is in the process of writing this plan and putting it into action as his training as a teacher will be put to the test. Glenda Duarte, a postgraduate researcher has included parts of CAMP into her case study of marine pollution. We will be publishing these and other developments over the next few months.

## MARGIE CHADWICK : KEEP THE COAST CLEAR

The Dali Lama suggests visiting a new place every year. Many Britons are curbing their airmiles and seeking fresh air and inspiration on home turf. This summer, for the first time, I stayed at Portland bird observatory and field centre.

The old lighthouse at Portland Bill was a wonderful base to return to after venturing along Dorset's dramatic coastline. UNESCO has awarded 95 miles of the coastline world heritage status for its outstanding natural beauty. The area supports a wide variety of birds, turtles and porpoise and in 2012 will be the site for the Olympic sailing.

I never tired of gazing along Chesil beach's shingle banks which stretched for miles and were so windswept you could practically lean into it without falling over.

This is the coastline with film star credentials; Meryl Streep gazing out to sea at Cobbs Harbour in The French

Lieutenant's Woman; Hardy's 'Far from the Madding Crowd' and 'Tess of D'Urbervilles' all featuring this remote and rustic part of England with its coves, cliffs and mind boggling geology Speaking of Cliffs, Sir Richard has climbed the many, many steps at Lulworth which lead onto the beach near the Durdle Door while singing Saviours Day.

...Chesil beach's shingle banks... so windswept you could practically lean into it without falling over.

The Durdle Door was already etched in my brain from watching 80's video clips. Billy Ocean's alien 'Lover Boy' galloped



along Lulworth's famous coast before disappearing into a cave and Tears for Fears video, for the single 'Shout' also uses the famous arching limestone rock as its backdrop.

If you are after well preserved fossils of a dinosaur nature, head to Lyme Regis and the beaches of Charmouth. Uncover your own ammonite or extinct marine reptile preserved in rock.

Alternatively, if you are just into preserving the natural

beauty of the area for all to enjoy, minus the rubbish, become a volunteer for the Marine Conservation Society. Beachcleaning enables you to organise your own event with friends or family - or you can team up with others to clean up as much coast as possible.

Contact the Foundation for Endangered Species for further details.

# Letters

Send us your thoughts on any issue covered in *Conserving Wildlife* - and send your photos, too.



**SEND YOUR LETTERS TO**  
Shane Clark, *Conserving Wildlife*,  
"Millstream Fork"  
20 The Alders, Alder Road, Willow-  
bank, New Denham,  
Buckinghamshire, UB9 4AY  
EMAIL [shane.fes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shane.fes@hotmail.co.uk)

I was delighted to read that there is to be a massive wetland recovery programme over the next couple of years. Coming from the Fens, I feel a great concern for the future of what I feel almost my natural habitat. England used to be much wetter than it is now, and the drying out of the land is responsible for the decline in many types of birds, like the redshank, bittern and the snipe. There are a great many species of birds, plants and animals which depend on the wetlands for their survival and make them fascinating places for us to visit. This restoration can help with the problem of flooding, too by providing a natural water store.

I can remember as a child, a whole marshy area near where I grew up. At high tide the area would be flooded and one part would form into a small

island, inhabited by many different types of birds. My parents were always worried about my exploring this area and generally used to forbid me going there on my own when I was young but I used to sneak out without them knowing. It was easier for kids in those days. I knew the safe routes across the marshes when the tide was out and I loved my little island. I went back a few years ago, but it's all changed now. The marsh is dried out and there are even houses there. I wonder what's happened to all the birds?

I think my marshy island taught me a love and respect for our natural world and I was so sad to see it so different now. Perhaps this new programme can go some way to restoring what has been lost over the years.

**E. Mears, Essex**

When we moved into our new house, we were delighted to find out that we have a colony of bats in our area. We're not sure exactly where but we see them flying past frequently.

