

Dragonfly News 81



The Magazine of the British Dragonfly Society
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The Magazine of the British Dragonfly Society

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

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

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Editor's Notes

Fiona McKenna

Welcome to the spring edition of Dragonfly News, which includes a summary of the latest dragonfly recording news. You will find detailed updates from our network of County Dragonfly Recorder (CDR) volunteers on our website under the 'Recording' section on the main menu, then select 'County Dragonfly Recorder Reports' from the drop down menu.

Also in this edition award winning photographer Andrew Fusek Peters shares an out-of-this-world view of Black Darters on the Long Mynd. Julian Cartwright introduces us to Smestow Valley and our Scotland Officer Daniele reports on the newest residents at one of our Scottish Dragonfly Hotspots.

The Young Naturalist section is packed with interesting interviews: our very own Dave Smallshire (pictured left) tells us about his favourite dragonfly experiences, Amelia shares her passion for wildlife with us all and Colin Marshall from Living World Education lets us know what it is like 'Working With Wildlife'.

In addition to our latest news I have some news of my own too as this is, sadly, my final Dragonfly News as Editor. By the time this magazine has landed on your doormat I will have already bid a fond farewell to the lovely team at BDS and embarked upon a new role with the Environment Agency. I was into my fourth year with the BDS and really have enjoyed my time here. I will miss the whole team, including you our members – I have appreciated your comments, feedback and encouragement over the years – thank you. I may be leaving the staff team but I plan to sign up as a volunteer and keep flying the flag for dragonflies in my home county of Lincolnshire. So, I hope to bump into you at an event in the future!

I wish you all the most enjoyable summer, filled with long, sunny days of dragonfly watching. Goodbye sounds far too final, so I will say farewell until I see you all again!



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Cover Image:

Black Darter by Andrew Fusek Peters.

Andrew is an award winning photographer who has a deep passion for capturing magical moments in wild places and inspiring others to connect with the natural world. Andrew's work has been published in national papers and books. You can see more of his stunning work on his website.

Website: www.andrewfusekpeters.com

Twitter: @2peters



Trustees' Report

Tim Coleshaw



As a new member of the BDS Trustee team it was with great pleasure that I accepted an invitation to write the Trustees' report for this issue of Dragonfly News. By way of a brief introduction, I became a Trustee in November 2020 after retiring from Natural England where I had worked in National Nature Reserve management for 30 years. For 20 of those years I worked closely with BDS as host for the various Conservation Officers who have been based in NE's Telford office and have always been impressed with the achievements and influence that BDS has been able to exert in the field of dragonfly conservation. 2021 was a year of steady progress for the BDS. Whilst we have all been able to get out and about a little more than 2020, the restrictions on group gatherings effectively curtailed most of our opportunities to meet up in person. Instead, Zoom calls have allowed us to continue to meet virtually and over the year many of us have become experts in the intricacies of switching the Mute button on and off! Whilst no substitute for face-to-face meetings these

calls have had some advantages; they have encouraged more people to attend our meetings, they have allowed us to invite speakers from wider geographic locations and have significantly reduced our individual carbon footprints. So while we hope to return to face-to-face gatherings in 2022, my guess is that online meetings are here to stay and will form an important part of our communication channels in the future.

A major landmark for BDS in the year was the publication of State of Dragonflies 2021, the culmination of years of recording and analysis by many of our members. This is an excellent report which will help inform not only the work of the BDS but also provide valuable data for other organisations, including those who will be reviewing the British Dragonfly Red List in 2022, a globally recognised procedure for identifying our most threatened species. And to put some icing on the cake, we were also delighted to hear that BDS had been awarded the John Sawyer Open Data Award 2021 by the National Biodiversity Network for our outstanding contribution to the collection and sharing of wildlife data. Whilst much credit for this must go to our Records Officer David Hepper and the County Recorders, this award also reflects the hard work of all of you who contribute dragonfly records to this important dataset. We had further good news late in the year when, following on from our generous grant from the John Ellerman Foundation, BDS received a three year grant from

the Volunteering Support Fund to run an exciting new project for BDS volunteers in Scotland which will be managed by Andrea Hudspeth, one of our Scottish Officers.

