

Dragonfly News | 65

The Magazine of the British Dragonfly Society
Spring 2014
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Dragonfly News 65

The Magazine of the British Dragonfly Society

Published twice a year, in April and October, *Dragonfly News* covers all aspects of the British Dragonfly Society's field, recording, monitoring, research, conservation and social activities, as well as information from the wider dragonfly, natural history and conservation world. The emphasis is on dragonflies recorded in the UK.

The British Dragonfly Society aims to promote and encourage the study, conservation and understanding of dragonflies and their natural habitats, especially in the UK, and to raise public awareness of dragonflies.

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* An asterisk indicates a change since the last issue



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BDS in crisis – a call to arms!

I thought a long time before I decided to use that rather emotive headline, but yes, I am afraid we are very much in the throes of a crisis in two areas of the Society. Let me quickly explain why I say this, and why I think we have the strength and support in our loyal members to pull us through the difficulties we are currently facing.

In 2012, after a long period of working on our future strategy and looking at a plan for the best way forward, we hired our first ever Chief Executive. You'll know that we broadly aimed to gain further funding to support our staff and our work, to increase the number of members, and to increase the general public's knowledge about us and dragonflies. That position unhappily did not work as we had hoped, so we reverted back to our earlier structure, but in the meantime our funds had been considerably depleted by the additional salary expense. Now it is of course fair to say that we would inevitably have approached our current financial position at some stage, just not so early, but in any event we are now drawing on our reserve funds with no obvious prospect of significant funding in sight. Here is the key point – given our present expenditure and lack of funding, the Society will reach a 'crunch' point within a year or so, after which we will not be able to afford to have paid staff working for us. That is quite a sobering thought. After all the marvellous years of good work by a succession of our Conservation and Data Officers, we could reach a point again where the Society is necessarily small and solely run by volunteers. That may be the reality facing us – but is that what we want?

My second point concerns our Board of Trustees and the work they do to keep the BDS running as it does. By now many of you will know that our President, Pam Taylor, has had to resign

for family reasons. This is a great loss to the BDS, as Pam did a huge amount of work for the Society – probably too much, as it transpires – but is only one issue amongst a number that have been steadily growing. We were already one key person short on the board, as the executive post of Vice-President has been vacant for a year. Now we no longer have either chairperson or deputy driving the BDS forward through the mass of day to day business, a situation which is very difficult to manage. As if this were not enough, we have also been struggling to find the four ordinary Trustees we need to manage the day to day workings of the charity. Mick Parfitt, David Goddard and Stuart Irons have all volunteered as Trustees and this has greatly helped, but we need a steady flow of volunteers to keep up the four year replacement cycle. And we will soon need to find further key people as the terms of office of both our Treasurer (Brian Walker) and the DCG Convener (Dave Smallshire) come to an end in a couple of years. Both Brian and Dave have already steadfastly performed excellent service for us over a considerable period and have put in a huge amount of effort for the Society.

In summary, I don't use the term 'crisis' lightly – we really are at something of a crossroads, where the crucial issues of funding and governance need serious action. So I write these words hoping that the members will step forward, as they always have in the past, and 'rally round the BDS flag'. On the issue of funding, we could tighten our belt and contract again to a small recording society run solely by the good offices of a band of dedicated volunteers. I personally would be devastated to see us collapse so far that we fail altogether, and I really don't believe this will ever happen. But we have to face facts, the future at the moment looks quite bleak and we may have to seriously shrink our ambitions, at least for the time being. As for governance, I am optimistic that we will regain a full team to run the Society – I am sure we have the skills and the willingness out there amongst the

membership.

Please let me know your thoughts on these issues - we need two things, funding and volunteers. If you can help, please contact me!



Scenes from the 31st Members' Day. Photographs: Mark Tyrrell

Top: The BDS 30th Anniversary cake, courtesy of Dorothy Gennard

Middle: Pam and Henry cut the cake.

Bottom: Dave Smallshire presents Pam Taylor with a cheque for £500 royalties from the Dragonflies app.

From the Conservation Officer



Claire Install

I have recently finished putting together something which (in my biased opinion), is a great resource for people visiting / living in Wales. I wanted to share it with you so you can use it and tell others about it. After spending a fair amount of time over the past 3 years obtaining grants for practical work and a management plan for the Southern Damselfly in Pembrokeshire, our latest grant from Environment Wales required us to put information about our conservation projects funded by Environment Wales on to our website. These projects have featured in several of my articles for Dragonfly News as well as talks at Members' Day and Recorders Day. The projects made possible through grants from Environment Wales involved practical conservation work and have been carried out to create and improve Southern Damselfly habitat in the Preseli SAC in Pembrokeshire. Rather than putting the projects on to the conservation page of our website, I thought it would be great to include them in a section of our website dedicated to Wales....The only issue with this plan was that, at the time, we did not have a section of our website dedicated to Wales; this was a long term vision of our Natural Resources Wales (NRW) grant.

I set about planning the 'Welsh home page', basing it on the same design that I had used for the 'Scottish home page' a few years ago. This was a home page with five subsections leading from it. The subsections that I thought were most relevant for Wales were:

- Good places to see Dragonflies in Wales
- Species found in Wales
- Dragonfly Breeding Habitats and their Species
- Recording Dragonflies and Submitting Records

• BDS Conservation Projects in Wales
The two sections that I am most keen on are the 'good places to see dragonflies in Wales' and 'conservation projects in Wales', I will tell you a little bit more about these.

Good places to see Dragonflies in Wales

This section required a lot of work. It is aimed at people wishing to plan a visit to good dragonfly sites in Wales. I see it as a resource that would be great if you wanted to find a place to take friends to see dragonflies, or for families wanting a day out. Anyone wanting to record dragonflies in Wales should get in touch with the local Vice County Recorder as there may be some more 'harder to reach' places that need visiting. Sites that may be damaged by excess visitors are not included in the list of sites.

There are 41 sites in total (please get in touch with me if you know another site to add – I am happy to increase the list!). These sites have been chosen because they are good for dragonflies and are also good for people. They have varied facilities ranging from somewhere to park and paths to visitor centres, cafes and toilets. The sites page has a main page with a map of Wales with the location of all 41 sites indicated with numbered circles. Below this there is a list of the principal areas (like English counties) where the sites are located. If you click on a principal area, this will open a page dedicated to that principal area. Each principal area page has a map showing the location of sites. Below this, each site is described in more detail. This is really useful for you if you are planning a day out looking for dragonflies. There is a brief description of the site's main habitat or dragonfly interest points, a list of facilities, directions to the site, useful web links and a downloadable species list.

I spoke to all of the site managers who were all really keen for us to advertise their site in this way. This has also led to conversations about how sites can be improved for dragonflies – hopefully in the future I will be able to tell you more about this!

BDS Conservation Projects in Wales

This page is a portfolio of the projects that have been carried out to benefit the Southern Damselfly in the Preselis

over the past three years. Most of the information is bilingual with both Welsh and English text; this is courtesy of our Environment Wales grant that funded some of this work. Our aim is provide the other parts of the site in Welsh when funding permits. Each project has photos showing how the sites looked before the work was carried out, during and since the work. There are descriptions of practical projects that have been carried out creating and improving existing Southern Damselfly habitat and also a link to download the management document produced for the Southern Damselfly in the Preselis.

Pond Conservation Advice

Moving across the width of the UK, I would now like to tell you about a pond study in Norfolk. This has arisen from the work of a farmer who is passionate about wildlife but who also runs a commercial mixed farm. I visited the farm and was given a tour of the ponds back in 2011. The study has been carried out by Carl Sayer at University College London.

Many of the farm ponds in Norfolk are former marl pits. Marl pits were dug, usually in a high up relatively central location in the field, to spread marl over the field; this would have been done to correct the soil's acidity. The ponds resulting from the pits are generally small circular or oblong, steep-sided ponds. Traditionally farm ponds would have been managed for a number of reasons including cattle and shire-horse watering, pest control for brown rats and scrub and trees would have been cleared to provide firewood. Since the 1960s and 1970, as farming practices have changed, the marl pit ponds have not been managed and have succumbed to succession and today many are recognisable only as small clumps of shrubs and trees.

The 40 or so ponds on Manor Farm in Norfolk are managed by the farmer in early winter on a rotational basis with 3 or 4 ponds managed each year. The management can look pretty extreme with mud removal from up to half of the pond and cutting back of trees and scrub. All of the ponds on site are also buffered with grassland from the rest of the field to prevent runoff. Carl and his team have studied the effect of this rotational management on biodiversity and Odonata and have recently published their findings in British Wildlife



magazine. The reference to the article, which is well worth a read, is at the end of this account. In general pond species diversity peaks 3 – 5 years after management. Water beetle diversity and the overall numbers of plants and invertebrates were found to be higher in managed ponds. The evidence showed that management of ponds had a very positive effect in increasing biodiversity at a pond and crucially it was found that management did not lead to a loss of any species, whereas unmanaged ponds showed a severe loss of species. You will probably be interested to hear that a total of 20 Odonata species have been recorded on the farm with 16 showing breeding behaviour.

Karl is keen for his work to help encourage inclusion of pond restoration and management in Higher Level Stewardships and conservation schemes. Whilst we would always like to see more ponds, surely we are missing a trick by ignoring the forgotten ponds in our rural landscape which are ideal stepping stones between nature reserves? If you know of a forgotten pond near you, why not try to encourage the land owners to consider restoring it? Manor Farm is proof that nature and intensive agriculture can coexist and thrive. **DN**

Sayer, C.D., Shilland, E., Greaves, H., Dawson, B., Patmore, I.R., Emson, E., Alderton, E., Robinson, P., Andrews, K., Axmacher, J.A. & Wiik, E. (2013) Managing British ponds – conservation lessons from a Norfolk farm. *British Wildlife*, 25(1), 21-28.

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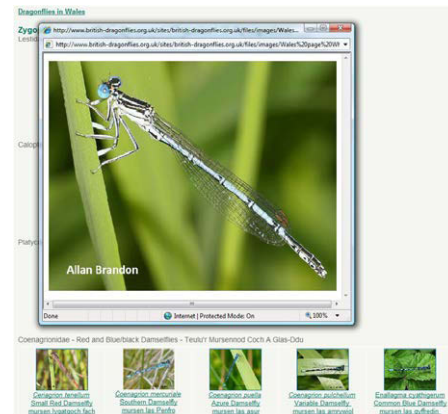
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Left: The BDS Wales homepage.



Right: BDS Wales species page.

Danièle Muir - Scotland Officer



I was lucky to start as Scotland Officer with the British Dragonfly Society in October, just as I had finished working on a Swift Conservation Project in Perthshire. Growing up in rural Angus, I was always fascinated by nature and wildlife which led to me studying Environmental Science at Aberdeen University, followed by training as an ecological surveyor with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. I have worked for the last fifteen years or so as a wildlife guide and countryside ranger, with the last eleven years in Perth and Kinross.

I first became interested in dragonflies when working as a Seasonal Ranger at Crombie Country Park, in Angus. Crombie is a fantastic spot to easily see dragonflies and damselflies at a number of

ponds, and we are running a couple of training courses there in early August. I hope that we will be able to observe at least seven species.

My role as Scotland Officer is to raise the profile of dragonflies in Scotland through engaging with local communities and volunteers to promote dragonfly recording and conservation. We have lots of events coming up across Scotland over the summer; see the Dragonfly Events in Scotland webpage for full details.

We are holding our first ever Scottish Dragonfly Conference at Perth Museum on the 12 April, where we will be focusing on volunteering and recording. The programme is still being finalised but it's going to be a very interesting day for anyone involved with dragonflies. Check the BDS website for up to date info, and to book your place please contact me on [redacted] or 07749 768 117.

I currently work 1 day a week for the BDS (usually a Friday), rising to two days from April. I look forward to working closely with both dragonflies and dragonfly volunteers and hope to see you soon!

**The Scotland
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sponsored by:**



InBox

The Editor welcomes your letters and e-mails.



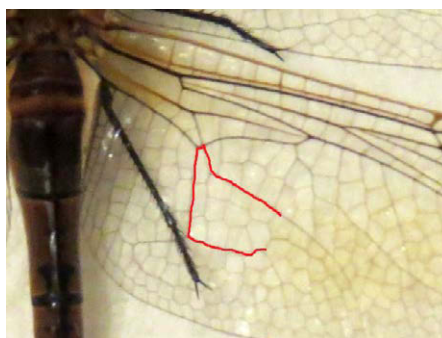
Last but not least

With a smattering of Common Darter records drifting in and the summer definitely drifting out I thought by early November that the Shropshire dragonfly season was over.....but no! Having given a talk on 14 November where I uttered with total confidence that the last Shropshire sightings of the year were always Common Darter I was shortly to be proved wrong. Just 9 days later Gwyn and Sue Hiatt sent in the photograph below of a suspected female Vagrant Emperor *Anax ephippiger*. The specimen was found on 23 November 2013 recently deceased and slightly frosted lying on the ground at Muxton Marsh near Telford.

Having never actually seen this species before, it was then determined by Bob Kemp. The colouration on the specimen was already quite dark, and though the broad pointed anal appendages were distinctive, the clear diagnostic feature was the arrangement of cells in a particular part of the wing—outlined here in red. In this area the cells are arranged in 3 irregular rows rather than 2 regular rows as seen in other *Anax* species.

Having contacted Adrian Parr it would appear that Shropshire is not alone in 2013 with sightings in a number of areas in Wales, Ireland and England, and indeed ovipositing females observed in Devon. At the time of writing however this record is to my knowledge the last Vagrant Emperor seen in 2013 and it is certainly the first record of this species for Shropshire. This species is a well known migrant though journeys are more typically from Africa into southern Europe and rarely extend as far north as the UK. I want to say thank you to Glyn and Sue for keeping their eyes open and getting in touch and also because the diagnostic use of wing cells is an area we rarely delve into with UK species. This sighting has also been a great reminder to me that unexpected species really can turn up in all sorts of places (not just on the south coast!) at all times of the year.