Neither my wife nor I know anything much about bats but we think our bats are pipistrelles. They are about 4 centimetres long in the body and the wing span about 20 centimetres. They are dark brown in colour. From what I've read, they are not endangered but then

I read somewhere else that numbers have decreased. I'd be interested if anyone could tell me anything about them. How common is the so-called 'Common Pipistrelle'?

Incidentally, I've read that bats can carry rabies. Is there any danger either to us or to our dog? Again, we're getting mixed information. We both love seeing them flying around in the early evening and would like to study them, but is there anything we should know?

**J. Warom, Thetford**

## READER LETTER OF THE MONTH

### Bees not very mobile

I've been reading a little recently about the plight of bees, but don't know that much about bees in general. Can someone tell me why you find bees 'grounded' as it were. I have noticed, this year especially, large numbers of bees apparently stranded and unable to fly.

I wondered if it could be linked to a piece I read the other day blaming mobile phones for the problem of disappearing bees. Apparently, it is thought that radiation from the phones and hi-tech gadgets interfere with the bees' natural homing devices. This means the bees are stranded and disappear, resulting in what has been called Colony Collapse

Disorder. This is when hives are found abandoned with only the queens, the eggs and a few young bees remaining. A study in Germany apparently found that bees refused to go back to their hives when a mobile phone was placed nearby.

Do you think there could be anything in this? Like many people, I am not happy with the amount of radiation we're all exposed to from mobiles and such like. I don't think we are aware of the full extent of the problems as yet. Incidentally, is there anything I could do for my "ailing" bees or do they somehow recover?

**Anne M, St Albans**

I saw the other day that the police had raided an Asian shop in London selling traditional Chinese medicines. They impounded about 200 products made from endangered animals and plants.

The raid was made following an amendment in the law controlling illegal trade in endangered species, which came into effect today.

The regulations have been amended to close an inadvertent loophole when dealing with species, such as musk deer, that are so called "split-listed". Such species are covered by different parts of the regulations depending on which country the specimen originated from, and therefore receive different levels of protection. When it comes to manufactured products investigators are often unable to determine the country of origin of the illegal ingredients, which has made it difficult to prosecute in cases of split-listed species. Now, unless there is evidence to the contrary, the higher level of protection will be applied.

Heather Sohl, WWF Species Trade Officer said: "With our partners WWF sought to close this loophole so we are thrilled with this seizure. The fact the amendment has been used on its first day in effect shows how necessary it is to have effective laws and tools in place to bring unscrupulous traders to justice." The Search Warrant was issued under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997. These regulations make it illegal to sell, keep for sale, or buy any item that claims to be made from an endangered species.

If anyone has any information regarding the illegal sale of products containing endangered species you can contact the Wildlife Crime Unit on 0207 230 8898 or via the Operation Charm website at [www.operationcharm.org](http://www.operationcharm.org). Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

**easyfundraising**  
org.uk

### Andy Mydellton Replies to June Issue Letters

#### Albert Budden.

I like what you are doing. Remember a horticultural garden is pleasing to the eye, whereas a wildlife garden can seem unruly and overgrown. But so long as the untidiness is disciplined, then it is practical and more beneficial for all.

#### Elizabeth Adams.

Cloning is an ethical question. FES does agree with cloning if there is no natural alternative, or any Captive Breeding Programme available. We believe that cloning is a better option than extinction. However we do not know of long term consequences or side effects of cloning, so we believe it should be used in limited and extreme cases only (and only



for the wellbeing of the species). One example is the Yangtze River Dolphin; we would be better off with a limited number of cloned individuals that what we have now - which is nothing.

You are not being cynical with the cloning argument being used against conservation though, as our enemies will use this argument against us, just as much as they will use all other arguments against us anyway! Any differences in tackling this reasoning are just slightly different paths towards the same goal.

#### Michael Stacey.

FES believes in protecting the Irish Hare and would welcome other groups to join us. Even though numbers do fluctuate resulting in the animal being considered common. Other, more numerous animals have become extinct, so complacency should not be an option.

