

# Darter

## Magazine

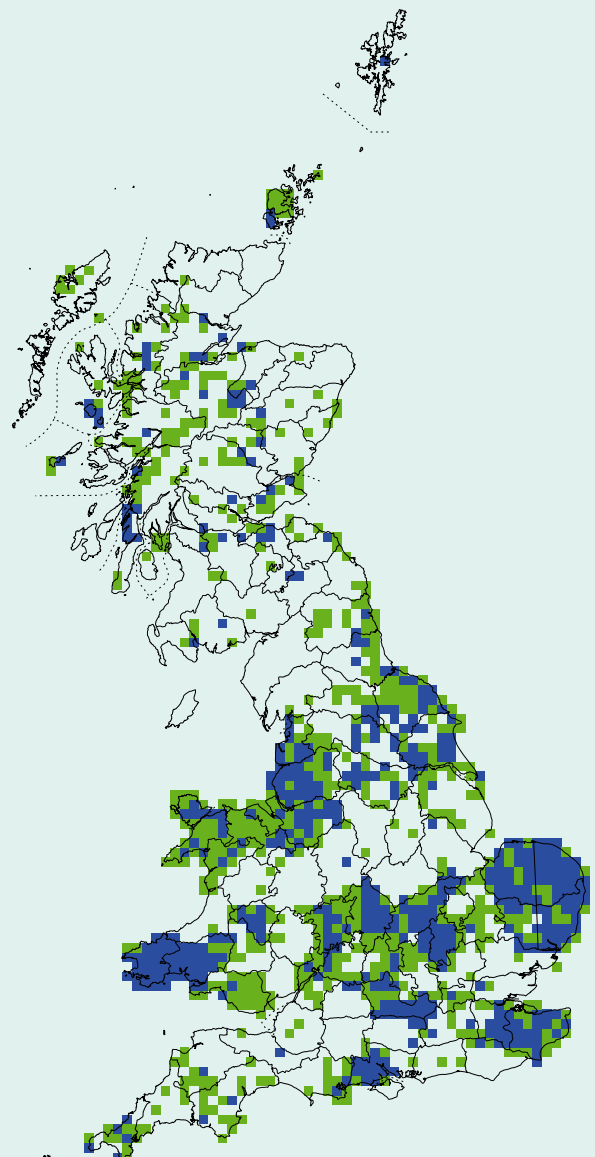
### Welcome

*Claire Install*

Hi and welcome to this new-look, full colour edition of Darter. The main focuses will be recording, the monitoring scheme and the new atlas as well as reporting what has happened around the UK in the past year. I hope you like the new format and find it an interesting read too. Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles, photos and maps and also to Mark Tyrrell for helping me to compile this issue.

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### Overall National Atlas progress up to the start of 2010.

The blue squares show 10km squares which exceed the regional diversity threshold, green squares are below the threshold. No records have been submitted for uncoloured areas.

Read more on page 3.

## New Atlas

Steve Cham

Progress on the new atlas is continuing apace with many new records coming into the DRN from the field. In parallel with the recording activities we have also started to write the text and format the pages and sections for the publication. This is being co-ordinated by a small atlas working group. It is intended that the atlas should reflect regional differences, especially in the habitat requirements of each species. For this we need help from anyone with local knowledge including good digital photographs of habitat types. These will not be restricted to rare species or sites with large assemblages of species. All species are to be included. Sometimes a site can support a few species yet in exceptionally high numbers. For example there are flooded quarry sites that have huge populations of Common Blue Damselfly and Black-tailed Skimmers. Why are sites so good for these species? We want to know. If you know of sites with large populations of common species share your thoughts with the atlas team. Better still take a photograph of the site with a short summary of why it is such a good site. If you have a garden pond with high numbers of emerging dragonflies let us know.

For those accomplished or budding landscape photographers amongst the membership we are looking for a photograph for the front cover that captures all the ingredients of a great dragonfly site. If you have such a photograph or know of a site that might qualify we would love to see your photographs.

Lastly, it is important that we capture all the relevant information relating to species distribution. If you have local knowledge of any species with exceptional populations, isolated colonies, unusual colour forms, unusual habitat, sites that have benefited from management etc please put pen to paper and let us have a contribution. All contributions to the atlas will be acknowledged.

## BDS Launch Online Recording

Steve Prentice

At last online recording is available on the BDS website! It makes it easy for anyone to submit dragonfly records. The new system features photos of all the UK Odonata species. The records entry screens have a step by step guide with a traffic light system at each stage that turns green when all of the required information has been correctly entered. If users are unsure of a dragonfly species, digital images can be attached to records to ensure the correct identification by the BDS. The advanced record entry can be used to submit multiple records and will be ideal for recorders out of their normal areas to submit records without having to track down the local Vice County Recorder. All online records will be fed back to the VCRs for verification.

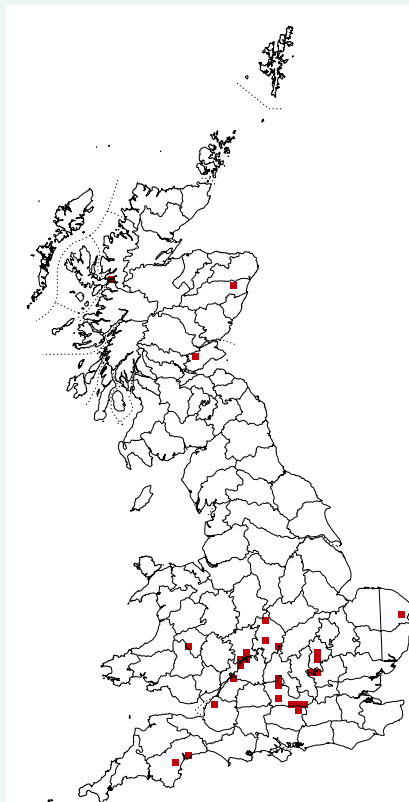
The system will make dragonfly recording more accessible and user-friendly and will help us fill in the unrecorded atlas 10km squares. Give it a try on [www.dragonflysoc.org.uk](http://www.dragonflysoc.org.uk).

## Dragonfly Monitoring Scheme

Steve Prentice

Those of you who read Darter last year or attended the Recorders Day at Brandon Marsh will know about the Dragonfly Monitoring Scheme. Monitoring reports have been received from over twenty recorders who conducted 51 transects during the 2009 season. Most of the transects were conducted by individuals although some were carried out by groups e.g. Wildlife Trust or National Nature Reserve volunteers. The number of visits ranged from a minimum of 2 to the maximum of 19. If you have not sent in your results, please send them to me now. As with any pilot scheme, the methodology will need tweaking.

Any comments from those who took part are particularly valuable and will be used to shape the methodology for the second year. The aim is to have an easy to use but scientifically rigorous method which can be used in every Odonata habitat throughout the UK, from the waterways of fenland to peat bogs in Scotland. For the 2010 season we are looking to expand the project and are aiming for 200 transects across the whole of the country so please contact me if you would like to take part. If you visit a site regularly why not complete a transect? It will make a valuable contribution to producing an annual dragonfly index which will show the changing population trends of dragonflies in the UK.



## Atlas Recording Progress

Steve Prentice

Despite the uncertain weather for the second season of recording for the National Atlas, recorders have been out and about and records are still flowing in from the Vice Counties. This year we wanted to show overall progress of recording for the atlas in Darter but can only show progress for Vice Counties from which I have received records. To help identify areas which have not yet been covered all these new records will be shown on the NBN Gateway data.nbn.org.uk/ from mid April. The 46,550 records since the start of the 2008 season received to date are broken down as follows:

	Recorded 10km squares	Number of 10km squares	Percentage of 10km squares recorded
England	643	1,499	43%
Scotland	193	1,119	17%
Wales	186	288	65%
Total	1,022	2,906	35%

The map on the front cover shows the 1,022 10km squares for which atlas records have been submitted. The green squares represent a number of species less than the target diversity for the Vice County and the blue squares exceed the target. Our aim is to have the whole map coloured blue by the end of the 2012 recording season. This will be quite a challenge but one that I am sure we will overcome! The target diversity is based on 60% of the number of breeding species occurring within each vice-county. These numbers were then modified according to local expert knowledge and the species diversities of adjacent vice-counties and then simplified into three diversity groups. The highest group, requiring 14 species to fulfil the species diversity criteria, occurs predominately in southern England, the intermediate group of 11 species occurs predominately in mid and east England and Wales and the lowest diversity group requiring 8 species occurs in northern England and Scotland.



BDS volunteers recording at Alvecote, Warwickshire 2009.

## Migrant and Dispersive Dragonflies in Britain during 2009

Adrian Parr

Last year was quite an eventful one for many migrant species. Full news will appear elsewhere, but a number of points are worth reiterating here as they impinge on what activities recorders might want to plan for the coming season.

**Southern Emerald Damselfly:** Three singletons were reported from coastal East Anglia during August 2009. Were these just "the tip of the iceberg", and could local breeding sites have been established?

**Willow Emerald Damselfly:** The dramatic events concerning this species are described in detail elsewhere in this issue.

**Dainty Damselfly:** The species was recorded again from Jersey during 2009, after an absence of 68 years. Did any make it further north, to reach the UK mainland?

**Small Red-eyed Damselfly:** After range expansion stalled somewhat during 2007 and 2008, a new northerly record for Britain was set last year at Seamer Tip Pools, North Yorkshire. Will yet further expansion occur this season?

**Black Darter:** Quite extensive dispersal within Britain took place during 2009, perhaps as a result of the very dry weather seen in some areas during early autumn. Will any new breeding sites have become established?

**Red-veined Darter:** 2009 saw a very major influx, with records from nearly 100 sites as far north as East Lothian, Scotland. An autumn generation was noted at several sites in England and Wales, and it is possible that further emergences may occur almost anywhere this coming spring (assuming, of course, that the cold winter has not had an adverse effect).





# Willow Emerald Damselflies in the UK

*Adrian Parr*



The Willow Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes viridis*) was until recently an extreme rarity in Britain. A specimen apparently taken in Hertfordshire in 1899 may constitute the first firm record, but is now considered by some to have been mislabelled – the finder having also collected on the Continent that summer. More recently, adults were seen near Hastings, Sussex, sometime around 1980 and an exuvia was found at Cliffe Marshes, Kent, in 1992. A single adult female then seen near Trimley, Suffolk, during 2007 was until last year the most recent record.

