Out this month — November

Mammals to look for in and around Dumfries · 20 species

☐		**American Mink** *Neogale vison*	Escaped from fur farms, and the single biggest reason the water vole has all but gone.
☐		**Badger** *Meles meles*	The striped face is famous; the sett beneath it may be centuries old and dug by generations.
☐		**Bank Vole** *Myodes glareolus*	Blunt-nosed and chestnut-red — the vole most likely to appear under a Dumfries bird feeder.
☐		**Brown Hare** *Lepus europaeus*	Long black-tipped ears, golden eyes and a flat-out sprint that no rabbit could manage.
☐		**Brown Rat** *Rattus norvegicus*	Introduced, adaptable and genuinely clever — and never as far from you as you think.
☐		**Common Shrew** *Sorex araneus*	Must eat every few hours or die — a life lived at a pace nothing else here can match.
☐		**Field Vole** *Microtus agrestis*	The animal that feeds half the region's predators — kestrels, owls, foxes and stoats all run on voles.
☐		**Grey Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*	Introduced from North America, and the main reason the red squirrel is in retreat.
☐		**House Mouse** *Mus musculus*	Greyer, smaller-eyed and mustier than a wood mouse — and it came here with the first farmers.
☐		**Mole** *Talpa europaea*	You will see the molehills long before you see the mole — most people never see one at all.
☐		**Pygmy Shrew** *Sorex minutus*	Britain's smallest mammal — an adult weighs less than a two-pence coin.
☐		**Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*	Brought here by the Normans as livestock, escaped, and reshaped the British countryside.
☐		**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*	The scream on a January night is not distress — it is a vixen advertising for a mate.
☐		**Red Squirrel** *Sciurus vulgaris*	Dumfries and Galloway is one of the last strongholds in Britain — and holding the line takes active work.
☐		**Roe Deer** *Capreolus capreolus*	The deer you are most likely to meet around Dumfries — small, neat, and gone in three bounds.
☐		**Stoat** *Mustela erminea*	The black tail-tip is the whole identification — a weasel has no such thing.

☐		**Water Shrew** *Neomys fodiens*	Britain's only venomous mammal, and it swims with a silver skin of trapped air.
☐		**Water Vole** *Arvicola amphibius*	'Ratty' from The Wind in the Willows — and Britain's fastest-declining wild mammal.
☐		**Weasel** *Mustela nivalis*	Britain's smallest carnivore — small enough to hunt a vole down its own tunnel.
☐		**Wood Mouse** *Apodemus sylvaticus*	Huge black eyes, enormous ears and a habit of getting into the shed every autumn.

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