



# Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team

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Affiliated to the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (Registered Charity Number 209200)  
and Herpetofauna Groups of Britain & Ireland.

[www.wartsoc.co.uk](http://www.wartsoc.co.uk)

## **WART NEWSLETTER: ISSUE No. 46 AUTUMN/WINTER 2007**

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### **EDITORIAL**

It's been an unusual year with some strange weather and this has undoubtedly affected the natural biorhythms of creatures including reptiles and amphibians.

I found this year that breeding, particularly in Great Crested Newts in the areas I have been surveying was disjointed and adults seem to arrive and disappear very quickly.

I managed to get away to Greece a couple of times in the summer, to the island of Corfu and even the high temperatures over there had affected the basking regimes of the local herps.

Onto other matters, the NAARS project was successfully launched again this year and WART have undertaken their grid squares alongside other ARGs across the UK. We look forward to seeing the result analysis in the near future.

It's not been a bad year for herping this year and I wish I had more time, Grass Snake seems to have been in abundance and Adders were still basking in North Yorkshire last weekend!!! I hope that everyone has a good winter and look forward to a busy year next year with plenty of events.

Lucy Cash  
October 2007

## 2.Forthcoming Events

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007, Bournemouth**

The Herpetological Conservation Trust and British Herpetological Society are holding their joint scientific meeting on amphibian and reptile biology, ecology and conservation. For further details please visit [www.herpconstrust.org.uk](http://www.herpconstrust.org.uk) or [www.narrs.org.uk](http://www.narrs.org.uk)

### **Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> - Amphibian Surveying Workshop**

2.00pm

This workshop is aimed at the non professional who is interested in helping us survey amphibians on our nature reserves and for the National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme (NARRS). Learn more about the ecology and behaviour of amphibians. The workshop will involve both an indoor ID session to help you improve your ID skills, and then an evening visit to an amphibian site to see the animals in their natural environment. Refreshments provided.

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Reptile Surveying Workshop**

10.00am

This workshop is aimed at the non professional who is interested in helping us survey reptiles on our nature reserves and for (NARRS). Learn more about the ecology and behaviour of reptiles. The workshop will involve both an indoor ID session to help you improve your ID skills in the morning, and then an afternoon visit to a reptile site to see the animals in their natural environment. Refreshments provided.

**Cost:** £6.50 per person per course which includes a free Warwickshire Amphibian and Reptile Team (WART) membership. If you book on the reptile and the amphibian workshop then one course is free. Places are only confirmed upon receipt of payment in advance.

**Booking Essential:** Contact the reserves team on 024 7630 8993 (Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment).

**Location:** 2km SE of Coventry. Brandon Marsh Nature Centre is sign posted with a brown sign just off the A45 heading towards Northampton/London away from the Toll Bar Round About. Turn left onto Brandon Lane just after the petrol station. Entrance SP386761 – Meet in the barn.

### **WART AGM Thursday 24 January**

Venue: Brandon Marsh Nature Centre 7.30pm

All WART members are invited. Come and see at first hand how WART works!

**Herpetofauna Workers Meeting 2008**  
**9 & 10 February 2007 (?)**  
**Venue – Butts Park or Yarnfield Park (?)**

Unfortunately at the present time there are no confirmed dates or venues for the Herpetofauna Workers Meeting 2008. As soon as we know we will let all members of WART know any details, thanks for your patience.

### **3.OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS**

#### **Herpfile additions to UK BAP**

The Species and Habitat Review was published in June 2007. Adder, Grass Snake, Smooth Snake, Common Lizard, Slow Worm, and Common Toad have now been added to the list of priority species of the UK BAP.

#### **Early frogs –**

Scottish Natural Heritage received a call on 23 October 2007 to say that common frogs were spawning in a garden pond in Oban, Western Scotland. Frogs were also reported to be vocalizing the same day in a garden in Bangor and toads were calling in Cornwall on 10 October.

These amphibians are clearly mixed up regarding their breeding season. Are there any unusual early frog records from Warwickshire out there?

## Galapagos Briefly....

I thought that maybe the WART members would like to see a few interesting photos of herps from my Mum's travels this year to the Galapagos of the Giant Tortoise and Marine iguana.



If any members of WART want to contribute to this newsletter then all articles and photos are welcome, please feel free to be creative.

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