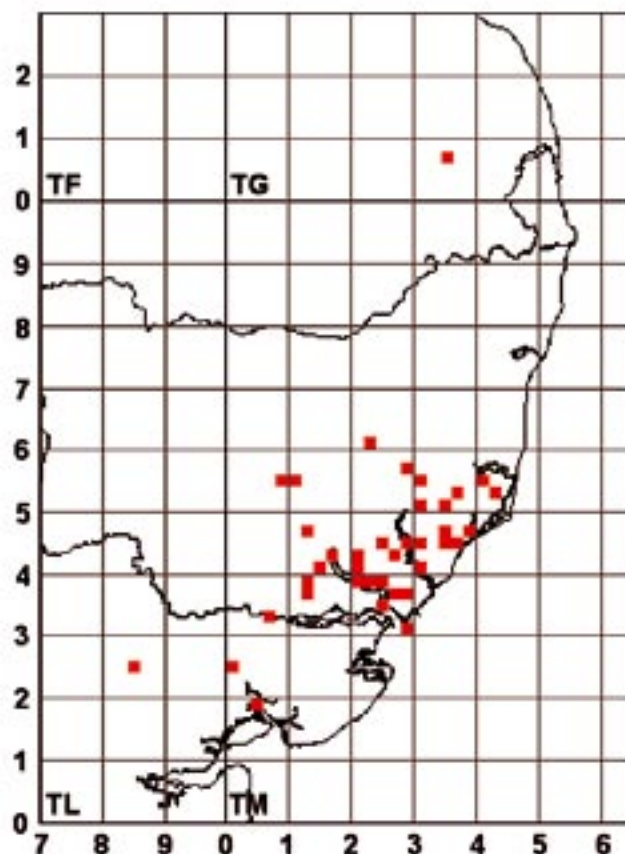


Steve Cham

During summer 2009 the situation with regard to Willow Emerald Damselflies in Britain was to change dramatically. On 1 August another individual was discovered near Trimley by Will Brame, who had also found the 2007 individual in that area. On 2 August, Steve Goddard then discovered several individuals some 20 kilometres away at Staverton Lakes. With the site being publically accessible, and with the damselflies clearly being settled, the Staverton individuals were to attract much attention over the coming weeks – even the BBC did some filming there. With interest in Willow Emerald Damselflies being on a high, and with observers now clued up on the characteristic features of the species, people then set off to look for new sites in the area. Remarkably these were soon found, at places such as the River Deben and at Alton Water. Indeed new sites were to be discovered on a regular basis for several months to come! Most of the records continued to come from southeast Suffolk, but three sites in northern Essex were also to be found. In addition, there was one record from Strumpshaw Fen, Norfolk, a little distance away from the main centre of distribution.

The origin of last summer's damselflies is of great interest. In total over 400 individuals were seen (with 100 at one site alone!), and records continued for three full months. Although a certain amount of immigration cannot be discounted, the sheer scale of these events seems to suggest that a resident breeding population may have been discovered – a conclusion reinforced by the discovery of at least two teneral. That the main centre of distribution is very close to where the species was seen in 2007 is probably no coincidence, and it is tempting to speculate that arrivals in that year may have led to the establishment of a breeding colony.

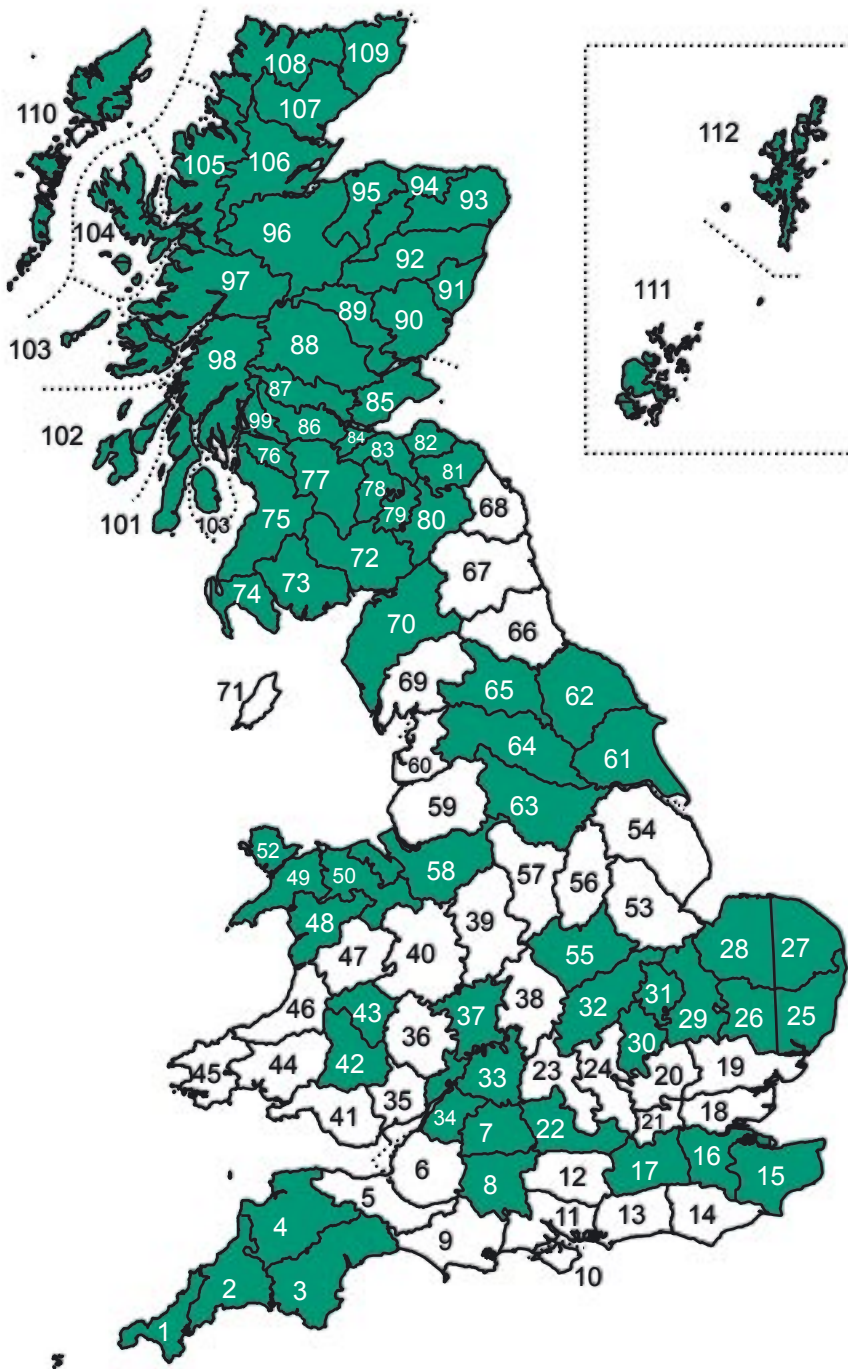
Clearly one of the priorities for the 2010 season is to follow the fate of the putative Suffolk colony, and to see whether the species has started to spread in the way that the Small Red-eyed Damselfly did after it first arrived in Britain. Recorders in East Anglia, in particular, are thus encouraged to be on the lookout for Willow Emerald Damselflies. Identification features were described in Dragonfly News vol. 55, but one of the key features is the damselfly's pale pterostigmas – though some care is needed since teneral of the other emerald damselflies also share this feature. If seen well, another good feature is the pattern on the side of the thorax, where a spur of metallic green extends diagonally down into the pale yellow below. Another good clue to identification is the damselfly's characteristic habit of spending much time up in the trees – typically willows or alders close to still or slow-flowing water, though they can wander some way. Frequently damselflies can be found hanging off the tips of branches, holding their bodies at roughly a 45° angle. Indeed this habit of living up in the trees is one that needs to be fully appreciated if the species is not to be overlooked.



**Figure 1** Map showing where Willow Emerald Damselflies were recorded in East Anglia during 2009.







Vice county map. Vice Counties for which 2009 accounts have been written are coloured in green.

## Cornwall - VC1 & 2

Steve Jones

It is perhaps stating the obvious that in a year when Cornwall lingered for far too long under the power shower, that the dragonfly season disappeared all too quickly down the plug hole of time!

Sadly no one has come forward to take on the county recorder's role which I have now carried out for

well in excess of 20 years! I would of course still welcome the arrival of a successor and would be very happy to help anyone who is willing to take on the role for as long as my assistance is needed. So if anyone is interested in becoming the next County Recorder for Cornwall do let me know. Don't be shy!

During 2010, in association with ERCCIS & Duchy College I will be leading 2 one day courses on dragonfly identification & recording

for beginners and dragonfly exuviae identification. The first will be on the 25th June at Great Wheal Seton, along the Red River Valley near Camborne, a classic *Ischnura pumilio* site, and the second will be on the 10th July at Windmill Farm Nature Reserve on the Lizard peninsula. This will be the second year that we have run these courses following successful pilot events last year. To book for either of these events contact Sue Scott of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust wildlife information service, on (01872) 240777 ext 250, or visit the ERCCIS website for more information (note, the events must be booked in advance) at: [http://www.ercis.co.uk/events/individual\\_events/](http://www.ercis.co.uk/events/individual_events/).

You may also be interested to know that I now have my own website at: [www.cornishnature.co.uk](http://www.cornishnature.co.uk) launched at the end of October 2008. The site is not exclusively about dragonflies, however they do feature heavily and there are sections on Cornish Dragonflies, Cornish Damselflies, Iberian Dragonflies & Iberian Damselflies. One such item is an account of the larva of a Green Tiger Beetle - *Cicindela campestris* attempting to prey on a **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* at Windmill Farm Nature Reserve in 2008. Quite a struggle! I will also include information regarding dragonfly related field trips within the county and up to date information on any sightings of interest, which hopefully may act as a catalyst for local recording and /or the local group.

One very interesting record from 2009 was the rediscovery of the **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura pumilio* on Goss Moor along the new A30 dual carriageway. Peter Maker found around 30 individuals, including copulating pairs, in some relatively bare scrapes immediately adjacent to the new road, the first records for the moor in well over a decade.

## Devon - VC 3 & 4

Dave Smallshire

With some decent weather in the spring of 2009, at least the early dragonflies seem to have fared well in 2009. Emergence began as





**Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* being dragged into the burrow by a Green Tiger beetle larva. Steve Jones.

usual with **Large Red Damselfly** (Exminster Marshes, 11 April) then **Broad-bodied Chaser** from 22 April (in my garden pond) and **Hairy Dragonfly** from 23 April (Exminster Marshes). An early **Southern Hawker** emerged at Stover on 23 May and a **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** was at Finlake on 29 May. Two immature **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselflies** appeared at Finlake during hot weather on 30 May, presumably wanderers from the Bovey Basin. A male of this species also appeared at a Heddon Valley (Exmoor) pond on 24 May, followed by an *aurantiaca* female on 31st; these are some 24 miles NE of the nearest known site.

Around the Exe marshes, **Hairy Dragonflies** were seen at Countess Wear and Exminster Marshes on 31 May; **Scarce Chaser** couldn't be found at the latter, but a **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** exuvia at Alphin Brook was a new breeding record for the area. **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** was discovered on Exeter Canal at Countess Wear Sewage Works on 7 August, extending its range a further 20 miles to the west from the existing site at Lower Bruckland Ponds; about 15 were present on the canal among over 100 **Red-eyed** on 11th, with 25 of the latter still present on 10 September. At Dawlish Warren, two **Red-veined Darters** on 7 June and several sightings of **Hairy Dragonfly**

and wandering **Beautiful Demoiselle** and **Golden-ringed Dragonfly**, the last species still present on 23 September.