Sue McLamb



Field Guide to the dragonflies of New Guinea

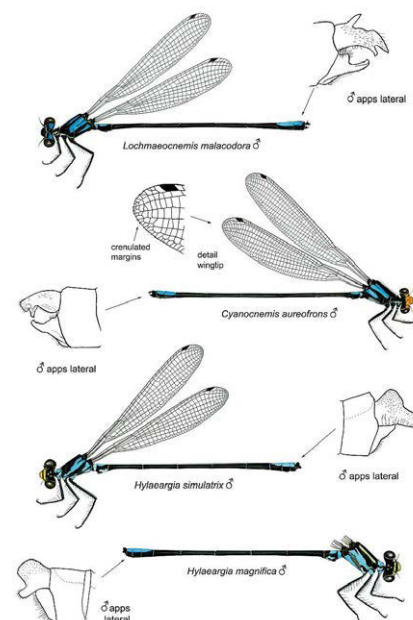
New Guinea is well known for its unique and stunning flora and fauna. Unfortunately this richness is not complemented by an availability of suitable field guides. Even for the birds there is no guide currently in print and second hand books are sold for two to three hundred pounds. In 2013 Vincent Kalkman and Albert Orr published the Field Guide to the damselflies of New Guinea. This guide includes nearly 300 colour drawings, over 250 line drawings and 20 colour photographs taken in the field. It allows identification of all the genera and a majority of the 285 species of damselflies occurring on New Guinea. The text is bilingual English and Bahasa Indonesia in order to make it accessible to locals in Indonesian New Guinea. The guide was produced on a modest budget and was supported by grants from several small foundations and private donors. The book shared the 2013 Whitley Medal, awarded by the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, for the best book on the natural history of

Australasian Animals. We are currently working on a volume on dragonflies and are looking for donors willing to contribute to the project. Donations may be made via the International Dragonfly Fund (IDF). Donors contributing 1000 euro or more will be rewarded by having a species named in their honour!.

The Field Guide to the damselflies of New Guinea (15 euro) can be ordered by sending an e-mail to Vincent Kalkman

For information on supporting the Field Guide to the dragonflies of New Guinea through a donation to International Dragonfly Fund (IDF) please contact Martin Schorr (bierschorr@online.de). For information on the IDF see <http://www.dragonflyfund.org/idf-report.html>.

Vincent Kalkman



Andromorphism in Hawkers - request for help.

David Chelmick photographed this Southern Hawker (Figure 1) in his garden near Haywards Heath, Sussex in June 2013. He thought it was a male but on examination it proved to be a female coloured as a male – an andromorph. It was the first time he had seen this. David contacted me with this observation; I was quite surprised as my experience in Purbeck in Dorset is that Southern Hawker andromorphs are not unknown (Figure 2).

This got me thinking as to whether andromorphism is a frequent occurrence in this species and whether it has a regional dimension; common in Dorset rare in Sussex!

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who could add any further records of andromorphic females. You could start by checking your photos of this very photogenic insect.

What about other species of Hawker. I understand that Southern Migrant Hawker *Aeshna affinis* has andromorphs in southern Europe; what about Migrant Hawker. I look forward to receiving your observations

Bryan Pickess



Figure 1



Figure 2

Notes & Observations DN63

Referring to Dave Dana's observation on extruded eggs by a Common Darter during its consumption by an Emperor, in DN63, I have dozens of slides taken over the years, of White-faced Darters caught in marginal spiders webs. Some were recently dead; some still alive; some just caught; some single males or females and some pairs separated, but which clearly had been either in cop or tandem when initially caught up, and had parted when first tangled.

In almost all cases the female had eggs extruded, the only exceptions being some of the dead females. Maybe for these, eggs had dropped or been washed off by rain ?

In my notes I have recorded seeing eggs actively being extruded by struggling females. A very few live females showed no egg mass.

I agree with Dave's thoughts that extrusion was a result of trauma, in this case being caught rather nastily !

I'm not so sure about final actions being procreation !! But it's possible.

Tim Beynon



OPINION

Is it time to review the BDS recording systems?

When we joined the BDS in 2011 we tried two systems to facilitate on-line recording – the BDS system and “Living Record” provided by mc² Data Innovation Ltd. Having used both systems we opted for Living Record as it appeared easier to use, provided excellent feedback and reports and in Vice Counties (VC) where it is utilised, provides access to the latest and historic records enabling one to identify areas that have been under recorded or identify areas where species can be found. As far as we are aware these latter functions are not available on the BDS system. Another important consideration was that Living Record is the preferred method of recording for our VC and adjacent VC recorders.

In adding our records in over 14 vice counties, we have noted that not all are being examined by the VC Recorders, but from conversations with Adrian Bicker, author of the system, we realise that he “mops up” all records that have not been accepted by the VCRs and forwards onto to the BDS etc for inclusion in the national database.

What are the options? – well, we think there are four main ones but there may be others -

1. All observers that use Living Record extract their own records on a spreadsheet and send to VC recorders
2. Integrate Living Record with the BDS system as BTO, NBN, etc.
3. All VC recorders check Living Record and “accept” records to transfer to the BDS system

4. Improve the BDS system to provide better reporting facilities on the lines of Living Record, maybe working with Adrian Bicker to provide the system.

Option 4. could deliver an improved countrywide reporting system and if historic data could be input it would provide an active, powerful online atlas that would have obvious benefits and provide an impetus for observers to continually update the system rather than having peaks whenever an atlas is to be published.

What do others think?

Terry & Judy Wood

Corporate Members

The British Dragonfly Society is pleased to acknowledge the support it receives from its newly created Corporate Sponsors programme. The first two are detailed here with a few words about their activities. All new Corporate Sponsors will be featured in this way and Dragonfly News will contain their logos in every issue.

NATUREGUIDES

NatureGuides publishes high quality natural history digital media. Apps published by NatureGuides for iPhone and iPad include Dragonflies & Damselflies of Britain & Europe, Bumblebees of Britain & Ireland, Butterflies of Britain & Ireland, and Birds of Northern Europe. NatureGuides has also produced a stunning double-DVD featuring all the butterflies of Britain & Ireland. NatureGuides works with a more-than-profit philosophy, donating a portion of profits from the sale of its apps and DVDs to relevant conservation charities. The full range of NatureGuides apps can be downloaded from the Apple App Store: appstore.com/natureguidesltd.



PRINCETON WILDGuides

Over the past ten years, **WILDGuides** has been a strong supporter of the BDS, particularly through our commitment to making a financial donation from sales of our popular book *Britain's Dragonflies* and the associated App. We are therefore delighted to be recognized as one of the Society's first Corporate Supporters. The publication this coming spring of a fully revised third edition of *Britain's Dragonflies*, this time in partnership with Princeton University Press, will provide us with a further opportunity to make a donation to the BDS, and thereby to continue supporting the vital conservation work undertaken by the Society."

WILDGuides has published a wide range of highly acclaimed field guides, including many in the Britain's Wildlife series. The full range of publications can be found at www.wildguides.co.uk/.

Andy Swash
Managing Director



See Page 25 for a review of Britain's Dragonflies, 3rd edition and a chance to win a copy.

A Note from the Membership Office

Hi, I hope you are all well and are looking forward to the new dragonfly season. It is the time of year for you to renew your membership of the BDS, (the membership year runs from the 1 April to the 31 March each year).

There are now 3 ways that you can pay your membership fee:

- On our web site using credit / debit card or PayPal. Just follow the link for membership renewal, please remember to quote your membership number if possible.
- By cheque - If you pay annually by cheque please could you complete and return the enclosed membership renewal form to me, together with your membership fee.
- If you pay by standing order you need to take no action yourself (but you could pass the form on to a friend who may wish to join the society!)

If you are unsure whether you already have a standing order in place, please contact me before you send any money and I will check your details on the database.

If you would like to set up a standing order, please could you complete all of the enclosed membership renewal form and return it to me. Please remember to quote your membership number if possible.

Please also remember to keep me informed of any changes of postal or e-mail address.

If you have any membership queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

In the unlikely event of your wishing to leave the society, please let me know. This will prevent the extra expense of sending you an unnecessary reminder letter.

Thank you

Lynn
(membership@british-dragonflies.org.uk)



FIELD MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

Reports compiled by Mike Averill

Each year the Society runs field meetings around the British Isles. These are advertised in the Spring issue of Dragonfly News and most reports appear in the Autumn issue. If you would like to run a meeting in your area please contact Mike for guidelines.

Saturday 12 April 2014

Scottish Dragonfly Conference, Perth Museum and Art Gallery, 78 George Street, Perth PH1 5LB. 10am – 4pm. Please put this date in your diary. This first Scottish Dragonfly Conference will bring together all those involved or interested in recording dragonflies in Scotland. To book and for more information contact: [REDACTED] Tel: 07749 768 117 Daniele Muir, Scotland Officer, British Dragonfly Society.

Saturday 26 April 2014

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9RS.

Aim: Dragonfly Larvae Workshop with County Recorder Sue McLamb. Aimed at beginners this course will commence with an introduction to dragonfly larvae and the part they play in the dragonfly lifecycle. Indoor practical sessions will then focus on the identification of exuviae. After lunch the afternoon will be spent out and about at the Discovery Centre dipping in ponds and the River Onny and practising some hands on identification.

Meet: Please report to reception at Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre (SO4382). The workshop will start promptly at 10.30am and finish at 3.30pm. For further directions see www.shropshire.gov.uk/shropshirehills.nsf/open/1EB8B5C45D770839802576CB00405CF7

Requirements: Packed lunch (or café available for tea/coffee and lunch). Wellies/walking boots and waterproofs as we will be venturing out! Total walking will be no more than 1km. Larval identification guides and hand lens if owned.

Contact: Booking essential via Sue McLamb 07773219363 or email [REDACTED]

Cost: Free

NB: For those who wish, the 'Field Guide to the larvae and exuviae of British Dragonflies' by Steve Cham will be available for purchase at £12 (correct cash/cheque only).

Tuesday 13th May, Tuesday 24th June and Tuesday 19th August, 2014

National Trust Carding Mill Valley, Shropshire

Aim: Discovering Dragonflies- a repeat of the successful series of 3 dragonfly identification workshops with County Recorder Sue McLamb. Aimed at beginners, this series will enable people to identify a range of species that occupy different flight periods throughout the season. Classroom inputs during the morning will focus on identification of 'seasonal species' and an understanding of the natural history of these fantastic insects. Participants will also learn how the life cycle is adapted for species emerging at different times of the year. Following a brief lunch the afternoons will be spent outside at 3 different locations on the Long Mynd putting identification skills to the test in a variety of habitats.

Meet: Please report to the National Trust's chalet pavilion at Carding Mill Valley, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6JG. The workshop will start at 10am and finish at 2pm. For further directions see www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carding-mill-valley-and-shropshire-hills/how-to-get-there.

Requirements: Packed lunch essential. Wellies/walking boots and waterproofs as we will be venturing out! Total walking will be no more than 1km. Identification guides and hand lens if owned.

Contact: Booking essential via Emily Knight [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Cost: £10 per session

NB: Weather permitting 2 afternoons will be spent at pools on top of the Long Mynd so some participants will need to drive and car sharing will be very much appreciated.

Saturday 24 May, 2014**Stover Country Park and Little Bradley Ponds, Devon**

Aim: Spring dragonflies at two of their prime sites in Devon. The focus will be on local specialities: Hairy Dragonfly and Downy Emerald.

Meet: 10:00 a.m. at the visitor centre (SX833751; entrance off A382 to Newton Abbot, 300m from A38, 10 miles from M5) finishing by 4:00 p.m.

Requirements: Bring lunch. Close-focus binoculars and wellies useful. Pay and display car park. Advance booking not necessary.

Leader / contact: Dave Smallshire () email ()

Saturday 31 May 2014**Ditchford Lakes and Meadows, Northamptonshire**

Aim: Part of the upper Nene valley floodplain, a complex of old gravel pits, grassland and scrub. The lakes are surrounded by mature scrub, mainly willow, and provide perfect shelter. The target species is Hairy Dragonfly - it breeds in good number in the lake. Also, see the Wildlife Trust Ditchford Lakes webpage www.wildlifetrustbcn.org/reserves/ditchford-lakes-and-meadows

Contact: Peter Reeve () email: peter@reeve60.org.uk. Contact number on the day only: 07980064079

Meet: Meet for an 11.00am start at the car park, SP930678.

Requirements: Bring lunch, strong footwear.

Saturday 31 May 2014**Chartley Moss NNR**

Bouncing Bogs and Dragonflies led by Reserve Manager, Mel Brown with BDS Conservation Officer, Claire Install. You will learn about Chartley Moss, the largest example of a floating bog or schwingmoor in Britain. You should also get the chance to see the rare White-faced Darter dragonfly at one of its three viable sites in England.

Contact: Mel Brown, Reserve Manager email: www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/email/3946/field_contact_email

Meet: Walks will start at 11am and 2pm promptly. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the walk as the meeting point is a short distance from the moss. Meet on the roadside (next to a drive) at grid reference SK022289 (nearest post code ST18 0LP).

Requirements: There is a £3 charge for attending. Wellington boots essential. Bring rain coats / suncream / hats and refreshments. There are no facilities available.

Sunday 8 June 2014**Loch Leven, Kinross**

Loch Leven Discovery Day, Kinross, 12 – 4pm: Visit the BDS stand in Kirkgate Park, Kinross as part of Loch Leven NNR's 50th birthday celebrations. The BDS will be on hand to offer advice on how to identify and record the dragonflies you see, plus how to make your garden a des-res for dragonflies!

Contact: Craig Nisbet Tel: ()

Additional Info: for more details see www.snh.gov.uk/news-and-events/events/event-details/?id=2324

Saturday 14th June 2014**Cothill NNR, SSSI and BBOWT Reserve**

Aim: A Hampshire, Surrey Berkshire Border group meeting. Possibly Small Red, Variable and Southern Damselflies

Meet: 10.30am. Park at Dry Sandford Pit Nature Reserve (BBOWT) Map Ref SU 4674 9953 in Honey Bottom Lane. Walk through the village (500m) to Cothill NNR

Leader: Graham Vick ()

Requirements: Lunch, wellies

Sunday 15th June, 2014**Countess Wear and Exminster Marshes, Devon**

Aim: An introduction to the dragonflies and damselflies of the still and flowing waters in the area, in conjunction with Exeter City Council. Chances of seeing Red-eyed Damselfly, White-legged Damselfly, Banded Demoiselle, Hairy Dragonfly, Emperor, Black-tailed Skimmer and Scarce Chaser.

Meet: At 10.00 a.m. in the rowing club car park at SX941894 (turn left off the A379 westbound, immediately before the swing bridge) moving to Exminster Marshes (SX 950880) after lunch; finish by 4 p.m.

Leader / contact: Dave Smallshire () email ()

Requirements: Bring lunch if staying for the afternoon. Binoculars will be helpful. Booking not necessary.



Saturday 21 June 2014

Packington Park, Meriden, Warwickshire

Aim: A rare opportunity to visit a wonderful deer park where there are a number of lakes and pools each with a different character. Sixteen species are recorded there and, no doubt, more species are to be found. In particular, two species for which there is suitable habitat are: Hairy Dragonfly and, though the date is a little early, may be Small Red-eyed Damselfly.

