

Darter

Magazine

Hi and welcome to the 2012 issue of Darter. As usual there is an update on the Atlas and Atlas recording progress. The map below shows the National Atlas progress, you will notice that this year's map has a lot less red than the map on the cover of Darter 2011. Despite a poor year weatherwise, you got out and have made a real difference. Thank you.

I must also say a huge thank you to all of the Vice County Recorders who have written reports for this edition of Darter. These give you the highlights from last year and also point out places that need to be visited this year. This issue has a report from Ireland.

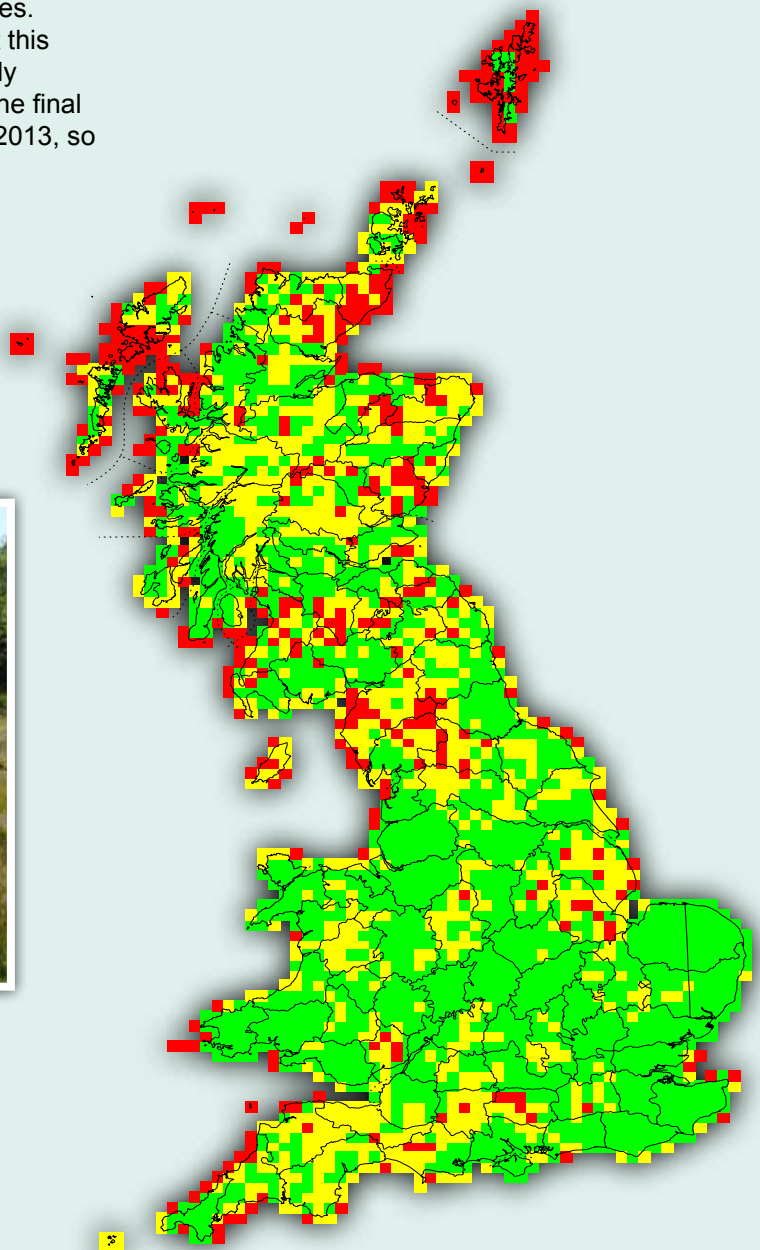
We have accepted the Biological Records Centre's (BRC) offer to publish the Atlas. In 2011, they published 'Ladybirds (Coccinellidae) of Britain and Ireland', the Ladybird Atlas. Helen Roy and Peter Brown, two of the main authors for the Ladybird Atlas have written an article on page 4 about the Ladybird Atlas and Recording Scheme. 2011 was an exceptionally good year for migrant species. Adrian Parr has given his usual migrants round up, but this year it is taking up twice as much space! It will be really interesting to see what turns up in 2012. This year is the final year of recording before the publication of the atlas in 2013, so fingers crossed for some good weather for dragonflies!

Claire

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Maentwrog Bog Lake is a new site for the Small Red Damselfly in North Wales. Allan Brandon.



National Dragonfly Atlas Progress

Steve Cham

With one year left to finalise the new atlas, it is beginning to take shape. We now have first drafts for 18 species texts. We still need your help! Can you write a few paragraphs on your knowledge of a species that is locally abundant, or a habitat that is especially good for dragonflies? It doesn't need to be long, a few paragraphs will be a useful contribution. There really is no substitute for good local knowledge and we wish to capture this in the atlas.

Species Section

For each species there will be four areas of text:

- 1) **Distribution** gives the latest information on occurrence globally, in Europe and, in more detail, within the UK. It will describe any historical changes in distribution and comment on range changes.
- 2) **Habitat** describes the key habitat features favoured by the species in all of its life stages.
- 3) **Conservation status and threats** will include the status of the species in the Red Data Book and any legal protection given to the species. Reasons for the conservation status and potential threats to the species will be described as well as management recommendations.
- 4) **National trends** will cover changes in populations or abundance.

There is a draft of the Norfolk Hawker section by Pam Taylor available on request. The layout and text have not been finalised so these should only be used as an illustration of what the species pages will look like. If you would like to try your hand at writing some species text, please contact Pam Taylor. There are several common species that still need an author and most species need local perspectives from across the UK.

Habitats Section

This is a important section of the atlas. For the first time a comprehensive overview of the key habitats that attract dragonflies will be displayed. Following an introduction that covers geology, soils, climate and altitude, the habitat types listed below will be described:

- running water (6 sections) - upland streams; lowland heathland streams; lowland streams; lowland rivers; canals; linear dykes, ditches.
- grazing marshes
- bogs (upland, lowland, raised)
- mosses, schwingmoor
- lowland heath pools / valley mires / runnels and acid seepages
- fens
- alkaline seepages, flushes and runnels
- upland lakes, lochans
- woodland pools
- temporary ponds, pingos, turloughs
- broads
- lowland lakes / reservoirs
- village ponds / garden ponds / school ponds
- earth extraction, gravel, sand, chalk, limestone, clay, peat workings

The section concludes with trends, succession, losses and gains. Again, we need your help. If you can write a few paragraphs or have some great habitat photos showing the key features of the habitat, please contact me.

There is an example of a draft habitat section available on request. This will give you an idea of the page layout and the style of text that is required. Hopefully seeing these sections will inspire you to write your own piece for the atlas!

Migrant and Dispersive Dragonflies in Britain during 2011

Adrian Parr

Yet again migrant and new colonist species provided some dramatic highlights during the course of the year. Many of the events are covered in detail elsewhere in this issue of Darter or in Dragonfly News, but below is a brief summary of the more important events in case this helps readers plan what fieldwork they may want to carry out in 2012.

Southern Emerald Damselfly: A record from Sussex during August perhaps refers to a fresh immigrant, but the species also bred successfully in Kent and was seen at a site in Essex where it had also been reported the previous year. This suggests that Southern Emerald Damselfly may soon succeed in colonising Britain. Observers, particularly those in southeast England, may wish to keep an eye open for this species.

Dainty Damselfly: The recently-established colony on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, remained stable, but as yet there have been no records from elsewhere.

Southern Migrant Hawker: This species bred successfully at Hadleigh, Essex, with exuviae discovered during June. The long-term fate of the colony is however unclear, since very few adults - all of which were males - were to be seen flying later in the season (a female was however noted at nearby Wat Tyler Country Park). On the North Kent Marshes, where oviposition had also been noted during 2010, there was similarly a scarcity of flying adults during 2011, with only a single individual reported. It will be interesting



to follow the progress of these Thames Estuary colonies.

Norfolk Hawker: There were three records from outside the species' normal range during the year - namely from Stodmarsh, Kent, during June and from Paxton Pits, Cambridgeshire, and Worth, Kent, during July. These may reflect both local wandering and immigration.

Vagrant Emperor: The spectacular influx seen during spring 2011 has been widely reported elsewhere, but it should be noted that October and November also saw major arrivals of this species, with some 13 further individuals being recorded. These included an ovipositing pair seen at the very same site in west Cornwall where a similar pair had been noted in the spring. Will Vagrant Emperor reappear in the UK during 2012?

Willow Emerald Damselfly: The strongholds of this recently-established colonist remain in southeast Suffolk, though previously-known sites in Essex, south Norfolk and north Kent also held good populations. There was some evidence for local range expansion, and in addition a record of a male from the north Norfolk coast in October may refer to a fresh immigration event. Reports of an individual in Dorset during the summer could not be substantiated.



Willow Emerald Damselfly ovipositing marks in an ash tree, Kent. Gill Brook.

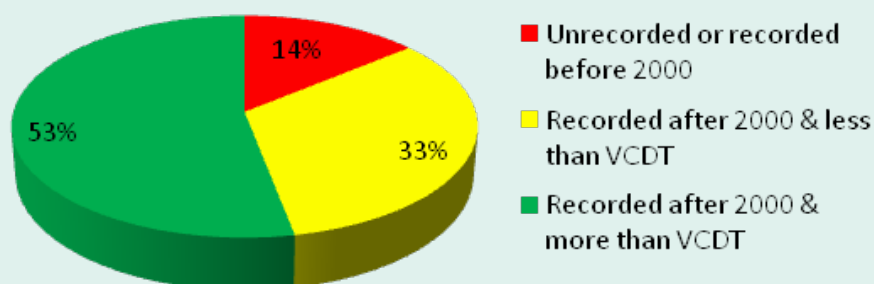
Atlas recording progress

Steve Prentice

On re-reading the article I wrote for *Darter* last year I find I mentioned the uncertain weather we had experienced for the second and third years of recording for the atlas. I think I can say exactly the same for the fourth year! A great start to the season in April followed by less than optimal conditions in May and the rest of the season. The map on the front cover shows the three categories of 10km squares as traffic light colours. Red squares denote recording before 2000 or not recorded at all; these are the areas we need to prioritise for recording. Yellow squares have been recorded since 2000 but the number of species observed has not met the Vice County Diversity Threshold (VCDT). The VCDT is the minimum number of species we would expect in each part of the country. We need further visits to these squares to find those last few species. Green squares have been recorded since 2000 and the number of species observed exceeds the VCDT. I am really pleased on the progress made over the last four years and can see that the challenge for 2012 is to survey the ever decreasing number of red squares. If you are able to visit some of these unrecorded areas please check the current status with the local Vice County Recorder as this map was produced in February and based on the records actually received by me at that time and imported into the DRN database. I know that there are still records which I have not yet received which will significantly improve the picture. Updated individual Vice County maps are available on the BDS website from March to show the current local status. Have a look on www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/national-dragonfly-atlas.

	Number of 10km squares	Unrecorded or recorded before 2000	Recorded after 2000 & less than VCDT	Recorded after 2000 & more than VCDT
England	1,511	114	469	928
Scotland	1,119	281	417	421
Wales	287	14	75	198
Total	2,917	409	961	1,547

Dragonfly atlas recording progress February 2012



The table and graph above show how recording is progressing in each part of the country. The number of English squares has increased and now includes the Isle of Man. I would like to pay particular attention to the progress in Scotland and thank Pat Batty for organising recording over such a large area with few recorders. Again I would like to recommend Scotland as a holiday destination in 2012 to help Pat as well as making a significant contribution to the atlas.



The first atlas of Britain and Ireland's ladybirds

Helen E. Roy and Peter M.J. Brown



Harlequin Ladybird black 4-spot *Harlequin spectabilis*. Maris Midgley.

In 1971 the Coccinellidae Recording Scheme was founded under the auspices of the Biological Records Centre (BRC). Forty years later the first atlas of Britain and Ireland's ladybirds was published.

The first record of the harlequin ladybird, *Harmonia axyridis*, was received from Essex in 2004. This alien species spread at approximately 100 km per year and can now be found in much of England and Wales with sporadic populations also present in Scotland and Ireland. The arrival of the harlequin ladybird was the impetus for the development of on-line recording (www.ladybird-survey.org) for all ladybird species. People are asked to submit a photograph (some of which are stunning), alongside details of their records, to enable verification of the species. The on-line UK Ladybird Survey is extremely busy receiving 100s of records every week. Many people also supply data in standardised spreadsheets and others provide paper records. All contributions are welcome.

The UK Ladybird Survey even receives records through Twitter (#UKLadybirds).

The UK Ladybird Survey has received lots of publicity in recent years and was fortunate to be invited to contribute to the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition (2009), BBC Breathing Places (2010) and BBC Gardeners' World Live (2011). Such events and interest from the media have been hugely beneficial in engaging new recorders and promoting the activity of the UK Ladybird Survey.

Ladybirds (Coccinellidae) of Britain and Ireland is the culmination of recording spanning two centuries and involving thousands of people. The commitment to biological recording by so many volunteers is simply inspirational; indeed, one of them (Robert Frost) was so involved that he became a co-author of the book. Particular recognition should be given to previous organisers of the Coccinellidae Recording Scheme,

who provided a legacy on which this atlas stands.

The atlas includes all 47 species of ladybirds resident in Britain and Ireland and is a celebration of volunteer recording. The earliest record in the atlas is that of the rare 13-spot ladybird *Hippodamia tredecimpunctata*, recorded near Oxford in 1819. The most commonly recorded species, with 27,000 records, is the 7-spot ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*, closely followed by the newly arrived harlequin ladybird with over 25,000 records.