With current raised awareness of the importance of protecting our natural environment and the upsurge in interest in wildlife as a result of the various pandemic lockdowns, it is perhaps timely that BDS is currently reviewing its operations and rolling out a new organisational strategy which will provide a framework for our work over the coming years. Thanks are due to everyone who expressed their views on our website questionnaire which gave us some strong messages about what you expect from the Society. These have now been fed into a document with four strategic aims around which we will be planning our work for the next 5 years.

The first aim of the strategy centres on promoting the recording and monitoring of dragonflies where we will continue to encourage everyone to carry on recording their dragonfly sightings and provide the raw data that helps us formulate our priorities for dragonfly conservation. We will also aim to keep abreast of the latest technology to make the uploading of data as painless and streamlined as possible, keeping you out in the field instead of slaving at your desks. Our second aim covers dragonfly conservation where we work closely with land-managing partners, providing them with



advice on dragonfly conservation. However, for many species, although we have a good understanding of the habitats they occupy we know very little about the environmental parameters that they need to survive, particularly in the light of climate change. Over the coming years we plan to address this and increase our knowledge of the particular needs of key species, focussing on those that State of Dragonflies has identified as being a cause for concern, to enable us to provide better-informed advice.

Our third priority area is all about people. As large, showy insects which can be easily attracted to gardens, dragonflies provide a fantastic way of harnessing new-found interest in local wildlife and, using dragonflies as the lever, we hope to inspire many more people to take an interest in the natural environment and its well-being. In particular we want to engage people from a wider range of social backgrounds and encourage a whole new generation of naturalists to join or support the BDS. Planned projects include expanding and promoting our series of Dragonfly Hotspots as great places to see dragonflies, increasing our team of Champions and Ambassadors and setting up a Youth Panel to take on the views of our younger supporters.

Our final aim is around our own people - our staff and volunteers. Numbers of both have expanded rapidly in the last few years and we need to make sure that we have good organisational structures in place to manage this resource and ensure that everyone has the skills they need to undertake their roles and feel that the work they do is fully supported and recognised.

So there is a lot to do over the next few years but much to be excited about and I am very pleased to be part of a fantastic team that is working to make **#Team Dragonfly** bigger, better and even more influential!

Membership Matters

Hi all, I hope you are well and are looking forward to the new dragonfly season. It is the time of year for you to renew your membership of the BDS (the membership year runs from the 1st April to the 30th March).

For those of you who do not pay your membership by standing order you should have already received a membership renewal form, either by post or via e-mail.

If you have not already paid your membership for this coming year, there are 2 ways that you can proceed:

1. On our website using credit / debit card or PayPal. Just follow the link for membership renewal. Please remember to quote your membership number if you know it (that helps with the paperwork!)

2. By cheque. If you pay your membership annually by cheque please could you return the membership renewal form to me together with your membership fee (if you have not got a renewal form or cannot print one a covering letter will do).

If you have not received a renewal form and you are unsure if you have set up a standing order please contact me:

Phone: 01733 204286

Email: membership@british-dragonflies.org.uk

I will then check your details on the database.

If you normally pay by cheque or via the website you may find it more convenient to set up a standing order for this and any

subsequent payment. If you wish to do this please could you complete all the sections on a membership renewal form and return it to me; alternatively if you use internet banking you can set up a Standing Order, with your bank, very easily online.

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

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

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

Thank you

Lynn



News From You

We love hearing from you! Here are a selection of some of our favourite communications from you:

Xander Johnston is a young insect champion based in the highlands of Scotland. His dad Ross contacted us with the exciting news that Xander had been filming in the Cairngorms with BBC Countryfile. The piece featured Xander giving an overview of how to survey for Northern Damselfly larvae. He did an amazing job at championing these rare insects and mentioned the British Dragonfly Society recording scheme and how everyone could get involved. Top work Xander!

