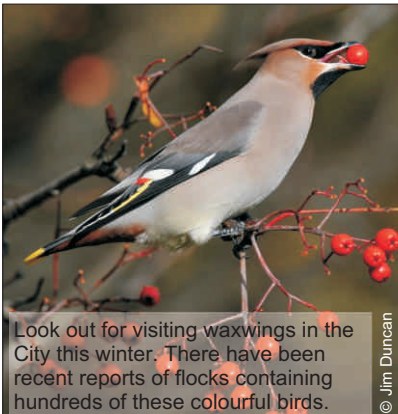




© Keith Futter

## We Need Your Help!



Look out for visiting waxwings in the City this winter. There have been recent reports of flocks containing hundreds of these colourful birds.

© Jim Duncan

Welcome to another issue of the Glasgow Biodiversity News, which lets you know about some of the recent interesting work going on in the City to help enhance and protect our local biodiversity. The newsletter is available in paper form and electronically on the Council's website, with the aim being to reach as many people as possible in a sustainable way.

Providing information, through the Newsletter, about Glasgow's biodiversity and the implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan by the Biodiversity Partnership, volunteers, community groups and others is very important. However, it is also useful for us to receive information from different groups and individuals to try to shape the future of the LBAP in a way that meets local needs and aspirations as well as achieving national outcomes.

With this in mind, the Biodiversity Officers have put together a questionnaire online at [www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity) and are hoping that as many people as possible will fill it in. If you are interested in wildlife and nature conservation and creating quality greenspace in the City, then please take some time to go online and complete it!

The results of the questionnaire will help shape a new Community Engagement Plan which is being developed as part of a review of the LBAP actions next year.

### Newlands for Newts

At first glance people might think that Newlands Park pond isn't a very exciting place to find wildlife. Surprisingly enough it has been a fantastic site in the past for breeding palmate newts and is a local Site of Importance for Nature Conservation due to this fact. Unfortunately numbers of these small amphibians appear to have decreased in recent years.

To tackle this situation Froglife along with the Council's biodiversity officers and ecologists decided this urban pond required enhancement to provide a more suitable habitat for next year's newt breeding season.

On a sunny morning in September work began on the pond and involved Froglife's project officer, four very enthusiastic local volunteers, three members of staff from Water Gems and one of Glasgow's countryside rangers.

To enhance the pond new shelves were created and planted with marginal vegetation including yellow flag iris, water mint and water forget-me-not.



These plants will not only add colour to this area of the park, but also attract a variety of wildlife to this important habitat. Submerged vegetation was also planted and will provide ideal surfaces for newts to lay their eggs on.

Froglife Project Officer Eilidh Spence said "Hopefully this hard work will help increase biodiversity within the park and provide a more suitable habitat for breeding newts next year. We received a very positive response from the local community whilst working on site. The aim was not only to improve the pond in the park but also to inspire people to create wildlife areas in their own gardens and contribute towards greenspaces in the surrounding area".

For more information on the project or to volunteer please contact Eilidh at [eilidh.spence@froglife.org](mailto:eilidh.spence@froglife.org). If you would like to learn more about palmate newts and other amphibians and reptiles in Britain, have a look at the Froglife website [www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org).



Palmate newt

*The Living Water Project is funded by Heritage Lottery Funding, Biffaward and Glasgow Landfill Communities Fund.*



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

## Glasgow Celebrates International Year of Biodiversity

The International Year of Biodiversity has been celebrated in Glasgow with almost 100 free events to promote biodiversity at parks and local nature reserves being held (see [www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks) for details) and two biodiversity conferences.

One of the highlights was a conference at the University of Glasgow entitled 'Urban Biodiversity: Successes and Challenges'. On the first day there were fourteen speakers with topics covering site studies of species to larger scale habitat projects. Case studies highlighted urban projects in Yorkshire, Edinburgh, Falkirk and Glasgow to name but a few. As well as a geographical spread of topics there was also a wide range of biodiversity covered including, plants, invertebrates, fish, birds and mammals. There really was something for everyone.

Day two started with morning workshops where delegates got a choice of more in-depth discussions on topics such as alien plants, environmental education, mammal identification as well as a workshop on Glasgow's biodiversity action plan's future direction. The afternoon provided an opportunity to showcase Glasgow biodiversity projects and field trips were organised to Bingham's Pond, Hogganfield Park Local Nature Reserve and the Partick Nature Trail.

Over 80% of Scottish people live in urban areas, so urban biodiversity plays an important role in our everyday life and is particularly important in

Glasgow. The conference helped to raise the profile of Glasgow's biodiversity, which is a key aim of the city's Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Many successful projects were highlighted, and provided a valuable opportunity to share best practice and make contacts and partnerships for developing future projects.



Bingham's Pond



Hogganfield Park LNR

The Scottish Biodiversity Forum also held a very successful 'Bringing People and Biodiversity Together' conference at Strathclyde University in August which included site visits around the Bishop's Estate area of the city.

## Wildlife Watch - new species for Scotland and other stories...

There have been some exciting finds recently, adding to our biodiversity knowledge of the city. Surveys undertaken by Buglife on behalf of Froglife have revealed something quite unexpected, a new species for Scotland! *Hygrotus nigrolineatus*, a small diving beetle, was collected by Craig Macadam from a pond at Robroyston Park LNR and identified by Garth Foster of the Aquatic Coleoptera Conservation Trust.



