



Yellow Necked Mouse

Apodemus flavicollis

Quick facts

Order Rodentia

Conservation status

GB *Least concern*



England *Least concern*

Scotland *N/A*

Wales *Least concern*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Stable*

Size 9.5 - 12 cm, tail 7.7 - 11.8 cm

Weight 14 - 45 g

Life span Average life expectancy is 3 - 4 months, rarely more than a year

The yellow necked mouse can be distinguished from the wood mouse by its slightly larger size and characteristic band of yellow-brown fur on the chest which interrupts the white colouration on the underside. It is restricted to southern Britain.

Habitat

Coniferous, deciduous, and mixed woodland, urban and garden habitats. Favours areas with large nut-bearing trees.

Behaviour

Largely nocturnal. Good climbers, making use of woodland floor and canopy when moving. Builds complicated, extensive underground burrows also used for food storage and nesting. Also makes use of nesting boxes.

Diet & Feeding

Primarily on tree seeds, fruits, some green plants, invertebrates - similar to the wood mouse, but able to climb higher into undergrowth to feed on buds.

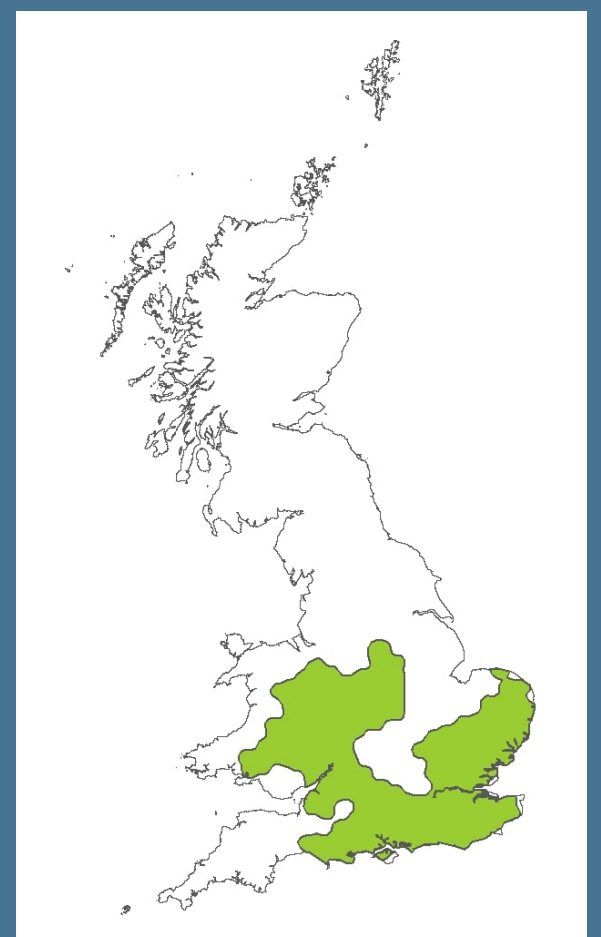
Reproduction

Litters of 2 - 11 born from February to October. Breeding onset 2 - 8 weeks earlier than wood mouse where the two species occur together.

Conservation & Threats

No legal protection. The unusual distribution of the yellow necked mouse has yet to be explained. A 1998 Mammal Society study showed that it is reasonably common across much of southern England, with no obvious declines in population or retreats in its range. Therefore it is thought that no urgent conservation effort is required.

Range



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