Also, see www.packingtonestate.net/estate_main.html

Contact: Peter Reeve [redacted] email: peter@reeve60.org.uk. Contact number on the day only: 07980064079

Meet: We will meet at 10.45 for 11.00am.

Pre-booking for the day is essential. Details of where to meet will be supplied after registration.

Requirements: Bring lunch, strong footwear.

Saturday 21 June 2014

Woodwalton Fen

Aim: To see as many dragonflies as possible on this site.

Meet: Jacksons Bridge at 11.00 am. OS Map 142. Grid ref TL235848. (Parking along Great Ravely Drain).

Requirements: Bring pack lunch, binoculars, insect repellent and wear appropriate clothing and footwear in case of inclement weather. No toilet facilities on site. Visitors and non experts welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact/leader: Mick and Sue Parfitt - telephone: [redacted] - mob: 07745241061 . e-mail: [redacted]

Saturday 28 June 2014

Rabbit Ings Country Park, Yorkshire

Part of the Barnsley BioBlitz session, many species to be found and larval ID at hand by David Goddard

Meet: 11:00am at Rabbit Ings visitor centre, near Royston, in the main car park which is accessed from Lund Hill Lane (B6428). NGR SE3753 1238 (S714BG)

Contact: Alistair McLean 0114 278 2648, email: [redacted]

5th - 13th July Dragonfly Week 2014

Saturday 5 July 2014

NWT Upton Fen, Norfolk

Aim: Morning walk to look for a broad range of dragonfly species, including Norfolk Hawker and Variable Damselfly

Meet: 10.00am at Upton Fen car park, TG379136. Postcode NR13 6EQ (Low Road). From Acle, Norwich or Wroxham head towards South Walsham, then follow signs for Pilsen Green.

Leader / contact: Dr Pam Taylor – Norfolk Dragonfly Recorder. Email: [redacted] to book or phone [redacted]

Requirements: Booking essential – preferably by email. Numbers strictly limited. Wellies or boots, insect repellent. Packed lunch if staying on site (unguided) for the afternoon.

Saturday 12 July 2014, 10am-3pm

Loch of the Lowes reserve, near Dunkeld

BDS Dragonfly survey training day at Scottish Wildlife Trust's Loch of the Lowes reserve, near Dunkeld. This training day is aimed at members of the public who are keen to get involved in dragonfly surveying and recording. Loch of the Lowes has many species of dragonfly which are easy to spot from the lochside paths. The morning classroom session will cover species ecology, identification and recording, while the outdoor afternoon session will be spent observing these fantastic insects and trying out your new ID skills in the field!

Contact: [redacted]

Meet: Loch of the Lowes reserve, near Dunkeld at 10am.

Requirements: Please bring a packed lunch, wellies/ walking boots and waterproofs. Total walking about 1 mile. No fee but donations to BDS & SWT welcome. There are a limited number of places so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Additional Info: More info about Loch of the Lowes & how to find us a www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/visit/loch-of-lowes

Sunday, 13 July 2014

Walton Colliery Nature Park, Shay Lane, Walton, Wakefield, WF2 6PR - (SE364176)

Aim: A joint visit with the Friends of Walton Colliery and Andrew McGuinness, a Countryside Officer for Wakefield Council.

Leader/Contact: Tom Hubball [redacted] after 6pm or email [redacted]

Meet: 10.30am at Shay Lane Car park, between Walton and Crofton.

Requirements: – Bring packed lunch, binoculars and wear appropriate footwear.

The Yorkshire Branch of the BDS welcomes any British Dragonfly Society member on their field trips and would encourage members of the BDS who live in and around Yorkshire to join the Branch. Membership is still only £3 per annum and for that small fee, you receive the annual Branch newsletter 'Skimmer' and can attend the two indoor meetings. Various field trips and other events are organised throughout the year. Details of all the Yorkshire Branch field meetings can be found on the Yorkshire Branch of the BDS website at www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk or on the Diary page of the BDS website.



Sunday 20th July 2014**Great Wheal Seton, Tolvaddon, Camborne, Cornwall**

Aim: A chance to explore the rich mosaic of wetlands along the Red River Valley LNR, an old tin streaming valley, where the resident species include the Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly, Small Red Damselfly & Keeled Skimmer. After lunch we will move on to Bell Lake Marsh where the Red River Rescuers have carried out extensive management work, much of it specifically for dragonflies.

Requirements: All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring lunch, sun screen and hand cleansing gel. Wellies are essential. This event is free!

Meet: Tuckingmill Valley From 10.30am to 3.30pm at SW657418 (TR14 0EJ) (directions below)

Contact/Leader: Steve Jones, email [REDACTED]. No booking necessary.

Directions to Great Wheal Seton, (Tolvaddon):

If you are travelling in a westerly direction along the A30 from Redruth take the first Camborne (Tolvaddon) exit, signposted "Pool, Camborne, Portreath A3047". After entering the slip road take the right hand lane signposted "Portreath" & then bear right as you drop down to the traffic lights. At the traffic lights turn right on to the dual carriageway and pass under the A30. Immediately after passing under the A30 turn left on to the minor road. After 60 metres you will pass a pedestrian gate on your left leading to Tuckingmill Valley. Park sensibly anywhere along here, meeting outside of the old Cornwall Hydraulic Services factory 25 metres further along the road.

If you are travelling in an easterly direction along the A30 from Hayle take the second Camborne exit, signposted "Camborne, Portreath A3047". After entering the slip road take the left hand lane. Immediately after the traffic lights at the Portreath junction, move into the right hand lane and take the next right, (if you pass under the A30 you have gone too far). After 60 metres you will pass a pedestrian gate on your left leading to Tuckingmill Valley. Park sensibly anywhere along here, meeting outside of the old Cornwall Hydraulic Services factory 25 metres further along the road.

Saturday 26 July 2014**Dragons & Damsels of Moss & Loch, Kinross**

Contact: SNH reserve office on [REDACTED]

Meet: SNH Reserve Office, The Pier, Kinross at 10am.

Additional Info: 10am – 4pm. This training day is aimed at members of the public who are keen to get involved in dragonfly surveying and recording. A short indoors session will cover species ecology, identification and recording. This will be followed by outdoors sessions observing these fantastic insects at Loch Leven (morning) and Portmoak Moss (in the afternoon) and trying out your new ID skills in the field! Please bring a packed lunch & hot drink, walking boots and waterproofs. Total walking about 3 miles. There are a limited number of places - to book please call the SNH reserve office on [REDACTED] We will car-share to Portmoak Moss in the afternoon.

Sunday 27th July 2014**Meeth Quarry DWT Reserve, Devon**

Aim: A joint meeting with the Devonshire Association at this recently-flooded former ball clay quarry. There should be see a range of late summer species, including Emerald Damselfly, hawkers and darters, together with the only Small Red Damselflies in north Devon and a chance of Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly and Wood White butterfly.

Leader / contact: Dave Smallshire ([REDACTED] email [REDACTED])

Meet: 10:00 a.m. at reserve car park (SS540085, nearest postcode EX20 3EP) half-a-mile along access road off the A386 between Hatherleigh and Great Torrington. From Hatherleigh (and the A30), the access road is on the left after about 3.5 miles, shortly after passing the Meeth village sign. From the north, continue through Meeth village, past The Bull and Dragon pub on the right; the access road is on the right before leaving the last houses in the village.

Requirements: Bring lunch. Wellies recommended and binoculars will be helpful. Booking not necessary.

Saturday 2 August 2014**RSPB Loch Leven, Near Kinross. KY13 9LX**

Dragonfly event with Ruary Mackenzie Dodds.

Places will be limited and will need to be pre-booked

Details for this event are to be confirmed and will be listed in the events section at www.rspb.org.uk/lochleven & www.britishdragonflies.org.uk/content/upcoming-events



8-10 August 2014

Introduction to Dragonflies and Damselflies, Preston Montford Field Centre, Shropshire

Aim: This course is aimed at all those with a desire to learn more about these stunning insects. Open to all levels of ability we aim to introduce you close up to a good number of the 31 Shropshire species of dragonfly and damselfly so that you will leave confident in your own abilities to identify them and make species records. Classroom sessions on identification, life history, larvae and exuviae will be combined with a number of field visits to a range of aquatic habitats. This will allow you to put your skills into practice and to observe and understand the visual spectacle of these fascinating insects on the wing.

Tutors: Sue McLamb is the County recorder for Dragonflies in Shropshire and Odonata Tsar for the Shropshire Ecological Data Network. Ian Cheeseborough is a self-employed entomologist and previously held the post of County recorder for this group of insects.

Location: Preston Montford Field Centre (SJ433143). For further directions see www.field-studies-council.org/centres/prestonmontford/location.aspx

The course will start on Friday evening and finish on Sunday late afternoon.

Contact: For further details and booking please contact Preston Montford Field Centre Tel: 0845 3307372 or email: enquiries.

Cost: £253 (residential) £173 (non residential)

Saturday 16 August 2014

Cannock Chase, Staffordshire

Aim: The venue is Cannock Chase and the target species for the day are the Black Darter and the Common Hawker. Cannock Chase has good populations of these late flying acid habitat specialists, a fairly rare habitat in the Midlands.

Contact: Peter Reeve email: petere@reeve60.org.uk. Contact number on the day only: 07980064079

Meet: Meet for an 11.00am start at the Brocton Field car park, SJ980176.

For map follow link to: www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=398050&Y=317650&A=Y&Z=115

Requirements: Bring lunch, strong footwear.

Other Events

Saturday 5 April

Meffan Institute, Forfar Tayside Recorders'

Meet: 10am – 3pm

More info on www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

Contact:

The BDS will talk about dragonfly recording and conservation in Scotland, plus how you can get involved to help Tayside's dragonflies.

Saturday 26 April 2014 10am to 5pm

Wild about the Wensum at Pensthorpe, Norfolk

Visit the BDS stand at this event that promotes environmental and community charities along the River Wensum Valley. Further details via www.pensthorpe.com. Admission to Pensthorpe on the day is free, but a car park charge will raise money for conservation projects.

Sunday 11 May 2014 11am to 4pm

Go Wild at Barton Broad in Norfolk

Lots of wildlife activities, boat trips and walks on offer throughout the day. Families especially welcome.

Further details at www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do.aspx

Friday 30 May- Sunday 2 June

Gardening Scotland at the Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh

Visit the BDS stand in the Living Garden section of this comprehensive gardening show. The BDS Team will be offering advice on how to record the dragonflies you see, plus how to make your garden great for dragonflies! Info at: www.gardeningscotland.com

Contact: Tel: 07749 768 117

Sunday 6 July 2014

Dragonfly Day at Wicken Fen National Trust nature reserve, Lode Lane, Wicken, Cambs

Lots of activities on offer throughout the day including walks, larva feeding demonstrations, making model dragonflies, pond dipping and lots more. Join us from 10am onwards in the Dragonfly Centre and out on the reserve

Charges may apply for the reserve and some activities

See Page 34 for BDS events at Wicken Fen



Friday evening 18th to Monday afternoon 21st July, 2014**Slapton Field Centre, Slapton, South Devon****Tutor:** Dave Smallshire

Aims: A long weekend for those seeking an introduction to the dragonflies and damselflies of southwest England, with visits to Dartmoor, the Bovey Basin and the Exe Marshes. Emphasis will be placed on the identification of adult stages in the field; some 20 species might be seen. Other topics to be covered include the identification of larvae and exuviae, habitat preferences, conservation and management for dragonflies and photography.

Fees and booking Shared room: £320; sole occupancy room: £350; non-resident: £235. Pre-booking with Field Studies Council essential, by mail, phone, email or online (address: Slapton Ley Field Centre, Slapton, Kingsbridge, TQ7 2QP; tel: [redacted] email: [redacted] website: www.field-studies-council.org/slaptonley/).

Friday 8 August 2014, 10am – 3pm**Crombie Country Park, Angus.****Event:** BDS Dragonfly Training Event, Crombie Country Park, Angus.

Aimed at reserve staff, rangers and volunteers who lead guided walks, this course should enable you to identify dragonflies and damselflies with greater confidence while delivering a dragonfly walk or talk to members of the public and volunteers. Crombie Country Park has many species of dragonfly and with easily accessible ponds, is the ideal location to observe the commoner species. The morning classroom session will cover species ecology and identification, while the outdoor afternoon session will be spent observing these fantastic insects and trying out your new ID skills in the field!

Contact: BDS Scotland Officer; Email: [redacted]**Meet:** Crombie Country Park, Angus, 10am.

Requirements: Please bring a packed lunch (refreshments provided), wellies/ walking boots and waterproofs. Total walking distance about 1 mile. There are a limited number of places so book early to avoid disappointment.

Additional Info: For more info on Crombie Country Park and location see www.angus.gov.uk/leisure/rangerservice/crombie.htm

Saturday 9th August 2014, 10am-3pm**Crombie Country Park, Angus**

This training day is aimed at members of the public who are keen to get involved in dragonfly surveying and recording. Crombie Country Park has many species of dragonfly and with easily accessible ponds, is the ideal location to observe the commoner species. The morning classroom session will cover species ecology, identification and recording, while the outdoor afternoon session will be spent observing these fantastic insects and trying out your new ID skills in the field!

Contact: BDS Scotland Officer, Email: [redacted]**Meet:** 10am at Crombie Country Park, Angus.

Requirements: Please bring a packed lunch (refreshments provided), wellies/ walking boots and waterproofs. Total walking about 1 mile. No fee but donations to BDS welcome. Parking charges apply. There are a limited number of places so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Additional Info: For more info on Crombie Country Park and location see www.angus.gov.uk/leisure/rangerservice/crombie.htm

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 August – 9am to 5.30pm**The British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland Water**

Come and visit us on the British Dragonfly Society stand at this hugely popular event. You will need a whole day, if not more, to visit all the marquees. Various wildlife talks and other events take place on site throughout the entire weekend. For more details please see the official Birdfair website at www.birdfair.org.uk

Friday 5 – Saturday 6 September 2014**Camperdown Country Park****Event: Dundee Food & Flower Festival****Contact:** BDS Scotland Officer [redacted] Tel: 07749 768 117**Meet:** Camperdown Country Park, Coupar Angus Road, Dundee DD2 4TF

Additional Info: Visit the BDS stand in the Woodland section of this popular food and gardening event. The BDS Team will be offering advice on how to record the dragonflies you see, holding a 'pond doctor' session, plus how to make your garden great for dragonflies! More info at: www.dundeeflowerandfoodfestival.com/

Saturday 11th October - 10am to 4pm**Wild about Norfolk at Easton College, Norwich, Norfolk**

Come and visit us on the BDS stand at this Wildlife Conservation Fair. The 2013 event had nearly 1,000 visitors and over 40 exhibitors. Lots of activities for old and young alike including information stands, talks, walks, environmental games and craft activities. Admission free.

