

In 2016 there have been a similar number of reports overall when compared with previous years. The garden trail-cam at Langham continues to supply a large number of records, regular appearances with Fox, Grey Squirrel, Muntjac and Hedgehog appearing most nights, and Badger somewhat less frequently. Small mammals, including Bank and Short-tailed Voles, Long-tailed Fieldmice and Shrews, have been reported more commonly this year, often being found under reptile sheets at RWNR (see the maps p11~12). It would be interesting to repeat such a survey elsewhere, for example at Ketton or Bloody Oaks quarries. Some records also came from a trapping in a Barrow garden during October and November.

A single Polecat report in 2016 as last year indicates that they are maintaining their presence locally, and finding sufficient prey to survive. Otters continue to be successful, resident at RW through much of the year, and regular visitors elsewhere, but not reported from the S of Rutland this year.

The Water Vole survey has continued, and confirms the success of the RW re-introduction programme. At Oakham canal they disappeared in the winter, leading to fears for their survival. However the October count, found rafts at the southern end of the canal with abundant droppings, evidence of a successful breeding season – out of sight of the monitors. It is likely that the north-end population lacking a local reed bed in which to shelter, was predated, either by Mink or possibly Otters, and did not survive to breed. An aim for 2017 is to investigate whether Water Voles have spread, up- or down-stream from RW.

There were no records of Water Shrew in 2016. A project investigating their distribution at RW was planned, but did not materialise. This may be remedied in 2017. But, as is always the case, there are more possibilities for investigation than hours and labour permit.

INSECTIVORA

3	Hedgehog ★	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
3	Common Shrew ★	<i>Sorex araneus</i>
3	Pygmy Shrew ★	<i>Sorex minutus</i>
4	Mole ★	<i>Talpa europaea</i>

LAGOMORPHA

4	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
5	Brown Hare ★	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>

RODENTIA

5	Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
5	Bank Vole ★	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>
5	Water Vole ★	<i>Arvicola amphibious</i>
6	Short-tailed Field Vole ★	<i>Microtus arvalis</i>
6	Long-tailed Field Mouse ★	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>
6	Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>
6	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>

CARNIVORA

6	Red Fox ★	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
7	Stoat ★	<i>Mustela ermine</i>
7	Weasel ★	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>
7	Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>
7	Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>
8	Badger ★	<i>Meles meles</i>
8	Otter ★	<i>Lutra lutra</i>

ARTIODACTYLA

9	Fallow Deer ★	<i>Dama dama</i>
10	Muntjac ★	<i>Muntiacus reevesii</i>
10	Roe Deer ★	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>

## Mammal sightings in Rutland 2016 (2015 )

species	name	reports received	live sighting	corpse	evidence
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	65 (29)	73 (48)	8 (1)	4 (0)
Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	46 (15)	1 (0)	6 (1)	43 (14)
Common Shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>	10 (8)	8 (7)	2 (4)	0 (0)
Water Shrew	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex minutus</i>	4 (0)	3 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	20 (3)	30 (3+)	0 (2)	3 (0)
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	30 (25)	95 (44)	2 (2)	0 (0)
Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	127 (65)	142 (81)	130 <sup>§</sup> (1)	0 (0)
Bank Vole	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>	28 (10)	37+ (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibious</i>	44 (20)	2 (2)	0 (0)	44 (18)
Short-tailed Field Vole	<i>Microtus arvalis</i>	18 (12)	21 (13)	0 (1)	1 (0)
Long-tailed Field Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	10 (2)	23 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
House mouse	<i>Mus Musculus</i>	3 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	16 (3)	11 (1)	1 (0)	4 (2)
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	165 (119)	164 (118)	0 (0)	1 (3)
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	8 (20)	8 (27)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	2 (4)	2 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	0 (3)	0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	38 (98)	20 (87)	7 (0)	11 (0)
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	55 (30)	1 (7)	2 (1)	52 (25)
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	32 (27)	79 (105)	2 (0)	8 (8)
Muntjac Deer	<i>Muntiacus reevesii</i>	86 (85)	93 (93)	2 (0)	6 (0)
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	11 (9)	12 (15)	0 (1)	1 (0)

KEY § organised shoot

### Records were received from

T Appleton, R Baker, D+J Ball, P Bennett, A+L Biddle, M Branston,  
 T Caldicott, G Chiverton, ChiaHway Tang, C Gallimore, M Grimes,  
 M+G Griffin, F Ingall, H Iken, P Langston, T Land, R Lemmon,  
 M Markham, T Mitcham, D Needham, M Quinlan, J+J Rodgers  
 P J Rudkin, P Scott, AR+MA Thorpe, S Woodward, L Worrall

