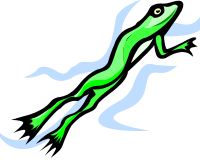


Leicestershire Amphibian and Reptile Network



*Newsletter No. 15
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Great Crested Newt Survey 2009

Preliminary results have come in from 2009 great crested newt surveys. Nine sites were looked at in Leicestershire, mainly those where GCNs had been recorded previously, but not for a while. This time round, there were positive sightings of GCNs at three sites, with 40 seen at Stamford Quarry, 22 at Nature Alive in Coalville and 3 in a field pond in Sileby. Frogs, toads and smooth newts were also recorded (only one site produced no amphibians), with thousands of toad tadpoles at Stamford Quarry. Practically all the ponds surveyed had potential for good amphibian populations, in contrast to last year's survey sites.

Ed Darby's response to last year's results, reported in the last LARN newsletter, was to query whether a large proportion of ponds were really unsuitable for newts. He argues that newts will tolerate sub-optimal conditions, and we really need to be looking for them in unpromising habitats.

A New Dawn

The world of amphibians and reptiles has seen a new organisation emerge. Froglife and the Herpetological Conservation Trust have merged to metamorphose into Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. They can be contacted at a new address (2A Flag Business Exchange, Vicarage Farm Road, Fengate, Peterborough PE1 5TX) or via the new website www.arc-trust.org

Dragons in your Garden

One of the first products of the establishment of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation is a booklet entitled "Dragons in your Garden". This details how to encourage amphibians and reptiles into your garden, to help these species especially in urban areas. Copies of the booklet can be obtained via email (enquiries@arc-trust.org) or telephone (01733-558960).



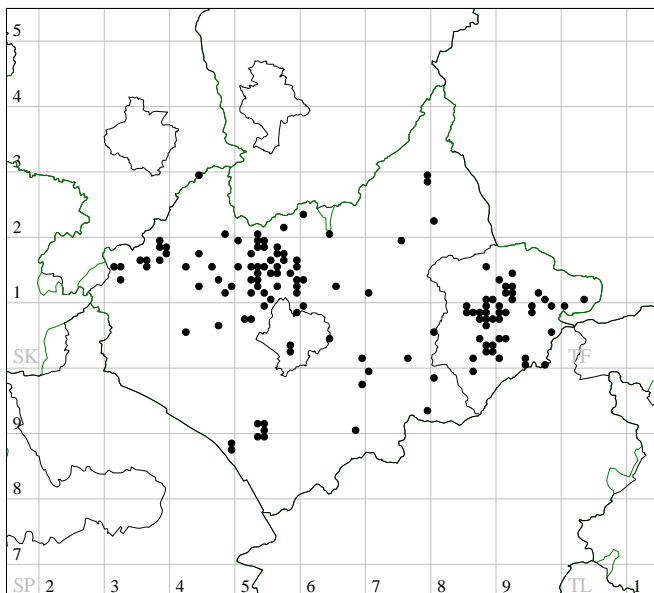
ARG UK

The ARG UK website www.arguk.org has the latest newsletter (ARG Today 6, Autumn 2009) there, as well as the details, as soon as they are available, of the annual Herpetofauna Workers Meeting, to be held in the New Year.

WildGuide

An excellent new field guide has recently been published. "British Reptiles and Amphibians" by Howard Inns, published by WILDGuides, gives details of all the native and non-native species to be found in Britain, Ireland and the Channel Islands, together with marine turtles. It is impressively illustrated, with photographs throughout. Proceeds from the sale of the book support Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.

Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)



National Biodiversity Network

As far as possible, Holly Hayes (Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre) would like to make records accessible through the NBN. To allow this to happen with records passed on by LARN, we need your agreement. Please note the following wording, and let me know if you disagree:

'By sending biodiversity records to LARN, I agree that they may be made available for environmental decision-making, education, research and other public benefit uses. The information may appear on the Internet, including Leicestershire County Council's website or the NBN Gateway (National Biodiversity Network). Your name will be put onto the database at LRERC and will form part of the record of information that you have provided, but your name and contact details will be used for administration and verification purposes only. Your contact details will not be passed to other parties without your consent.'

Midlands ARG Conference

On Saturday 27 June, the ARG UK Midlands Regional Conference, the first to cover both East and West Midlands, was held at Rugby High School. Amongst the presentations, topics included adders on roadside verges in Northamptonshire and on moorland in Derbyshire, slow-worms in Worcestershire and great crested newts in Warwickshire. There were also general presentations on pond creation, biological recording, managing habitats for reptiles, and county round-ups, including an overview of herps activities in Leicestershire and Rutland.

FSC

The Field Studies Council run a number of courses on reptiles and amphibians, from beginners to advanced. Details can be found on their website www.field-studies-council.org



If you have any news for the next edition of this newsletter, do let me know.

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