

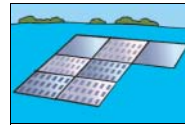


The World Around Us



"Foreign Correspondent"
Michael Ludwig reports on some strange goings on in the natural world.

Europe's largest floating solar farm



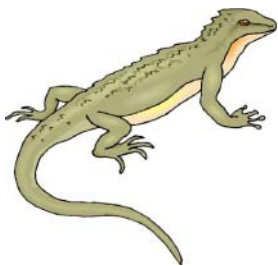
On the outskirts of London, 23,000 solar panels are being installed on the Queen Elizabeth II reservoir near Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, in the UK. It is the largest floating solar farm (boat) in Europe - for the moment. At a cost of £6 million, the panels can generate 5.8 million kilowatt hours every year, enough for about 18,000 homes. The reservoir water cools the panels, which help power the local water treatment works without taking up space. The system provides drinking water to almost 10 million people in London and south-east of England.

Comedy Wildlife Awards

You can often see funny things in nature. Check out the winners



of the Comedy Wildlife Awards for 2015 at <http://comedywildlifephoto.com/> Have you ever taken a photograph of a wild animal that you think could win a prize?



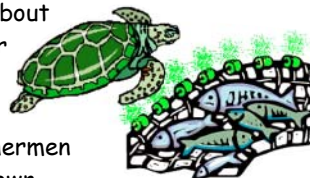
The Irish Wildlife Trust wants your reptile sightings!

The Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT) are calling on the Irish public to send them their common lizard or slow worm sightings, Ireland's two species of terrestrial reptile.

Whether you are a seasoned wildlife spotter or happen to come across a lizard while out walking or on the farm please send them your sightings and help contribute to the National Reptile Survey. For more information on the survey and on lizards in general, visit: <http://www.iwt.ie/lizard-survey>

Green Turtles getting the Green Light!

In the Spring 2016 issue of Nature's Web, we talked about the few remaining Yangtze green sea turtles, but other species of sea turtle also need protection. Many sea turtles feed in the coastal waters of Peru, where there is a lot of food but a large number of gillnet fishermen boats. The turtles often get caught in the nets and drown.



Scientists have been trying to find ways of reducing the numbers caught. They found that by attaching battery-powered green LED lights to gillnets the number of sea turtles caught was reduced by up to 64 percent, without reducing the number of fish caught - this is good news for the turtles and the fishermen. The researchers are now working with larger fisheries in Peru and are also looking at different coloured lights to see if they will prevent other species of sea turtles from being caught and harmed by gillnets. The lights cost about €30 per net.

A New Species discovered at almost 4,300 metres



Very little is known about life in the deep sea but the more we learn we see how our actions might affect it, and how we can protect it. Scientists at NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) in the USA have discovered what they believe is an undescribed species of octopod in that deep sea. Octopod is the general term for species which includes octopus. The previously unknown species was found at a depth of almost 4,300 metres, not far from the Hawaiian Islands, using the unmanned submersible "Deep Discoverer", which was operating from NOAA's Okeanos Explorer. Ghostly white, the jelly-like octopod is without pigment (colour). It doesn't look like it could change colour like octopi can nor does it need to be able to, given that it lives in virtual darkness. Scientists have little insight about its behaviour as they have never seen this species. Visit the Deep Discoverer on-line (see link on page 14).