Naturetrek European dragonfly tours in 2014**Dragonflies of La Brenne & Vienne, France: 18th to 25th June (Nick Ransdale)****Bulgaria's Dragonflies: 18th to 26th June (Dave Smallshire)****Dragonflies and Birds of the Camargue: 9th to 16th July (Dave Smallshire)****Sardinia's Dragonflies: 4th to 11th June (Gerald Broddelez)**

For further details of these and other Naturetrek tours, see www.naturetrek.co.uk or ring Naturetrek on [redacted]



Last Dates for 2013

Adrian Parr rounds up the last recorded dates for each of the common UK species.

As documented in the previous issue of Dragonfly News, the start to the 2013 dragonfly season was very late, due to some unusually cold weather during spring. Since publication of that issue, news has been received of some new early dates – principally from a site in the Forest of Dean, where local weather conditions must clearly have been more favourable. New early dates relate to Southern Hawker, Emperor Dragonfly, Black-tailed Skimmer, Ruddy Darter and Common Darter reported in Gloucestershire on 16 May (all unusually early for an otherwise late season), and White-legged Damselfly reported in Kent on 22 May.

After poor conditions at the start of the season, the summer and autumn weather was a lot more favourable. The effect on dragonfly flight periods was, however, complex. Many species showed relatively normal last dates, though a few very late records were received for early-flying dragonflies such as Norfolk Hawker and Scarce Chaser. Here late emergences probably shifted the whole flight period backwards. By contrast, certain other species seemed to finish flying relatively early. For example the two Demoiselles and both Red-eyed and Small Red-eyed Damselfly all produced relatively early last dates by modern standards. The detailed reasons for this remain unknown, and clearly there is much still to be learnt about the life-cycle duration and control of flight periods in British dragonflies. [DN](#)

SPECIES	LAST DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER
Banded Demoiselle	18-Sep-13	Norfolk	B. Dawson
Beautiful Demoiselle	9-Sep-13	Cornwall	C. Moore
Scarce Emerald Damselfly	14-Aug-13	Essex	C. Jupp
Emerald Damselfly	7-Oct-13	Cornwall	C. Moore
Willow Emerald Damselfly	2-Nov-13	Suffolk	T. Caroen
Azure Damselfly	4-Sep-13	Kent	J. & G. Brook
Variable Damselfly	20-Aug-13	Norfolk	T. Needham
Red-eyed Damselfly	12-Sep-13	Bedfordshire	R. Morrissey
Small Red-eyed Damselfly	5-Sep-13	Suffolk	N. Mason
Large Red Damselfly	30-Aug-13	Devon	J. Watson
Common Blue Damselfly	24-Oct-13	Warwickshire	J. Timms
Blue-tailed Damselfly	25-Sep-13	Staffordshire	S. Rowland
Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly	8-Aug-13	Devon	D. Smallshire
Small Red Damselfly	4-Sep-13	Surrey	R. O'Mahony
White-legged Damselfly	16-Sep-13	Kent	T. Dove
Southern Hawker	27-Nov-13	Hampshire	C. Tracy
Brown Hawker	17-Oct-13	Warwickshire	K. & P. Reeve
Norfolk Hawker	20-Aug-13	Norfolk	T. Needham
Common Hawker	29-Oct-13	Cornwall	C. Moore
Migrant Hawker	26-Nov-13	Hampshire	Anon
Emperor Dragonfly	5-Oct-13	Cornwall	C. Moore
Hairy Dragonfly	22-Jul-13	Kent	P. Saunders
Golden-ringed Dragonfly	2-Oct-13	Cornwall	C. Moore
Downy Emerald	11-Aug-13	Devon	J. Watson
Brilliant Emerald	28-Jul-13	Surrey	per N. Phillips
White-faced Darter	21-Jul-13	Shropshire	D. McEwan
Broad-bodied Chaser	27-Aug-13	Hampshire	T. Caroen
Scarce Chaser	17-Aug-13	Norfolk	J. Ebbage
Four-spotted Chaser	26-Aug-13	Cornwall	C. Moore
Black-tailed Skimmer	29-Sep-13	Bedfordshire	D. Withers
Keeled Skimmer	4-Sep-13	Surrey	R. O'Mahony
Black Darter	4-Nov-13	Hampshire	P. Winter
Ruddy Darter	8-Oct-13	Norfolk	J. & T. Wood
Common Darter	11-Dec-13	Hampshire	P. Winter



Migrant Dragonflies

Adrian Parr reports on the activities of migrant dragonflies from summer to winter 2013.

Perhaps the highlight of 2013, as far as migrant species were concerned, was the large influx of Vagrant Emperors *Anax ephippiger* seen during late September through to the end of November. This has been covered elsewhere (e.g. on the BDS "Latest News" web-pages), but to summarise, some nine individuals were reported from England (mainly in the southwest, but including the first-ever records for Suffolk), three individuals from Wales and there was also a report of one from the Shetland Isles. In addition, no less than eight Vagrant Emperors were recorded from southern Ireland, there having been only three previous sightings in total prior to this year! Oviposition was noted at a site near Bovey Heath in Devon, though it remains unclear as to how successful this breeding attempt will be. These events represent the third major influx in only three years, the others having been in the spring and autumn of 2011. For a species that had been seen in Britain and Ireland on only five occasions prior to 1980, this certainly suggests that arrivals to our shores are becoming more frequent, and it will be interesting to follow future developments. A tendency for periods of relative abundance to be interspersed with periods of relative scarcity has however been noted.

As far as other species are concerned, after a good showing in the spring and early summer, Red-veined Darters were again fairly prominent in autumn. By contrast, the Lesser Emperor was seen on only six occasions in the whole of 2013. This is one of the poorest showings since the first British record in 1996, but of course some year-to-year variation is to be expected.

Other news of note in late summer—

autumn included a marked influx of Black Darters onto the north Suffolk coast. One site near Corton was to hold more individuals (20+) than all other previous modern county records put together. Interestingly, although the influx was noted along a 40 km stretch of the coast, no obvious arrivals were reported elsewhere in Eastern England. It would seem that the immigration was a rather localised affair.

In relation to our new colonist species, news for 2013 was broadly encouraging. Willow Emerald Damselflies were again well reported, and continued their range expansion in East Anglia – with sightings near Norwich, in particular, attracting much local attention. There were, however, to be no repeats of the sightings of 'probables' seen in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire last year, and the exact status of the species in this region remains unclear. The Southern Emerald Damselfly was again reported from Cliffe in Kent and from Winterton in Norfolk, where breeding attempts had been noted previously (indeed breeding at the Cliffe site has been strongly suspected, if not rigorously proven, for several years). Similarly the Southern Migrant Hawker was noted once more from the Hadleigh–Wat Tyler Country Park region of southern Essex and from Cliffe in Kent, though most records came from just a short time period at the beginning of August.

Clearly the Willow Emerald Damselfly is now very well established as a British resident, and it is to be hoped that populations of Southern Emerald Damselfly and Southern Migrant Hawker (plus Dainty Damselfly, which also breeds in the same general area of the greater Thames Estuary as the latter two species) are now also at sustainable levels. The long term effects of the high surge tides seen in eastern England towards the end of the 2013 are however still to be established. The coming dragonfly season is going to be an intriguing one! **DN**

Pilot Hotspot Tribulations

By Brian Walker

We are very grateful for a donation of £793 from Pensthorpe Conservation Trust that resulted from a collection at their "Wild about the Wensum" event in 2012. This donation was intended to help fund a pilot Dragonfly Hotspot in the Wensum Valley at Hempton Common near Fakenham in Norfolk. The plan was to carry out work on an easily accessible pond to improve the habitat for dragonflies and erect a dragonfly interpretation board. A subsequent invertebrate survey revealed the presence of rare water beetles and this meant that it was inappropriate to carry out excavations that could threaten this population. The focus then shifted to a separate group of ponds further from any access points. While these appeared to be suitable for remedial work, concerns were raised at the possible presence of underground services close to them. This would add an extra cost that was significant and would further delay the work. We were thus faced with a project that would not deliver what we had originally hoped because it was more remote from frequented areas, would cost quite a lot more than expected and had lost a number of those most active in undertaking the work. We have therefore reluctantly concluded that we should not proceed with the project. Pensthorpe Conservation Trust has very kindly agreed that BDS should apply the donation to other aspects of our work to conserve dragonflies and our Trustees will be considering the best use of this money. The experience is an illustration that even with enthusiasm and hard work things do not always run smoothly and not all potential sites will be suitable for improvement to benefit dragonflies, but we will continue to look for good opportunities for Dragonfly Hotspots and we are grateful to Pensthorpe Conservation Trust for their continuing support in this endeavour.



Favourite Days

Dragonfly News Editor, Mark Tyrrell gives a photographer's perspective to how he uses his time off from work.

Having stayed with my current employer for over 14 years now, my annual holiday entitlement has increased several times, and while I value this time off with my family, I indulge myself with these extra days as "dragonfly days". As they are rare events, I plan them thoroughly to ensure no time or opportunity is wasted. So, on one particularly fine week in May, I took advantage, and armed with a plan to record a Downy Emerald emergence sequence, I set-off to the private estate of Yardley Chase in my home county of Northamptonshire. Arriving at just before 0800hrs in the morning of 24 May, I collected my photographic gear from the car's boot and headed off to the first pond. Yardley Chase is an unusual site, being formed from a series of 14 bunkers built during WWII in an ancient woodland. As such there is no public access due to the many hazards still remaining but I have been fortunate to be allocated a permit that allows me to study and record the dragonflies present. Each taxa has a permit holder and the site is therefore extremely well studied. Around each bunker, were built a series of rain-fed ponds designed to be used to douse any fires caused by bombing of the bunkers. Scrub clearance is managed by the Forestry Commission and on a cyclical basis, but it wasn't until after a recent clearance on one of the more accessible bunkers that the Downy Emerald was discovered in 2006, at a time when I was not a permit holder. The ponds remain

the only site in Northamptonshire with a colony of Downy Emerald, as well as 15 other breeding species. I headed straight for a section of the ponds where I knew the sunlight would be favourable for photography and promptly located several Hairy Dragonfly and Large Red Damselfly exuviae. Within a couple of minutes, and in a most suitable place, I located my target for the morning, but alas the process had already started as the adult was at the hanging stage. Disappointed, but undeterred, I considered whether to carry on with my search in the hope of finding one at an earlier stage, or stay and watch this adult complete its "birth". As the location and lighting were good, and time was moving on, I decided to stay, so quickly positioned my camera low down on my flexible Benbo tripod, fitted my favourite 180mm macro lens and started shooting. Being a photographic perfectionist, I spent the first few minutes adjusting the camera's exposure settings to ensure good sharpness in the body, with a good blurred background to make it stand out cleanly.

The weather was perfect, the location so peaceful and the Downy Emerald was amazing. Over 150 shots later - one of the great things about digital photography - he opened his wings and took his first flight. After 2 hours and 20 mins, this part of the process was over in a couple of seconds. A rapid emergence is always a sign that the weather is perfect. I collected the exuvia, packed my kit away



and moved back to the car.

As it was still only around 1100hrs, I carried on my usual route around the site to the next bunker where I knew I'd find hundreds of Large Red Damselflies, the only species that would be present in any significant numbers. While all breeding species are recorded in all of the bunkers, the cyclical scrub clearance means that the character of each bunker is very different, and in some hundreds of individuals of a species will be seen, while in others many fewer. As the sun moves across the sky, some bunkers are better for the photographer than others and my route is based around my photography, selecting the best ponds at the optimum time - I'm such a slave to my hobby!.

The Large Reds were performing well, with adults present at all stages of their life-cycle with a few recently emerged sitting above their exuviae, many ovipositing and some mating. Numbers were certainly above 150 and there was intense competition for the best ovipositing sites as well as the best females. I exchanged my macro lens for my 300mm telephoto with extension tube, which I knew would give me a good working distance to not disturb the insects, and good magnification. At the heart of the action was a tandem pair of Large Reds, that were being harassed by several males. The new males were all attacking the tandem male in an attempt to dislodge him, in this case unsuccessfully. I stayed here for lunch watching the activities with my camera put aside for a while because its good to watch sometimes (although it was never far from hand just in case a good photo opportunity presented itself).

By now the clouds were building and with the weather turning rainy, I decided to head back home where I spent the last few hours of the afternoon sorting my photos - all 200+ of them. In a typical day's photography, to go home with a couple of decent pictures is a bonus. On this day, I must have got 20, which counts as an excellent day photography. **DN**



“I’m such a slave to my hobby!”

Opposite: Downy Emerald emergence sequence.

Top left: Tandem pair of Large Red Damselflies.

Top right: Mating pair of Larger Red Damselflies.

Bottom: A male harassing a tandem pair.

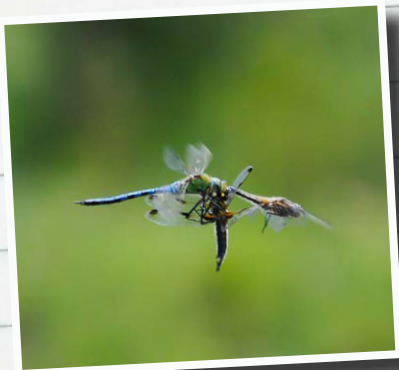


Notes & Observations

Compiled by Mark Tyrrell

During a photographic holiday to France in June 2012 we visited several small étangs (ponds) near our base just outside the town of Montmorillon. At one of these we heard an extraordinary loud buzzing noise which was being produced by the wings of three dragonflies all apparently 'locked' together in flight. On closer inspection we were able to identify an Emperor which had grasped a pair of tandem Four-spotted Chasers. Unfortunately the incident occurred and passed so rapidly that no photographs were obtained.

The following day we visited Reserve Naturelle du Pinail some distance north-west of our base. The weather had been fairly overcast all morning but in the afternoon the sun had come out and as a result there was a sudden increase in Odonata activity. As we watched we were astounded to hear a similar buzzing of wings to that which we had heard the day before. We then observed a male Emperor (which had already been patrolling the pond) catch hold of the female of an in tandem Four-spotted Chaser pair. On this occasion we were somewhat better prepared and a number of hastily manual focussed photos were captured before they disappeared. Several of the images show that the female had what appeared to be a batch of eggs gathered under S8/9 and we wondered whether the male chaser had therefore grasped an ovipositing female just before the Emperor struck.