If you missed it head to the BBC iPlayer and search for Countryfile episode 'Cairngorms' shown on the 9th of January 2022. Xander is on at 9 minutes 17 seconds into the programme.



Above: Xander presenting on BBC Countryfile and a Northern Damselfly larva.



Above: @markdavidpitt on Instagram tagged us into a lovely photo of a pair of Emerald Damselflies in a 'heart shape' to celebrate Valentine's Day in February. Sadly, our State of Dragonflies 2021 report identified a decline in occupancy in this species. Every record of them is precious and can help us to understand more about why their range has declined.

Below: @terrynaturepics also on Instagram tagged us into another Valentine's Day themed photo! This time it was a pair of Migrant Hawkers, taken last year at Three Lakes at Westmill Farm in Hertfordshire.



Keep In Touch



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society**



Above: Dr Jessica Ware is an eminent Odonatologist based at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and gave an excellent talk at our last Autumn Meeting. Dr Ware tagged us into a Tweet letting us know that she was championing dragonflies on a brand new Netflix series called 'Getting Curious'. Jonathan Van Ness (who you might know from Queer Eye) stars in the show and tries to dispel myths on a range of topics. Episode one is all about bugs and Dr Ware does a fantastic job at sharing the wonderful world of dragonflies with a brand new audience!



Sightings Updates **Adrian Parr**

Migrant News

The early part of the 2021 flight season had seen several highlights, including the arrival of good numbers of **Red-veined Darter**. This species however had a much quieter second half to the year. A locally bred teneral was seen at Sandwich Bay in Kent on 26 August, but only a handful of other late season records were received and clearly little in the way of either local emergences or fresh immigration took place during autumn 2021.

Lesser Emperor had a good year in 2021, with records from over 50 sites by the end of the season. Many of these had also recorded the species during several other recent years, and local breeding populations now seem to be becoming increasingly widespread. Sites where breeding now seems likely include Windmill Farm in Cornwall, Longham Lakes in Dorset, Eastbourne (West Rise Marsh) in East Sussex, Dungeness in Kent, the London Wetland Centre in Greater London, Hilfield Park Reservoir in Hertfordshire, Loompit Lake in Suffolk, both the Trinity Broad complex and Winterton Dunes in Norfolk and also Ripple Lakes in Worcestershire. Significant immigration also took place during the year, with the most northerly report being from the Whitley Bay area of Northumberland on 18 August.

Southern Migrant Hawker is no longer confined to the breeding strongholds around the Greater Thames Estuary that were established just over a decade ago, and during late summer 2021 the species was widely reported from southern Britain. While much of this no doubt involves an increasing spread of local breeding colonies, substantial fresh migration also clearly took place. August saw Spring 2022

records from unexpected areas such as west Cornwall (several sites), Beer Head in Devon, Portland Bill and West Bexington in Dorset, the New Forest in Hampshire, Spurn in East Yorkshire and Hilbre Island in Cheshire. A male was also noted at Dale Airfield, Pembrokeshire, on 14 September. With breeding activity being seen at a number of these new sites, it seems likely that Southern Migrant Hawker will continue its rapid colonisation and spread throughout southern Britain.

Vagrant Emperor again had a good year in 2021, and now seems to have become quite regular in Britain. There was a significant autumn influx, with records from almost 25 sites during the period early September–mid November; most sightings came from the southern England and East Anglian coastal counties, but during October there was also a report from Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, and three records from the Scottish Islands (at Scatsta and East Burrafirth in Shetland and at Kirkwall in the Orkneys). Most records involved single individuals, but towards the end of September three were present at Waxham in Norfolk, and up to ten at nearby Winterton. The final individual of the year was spotted on St Mary's in the Scilly Isles on New Year's Eve.