ACROSS

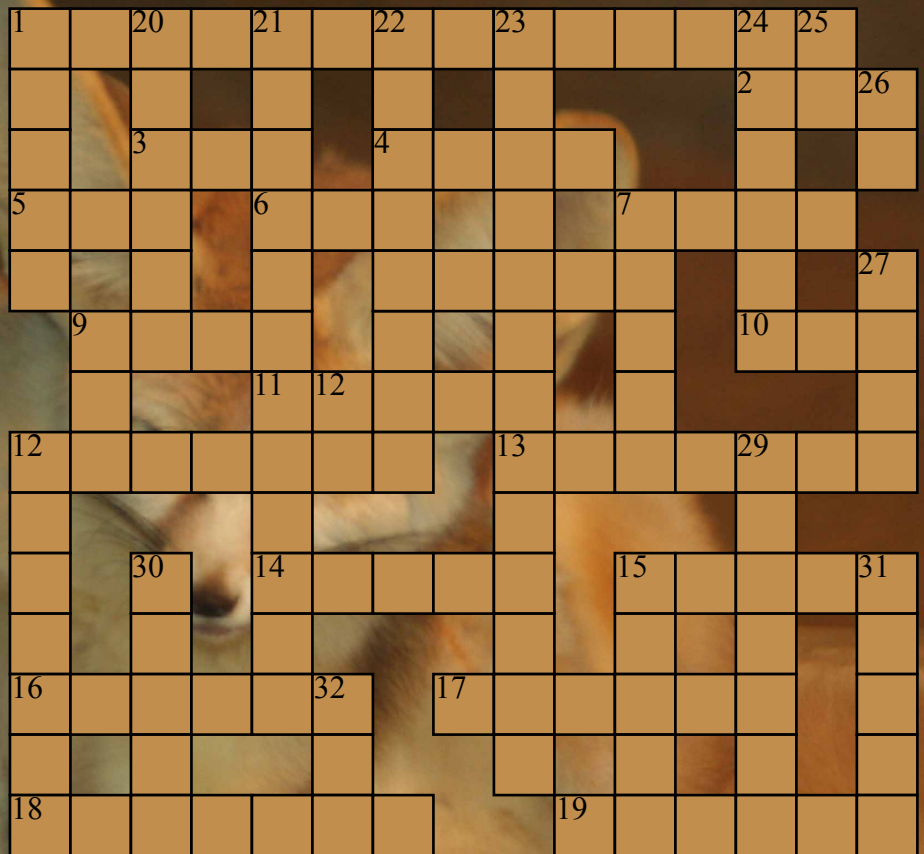
1. Fantastic fish in Australian waters (5,3,6)
2. wet piece of earth
3. unwell animals, could die
4. a single baby eel?
5. a baby's parent
6. how cats drink
7. bird, like a gull
8. important UK habitat
9. - - - - worm

10. Himalayan cattle
11. animal instinct?
12. insect in trees (4,3)
13. egg laying mammals
14. not a minor bird
15. coastal habitat
16. trees, FES registered office
17. asian bird; Nepalese
18. river dolphin - recently extinct
19. loveable animal roams the New Forest

DOWN

1. South American camel
20. not fungi or plant kingdom
21. UK songbird (6,6 or 1 word)
22. biggest mammals
23. our greatest wildlife artist (5,8)
24. a fish eagle
25. do we want global warming?
26. initials of a popular broadcaster
7. biting tools
27. not a skewer
9. prefix for earth
28. united nations
12. small kangaroo

29. used to be a hedge sparrow
30. beasts carrying
15. Australian wild dog
31. RSPB centre - Beds
32. many species need this message



<title>Txts and emails</title>

**Txt:** Loved the leaping lemurs. Fantastic. Phil.  
*This article was in the June issue.*

**Email:** ...I like the crossword and the polar photo, but couldn't read all of the black print in some of the clues... RJ  
*Thank you for the feedback. We have changed this edition's crossword, which should be easier on the eye.*

conserving  
**wildlife**

Conserving Wildlife magazine is printed by Xpress print and design centre Pavillions Mall Uxbridge, on XEROX 140gsm silk coated paper. The magazine should be recycled. So please dispose of it at your local waste-collection point or by passing it to another reader.