The male Four-spotted Chaser hung on to the female for quite some time but he eventually let go and made his escape. The Emperor then took the female chaser across to the far side of the pond, and down out of sight into the longer grasses, so we were unable to see if the female was lucky enough to make her escape.

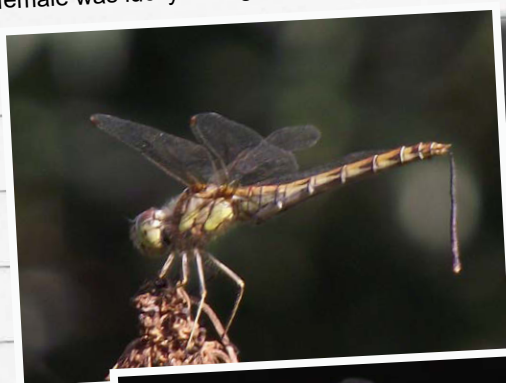
harvey tish

These pictures were taken at Priory Wood, part of the Woodlands Trust, situated off The Weirs road, Burwell. Cambridgeshire during mid August 2012.

The female Common Darter arrived and quickly excreted, a mass of substance from its anal abdomen,

It then curved its body to lay the mass on a dead plant and promptly flew off. At the time there were around 20 Ruddy Darters flying in a clear area in the woodland, the nearest stream was about 75 metres away.

Weather was warm and sunny. No other Dragonflies were seen to act the same way.



Paul Craske



While walking on Greenham Common on 20 August 2013, I saw what seemed to be a Black-tailed Skimmer fly up and land on the path a little way ahead of me. It seemed to be flying a little clumsily and I realised why when I looked more closely after it had landed. It had caught a male Common Blue Damselfly. The Black-tailed Skimmer was a fairly old female that was starting to gain a bluish tinge on its abdomen.

I carefully lowered myself down without disturbing it so that I could take some photographs. It had already commenced eating by the time I was in position and I watched as it gradually drew the abdomen of the damselfly into its mouth until only the tip was visible. Its mouthparts were still moving at this point but I could not really see what was happening through the viewfinder but kept taking photographs. When I downloaded the pictures and ran them as a sequence I watched as the abdomen of the damselfly waved up and down as the Skimmer munched its way through it.

When just the tip of the damselfly's abdomen was protruding from its mouth, a dark liquid emerged around it and the Skimmer then regurgitated a dark crinkled strip of material. I have found no reference to this behaviour. Was the damselfly too much for it or was it regurgitating indigestible material? To get to this stage took a further 26 seconds from the photographs above. It dropped the debris but stayed on the ground until I eased myself away from it; presumably digesting its meal.

Brian Walker

Here is a little story about dragonfly behavior here in the States I thought I'd share:

On calm summer nights I frequently sneak outside to steal some time flying a micro radio controlled helicopter. It's mostly black, about 9.5 inches in length (about 24cm if my conversion's right) and the carbon-fiber tailboom allows for it not to have any supporting struts. In flight it must convincingly look like a dragonfly because they frequently appear alongside it, fly along with it for



a few seconds and leave. I've even seen a joined pair come up for a quick look! None ever get so close as to be in an real danger from the spinning blades thankfully (it seems they all have the brains enough to know they'd lose in a fight against a "dragonfly" that's 2 to 3 times their size) and most only take a short close-up before departing and leaving it be for the night

This behavior isn't limited to dragonflies for course, common barn swallows and hummingbirds often take notice too! The swallows will dive at it like it's food, only pulling off at the last second once they realize it's size. Hummingbirds are the one real problem, they seem to be so fiercely territorial that they will go on sustained attacks until I get the machine to safety! Bats, are the only flying bug-hunters I've flown near that have No interest in it, seems they can clearly hear that something is very "off" about that "dragonfly"

Joseph Bozarth

Five Coenagrions and an Enallagma



(A Danish dragonfly odyssey)

Seasoned traveller and DN regular columnist *Damian Pinguey*'s latest escapade takes him to Denmark in search of the Norfolk Damselfly.

For some time I have been interested in observing the now extinct (in the UK) Norfolk Damselfly *Coenagrion armatum*, the male being of particular interest due to its apparent similarity with the Blue-tails *Ischnura* spp and also because of its huge anal appendages which appear like no others I've seen!

The Norfolk Damselfly is quite elusive in Western Europe being restricted in range and has disappeared from many of its previous locations. It also has a comparatively short and early flight season (usually less than a month). Its remaining localities are all in Northern and Eastern Europe so connecting with live adults is even trickier because of the weather in late May / early June.

I have been aware of a site in Jutland (Denmark) for a few years where this species occurs in good numbers and arranged to meet up with Danish Dragonfly expert Erland Refling Nielsen for a field trip. Travel arrangements were always likely to be tricky because visiting the site would be pointless in bad

weather, so we agreed to keep a two week window free and then based upon the ten day weather forecasts, make last minute bookings for a couple of days visit.

Erland, who knows the site quite well, also informed me that as well as holding a good population of *Coenagrion armatum*, a further four species of *Coenagrion* plus the Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum* could also be found. Two of the *Coenagrions* were of particular interest as they have restricted distributions within the UK, the Irish Damselfly *Coenagrion lunulatum* and Northern Damselfly *Coenagrion hastulatum*.

A weather window duly appeared and the bookings made, I eventually arrived at the site just south of Aarlborg at about 09:00 am on the 28th May 2013. As usual with long range weather forecasts, they didn't get it quite correct! Whilst fairly overcast, the temperature was about 18 degrees Celsius, which is OK, but the main issue was the howling gale that persisted all day!

The site itself reminded me of Whixall Moss in Shropshire only on a larger scale! They also appear to have similar problems to the UK as there were a large number of contractors with brushcutters removing encroaching Silver Birch from the moss. The main areas of interest were the small lakes and pools created by peat extraction.

Interestingly whilst the Norfolk Damselfly seemed to occur on pretty much all the water bodies, the other target species only seemed to occur on one or two specific ponds (and in much smaller numbers). Off hand I couldn't see any difference between the ponds that held populations and those that didn't. It was a good job I had a guide or I would never have found them!

By far and away the most populous species was the Variable Damselfly *Coenagrion pulchellum* which occurred in the hundreds of thousands. Separation from the Irish Damselfly was relatively easy because the male Irish Damselflies have superb bright green undersides to their eyes and abdomens, which shows up particularly well when they are skimming low over the water as their 'underside reflection' is green instead of blue. Finding the Northern Damselfly was much more problematic. They occurred in quite low numbers and I kept following Common Blue Damsels by mistake! However an interesting observation at this site was that the male Northern Damselflies would often perch flat on vegetation by the water's edge, a trait that wasn't often observed with the other species.

Just to keep you on your toes, there was also a small population of Azure Damselflies *Coenagrion puella*.

Whilst on-site, I met a couple of Danish dragonfly enthusiasts who informed me that there is a site in Sweden where you can find seven species of *Coenagrion* and an *Enallagma*! Maybe next year.... **DN**



Opposite page: A male Norfolk Damselfly *Coenagrion armatum*.

Top: A Male Irish Damselfly showing the green underside to its eyes and face

Bottom: The Danish 'Moss': a very large site compared to the ones I've visited in England!



Bringing the Dragons back

The story of a village pond restoration

Enthused by the success of his “unassuming” garden pond, Dave Robinson went on to gather a team to restore an overgrown pond in his home village, to attract more dragonflies.

I first became fascinated in dragonflies and damselflies on a family holiday to the Blavet valley in Brittany, North west France. I had an interest in these magical insects up until then but a walk along a slow moving stretch of this river on a warm, sunny, July day was to be a pivotal moment in turning a hobby of sedate observation into one of active conservation. I managed 200m of our riverside walk in about an hour much to the annoyance of my wife and children who had intended a brisk three miles before lunch. At the end of our morning's outing, I had dozens of photographs of numerous species of dragonfly and damselfly. I could have happily spent the rest of the day on that stretch of river but I had to concede to lunch and ice creams, which was fair recompense for my family's patience.

Enthused by my experience on the Blavet we returned from holiday and I began planning the creation of a garden pond. With reference to various sources of information including the BDS 'Dig a Pond for Dragonflies' booklet, I set about creating a habitat in my own garden. Designed specifically as a dragonfly pond, within days and weeks I had visits from several species. Since its establishment 3 years ago, this small unassuming pond has seen a number of species breed and emerge. In summer 2013 I was thrilled to witness the emergence of over 40 Southern Hawkers from the pond over a short period of time.

I live in the Peak District in a small village called Winster. The village sits on a north facing hillside approx. 230 metres above sea level. Its geographical location tends to mean that winters usually bring hard frosts and spells of snow and during the growing season, most plants are a couple of weeks behind those in more southerly and lowland areas. Summers are hit and miss as far as warm sunshine goes and being on a hill, wind is a fairly regular feature.

Despite the challenges, the Winster area supports a variety of dragonflies and damselflies. Some of these occur in garden ponds throughout the village but Winster is very fortunate to have its own reasonably large village pond. The pond is approximately 176m² in area. It lies in a relatively sheltered position with trees of Hawthorn, Willow, Alder, Blackthorn and Ash to the north east and western edges. The pond was built as an educational resource in 1993 as part of a wider re-landscaping project which included the creation of a meadow. To the west side of the pond is a stream that was redirected to frequently replenish the pond. A small marshy area has formed at the margin of where the stream joins the pond, which



Top: Overgrown trees around the pond.

Middle: Tree work begins on a cold February day.

Bottom: Digging out the silt traps, March 2012.

was approximately 1.5 metres deep in the middle when first dug. Local people report that, historically, the pond has sustained a variety of species of Odonata and it is also listed in the sightings records of the Derbyshire Dragonflies website. Through my interest in Odonata I have spent time at the pond and two years ago it became apparent to me that all was not well.

The pond supported a limited range of plant species including Soft Rush, Marsh Marigold, Meadowsweet, Horsetail, Reedmace and Waterweed. However the Reedmace had become invasive, covering 80-90% of the surface, choking the pond and leaving no areas of open water. Adjacent trees were overhanging the water in several places casting heavy shade and increasing the amount of leaf litter falling in to the pond. There was a lack of variety of submerged, emergents, floating and marginal plants that would be expected in a balanced pond providing a diverse habitat. Worst of all, I had observed only 2 or 3 species of Odonata on the pond over a number of years. Well meaning but misguided attempts at pond management in the past by those charged with its upkeep, had exacerbated some of the issues. It was clear to me that something had to be done to stop the slow and inevitable decline of this valuable habitat and to prevent the pond from turning to marsh and ultimately woodland. I began by enlisting the help of a like minded colleague and friend from the village. We sat down and considered the issues with the existing pond and with the help of various pieces of reference material and literature, we drew up a management plan focused on restoration and enhancing its suitability for Odonates. As the pond and surrounding area is owned by the Parish Council, we had to consult with them about our intentions and get their agreement to implement the plan. It took some negotiating and cajoling but eventually we had their agreement to take over the management of the pond and get our conservation project underway.

The aims of the project were:

- To improve the pond and its immediate surrounds by increasing the range of habitats in and around it, in order to increase the range of Odonata species
- To conserve these habitats through ongoing management

- To develop the pond as a long term educational resource involving the village school in the conservation project
- To monitor and record Odonata at the pond and submit records to the British Dragonfly Society for the wider benefit of Odonata conservation across Britain.

Implementation of the management plan would hopefully achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce the amount of invasive plants in and around the pond
- Reduce the potential for pollutants to run-off into the pond
- Increase the variety and structure of aquatic plants in the pond by planting appropriate native species
- Reduce shading of the pond where necessary by pruning and selectively felling surrounding trees, adopting traditional riparian tree management techniques such as coppicing and pollarding
- Introduce additional Odonata habitat such as log piles for oviposition
- Clear the marsh area of unwanted vegetation to maintain this habitat
- Clear the feeder stream and silt traps where necessary to ensure good water supply to the pond
- Improve the feeding areas in proximity to the pond by encouraging plants that attract insects
- Improve the educational value of the pond with an information board and involvement of the village school

On a cold February day in 2012 we began the pruning and felling of the trees surrounding the pond. The appearance of the pond was immediately transformed, it felt larger and the oppressive shade of overhanging branches was gone. A few weeks later in March, we mustered a small group of volunteers to assist with the digging out of the silt traps on the feeder stream. This task would ensure that the traps would continue to function and the majority of silt washed down the feeder stream in heavy rain, would be caught by the traps and prevent the pond from silting. Due to a slightly early appearance of breeding frogs, we decided to delay any aquatic weed control until the following Autumn. So in September 2012 we donned the chest waders and set about hand pulling the Reedmace. Due to the relentless spread of the Reedmace across the pond over a



Top: Clearance of the reedmace begins.

Middle top: The happy volunteers.

Middle bottom: Reedmace cleared and a job well done.

Bottom: Planting day complete with rain!



relatively short period of time, we decided to throw caution to the wind and remove all but a very small patch which a pair of Moorhens had nested in for a couple of years. We laid the weeds near to the pond to give invertebrates chance to get back to the water. Interestingly and I would like to think, in appreciation of our efforts, a female Southern Hawker spent most of the day patrolling the pond and occasionally dropping in to inspect our efforts more closely.

As work on the ground progressed, we posted regular updates about the project in the local village magazine. The interest raised resulted in several financial donations. This enabled us to plan the next stage of the pond renovation. In Spring 2013 I compiled a list of suitable native aquatic plants, including submerged, floating and emergent varieties. Again referring to various sources of advice and information, plants were chosen that would increase the diversity of vegetation in the pond and provide a variety of habitats for various species. This was to be our biggest investment to date and in total £350 worth of plants were planted in May.

Following our efforts over the previous 12 months, I was keen to see what species might visit the pond through the Summer of 2013. Fortunately, like most of the country, we had a good summer with plenty of sunshine and ideal conditions for dragonfly activity. I was hoping that our work would be successful in increasing the range of species at the pond but the results far outweighed my expectations. Over several visits to the pond through the summer I observed, Southern Hawker, Common Hawker, Broad Bodied Chaser, Common Blue Damselfly and Large Red Damselfly. All of which were observed ovipositing. It was fantastic to see hawkers flying over an expanse of open water now that the clutter of the Reedmace had gone. The removal of the trees meant that for most of the day the pond surface was bathed in sunlight and as a result I was able to observe flying activity late in the day. Interested villagers who had been following the progress of the project spoke to me of their own sightings and described the pond at times as being alive with dragonflies and damselflies. Importantly, I was able to submit the first records of sightings at the pond for

many years. Future observation will be important to confirm if the pond is now a successful breeding site again.

