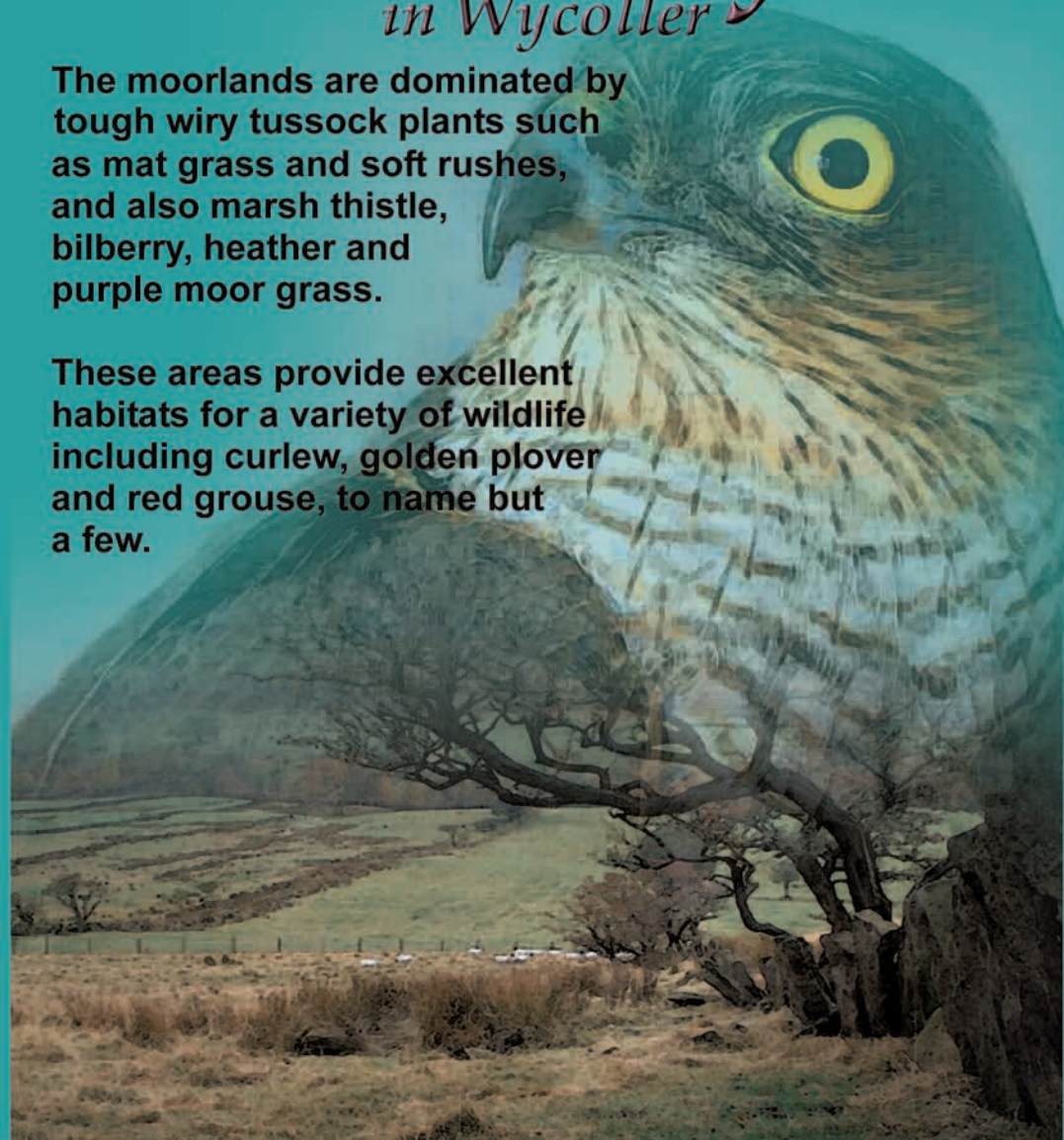


Wildlife

in Wycoller

The moorlands are dominated by tough wiry tussock plants such as mat grass and soft rushes, and also marsh thistle, bilberry, heather and purple moor grass.

These areas provide excellent habitats for a variety of wildlife including curlew, golden plover and red grouse, to name but a few.



Red Admiral



Orange Tip

The wild flowers attract a diversity of insects including butterflies such as small tortoiseshell, red admiral and orange tip.

Fish, including brown trout and bullhead occur in Wycoller Beck and it is here that you are likely to see heron, dipper and kingfishers. In summer look out for swallows, darting and gliding across the stream in search of insects. The swallows nest in the Aisled Barn.



bullhead

The wheatear is a very attractive summer visitor to the moorland and hillsides, readily distinguishable by the flash of its conspicuous white rump as it flits along the top of stone walls or near the ground.

wheatear



wood anemone

The pasture and moorland slopes were once clothed with oak and birch forests but now woodland is largely concentrated in the stream valleys where you may see a profusion of woodland plants including wood anemone. In the trees and shrubs you will see and hear the song of the robin, blackbird, dunnock, mistle thrush and blue and great tit. Sparrowhawks, the worst enemy of small birds, may sometimes be seen flying low over hedges, chasing their victims. The plumage is dark grey above, and whitish beneath with reddish-brown bars.

The kestrel, our commonest falcon, is frequently observed hovering in search of prey, displaying great skill in remaining suspended in the air, motionless, except for the quivering wing-tips.



kestrel

Stoats, characterised by the black tip on their tail may be seen hunting around the stone walls. Lapwing, snipe and redshank feed and nest on the lower slopes of the hillsides and these areas are also home to weasels, the smaller cousin of the stoat.

stoat



butterbur



germander speedwell

sparrowhawk



A wide variety of wild flowers grow in the valley. In spring look out for butterbur, celandines and wood sorrel, while in summer you will see herb-robert, dog violet, foxgloves and germander speedwell.