Of our recent colonist damselflies, **Willow Emerald Damselfly** continued its rapid range expansion, with a considerable number of records from new areas, particularly in Sussex, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and many parts of Yorkshire as far north as Scarborough. Although no new 'most northerly' record was set, a female seen at Staveley NR, North Yorkshire, in early October is a noteworthy north-westerly sighting. The most westerly record

for the species is now from Smestow Valley NR on the western edge of Wolverhampton, where a male was seen on 23 September; two records from the New Forest area (at Verwood and the Franchises Wood RSPB Reserve) during September are also of note. As far as other species are concerned, **Southern Emerald Damselfly** had probably its best year ever in Britain during 2021, certainly in terms of the spread of records received. Reports came from 15 sites in south-east England between the Isle of Wight and Norfolk, with a concentration in the Greater Thames Estuary area; records included sightings from almost all the recently active breeding areas, but sadly not from the inland colony near Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire, which now appears to have become extinct following continuing habitat disruption. As well as the records from known breeding areas, several wandering individuals and/or fresh immigrants were also identified, including an ovipositing female seen at Beeston Common, Norfolk, on 19 August. Finally, **Dainty Damselfly** also had a good year during 2021. Not only were high numbers reported from its main British site at Sandwich Bay in Kent (the peak count being roughly 400), but at least one new site for the species was also discovered in north Kent.



Above: newly emerged Willow Emerald by Marc Heath



Last Dates for 2021 *Adrian Parr*

Weather-wise, autumn 2021 turned out to be rather benign in much of Britain, with the September–November period being the third warmest since detailed records began in 1884. No doubt influenced by this, a number of unusually late dragonfly sightings were made and several species produced either record, or near-record, late dates. A September report of Norfolk Hawker – backed up by a photo – is unprecedented in Britain, and Willow Emerald Damselfly, Small Red-eyed Damselfly and Black Darter similarly produced new records. A Black-tailed Skimmer was also reported on the very late date of 15 October, no doubt reflecting an unusual autumn-time emergence. Such emergences are occasionally seen with several species these days, as our climate continues to change (note also the rather late date for Four-spotted Chaser during 2021). Following reports of Common Darter from no less than eight counties during December, the final report of the year for a resident species was on 16 December, when a female Common Darter was spotted in Suffolk. Amazingly, an immigrant Vagrant Emperor was then seen on the Scilly Isles as late as New Year’s Eve!

Details of all latest dates currently to hand are given below:

SPECIES	LAST DATE	PLACE	OBSERVER
Banded Demoiselle	04-Oct-21	Northamptonshire	J. Underwood
Beautiful Demoiselle	10-Oct-21	Cornwall	M. Powell/D. Viner
Scarce Emerald Damselfly	28-Aug-21	Norfolk	J. Baxter
Emerald Damselfly	06-Oct-21	Aberdeenshire	A. Strachan
Willow Emerald Damselfly	26-Nov-21	Nottinghamshire	M. Newman
Azure Damselfly	01-Oct-21	Cornwall/Essex	D. Viner/A. Cox
Variable Damselfly	11-Aug-21	East Sussex	S. Linington
Red-eyed Damselfly	24-Sep-21	Berkshire/Norfolk	N. Percival/N. Elsey
Small Red-eyed Damselfly	15-Oct-21	Berkshire	B. Walker
Large Red Damselfly	27-Sep-21	Cornwall	D. Cooper
Common Blue Damselfly	21-Oct-21	Nottinghamshire/NE Yorkshire	R. Woodward/D. Lombard
Blue-tailed Damselfly	06-Oct-21	Nottinghamshire	R. Woodward
Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly	21-Sep-21	Berkshire	J. Warren
Small Red Damselfly	26-Sep-21	Wiltshire	S. Levy
White-legged Damselfly	21-Sep-21	Kent	J. Howard
Southern Migrant Hawker	22-Sep-21	Suffolk	W. Brame
Southern Hawker	21-Nov-21	Hampshire	J. Thomas
Brown Hawker	10-Oct-21	Derbyshire	D. Jones
Norfolk Hawker	16-Sep-21	Norfolk	P. Spear