In the Bovey Basin, Stover had 2 **Hairy Dragonfly** exuviae on 25 April, with up to 6 adults subsequently; a peak of only 20 **Red-eyed Damselflies** on 1 June (the water lilies again suffered complete die back during the summer for reasons unknown); and a **Downy Emerald** on 1 June. On the last date, a territorial **Hairy Dragonfly** at Chudleigh Knighton Heath was unusual. At Little Bradley Ponds, **Hairy Dragonfly** was seen on 23 May and a maximum of 6 **Downy Emeralds** on 3 June, when 2 **Red-eyed Damselflies** were present.

In east Devon, 3 **Downy Emeralds** emerged at Bystock on 9 May, with up to 5 here and at nearby Squabmoor during the following couple of months. **Small Red Damselfly** peaked at 31 at Bystock and **Hairy Dragonfly** at 2, while **Red-eyed Damselflies** peaked at 14 at Squabmoor. A **Hairy Dragonfly** patrolled a garden pond in West Hill on 29 May – this species clearly wanders!

Over 40 territorial **Scarce Chasers** were along the Grand Western Canal on 2 June, more extensively than in previous years; a **Hairy Dragonfly**

on the same day was only the third record there. Two **Scarce Chasers** were on the River Axe on 7 June and at least 4 later in the month at Lower Bruckland Ponds, together with up to 8 **Red-eyed Damselflies** and 4 **Red-veined Darters**.

**Red-veined Darters** were also seen in June at Berry Head (2 on 4th), Smallhanger (up to 4 during 6 June-1 July), Plymouth (one on 13th) and South Huish Marsh, a former breeding site (2 on 22 July), and at Exminster Marshes in mid/late June. A **Ruddy Darter** at Smallhanger on 2 August was the first record for the location. The only other records of this species involved small numbers at Offwell and Seaton Marshes, both believed to be breeding sites.

**Southern Damselflies** had another good year, helped along by the fine weather in June, with peak transect counts of over 200 at each of the three main Dartmoor sites. At Colaton Raleigh Common, the peak count was 75 (with 16 **Small Red Damselflies**) on 23 June, while Venn Ottery saw the first year of concerted introductions of **Southern Damselflies** translocated under licence from the New Forest.

Searches along the Lower Tamar Valley above Gunnislake in early July failed to produce the hoped-for **Orange-spotted Emerald**! Although the only record from here was in 1946, there is an unconfirmed record of one photographed in the 1960s.

Two **Blue-tailed Damselflies** at the River Otter on 10 October were very late. Four **Common Darters** and a **Southern Hawker** at Stover on 20 November were the last dragonflies of the year.

Many thanks to everyone who has submitted records and especially to those of you who carried out monitoring scheme transect counts.

**Wiltshire - VC 7 & 8**  
Steve Covey

Please see my blog for all the latest news on dragonfly sightings in Wiltshire  
<http://wiltshire-dragonfly-news.blogspot.com>







**Downy Emerald** *Cordulia aenea* emerging. Nick Donnithorne

## Kent - VC 15 & 16

*John & Gill Brook*

After the two mostly cool, overcast and damp seasons of 2007/2008 the weather for 2009 was a vast improvement. The summer was very dry with some very warm spells. However, the number of dragonflies seen was rather disappointing. The first species seen was a single **Large Red Damselfly** at our garden pond on 14th April. From then onwards we have been dashing all around Kent trying to secure records for the new National Atlas. We have very few Odonata recorders in Kent to assist us, but as we are both retired we can make up for this by having more time to spend travelling around the

county ourselves. We have knocked on doors, made phone calls and sent letters to farmers, angling societies, companies and private homeowners seeking permission to visit ponds on their land or in their gardens. They have always been happy to grant permission and often take a great interest in our visits.

Some of the most notable records for the season are as follows. A third Kent location for the **Scarce Chaser** came from two independent observers who saw this species at two different sites near the River Eden in West Kent. The other two established populations are at Sandwich Bay and at Westbere, both a great distance away in East Kent. Three new sites for the **Scarce**

**Emerald Damselfly** have been found; one near the north coast of the Isle of Sheppey by ourselves, the second by John Westwood and Derek Tutt at Chetney Marsh where J. Westwood photographed this species in 2007, and the third by Steve Kirk near Harty Ferry north of Oare.

The **Lesser Emperor** was seen again for the second year at the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory by Ian Hodgson.

We have also filled in two new 10K squares with records for the **Emerald Dragonfly**. One reported by Terry Laws at Leybourne Lakes and one by ourselves on 20th May from a site north of Ashford where we saw a total of ten species on that day.

**Red-veined Darters** have been seen at a reservoir on the top of the North Downs above Folkstone, reported by the White Cliffs Project wardens. A second new site for this species was near Hope Point. The Sandwich Bay and the Dungeness wardens still report this species annually but as yet we have not had a report from the warden at Samphire Hoe where the **Red-veined Darter** is also known to occur and has bred in the past. Finally, may we request records be sent as soon as possible to us by anyone who has been recording in Kent so that we can update our records to send to the National Co-ordinator.

## Surrey - VC 17

*Nicholas Donnithorne*

The new Kent dragonfly atlas mentioned in the last report, should be published in the next few months, as the printers draft is expected any day. Details of this and the recently published Bees of Kent can be found on the web site of the Kent Field Club ([www.kentfieldclub.org.uk](http://www.kentfieldclub.org.uk)).

The Kent and Medway BRC ([www.kmbrc.org.uk](http://www.kmbrc.org.uk)) has moved to a new home at the National Fruit Collection, Brogdale, nr Faversham.

The Surrey BRC ([www.surreywildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.surreywildlifetrust.co.uk)) held a recorders meeting this autumn, giving all County recorders an opportunity to meet and listen to talks on Surrey recording initiatives. The London Biological Record Centre called





Greenspace Information for Greater London or GIGL ([www.gigl.org.uk](http://www.gigl.org.uk)) continues to input data and develop recording initiatives with the broader recording community.

Records for Surrey trickle in via e-mail and letter, but for a County the size of Surrey they continue to be scarce. Most of the records now come from amateurs who find us via the website and the use of digital photos certainly make identification of their "blue dragonfly" a lot easier. The only large number of records has once again come from A B Petrie recording in the Morden and Ewell area. Records from anywhere in Surrey are welcomed, even for the common species.

The spring weather in 2009 was once again unpredictable. My three "constant effort sites" in North Sussex are now in their 14th recording year and 12th full season (April to November) of recording weekly. The first records for dragonflies were a week earlier, when eight fresh **Large red damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* were seen on 26th April. **Downy Emerald** *Cordulia aenea* emergence was effectively over in four weeks and once again only about 100 exuviae were collected, with first emergence one week earlier on 4th May. Following on from last year's good showing of **Brilliant Emerald** *Somatochlora metallica*, only one male was seen, in early August. The last activity was a female **Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta* ovipositing on 18th October.

I have started a new site some miles away on the River Medway, as part of the Society's Dragonfly Monitoring Scheme. The mostly overcast weather made recording within the guidelines very difficult, but a good population of **White-legged Damselfly** *Platynemis pennipes*, **Beautiful Calopteryx** *virgo* and **Banded Demoiselle** *C. splendens* were followed throughout the recording period. Numbers were found to vary dependant on wind direction and when this aligned with the river, numbers were inclined to drop off.

## Berkshire - VC22

Mike Turton

Having completed my second season as the VC22 County recorder I thought it was time that I submitted a report, so here are some of the highlights for 2009.

Two records of **Hairy Dragonfly** *Brachytron pratense* – one on the R. Loddon near Arborfield and one near Crowthorne – are the first known records of this species in Berkshire since 1999.

A single **Red-veined Darter** *Sympetrum fonscolombii* was recorded at Greenham Common at the end of May. There were several records from this site in 2007, but none in 2008.

**Southern Damselfly** *Coenagrion mercuriale*: a maximum of 18 adults were recorded this year at Dry Sandford Pit.

**Variable Damselfly** *Coenagrion pulchellum*: records were received from 3 sites at Parsonage Moor, Burghfield and Cookham, the last of these being a previously unrecorded site.

**Small Red Damselfly** *Ceriagrion tenellum* was recorded at 11 sites in the Bracknell area (with evidence of breeding at 7 of these) as well as at Decoy Heath and Parsonage Moor in the west and northwest of the county respectively.

Records of **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma viridulum* show that it now occurs right across the southern part of the county as far as Newbury.

**Brilliant Emerald** *Somatochlora metallica* had a particularly good year, being recorded at 9 sites in the Bracknell area.

**Common Clubtail** *Gomphus vulgatissimus* was recorded at a number of locations on the River Thames between Farmoor and Reading with exuviae being found at Pangbourne and Reading. A single exuvia was also found on the Kennet & Avon Canal near Burghfield, the first record of breeding in this area for a number of years. 1 adult was also

recorded away from the Thames. On the down side, there were no records of **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea* this year, continuing the marked decline since 2005 (10 records in 2005, 5 in 2006, 3 in 2007 and 2 in 2008).

It is encouraging to see the number of records submitted increasing steadily, albeit from a small, but dedicated, band of observers. Records from new observers are always welcome!

## Norfolk VC 27 & 28

Pam Taylor

Norfolk has reached a significant milestone in recording for the 2013 National Atlas. There are now post-2000 dragonfly records for all of the seventy 10km squares covered by the county. I am particularly grateful to three recorders who ventured into the far west on a number of occasions and brought the last four squares there into the atlas. In fact two of the previously unrecorded squares, TF52 and TF51, now have at least ten species, whilst TF50 has risen from five to fourteen species. Only nine squares in the whole county remain under the official Vice-County Diversity Threshold of eleven species and all but one of these are just part squares on the extreme western or south-eastern borders of the county.

A target for 2010 must surely be TF80 between Swaffham to the north-west and Watton to the south-east, with only ten species currently recorded. The River Wissey runs through this square and there are several ponds shown on the map, so why not see what you can find? Other targets are TF72 and TF73 with just eleven species each and TF94 and TM28 with twelve species.

Moving on to individual reports, **Small Red Damselfly** apparently had a good year at its only Norfolk site, with over fifty recorded on 28th June, many of which were paired, with some females ovipositing. **Norfolk Hawker** also had a reasonably good season at its breeding strongholds, but numbers seemed down on recent years. By contrast **Downy Emerald** may be starting to spread from its only





Male **Banded Demoiselle** *Calopteryx splendens* at territory, Cambridgeshire.  
Val Perrin

known breeding site in the county. Wandering individuals were once again seen at two ponds within striking distance of its breeding lake and also at another site further to the east in the broads.