Compiled by Linda Biddle

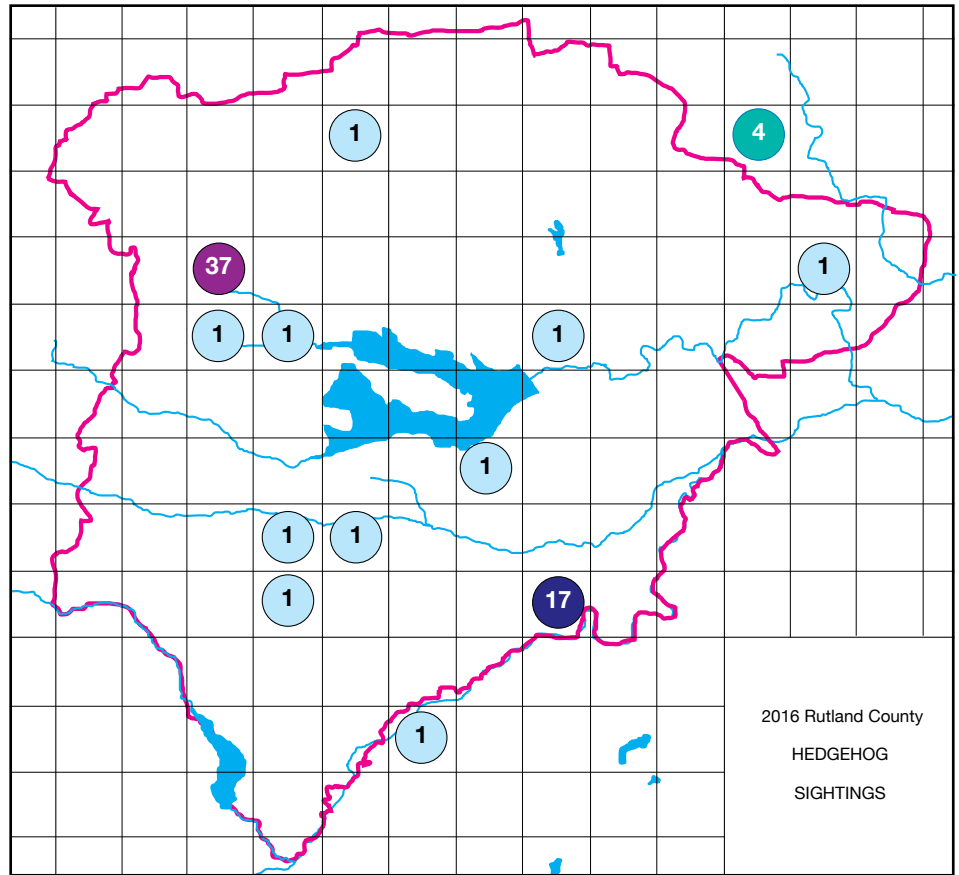
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**INSECTIVORA**

**Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus***



Hedgehogs were active early in warm weather, first sightings were in Barrowden and Oakham, 13.01 & 14.01. In much cooler February, they remained active. The warm autumn encouraged late breeding and many underweight juveniles. The last sighting was 30 November.

Elsewhere: Barr, Emp, EW, Harringworth, Lang, Prest, Ryll, Stam, Upp, Wg

**Common Shrew *Sorex araneus***

Reports mainly from reptile shelters, including one at Exton Park. Dead found at KQ and Lang.