One of the aims of our project was to improve the areas surrounding the pond by increasing habitats for wildlife. This particular part of the project has now taken on a life of its own, as we have decided to plant a community orchard. This will be planted in an area of grassland adjacent to the pond and will be undersown with wildflowers in order to encourage insects for pollination of the fruit trees and also to provide hunting ground for dragonflies. We began in November 2012 by planting trees to improve the hedgerow on the western boundary of site. It is our intention to have a programme of ongoing pond management but it is anticipated that this will be minimum intervention with monitoring and the control of fast growing species to maintain balance. Interestingly the Waterweed has flourished since light levels were increased by removal of the Reedmace and we need to consider controlling this over the next few years.

A key element of the project is to increase the educational value of the pond. One way we hope to achieve this is by involving the local primary school. The children will hopefully be involved in the design of an interpretation board next to the pond. As well as assisting the school in their Eco Schools project it is my belief that educating local children about the value of this habitat may go some way to ensuring its long term survival.

My father has been a keen conservationist through his life, not in words but in his actions. Having grown up around nest box schemes and various reintroduction projects, I am a firm believer that conservation is about rolling up your sleeves and actually getting on with it and my experiences, much like those of my father's have shown that small well considered actions can make a huge difference. It was during my first visit to the spectacular Wicken Fen and the Dragonfly Centre in Summer 2013 and discussions with the excellent volunteers there, that I was inspired to write this article and I hope this in turn inspires other readers to go out, roll up their sleeves and make a real difference to the conservation of these fascinating insects. **DN**

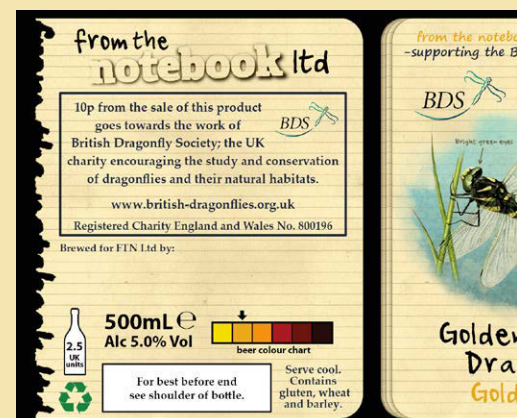
Dragonfly Beer...

The BDS are to team up with craft beer design specialists 'From the Notebook Limited' (FTN) to launch a Dragonfly beer in 2014, with royalties from sales helping the work of BDS.

East Midlands duo Graeme Denton and Colin Bowler founded FTN in 2012 to create what they describe as "Wildlife-Inspired Idiosyncratic Beers". Major characteristics of the creature the beer is named after are portrayed in the flavour, colour and style of the beer produced. The FTN brand is reflective of a wildlife enthusiast, going out into the field and sketching and annotating what he or she observes, hence the company name "From the Notebook".

The inaugural brew for BDS will be a Golden Ale named in honour of the Golden-ringed Dragonfly. Dr Denton said, "We aim to create a lovely, light, easy-drinking Golden Ale but with a creamy head, part of which stays on the glass as you drink it, and thus leaves a series of golden rings down the glass".

FTN's mandate is to celebrate the diversity of British wildlife through the wonderful, natural and tasty product that is beer. They work alongside talented craft brewers to design and manufacture beers worthy of the fantastic creatures they represent on their bottles. In so doing, they assist conservation bodies through a royalty payment per bottle sold. So far FTN have teamed up with the Marine Conservation Society to produce a series of beers based on



...takes flight.

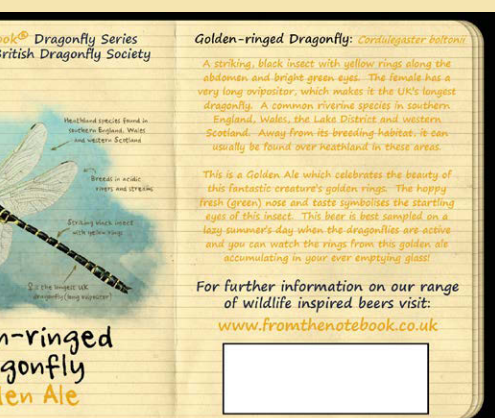
seabirds and Butterfly Conservation, producing a range of butterfly inspired beers with a further range of moth beers to be produced in 2014.

The BDS's association with FTN started when Conservation Officer Claire Install spotted FTN sharing a stand with the West Midlands Branch of Butterfly Conservation at the 2103 Pershore Plum Festival. Claire said, "FTN were launching their new Brown Hairstreak Ale and I spotted the great butterfly sketches on the bottles and wondered what was going on. I asked Graeme and Colin about their products and tasted a few of their beers. It didn't take long before we all realised that a beer created to raise revenue for the BDS would be a great idea and that lots of the names of Odonata lend themselves quite nicely to potential names of beers!"

As part of their participator agreement, FTN have committed to providing royalties which will at least cover the cost of their Corporate Membership to BDS. As such they are set to become one of the first Corporate Members of the BDS.

The first round of Golden-ringed Dragonfly Golden Ale should be ready in time for National Dragonfly Week in early July 2014.

Keep checking out the BDS website and follow us on facebook and twitter to be updated with news on the beer's progress. **DN**



Reviews



Britain's Dragonflies, 3rd Edition.

Princeton **WILDGuides**
224 pp; 450 photographs, 550 illustrations; paperback.
ISBN 9780691161235
Price £17.95.

Dave Smallshire and Andy Swash.

Review by Mark Tyrrell

That 'Britain's Dragonflies' is on its third edition already is a sure sign of how well regarded and popular this field guide has become since its first publication in 2004. This edition takes the guide a stage further than the previous two and has been thoroughly updated and revised with new photographs, text and up-to-date distribution maps. It even has reference to the Cambridgeshire colony of the Norfolk Hawker, confirmed in 2013.

A complete redesign with expanded content make this a worthy update and the section on larvae is vastly improved and now includes excellent graphics and a key that allows the reader clearly to identify larvae and exuviae in the field.

Designed as a field guide, it delivers on this promise with illustrations including photographs of a very high standard that will prove invaluable to those trying to

identify specimens by the side of a lake, river or pond, where it will find most use.

All the expected sections are present and are covered in a good depth of detail, from habitat types, dragonfly life cycles, through identification, conservation and 'Red List' protected species. The section on migrants is particularly useful as we are seeing more and more new species cross our borders every year. There is even a section describing how to identify similar species when seen in flight and a very good sequence of photographs showing changes in appearance with age, illustrated by the Scarce Chaser.

The species sections, which take up the bulk of the book, show all the information you need to identify that mystery dragonfly, including graphical illustrations of key body characteristics and photographs showing all colour forms and morphologies from teneral, to old males and females. I would have preferred that the key identification features highlighted in the text be pinpointed in the photographs, perhaps with an arrow, though.

The writing style and content will appeal to interested novice readers, for whom it is aimed, but will also be of interest to more experienced dragonfly watchers. The authors are to be congratulated on achieving such a highly readable style.

This is the definitive, must have guide to the dragonflies of Britain and Ireland and as the most comprehensive field guide of its type, it will surely find a place on the bookshelves of all keen dragonfly watchers and those with a more general interest in the wildlife of Great Britain. Highly recommended. **DN**

To celebrate the publication of **BRITAIN'S DRAGONFLIES, 3rd edition, WildGuides** have generously provided a copy to be won by a BDS member. Just answer this simple question:

What is the scientific name for the species shown on the cover of the 3rd edition?

Entries can be e-mailed or posted to the Editor at the address on the inside front cover. Closing date is 18 May 2014. The winner will be picked at random by the Editor from all entries received by the closing date.



Dragons & Damsels on a



Butterfly Tour in Estonia

While leading a butterfly tour in Estonia, *Wilf Powell* encountered many familiar and some not so familiar dragonfly species.



There it was, clinging to a nettle plant at the side of the path, a beautiful male Green Clubtail *Ophiogomphus cecilia*. After everyone had seen it, it obligingly allowed itself to be gently moved to a more convenient position for photographs, on a nearby wooden post. It was early July 2013 and I was leading a butterfly tour in Estonia, organised by Estonian Nature Tours. However, as several members of the small party had a keen interest in Odonata, we were also noting all the dragonflies and damselflies that we encountered. This was the first day of the trip and we were exploring the Piusa river valley in the south-east corner of the country. I was delighted to find the Green Clubtail as I had found one in this exact spot two years previously when assessing potential butterfly and dragonfly sites with Marika Mann, the founder of Estonian Nature Tours. Dave Smallshire was also with us in 2011 and he had been highly excited by our find, so it was encouraging to find another specimen in the same location two years later.

Our accommodation was at Mooste Viinavabrik, a splendid building that had originally been built as a vodka factory on a large estate but which had been converted in 2010 into a phototourism centre with very comfortable en-suite guest rooms. It was in a beautiful setting beside a large lake, which yielded a variety of species including Arctic Damselfly *Coenagrion johanssoni*, Norfolk Hawker and Downy Emerald. Perhaps the commonest dragonfly seen at the sites visited in this part of Estonia was the Yellow-winged Darter *Sympetrum flaveolum*, which was abundant along forest tracks. Several sites also yielded specimens of the Yellow-spotted Emerald *Somatochlora flavomaculata*, including individuals that helpfully posed for photographs.

Estonia is not a country that immediately springs to mind as a destination for wildlife enthusiasts but it deserves to be high on everyone's list of desirable destinations in Europe. It is a small country (350km east-west by 240km north-south), 50% of which is forested, with a low population (29.6 people per sq. km), leaving plenty of space for nature. Of particular interest for dragonfly enthusiasts are the 1,400 lakes and the extensive areas of raised bogs. More than 1 million hectares of aquatic

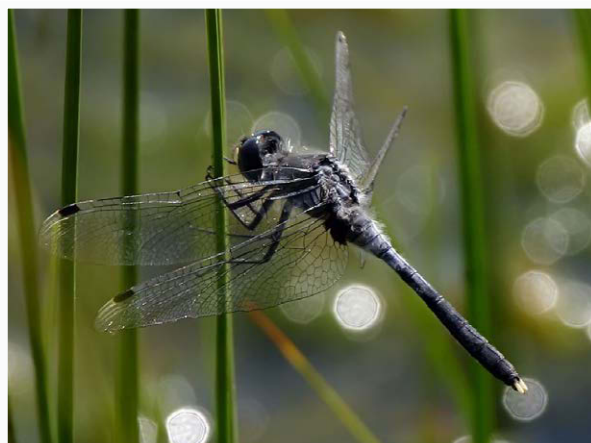
environments are protected in special conservation areas. In terms of its flora and fauna it stands on a crossroads, where species with predominantly northern and eastern distributions meet southern and central European species that just reach into the south-eastern corner of the country.

For the second half of our week-long trip we moved to the west coast, staying on the large island of Saaremaa. Over two days we explored a fascinating variety of habitats on this beautiful island, mainly focussing on butterflies and plants, including a wonderful range of orchids. But dragonflies and damselflies weren't neglected and we positively identified twelve species with a further five unconfirmed. These included Emerald Damselfly, Brown Hawker, Four-spotted Chaser, Broad-bodied Chaser, Ruddy Darter and Vagrant Darter *Sympetrum vulgatum*.

The final full day of the tour proved to be the most memorable for the Odonata enthusiasts. After crossing back to the mainland, we first explored wooded meadows at Puhtu-Laelatu Nature Reserve near the coast, an area that claims the unofficial world record for the number of different plant species (76) recorded in a single square metre. Here, large numbers of Black-tailed Skimmers were on the wing, but the most notable dragonfly seen was the Baltic Hawker *Aeshna serrata*, a species that in western Europe appears to be largely confined to a few stretches of the Baltic coast, including the west coast of Estonia, where it can be locally abundant. I have visited this area of wooded meadows on three occasions in the last five years and seen the Baltic Hawker every time.

Our final destination was Mukre Bog, a wonderfully diverse wetland area conveniently traversed by a boardwalk. As you might expect, dragonflies and damselflies were abundant and we

.....Continued on page 30



Opposite page: Male Green Clubtail *Ophiogomphus cecilia*.

Top: Eastern White-faced Darter *Leucorrhinia albifrons*.

Middle: Female Baltic Hawker *Aeshna serrata*.

Bottom: Female Yellow spotted Emerald *Somatochlora flavomaculata*



members' gallery

Mark Peacock has loved the challenge of photographing Odonata with his bridge camera for the last couple of years. He enjoys learning about, watching and recording all of his local natural history. All of these were taken within a few miles of his home in North Worcestershire.

See more of Mark's work on his Flickr site.

www.flickr.com/photos/woodwolfuw/

1) I spotted this Broad Bodied Chaser at Trench Wood, Worcestershire. I was a distance away on full zoom, and I only spotted the exuvia next to it after a couple of minutes. It makes for an interesting shot.

2) I've been fortunate to see Red-veined Darters at a local site for the last 2 years. There was plenty of emergence of Damselflies going on too, I was especially interested in seeing

1



2



3



more exuviae and teneral species this year.

3) This was a very special encounter in the Wyre Forest . I had the meadow and the Golden Ringed Dragonfly all to myself, my first and only connection with this superb species to date.

4



4) It's been great to see Scarce Chasers appear locally. One site close to home has seen them breed there the last two years. Will be interesting to see if they hang on at this pool this year. **DN**

Continued from page 27.....

encountered at least 19 species including such gems as Northern Damselfly *Coenagrion hastulatum*, Red-eyed Damselfly, Brilliant Emerald, White-faced Darter, Eastern White-faced Darter *Leucorrhinia albifrons* and Black Darter.

Despite being on a tour mainly targeted at butterflies, we recorded 30 Odonata species with a further 4 possible but unconfirmed out of a total of 57 known for the country. Those not already mentioned were Banded Demoiselle, Beautiful Demoiselle, Blue-tailed Damselfly, Common Blue Damselfly, Variable Damselfly, Azure Damselfly, Large Red Damselfly, Southern Hawker, Common Hawker and Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*, with possible Scarce Emerald Damselfly *Lestes dryas*, Small Emerald Damselfly *Lestes virens*, Azure Hawker and Common Darter.