Between 2000 and 2008 **Scarce Chaser** was recorded from nine 10km squares, but thanks to the extra recording that took place in the far west of the county during 2009, and a couple of wandering **Scarce Chasers** in the broads, this has now increased to seventeen squares. This increase in **Scarce Chaser** records is almost entirely due to recorder effort, whereas the increase in **Keeled Skimmer** sightings seems due to a genuine range expansion. Scrub clearance work at Holt Lowes over a number of years has continued to open up habitat for **Keeled Skimmers** and

the species spread to a second site at Buxton Heath in 2004. In the last few years there have also been regular sightings from Beeston Common, Dersingham Bog and the Grimston/Roydon complex, but numbers have so far remained low at these additional sites.

Migrants in the county were few and far between in 2009, with just one **Red-veined Darter** seen at North Tuddenham Common and two **Southern Emerald Damselflies** reported. There was a male of the latter at Winterton (5th August) and a female at Trimingham (28th August), so I doubt they met! One couple that did meet were a pair of **Willow Emerald Damselflies** photographed at Strumpshaw Fen on 4th October, following a mass dispersal from earlier sites in Suffolk. These were the first Norfolk records for this

species, but there are bound to be more in the future, so please keep your eyes open!

My final words are to thank the fifty-plus recorders who sent in records for Norfolk during 2009. Although some were no more than the odd dragonfly mention in an email about bird sightings, some dedicated recorders made up to 150 separate site visits during the season. No matter how large or small your contribution, every record is valuable, so please keep them coming.

## Cambridgeshire - VC29

Val Perrin.

As well as the familiar and well-watched dragonfly sites in Cambridgeshire, such as Wicken and Woodwalton Fens NNRs, we have tried to cover some new ground last season by visiting some relatively little-known and hitherto unrecorded water bodies mainly in the south of the county.

I found the season locally to get off to a slow start in 2009, with a cold and cloudy early May - seeing the first weak teneral **Azure** and **Blue-tailed Damselflies** clinging rather forlornly to vegetation besides the Old West River at Earith. By mid-June, **Four-spotted Chaser** and **Red-eyed Damselfly** were on the wing at Broad Lane pond, Cottenham and **Banded Demoiselles** with their fluttering, floaty flight were recorded over the tranquil River Snail in Fordham Woods CWT and also at Alder Carr, Hildersham. While conducting butterfly transects for the Countryside Restoration Trust at Westfield Farm, Comberton, **Brown Hawker**, both **Common** and **Ruddy Darters** and **Banded Demoiselles** were all present along the steep-sided Bourn Brook.

Despite the dull and gloomy weather conditions a rare and famous visitor was drawing crowds at Wicken Fen on the Sunday afternoon of 26th July in the form of Chris Packham, who gave a really magnificent open air presentation on dragonflies and their whole ecology in the space of a couple of hours. Chris had come to open the new BDS / Dragonfly Project centre cottage at the Fen. Unfortunately the only odonates







Male **Red-veined Darter** *Sympetrum fonscolombii* at territory, Northamptonshire, June 2009. Mark Tyrrell.

present included one **Brown Hawker** (handled and shown by Chris to the crowd !), one **Migrant Hawker** briefly in flight and one **Blue-tailed Damselfly** found by the dipping ponds.

Wimpole Park lake (National Trust) in August found several **Brown Hawkers** ovipositing into dead, partly submerged logs and small numbers of **Small Red-eyed Damselflies** on floating lily pads, as well as a small range of common species. On an idyllic late summer afternoon in late August, **Azure, Common Blue and Small Red-eyed Damselflies** were all to be seen at the Wetlands NR, Genome Campus, Hinxton, south of Cambridge. I also observed **Migrant Hawkers** whilst watching migrant Pied and Spotted Flycatchers and a small scattered flock of Yellow Wagtails on farmland at Hilton in September. By the end of this month **Common Darter** and **Migrant Hawkers** were the only dragonflies seen along the River Ouse at Aldreth Causeway, near Ely and this appeared to bring an unremarkable season much to a close, although **Common Darters** continued flying into October.

So, although a number of new county sites were visited last

year, the returns were poor. I also received no news of any rarer migrant species such as **Red-veined Darter** or **Lesser Emperor**, which were present at Maxey Pits, near Peterborough in 2006.

Tim Gossling, one of my county recorders, was also busy visiting a number of sites mainly to the south and west of Cambridge city in TL45, but also elsewhere. Tim also reported a late and slow start to the 2009 season and no spectacular odonate occurrences. Both he and I have not been able to find **White-legged Damselfly**, which used to occur in small numbers at some sites along the Cambridgeshire River Ouse, in recent years, but we will keep searching.

### Bedfordshire - VC 30

David Anderson.

For Bedfordshire, 2009 was pretty much a standard year, with all the usual species, but with the excitement of one vagrant species being seen in small numbers. The season started on the 20th April, as always with a **Large Red Damselfly** and the last sighting was on the 15th November, again as always with a **Common Darter**, but also with a **Southern Hawker**. After this time the

weather deteriorated with cold nights and stormy wet days, so putting an end to the season. The first and last dates in 2008 were 24th April and 1st December but in 2008 the last **Southern Hawker** was as early as the 20th October and in the previous seven years the latest **Southern Hawker** was only the 4th November! Up until mid November 2009, the weather had been unusually mild and warm, allowing a third species; **Migrant Hawker** to also be recorded. In addition to the regular 21 breeding species the vagrant **Red-veined Darter** was reported on the 25th May at one site and then on the 14th June again at the same site but also at another site, both in very low numbers. At one of these sites, just one pair were seen in Cop. and Ovipositing. The interesting detail is that **Red-veined Darters** were seen at both these sites in 2007 and recorded as Ovipositing at one of these sites in 2006, so it is probable that these dragonflies were locally bred.

Our least recorded species was **Downy Emerald** with just six records, but seen in Cop. and with a maximum number of only 10 together. This species has a very restricted distribution in Bedfordshire and a short flight period of only 20 days. The next rarest species was **Scarce Chaser** with 10 records, then **Emerald Damselfly** with 22 records and **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** with 26 records.

For the year we received records from 88 people and so far a total of 1986 records. One lucky observer found 30 **Common Darters** sunning themselves on one fence post on the 11th September, which must be some sort of record!

### Northamptonshire - VC32

Mark Tyrrell.

This last year rates as probably the best for recording in Northamptonshire. In the early season, we held a very successful field trip to Yardley Chase, where we recorded over 50 of our target species **Downy Emerald**. This species has a very strong population here, estimated at between 400 to 500 adults.







Immature female **Red-veined Darter** *Sympetrum fonscolombii*, Northamptonshire, September 2009. Mark Tyrrell.

The **Beautiful Demoiselle** continued its march upstream on the Nene and finally hit Northampton, at the Swan Valley area near the M1. At the same time, the **Scarce Chaser** progressed downstream and was recorded in the same area as the Demoiselle. It looks like my wager for the first person to see the Chaser and Demoiselle in the same area has been claimed!

On 27 June, six male **Red-veined Darter** were spotted at territory around a small "insignificant" scrape balancing pond just west of Northampton. This prompted great excitement in the County and over the next few days, ovipositing was noted by at least one pair. The next generation started emerging on 19 September and over the next 3 weeks up to 20 exuviae and emerging adults were recorded. It is still possible that some larvae remain to emerge in Spring 2010. If this wasn't exciting enough, one week previous to this, the County's first sighting of a **Black Darter** was made at another site and another (the same one??) was then also seen at the same pond as the **Red-veined Darters**. I wasn't sure which was the most exciting – emerging **Red-veined Darter** or the male **Black Darter**!!

### Gloucestershire - VC 33 & 34 Ingrid Twissell.

Although the Summer of 2009 was not great, it did produce some wonderful moments. The highlight of the year was finding a new location for the **Black Darter** *Sympetrum danae* in the Forest of Dean. This dragonfly has declined in Gloucestershire greatly since its peak in 1989, with only very few records latterly and none in 2008. In fact I thought it was becoming extinct, so to find a large breeding population at a pond only dug out about three years before was wonderful. The site, at Edgehills, was conifer plantation, but after the felling of the trees, has become acid heathland with lots of boggy runnels, and scattered heather and gorse. We had an Invertebrate Meeting in mid-July, when the **Black Darter** was discovered, and since then a total of 14 species of Odonata have been recorded. Other local species, the **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea* was also found to be breeding at the site, and sightings of **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** *Cordulegaster boltonii* and **Keeled Skimmer** *Orthetrum coerulescens* occurred on one occasion.

The **Hairy Dragonfly** *Brachytron pratense* had a good year at WWT

Slimbridge, with a first appearance earlier than usual, on 23rd April, and an additional sighting at nearby Saul.

The **Downy Emerald** *Cordulia aenea* was found at 3 new locations in the Forest of Dean and a new location in the Cotswold Water Park occurred in 2008, but was not reported until 2009. This dragonfly occurred earlier than usual too, on 29th April 2009, at Whelford in the CWP.

The **Common Clubtail** *Gomphus vulgatissimus* was sighted for the second year running at an area just outside Gloucester. It was present at its usual haunt at The Mythe, near Tewkesbury, being spotted earlier than other years, on 9th May, and along the R. Wye in two locations.

The **Scarce Chaser** *Libellula fulva* was present at The Mythe, Twynning and WWT Slimbridge – all in small numbers.

The **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma viridulum* also had a successful year at The Mythe where there was a good breeding population – approx 50, the largest number ever recorded here. It was also present in small numbers at Wallsworth Hall, the only other known site in the county.

The **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura pumilio* was photographed at a new location in the county in the CWP in 2009. I thought that this was also extinct in Gloucestershire, as the species had not been recorded for many years, but a record from 2008 of a small population from another location in the CWP was sent to me in 2009.

It was interesting to see that there were some early dates for early species in 2009, and then some late dates too – notably the **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrhosoma nymphula* on 8th August, and the **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* on 15th November when mating and ovipositing was seen.

### Worcestershire - VC37 Mike Averill.

Expectations were high at the start of the year with hope that the summer couldn't be as wet as those of 2007 and 2008. The later part of March



leading into April started quite warm and there were early emergences of **Large-red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*, **Azure Damselfly** *Coenagrion puella* and **Beautiful Demoiselle** *Calopteryx virgo*. The Summer wasn't too bad in the end as May was warm and dry at the end of the month and June was dry mainly because 50% of the rain all fell on the 5th and 6th. July was a bit disappointing having rain on all but 6 days. Dragonfly spotting perked up in August with long dry spells and there was a run of 30 consecutive days without rain from the 4th September into October. Plenty of opportunity for dragonfly activity then and if you managed to get to places like Kemerton, there would be a feast of species to see and given a fine day it would appear to be a veritable dragonfly and damselfly factory. This site often has migrant species but this year it was Pirton which attracted

the visitors with an early showing of **Red-veined Darter** *Sympetrum fonscolombii* on the 30th May and 1st June. Small numbers of these were seen repeatedly through the summer and eventually exuviae were found on the 1st September. This mirrored a national pattern of early migration across many counties and was all part of a large influx of insects most noticeably led by the Painted Lady butterfly *Vanessa cardui* which swept across the country in their thousands.