Elsewhere: Hamb, Man, RWEgl

**Water Shrew *Neomys fodiens***

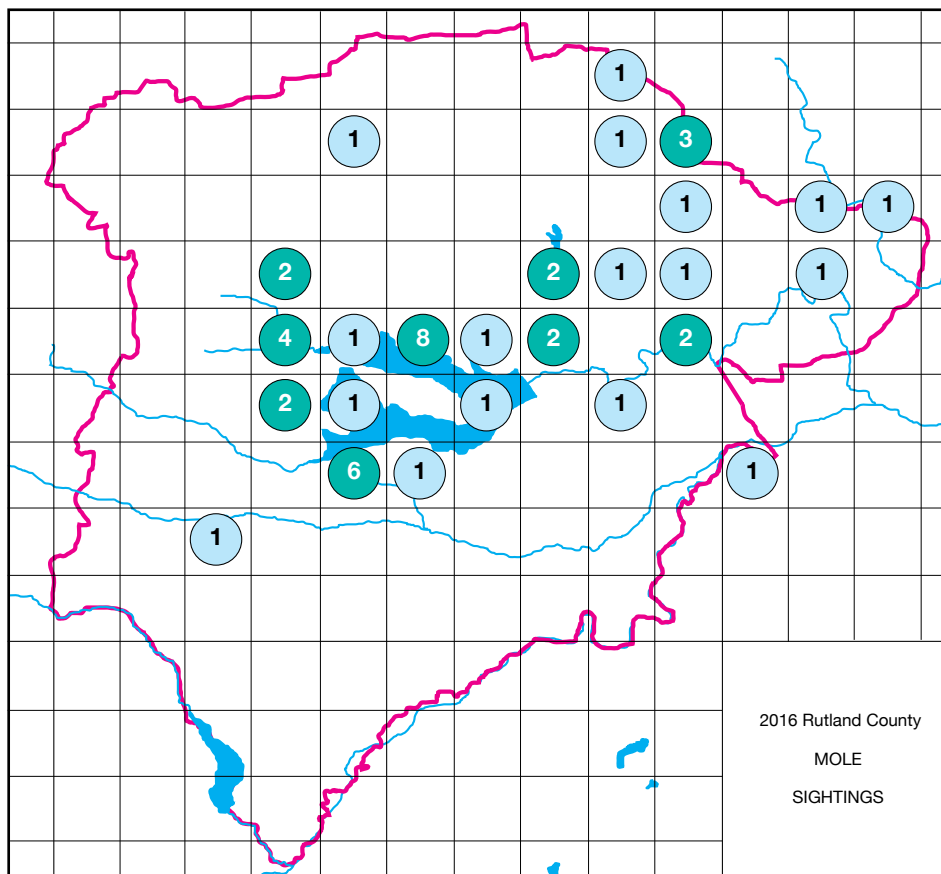
None this year

**Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus***

Found under reptile sheets, except one at RWNr

Elsewhere: Hamb, Rwf46, Wg

## Mole *Talpa europaea*



The increase in Mole records is due to an effort to involve more members in recording, and an attempt to widen the spread of reports over the county. As the distribution map shows this was only partially successful. In spite of the ease of recording mole presence the bulk of the reports came from the east of Rutland, with large areas unrecorded in the south and west. Moles are very likely to be present in every tetrad, with the exception of urban areas.

Elsewhere: Barns, BarnsW, Barr, BFP, BW, Clips, Emp, Ess, FH, GtCast, HM, Lynd, Rid, RWEgl, Ryll, MantGC, Norm, OakC, Pick, RWF46, RWLag3, RWLax, Tin, Tole, Whit, A606/Hamb turn verge

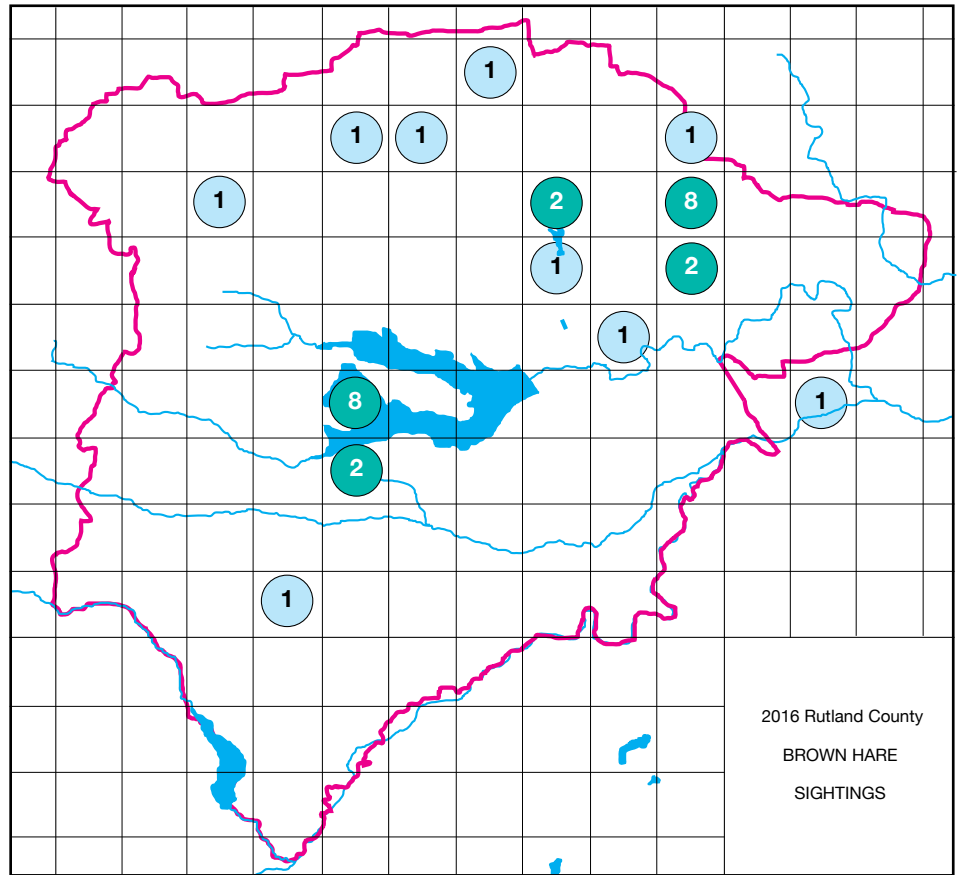
## LAGOMORPHA

### Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

More common than records suggest. Though records are up on 2015 local farmers report fewer rabbits due to disease.