The UK Ladybird Survey were pleased to have the opportunity to work with Nick Isaac (ecological modeller within BRC) to assess the trends in distribution for all species over the last 20 years. The results indicated that ten ladybird species have significantly declined in this period, whilst five have increased. Declining species include the 14-spot *Propylea quattuordecimpunctata* and 10-spot *Adalia decempunctata* ladybirds, which are principally aphid feeding ladybirds. Species expanding their geographical range include the pine ladybird *Exochomus quadripustulatus* and the mildew-feeding orange ladybird *Halyzia sedecimguttata*. The orange ladybird was



Front cover of *Ladybirds (Coccinellidae) of Britain and Ireland*. BRC.



considered an indicator of ancient oak woodlands, but in recent years has been found in various habitats, adapting to life on trees such as sycamore and ash.

The UK Ladybird Survey is very much hoping that the enthusiasm for recording ladybirds will continue and enable assessment of trends every five years. However, even over short timescales there are exciting observations to report. Indeed, since the publication of the atlas we have had some tantalising evidence that the 13-spot ladybird might be reproducing in Devon; we have heard of amazing numbers of water ladybirds *Anisosticta novemdecimpunctata* in Parkgate Marsh in Cheshire; and received the first record of an 18-spot ladybird *Myrrha octodecimguttata* on the Isles of Scilly. We are thoroughly looking forward to hearing of reports from across the country in the years to come. Meanwhile we wish the

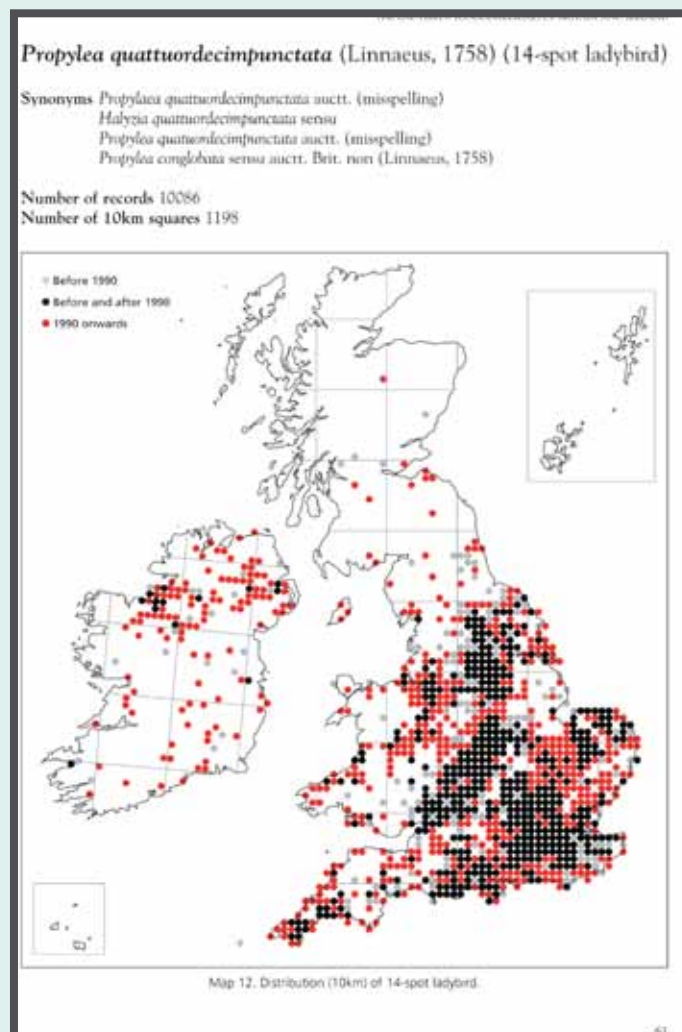


Orange Ladybird *Halyzia 16-guttata*. Edward Bartoszewicz.

British Dragonfly Society every success in the publication of their forthcoming atlas.

Ladybirds (Coccinellidae) of Britain and Ireland (ISBN

9781906698201) can be ordered via all good bookshops or purchased directly from the Field Studies Council or the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.



An example of a page in the Ladybird Atlas. BRC.

Distribution map for the 14-spot ladybird *Propylea quatuordecimpunctata*. BRC.



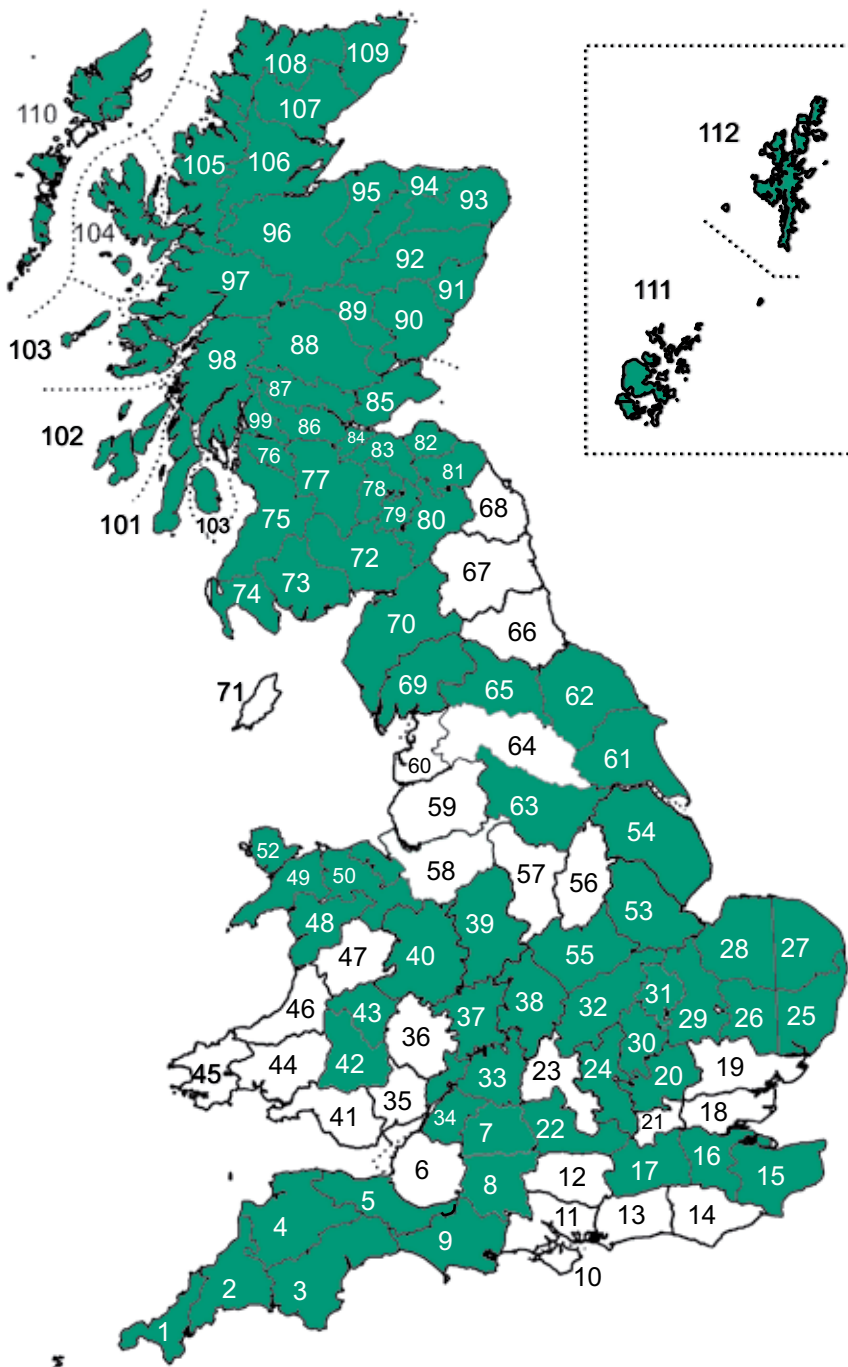


Figure 1. Vice county map. Vice Counties for which 2011 accounts have been written are coloured in green.

Darter 2011 Vice County Reports

Cornwall – VC 1 & 2

Steve Jones

There is still plenty of work to do in Cornwall during the final year of recording for the new Atlas. To that end we will be holding a meeting to discuss dragonfly recording in the county and the future of the Cornwall Dragonfly Group at the Cornwall Wildlife Trust Headquarters (Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ)



at 7.30pm on Thursday 29th March. During the evening we will be identifying the gaps in our current coverage & will hopefully draw up a target list for the summer.

Prior to that I will also be giving an illustrated talk on Dragonflies, again at the Cornwall Wildlife Trust headquarters, at 7.30pm on the Thursday 23rd February. This will hopefully generate some enthusiasm for the recording meeting a month later.

During the course of last summer I

had a request to carry out a dragonfly survey for the Caerhays Estate, (SW9742) near Gorran Haven in order to support a Higher Level Stewardship application. The survey revealed 11 species to be present along the wetlands in the coastal valley of the estate, an area which had previously been very under recorded in recent times.

We will be sharing a stand with Cornwall Butterfly Conservation at the Royal Cornwall Show on the 7th, 8th & 9th June which will hopefully generate similar opportunities and raise the awareness in dragonflies in general.

For those of you living in Cornwall or visiting the county during the summer months you may find it useful to check my website www.cornishnature.co.uk to see if there are any dragonfly related meetings taking place as these are sometimes organised too late to be listed elsewhere.

Devon – VC 3 & 4

Dave Smallshire

With exceptionally warm weather in March-April 2011, it was not surprising that **Large Red Damselflies** emerged early, with the first ones at Chudleigh and Stover on 7 April. **Broad-bodied Chasers** emerging at Stover on the 16th were also early. Britain's first **Beautiful Demoiselle** of the year was seen by Liz Mallinson at Clayhidon on the 20th and an early **Keeled Skimmer** was at Saltram on 16 May. The most exceptional record of the spring, however, was a **Vagrant Emperor** found hanging on washing in a garden in Plymouth on 15 April, heralding an unprecedented spring influx into southern Britain. Probable Vagrant Emperors were later seen in more typical habitat – the dunes at Dawlish Warren – on 28 April and 16 May.

After the glorious weather of early spring, the rest of the season can only be described as pretty appalling, with few good days for dragonflies. **Downy Emerald** seems to have suffered badly, with the only records being of 1-2 at Little



Figure 2. Emperor Dragonfly, Cornwall. Steve Jones.

Bradley Ponds and 3 at Bystock, and only small numbers of **Scarce Chasers** were seen at the known sites. Nevertheless, a new **Small Red Damselfly** site was found by Rob Macklin on Dartmoor near Piles Copse (SX66). Up to 21 of this species were counted on Clare and Rick Carter's transect at Bystock.

Lesley Kerry's monitoring of **Southern Damselfly** at the Venn Ottery re-establishment site found a peak of 42 adults – a good sign of success, given the indifferent weather – while numbers at Colaton Raleigh Common only reached 35. Monitoring of this species along fixed transects by Dartmoor National Park produced mixed results, with peak counts of 169 at Tor View Moor (well up on 2010, thanks to habitat management by the landowner), only 44 at Moortown Bottom (where one part of the site is now totally unsuitable for the species), 180 at Prewley Moor and 18 at Lower Prewley (where scrub management seems to be helping at this extension of the main Prewley site).

The latest record of the year turned out also to be the only **Red-veined Darter** of the year – at West Soar (Vic Tucker) on 15 November.

Many thanks to everyone who has submitted records. At the Stover meeting on 29 April I hope to show where the remaining recording gaps are – let's hope for better weather in 2012!

South Somerset – VC 5

Chris Iles

Most dragonfly recording in 2011 was done in lowland Somerset, which is experiencing considerable change in its dragonfly fauna. Four species have arrived in south Somerset in the last couple of decades. **Brown Hawker** and **Red-eyed Damselfly** have been here the longest, and this year saw both species being reported more than in all previous years put together and also expanding their distribution. **Brown Hawker** is now widely distributed in lowland Somerset and **Red-eyed Damselfly** is starting to spread out of the Levels.

Scarce Chaser arrived in 2008 but has expanded its range this year, now occurring from Langport to Bridgwater. The most recent arrival is **Small Red-eyed Damselfly**, with the first VC record this year; at least 10 were seen on a large farm pond near Yeovil, suggesting they actually arrived here a year or two back.

White-legged Damselfly, last recorded in 1997, was found at several locations, and appears to be fairly widespread in lowland Somerset, and by no means confined to the Levels. Whilst closely associated with rivers, it does wander and was photographed investigating BDS member Neil Galton's pond – one of 12 species to appear at a pond only dug in autumn 2010.

Less recording was done in upland areas. South West Water are supporting a mire restoration project on Exmoor which is creating good amounts of bog pool habitat suitable for dragonflies. **Black Darter** and **Common Hawker** are making use of these habitats, with particularly large numbers at Blackpitts near Simonsbath. Less records were made of our species of upland streams, **Beautiful Demoiselle** and **Golden-ringed Dragonfly**, although a record of the latter by Adrian Bicker from between Crewkerne and Chard was interesting – this is not upland habitat and the species has not been recorded here for 30 years, but a sequence of historical records for this area does exist.

Mike Parr ran two successful field trips to Thorney Lakes near Langport, on which 17 species were seen, including **Scarce Chaser**, **Brown Hawker**, **Red-eyed Damselfly** and **Hairy Dragonfly**. An unusual sighting was made on the July field trip – Mike and I both caught glimpses of a brown hawker-type dragonfly with clear wings. Could this have been an aberrant Brown Hawker, or possibly a migrating Norfolk Hawker which I understand has appeared elsewhere in southern England this year? We will never know.