My thanks go to Marika Mann of Estonian Nature Tours for organising the tour and local guide Peeter Vissak for his excellent botanical and general wildlife knowledge. The dragonfly expertise in the group was provided by BDS members David and Karen Anderson (dragonfly recorders for Bedfordshire) and Philip Smith from Merseyside who compiled the Odonata list for the trip. Oh, and we also saw 58 butterfly species, but that's another story. Estonian Nature Tours have decided to run a tour dedicated to dragonflies in the first week of August this year and a detailed itinerary should be available on their website, www.naturetours.ee, around March. **DN**

A new "pondscape" near Woorgreens Lake NR.



In the heart of the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, in the late 1970's the whole of a 200-acre site, which included Woorgreens Lake and Marsh as well as the "pondscape" area was an open-cast coal mine site. When mining ended in 1979, restoration began and Woorgreens Lake was created in July 1980. Where the present "pondscape" is located, Japanese Larch was planted and due to the wet, clay nature of the site, ridges and furrows were created with the larch planted on the drier ridges.

Subsequently the larch, which was thought to be probably infected with *P. ramorum*, was cleared-felled in late 2010, initially with the aim of linking the

heathland on nearby Crabtree Hill with the open area around Woorgreens Lake and Marsh.

The Forestry Commission wished to create additional wetland habitat, and applied for funding from Pond Conservation's Million Ponds Project in February 2011. This was granted, and a series of dams and pools were created from the series of ditches that crossed the site. A contractor, who knows the forest well and has repaired many forest sites over the previous decade, created the "pondscape" with the aid of a digger. His main objective was to create multiple sizes, depths, aspects and gradient slopes, and several linear ponds linked



by marshy areas were the result. Larch brash, stumps and logs were left between the series of ponds as marginal habitat.

In early August 2011, a Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group meeting was held, after the clear-felling of the larch, and before the ponds were dug. It was very difficult to traverse the site at this stage, as the felled larch had not been cleared away, and one had to scramble over the terrain! In November 2011 the "pondscape" was created, and visits were made, in early and mid January 2012, to see the impressive mosaic of ponds on the site, which remains under Forestry Commission control. Photographs during construction were taken by Kate Wollen of the Forestry Commission.

The nearby Woorgreens Lake, south-east of the "pondscape", had been an exceptional site for Dragonflies and Damselflies in the past, with approx. 20 species present in the 1980's, including a population explosion in 1983 of the rare Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly. After the creation of the Lake, it became a Nature Reserve in 1984, owned by the Forestry Commission but managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and was a prime dragonfly site after only 4 years, with 17 species present out of the (then) 26 species in the county. In the mid to late 1990's 19 species were still recorded. The water level was lowered in September 1996, and drained in the summer of 2002, presumably to eliminate any fish present. To try to improve the dragonfly fauna, which had declined, and remove the presence of carp, the lake was drained again in the autumn of 2011, and allowed to fill naturally. Since then, monitoring of the site over the past two years, 16 species have been recorded.

I led a Field Meeting for BDS in late June 2012, but unfortunately the weather wasn't ideal for dragonflies and damselflies to be flying, and only 2 species, Common Blue Damselfly and Broad-bodied Chaser, were recorded at the site on the day.

Many visits were made during the year, by me and others, to see how many species would turn up at this new heathland site, and GWT monitored the site several times during 2012. It was amazing to find that 18 (possibly 19) had been identified by the end of the season.

In 2013, vegetation had grown considerably, creating a lush grassland habitat between the ponds, and the



brash left on the ground had become less obvious, even though care has to be taken when traversing the site. Photographs, taken in 2013, show the present wonderful diverse dragonfly habitat of the area.

Monitoring of the site during 2013, by GWT and others, (I led a meeting for Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society in August) yielded a further species, which is not very often seen in the Forest of Dean – a male Keeled Skimmer; the last recorded sighting being in 2009, and confirmation of a small breeding population of Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly, which I thought I had had a very fleeting glimpse of in 2012, and which brought the total to 20. Other highlights in 2013 included finding a small, probably breeding, colony of Black Darter, and the second year running of two male Red-veined Darter, as well as a very large population of Emerald Damselfly.

The species list:

Damselflies - 6 species:

Emerald Damselfly, Azure Damselfly, Large Red Damselfly, Blue-tailed Damselfly and Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly.

Dragonflies - 14 species:

Common Hawker, Migrant Hawker, Southern Hawker, Emperor, Golden-ringed Dragonfly, Downy Emerald, Four-spotted Chaser, Broad-bodied Chaser,

Black-tailed Skimmer, Keeled Skimmer, Common Darter, Red-veined Darter, Ruddy Darter and Black Darter.

This is a brilliant site at present, and hopefully, if the habitat doesn't change, will continue to be so, with 20 of the county's total of 33 species recorded (35, if South Gloucestershire is included), and with many breeding species.

Some historical information was taken from Bob Godfrey's notes who received an MBE for all his conservation work in the Dean. My thanks go to GWT Forest of Dean Reserves Warden Kevin Caster, Kate Wollen and Rebecca Wilson of the Forestry Commission all for background information on the site, Kate for sending me her photographs, and Beth Adams of GWT for sending me her 2012 and 2013 dragonfly and damselfly records, as well as Andy Jayne and John and Viv Phillips who alerted me to the rarities that occurred on the site. **DN**

Opposite page: Woorsgreen New Ponds.

Above: Male Red-veined Darter.



Atlas of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland

Edited by Steve
Cham, Brian Nelson,
Adrian Parr, Steve
Prentice, Dave
Smallshire and Pam
Taylor



Due for publication in May 2014, this full colour book (approx 400 pages) from the British Dragonfly Society maps the distribution of all 56 species of damselfly and dragonfly in Britain and Ireland. To order, visit the BDS website and follow the link.

www.british-dragonflies.org.uk

£32.00 +P&P

BDS BUSINESS

Minutes of the 26th AGM of the BDS – Oxford, 16 November 2013-11-18

1. Notice of the AGM

Notice of the 26th AGM was published in Dragonfly News 63

2. Minutes Recorder

Mark Tyrrell was appointed Minutes recorder, seconded by Mick Parfitt

3. Adoption of Agenda

Peter Mill proposed adoption of the agenda, seconded by Catherine McEwan

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 25th AGM.

Minutes of the 25th AGM were published in Dragonfly News 64.

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Dave Goddard and seconded by Heather Twinn.

5. Apologies for Absence were received from:

Tim Beynon
Peter & Cindy Allen
Sue Smallshire
Ingrid & Colin Twissell

6. The meeting observed one minute silence in memory of deceased members.

Jean Matthews, Alexander Parker, David Dell, Dr John Gibson, Ernest Blundon, Gordon Webb, Dr Roger Fairall and Nicky Parr.

7. Elections

Posts are available for 2 Ordinary Trustees and a Vice President. There being no nominees, no elections were held.

8. Greetings were made to our patron, Sir David Attenborough and all Honorary Members.

9. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a brief update on recent notable events:

With the BDS Chief Executive having resigned the day after this event last year, BDS Trustees have once again taken on the day-to-day business of the Society, including fund raising, publicity and BDS development.

On social media, we now have 154 members on the BDS Flickr group; our facebook page has 600 Likes and the BDS Twitter account has 2400 followers

The BDS dealt with around 1000 ID enquiries this year.

Our recording scheme received its 1,000,000th record, of a Ruddy Darter submitted by Ingrid Twissell.

There is still over a year to run on our grant from Natural Resources Wales and earlier this year we secured another small grant for practical conservation work from Environment Wales. So far, in Wales we have: a) safeguarded habitat for rare dragonflies at Pensarn Corner; b) run five training courses; c) identified a priority list of Key Sites for dragonflies, ready to start speaking to land managers; d) surveyed six sites in Pembrokeshire for Southern Damselfly; e) developed two new student research projects for use at university level, which we are promoting at two Welsh universities. Thanks go to Allan Brandon for helping with the training courses, and to Stephen and Ann Coker for all their help with the Southern Damselfly work.

In Scotland we are eight months into a two year grant from Scottish Natural Heritage which is funding 50% of our work there. With this grant we have appointed our first BDS Scotland Officer – Danièle Muir. Our thanks go to everyone who contributed to project in Scotland including Pat Batty, Laura and Hugh Coventry, Jonathan Willet, Ruary Mackenzie Dodds and Babs Macritchie. There will be a special Dragonfly Conference in Scotland in Spring 2014.

The Dragonfly Project has announced that it will cease operations at the end of this year, handing over the baton to the BDS. Tributes were paid to the dedicated people who have been part of that initiative.

Greetings were given to Honorary Members and a particular tribute was made to Norman Moore who celebrated his 90th birthday earlier this year.

10. Secretary's Report

Membership has remained stable, with 1542 in April and 1551 in October.

All members are now on the Vice County database and are being told who their VC recorder is.

11. Treasurer's Report

We run two accounts: 1) The BDS account; 2) the CONSOFF account. The former is the main account to fund the work of the Society. The CONSOFF account funds the salaries and costs of the two employees.

a) BDS Account

The subscription rise has increased BDS income, with all other areas static.

Steve Cham's larval guide boosted sales from the BDS Shop.

The main expenditure was the Chief Executive's salary. Other expenditures remained similar to previous years

b) CONSOFF Account

Income from SNH/CCW is broadly similar to the previous year. Environment Agency funding has now finished.

Funding the CONSOFF account remains difficult,

Staff salaries cover the main proportion of expenditure.

Signed copies of the BDS Accounts were made available prior to the AGM



The Treasurer's Report was proposed by Peter Reeve and seconded by Andrew McGeeney.

12. Notice of the 2014 AGM

Notice of the 27th AGM of the BDS will be published in Dragonfly News 65.

There being no other business, Kari De Koenigswarter proposed that the AGM be adjourned, seconded by Bill Wain.

Notice is hereby given that the 27th Annual General Meeting of the British Dragonfly Society will be held 15 November 2014. Location to be confirmed.

BDS Members' Day

**31st Annual Meeting
to be held on Saturday, 15th November
2014**

Venue yet to be finalised.

9.45am (coffee) to approximately 4.30pm

The full programme will be announced in the Autumn edition of Dragonfly News (No. 66) and on the website when finalised.

The day will include varied talks of local, national and international interest.

(# Please note, if you have a suggestion (and name of willing person) for a talk we still have some space so we will try and accommodate that in the programme.)

BDS DRAGONFLY COURSES at Wicken Fen

Advance booking is essential

Sun. 15th June DRAGONFLY LARVA IDENTIFICATION FOR BEGINNERS

With Henry Curry & Henry Stanier (10am – 5pm). The aim of the course is for participants to identify dragonfly larvae to genus and understand the basic steps of keying out to species. The course will consist of the Microscope-TV link, one-to-one guidance, self-study periods, and, depending on the weather, a hunt for larvae / exuviae.

Sat. 5th July

ADULT DRAGONFLIES AND THEIR HABITAT FOR BEGINNERS

With Stuart Irons and Karen Buckley, (10am – 5pm). The aim of this course is for participants to identify common species of adult dragonflies and water plants. There will be sessions using colour photo presentations and water plant collections, Microscope-TV link, one-to-one guidance and a field tour of adult dragonfly and water plant habitats.

Sat. 26th July INTRODUCING THE DRAGONFLY

With Henry Curry (10am – 4pm). Specifically designed for the beginner, this course includes dragonfly biology, ecology and identification, including a plenary session with the Microscope-TV link and a field tour of dragonfly habitats on site. (Also presented on 23rd August)

Sun. 27th July DRAGONFLY LARVA IDENTIFICATION – ADVANCED

With Henry Curry & Henry Stanier (10am – 5pm). The aim of the course is for participants to further their dragonfly larva ID skills and gain a deeper understanding of the anatomy, physiology and ecology of this important stage in the life-cycle. The course consists of classroom work, one-to-one guidance and fieldwork looking at habitats, larvae, and exuviae.

Sat. 23rd Aug INTRODUCING THE DRAGONFLY

With Henry Curry, (10am – 4pm) Details as 26th July.

Cost of each course: £35

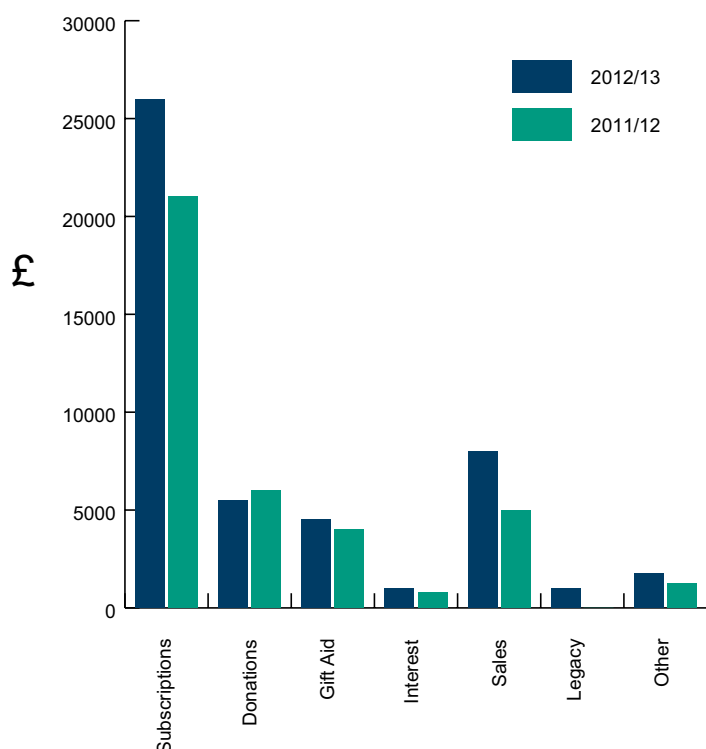


BDS Treasurer *Brian Walker* summarises the BDS accounts.

Our accounts are split into two parts; the BDS account covers our general activities and the CONSOFF account relates to restricted funds provided for specific purposes.