Reports from: Barns, Barr, ClipsQ, GtCast, KQ, Lynd, OakC, QF, RWEgl, RWVC, Ryll, Stam, Tin – Steadfold cottages

**Brown hare** *Lepus capensis*



Hares reported in larger numbers than 2015. Regularly reported from RWLax, two sometimes four animals.

Elsewhere: Pick, Tick, Lang, MO, Ash/Burl, BFP, Barr, Cottes, EBR, FH, GtCast, GVGC, Hamb, Lynd, Mounts Lodge GtCast, RWEgl, Ryll Drift

**RODENTIA**

**Grey squirrel** *Sciurus canadensis*

Grey squirrels are very commonly seen: Bthpe, BW, ClipsQ, Ext, GVGC, Lang, PGW, Pick, Rwf46, RWLynd, Tick,

**Bank vole** *Myodes glareolus*

Have been regularly found under reptile shelters at RW. Also observed at Pickworth Great Wood, and eating peanuts put out for hedgehogs at Bden.

Elsewhere: ExtPk, Hamb, Mant, PGW, RWEgl, RWredshank

**Water Vole** *Arvicola amphibious*

The survey found that the population at RWNR is healthy and robust, activity declining somewhat during the winter months, but in spring all main areas soon recovered. At Oakham canal water voles disappeared from the canal in the winter and signs of activity did not reappear until the October count, when rafts at the S end showed abundant droppings, indicating a successful breeding season. There are still no signs on the canal north of the road. The only other site where we have evidence of water vole presence is at Horn Mill, where in May droppings were found on rafts in North brook left from an earlier survey.

Elsewhere: BFP, Dog kennel stream, RWEgl, RWheronb, RWmanb, RWRb, RWShov, RWWM

### Short-tailed Field Vole *Microtus agrestis*

These animals were trapped at Barrow in October and November, the rest recorded under reptile shelters.

Elsewhere: BFP, Lang, Rwf15,16ponds, 41, 44

### Longtailed Field Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*

Occasionally found under reptile shelters, some were trapped at Barrow.

Elsewhere: Lang, Rwf44

### Harvest Mouse *Micromys minutus*

No reports.

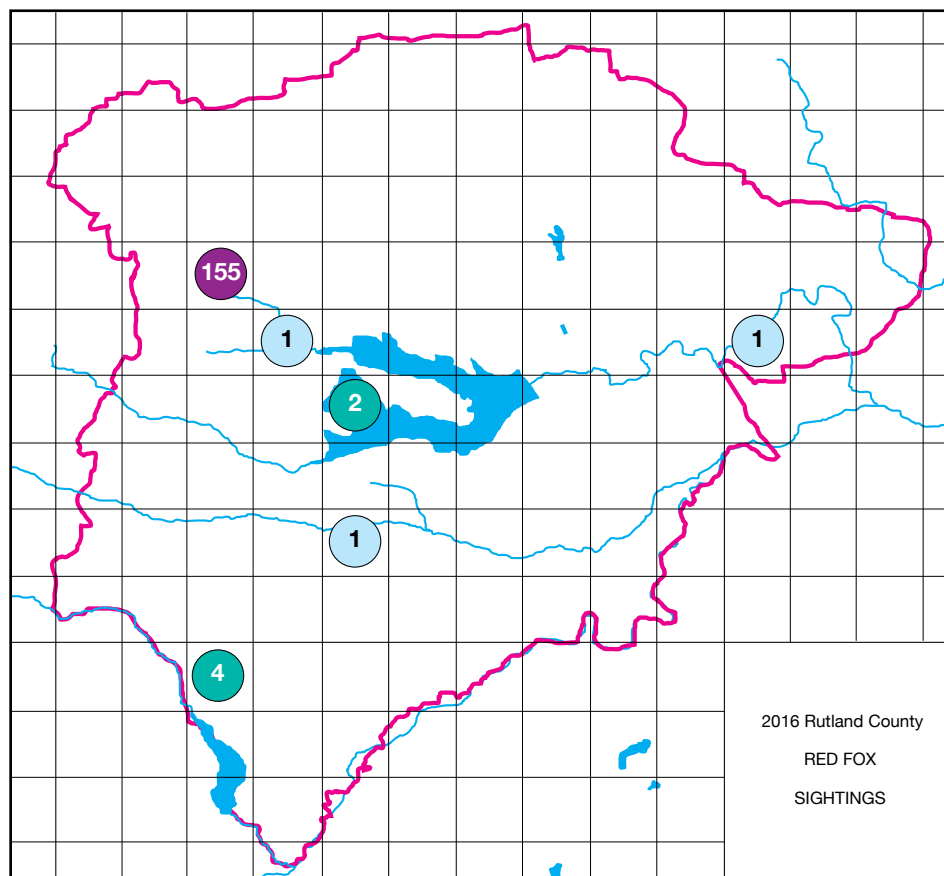
### Brown rat *Rattus norvegicus*

Frequently recorded on trail cam at Lang, and feeding beneath bird feeders at RW and EBR.