*Hygrotus nigrolineatus*

© Lars Inversen

Meanwhile Lindsay Gemmell, a countryside ranger at Pollok Country Park discovered a nationally scarce hoverfly called *Mallota cimbiciformis*. Pollok is the only known breeding site in Scotland for these colourful honeybee mimics.

At Glasgow Museums Resource Centre in Nitshill where a wildlife meadow was created a few years ago, a first Glasgow record of cinnabar moth was made when the museum's research manager for natural history discovered cinnabar caterpillars. (See the title banner on the front page for an image of an adult cinnabar.)



Cinnabar caterpillar

Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre holds all the information about wildlife in Glasgow and will be pleased to answer questions about it, or to hear about your wildlife sightings: [biological.records@csglasgow.org](mailto:biological.records@csglasgow.org) If you are interested in invertebrates and would like to find out more about them, have a look at [www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk) where you can also read the latest 'Scottish Invertebrate News' newsletter.

## Secret Haven in the Centre of Glasgow

The Glasgow Necropolis is a little known wildlife haven and a designated local Site of Importance for Nature Conservation in the centre of Glasgow which has provided a home to some of the city's biodiversity for many years. For instance it is one of few sites in Glasgow where the rare plants stag's-horn clubmoss and heath pearlwort have been recorded in the past. Roe deer have also been recorded at the site despite the area being surrounded by busy city streets.

A wildflower meadow was created in 2007 which creates a colourful display through much of the summer and provides nectar for butterflies, bees and hoverflies and pollen for bumblebees and various beetles.

In September this year pupils at Golfhill Primary School were assisted by the Friends of the Glasgow Necropolis and staff from BTCV and GCC Land and Environmental Services to plant over 450 plants in the meadow. Trial plots of yellow rattle seeding were also undertaken. Success can be measured by the fact that the wildflower meadow is already home to

several types of bee, hoverfly and beetle. Numerous red soldier beetles were seen through out July and increasing numbers of butterflies have been recorded in the past few years, including red admiral. The Friends of the Necropolis intend to monitor and survey the animals and plants at the site in the future. For example a bat and moth survey is planned. Watch this space!



## 'Army' Quells Birch Invasion

Commonhead Moss LNR, Glasgow's largest area of raised bog habitat, will soon be largely clear of invasive birch trees thanks to the industrious efforts of a 'small army' of Scottish Wildlife Trust Conservation Teams armed with brushcutters, chainsaws and rubber mallets!

A group of three SWT teams have been working on clearing birch from the site over the past few months and have managed to make a major dent in the coverage of the birch growing on or adjacent to the bog. Coupled with the installation of plastic piling dams (hence the need for rubber mallets), that will block off drainage ditches and thus retain water within the bog, the birch clearance will help to preserve and enhance the

flora and fauna of this valuable habitat.

Rare species such as bog rosemary, which only occurs at this one site in Glasgow, and sphagnum (bog-moss) coverage will be monitored as the work continues, to establish the likely positive effects on the raised bog habitat.

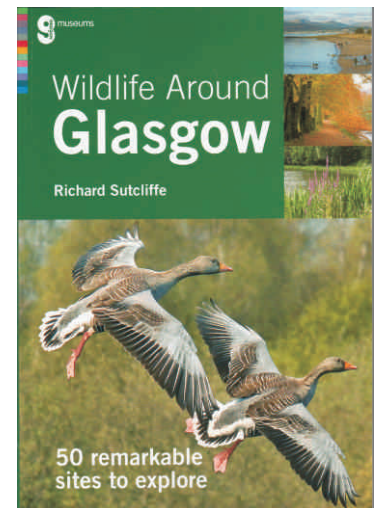


*This two year project led by SWT has been made possible through generous support from the GCC Landfill Communities Fund.*

## Wildlife Around Glasgow: 50 remarkable sites to explore

Glasgow Museums have just published a new book describing wildlife sites in and around Glasgow. This guide is written by more than 40 expert authors, each with first-hand knowledge of the sites they have described. They include reserve managers, countryside rangers, biodiversity officers and the natural history staff of Glasgow Museums. Copies are on sale in Glasgow Museums shops, online at [www.glasgowmuseums.com](http://www.glasgowmuseums.com) or by post from:

Communications Section  
Glasgow Museums  
Glasgow Museums Resource Centre  
200 Woodhead Road  
Glasgow G53 7NN  
Phone: 0141 276 9457



Price £9.99 (plus P+P £2 for first copy and £1 for further copies). Cheques should be made out to Culture and Sport Glasgow.

The LBAP is supported by the following organisations



## NEWS, VIEWS, OPINIONS - Write to the Biodiversity Officers

The Biodiversity Officers, Carol MacLean, Keith Watson and Cath Scott can be contacted at:  
**Land and Environmental Services**  
**Glasgow City Council**  
**231 George St**  
**G1 1RX**

Email:  
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keith.watson@glasgow.gov.uk  
catherine.scott@glasgow.gov.uk

Phone:  
0141 287 5665/7026

Further information is available on the Council's website:  
**[www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity)**