**Editor : Andy Mydellton**  
**Design: Shane Clark**

REGISTERED OFFICE  
 "Millstream Fork",  
 20 The Alders,  
 Alder Road  
 Willowbank, New Denham  
 Buckinghamshire, UB9 4AY  
 Tel/Fax: 01895 520184  
 Email: info@ffes.org.uk  
 Website: www.ffes.org.uk

WILDLIFE ZONE NEWS

>> Check out the Wildlife Zone multi-medias. Let us know if you have not got a copy of the Wildlife Zone Newsletter and we will get you a copy; although it can be seen and downloaded on the website, which is [www.wildlifezone.org](http://www.wildlifezone.org). The radio programme is not available to everyone yet, although we are trying to upload an audiofile of its most important points. Wildlife Zone articles are published monthly in the magazines 'In and Around Denham' and 'In and Around Iver'.

>> Sometime later this year, another article will be published in ECS magazine, and concerns the Foundation's work in Nepal. More photographic exhibitions are planned for 2009, but are still to be confirmed. Please see the Wildlife Zone media for regular updates.






Steve Collett

**All Jobs Done**

Mob: 07950196226



**Clinical Hypnosis in West London**

Matthew Hall, Master in Clinical Hypnosis

Hypnotherapy  
Counselling  
Traumatic Incident Reduction  
Eye Movement Therapies  
Emotional Freedom Technique  
Thought Field Therapy

Stopping Smoking  
Weight Control  
Phobia Control  
Stress Management  
Pain Management  
Enhanced Performance

Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Ealing

01895 810772  
www.effectivehypnosis.co.uk

## does your advertising *stand*OUT?

**DON'T GET LOST**  
amongst 1000's of pages

**BE FOUND**  
with a readership of 6,000 from £45  
per quarter

**STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD**  
email [shane.fes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shane.fes@hotmail.co.uk)

WINTER COPY DEADLINE  
10TH NOVEMBER

Publisher: FES Publications ©

For Full Information and Details of Rates visit  
[www.ffes.org.uk](http://www.ffes.org.uk)

We are grateful for the support of local businesses whose adverts appear in this publication and whilst every care is taken to ensure accuracy, the publishers cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions, claims made by advertisers or endorse companies, products or services. This publication, its contents and advert design are © of FES publications. Any copying or reproduction in part of fully, is strictly forbidden without our prior consent.

## Do your carpets and furnishings need a face lift?

If so, why not turn to Safeclean, your local high quality cleaning experts.

Over 80% of our business is generated by repeat custom and

- Fitted carpets
- Rugs (including oriental rugs)
- Upholstery (including leather)
- Curtains
- Wall coverings
- Hard flooring

For your no obligation quotation simply call

**0800 136369**

11 Ashbourne Parade, Hanger Lane, Ealing, London W5



**Safe Organic  
Cleaning**

We only use organic and environmentally friendly products and can protect your home from 99% of air and surface allergens using our new *allergo-kill* treatment.

**Safeclean®**  
The furnishing care specialists from **GUARDSMAN**

## Recycling & Climate Change

Have you got any unwanted items that are cluttering up your home? If so, and you do not mind doing someone a favour and letting them have it for nothing; get in touch with Conserving Wildlife and we will advertise it in our magazine. Then all you do is organise its collection or delivery. This will solve two people's problems - and stop unnecessary landfill.



# Himra Rain Project

ISSN 1757 - 742X  
Registered Charity No. 1114728  
© FES Publications

Does this beautiful scene fascinate you?  
This is the same district in which the  
FOUNDATION FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES  
has planted trees

Be part of something, sponsor a tree for £10 in Nepal  
in our ongoing effort to create a woodland and wildlife  
habitat visit [www.fes.org.uk](http://www.fes.org.uk) for more details

THE FOUNDATION FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES  
Registered Charity No. 1114728