Last Dates for 2021 continued

Common Hawker	19-Nov-21	Cumbria	J. Miles
Migrant Hawker	25-Nov-21	East Sussex	S. Linington
Emperor Dragonfly	15-Oct-21	Berkshire/Essex	B. Walker/B. Bishop
Hairy Dragonfly	25-Jul-21	South-east Yorkshire	M. Roberts
Golden-ringed Dragonfly	06-Oct-21	Glamorgan	M. Bailey
Downy Emerald	29-Aug-21	Hampshire	S. Cham
Brilliant Emerald	12-Aug-21	Argyllshire	P. Batty
White-faced Darter	09-Aug-21	Shropshire (vc Denbigshire)	R. Comont
Broad-bodied Chaser	12-Sep-21	Hampshire	S. Hewitt
Scarce Chaser	14-Aug-21	Suffolk	L. Biggart
Four-spotted Chaser	22-Sep-21	Durham	K. Walton
Black-tailed Skimmer	15-Oct-21	Berkshire	B. Walker
Keeled Skimmer	26-Sep-21	Surrey	S. Ali
Black Darter	22-Nov-21	Shropshire	S. Barlow
Ruddy Darter	16-Oct-21	Norfolk	G. Bond
Common Darter	16-Dec-21	Suffolk	C. Bridge

Gift Aid Declarations

Many long-standing members of the Society have provided Gift Aid declarations in the past which predate our new form as a Charitable Incorporated Institution. We have been advised that it is desirable that we ask these members to provide fresh Gift Aid declarations to avoid any future issues. We aim to do this in a way which minimises the cost to the Society and makes completion simple for members. A declaration can be provided by clicking on the Gift Aid button on our website and completing and submitting the form that is displayed. You only need to provide your name and home address including post code. No signature is needed. You must of course be a valid UK taxpayer as set out in the declaration.

Please complete the declaration if you joined BDS before 19th July 2016 (which is when we became a CIO.) You don't need to do this if you have paid your subscription via our website but we would ask you to do so if you pay by Standing Order. If in doubt about whether a new declaration is needed, or if you have not previously provided a declaration, please complete the form.



Black Darter Dragonfly – a Wildlife Wonder on The Long Mynd Nature Reserve.

Andrew Fusek Peters



The Black Darter is Britain's smallest dragonfly and the male is our only completely black dragonfly. As its name suggests, it darts around heath, moor and bog pools in the late summer season and, sadly, has been in serious decline during the last 50 years.

I first became interested in this exquisite species five years ago during my long-term and ongoing commission for the National Trust to photograph the flora and fauna of the Long Mynd nature reserve in Shropshire. As the heather began to flower in August, I was exploring the bog pools behind Pole Cottage right on top of the Long Mynd. Before the National Trust bought the reserve in 1965 with the support of local fundraising, the Mynd was a shooting moor in poor condition. Ronald Stevens was the owner and he lived through the late spring to Autumn at the cottage that is now long gone. One of his alterations to the Mynd was to have a profound effect. There were small bog pools behind the cottage and he had these dug out much larger to create duck decoy ponds.

Fast forward many years and this graceful set of substantial pools harbours a healthy population of Black Darters, and earlier in the season, Four-spotted Chasers. Not far away in the wet flushes, the Golden-ringed Dragonflies are good indicators of a healthy ecosystem. The Long Mynd has come a long way since the overgrazed



Header image: Black Darter roosting under the Milky Way. Above: Black Darter covered in dew at dawn.

and overgrown poor quality upland that the National Trust inherited. Huge amounts of conservation work, often involving hard-working and willing volunteers and negotiating with farmers and commoners over ancient grazing rights have seen a better balance of land use between the sheep, ponies and wildlife.