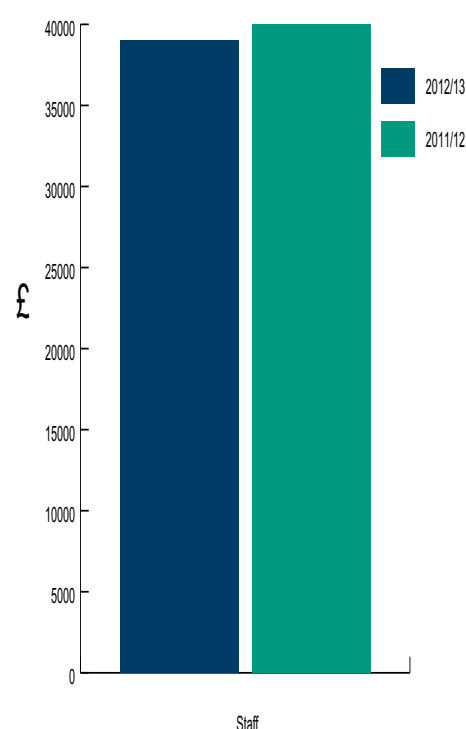
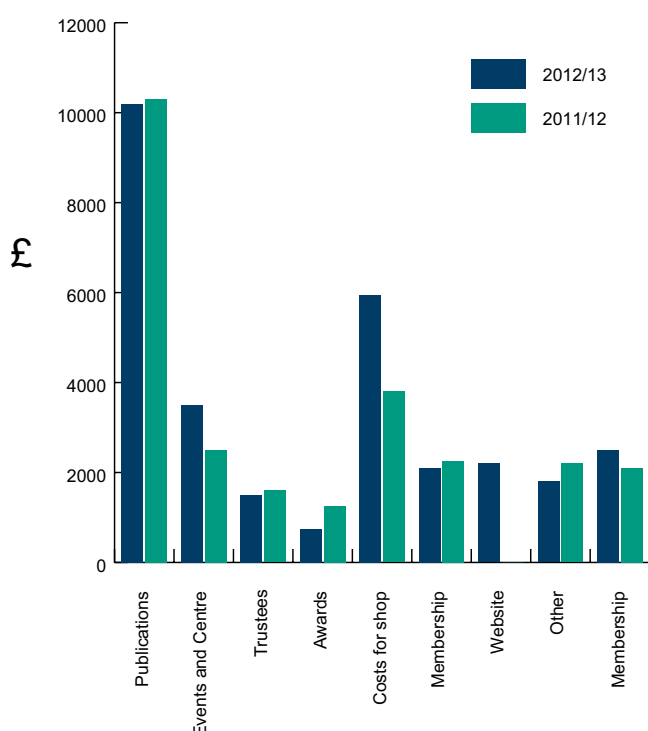
BDS Income

Subscription income has risen as a result in the rise in the annual rate. Donations are down slightly with tax recovered from gift aid being up slightly. The gift aid is from 2011/12 subscriptions and donations. The increase is not therefore a result of the subscription rise. The increase in shop sales has arisen principally from the publication of the new combined edition of the larvae guide. We were also grateful for a legacy in 2011/12.



BDS Expenditure

The graphs show expenditure during the year compared with that in 2011/12. Staff costs for our Chief Executive, who left us just before the year end, dominated the costs. Other costs are similar to the previous year, apart from the shop where the costs of printing the new edition of the larvae guide increased costs marginally.



Restricted Income and Expenditure

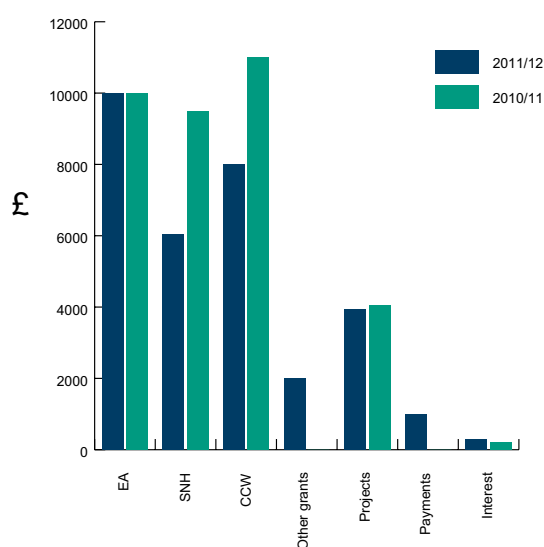
Income for our conservation activities comes largely from grants. Details are shown at below.

Phasing of payments does affect the picture and the second part of the SNH grant was paid after the year end and is not included in these accounts. Natural England continues to provide us with very valuable support in kind through accommodation and services for our officers. We gained further funding for projects in relation to Southern Damselfly conservation in Wales.

Expenditure is largely staff salaries and expenses and generally similar to 2011/12.

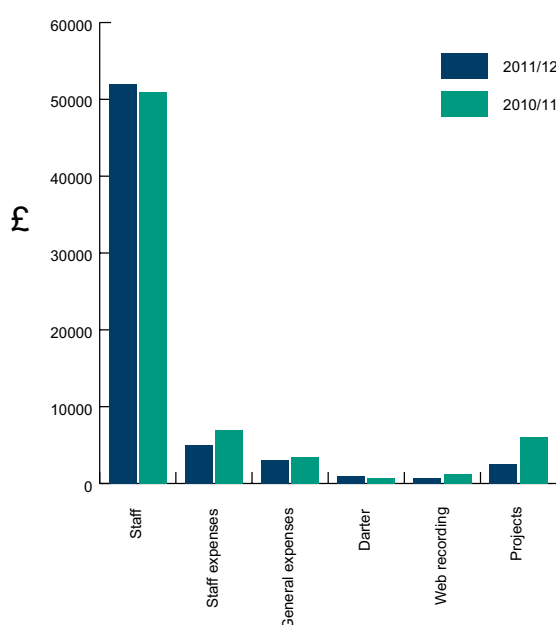
Funding for our conservation work again fell well short of expenditure and it has become increasingly more difficult to gain grants and more time consuming to meet the reporting requirements. We have been notified that we will see a further reduction in our historic funding for 2013/14. While we have sufficient reserves to maintain our activities for the present the Trustees are considering our future requirements and options. Our ability to generate some funding for our conservation activities from our own membership will become even more important.

CONSOFF Income



EA Environment Agency
SNH Scottish Natural Heritage
CCW Countryside Commission for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales)

CONSOFF Expenditure



Simple Balance Sheet

	£	£
Total cash at 31 March 2012		263,799
BDS Income	48,598	
CONSOFF Income	31,766	
Total Income		80,364
BDS Expenditure	-68,012	
CONSOFF Expenditure	-68,902	
Total Expenditure		-136,914
Total cash at 31 March 2013		207,249
Stock at 31 March 2012		2,865
Stock at 31 March 2013		4,292

BDS Trustees & Officers

Ordinary Trustees: David Goddard and Stuart Irons are the candidates proposed, please let the Secretary know if you wish to vote for them or if you wish to propose any other candidates.

President and Vice-President: We have no candidates for these posts at present, please let the Secretary know if you have any proposals.

Checklist of the Damselflies & Dragonflies of Britain & Ireland

Last Revision: Spring 2014. (Note that the Dragonfly Conservation Group will be discussing the criteria for Category A and whether other species should be included there.)

Table 1. Category A: resident and/or migrant species recorded since 1970

This category comprises species with well-established breeding populations and migrant species that have been recorded regularly since 1970, the latter often attempting to establish temporary breeding populations.

ZYGOPTERA	Damselflies	ANISOPTERA (cont'd)	Dragonflies (cont'd)
Lestidae	Emerald Damselflies	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Emperor Dragonfly
<i>Lestes dryas</i>	Scarce Emerald Damselfly	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Lesser Emperor
<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	Emerald Damselfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	Hairy Dragonfly
<i>Lestes viridis</i>	Willow Emerald Damselfly	Gomphidae	
Calopterygidae		<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i>	Common Club-tail
<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Banded Demoiselle	Cordulegastridae	
<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>	Golden-ringed Dragonfly
Platycnemididae		Corduliidae	Emeralds
<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>	Downy Emerald
Coenagrionidae		<i>Somatochlora arctica</i>	Northern Emerald
<i>Ceragrion tenellum</i>	Small Red Damselfly	<i>Somatochlora metallica</i>	Brilliant Emerald
<i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i>	Northern Damselfly	Libellulidae	Darters, Chasers, Skimmers
<i>Coenagrion lunulatum</i>	Irish Damselfly	<i>Leucorrhinia dubia</i>	White-faced Darter
<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>	Southern Damselfly	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Broad-bodied Chaser
<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	Azure Damselfly	<i>Libellula fulva</i>	Scarce Chaser
<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>	Variable Damselfly	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Four-spotted Chaser
<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Black-tailed Skimmer
<i>Erythromma najas</i>	Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	Kelled Skimmer
<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>	Small Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	Black Darter
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Sympetrum flaveolum</i>	Yellow-winged Darter
<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>	Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	Red-veined Darter
<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	Large Red Damselfly	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	Ruddy Darter
ANISOPTERA	Dragonflies	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> *	Common Darter
Aeshnidae	Hawkers		
<i>Aeshna caerulea</i>	Azure Hawker		
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Southern Hawker		
<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	Brown Hawker		
<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	Common Hawker		
<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	Migrant Hawker		
<i>Anaciaeschna isocles</i>	Norfolk Hawker		

* - includes dark specimens in the north-west, formerly treated as a separate species *Sympetrum nigrescens* **Highland Darter**

Table 2. Category B: vagrant species

Since 1998 records of these species have been assessed by the Odonata Records Committee.

ZYGOPTERA	Damselflies	ANISOPTERA (cont'd)	Dragonflies (cont'd)
Lestidae	Emerald Damselflies	Gomphidae	
<i>Lestes barbarus</i> **	Southern Emerald Damselfly	<i>Gomphus flavipes</i>	Yellow-legged Club-tail
<i>Sympecma fusca</i>	Winter Damselfly	Libellulidae	Darters, Chasers, Skimmers
Coenagrionidae		<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i> †	Scarlet Darter
<i>Coenagrion scitulum</i> **	Dainty Damselfly	<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>	Large White-faced Darter
ANISOPTERA	Dragonflies	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Wandering Glider
Aeshnidae	Hawkers	<i>Sympetrum pedemontanum</i>	Banded Darter
<i>Aeshna affinis</i>	Southern Migrant Hawker	<i>Sympetrum vulgatum</i>	Vagrant Darter
<i>Anax ephippiger</i>	Vagrant Emperor		
<i>Anax junius</i>	Green Darter		

** - has bred. † - has bred in the Channel Islands.

Table 3. Category C: former breeding species not recorded since 1970

Any further records of these species will be assessed by the Odonata Records Committee.

ZYGOPTERA	Damselflies	ANISOPTERA	Dragonflies
Coenagrionidae		Corduliidae	Emeralds
<i>Coenagrion armatum</i>	Norfolk Damselfly	<i>Oxygastra curtisii</i>	Orange-spotted Emerald

Guidelines for Contributors

All material should be sent to the Editor at the address on the inside front cover. If in doubt, please contact the Editor to discuss potential contributions and to advise on presentation and format. By contributing to **Dragonfly News** you give permission for the work to be used in other ways with the same attribution including reproduction on the BDS web site. All contributions on any aspect of the British and Irish dragonfly fauna are welcome for consideration at any time. Contributions on continental European and other species are also considered for inclusion. Contributions by naturalists based in Britain or Ireland travelling overseas are also welcome.

Articles requesting information or providing news of forthcoming events are welcome. The editor is happy to receive material by email or CD, preferably in MS WORD (DOC file extension, not DOCX) or txt format. Typed material requiring rekeying is less welcome (unless very short!) but will still be considered. The Editor reserves the right to make changes without prior reference to the author. Please provide contact details with anything you send and note the copy deadlines printed on inside front cover if you want something to appear in a particular issue. Photographs should be high quality jpg format with the quality setting at its highest, please do not embed in a document as this compromises quality. If e-mailing via AOL, please compress (zip) the image first.



When ordering please include your name, address and telephone number. Postage prices are indicated, but if you are ordering more than one item the highest postage price only (within reason) should be paid. Please allow at least 28 days for delivery. Cheques should be made payable to: British Dragonfly Society.

Clothing	Colour	size	price	p&p
BDS logo T-shirt	grey, royal blue, emerald green	Small	£7.00	£2.00
BDS logo T-shirt	grey, emerald green	Medium	£7.00	£2.00
T-shirt with 3 coloured logo	Natural	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£7.00	£2.00
Ruddy Darter T-shirt	White	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£10.00	£2.00
Golden Ringed Dragonfly T-shirt	Natural	S, XL,XXL	£10.00	£2.00
Polo shirt	Bottle Green	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£12.50	£2.00
Rugby Shirt	Blue	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£18.00	£2.00
Hooded Sweatshirt	Navy Blue	S,M,L,XL, XXL	£15.00	£2.50
BDS logoed Sweatshirt	Grey with black logo	Large	£13.75	£2.50
BDS logoed Sweatshirt	Grey with embroidered logo	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£13.75	£2.50
Ruddy Darter Sweatshirt	Green	S,M,XL,XXL	£15.00	£2.50
Golden Ringed Dragonfly Sweatshirt	Beige	XL,XXL	£15.00	£2.50



Books & DVDs	Price	p&p
Field Guide to the larva and exuviae of British Dragonflies vol 2 Damselflies	£5.00	£1.50
Field Guide to the larva and exuviae of British Dragonflies	£12.00	£2.00
Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland	£18.95	£2.00
Dragonflies by Peter Miller	£12.00	£1.50
Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain and Europe	£21.95	£2.50
Dragonflies of Hampshire	£10.00	£0.00
The Dragonflies of Europe (revised edition 2004)	£25.00	£2.50
Dragonflies by Philip Corbet and Stephen Brooks	£20.00	£3.00
Dragonflies and Damselflies of Hertfordshire	£10.00	£2.00
The Dragonflies of Essex	£15.00	£2.50
Dragonflight by Marianne Taylor	£14.00	£2.00
Dragonfly by David Chandler and Steve Cham	£12.00	£2.50
Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Bristol Region	£19.50	£2.00
The Dragonflies of Great Britain ID cards	£4.00	£0.75
Dragonfly ID wallchart	£5.00	£1.00
DVD Sexual Conflict in Dragonflies by Georg Ruppell	£5.00	£1.50
DVD British Dragonflies	£18.50	£1.50
DVD British Damselflies	£18.50	£1.50
Both DVDs	£35.00	£2.00

Misc	Price	p&p
BDS Mugs, Black Darter, Migrant Hawker, Scarce Chaser, Golden Ringed Dragonfly	£4.00 (each)	£2.00
Set of all 4 BDS Mugs	£15.00	£5.00
Damselfly Mug	£4.00	£2.00
Set of 6 Damselfly Mugs	£20.0	£5.00
Dunoon Secret Garden Mug	£10.00	£2.00
Dunoon Dovedale Mug	£10.00	£2.00
Dunoon Folklore Mug	£10.00	£2.00
Dunoon Small Dovedale Mug	£8.00	£2.00
BDS Key Ring	£1.50	£0.75
BDS Car Sticker	£1.00	£0.50
BDS Logo Pin Badge	£2.00	£0.75