The unusually warm spring led to 10 species having their earliest ever records. These were all early-emerging species, seven of which



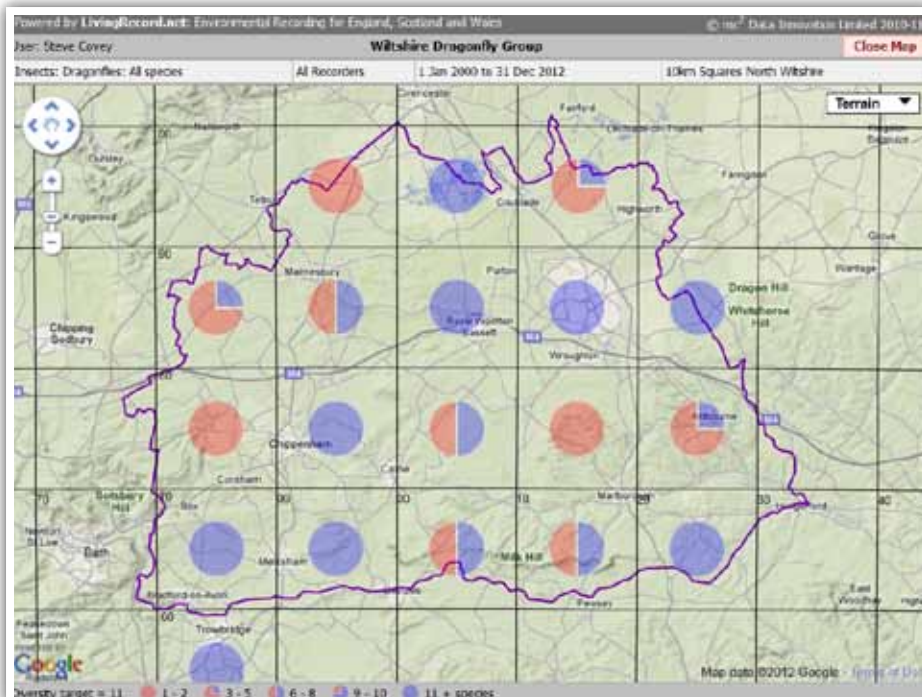


Figure 3. Species diversity in Wiltshire, Vice County 7 to the end of the 2011 season, plotted using Living Record.

were damselflies; the species emerging later in the year appear to have been on the wing at their usual time of year.

Much of the Vice County is still not thoroughly recorded – South Somerset is a large area with few active recorders – but this is especially true of the upland areas, particularly Exmoor and the Blackdown Hills. Keeled Skimmer was historically present on the Blackdowns but its haunts have not been recorded since the 1950s. Could it still occur at, for example, the Wildlife Trust reserves at Ringdown, Yarty Moor or Brimley Hill? Its former sites on Exmoor around Withypool and Landacre Bridge, also, have not been visited for many years. I thank the visiting dragonfly enthusiasts who have submitted records this year, which have been very valuable; future records from visitors to this beautiful area would be extremely welcome!

Wiltshire – VC 7 & 8

Steve Covey

The dragonfly season this year is best described as a year of three thirds! As usual, driven by the weather. Early spring was very mild, with many more species than usual on the wing by late April/early



May. Most of the summer was very poor with cool, overcast and windy days predominating – although with few wet days to replenish shrinking waterbodies! Finally, the late summer and autumn was again very mild producing a drawn out finale. 8th April produced the first record with a semi-mature **Large Red Damselfly** found at Chippenham Lake by Damian Pinguey. Twelve species were on the wing by 7th May including a mass emergence of **Downy Emeralds** at the Cotswold Water Park [CWP], an early sighting of **Scarce Chaser** at Green Lane Wood and a new site for **Beautiful Demoiselle** on the River Marden near Calne.

A new and potentially significant sighting was of a **Scarce Chaser** near the Salisbury Avon just within Wiltshire. The discovery, by visiting Kent recorders John and Gill Brook, may presage an expansion of the Hampshire population into a new area of Wiltshire. More detailed searching of this area over the coming seasons may provide a clearer picture.

18th November produced the latest **Southern Hawker** record and 25th Nov the last **Common Darters** – and also the last Odonata sighting of the year.

A very welcome and hopeful development during the year was the setting up of a school dragonfly recording group at Sherston C of E Primary by Head Teacher, Nicholas Bowditch. The records sent in by the children from their wildlife pond constituted the first for that 10km square!

My adoption of Adrian Bicker's 'Living Record' online recording database system has enabled me to play catch-up with many of my considerable outstanding county records. Also I feel it's a much more instant and pro-active way for local recorders to input their data and reduce the CR's workload.

Those 10km squares still without records or with few species are illustrated in the accompanying screen shots.

Finally, as always, grateful thanks go to all those who record in Wiltshire; either as residents or occasional visitors. Let's try and give those above mentioned squares a bit of a 'bashing' this coming, final, season....!

Dorset – VC 9

Andrew Brown

Greetings from Dorset on a damp January afternoon. I'm sure everyone has a similar tale to tell from last year, a glorious spring was followed by a very damp squib of a summer, then a dazzling long autumn.

The spring brought two exciting sightings of a **Vagrant Emperor**, firstly on heathland at Town Common, near Christchurch in April and the other on a garden gate in Weymouth in May, where it stayed for a whole day delighting many people.

Despite the poor summer weather people still managed to collect some decent records and Living Record, the on-line system piloted last year went from strength to strength and I know many other Vice County Recorders are now using this system, developed by Adrian Bicker. It's been so successful that the system has been taken up by the Dorset Environmental Records

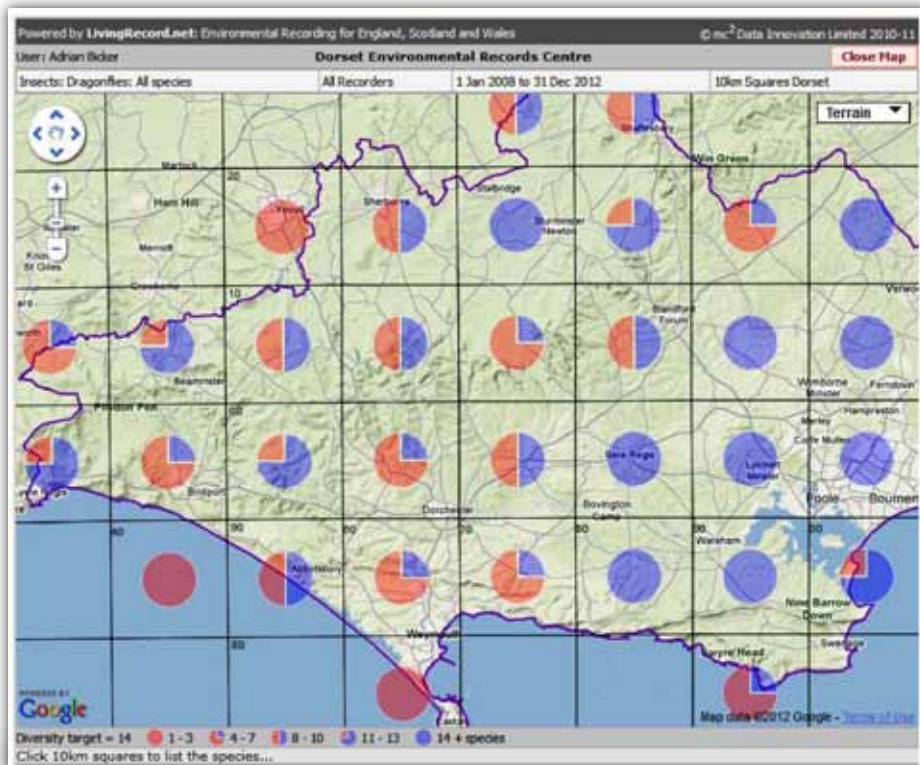


Figure 4. Species diversity in Dorset, Vice County 9 to the end of the 2011 season, plotted using Living Record.

Centre, which means that any records sent to them get put on, rather than sent to and fro. In just the space of two years I no longer get any paper records, or emailed spreadsheets, so I think it really has quite revolutionised and modernised the whole process of recording. Verifying records can also be done online too, which is very quick and efficient. If there are issues, it's easy to send a quick email to the recorder to check for errors.

This year is the last year of the Atlas and we are making a real effort to get the message out to all our recorders about the areas we still need to target. As can be seen from the two maps below for 2010 and 2011, we have made steady progress in trying to reach the Vice County Diversity Threshold. Living Record makes this kind of analysis really very simple.

After a lot of technical hitches, 'lost' data, broken laptops, blood, sweat and tears, a website devoted to Dorset's Dragonflies will soon be going live! There will be some local publicity and we shall generate some interest and encourage people to get out and make a real effort in the final year of the Atlas to fill in those gaps in the map as well as having regular meetings and field trips.

Good luck for 2012!

Kent - VC 15 & 16

John & Gill Brook

2011 was another interesting year for Kent despite the peculiar weather pattern, a very hot early spring followed by a mostly cloudy and cooler summer and then a mild autumn. We had some interesting sightings this year (mostly backed up with photos).

On 23 April when birdwatchers were at Denge Marsh, Josh Jenkins saw at least three individuals of the **Vagrant Emperor**, *Anax ephippiger*. We went on 24 April but only had a glimpse of one as we were further along the dyke from where it was spotted. It was very active, patrolling along the dyke and flying out over the fields. The **Vagrant Emperors** were seen by numerous people over a number of days.

The **Lesser Emperor**, *Anax parthenope*, continues to be seen at Dungeness, but access to the lake edges to look for exuviae is becoming more difficult because of brambles and other encroaching vegetation. At New Hythe Lakes a pair of **Lesser Emperors** ovipositing

in tandem was photographed by Terry Laws on 3 July. Terry notified us and so the next day we went in the hope of seeing them. Three or four other people were there but the dragonflies remained elusive. However, we did what we always do and looked for exuviae. Amongst a number of **Emperor**, *Anax imperator*, exuviae was one of the **Lesser Emperor**, which for us was as exciting as seeing the adult! At least one individual of the **Southern Migrant Hawker**, *Aeshna affinis*, was seen at Cliffe again this year on 1 August by Damien Pinguey. Although we went on numerous occasions in June to look for exuviae where they had been seen ovipositing in 2010 we came away empty handed - not even an exuviae of the **Scarce Emerald Damselfly**, *Lestes dryas*, although the adults were in good numbers in 2010 and 2011. We shall look for exuviae of the Southern Migrant Hawker again in 2012 as it may be possible that the larvae emerge after two years.

We were also notified of two sightings of the **Norfolk Hawker**, *Aeshna isosceles*. One was seen and photographed by Bill Gawler on 4 June at Stodmarsh. This was confirmed by Ian Hodgson who saw another **Norfolk Hawker** on 4 July at Worth.

Another new site, but unfortunately not another 10km square, was discovered for the **Scarce Chaser**, *Libellula fulva*, by Douglas Hands. Douglas sent us a photo of a male for identification. He took us to the site in West Kent where a number of males were seen, but no exuviae were found as yet!

The **Southern Emerald Damselfly**, *Lestes barbarus*, was again seen in small numbers at Cliffe by us on 14 June, and on further occasions by numerous other people, but again, no exuviae were found.

On 9 July we went to North Stream, south of Reculver, to look for the **Willow Emerald Damselfly**, *Lestes viridis*, but were unsuccessful. We did find many of the ovipositing marks in the branches of young Ash trees. Although we looked on other trees, the marks were only found on Ash. Our first sighting of the adults



was on 16 August when we found them sheltering in the bushes and undergrowth on the opposite side of the road from the dyke. Having found an exuvia of this species at Cliffe Marshes in 1992 it was great to have the adults back in Kent and ovipositing in 2010. As many as 30+ individuals were seen by Derek Tutt on 19 August 2011.

No new sites were discovered for the **Dainty Damselfly**, *Coenagrion scitulum*, but the first adult to be seen in 2011 was on 2 June by James Lowen. Terry Laws recorded them ovipositing at a waterbody near to where we discovered our first adult in 2010. The easily accessible site attracted many people who came to see and photograph the Dainty Damselfly.

Coverage in Kent for the new National Atlas is quite good but there is still work to be done. We have 25 10km squares with 20 or more species, 20 10km squares with 15 to 19 species and 7 10km squares which have 11 to 14 species. This means we have 52 10 km squares with 11 or more species.

Thanks to everyone who has sent in records and as 2012 is the last year for recording for the new Atlas, we add a final plea for help to fill in gaps. The 10km squares which have less than 11 species in Kent are TQ37, TR07 and TR12. Other 10km squares which have 11 to 14 species and which could do with extra recording are TQ47, TQ56, TQ95, TR23, TR24 and TR37. If anyone would like extra information about where to record or what species to look for, our contact details are on the back cover.

Surrey – VC 17

Alistair Kirk

This was the first year for Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre as VC Recorder for Surrey. We would like to thank our predecessor Nicholas Donnithorne for all his hard work and helpful advice. The Hants – Surrey - Berkshire Group (HSBG) worked tirelessly this year to improve the recording landscape within Surrey. As a result some of our most under-recorded areas will pass the diversity threshold in preparation for the new

BDS Atlas; in particular, special thanks are due to Mike Thurner for his great recording effort around the previously under-recorded Dorking area. Despite a spate of rainy weekends, a series of excellent field meetings was held at General's Pond, Thundry Meadows, Black Pond at Esher and Wisley Common. A Dragonfly Training Event was also held at one of Surrey Wildlife Trust's educational reserves in order to train up some of their Rangers in identification and surveying techniques. With the help of some of the Trust's rangers we should achieve an even greater recording coverage across the County. Our thanks go to Simon Elson, Steve Bolton and Andrew Jamieson for running the event. Records continue to come in from Surrey's dedicated recorders and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the HSBG group for their support. In particular, our thanks go to David Hepper, Nick & Ros Hughes, Francis Kelly, John Nundy, Don Tagg, Katharine Trotman, Bill Wain and Sue Webber. We look forward to another year of enjoyable meetings and, with a little help from the weather, a great deal more recording. We have yet to see the extent to which current species' distributions differ from those in the previous Atlas but further analysis will undoubtedly reveal some interesting trends.