Elsewhere: RWEgl, RwfPcottage, RWheron bay

## CARNIVORA

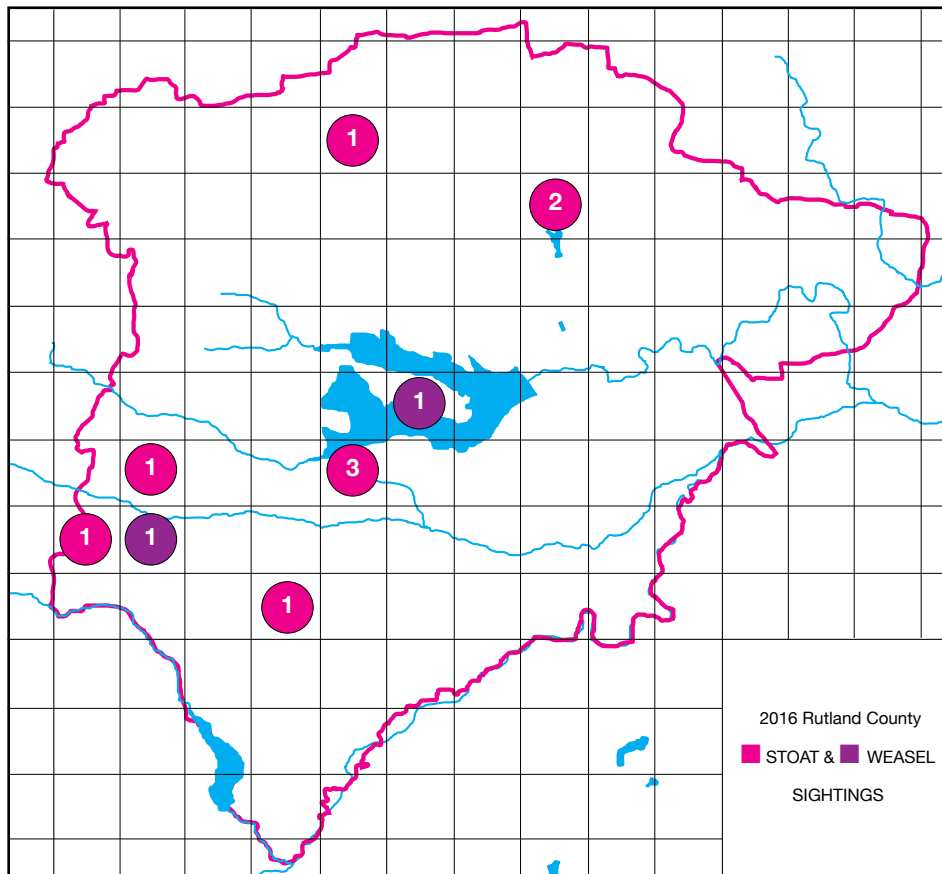
### Red Fox *Vulpes Vulpes*



At Langham the fox is recorded most nights, often visiting 2 or three times, resulting in a large number of reports, but almost certainly the same animal. Very few fox are reported elsewhere, with a total of just 11 other records.

Sightings: Lang, Mount's Lodge, Oak, QF, Rwf16, Upp, Wg, WW

**Stoat** *Mustela erminea*



In 2015 reports of stoats, eight in total, were mainly from the west of Rutland, and far fewer than the 25 seen last year. This may be due to a fall in prey number, though this is not evident in reports of rabbit numbers.

Sightings: Barr, FH, Leigh, Mant, Upp

**Weasel** *Mustela nivalis*

This year only two reports (Leighfield, Thistleton), compared with six for 2015.