My own interest in the Black Darters began when I took an evening walk among the bog land and acres of reeds one sunset in August. As the sun was low, I spied something small and shimmering clinging to one of the reeds. I had found my first roosting Black Darter and to say I was excited would be an understatement. As my photography has evolved, I am less interested in capturing the species alone. What I am chasing is light and beauty, always with the hope that if I can move viewers through my photos, it will make them think that such small delights deserve our attention, our thoughts and our actions to save these miniature glittering jewels. As my passion for these dragonflies grew, I found myself attacked by midges as I lay on the ground to line up wings and setting sun and on the same evening, turning round to see a female high up on a reed as the moon rose behind her. Another evening as the stars came out over this Dark Sky Discovery site, I worked out a way to capture a roosting male and Milky Way in the same shot. Dawn was also a time of wonder when it was cold enough to bedeck the darters in dew. What an honour to be among such delicate and brief lives and to witness, as the light rises, how they vibrate their wings to shake off the dew and begin their day again. Here's hoping that the darters can recover, but it's good to know that on the Long Mynd, their restored habitat sees them doing so well.





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Dragonfly Conservation Group

DCG Convenor - Dr Pam Taylor

The DCG didn't meet, online or in person, as a complete group for two years between October 2019 and October 2021. In part this was due to Covid, which curtailed recording and conservation activities for much of that time. The other main reason was the eighteen-month production process between early 2020 and September 2021 for our State of Dragonflies report. There were smaller online meetings to discuss aspects of that work, as well as lots of emails between group members about recording, conservation and all other aspects of the DCG's usual work.

Our State of Dragonflies 2021 report highlighted the changing fortunes of our dragonfly species and in particular the declines in occupancy in Britain and Ireland of five of our forty-six resident and regular migrant species, including Emerald Damselfly, Black Darter and Common Hawker. A further three species have declined in one or more of the separate countries. For example both Blue-tailed Damselfly and White-faced Darter have declined in England. Highlighting these declines is all well and good, but we can't stop there. A major task for the DCG now is to investigate and try to understand the reasons behind these changes. We believe that climate change has played a role, either directly or indirectly, for many species, but changes in habitat quality and quantity have also had a huge impact.

Despite the ever growing interest in dragonflies, there is still much we don't know about their actual requirements, especially during the larval stage. For many we can describe broad habitat types, but what exactly is it within those habitats that attracts each species? A few, such as Southern Damselfly, have been well researched, but we now need to look more closely at some of our other species and encourage more academic research where we can.

Another area of work for the DCG is encouraging and informing the conservation, creation and restoration of dragonfly habitats. Priority Site Assessments play a key role in identifying important breeding areas for dragonflies. There are two sides to this assessment. On the one side are sites that are nationally or locally important for our special species: those on the British Red Data List (due for review by DCG members in 2022/23) or important in a particular area. The other side of the assessment concerns sites that hold a diverse and abundant range of dragonfly species. Priority Site Assessments were launched nationally in 2006 and by the time you read this article, the DCG should have reviewed both the criteria and the thresholds to bring the assessment process up-to-date. You can find full details in the recording section of our website.

Finally, I'd like to mention ponds. We already have Pondwatch on the second weekend of June. This began in 2020 and was so popular, we've made it an annual event. It encourages everyone to take an interest in ponds and in particular our garden ponds and similar. Now we want to move things out into the wider countryside more by encouraging greater pond creation and restoration in farmland and rewilding projects everywhere. Keep an eye out for further news of these initiatives as the year progresses.

Editors note: Since writing this article Pam has recently been invited to be President of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society from April 2022 until March 2023.