Berkshire – VC 22

Mike Turton

Here are a few of the main points coming out of the reports for 2011 in Berkshire.

The balmy Spring weather resulted in new earliest emergence dates for a number of species. As ever, **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrhosoma nymphula* was the first to appear with one at Greenham Common on 7th April (6 days before the previous earliest date). In all, 10 species set new earliest emergence dates. The record goes to **Brilliant Emerald** *Somatochlora metallica* with one being recorded at Swinley Brickpits on 10th May, a full month earlier than in previous years. The last recorded sighting of the year was of a **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* on 30th November.

Following the influx in 2010, **Hairy Dragonfly** *Brachytron pratense* seems to be establishing itself in the county with at least 17 (the highest number ever recorded in a single year) being recorded from 14 sites around Swinley Forest, Twyford and Theale as well as Radley Lakes and Cholsey Marsh further north. Breeding was confirmed for the first time in Berkshire with a record of a female ovipositing at Thames Valley Park, just outside Reading.

The first reported records of **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura pumilio* since 1996 at Decoy Heath marked a welcome return for this species. There was speculation that the species was still present at Decoy Heath, but, even though the site is popular with dragonfly watchers, there had been no reported sightings until this year when a maximum of 4 were recorded on the weekly transect run by the local Wildlife Trust.

Common Club-tail *Gomphus*

vulgatissimus continues to do well with both range and numbers similar to last year. John Ward-Smith reported 21 emerging on the R. Thames at Pangbourne on 29th April.

Both **Variable Damselfly** *Coenagrion pulchellum* and **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea* have had poor years.

Variable Damselfly was recorded on only two sites, the main one being at Southcote on the R. Kennet where a maximum of just 31 were recorded, against 92 in 2010. No records were received from Parsonage Moor.

Common Hawker is a rare species in Berkshire at the best of times, but this year saw only the one record, in Crowthorne Woods.

A particular watch needs to be kept in 2012 for Scarce Chaser *Libellula fulva*; with 2 records just outside the county boundary (in the Blackwater Valley and at Wraysbury) over the last 2 years it is only a matter of time before this species is added to the county list.

My thanks go to all those who have submitted records this year. Particular thanks go to those who have been involved in regular monitoring of some sites. A number of people have used Living Record to enter data online, which has been a



great help to me with nearly 60% of this year's records being entered in this way.

Late news: since writing this article a record has been received of a recently-emerged **Common Club-tail** (*Gomphus vulgatissimus*) on the R. Kennet at Padworth on 4th May 2011. Only the 2nd breeding record on the river since 1999.

Buckinghamshire – VC 24

Alan Nelson

2011 was one of those years that remind us that there's no such thing as 'normal'. I would guess that in Buckinghamshire, in common with many other VC reports, Spring was early, warm and dry, Summer lost its invitation to the party and Autumn was the season that just kept on giving. There were no additions to the county species total in 2011, and the relative abundances of the usual suspects were low. Whether this was a consequence of the two previous harsh winters causing larval fatalities or simply persuading them to delay their development and emerge after longer underwater is yet to be proven.

Whilst still lagging behind counties with warmer geography, VC 24 had its first **Large Red Damselfly**, *Pyrhosoma nymphula*, at Howe Park Wood Milton Keynes, thanks to Ella Cooke on 10th April, a comfortable improvement on recent years. Similarly, **Azure Damselfly**, *Coenagrion puella*, **Blue-tailed Damselfly**, *Ischnura elegans*, and **Common Blue Damselfly**, *Enallagma cyathigerum*, were all about a week early, as was **Hairy Dragonfly**, *Brachytron pratense*. When Spring gave way to Summer, we paid the price for the turbo-charged start to the flight season, emergence being slow and scarce. Bucking the trend, **Brown Hawker**, *Aeshna grandis*, seemed the most abundant dragonfly through July and August. Autumn wasn't awash with species, but the milder weather helped **Migrant Hawker**, *Aeshna mixta*, and **Common Darter**, *Sympetrum striolatum*, to extend their flight seasons appreciably.

Thanks to all for their 2011 records

and especially to Tony Bedford from Milton Keynes for a record of **Common Darter** *S. striolatum* at Hanson Environmental Study Centre on 5th December, the latest ever date for the county. With the next flight season being the final year of recording before publication of the Atlas in 2013, more data is required from the central and southern parts of the county, as current records are biased towards the north of Buckinghamshire.

Suffolk – VC 25 & 26

Adrian Parr

As described elsewhere, the 2011 season saw extraordinary numbers of migrant **Vagrant Emperors** reported from the UK, with up to 50 individuals being seen (normally fewer than one a year are reported!). Unfortunately none were seen in Suffolk, though a sighting from Great Yarmouth on 4 October was only a few hundred yards over the old county boundary.

News relating to resident species during 2011 was quite encouraging. **Variable Damselfly** is very local in Suffolk, particularly in the west of the county, but fortunately 2011 saw records from all of its main areas – the Waveney Valley, Minsmere, Lakenheath and a small site near Bury St Edmunds first discovered several decades ago by Norman Moore. **Scarce Chaser** was another less-common species to put on a good show. For much of the second half of the 20th century, this species was known in Suffolk only from the River Waveney area, but since then it has been reported from the River Stour and, more recently still, from the River Gipping near Needham Market and from the Lakenheath area. In 2011, records continued to be plentiful, with Nick Mason finding the species to be quite widespread in Fenland. There was also a record from the River Brett south of Layham on 17 May, which may indicate that yet further range expansion is now taking place.

The other main news for 2011 relates to **Willow Emerald Damselfly**. Southeast Suffolk remains the UK stronghold of this recent colonist, and it was regularly reported during the year. Records have now been

received from some 80 tetrads in the county, as far inland as Sudbury and Stowmarket. Although some new sightings may simply reflect better observer coverage, there were also signs of continuing range expansion. The first-ever sighting from Minsmere was, for instance, made on 16 September.

With regard to the forthcoming Atlas, fortunately Suffolk is one of the better-recorded counties in England thanks to the efforts of a dedicated band of volunteers. There is, however, still work to be done during 2012, with the area north of Stowmarket and the far southwest of the county being current weak spots. I would be pleased to hear from visitors to these regions (or indeed elsewhere in the county) who may have records.

Norfolk – VC 27 & 28

Pam Taylor

The Norfolk season started earlier than ever with the first **Large Red Damselfly** exuvia recorded on 6th April. From then through to early June most species were appearing in good numbers ten days to a fortnight earlier than usual. In particular **Norfolk Hawker** had an excellent season throughout the Broads. Once again there were records extending to the west and south-west of Norwich in the River Yare corridor and to the north-west of Norwich, not far from the River Wensum. Interestingly a female **Norfolk Hawker** was also seen ovipositing slightly out of its usual range at Captain's Pond Westwick, a private site, whilst another adult was seen in the coastal sand dunes at Winterton.

By way of contrast, there were only six records for **Common Hawker** and this certainly isn't a common species in Norfolk. Apparently confined to the east of the county, one record came from Upton Fen again this year, but sadly only of a failed emergence. Another species with few records in 2011 was **Downy Emerald** and there were no records at all for **Small Red Damselfly**. Each has only one established site in the county, so hopefully this just means the areas weren't visited, rather than any demise of these



species. The only records of **Scarce Emerald Damselfly** this year came from Thompson Common.

Unlike our neighbours in Suffolk, Norfolk has few **Willow Emerald Damselflies**. A small group were again seen at Strumpshaw Fen during September and singles were found across the river at Wheatfen and near the coast at Overstrand in October. **Keeled Skimmers** are however continuing to thrive and once again there were records from four distinct areas. After the superb spring, the summer was very quiet and the autumn disappointing. Throughout the county numbers of **Common Darters** and **Migrant Hawkers** were much reduced.

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire – VC 29 and 31

Val Perrin

Last season saw a concerted effort to try and fill in some of the red squares devoid of recent dragonfly records for the Atlas. Effort was concentrated in the Fenland area of the county and also to the east of Cambridge. The Sixteen Foot Drain represents one of the main drainage channels running roughly south-west to north-east for about 15 km (nearly 10 miles) from east of Chatteris to Three Holes, parallel to the Old and New Bedford Rivers (Ouse Washes). A road runs alongside, with frequent farm bridges crossing the drain, enabling spot surveys to be made in each 'square'. It was possible with close-focussing binoculars to observe the bank side vegetation and floating water lily leaves from these bridges. A previously unvisited water body, Fillenham's Drain, just outside Chatteris, was a pleasant surprise in this intensely arable landscape, as it possessed very clean, clear water with aquatic plants including stoneworts. On another occasion, an archaeological dig north of Willingham provided the opportunity to discover clean drains with water violets and attendant dragonfly species otherwise hidden from view below the tall crops. Although these sites did not turn up any rarities, a revisit after a long absence to West Brook, near Fenstanton, alongside some mature gravel pits, reconfirmed

sites for **Variable Damselfly**, along with its commoner blue damselfly relatives and a nice range of other common species.

A possible Lesser or Vagrant Emperor was seen briefly by Rob Partridge while surveying the River Great Ouse near Queen Adelaide.

Some sites, e.g. Kirtling weirs on the River Stour and the Twenty Foot Drain near March were surprisingly poor for Odonates last year. A rare opportunity to survey the fishing lakes and ponds at Waterbeach old airfield, courtesy of the MoD, as part of a 'bioblitz' in the company of numerous natural history experts added some further records of common species for a normally closed site.

Next year we will concentrate on 'mopping up' any under-recorded squares with below county threshold species numbers to try and gain as even a coverage as possible. Again, many thanks to those local recorders who nobly assisted with the survey and provided records.

Bedfordshire – VC 30

David Anderson

2011 was perhaps the most unusual year for dragonflies with the first 11 species on the wing, having first emergent dates earlier than any previous year. The season started with **Large Red Damselfly** on the 8th April, while the earliest previous date since 2000 being the 15th April, so 2011 was seven days early. The next 10 species showed dates of between 14 and zero days early, until the first **White-legged Damselfly** on the 10th May, when the following species reverted to the more normal date timescale. The unusually warm spring was no doubt responsible for these early emergent dates, but only up to the mid May point. The summer did not produce the hoped for higher populations or second emergent events. Overall the usual 21 species were recorded, but with no migrants or vagrants seen. A total of 1522 records were obtained from 79 people.

A special project during the year was a drive to record as many as possible

1km square Sites for **Large Red Damselfly**. This raised the number of 1km square sites recorded from 47 in 2010 to 57 in 2011, but still did not record the 123 other sites in the database from 2000 onwards. It is not thought that these other sites no longer hold Large Red Damselflies, but that no one surveyed them during the flight season. Just shows how difficult it is to get a full picture of the dragonfly population at any one time. For 2012 the special project will be to get as full as possible survey of the River Great Ouse that runs across the north of the county. Although a major river that holds a good population of dragonflies including in one stretch the **Scarce Chaser**, most of the river is poorly recorded, due mainly to little public access.

Northamptonshire – VC 32

Mark Tyrrell

With ten species recorded in April, 2011 beat the previous best of eight species held since 2007. The April species recorded were: **Large Red, Azure, Blue-tailed, Common Blue & Red-eyed Damselflies, Hairy Dragonfly, Four-spotted & Broad-bodied Chaser, Banded Demoiselle** and **Downy Emerald**.

This got the season off to a good start, which rapidly deteriorated and by the end of May and early June strong winds and cold temperatures had a significant impact on activity. Overall, most species were seen in lower numbers than usual, particularly the **Banded Demoiselle** which normally occurs into the high hundreds per km was typically down to less than 100. **Small Red-eyed Damselflies** were recorded very late this year compared with 2010 and fewer than usual records were obtained.

Following the reports of **Vagrant Emperors** from the south coast, a possible sighting of one was made at Brackmills Industrial Estate on 9 May. The description given did not fit with any other species around at that time. This record was subsequently accepted as "Probable" by the BDS National Records Committee (as reported by Adrian Parr in JBDS vol 27 No.2).