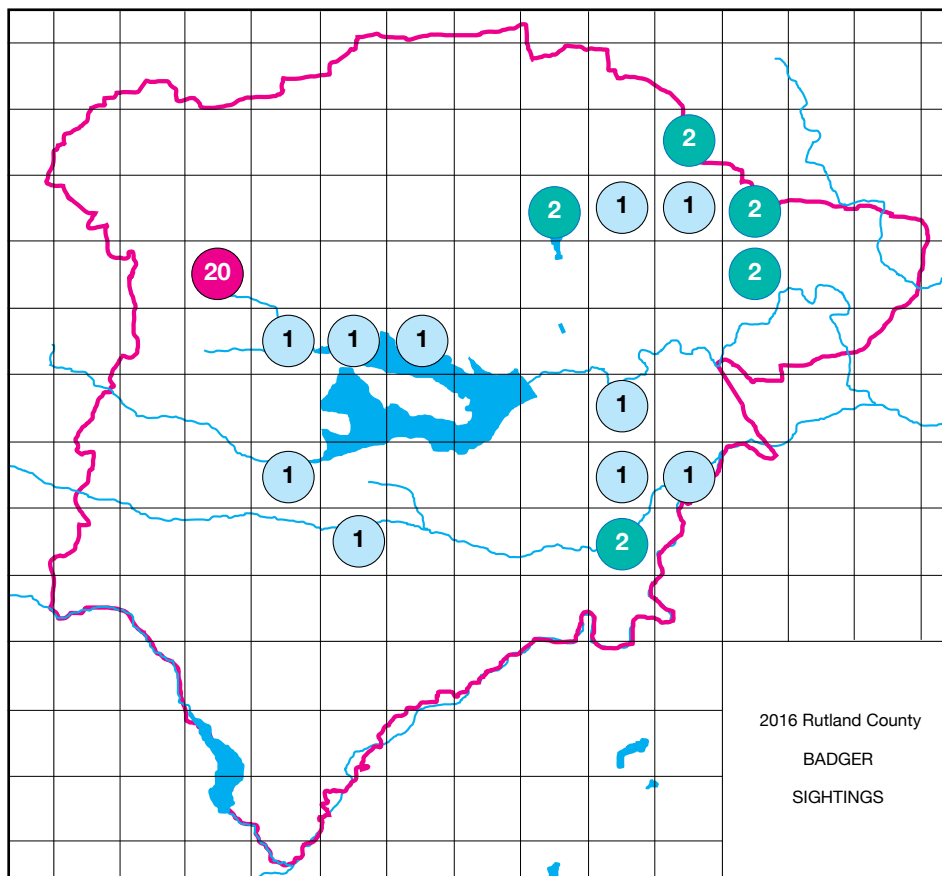
**Mink** *Neovison vison*

No reports.

**Polecat** *Mustela putorius*

In January, one was recorded by trail camera at RWNR, following our first confirmed report (Dec 2015). In November, a polecat crossed the B664 just beyond Stockerston (slightly out-of-County but an important confirmation). Sighting: Rwf16

**Badger *Meles meles***



The 20 sightings are from a trail cam.

Sightings: Barns, Egl turn, Gun, GtCast, GVGC, Kett, KQ, Lang, Oak, Pick, Ryll heath, RwF46, Shacklewell Hollow, v7, Wg

**Otter *Lutra lutra***

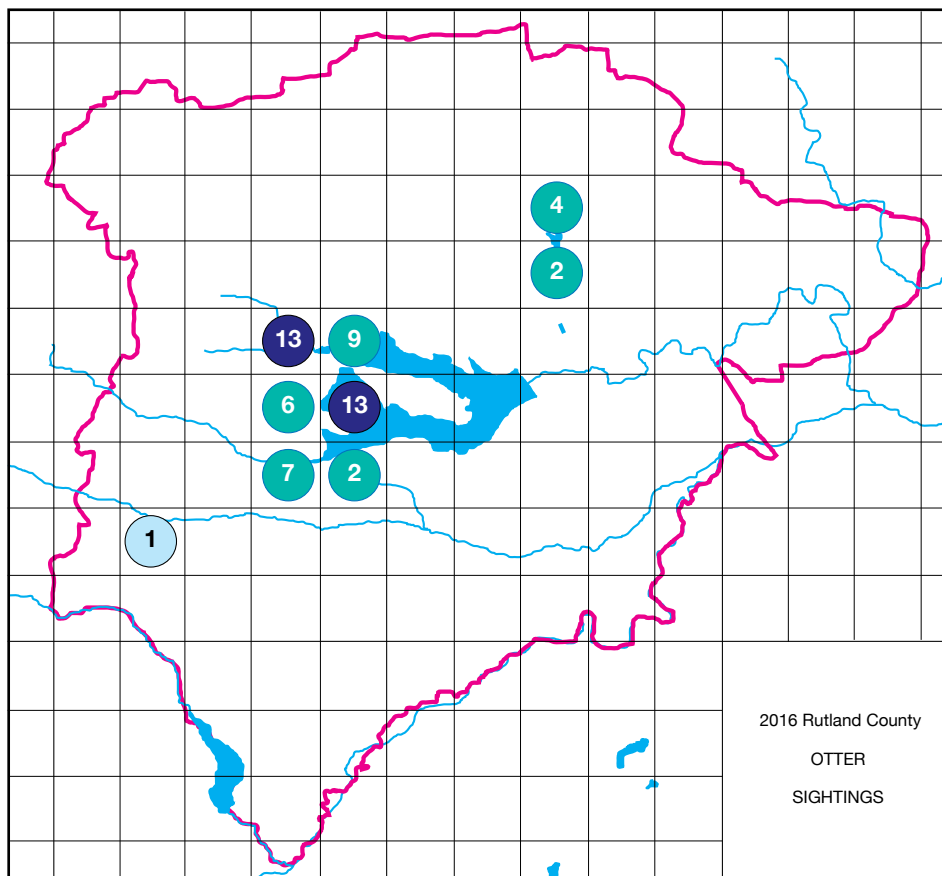
Evidence for Otter is easy to find at the key sites mapped on page 9. It is clear that they are breeding locally, and thriving around RW. They are also regular visitors to FHP (both top lake and lower bridge) and north at GVGC. In February an adult was fishing Leighfield FP. There were no reports this year from the Welland and Chater rivers.