The spread of the **Small Red-eyed damselfly** *Erythromma viridulum* is well documented and since the first ones were seen in Worcestershire in 2006, sites have been searched with varying success. It seems that they are not spreading rapidly into Worcestershire and the pattern is more of a gradual sortie to different sites from Warwickshire and Gloucestershire. This year there

were two new locations, a pair at Hartlebury on the 7th of September and one male at the Wildlife Trust headquarters on 8th August. The Worcestershire Wildlife trust has added a wetland area to its farmland site giving very much more variety to the existing handful of ponds. This site has been trialling a new dragonfly recording walk rather like the butterfly Pollard walk. This counting method is soon to be extended to all counties and will show trends in numbers from year to year. Another site attempting a census has been the River Avon at Eckington and this location has proven to be more difficult because the high nettle beds mean access to the river bank is difficult except at the fishing platforms. In this case although the true method is to keep walking at an even pace, the site is being treated as separate bays.

The long running **Common Clubtail** *Gomphus vulgatissimus* survey at Bewdley once again showed a small increase on the previous year and sites on the River Teme also had good numbers emerging.

Dragonfly activity trailed off in October as temperatures struggled to get above the mid teens and it was up to the **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* to make a showing well in to November on the odd bright day which occurred.

### Breconshire - VC42

Keith Noble.

I have recently taken over as Recorder from Gareth Ellis, Biodiversity Officer for the Brecon Beacons National Park which takes in roughly the southern half of our county. I am retired, and have had two seasons to explore some local areas since moving to Brecon from Sussex. We think that this might be Darter's first news from this county. As an introduction, each of us has written about the site he knows best, Gareth on Mynydd Illtyd and I on Llangorse Lake.

Mynydd Illtyd Common is one of the best odonata sites in Breconshire. A wedge-shaped block of common land three miles south-west of Brecon, the western end is Illtyd Pools SSSI, notified for its water plants and the



Scarce **Blue-tailed Damselflies** *Ischnura pumilio* in-cop, Breconshire 2009. Keith Noble.





Llandefalle Hill, Breconshire August 2009. Keith Noble

### Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly

*Ischnura pumilio*. The SSSI has two areas of raised bog and fen, forming vegetated areas of shallow standing water that drain into two streams running north into the river Usk. The surrounding common has a network of more than a dozen scattered shallow ponds and numerous temporary pools in hollows and vehicle tracks. This range of habitats supports 15 odonata species, with the **Scarce Blue-tailed** found so frequently that the public is surprised that it is not considered a common species. **Azure** and **Common Blue Damselflies** *Coenagrion puella* and *Enallagma cyathigerum*, **Common Darters** *Sympetrum striolatum* and **Four-spotted Chasers** *Libellula quadrimaculata* are also found in high numbers, with **Common Hawkers** *Aeshna juncea*, **Broad-bodied Chasers** *Libellula depressa* and **Emperors** *Anax imperator* also seen regularly. Along the streams draining the fens, **Banded Demoiselles** *Calopteryx splendens* are irregular visitors, while **Black Darters** *Sympetrum danae* are occasionally found at wet flushes and shallow pools. The ease of access, range of wetland habitats, parking and the opportunity to finish the day with a fine cuppa and cake at the National Park Visitors Centre, make Mynydd Illtyd Common the easiest place to enjoy watching dragons and damsels on a warm summer afternoon. For more information or to access the

SSSI for recording purposes, contact Gareth.Ellis@breconbeacons.org.

Roughly five miles east of Brecon, Llangorse Lake is the largest natural freshwater area in south Wales. The shallow open water with an important range of aquatic plants is bordered by extensive reedbeds, meadow and marsh, willow and alder. It looks especially beautiful on calm days when the surface reflects the backdrop of hills. A Management Committee has the task of maintaining the Lake's highest conservation status while accommodating sailing, fishing and other recreational and agricultural interests. Public access is limited to the southern and western margins from the large waterside base at Llangorse and the small carpark below Llangasty church. The footpath between them is in parts some way from the water's edge.

I have found 13 dragonfly species so far. **Variable Damselfly** *Coenagrion pulchellum*, Nationally Near Threatened, is present in hundreds among other blue damsels around the southern margins. A few sightings at Llangasty of single **Black-tailed Skimmers** *Orthetrum cancellatum*, Locally Important, included one ovipositing. Apparently this species had not been recorded here before, but neither had the **Emperors**, **Broad-bodied** and **Four-spotted Chasers** which I watched patrolling

the shallows and feeder stream.

**Black-tailed Skimmers**, and other previously unrecorded species were also present at two other places I visited, Brechfa Pool and Llandefalle Hill. This may indicate that species are spreading, but the basic information about dragonflies from most parts of Breconshire is sparse.

Brechfa Pool, a small shallow Brecknock Wildlife Trust reserve and SSSI with a grand view of the Black Mountains behind Hay and Talgarth, produced the biggest surprise last summer. On 3 June a glimpse of a bright red dragonfly dashing across the water took me straight back two years and a day to a family picnic in Sussex when we came across a dozen **Red-veined Darters** *Sympetrum fonscolombii* at Seven Sisters Country Park. Seeing this one and gradually finding nine more around a pool 900 feet up a hill in mid-Wales was totally unexpected. All my records and photographs, finishing with seven on 1 July, were of males. I recorded ten other species at the site.

Among the bracken, heather and moorland grasses on Llandefalle Hill, with a wonderful view of the Beacons summits ten miles to the south, are two small shallow pools and a tiny flooded quarry. It is rather like Mynydd Illtyd in miniature and here too there are **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselflies** and **Black Darters**. Larger species cruise and clash - **Emperors**, **Common** and **Southern Hawkers** *Aeshna cyanea*, **Broad-bodied** and **Four-spotted Chasers**. I have seen 14 species here and wonder how many more similar places wait to be recorded in the vast uplands of the county.

Other dragonfly habitats in Breconshire include the rivers Usk cutting across the middle and Wye along the north-east border, and their tributaries. There are several reservoirs, with some good wildlife recording from those in the Elan valley which we share with Radnorshire. However, when we look at the dragonfly lists for our 10 kilometre squares, and the maps supplied by the very capable Powys and Brecon Beacons Biodiversity Information Service, it is clear that even the commonest species are





generally under-recorded, and only a very few people are sending in their sightings. We hope to change this by looking more widely ourselves, and persuading others that dragonflies are not only good to look at but more easily identified and photographed than they fear.

I first visited these sites in winter to look for birds. The Helm Guide, *Where to Watch Birds In Wales*, has good accounts and maps of Mynydd Illtyd, Llangorse and Brechfa. The websites of the National Park and Wildlife Trust have useful information and programmes of wildlife events.

### Radnorshire - VC43

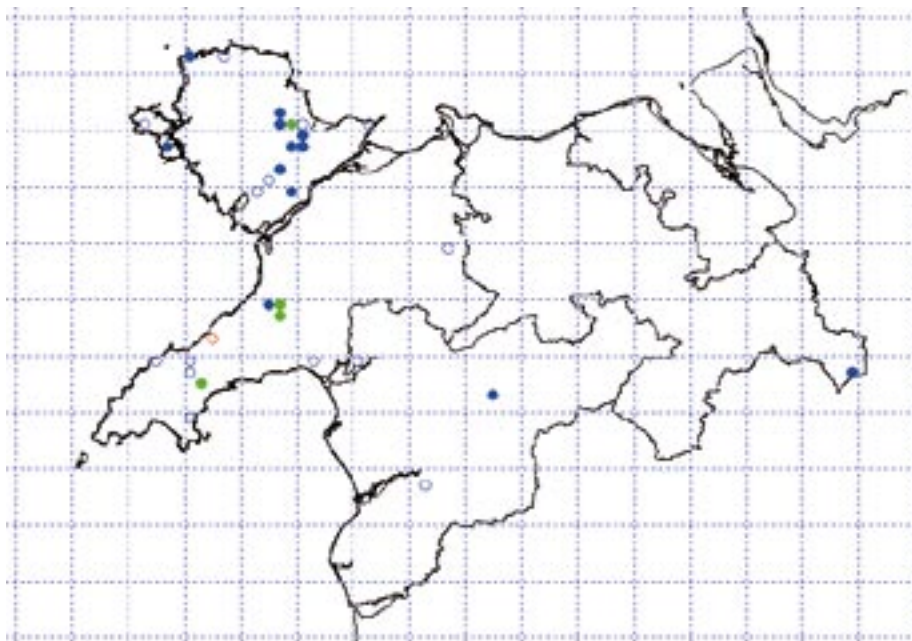
Bob Dennison.

From a Radnorshire VCR's perspective, the 2009 season was exceptional in terms of recorder involvement. Having averaged 215 records per season for the previous three years (provided by up to 9 recorders in any given year), the leap to well over 400 records from 25 contributors was very encouraging.

We recorded 23 species altogether - 14 species of dragonfly and 9 species of damselfly. This tally represented all of Radnorshire's 'usual suspects' apart from the Ruddy Darter for which there were no sightings. Typically we only see one or two at most in a season - in contrast to healthy numbers of **Common Darter** and **Black Darter**.

Excitingly, we added one new species for Radnorshire, bringing the historic total up to 25 species - a single male **Red veined Darter** seen in the south of the Vice County at the time of the Painted Lady mass influx. Other Libellulidae were recorded in typical numbers, except for a noticeable resurgence in records of **Keeled Skimmer** and a drop in **Black-tailed Skimmer** sightings.

Aeshnidae numbers were normal with the usual sightings of **Emperor Dragonfly**, **Common**, **Southern** and **Brown Hawkers**. The single **Migrant Hawker** record from the Radnorshire-Herefordshire border was typical but, in view of its resemblance to the Common Hawker, I have a feeling that the species may be somewhat under-recorded in VC43.



Distribution map for Scarse Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura pumilio* in North Wales. Allan Brandon. Open circles = pre-2000; blue circles = adults only; green circles = evidence of breeding; red circles = proof of breeding.

Healthy numbers of **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** records were submitted, with additional 'proof of breeding' sites. Only one teneral female **Common Club-tail** was recorded - again on the edge of the Vice County - near Hay-on-Wye.

Records of **Banded** and **Beautiful Demoiselle** were surprisingly few even though numbers of both are generally healthy and the weather was fairly benign for most of the early summer. The season for Coenagrionidae was unremarkable for **Large Red Damselfly**, **Azure**, **Common Blue**, and **Blue-tailed Damselfly** with reasonable numbers and geographical spread.

**Scarse Blue-tailed Damselfly** on the other hand was only recorded at two sites in the south of the Vice County. Finally, only four records were submitted for **White-legged Damselfly**. Oddly, two of these came from an upland site more associated with **Keeled Skimmer**!

### North Wales - VC 48-52

Allan Brandon.

The 2009 flying season didn't pass by without some notable recording achievements.

The highlight of the season has to be the great influx of **Red-veined**

**Darters** that was picked up along our coasts in early June at Bardsey (Richard Brown, Richard Else) and Llanfairfechan (Paul Derbyshire) and in early July at Great Orme (Les Colley) and Gronant (Colin Davies). There must have been huge numbers of individuals involved. However, there were no reports of second generation emergence in North Wales similar to the abundance of emerging individuals in South Wales. Perhaps the less well developed nymphs up here have already been killed off by the recent heavy frosts.