The BDS Field Trip to search for



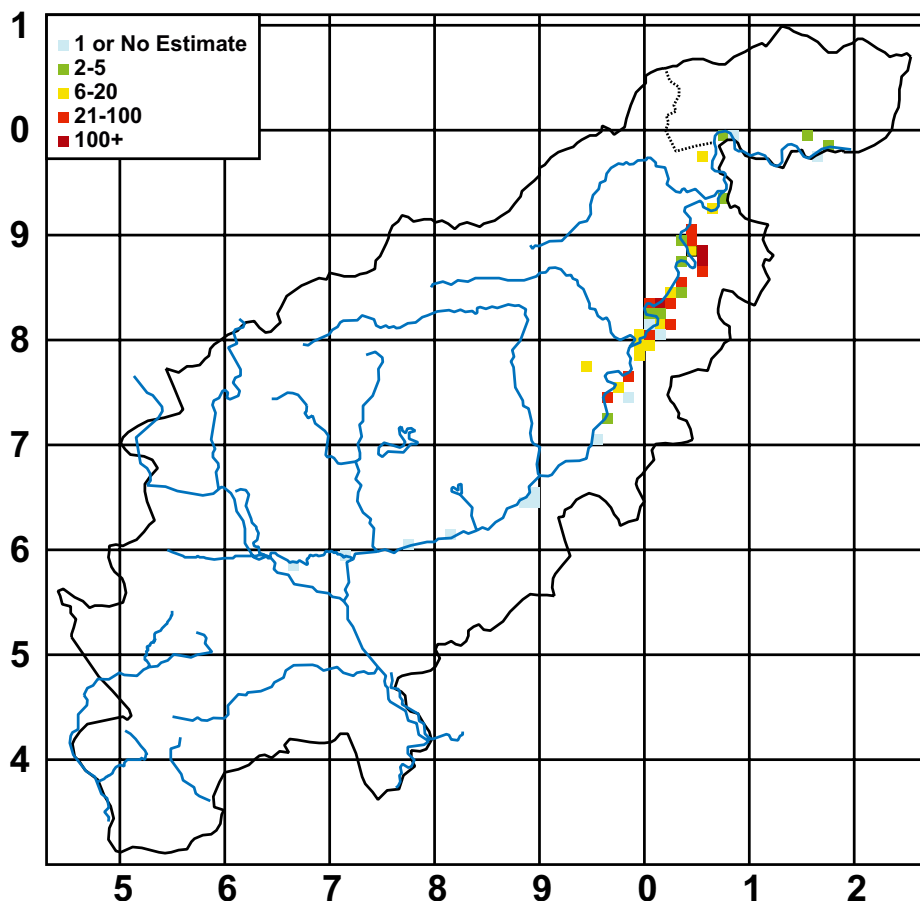


Figure 6. Distribution and maximum recorded abundance of the Scarce Chaser in Northamptonshire, VC32 to the end of the 2011 season.

the **Variable Damselfly** (reported in DN60) was very successful adding several new 1km squares in the north of our Vice County with ovipositing recorded as an indication of breeding. Our other important species did well too, with good numbers of **Downy Emerald** at their usual site; **Scarce Chaser** did well with one immature recorded on the Nene at Summer Leys, a considerable distance from the nearest known breeding colony. A search of this area failed to find any more so at this stage it is not known whether this was blown here or is breeding on a quiet stretch of the River out of sight. Figure 6 illustrates a distribution map for the Scarce Chaser up to the end of 2011; **Beautiful Demoiselle** did not advance any further along the Nene but were recorded in the Northampton area again suggesting that they are establishing viable colonies here.

We have adopted the Living Record system from Adrian Bicker to collect and review our records.

The feedback I have received from users has been very positive and encouraging and I can attribute a number of new recorders and records to the use of this site. Interestingly, one recorder from neighbouring Leicestershire crossed our border unknowingly and the records were automatically allocated to the Northants VC when he entered them into Living Record! I have added a link to the system on the northantsdragonflies.blogspot.com blog site, and would encourage recorders in the county (and neighbouring counties!) to sign up. We collected around 1500 records in 2011 using this system.

We are well placed to enter the final recording season for the national atlas, with all of our 10km squares showing greater than the diversity threshold, however there are still some squares that need recording for specific species to ensure that the county map is as accurate as possible. Please contact me if you would like a list of these areas.

Gloucestershire – VC 33 & 34

Ingrid Twissell

The year started off well with the appearance of **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* making a start to the recording season on 9th April, with **Azure** *Coenagrion puella*, **Blue-tailed** *Ischnura elegans*, **Red-eyed** *Erythromma najas*, and **Common Blue** *Enallagma cyathigerum* all being recorded by the end of the month.

The first **Hairy Dragonfly** *Brachytron pratense* was recorded on 25th April, with the greatest number of ten adults on the wing being seen at Green Lane, Frampton, as well as two exuviae. On 11th May, two mating pairs, with one attempted threesome, were spotted. **Hairy Dragonfly** has been spotted in three **new** locations in the county in 2011 – in late April a male was seen at Walmore Common – a good birding site; in May, a female was photographed ovipositing at a new pond at Kite's Hill near Painswick, which is the only World Land Trust NR in the UK, and one was spotted in woodland on the other side of Frampton, and in June, three more were seen on the other side of Walmore Common. The species also spread through the known site at Woodchester Park NR, with an exuvia found in May providing breeding evidence.

Downy Emerald *Cordulia aenea* had a good year at The Dilke Lagoon with 10+ being seen in June, and an appearance of four at Speech House Lake, also in June, was a surprise considering the poor condition of the lake, and one was present at Woodchester Park NR in May. In the Cotswold Water Park, four locations held **Downy Emerald**, the most spectacular was the appearance at a **new** site of 60+ being observed together.

Common Clubtail *Gomphus vulgatissimus* was present in small numbers at The Mythe in May and June, and **Scarce Chaser** *Libellula fulva* was seen, also in small numbers, at Twynning, Green Lane Frampton in May, and The Mythe in May and June.

Black Darter *Sympetrum danae* did



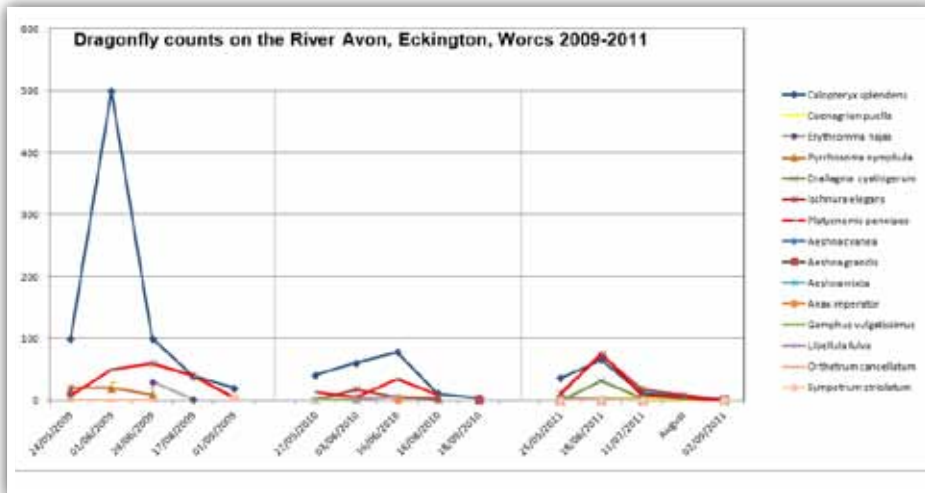


Figure 7. Dragonfly counts on the River Avon at Eckington, Worcestershire for period 2009 to 2011.

not have a good season with only a few being seen at Edgehills where the population explosion happened in 2009.

The **highlight** of the year was finding **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura pumilio* at the ponds created in the Autumn of 2009, primarily for Great Crested Newts, which had not been reported in the Forest of Dean since the early 1990's. There is only a small colony, first recorded on 2nd June, at present but exuviae were found, and most importantly a mating pair was spotted in the wheel position with the colouration of the female being blue. This colour form has not knowingly been recorded in the UK, and is regarded as a rare "andromorph". Exciting stuff!

Small Red-eyed Damselfly

Erythronia viridulum recovered well at sites this year with the amazing sight of 50+ pairs ovipositing into slightly submerged blanket weed in a small area in full sun in the mid afternoon on 9th August at The Mythe. Single males were also present on nearby bushes allowing ample photo opportunities! Also in August, there were approx 20, including pairs ovipositing, at Coombe Hill Canal NR – the most ever seen on the site, as well as one male at the Snipe Pool on the meadows, but only one male was recorded at Nature in Art pond, Twigworth. Two males were seen at Soudley Ponds in the Forest of Dean in July, this being a **new** location well away from the usual sites in the north of the county.

A couple of records of amazing



emergences occurred – the first, in May, was of approx 30 adults of **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator* emerging from a garden pond in Tewkesbury, dug in 2010, and the second was of approx 70 **Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea* when exuviae were collected and newly-emerged adults were seen over a period of a few weeks in June and July, at Ebworth near Painswick. The comment from the recorder was "where did they all come from?"

As a result of the very mild autumn, the last sightings of the year occurred on 27th November, the latest recorded date in the county, when 3 male **Common Darter** *Symptetrum striolatum* were spotted warming themselves low down in vegetation on a sunny late morning.

Worcestershire – VC 37

Mike Averill

After the very cold weather at the end of 2010, the New Year brought mild weather with few cold nights and by March temperatures were well above average. This brought insect emergences forward and our first **Large Red Damselflies** *Pyrrosoma nymphula* were seen in Mid April. The **Common Club-tail dragonfly** *Gomphus vulgatissimus* was also early to emerge being first seen on the 4th May at Bewdley. The previous winter was certainly one of the coldest we have had for many years with the River Severn freezing over for the first time since 1981 and there is always the question about what effect that has on insect

numbers. There may be a clue to this in that the **Common Club-tail** numbers emerging this year were the lowest in four years.

Prior to 2011 the Vagrant Emperor *Hemianax ephippiger* had not been seen in the UK since 2008, but this year more Vagrant Emperors were seen in the country than the total seen before that. I mention all this because a medium sized hawk was seen at Croome Park on the 29th April which could have been this dragonfly, and would have been a first for the county, however there is a chance that it might have been the Hairy Dragonfly *Brachytron pratense*. The **Hairy Dragonfly** was obviously on the move at this time because one was seen at Upton Warren on the 5th May, and fortunately it was spotted by an experienced observer, as this species had only previously been recorded in Worcs twice before in 1977 & 1980. Two **Lesser Emperors**, not dissimilar to the Vagrant Emperor from a distance, were seen this year, one at Upton Warren and one at Pirton Pool which is again a sign of movement with these migrant species. The **Small red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythronia viridulum* which suddenly established itself at Croome Park last year was seen again in high numbers with a slight range increase to nearby ponds.

Apart from surprise visitors, the year appeared to be fairly quiet and it could be said that after a good start, the season was soon over with lower numbers showing. These sort of impressions can be very subjective without real counts being made and it is with this need in mind that transects are being used now. Rather like the butterfly walks these dragonfly counts attempt to quantify numbers in a 100 metre section, at a site, year by year. In Worcestershire a survey has been running at Eckington for three years now with further sites at Smite and new ones planned at Feckenham and Croome Park.

The results of the Eckington transect is attached and in the graph 15 species were recorded over the three years of which only the **Banded Demoiselle** *Calopteryx splendens* and **White-legged Damselfly**

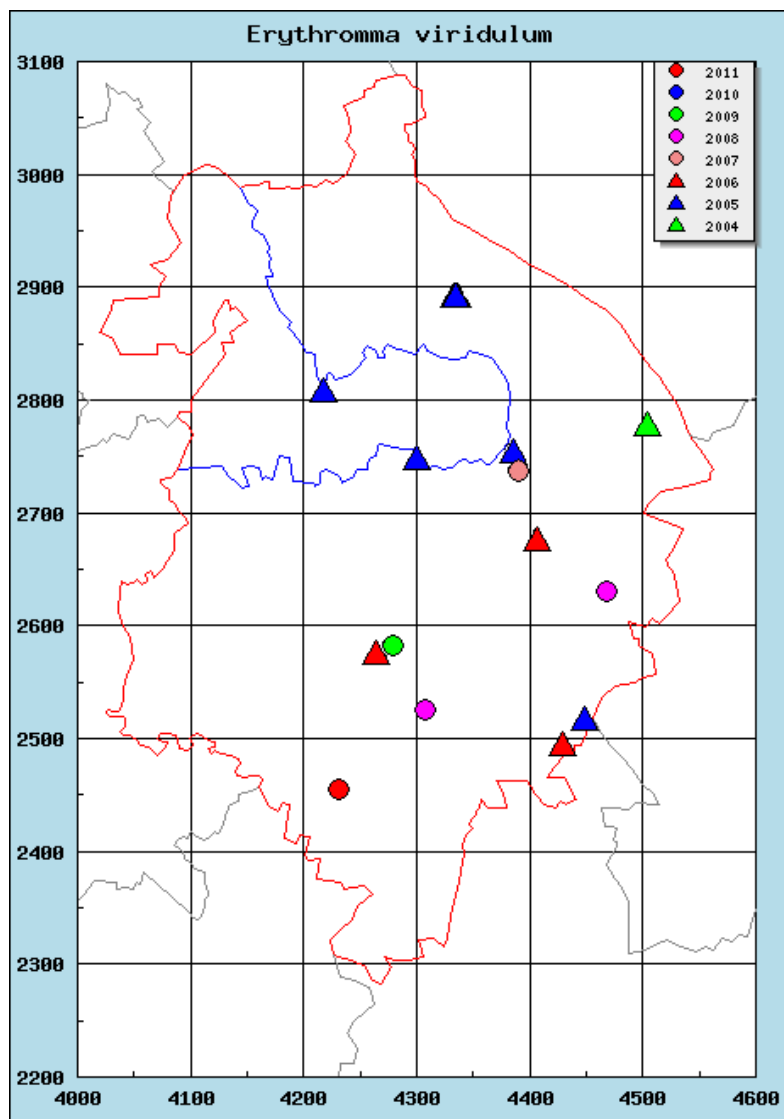


Figure 8. Distribution of Small Red-eyed Damselflies in Warwickshire to the end of the 2011 season.

Platycnemis pennipes have sufficient numbers to effectively follow trends. It appears the Banded Demoiselle had a very good year in 2009 but in 2010 and 2011 numbers were lower. The other noticeable trend was how short the season was in 2011 for all species with counts already trailing off in July. Only the White-legged Damselfly and Common Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum* had a slightly higher peak count in 2011.

Warwickshire – VC 38

Kay & Peter Reeve

The last publication in Darter about Warwickshire was in spring 2004 and since then there have been a number of developments.

Perhaps the most significant is the

colonisation of the county by the **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma viridulum*. The species was first recorded in 2004 at the Swift Valley Reserve, Rugby, in the east of the county. As the distribution map in Figure 8 shows, we caught the last few years of the rapid expansion of the species during 2006 & 2007 and in these years *E. viridulum* was the dominant damselfly in late summer at several sites. In the following years the expansion slowed and the numbers of individuals reduced significantly. A pleasant surprise in 2011 was finding a new site for the species in the SW near Ilmington. The site was not visited in many years and so the species may have been there in previous years, but it is a significant extension to the known range.

