



BRINGING BEAVERS
BACK TO SCOTLAND

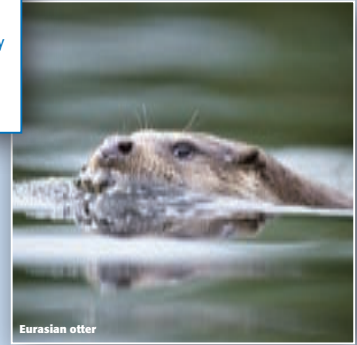
WWW.SCOTTISHBEAVER.S.ORG.UK



Beautiful demonelle

Dragonflies – Beavers create ponds which contain higher populations and varieties of invertebrates than faster waters. In some studies, the number of dragonfly species has doubled or even trebled after beaver activity. Knapdale's 13 species of dragonfly will undoubtedly benefit from the creation of beaver ponds and flooded forests.

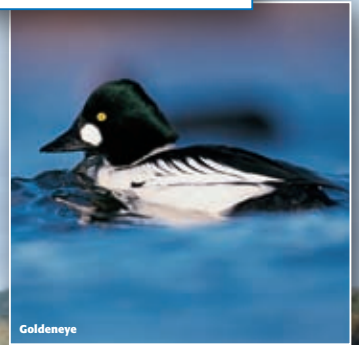
Eurasian otter – In Europe beavers and otters co-exist naturally. The beaver ponds, with their stable water levels, provide a valuable source of fish to local otters. Unlike otters, beavers do not feed on fish; they are entirely vegetarian. Otters are known to use abandoned beaver lodges as holts.



Eurasian otter

THE BEAVER: THE KEYSTONE SPECIES OF WET WOODLAND AND FOREST

Birds – By stabilising wetlands during dry periods, beaver ponds increase breeding habitats for a variety of birds. Teal and goldeneye in particular nest on beaver ponds and an array of fish-eating birds such as goosanders, mergansers, herons and kingfishers also benefit from the slow-moving waters created. The wet woodland habitat is more attractive to birds such as snipe.



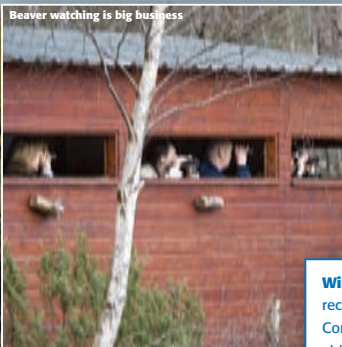
Goldeneye

The beaver truly is a keystone species. Here are some of the benefits that could come from the beaver's reintroduction...



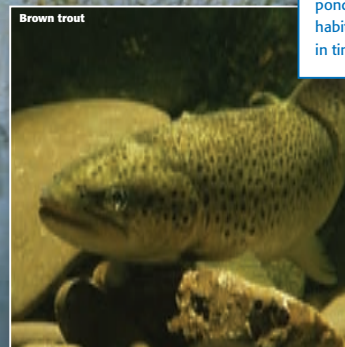
Silver birch

Trees – Many of Scotland's native tree species have naturally evolved over millennia alongside the beaver. As broadleaved trees are felled by beavers for food and construction, they respond by producing vigorous new growth. This process, known as coppicing, improves biodiversity by creating a more natural woodland structure with standing trees and open glades.



Beaver watching is big business

Wildlife tourism – A recent study by the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at the University of Oxford suggested that a beaver reintroduction release site might bring in more than £2 million per year into the local economy.



Brown trout

Fish – An increase in aquatic and semi-aquatic invertebrates results in greater feeding opportunities for many fish species, and the deeper water of beaver ponds can provide important habitat during the winter and in times of drought.

Beaver reintroduction trial site

