



The Vincent Wildlife Trust's
Prospects for Pine Martens
e-zine



November 2009

Upcoming Training Workshops!

The Vincent Wildlife Trust is pleased to announce that it will be running a series of **pine marten training workshops** in spring 2010. We plan to conduct a workshop in each of the following pine marten hotspots:

- Mid Wales
- North Wales
- North Yorkshire
- South Cumbria

The workshops will feature talks and displays on pine martens, and training in the necessary equipment used to detect and monitor pine martens, including hair-tubes and den boxes.

The workshops are aimed at people who are keen to get involved in pine marten survey and monitoring work, and we hope that the workshop will equip you with the skills to survey for pine martens and monitor pine marten detection equipment in your local area. It will also be a fantastic opportunity to meet like-minded people in your local area and share your enthusiasm for pine martens!

Each workshop will be a one-day event, at a weekend and free-of-charge to attend. Venues and dates will be confirmed when we have gauged how much interest there is and how many people are likely to come to each workshop.

To register your interest...

Places will be limited and are likely to be snapped up quickly, so to reserve a place and sign-up to receive further details, including dates and venues, please email elizabethcroose@vwt.org.uk (or phone 01531 636441) with the name of the area in which you would like to attend the workshop.



Pine marten kits in a den box



Setting up a baited hair-tube

**The Vincent Wildlife Trust - specialising in mammal research and conservation
in Britain and Ireland**

© The Vincent Wildlife Trust, 2009 Charity No.1112100 Company Registered in England No.05598716
3 & 4 Bronsil Courtyard, Eastnor, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1EP. Tel: 01531 636441. Email: enquiries@vwt.org.uk



The Vincent Wildlife Trust's
Prospects for Pine Martens
e-zine



November 2009

An update from our Pine Marten Project Manager...

By Neil Jordan

Fieldwork

Over the summer I have been mainly focusing on establishing, and intensively monitoring, seven sites in the south Lake District. Over these sites I have set up 65 hair-tubes and six camera traps, in order to try and gain evidence of pine martens. So far, the pine martens have continued to elude us but we remain optimistic! I have also collected 80 scats, none of which have yielded pine marten DNA. It's good to note that folks have been keeping their eyes peeled in their local area, and I've received a few interesting and smelly packages in the post of late....



Sightings

We continue to receive many pine marten sightings reports, with some good records coming from Snowdonia, North Yorkshire, Carmarthenshire and even one from Norfolk! Over the coming months, we are planning to respond to good quality sightings using a 'hot pursuit' approach – visiting the site quickly after the sighting was reported to set up monitoring equipment and look for scats.

Publicity

We have had some good, wide-ranging publicity in the last couple of months, which has helped to generate some quality pine marten sightings reports, as mentioned above. Our highlights include:

Ben Fogle from **BBC's Country Tracks** joined me in Snowdonia on our quest to capture pine martens on camera. Watch it now at-

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00nq8w1/b00nq8j5/Country_Tracks_North_Wales/ - and fast-forward to *34 minutes 20 seconds*.

BBC Radio Cumbria joined me for a day in the woods setting up field equipment. You can see some pictures here - http://www.bbc.co.uk/cumbria/content/image_galleries/pine_martens_gallery.shtml?1

We have also had air-time on BBC Radio Wales, as well as articles in various local newspapers and magazines.

Upcoming highlights

At the end of November I will be attending the Mustelid conference in Lisbon, Portugal, to present a poster on the pine marten in England and Wales.

**The Vincent Wildlife Trust - specialising in mammal research and conservation
in Britain and Ireland**

© The Vincent Wildlife Trust, 2009 Charity No.1112100 Company Registered in England No.05598716
3 & 4 Bronsil Courtyard, Eastnor, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1EP. Tel: 01531 636441. Email: enquiries@vwt.org.uk



The Vincent Wildlife Trust's
Prospects for Pine Martens
e-zine



November 2009

Spreading the word...

In order to raise public awareness of the pine marten and encourage people to come forward with pine marten sightings, we are trying to distribute as much publicity material as possible.

If you know of anywhere we could display a poster (a local visitor centre, a village notice board, or even a bus stop!) or any local press (parish newsletters or local magazines/newspapers) where we could send an article or feature, please let us know and we will endeavour to spread the word in your local area!

Pine Marten Scat Survey Project Update

The 2008-2009 pine marten scat surveys of England and Wales have now been completed. Unfortunately, we did not find any scats that were confirmed as pine marten during the DNA analysis for any of our surveys.

A **huge thank you** to everyone who contributed to the surveys – we could not have done it without you! All of the surveyors will receive an end of project report by the end of the year.

We still believe that scat surveys provide a valuable tool for pine marten detection and are likely to play a role in our continuing efforts to detect pine martens in England and Wales.

The search for the elusive pine marten scat continues...



Contact us...

To find out more about the project or how you can help us with pine marten work, please visit www.pinemarten.info or contact Neil directly: neiljordan@vwt.org.uk or 07799847740.

The Vincent Wildlife Trust's 'Prospects for Pine Martens' Project is kindly funded by Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and Environment Wales.



**The Vincent Wildlife Trust - specialising in mammal research and conservation
in Britain and Ireland**

© The Vincent Wildlife Trust, 2009 Charity No.1112100 Company Registered in England No.05598716
3 & 4 Bronsil Courtyard, Eastnor, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1EP. Tel: 01531 636441. Email: enquiries@vwt.org.uk