The **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly**

Ischnura pumilio is still holding on in its one location in VC 38 with, typically, a maximum of about 20 individuals being recorded at one time. It is vulnerable because the site is a sand and gravel quarry and succession and reclamation is eroding its habitat. It has tended to move its location in the quarry to more recently exploited areas.

Hairy Dragonfly *Brachytron pratense* and the **Club-tailed Dragonfly** *Gomphus vulgatissimus* are both holding their own, or, in the case of the latter, until 2011, when, in spite of considerable effort looking for it, it was not found. The former has been seen more widely and is probably now breeding at four sites in the county.

Regular visitors recorded in small numbers were: **Black Darter** *Sympetrum danae*, in 2007, 2008 & 2009 and **Red-veined Darter** *S. fonscolombii* in 2006, 2007 & 2009.

There have been a number of exciting First County Records in 2009, 2010 & 2011. In 2009 a single **Keeled Skimmer** *Orthetrum coerulescens* male was recorded on two occasions, the beginning of July and the beginning of August, at Baddesley, Nuneaton. It is the first proven record of the species in Warwickshire. In 2010 several **Scarce Chaser** *Libellula fulva* males were recorded on the Avon close to the border with Worcestershire. We hope they are pioneers and that, maybe, a female joined them, mated and oviposited. We will be looking for progeny this year! During 2011, we joined in the **Emperor** invasion. A male **Lesser Emperor** *Anax parthenope* was found by Mike Inskip near Morton Bagot on 27th June. On 25th November Mark Whittle found a moribund male **Vagrant Emperor** *Anax ephippiger* lying on the pavement just a few tens of yards from his home in Keresley, Coventry. It did not survive the morning. The specimen was pinned and will be deposited at Coventry Museum.

It just remains to review 2011. Like most of the country we had a very early start to the flying season. Ten of the twenty-four species in the county were at their earliest dates ever. Some species were a week or



more earlier. After a flying start to the year, though all the species expected were found (except the Club-tail) for most numbers were low. There was also a long tail to the season, the last **Common Darter** *S. striolatum* was reported on 4th December. This is only two days earlier than the latest ever date recorded in 2009. Also, rather surprisingly, well over 100 **Red-eyed Damselflies** *Erythromma najas* were recorded at Coombe Abbey on 3rd September by Paul Hodges and Kay & Peter Reeve. A number of Red-eye exuvia were also collected. The late date of emergence for the species and the number of adults seen suggest it was the second generation for 2011.

The county records in all but two 10k boundary squares have reached the 2013 Atlas aim VCDT of 11 species. Species counts in many squares are above the threshold but below the potential count based on the numbers of species recorded since 1960 - there is scope for a more comprehensive cover.

More details of this and other items in the article can be found at the Warwickshire Dragonfly Group web site: www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk.

Staffordshire – VC 39

Dave Jackson

It was a real pleasure contacting Staffordshire members during my first year in the recorders' hot seat.

I have already received records of new species for the county from enthusiasts, and was very pleased to discuss recording with Neil Collingwood author of the 1997 Dragonflies of Staffordshire booklet. (ISBN: 1 874414 22X). It will be very interesting to compare records from the recent "past century" when the national atlas is published, and with dragonfly interest gaining momentum particularly amongst fellow birders, who have already expanded the county list, I would like to give particular thanks to Steve Nuttall. More than is sometimes deemed natural, he "birds" at Belvide Reservoir and with others has submitted records of **Red-veined Darters** and **Lesser Emperors** there, both species new to the County since 1997, albeit hoped for given the current trends. I would also like to thank Dr Dave Skingsley and Andy Jukes for allowing me to take some pressure off their very busy entomological pursuits, Chas Mason and Stephen Rowland for their commitment to recording at their favourite sites, and all county members who submit their records to good use.

We now know of new locations for **Red-eyed Damselfly** and **Keeled Skimmer**.

Does Downy Emerald still grace Cranberry Bog or a nearby mire?

I wish county members every success in the coming year and who knows what discoveries or re-discoveries will be made. Let's go for it.

Shropshire – VC 40

Sue McLamb

As the new VCR for Shropshire I am thrilled to have received 889 records from over 40 recorders, and for that reason would like to start this report with a huge thank you for your hard work. A total of 27 species have been recorded in 2011 comprising 16 dragonfly and 11 damselfly species. Those previously recorded 'missing species' are Yellow-winged Darter (not recorded since mid 90s!), Hairy Dragonfly (last recorded in 2000 in South Shropshire) and Scarce Chaser. Only 1 record of the latter has been made at Attingham Park in June 2008 by Mr J. Balcombe. A further unconfirmed record has been received this year so this is definitely a species to look out for.

Notably **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly**, not recorded since 2006, has reappeared in Shropshire. Male and female individuals were seen at Titterstone Clee by Mr J. Almond where the species was last recorded, and specimens were seen for the first time at Bromfield Quarry by Mr I. Cheeseborough.

Shropshire can also boast 2 healthy **Keeled Skimmer** populations as in addition to those well established at Crammer Gutter, adults and larvae have again been recorded in good numbers on the Long Mynd. They were first recorded at this site very much off the beaten track in 2010 and this is very encouraging evidence that this population is thriving.

In general whilst records of **Brown Hawker**, **Large Red Damselfly**, **Blue-tailed Damselfly**, **Common Blue Damselfly** and **Azure Damselfly** were typically numerous, other species were barely represented such as **Ruddy Darter** and **Variable Damselfly** each with only 3 records. Also of concern is 1 solitary record of **Downy Emerald**, previous recent records consisting of 2 in 2009 and 1 in 2008 all made at the same location.

Despite great efforts we still have lots to do in this last pre-Atlas field season so that Shropshire is represented as accurately as possible. The hectad SO18 on the very SW edge of Shropshire



Figure 9. Recently emerged Common Darter, Clyro, 1 May 201. Dick Eastwood.



remains red (no records!) and 16 hectads are still under recorded. These are mainly in the East of the County and at least half require only a few species to meet the diversity threshold. Thank you in advance for your continued efforts and for a detailed update and precise recording targets please refer to the newsletter on the Shropshire page of the BDS website.

Breconshire – VC 42

Keith Noble

Checking past records held by the Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and Brecon Beacons National Park (BIS) was educational for me as a relative newcomer. I found out more about the southern boundary of VC42, which differs from the old County line, and includes interesting sites to explore. All the records forwarded to BDS improved Brecknock's appearance on the threshold map.

We have no Red squares. The Amber squares contain some remote upland areas: the western edge of the Black Mountains south of Hay-on-Wye (SO22, 23); the military training ground north of Sennybridge (SN93, 94); western fringes around Glasfynydd Forest (SN82) and Abergwesyn (SN85), and the south east corner from Llangynidr to Brynmawr (SO11). I would like to thank the people of Brecknock for their records, and acknowledge the important work of BIS and the input from neighbouring counties.

The most remarkable feature of the 2011 season was its early start. Warm weather brought out a few teneral **Variable Damselflies** at Llangorse Lake on 18th April and a few thousand on 25th with some **Common Blue** and **Blue-tailed Damselflies**. A **Broad-bodied Chaser** was above Bwlch on 24th and a **Large Red Damselfly** in Brecon on 30th.

At Llangorse Lake, the largest natural water body in mid-Wales, MSc student Stephanie Nash made regular visits between June and August to parts of the SSSI not open to the public. She noted numbers of all stages of dragonflies, the timing of their emergence, distribution and

habitats. The study started too late for the Variable Damselflies, but **Common Blue Damselflies** were very numerous. The first **Migrant Hawkers** appeared from 22nd August, with up to 20 present into mid-October.

Now I look forward to a lovely warm summer in an under-recorded county with lots of opportunities for discoveries.

Radnorshire – VC 43

Bob Dennison

The 2011 recording effort improved on that of 2010, resulting in 656 records from 22 contributors (as compared with 609 records from 22 contributors in 2010). Due to the absence of **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura pumilio* and **Ruddy Darter** *Sympetrum sanguineum* sightings, the 2011 species count was slightly down on the previous year's, totaling 21 and comprising 13 Dragonfly and 8 Damselfly species.

Although no new species were added to our historic VC total of 25, we continued to improve coverage of various species across the 21 O.S. 10-km squares which Radnorshire comprises. As well as higher species counts as compared to 2010, an estimated 31 new locations were recorded across 9 species [5 Dragonfly and 4 Damselfly]. And despite lower species counts compared with last season, 4 new locations were recorded for **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** *Cordulegaster boltonii* and 1 new location for **Keeled skimmer** *Orthetrum coerulescens*.

At the time of writing, I am not sure how adding the 2011 records will affect our remaining 'red' and 'yellow' squares, so it is best to assume no change since 2010, in which case, the focus for 2012 will need to be on 5 squares, namely :-

- 2 'red' squares (SO08 and SO18) in the north of VC43 which we share with Montgomeryshire VC47
- 2 'yellow' squares which are mostly in VC43 (SO07 in the north and SO26 in the east)
- and 15% or so of 'yellow'

square SO37 in the '*land that time forgot*', shared by VC43, VC40 (Shropshire) and VC36 (Herefordshire)!

Although we in Radnorshire didn't (knowingly) encounter any of the migrants, vagrants and potential colonists which were turning up elsewhere, we did – thanks to Dick Eastwood – have the season's earliest emergence of **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* photographed on 1st May!

My thanks to all 22 contributors of records and photographs to the 2011 season's effort, but particular commendations again go to Dick Eastwood and Ian Standen, who between them supplied over three quarters of the VC43 records.

North Wales – VC 48 – 52

Allan Brandon

The flight season started well enough with sightings of several species emerging in late April and early May that beat the regions previous records for early emergence. Otherwise it has been a fairly average year as far as the number of observations is concerned. One of the highlights was the sighting of a lone **Vagrant Emperor Anax ephippiger** at Nant Pond, Bardsey on the 21st April, this being a new species for the region.

The map shows the current state of 10 km square coverage for species across North Wales and when compared with last year's it will be seen that steady progress is being made. The numbers refer to the resident species that should be present but are still not recorded for each square. Therefore squares with red numbers are the priority targets for 2012, followed by those with blue numbers, though some species are worth searching out in squares with green numbers. Many of the high-numbered squares reflect areas with a poor range of habitats. These are prevalent around the coast but they are also represented in the high moorland areas to the south. For instance, SH65 is shown as having 14 species which are still to be recorded. This square is in the heart of Snowdonia and includes Snowdon



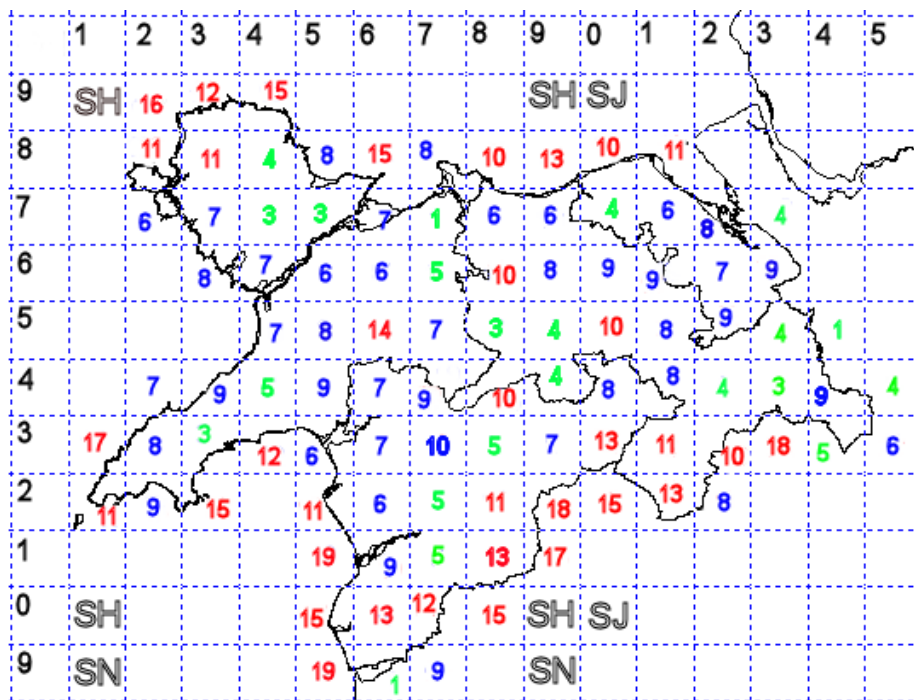


Figure 10. Species counts per 10km square in North Wales. VC48-52.

and surrounding mountains. There are no lowland lakes in the square and the species recorded are essentially inhabitants of acidic bog pools or moorland reservoirs. So it may not be possible to reduce the number for such squares very much.

Most of the 2011 contributions were of sightings of a few species sent in sporadic e-mail communications though a few recorders have contributed more detailed lists in Excel format. The value of photographs cannot be over-emphasized; in persuading people who are not particularly interested in Odonata to send in any photographs they have taken over the years, along with the necessary recording details, quite a few missing species have been turned up for the 10 km squares. Apart from myself, there are no recorders who are systematically searching out the 'missing species' numbered on the map below.

Stephen and Anne Coker visited VC Merionethshire from Pembrokeshire on 21-26th August and sent in a fine batch of records. They did extremely well as they found no less than five species that had either never been recorded, or not been recorded since 2000, from three 10 km squares.

