

## North Shropshire Specialities

Have you seen any of these species of wildlife?



Image credit: ©Derek Middleton  
Sussex Wildlife Trust



Image credit: © Steven Falk



Image credit: © Nigel Jones

### Water Shrew

#### *Sorex palustris*

At 12-18g, water shrews are the largest species of shrew. They live in wetland habitats such as streams, ponds & reedbeds, and mostly eat aquatic insects.

When this shrew dives, the air that is trapped in its fine fur makes it buoyant and silvery in colour.

Find out more about this and other riparian mammal species here:

[https://  
www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.u  
k/rivers-mammals](https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/rivers-mammals)

### Large Sallow Mining Bee

#### *Andrena apicata*

This Nationally Scarce bee species has a bit of a stronghold in Shropshire.

It is one of the first mining bees to emerge each spring (flight period in Shropshire: 19 March – 26 May).

Pollen is gathered primarily from willow, along with gorse, blackthorn and cherries. Nectar may be obtained from dandelions and colt's foot. Nesting occurs in light soil.

Find out more about this species here:

[https://www.bwars.com/bee/  
andrenidae/andrena-apicata](https://www.bwars.com/bee/andrenidae/andrena-apicata)

### Rufous-shouldered

#### Longhorn Beetle

#### *Anaglyptus mysticus*

This is the only species of *Anaglyptus* beetles found in the UK. Development of this beetle from egg to adult can take 3 years or more. The adult beetle emerges from the pupal stage in April, usually having spent the winter under the bark of a dead tree. This beetle grows up to 15mm long, feeds on many different plants and flowers, particularly hawthorn. Sweep-netting and searching tree trunks by torch-light can help reveal its presence.

Find out more about this species here: [https://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/  
anaglyptus-mysticus](https://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/anaglyptus-mysticus)

We would love to know if you see/have seen any of the species listed on these pages.

Please send species name, date, location and any photos to Kirsty at:

[oswestrywem@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:oswestrywem@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

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Image credit: © Jeremy Early

#### Red-tailed Cuckoo Bee

*Bombus rupestris*

Classified as a notable species in 1991, this bee has seen an increase in its populations in recent years. It was first recorded at Whixall Moss in 1961.

This bee can be found on the wing May—Sept, in both the countryside and in urban locations, visiting flowers like dandelion, comfrey, oil-seed rape, oxeye daisy, kidney vetch, thistles, teasel, scabious, brambles and garden plants such as lavender.

This bumblebee is a parasite of the similar-looking *Bombus lapidarius*. The female red-tailed cuckoo bee enters the nest of its host, kills the queen, establishes herself as queen, and the host workers help feed and care for her and her offspring.

Find out more about this species here: <https://www.bwars.com/bee/apidae/bombus-rupestris>



Image credit: © Terry Whittaker

#### European Water Vole

*Arvicola amphibius*

The water vole is under serious threat from habitat loss and predation by the non-native American mink. Found along our waterways, it is similar-looking to the brown rat, but with a blunt nose, small ears and furry tail.

The Whitchurch—Whixall area is a national hotspot for this riparian mammal. It is important to increase the amount of good quality and interconnected habitat in and around areas where water voles are known to occur.

Find out more about this species here:

<https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/mammals/water-vole>



Image credit: © Elliot Smith

#### European Otter

*Lutra lutra*

Otters are listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. They mostly eat fish but will consume frogs, young water birds and other mammals. Usually found around rivers, otters will equally take a shine to small pools and can be a nuisance to commercial fisheries. Fencing & other non-lethal measures can help to manage the impacts.

The otter is a large, powerful mammal, with grey-brown fur, a broad snout, and a pale chest & throat. Otters are distinguished from mink by their much larger size/broader face.

Find out more about this species here:

<https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/mammals/european-otter-0>

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