In the species plot open circles are tetrads with pre-2000 records only; filled in circles are tetrads with 2000 onwards records. Blue refers to records of adults only; green indicates breeding activity (copulating adults, ovipositing & larvae); red denotes successful breeding (emerging adults & exuviae).

The 2009 flight season was also remarkable for the number of new localities for the **Scarse Blue-tailed Damselfly** in North Wales. Most came from Anglesey (Les Colley, Rob Strachan, Allan Brandon, James Robertson, Ian Hawkins) but also the first ever records from the Snowdonia NP (Andrew & Janet Graham) and Fenn's Moss NNR (Estelle Hughes). The map above right shows our current knowledge of



its distribution. It will be noted that, despite the increase of new localities, the species has not been relocated at several sites in Anglesey and along the Llyn since the start of the millennium.

Most of these new localities are shallow, cattle-trodden, spring- or seepage-fed waterholes in rough pasture, a habitat that may well have been overlooked in the past. Though the species is on the Odonata Red List (Near Threatened category) it is clearly more common in North Wales than current records indicate. A programme targeting this habitat would no doubt pick up many new sites for the species throughout Snowdonia, Merionethshire, Caernarvonshire, Anglesey and possibly Denbighshire.

Neil Frisewell picked up the **White-legged Damselfly** *Platycnemis pennipes* on the River Dee at Holt for the third year running. This year these were mainly teneral indicating breeding in the vicinity of the sightings.

Data inputting for North Wales is up to date and it is now possible to produce species plots with Recorder 6 using all available digital data sets. 'North Wales Dragonflies' is by far the largest set.

Creating plots showing distribution indicates the increase in coverage in the past three years and especially the number of tetrads which are now filled in indicating more recent records. Nevertheless there are still significant areas waiting to be visited, like south Merionethshire, south and central Denbighshire, north and east Flintshire and north central Anglesey. These will be the focus of future recording but all records from anywhere across North Wales are very welcome. Just because a tetrad is filled in doesn't mean that all the species present there have been recorded, far from it in fact.

**Emperor, Migrant Hawker, Black-tailed Skimmer and Southern Hawker** have moved into North Wales since around 2000. There are a few records from the late 1990s. There is also a lack of breeding records in our data.



**Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea*, Wymeswold, Leicestershire. Lorraine Ellison.

The **Southern Hawker** appears to have extended its range significantly into Anglesey and Caernarvonshire in recent years.

The **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** has now been recorded as far east as the River Dee (the first Cheshire record was in 2009) and as far west as Bardsey Island.

Please contact me if you would like distribution maps of any of the species mentioned in this review or any other North Wales species.

### Leicestershire - VC55

Ian Merrill.

From a technological perspective 2009 was rather disappointing, as the popular 'Recent Reports' section of Leicestershire and Rutland Dragonfly Group website ([www.lrdg.org.uk](http://www.lrdg.org.uk)) had to be deleted due to the persistent infiltration of very unsavoury of 'spam'! Hopefully we can resolve the problems before the 2010 recording season commences.

The levels of active recording, or at least record submission, have declined markedly in VC55 in recent years (reluctant recorders please take note!). This said, a small group of stalwarts continue to submit their observations and in so doing produce some very interesting records.

This year Matthew Billings was the first to prove that persistence at one's local site really pays off, when he found what was only the fourth record of **Lesser Emperor** for VC55. The male he discovered graced Frisby Gravel Pits in the Wreake Valley for just one day on 28th June.

Regular readers of Darter may recall last year's article which described how Lorraine Ellison had transformed her Wymeswold garden from 'Odonata desert' to local hotspot with the creation of a pond. Well the pond is clearly going from strength to strength and in fact produced a couple of the most exciting records of 2009.







**Common Club-tail** *Gomphus vulgatissimus*, Aldford, Cheshire, David Kitching.

A male **Variable Damselfly**, a species known to breed at only two sites in Leicestershire, was seen and photographed at Lorraine's pond on 11th and 12th July. As if this were not enough, a male **Common Hawker** was present on 8th and 9th July 2009 (See photograph on page 16). This species remains a rare vagrant in VC55 and this record was only the third to be reliably documented.

This amazing duo took Lorraine's garden list to an incredible 17 species and I would challenge anyone in the UK to better this tally for what can only be described as a 'standard', albeit rather large, garden pond.

## Cheshire - VC58

David Kitching.

The season began on 18th April when **Large-red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* was recorded at sites right across the county almost entirely on the mosses and bogs. No other species were seen until the beginning of May. Once again the **Common Club-tail** *Gomphus vulgatissimus* was seen in good numbers along the Dee throughout May and June. Less prominent on the Dee was the **White-legged Damselfly** *Platycnemis pennipes* which was only spotted in ones and twos at Farndon and Crewe-by-Farndon in June and early July. Cool weather conditions may

have kept this species from flying and it is hoped that this newly established population can survive and flourish.

Back in the 1980s sightings of **Broad-bodied Chaser** *Libellula depressa* in Cheshire were a notable occasion, but in 2009 the species was common right across from Meols and Gayton in the west to Macclesfield in the east. They were particularly common on the newish ponds around Manchester airport.

Another species that is doing well is the **Hairy Dragonfly** *Brachytron pratense* which is well established on ponds and lakes close to the Dee at Churton and Aldford and similarly in a band around the Weaver upstream of Northwich. New locations for the species this year were a series of ponds close to Church Minshull between Winsford and Crewe.

**Downy Emerald** *Cordulia aenea* continued to be seen in good numbers at Gull Pool and Shemmy Moss in the Delamere area. The **Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma najas* had an excellent year, being recorded in good numbers across Cheshire. It was first seen at Woolston Eyes at the beginning of May and was still flying there in the second half of August.

Once again there was a record and photograph of **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** *Cordulegaster boltonii*, this time by Paul and Carys Brewster

at Crewe-by-Farndon on the Dee. This species has been seen on the Dee in this area for several years and is almost certainly breeding on a suitable stream or river somewhere nearby.

Perhaps the most encouraging news of the year was the discovery by Martin Pennell of a new location for **Variable Damselfly** *Coenagrion pulchellum* at Marbury Mere in the far south-west of the county. This is a significant distance from the other known sites for the species.

As the summer progressed there were plenty of sightings of the larger hawkers and a few interesting records of **Common Hawkers** *Aeshna juncea* away from their usual more acid habitat on the moors and mosses. This included a female in a Macclesfield garden, and Trisha Thompson photographed a female ovipositing in a field pond at Styal.

The latest records for the year were a **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* spotted at Vale Royal Locks on November 1st by Peter Shaw, and Neil Friswell saw a **Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta* at the Inner Marsh Farm RSPB reserve on the Dee estuary on November 3rd.

Overall 2009 was a much better year for Odonata in Cheshire and there was an increase of 35% in the number of species records submitted from recorders.

Details by month with photographs can be found on the Cheshire Odonata website at <http://www.brocross.com/dfly/dfly.htm>

## South-east Yorkshire - VC61

Paul Ashton.

With the National Atlas now well underway, I would like to appeal to members to send in their records away from the well watched areas of the vice-county. The Yorkshire Wolds by their nature are dragonfly poor, so records from garden ponds in this area are most likely the main source. A good idea is to watch out for village open garden weekends, this giving the opportunity to record at garden ponds usually out of bounds. I would also like to appeal for records from the Holderness area. The Tophill





Low, Brandesburton Ponds and Leven Canal complex here is well recorded, however there are few records for Holderness away from these sites.

Highlights of the year included a new site for **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma viridulum* at Saltmarshes Delph. Despite first making an appearance four years ago, it has still only been recorded from four sites, perhaps the summers have not been ideal for onward dispersal. **Variable Damselfly** *Coenagrion pulchellum* still remains restricted to five 1km squares in the Broomfleet Ponds complex, one of these being new for 2009. **Hairy Dragonfly** *Brachytron pratense* continues its range expansion. Double figure counts were achieved in the Broomfleet area, with new sites further north including Tophill Low Nature Reserve and Leven Canal. **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* deserves a mention for its late date, when an adult was found in excellent condition at Skipwith Common on 26th September, this being around five weeks later than ever recorded. Migrants in the form of **Red-veined Darter** *Sympetrum fonscolombii* put in an appearance at Hornsea Mere and Spurn Point. A BDS Yorkshire Branch field trip managing to connect with this species at Spurn on 28th June. Another migrant that put in an appearance, and appeared to be scarce nationally this year, was **Yellow-winged Darter** *Sympetrum flaveolum*, a male was photographed at Filey North Cliffe Country Park on 6th September.

Many thanks to all of those who submitted their records for 2009, two many to mention in this short summary.

Up to date information can be found at [www.erdragonflies.co.uk](http://www.erdragonflies.co.uk) and [www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk).

## The North East Yorkshire - VC62

Keith Gittens

Firstly thanks go out to the increasing number of members who send in records from the far flung corners of this vice-county.



Male **Broad-bodied Chaser** photographed a garden pond in the Eden valley Cumbria. T. Kendal.



Still the haunt of Demoiselles? River Eden near Carlisle, winter 09/10. David Clarke.

Generally a quiet year, although early species like **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* and **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* where counted in good numbers at some sites.

Of the later species **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* seemed to have a poor year, some early individuals were recorded but numbers never seemed to reach

the levels seen in previous years. Counts of **Brown Hawker** *Aeshna grandis* at sites remained relatively low also.

A local BDS group meeting to Strensall Common did however produce a count of over 1000 individuals of **Black Darter** *Sympetrum danae* while investigating the pools of the MOD firing ranges.

The highlight of the year was a record of two individuals of **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma viridulum* from a relatively new pond near Scarborough, both sexes were seen. The big question is were they the northward expansion from the recently established site at Hull or migrants from further a field? It will be interesting to see what happens at this new site in 2010.

### South-west, Mid-west and North-west Yorkshire - VC63-65

Tom Hubball.

2009 in VC63 proved to be a disappointing year in terms of sightings, with numbers down across all species, no doubt due to the two preceding wet summers. The highlights were records of **Lesser Emperor** *Anax parthenope* at three sites where they had been recorded three years before, suggesting successful breeding rather than immigrants. However, without proof of exuviae this cannot be discounted. There was also a rather interesting record of **Beautiful Demoiselle** *Calopteryx virgo* from the River Dearne, far to the south of the known populations in Yorkshire. Unfortunately the weather and work commitments prevented any serious study of the site to back this up but, hopefully, targeted visits in 2010 will prove whether these were genuine sightings. Other 2010 field trips to VC63 and neighbouring vice-counties will be posted on the Yorkshire Branch of the BDS website [www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk).

The only record of note received so far for VC64 was of a lone male **Lesser Emperor** seen on 30th June and 2nd July at Farnham Gravel Pit, north of Knaresborough. Please note that there is no access to this private site to members of the public.