Here are brief notes on three less common species: I visited the lake at Abergele Business Park on the 25th May and found two freshly emerged

adult **Black-tailed Skimmer** *Orthetrum cancellatum*. This is a new site for the species and the most westerly where it has been shown to breed in North Wales. Worries about the future of the **Downy Emerald** at Llyn Tecwyn Isaf are possibly unfounded. Among other sightings, Dick Eastwood made a tally of no less than 30 adults on his circuit of the lake on the 6th June. During June and July I discovered three new lakes for **Small Red Damselfly** *Ceriatrigon tenellum* in western Merionethshire. They were all in sheltered rock basins on sloping ground between 100 and 200 m elevation and within a few kilometres of the coast. All the lakes contained fringing Sphagnum mats with Marsh St John's Wort.

Lincolnshire – VC 53 and 54

Nick Tribe

The exceptionally warm spring of 2011 encouraged a very early record of **Black-tailed Skimmer** *Orthetrum cancellatum* at Rosper Road Pools NR near Immingham on 16th April (Dave Wright). The warm conditions meant that regular north Lincolnshire observer Steve Routledge recorded no fewer than five personal 'earliest ever' records at Messingham Sand Quarry NR on 23rd April (**Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*, **Azure Damselfly** *Coenagrion*

puella, **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum*, **Hairy Dragonfly** *Brachytron pratense* and **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata*). Steve followed this up by recording no fewer than 50 **Hairy Dragonflies** at the same location on 1st May.

Following the freezing weather of the winter of 2010/2011 it was a pleasure to watch **Red-veined Darters** *Sympetrum fonscolombii* ovipositing on the Mere (Gibraltar Point NNR) on 10th July. This is the first time this behaviour has been recorded since this species was first observed on this site in 1998.

Variable Damselfly *Coenagrion pulchellum* has been found at two new locations namely Deeping Lakes NR (Deeping St. James) on 6th May (Dave Mainwaring) and Fiskerton Fen NR near Lincoln on 19th May (Paul Daubney).

A **Black Darter** *Sympetrum danae* was also found at Fiskerton Fen NR on 15th September by Richard Davidson. This species breeds in the peatlands of north-west Lincolnshire and it is thought that the last migrant records of this species date from the mid-1990s.

White-legged Damselfly was confirmed as maintaining its foothold in the county on the River Welland at Stamford on 11th June.

Leicestershire – VC 55

Ian Merrill

As I write (January 2012), record submission for 2011 have been woefully low, though I live in hope of a late flurry. The poor weather during a good proportion of the flight season may well be to blame, though on a positive note VC55 now has only three remaining 'Yellow Squares', i.e. 10km grid squares below the Vice County Diversity Threshold.

What was nearly the highlight of the year was a 'probable' **Vagrant Emperor** at Cossington Meadows on 6th May, but sadly this insect departed all too rapidly. Few other exciting occurrences were reported and even the previous year's apparent colonisation by Common Hawker



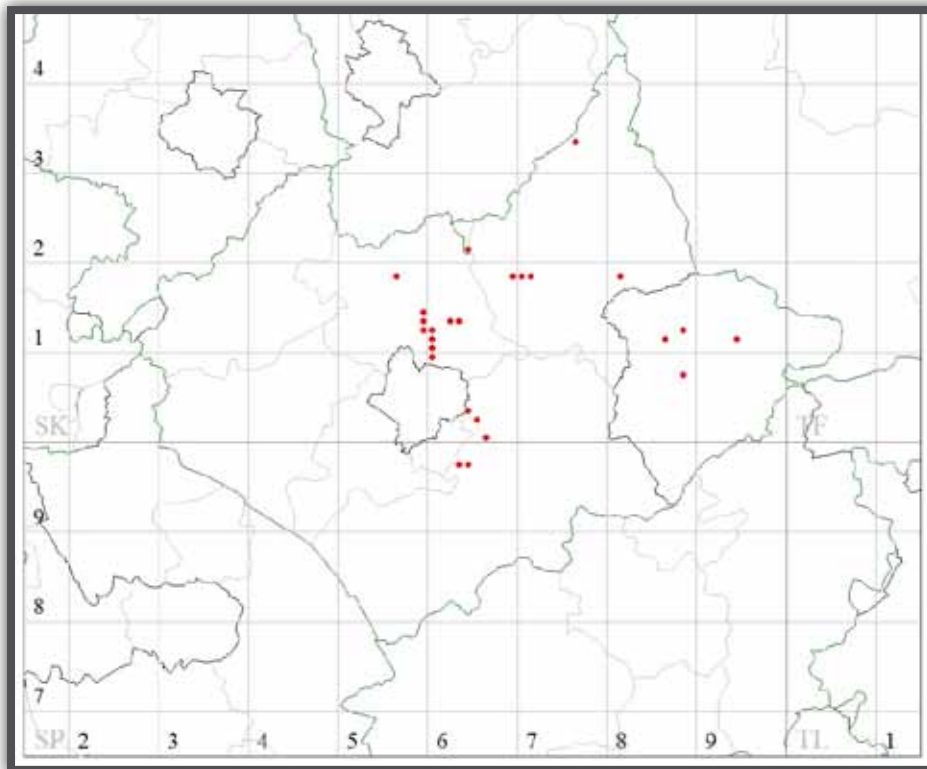


Figure 11. Distribution of Small Red-eyed Damselfly in Leicestershire, VC 55 to the end of the 2011 season.

failed to produce any 2011 records.

For me the most positive outcome of 2011 was the continued increase in knowledge of the distribution of the **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** in VC55. Aided by the efforts of Lorraine Ellison and Barbara Vickers, we were able to increase the 9 known 1km grid squares for this species at the end of 2010 to a healthy 25 by the end of 2011. This included a large and thriving centre of population on the Soar Valley gravel pits between Leicester and Loughborough and the most westerly County record to date, at Pillings Lock. Figure 11 illustrates the known distribution of Small Red-eyed Damselfly in VC55.

Matthew Billings' diligent efforts again paid dividends, with the discovery of a previously unrecorded colony of **Hairy Dragonflies** in the Soar Valley just north of Leicester.

2012 is, of course, the final survey year as we strive to collate data for the 2013 Atlas and I would urge all recorders to make a determined effort to locate new sites and send in their records. I found 'Google Earth' immensely useful in locating potential new sites in 2011 and would urge others to check the local landscape using this fantastic tool.

Should anyone wish to help directly with the final push please contact me by email and I will be very happy to offer advice on where best to apply your efforts in order to fill the gaps in the vicinity of your personal locality or favoured recording area.

Cheshire – VC58

David Kitching

The warm spring saw the earliest ever record for a Cheshire breeding

species when Bryan Roberts found three teneral Large-red Damselfly *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* at Mobberley on 1st April. A large hawk dragonfly was seen at Cholmodeley on 24th March and from the description this might have been **Vagrant Emperor** *Hemianax ephippiger*. On 12th November Paul Brewster made the final sighting at Burton Mere where he found several **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* flying.

Overall after a good start with six species flying by the end of April the rest of the year was characterised by low numbers and a decline in the number of records submitted. Highlights in the early summer were that the **Hairy Dragonfly** *Brachytron pratense* was confirmed to be present around Bar Mere in south Cheshire, and the **White-legged Damselfly** *Platycnemis pennipes* was found to be still present on the Dee around Aldford and Farndon albeit in low numbers. In the south-west the presence of **Variable Damselfly** *Coenagrion pulchellum* was proved at Caldecott Green.

Later in the year there were very few sightings of **Ruddy Darter** *Sympetrum sanguineum*. **Black-tailed Skimmer** *Orthetrum cancellatum* was seen ovipositing at Danes Moss, Macclesfield on the edge of the hills. Whether this raised bog is suitable for the species remains to be seen.

Once again few records were received from south and south-east



Figure 12. Male Broad-bodied Chaser. Keith Gittens.





Figure 13. River Derwent near Isel, Cumbria, a new site for the Banded Demoiselle in 2011. David Clarke.

Cheshire and the Wirral. Searching for **Variable Damselfly** and **Hairy Dragonfly** to the south of Churton yielded some success in 2011 and would be worth repeating in 2012.

Beautiful Demoiselle *Calopteryx virgo* was only recorded once in the past year and I suspect that it could be found on the streams running into the Weaver between Crewe and Winsford and also to the west of the A41 between Malpas and Broxton.

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

South-east Yorkshire – V C61

Paul Ashton

The prolonged dry spring got the season off to an unprecedented start. Despite the latitude of the Vice County, eight species had been recorded by the end of April. **Red-eyed Damselfly**, **Hairy Dragonfly** and **Four-spotted Chasers** being the highlight species. **Hairy Dragonfly** continues its spread with records from new sites, Leven Canal offering the best chance to see this dragonfly in good numbers.

From June the weather became less suitable for recording, with a significant down turn in the number of records received. Heathland in the VC dried out due to the lack of rain and species associated with this habitat were severely affected. Numerous observers found Skipwith

Common to be very disappointing, to the point that no further visits were made due to virtual absence of dragonflies.

2012 is the final recording year for the National Atlas. There are a few areas that remain under recorded, I would ask that observers submit any records they may hold for these areas, or target them during 2012. The Wolds hold little suitable habitat, the main one being man made ponds. Don't underestimate the importance small garden ponds, though counts may be small, one garden pond last year recorded ten species, all in single figures, ensuring that one 10km square reached its target. The Holderness area to the east also remains under recorded, therefore any observation from this area would be welcome.

For a more detail view of what happened in 2011, visit the Yorkshire Branch website at www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who continue sent in their records during 2011.

North-east Yorkshire – VC 62

Keith Gittens

The good weather got the season off to a great start, so instead of just **Large Reds**, 5 species had emerged by the end of April. **Four-spotted Chaser**, **Blue-tailed**, **Azure** and **Common Blue Damselflies** all being

recorded. New sites were discovered for **Broad-bodied Chaser** at woodland pools along the Hambleton Hills. The weather also brought recorders out and some new sites were identified along the northern edge of the North York Moors.

Unfortunately it was not to last and as we headed in to June the weather became cool and unsettled reducing the opportunity to get out and record. There was little significant rain however so sites started to dry up, compounding matters. Ruddy Darter was not recorded at one site, which had previously held good numbers and **Common Darter** populations were erratic, with summer records down on expectations.

Small Red-eyed Damselfly was again recorded at a site near Scarborough but no evidence of breeding has been noted for two years.

Parts of the Vale of York remain under recorded due to the lack of suitable and accessible sites. Many thanks to those who have sent in records for 2011 regardless of how few, some are better than none! Let's hope for better weather in 2012 so we can complete Atlas coverage.

South-west and North-west Yorkshire – VC 63 & 65

Tom Hubball

I would like start off by thanking everyone who has submitted records over the past year and especially those that visited sites regularly, providing me with valuable updates on population fluctuations over the 2011 season. You know who you are.

The season overall for both VC63 (South-west Yorkshire) and VC65 (North-west Yorkshire) was very poor. A late start, in comparison with other areas to the south and east, and cool, overcast conditions throughout the 'summer' meant that when any dragonflies were recorded, their numbers were significantly down on previous years. Some VC63 recorders even remarked that some sites appear to have lost their dragonflies altogether. Whether this was due to poor weather around the time of emergence or the two



hard winters knocking back larval development or a combination of the two remains to be seen but I hope that the 2012 season will see a marked improvement in numbers of both individuals and species recorded.

As 2012 is the final year of the BDS Atlas project, one area of Yorkshire that needs particular attention is VC65. Mostly covering the limestone area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and north into Teesdale, this area is particularly under-recorded due to the underlying limestone geology preventing a lot standing water from accumulating and inaccessibility due to the altitude and distance from roads, etc. Therefore if anyone is taking a holiday in the UK this year and are visiting God's Own County, if you spot ANY dragonfly, please do send that record in as you will probably have a unique spot in the Atlas which you can call your own.

Unfortunately due to other commitments I have relinquished the roles of VC63 and VC65 Recorder and these areas have been taken on by Paul Ashton, the VC61 (South-east Yorkshire) Recorder and Keith Gittens, the VC62 (North-east Yorkshire) Recorder. If anyone is interested in taking on the recording responsibilities of either of these two Vice Counties on a permanent basis, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Recorders mentioned above. However, I am still doing my bit as I have taken over from Helen Dinsdale as VC64 (Mid-west Yorkshire) Recorder. On behalf of the BDS and the Yorkshire Branch of the BDS in particular, I'd like to publicly thank Helen for all her efforts over the past few years.

Happy dragonflying!

Cumbria – VC 69 & 70

David Clarke

A frustrating season overall. The prospects offered by a very fine April were dashed peremptorily at the end of that month, to be followed by a very long period of cool, cloudy and almost incessantly windy conditions. Summer was all but cancelled – especially in the

north of the area, and much planned recording was abandoned. Before the non-summer, the unprecedented invasion of **Vagrant Emperors** into western England brought a record from Tarn Hows in the Lake District (Mark Hallett, 27th April). This brought the county list to 29 species, and its 'vagrants' list to 6.

The weather trends seemed not to halt the increasing 'tide' of **Broad-bodied Chasers**, several being reported and photographed by people who do not usually notice dragonflies. This was mainly in the south of the area: a count of around 20 at a very small pool on Whitbarrow Scar in early June was the largest ever such assembly. **Banded Demoiselles** in the north of the area also defied the elements and showed well. This included sightings on the River Derwent near Cockermouth, where Annette Jackson reported them in June. This is a 'new' river system for this species. By contrast, the fragile single-site population of **Variable Damselfly** in West Cumbria, reported on by the Nelsons, seemed to have a very poor year and gives increasing cause for concern.

The **White-faced Darter** re-introduction project moved into its second active year, recorded for posterity in a 4-minute slot on prime-time TV. Filming for this at the donor site had been in perfect weather in April (with earliest ever start of emergence). Miraculously, the clouds rolled back on the day filming at the receiving site in June,

when emergence was well under way. The poor weather quickly resumed thereafter and must have greatly affected breeding success of this and many other species. The very best weather of the year, in late September, brought a **Brown Hawker** to Carlisle – some 80 km north of its usual county range.