Elsewhere: BFP, Hamb, HM North brook

Sightings around RW: RWEgl/ RwF46, RWLynd/ deep waterH/ heronb/ manb/ redshankH



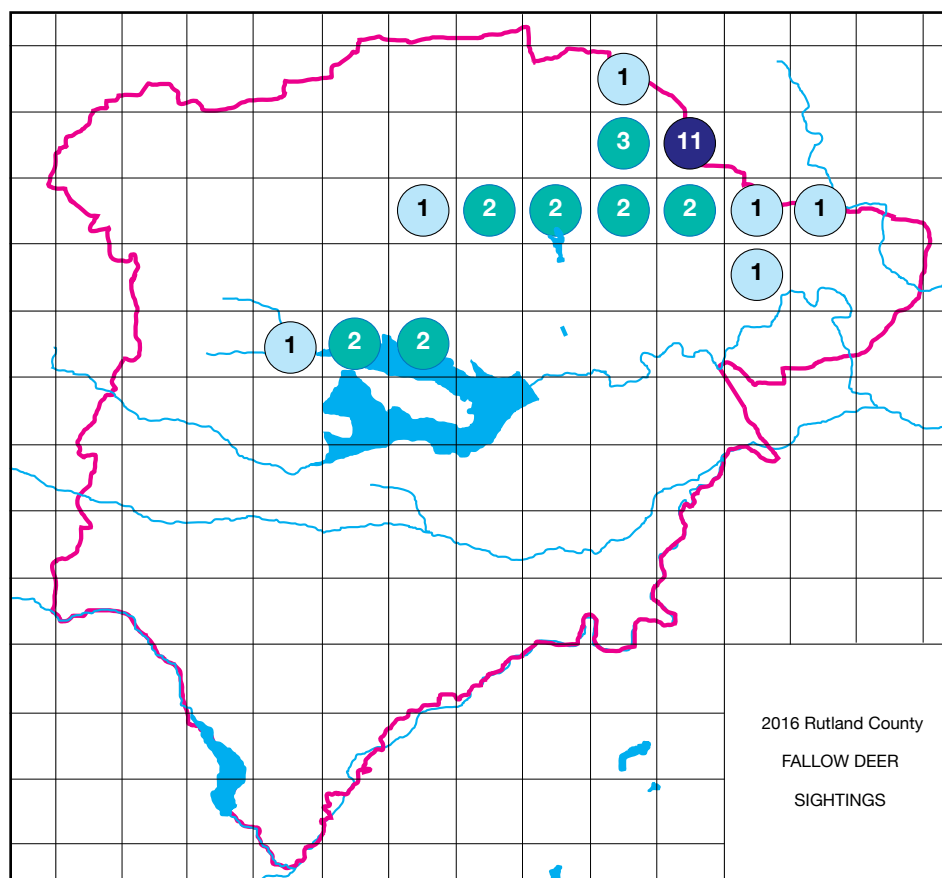
Otter *Lutra lutra*



ARTIODACTYLA

Fallow deer *Dama dama*

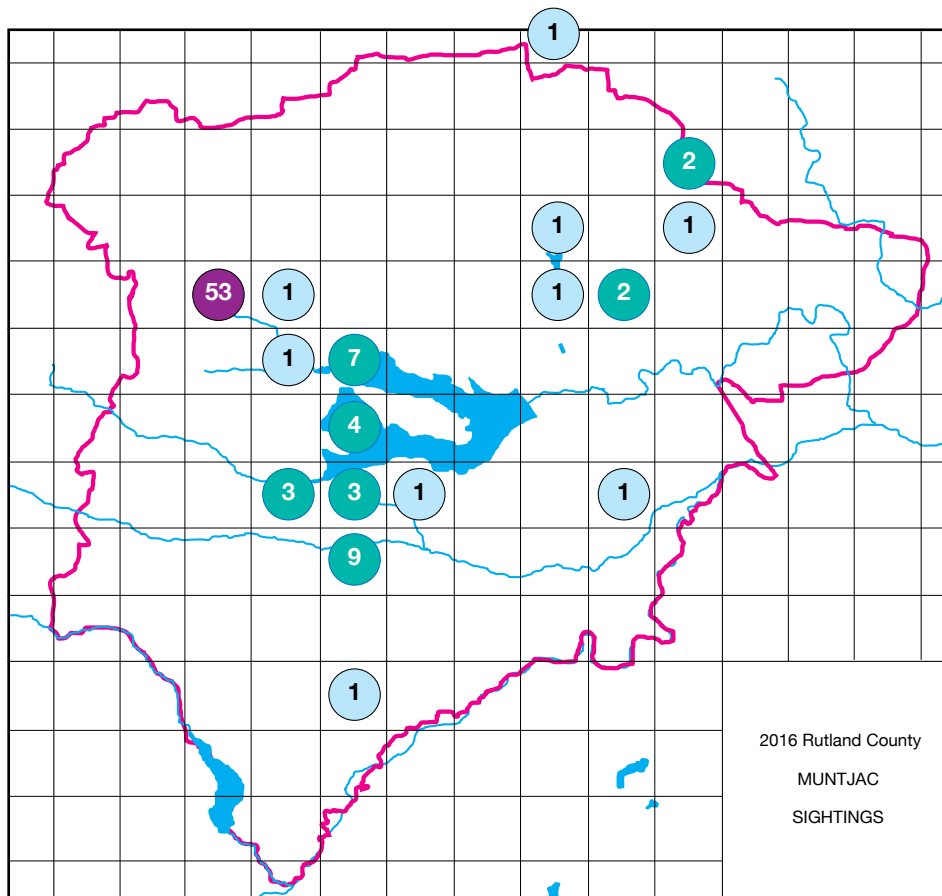
Barns, CottesW, CPW,  
ExtPk, GVGC, PGW, Pick,  
RCGC, Rwf46, Ryll,  
TunnW, Whit, WhC



There were fewer reports, and lower numbers, than in 2015.