Emerald Damselfly by Pam Taylor



Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly by Pam Taylor



Our Work in England

Recording Summary by Eleanor Colver

This summary outlines the highlights of the 2021 season based on Vice County (VC) reports submitted by the County Dragonfly Recorders. You can find the full reports on the BDS website in the Recording section.

Compared with 2020, many Country Dragonfly Recorders (CDRs) noted a drop in the number of records they received in 2021. It appears, with the easing of lock down regulations, everyone is getting back to normal life with less time for watching dragonflies. Another reason could be the particularly miserable spring that was experienced by much of the UK. It certainly had an impact on early season species; the first records for **Large Red Damselfly** on the Isle of Man were on 2 May and 15 May, and early emerging species were delayed by about a month in Westmorland with Furness and Cumberland, compared to 2020. Bucking the trend, Norfolk had its earliest ever record for the species on 29 March, while Shropshire had its earliest ever record for **Blue-tailed Damselfly** (26 April) and **Variable Damselfly** (2 May). Another early season species, the **Hairy Dragonfly** reportedly did well in many VCs; it was found at a new site in Wiltshire and two new sites along the River Test in North Hampshire; there is also now proof of breeding in Worcestershire.

The rest of the season, for much of the country, was incredibly dry and some CDRs noted desiccation of heathland wetlands, a concern for their specialist dragonflies. Dorset had noticeably low counts of **Black Darter** and **Common Hawker**, the decline in North Yorkshire's annual Common Hawker counts continues, and no Black Darter were reported from their Breney Common site on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall. On the other hand, Black Darter seemed to have a good year in Sussex (after just one report in 2020 the species was found at four sites during 2021) and Durham (recorded at 10 sites in 2021 instead of just the usual one); it was found at two new sites in Shropshire too. In other good news, Common Hawker was abundant in Westmorland with Furness/Cumberland.

Other heathland species had interesting records in 2021 too. **Keeled Skimmer** was recorded for the first time in VC 65 (North-west Yorkshire); Leicestershire and Rutland received its second record of the species at Croft Nature Reserve, and it was recorded at two new sites in Oxfordshire. In addition, a male was recorded in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire; there is believed to be a hidden breeding colony somewhere in the forest. **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** reportedly also had a good season in Gloucestershire and in Durham after low counts in 2020.

In Cumbria **White-faced Darters** benefitted from good weather in June; 2000 exuviae were found at their site near Carlisle, 30 emerged at their new introduction site at Drumburgh Moss, and the Foulshaw Moss population continues to grow. The latter site now has breeding **Downy Emerald** as well. Notably, this species had a significant



Golden-ringed Dragonfly by Kat Dahl

jump in records in 2021 in Cheshire. The Westmorland with Furness/Cumberland yearly report also noted the increasing abundance of **Broad-bodied Chaser** - a new favourite of local photographers.

A species of concern is the **Emerald Damselfly**, which apparently had a significantly poor year in Sussex, Wiltshire (only one 2021 record), and Cambridgeshire/Huntingdonshire (four records in 2021). After concerns that the species had been lost from Middlesex in 2020 a record was reported from Hanwell. Interestingly, Cornwall had significantly more Emerald Damselfly records in 2021. **Scarce Emerald Damselfly** is becoming less scarce in Suffolk where its range is expanding. Good numbers were reported from Kent too, and the species was recorded from several areas of Norfolk in 2021, except the Broads. **Willow Emerald Damselfly** continued its explosive range expansion; in Leicestershire and Rutland it has jumped from six sites in 2020 to 90 in 2021 (based on 1km grid square coverage).

Another recent colonist, the **Dainty Damselfly**, had another excellent year at Sandwich Bay, Kent, and was also reported at two other sites on the north Kent coast. Sadly, the future of **Small Red Damselfly** in Norfolk is not so bright; after low counts in 2021 it could be lost from the county in the near future.