Records received so far from VC65 are minimal. This is due to a combination of unsuitable habitat for dragonflies and lack of recorders in the area. The bulk of sightings will no doubt once again come from Harrogate and District Naturalists (HDNS) who provide me with their records, for which I am eternally grateful, and would like to thank

Steve Worwood in particular for his assistance for collating these. The HDNS records tend to concentrate on sites in the south east of the vice-county, along the R.Ure, so if anyone has records from other areas of VC65, particularly along the northern border in the Teesdale and Richmond areas, please pass them onto me (see Recorders details elsewhere in this issue). 2010 will see at least one field trip organised by the Yorkshire Branch of the BDS to VC65, concentrating on under-recorded areas around Bainbridge in Wensleydale.

### Cumbria - VC70

David Clarke.

As I write, the River Eden, shrouded in freezing mist, flows through a vast white landscape. Weed-like rafts of incipient 'pack-ice' drift silently past: right now it looks more suitable for Fur Seals than for Banded Demoiselles! Will the harsh winter have brought about a retrenchment following their recent expansion as outlined in the previous issue of Darter?. 2010 will reveal all.

The winter provided a 'crescendo finale' to an otherwise undistinguished season, which only ever showed early promise.

Despite the distinctly poor summer, 2009 yielded more records than ever of ovipositing **Emperor**, and also the largest number of records of **Broad-bodied Chasers** in any one year. The latter species is not (yet) established in the county. A maximum of three were present at any one site. They generally did not linger – often less than a day and seemed clearly 'on the move'. The first was in late May, but all others were in late June/early July. Records came from both the south and the north of the county.

Another apparent 'movement', though much more local, two male **Keeled Skimmers** appeared at Glasston Moss on the Solway Firth in late July – some 30 km from their nearest known site. This was the first record of the species in Cumbria outwith its Lake District range, and the most northerly in the county to date. It remains to be seen whether this has any longer term implications.

As an early-season species, **White-faced Darter** emerged in record numbers at the Scaleby Moss site, with almost 4000 exuviae collected – indicating an emergence well in excess of that figure. This augurs well for the hoped-for start of the Cumbria re-introduction project during 2010.

### Scotland - VC72-112

Pat Batty.

Scotland had exceptionally warm dry conditions in mid April and again in May /June 2009 with some of the best weather of the summer. The **Hairy Dragonfly's** emergence on the 10th May was slightly earlier than in 2008. A new site was found for this species on Loch Seil. The **Beautiful Demoiselle** had another good year with over a hundred seen flying and displaying along several small burns in Argyll. It was also at several sites on Mull and Ardnamurchan. The **Common Darter** and **Keeled Skimmer** were flying in early June. The **Keeled Skimmer** was particularly evident on Tainish NNR which it colonised only a few years ago.

Larvae of the **Azure Hawker** continue to be illusive. Adults were seen at new sites, near the Otter Haven at Kylerea on Skye, on Loch Arkaig and at the Silver Flowe this year.

The **Brilliant Emerald** was seen in cop at 600m on Ben Donachan, it is thriving in the sites above Loch Awe, a female was witnessed egg laying into moss on the edge of a windswept upland loch.

There were a number of sightings of the **Northern Damselfly** this year. The BDS meet at Dinnet found larvae at all the known sites visited but many have less open water as they are infilling with vegetation. It was also seen again at a site near Braemar. The **Azure Damselfly** has now been seen as far north as Castle Fraser in Aberdeenshire.

New sites continue to be discovered for the **Northern Emerald**. It was seen near Fort William by the Caledonian Canal, on the hills above Loch Awe, on treeless Rannoch Moor at 350m and on Muck!





The range of the **Southern Hawker** continues to expand in Scotland. It is now in sixty-two 10km squares compared with nine in the previous atlas. This expansion may be affecting the **Common Hawker**. An annual transect at Taynish NNR has shown the decline of the **Common Hawker** as the **Southern Hawker** numbers have increased over the past 10 years. There were no **Common Hawkers** seen this year on this transect.

The **Common Hawker** continues to be widespread in acid upland areas and can breed in high level mountain pools. Jonathan Willet witnessed egg laying near the summit of Tom 'Chonnich at 820m, where larvae and exuvia were also present. Larvae were also found in pools on Ben Cruachan ridge just over this height.

2009 saw the reappearance of the **Red-veined Darter** in Scotland, not seen since 2006, it was flying at Newmains Farm and Blindwells in the Borders on the 9th and 15th

July. The **Broad-bodied Chaser** also spread north this year, it was seen at Newmains, and in the SW at Ecclefechan and Rig of Crow's Nest in early July.

The **Emperor Dragonfly** continues to be seen at Newmains and Whinny ponds, it's the 6th year. Similarly the **Migrant Hawker** was flying in this area and near St Abbs.

Jonathan Willet continued his survey of the Small Isles, covering all 10km squares. He found 9 breeding species on Rum and 7 on Muck. Jonathan and Stephen Corcoran again ran training courses and produced two informative leaflets of Dragonflies of the Highlands and the Cairngorms.

Work continues for the atlas and many squares have been updated and new records added. However Scotland is a big country and there are many squares that have not been visited, particularly in the far North, in Ross and Cromarty, Caithness and

Sutherland and in central Scotland.

I would like to thank all the people who have sent in records and are surveying their own area. If you are on holiday in Scotland please send in records of any species seen, we need your help. Please don't send large pictures by e-mail as I can't get broadband.

## Scotland's Beavers and Dragonflies

*Pat Batty.*

The beaver is back in Scotland after an absence of 400 years. Three families from Telemark, in Norway were released in Knapdale on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009, after spending six months in quarantine. This is the first formal reintroduction of a mammal into the UK. It is a five year "Trial" to determine their effects.

The project is run by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. Monitoring, co-ordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage, on behalf of the Scottish Government will assess the impacts of the beavers.

Knapdale is an important area for dragonflies and part of it is an SSSI. The eleven key lochs, burns and surrounding wetlands have an "outstanding assemblage of species", 13 species breed here, which is a large number for Scotland. The most important of these are; the Hairy Dragonfly known from only ten 10km squares in Scotland and the Beautiful Demoiselle which has its stronghold on the west coast.

Dragonflies are one of the interests being monitored and this is through the BDS. Baseline surveys were carried out in 2008 and 2009 prior to release. Transects were established on sections of the lochs and burns for both adults and larvae. The sites have been known since the early 1990s and a small long term emergence study was



Tree gnawed by beavers. Pat Batty.





also set up to record emergence dates and numbers of the Hairy Dragonfly. The Beautiful Demoiselle is present on key burns.

The beavers settled down well and were soon very active in the lochs. Their feeding signs could easily be spotted; Willow, Birch and Rowan saplings were cut down leaving sharp stumps. Larger trees have also been felled. In summer they fed on emergent water plants, Water Horsetail and the roots of Bulrush.

Beavers are effective water engineers, by July they had built a small dam which has nearly doubled the size of one loch. Later they built lodges and cached food for the winter. They must have known it was going to be the coldest winter here for 30 years. There was an unusually thick layer of ice on the lochs, which must have reminded them of Norway.

Will this beaver activity have an impact on the dragonflies? The edge of one loch has certainly changed, the fringing vegetation of Saw Sedge and Bulrush is now growing in water about a metre deeper, this was the area frequented by Hairy Dragonfly larvae. Some of the surrounding willow and birch scrub has been inundated and the new margins of the loch are very shady at present. Other lochs have lots more floating detritus as a result of beaver feeding activity which the larvae of the Hairy Dragonfly use. Will this be beneficial or not, time will tell.

It is an exciting project, especially when you can come and see beavers happily gliding through the water as the evening light fades. You can find out more about the beavers by visiting [www.scottishbeavers.org.uk](http://www.scottishbeavers.org.uk).

## A Damsel – or should it be Dragon? – in Distress.

Ingrid Twissell

On a glorious early October morning, after a cold night, we decided to take a trip to the Forest of Dean, arriving at Edgehills at 11am, with the temperature registering 9C on the car thermometer. At this low temperature we didn't expect to see many dragonflies on the wing, around and over the pond, but the warmth from the sun brought them out, and we were rewarded with the sight of several species, most notably Black Darter and Common Hawker which are both heathland specialists.

As we walked slowly around the pond watching the Black Darters – which are our smallest (but very aggressive) dragonflies – flying, mating and egg-laying close to the edges of the pond, the much larger Common Hawkers were chasing each other and mating in flight over the pond as well as disappearing into the surrounding heathland.

The male of one pair of mating Common Hawkers flying low over the pond released the female which promptly fell upside-down into the water. She struggled to right herself over several minutes, which she eventually did, but as her wings were so obviously laden with water she was unable to break the adhesion with the pond's surface, but spent her time just flapping her wings and moving further from the pond margin. It looked as though she was doing press-ups! Every so often she lay still on the water and we thought that she had died, but then she started

struggling again, so it was just exhaustion that caused the stillness. This went on for about half an hour and was heartbreaking to see. We then decided to go off in search of a suitable long thin branch (the shorter stick already tried had failed) to see whether she could be reached, as by this time, she was in the middle of this deep pond. Eventually she was coaxed onto the branch, and we set her upon an upright stem at the water's edge.

We watched her hanging up while her wings and body gradually dried in the sun, and occasionally she wiped and cleaned her eyes with her front legs, and after a while her wings started to vibrate as a forerunner to flight. Her slightly bent abdomen didn't prevent her from a short flight after 40 minutes drying in the sun, and then after another 20 minutes she took off and flew into the distance.

The whole episode had lasted about an hour and a half, and hopefully had a happy ending for, after her tenacity in holding onto life, she deserved to live.



The female **Common Hawker** drying off. Coiln Twissell



## Field work in Ireland

Nicholas Donnithorne

In early July I returned to Ireland for the seventh year to continue my studies of Scarce Emerald Damselfly *Lestes dryas* and Emerald Damselfly *L. sponsa*. I only managed to visit around 116 potential sites in 12 days. The weather this year was the worst I have ever had, with exceedingly active weather fronts and a few days of sunny weather. I thought I had experienced torrential rain, but nothing had prepared me for roads disappearing before my eyes and becoming undriveable! It had also been a wet winter and spring, so many of the sites were very wet and some so full I would be surprised if they emptied during the summer. In fact, Brian Nelson's site in County Galway was like an inland sea. Where I would normally walk over damp pasture, I could not walk even in waders. But despite the weather I managed to record *dryas* at 32 sites, of which 6 were new. But rather than a negative, seeing sites in such different weather reinforces why the species remains so difficult to find, with everything dependant on weather, water levels and grazing. On less optimum sites, it once again proved that you will mostly be looking for between one and thirty adults and that these might only be found in an area the size of a goal mouth. It just takes a long time to gain the knowledge to identify where the "goal mouth" is on a large site. I also noticed that the side of the thorax on the male *sponsa* has prunescence whereas *dryas* does not.