**Muntjac** *Muntiacus reevesii*

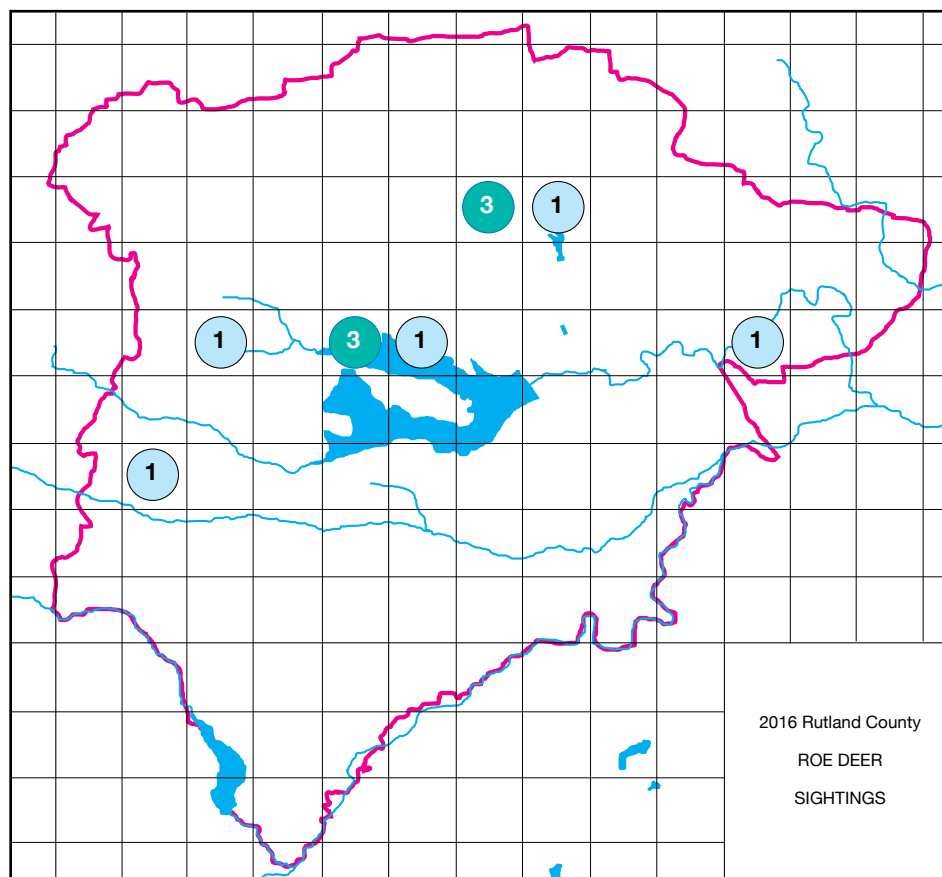
Ash-Burl, Barr, BCF, BOQ,  
 BurlW, FHP, Gun, GVGC, KQ,  
 PGW, Pick, RWEgl, RwF13,15,16  
 45,46, RWLynd, Wg



Common, numbers of reports are similar to 2015, with 53 from a Langham trailcam.

**Roe deer** *Capreolus capreolus*

BarnsW, BCF, BW, ExtPk,  
 GVGC, Leigh, QF, RWRb,  
 Tunn, WW



The County population is low.

