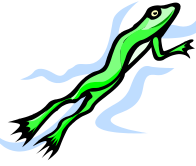


# Leicestershire Amphibian and Reptile Network



*Newsletter No. 19  
March 2012*

## Date for the Diary

A Midlands regional Amphibian and Reptile Group meeting is being organised for the East and West Midlands ARGs on Saturday 22nd September. It is to be held in the Waterside Suite at the National Forest's Conkers Centre at Moira near Ashby de la Zouch. There will be speakers from the National Forest and Lincoln University as well as reports from county groups. Further details will come out nearer the time.

## Sorry

I have just recently returned from a round-the-world trip (I saw a few herps – geckos in Australia and Fiji, frogs in New Zealand) which took me away from emails for three months, so apologies if I have been slow to respond to any contacts.

One thing I missed whilst away was a request for information on the status of adders in Leicestershire and Rutland – a request that came in with a very short timescale. I would have replied that adders are definitely present only at Bradgate Park and Ketton Quarry, with a possible occurrence at Launde, and numerous misidentifications!



## ARG Today

The Winter edition of ARG Today is available on the ARG UK website:  
[www.arguk.org](http://www.arguk.org) - look under Publications.

## Big Spawn Count

Pond Conservation is organising the Big Spawn Count to investigate breeding success of frogs and toads in garden ponds, and test the theory that garden ponds are an important refuge for frogs. This is an easy survey – simply count the numbers of spawn clumps in your garden pond. Further details are on the Pond Conservation website:

[www.pondconservation.org.uk](http://www.pondconservation.org.uk)

## NatureSpot

The Nature Spot website has been set up to promote and facilitate wildlife recording in Vice-County 55 (Leicestershire and Rutland). It allows anyone to submit records, especially casual records, which are then passed on to the county recorder. Find it at:

[www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk)



## Invasives

Further to the piece in the last LARN newsletter about terrapins, the European Commission has launched a consultation on a dedicated legislative instrument on invasive alien species. It is important to have the evidence available, and shows the value of recording the presence of aliens. There are further records of red-eared terrapin at Cossington in 2011 – any additional information is welcome.

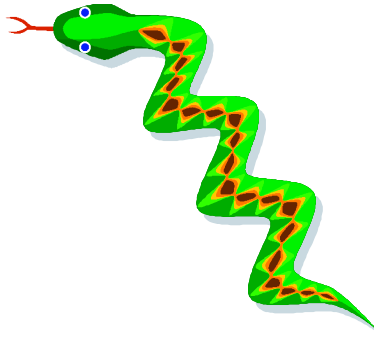
## Site Snippets

At Nature Alive in Coalville, work to clear the GCN pond of invading vegetation has been arranged and supervised by the Wildlife Trust.

Catherine Tregaskes sent photographs of the underside of a dead snake found near Launde. It looked like a grass snake. Photos are always helpful for confirming identifications.

Neill Talbot at the Wildlife Trust is looking for any records of amphibians at the ponds at Moira Furnace.

Is anyone interested in monitoring Dishley Pool in Loughborough? It used to have a good toad population (100+ in 1997), but it may be affected by Charnwood Borough Council's intention to set part of the pool aside as a swimming area. Contact Neill Talbot at the Wildlife Trust for details.



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

*Andrew Heaton, 19 Rydal Gardens, Ashby de la Zouch, Leics LE65 1FJ*

*Tel. 01530-467904*

[aheaton@ntlworld.com](mailto:aheaton@ntlworld.com)