Parasitic flies have become increasingly common over the last three years. Although the article in the Journal

has made me more aware of them, this year I recorded them on at least four species of dragonfly and across the whole of Ireland. In some cases I was finding up to four flies attached to each wing. This must represent quite a weight for the smaller species to fly with.

On one particular day near Cashel in County Tipperary, the wind was warm and from the South East, but with bands of heavy rain in active weather fronts. I had just lost a female *dryas* on the wind so did not take much notice when an *Anax* was blown in to the very small pool. It was wary and moving too fast to keep in the binoculars, so I continued to hunt for the *dryas*. That found, I turned to watch a female Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*, just before it was blown away across the fields.



Parasitic flies on **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum*.  
Nick Donnithorne

## OPAL - Get Involved

### Dragonflies and the OPAL Water Survey.

Lucy Carter

OPAL is an exciting project that aims to get people back in touch with nature by exploring and discovering their local environment. OPAL is running a series of five national surveys that anyone can take part in. Each looks at a different aspect of our environment – soil, air, water, biodiversity and climate. The OPAL Water Survey, led by University College London, launches in May 2010. It involves pond dipping for aquatic invertebrates as well as testing the physical properties of the water, and identifying other life around the pond including amphibians, duckweeds and dragonflies. Surveying all these different groups allows participants to build up a picture of the biodiversity of their pond, and they can also calculate a 'pond health score'.

An important part of OPAL is to enthuse people about nature and then signpost them towards sources of further information and activities, including groups like the British Dragonfly Society. OPAL has developed the dragonfly section of the guide in partnership with the Dragonflies in Focus Officer and hopes that the survey will generate more members and dragonfly recorders for the BDS.

OPAL needs your help! From May onwards, OPAL staff all over England will be running OPAL Water Survey public events. They would love to have BDS members to come along to their events, to share your enthusiasm for dragonflies and to encourage more people to get involved in recording them. You don't need to be an expert to take part and OPAL will cover your food and travel expenses. Please contact Lucy Carter on [lucy.carter@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.carter@nhm.ac.uk) or 020 7942 5188 for a Water Survey pack or to find out more about how you could get involved at OPAL events. [www.OPALexplorenature.org](http://www.OPALexplorenature.org).





# DRAGONFLY RECORDING NETWORK

Please send your records to the correct Vice-County Recorder, who will send data to the DRN National Database.

Vice-County	Vice-County Recorder	Contact details
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>		
1. West Cornwall (with Scilly)	Steve Jones	Herland Bungalow, Godolphin Cross, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 9RL. E-mail: <a href="mailto:aparthenope@aol.com">aparthenope@aol.com</a>
2. East Cornwall	Steve Jones	
3. South Devon	Dave Smallshire	8 Twindle Beer, Chudleigh, Newton Abbot, TQ13 0JP. Tel: 01626 853393, E-mail: <a href="mailto:dsmalls@supanet.com">dsmalls@supanet.com</a>
4. North Devon	Dave Smallshire	
5. South Somerset	Position vacant	Send records to Steve Prentice, Dragonflies in Focus Officer
6. North Somerset	Ted Waring	7 Amberlands Close, Backwell, Bristol, BS48 3LW. Tel: 01275 462 847
7. North Wiltshire	Steve Covey	130, White Edge Moor, Liden, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 6LY. Tel: 01793 349040, E-mail: <a href="mailto:steve.covey@ntlworld.com">steve.covey@ntlworld.com</a>
8. South Wiltshire	Steve Covey	
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11. South Hampshire	Peter Allen	Hackers, Martin, Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 3LA. Tel: 01725 519 269, E-mail: <a href="mailto:allenbds@waitrose.com">allenbds@waitrose.com</a>
12. North Hampshire	Peter Allen	
13. West Sussex	Graeme Lyons	Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill, Shoreham Rd, Henfield, Sussex BN5 9SD, Tel: 01273 497506 Email: <a href="mailto:graemelyons@sussexwt.org.uk">graemelyons@sussexwt.org.uk</a>
14. East Sussex	Graeme Lyons	
15. East Kent	John & Gill Brook	1 Barrack Cottages, Lower Street, Broomfield, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1PU. Tel: 01622 862227
16. West Kent	John & Gill Brook	
17. Surrey	Nick Donnithorne	Little Homestead, Hackenden Lane, East Grinstead, W. Sussex, RH19 3DT. E-mail: <a href="mailto:lestesdryas@btinternet.com">lestesdryas@btinternet.com</a>
18. South Essex	Ted Benton	13 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PY. Tel: 01206 86732, E-mail: <a href="mailto:tbenton@essex.ac.uk">tbenton@essex.ac.uk</a>
19. North Essex	Ted Benton	
20. Hertfordshire	Position vacant	Send records to Steve Prentice, Dragonflies in Focus Officer
21. Middlesex	Position vacant	
22. Berkshire	Mike Turton	7 Fawcett Crescent, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 3HX. E-mail: <a href="mailto:berksdragonflies@tiscali.co.uk">berksdragonflies@tiscali.co.uk</a>
23. Oxfordshire	Anthony Brownett	28 Colesbourne Road, Brookside, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 4TB. E-mail: <a href="mailto:ab@brooksidebooks.co.uk">ab@brooksidebooks.co.uk</a>
24. Buckinghamshire	Alan Nelson	74 Holland Way, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK16 0LW. E-mail: <a href="mailto:bucksgragonflies@googlemail.com">bucksgragonflies@googlemail.com</a>
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26. West Suffolk	Adrian Parr	
27. East Norfolk	Pam Taylor	Decoy Farm, Decoy Rd, Potter Heigham, Norfolk, NR29 5LX. Tel: 01692 670 311. E-mail: <a href="mailto:bdspamtaylor@dragonflysoc.org.uk">bdspamtaylor@dragonflysoc.org.uk</a>
28. West Norfolk	Pam Taylor	
29. Cambridgeshire	Val Perrin	13, Pettitts Lane, Dry Drayton, Cambs, CB3 8BT. Tel/Fax: 01954 780467, E-mail: <a href="mailto:valperrin@aol.com">valperrin@aol.com</a>
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31. Huntingdonshire	Val Perrin	See VC 29 above
32. Northamptonshire	Mark Tyrrell	8 Warwick Close, Raunds, Wellingborough, Northants, NN9 6JH. Tel: 01933 389 748, E-mail: <a href="mailto:mark.p.tyrrell@ntlworld.com">mark.p.tyrrell@ntlworld.com</a>
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37. Worcestershire	Mike Averill	49 James Road, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 2TR. Tel: 01562 638571, E-mail: <a href="mailto:mike.averill@blueyonder.co.uk">mike.averill@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
38. Warwickshire	Peter Reeve	The Outspan, Leamington Hastings, nr. Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 8DZ. Tel: 01926 632 400, E-mail: <a href="mailto:peter@reeve60.uklinux.net">peter@reeve60.uklinux.net</a>
39. Staffordshire	Position vacant	Send records to Mike Averill - See VC 37 above
40. Shropshire	Ian Cheeseborough	<a href="mailto:ian.cheeseborough@yahoo.co.uk">ian.cheeseborough@yahoo.co.uk</a>
41. Glamorgan <sup>1</sup>	Mike Powell	87 Coed Glas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5EL. Tel: 029 2076 2182 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mike.powell2@coorsbrewers.com">mike.powell2@coorsbrewers.com</a>



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46. Cardiganshire <sup>1</sup>	Lin Gander	Penwalk Llechryd, Cardigan Ceredigion, SA43 2PS. Tel: 01239 682405 E-mail: lingander@strandings.demon.co.uk
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50. Denbighshire <sup>1</sup>	Allan Brandon	
51. Flintshire <sup>1</sup>	Allan Brandon	
52. Anglesey <sup>1</sup>	Allan Brandon	
53. South Lincolnshire	Position vacant	Send records to Steve Prentice, Dragonflies in Focus Officer
54. North Lincolnshire	Position vacant	
55. Leicestershire (with Rutland)	Ian Merrill	20 Ashford Road, Whiwick, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 5GD. Tel: 01530 815886, E-mail: imerrill@btinternet.com
56. Nottinghamshire	Dave Goddard	30 Cliffe Hill Avenue, Stapleford, Nottingham, NG9 7HD; E-mail: david.goddard8@ntlworld.com
57. Derbyshire	Dave Goddard	
58. Cheshire	David Kitching	84, Broken Cross, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 8TZ. Tel: 01625 423249, E-mail: davidk@broccross.co.uk
59. South Lancashire	Steve White/Graham Jones	Tel: 077860 14522 Email: gra_ham_jones@yahoo.co.uk Email: stephen.white2@tesco.net . Tel: 01519203769 (daytime).
60. West Lancashire	Steve White	
61. South-east Yorkshire	Paul Ashton	4 St Aiden Close, Market Weighton, E.Yorks, YO43 3HE. E-mail: vc61@erdragonflies.co.uk
62. North-east Yorkshire	Keith Gittens	Newstead Cottage, Thirsk Road, Easingwold, North Yorks, YO61 3NH. Tel: 01347 824480. E-mail: keith@brilliantemerald.wanadoo.co.uk
63. South-west Yorkshire	Tom Hubball	4 South View Terrace, Silsden, W.Yorks, BD20 0AS. Tel: 01535 678334, Email: vc63dragonfly@blueyonder.co.uk
64. Mid-west Yorkshire	Helen Dinsdale	2 Cartmel Lane, Steeton, Keighley, West Yorks BD20 6QL. Tel: 01535 653041. E-mail: bds64recorder@blueyonder.co.uk
65. North-west Yorkshire	Tom Hubball	See VC63
66. Durham	Harry Eales	11 Ennerdale Terrace, Low Westwood, Derwentside, Co. Durham NE17 7PN. Tel: 01207 560732, E-mail: harryeales@aol.com
67. S. Northumberland	Harry Eales	
68. N. Northumberland	Harry Eales	
69. Westmorland	David Clarke	Burnfoot, Cumwhitton, Brampton, Cumbria, CA8 9EX. Tel: 01228 560117, E-mail: david.clarke19@virgin.net
70. Cumberland	David Clarke	
71. Isle of Man	Position vacant	Send records to Steve Prentice, Dragonflies in Focus Officer
<b>SCOTLAND</b>		
From 72. Dumfriesshire to 112. Shetland Islands	All records to Pat Batty	Kirnan Farm, Kilmichael Glen, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QL. Tel: 01546 605 316, E-mail: pat@patbatty0.wanadoo.co.uk
113. Channel Isles	Julian Medland	Clyne, Rue de la Ronde Cheminée, Castel, Guernsey, GY5 7GE. Tel: 01481 255 411, Email: medland@cwgsy.net
<b>NORTHERN IRELAND and EIRE</b>	All records to Brian Nelson	Department of Zoology, National Museums Northern Ireland, Cultra, HOLYWOOD, Co Down BT18 0EU Email: brian.nelson@nmni.com
<b>Migrant Dragonfly Project</b>	Adrian Parr	10 Orchard Way, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 5BX. Tel: 01284 810 465. E-mail: adrian.parr@btinternet.com