

Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team

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www.wartsoc.co.uk

WART NEWSLETTER: ISSUE No. 44 AUTUMN 2006

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EDITORIAL

THIS EDITION IS DEDICATED TO THE ONE AND ONLY HERPETOLOGIST STEVE IRWIN WHO SADLY PASSED AWAY EARLIER THIS YEAR.

Welcome to the late autumn edition of the WART newsletter. It's been a busy year and the 'herping' season has just about come to an end and the little critters have hopefully found themselves somewhere cosy to spend the winter.

This edition is a bit of a mish-mash of articles. There is a summary from Nigel Clemons regarding the pilot surveys for NAARS this year. I didn't get that far with my ponds due to work commitments and a sprained ankle which put me out of action for a couple of months this year. The ironic thing is I did it whilst surveying for newts!!

We have a lot of exciting events planned for next year including the annual ARG UK Herpetofauna Workers meeting in Coventry again and I have heard a rumour that it will be bigger and better than last year and the guest speaker is Johnathon Houghton the turtle man from Swansea University. Other events are WART training days which we have planned for 2007 after the huge success of our Amphibian Training Day 2006.

Our chairperson Jan has also been busy with her new career as a local television personality!!! Please see article in the first edition of the e-newsletter from ARG-UK at www.arg-uk.org.uk
In the mean time I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and Hoppy (couldn't resist) New Year and I hope to see you all next year at the various events.

Lucy Cash
November 2006

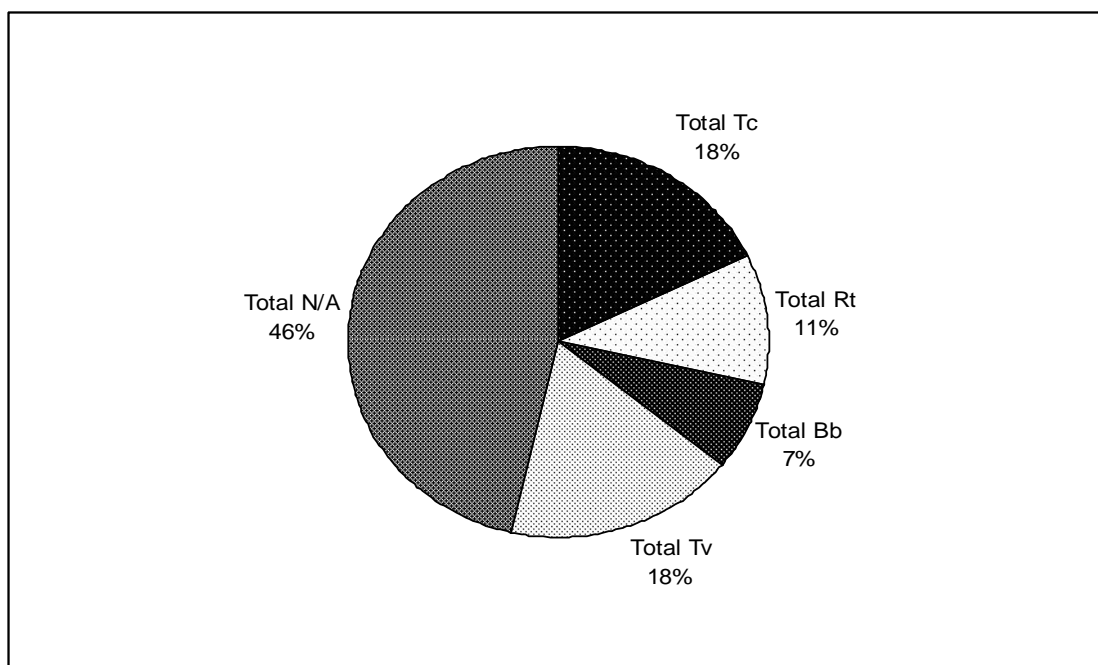
Warwickshire GCN Hunt NARRS Pilot 2006

From the training day held on 30th April 2006 we had a total of 27 volunteers sign up to survey a 10km square each, for which I received records from 6 surveyors. What happened to the other 21 surveyors? One surveyor failed to receive any details of the 10Km square to survey by post or email I only know this as he kept contacting the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and not me. I did check the electoral role for his details and he was not registered at the address given? Another 3 surveyors did apologize in that they could not complete the survey in the time allocated. Also Jan and my self failed due to her forth coming trip to Peru, which also tied me up. This is a major stumbling block which many volunteers have, fitting surveys in with other commitments. From the other 15 surveyors there has been no contact. Unless they sent their records direct to HCT.

The returned results did confirm the validity of past records and it proved our thoughts on past surveyors, in that their records **CAN NOT** be trusted. This takes me back to the days when I was analysing the BHS data and I found a record for a grass snake the grid reference supplied for the creature placed it some 50 miles out in the North Sea! Not only do surveyors not know where they are but they do miss-identify animals.

A total of 28 ponds were surveyed out of a 198 of these 28 ponds 5 had Tc.

Ponds with Tc	5
Ponds with Rt	3
Ponds with Bb	2
Ponds with Tv	5
Ponds with Nothing "N/A"	13



3 Ponds could not be found. The Owner at one location informed the Survey there never had been a pond on his land!

2 Ponds could not be surveyed due to Owners not giving permission. One of the locations was found on aerial photos and no water bodies could be seen, but cows & sheep could!

My thanks go to all those who took part in this pilot.

Nigel Clemons- September 2006

Forthcoming Events 2007
NATIONAL



Annual Herpetofauna Workers Meeting
Saturday 27 - Sunday 28 January 2007
The Butts Arena, Coventry
Details to follow soon at www.arg-uk.org.uk

LOCAL

WART Amphibian Training Day
Saturday 24th March 2007
(Provisional Date Only)

WART Reptile Training Day
14th April 2004
(Provisional Date Only)

For further details please contact Jan Clemons

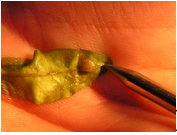
Wishing Everyone at WART a Merry Christmas!!



Lucy Cash 2006

Answers to Photo Quiz

Here are the answers to last editions Quiz



Name the species of newt which laid this egg??- Palmate Newt/Smooth Newt

Egg



Who's feet are these??- Male Palmate Newt



Who's Belly???- Great Crested Newt



Who's foot is this??- Male Smooth Newt



Name the species??? Smooth Newt

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