

HELPING THE DORMOUSE



The Dormouse is one of Britain's most endangered mammals. This is because much of its habitat of deciduous woodland and hedgerows has been lost. This small attractive woodland rodent is mainly nocturnal. It spends its time in shrubs and trees where it searches for food. Its diet consists mainly of fruit, berries, flowers and insects. In the autumn hazelnuts can be a very important source of food as they have to build up their fat reserves as they hibernate overwinter.

How to be a Nutter and help to save Dormice

With your mummy or daddy, find some woods or large overgrown hedgerows near you.

If need be, ask permission from the wood or hedgerow owner to do a nut hunt.

Look for hazel trees or shrubs and search underneath for nuts. Collect any nibbled nut shells you find, recording the amount of time you spent searching and the number of people who searched.

Sort out the collected nuts using this guide.

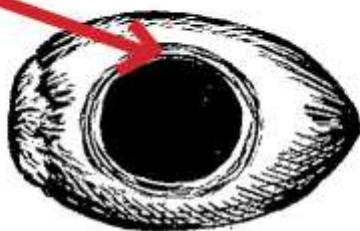
Visit <http://ptes.org/campaigns/dormice/dormouse-nut-hunt> to record any nuts eaten by dormice.

You can also let Wild Things know if you find any nibbled nuts, especially if you can share some photos with the group.

Who has been nibbling the nuts?

Dormouse-chewed hazel nuts have a smooth inner rim with tooth marks at an angle to the hole on the nut surface and look a little like a clog.

Dormouse



Vole-chewed hazel nuts have teeth marks across the inner rim of the nut but don't leave any marks on the surface, around the edge of the hole.

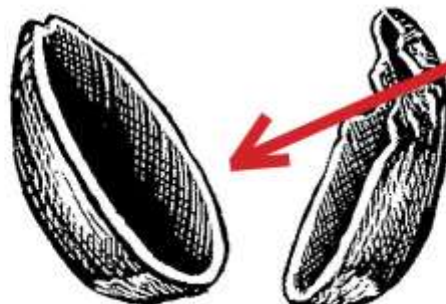
Vole



Wood Mouse

Wood mouse-chewed hazel nuts have teeth marks both on the inner rim of the nut and also on the surface, around the edge of the hole.

Squirrels and Birds



As squirrels and birds are larger and stronger than smaller rodents they simply crack a hazel nut open, shattering the shell.