



## Training Tomorrow's Talent trainee moves on – Adam's leaving message



*Wildlife recording assistant Adam Ross leading a Mustelids ID workshop at Skinflats (photo: IFLI team)*

My time with IFLI has come to an end and I'm sad to be saying goodbye. I've had a fantastic year full of fun and memorable experiences. The Wildlife Recording Assistant role has provided a huge amount of variety and stimulation – it's very hard to get bored when a working day can entail a birdsong walk and a moth trapping workshop back-to-back, on opposite sides of the Forth Estuary, all before lunchtime.

My favourite aspect of the job has probably been my involvement in the [Forth Nature Counts](#) workshop programme. I've had the pleasure of learning about badgers, bumblebees, bryophytes, butterflies, birds and even a few things that *don't* start with the letter 'B'. Every event has been inspiring in its own way and I seem to walk shorter and shorter distances from my house / the office as my list of wildlife to stop and examine grows longer and longer. It's been great working with volunteers to record wildlife on new and existing survey routes. Members of the public, using the [Inner Forth Recording Form](#) have generated over 8,000 records for 968 species since the project began.

There have been many highlights over the last year. Seeing my first ever short-eared owl on the last day of work before the Christmas holidays was a significant moment. It seemed to be glowing in the

low winter sun as it quartered the saltmarsh, demonstrating where the '*flammeus*' part of its Latin name originates. I've been fortunate to have quite a few more encounters with short-eared owls around the Forth since then.

Another highlight was my trip to Finland in May. The landscape, wildlife and people we encountered were all brilliant and I felt incredibly lucky to have been given the opportunity to participate. The full report is now available to read on the [ArchNetwork website](#).

More recently I ran my own Forth Nature Counts workshop, focussing on the Mustelid family of mammals. Mammals are a passion of mine and I found the process of researching, writing and delivering the workshop really enjoyable and rewarding. We found pine marten signs in the forest and I achieved a 'personal best' for camera trapping by achieving this [close-up footage](#) of an inquisitive weasel.

It's not just the wildlife that has made this job such a pleasure. I'd like to say a huge thank you to my amazing IFLI colleagues, our dedicated volunteers, the passionate workshop attendees and the inspiring workshop leaders as well as RSPB and the Heritage Lottery Fund for all of the support and encouragement I've received throughout my traineeship.

I'm off to Aberdeenshire to discover a new landscape. I'll definitely miss this one.

Adam