As ever, Ian Brodie gave particular support to such recording as was possible, and Cumbria Wildlife Trust volunteers contributed much to the re-introduction project.

Scotland – VC 72 – 112

Pat Batty

The year started well with lots of sunshine and hot weather in late April and early May which lead to early emergence. The **Hairy Dragonfly** emerged on 3rd May, one of the earliest years. Unfortunately the rest of May and June were so cold and wet that there were few adult dragonflies seen and even larvae were scarce. It was the wettest year on record in Scotland. This is the first year I have found **Four-spotted Chaser** and **Northern Emerald** dying of cold during the process of emergence, and a **Golden-ringed** adult in a torpid state whilst egg laying.

Despite this it has been a very productive and interesting year. One highlight was arrival of the **Vagrant Emperor** in April, its sightings were far flung from Orkney to North Uist and KnoweTop Lochs in Dumfries and Galloway. A second migration



Figure 14. Female Black Darter in Ireland. Ulla Harris.



in October lead to sightings at Glen Rothes in Fyfe, and at Annan and Tynghame further south.

In the South West Barbara and Richard Mearns found new breeding sites for the **Keeled Skimmer** and the **Hairy Dragonfly** and the **Emperor Dragonfly** in Wigtownshire. New sites for the **Keeled Skimmer** were discovered by Jonathon Willet at Applecross and in the Loch Maree area. It was also seen on Lismore.

The **Banded Demoiselle** is gradually spreading along the River Tweed, River Teviot near Roxburgh 'Whiteadder Water and in Dumfriesshire

The **Azure Damselfly** continues to spread it was found as far north as Muir of Ord by Andy and Margaret Scott and at Blair Atholl by Stephen Corcoran. The **Southern Hawker** is now in 80 hectads with new sites found from south west to the northern most sighting of egg laying near Lairg and Bonar Bridge by Larry Templeton. A **Southern Hawker** adult was found dead by a garden pond in Roxburghshire on 3rd May (an exceptionally early emergence).

Some new sites have been found for the **Northern Emerald**, in Cowal and Wester Ross. Peter Vandome spent many hours watching and photographing its emergence in poor conditions at Tansley bog over a period of two days. There was no shortage of water in bog pools this year consequently it was possible to find larvae of the **Azure Hawker** from sites on Skye, Rannoch, Glen Strathfarrar and West Ross. Jonathon Willet found a new breeding site at Dundreggan from 310 to 580m some of the highest recorded. Individual adults were also seen in new hectads in the north.

The **Northern Damselfly** adults have been found at another new site near Logierait and Ron Youngman has been working with Forest Enterprise to look at management. This is just one example of the variety of work that has been going on in Scotland.

A new Scottish dragonfly leaflet was produced and launched at the Garden Event in Edinburgh thanks to the hard work of Claire Install and a number of helpers. Alongside this

was a postcard sightings campaign for the Common Darter, for which Keith Noble's picture, above, was chosen.

A number of training events have been run by Jonathon Willet, Stephen Corcoran, Barbara Macritchie and others. Peter Gordon Smith, John Halliday and Graham Smith complete regular transect at their sites and have shown this has been a poor year.

Recording for the Atlas has escalated despite difficult conditions, many thanks to **ALL** who have sent in records, to date I have entered over 4000 records from over 65 recorders which has been about 800 man days. A special mention should be to Barbara and Richard Mearns, Andy Riches in the South West, Don Matthews, Juliette Dinning, Larry Templeton for work in the north, Andy and Margaret Scott, John and Audrey Turner, Tristan Rheinalt for work on Islay and Lewis. Also thanks to RSPB and SNH staff who have sent in records.

However there are still lots of non and under recorded squares to visit in Scotland particularly in Caithness and Sutherland, Shetland, the Western Isles and in Angus and the south central area. So please if you are visiting in 2012 can you help it is the last recording year for the Atlas!

Ireland

Eugenie Regan

This brief report covers Ireland and progress on Dragonfly Ireland. First of all, I must introduce myself as the new Irish Recorder. My name is Dr. Eugenie Regan and I am based at the National Biodiversity Centre in Waterford. My contact details are listed at the back of this issue. I really look forward to working with you and am more than happy to deal with any queries on the Irish dragonflies.

One major advance for Dragonfly Ireland is that all the verified records (over 31,000) can be viewed on the Data Centre's interactive map pages, Biodiversity Maps (maps.biodiversityireland.ie). Records are shown in full so they can easily be related to habitat. If you have any Irish records and they are not on the system please get in touch.

In Spring 2011 the first ever Irish dragonfly red list was published and you can download it from www.npws.ie. Two significant papers on Irish dragonflies appeared in the Journal of the British Dragonfly Society one on *Cordulia aenea* and one on the significant records in the period since 2003.

The Irish 2011 dragonfly year got off to a very interesting start with record early emergences of several species in April and early May. Most notably the **Downy Emerald**, *Cordulia aenea* was found at a new site in south Kerry on the 26th April by Fionn Moore almost 3 weeks before earliest previous date. This brings the number of Irish locations for this species to five. It was subsequently seen in another Kerry site by Claire Heardman, so perhaps this red listed species is on the increase. Ian Rippey recorded the **Irish Bluet**, *Coenagrion lunulatum*, from the Burren in May, a surprising addition to its fauna. Sadly the summer failed to live up to early promise but both the **Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta* and **Emperor Anax** *Anax imperator* showed continuing expansion north and west. Finally November saw some records as species took advantage of the warm conditions.

Migrants were scarce as the summer disappointed but Ulla Harris recorded the first **Red-veined Darter**, *Sympetrum fonscolombii*, at Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford on the 11th July. There were also records along the south coast into early November. **Lesser Emperor Dragonfly**, *Anax parthenope*, was recorded by Geoff Campbell on the 23rd July in Co. Louth and on the same day by Gabriele Tzeschlock and Peter Doyle from Lough Ennell, Co. Westmeath. A coincidence that both sightings of this rare dragonfly were both from the same day?

This is the first year of the DragonflyIreland facebook page and it has been a great success. Lots of interesting records and great photographs were posted over the summer from over 200 fans. The page has turned into an active forum for dragonfly enthusiasts.



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
ENGLAND AND WALES		
1. West Cornwall (with Scilly)	Steve Jones	Herland Bungalow, Godolphin Cross, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 9RL. E-mail: Aparthenope@aol.com
2. East Cornwall	Steve Jones	
3. South Devon	Dave Smallshire	8 Twindle Beer, Chudleigh, Newton Abbot, TQ13 0JP. Tel: 01626 853393, E-mail: davesmall@btinternet.com
4. North Devon	Dave Smallshire	
5. South Somerset	Chris Iles	Honeysuckle House, 45 Blackberry Way, Midsomer Norton, Somerset BA3 2RN Email: kifill22@hotmail.com Tel: 01761 414798
6. North Somerset	Position vacant	Send records to Steve Prentice, Dragonflies in Focus Officer
7. North Wiltshire	Steve Covey	130, White Edge Moor, Liden, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 6LY. Tel: 01793 349040, E-mail: steve.covey@ntlworld.com
8. South Wiltshire	Steve Covey	
9. Dorset	Andrew Brown	No.5, 25 Windsor Road, Bournemouth. BH5 1DT Tel: 07891 573267 Email: brown_a_r@yahoo.co.uk
10. Isle of Wight	Elaine Rice	25 Bannock Road, Whitwell, Isle of Wight, PO38 2RD. Tel: 01983 730187 E-mail: erice73737@aol.com
11. South Hampshire	Peter Allen	Hackers, Martin, Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 3LA. Tel: 01725 519 269, E-mail: allenbds@waitrose.com
12. North Hampshire	Peter Allen	
13. West Sussex	Penny Green	Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill, Shoreham Rd, Henfield, Sussex BN5 9SD, Tel: 01273 497521 Email: pennygreen@sussexwt.org.uk
14. East Sussex	Penny Green	
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	Alistair Kirk	Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, c/o Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JN. Tel: 01483 795448 Email: alistair.kirk@surreywt.org.uk
18. South Essex	Ted Benton	13 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PY. Tel: 01206 86732, E-mail: tbenton@essex.ac.uk
19. North Essex	Ted Benton	
20. Hertfordshire	Roy Woodward	62c High Street, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN8 0AH. Tel: 07855 567332. Email: roy.rkwoodward@ntlworld.com
21. Middlesex	Position vacant	Send records to Steve Prentice, Dragonflies in Focus Officer
22. Berkshire	Mike Turton	7 Fawcett Crescent, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 3HX. E-mail: berksdragonflies@tiscali.co.uk
23. Oxfordshire	Anthony Brownett	28 Colesbourne Road, Brookside, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 4TB. E-mail: ab@brooksidebooks.co.uk
24. Buckinghamshire	Alan Nelson	74 Holland Way, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK16 0LW. E-mail: bucksdragonflies@googlemail.com
25. East Suffolk	Adrian Parr	10 Orchard Way, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 5BX. Tel: 01284 810 465. E-mail: adrian.parr@btinternet.com
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: BDSPamTaylor@dragonflysoc.org.uk
28. West Norfolk	Pam Taylor	
29. Cambridgeshire	Val Perrin	13, Pettitts Lane, Dry Drayton, Cambs, CB3 8BT. Tel/Fax: 01954 780467, E-mail: valperrin@aol.com
30. Bedfordshire	David Anderson	88 Eastmoor Park, Harpenden. AL5 1BP. Tel. 01582 712604. E-mail: dragonflies@bnhs.org.uk
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: mark.p.tyrrell@ntlworld.com
33. E. Gloucestershire	Ingrid Twissell	Arfonia, The Green, Churchdown, Glos., GL3 2LE. Tel: 01452 714413, E-mail: candidtwissell@btinternet.com
34. W. Gloucestershire	Ingrid Twissell	
35. Monmouthshire ¹	Ian Smith	Larus, 1 Hook Close, Osbaston, Monmouth, Gwent, NP25 3BD. E-mail: IDSLarus@aol.com
36. Herefordshire	Peter Garner	233 West Malvern Road, West Malvern, WR14 4BE. Tel: 01684 564 957,
37. Worcestershire	Mike Averill	49 James Road, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 2TR. Tel: 01562 638571, E-mail: mike.averill@blueyonder.co.uk
38. Warwickshire	Peter Reeve	The Outspan, Leamington Hastings, nr. Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 8DZ. Tel: 01926 632 400, E-mail: peter@reeve60.org.uk
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40. Shropshire	Sue McLamb	E-mail: mclamb1@btinternet.com Tel: 01584 876163
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42. Breconshire ¹	Keith Noble	25 Belle Vue Gardens, Brecon, LD3 7NY, Tel: 01874 620133, E-mail: knoble.kn@btinternet.com
43. Radnorshire ¹	Bob Dennison	Maes y Geidfa, Crossgates, LLandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6RP. Tel: 01597 851 702. E-mail: rd19366@googlegmail.com
44. Carmarthenshire ¹	Stephen Coker	Mountain Grove, Clarbeston Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA63 4SG Tel: 01437 563 566 E-mail: stephenandanne.coker@virgin.net
45. Pembrokeshire ¹	Stephen Coker	
46. Cardiganshire ¹	Lin Gander	Penwalk Llechryd, Cardigan Ceredigion, SA43 2PS. Tel: 01239 682405 E-mail: lingander@strandings.demon.co.uk
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48. Merionethshire ¹	Allan Brandon	
49. Caernarvonshire ¹	Allan Brandon	
50. Denbighshire ¹	Allan Brandon	
51. Flintshire ¹	Allan Brandon	
52. Anglesey ¹	Allan Brandon	
53. South Lincolnshire	Nick Tribe/Richard Chadd	Nick Tribe, 12 Little Bargate Street, Lincoln, LN5 8JR Tel: 01522 822069 E-mail: nick.tribe@ntlworld.com
54. North Lincolnshire	Nick Tribe/Richard Chadd	
55. Leicestershire (with Rutland)	Ian Merrill	125 Church Lane, Whitwick, Coalville, Leicestershire. LE67 5DP Tel: 01530 815886, E-mail: i.merrill@btopenworld.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 Also online: www.broccross.com
59. South Lancashire	Steve White	Email: stevewhite102@btinternet.com . 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 , Website: www.erdragonflies.co.uk
62. North-east Yorkshire	Keith Gittens	34, Fairfield, Thirsk, YO7 1FD. Tel: 01845 523545. E-mail: keith@brilliantemerald.wanadoo.co.uk
63. South-west Yorkshire	Position vacant – send records to Paul Ashton	E-mail: vc61@erdragonflies.co.uk
64. Mid-west Yorkshire	Tom Hubball	4 South View Terrace, Silsden, W.Yorks, BD20 0AS. Tel: 01535 678334, Email: vc64dragonfly@virginmedia.com
65. North-west Yorkshire	Keith Gittens	See VC62
66. Durham	Harry Eales	11 Ennerdale Terrace, Low Westwood, Derwentside, Co. Durham NE17 7PN. Tel: 01207 560732, E-mail: harryeales@talktalk.net
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
SCOTLAND		
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: dragonfly.batty@gmail.com
113. Channel Isles	Julian Medland	Clyne, Rue de la Ronde Cheminée, Castel, Guernsey, GY5 7GE. Tel: 01481 255 411, Email: medland@cwgsy.net
NORTHERN IRELAND and EIRE	All records to Eugenie Regan	National Biodiversity Data Centre, WIT West Campus, Carriganore, Co. Waterford, Ireland. Tel: + 353 (0) 51 306240 Email: eregan@biodiversityireland.ie
Migrant Dragonfly Project	Adrian Parr	10 Orchard Way, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 5BX. Tel: 01284 810 465. E-mail: adrian.parr@btinternet.com