Blue-tailed Damselfly was identified in the recent State of Dragonflies report as being in decline, and this rang true in Westmorland with Furness/Cumberland in 2021. **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** was also identified as a declining species which appears to be the case at their Sompting Brooks site in Sussex. Elsewhere 2021 appeared to be a favourable year for the species; it was recorded at four locations in Berkshire (a county



that has gone many years with no records); at a new site in Didcot, Oxfordshire, and numbers were up at Norfolk's main colony. Worcestershire reported its second VC species record and a second site was found in Staffordshire at Cannock Chase. Another highlight in the Staffordshire report was the recording of **Banded Demoiselle** at new sites and the discovery of **Small Red-eyed Damselflies** at Doxey Marshes Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Reserve. Small Red-eyed Damselflies were also observed down at Lower Moor Farm Reserve in Wiltshire.

In 2021 news on the vulnerable **Variable Damselfly** was a mixed bag. Oxfordshire records were low, while none were received in Westmorland with Furness, and Cumberland. However, adults were seen in good numbers in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, colony expansion was recorded in Berkshire and a new colony was confirmed in Nottinghamshire.

Southern Damselfly also had a mixed season; while the species is reportedly only clinging on at Colaton Raleigh Common, Devon, two new sites were discovered on the River Test, South Hampshire.

Britain's other protected species, the **Norfolk Hawker**, is looking less endangered year by year. While the Norfolk Broads remain its stronghold, the younger populations in the west of Norfolk (for example, at Pensthorpe Natural Park) continue to grow. The Norfolk Hawker population at Radipole Lake in Weymouth, Dorset, has spread to Bennett Water Gardens; in Surrey the species was recorded again at WWT Wetlands Centre at Barnes, and in Cambridgeshire they were present again at Wicken Fen. Since 2019 the species has been colonising Sussex and in 2021 a new colony was found on the Chichester Canal. They are also expanding their distribution

in Suffolk and in Hertfordshire where they are now established throughout the Lee Valley Regional Park.

Similarly, **Scarce Chaser** also continues to expand its range; in Devon, 2021 records were received from the north and south coast, well away from its traditional south-east breeding sites. The Wiltshire population now has a firm foothold in the Devizes area and range expansion was noted in Sussex (spread eastwards), Suffolk, Worcestershire and Hertfordshire (although breeding has yet to be confirmed in this VC). The species was also recorded for the first time in Middlesex by the River Lea in Tottenham. **Common Clubtail** share similar riverine habitat to Scarce Chaser; 20 records were received from the River Wye along Gloucestershire's border with Gwent and Herefordshire in 2021, and counts were up on the River Thames at Goring in Oxfordshire.

Like the Scarce Chaser, the **White-legged Damselfly** now has a firm foothold in the Devizes area, and the species also appears to be thriving in Sussex.

Beautiful Demoiselle, is another riverine species that had a good season in 2021; it was seen at a new site near Oare in Kent, and is on the verge of colonising Hertfordshire. The first strong colony of Beautiful Demoiselles in Leicestershire and Rutland VC was also discovered in 2021, located on a small tributary of the River Soar.

The dry, warm summer and mild autumn provided good flying conditions for Hawkers and Darters, which resulted in good counts. **Brown Hawker** were found at several new locations in Gloucestershire and there was a rare sighting of one along the Grand Western Canal in Devon. Many counties reported good numbers of **Migrant Hawkers**, while **Southern Migrant Hawker** appears to now be established at a site near Gloucester.

Ruddy Darters had a good season too with exceptionally large counts reported in Gloucestershire and a new site discovered in North Hampshire near Andover.

Common Darters were on the wing late into the year; record-breaking late sightings were reported from South Hampshire and Suffolk (in December), Shropshire (25 November) and the Isle of Wight (17 November).

Thank you to all the County Dragonfly Recorders who submitted 2021 reports, and who ran outreach events and projects in 2021. They will continue to need your assistance in 2022 and you can find out about upcoming volunteer activities via the BDS website recording section and by reading the full CDR reports, also located on the website.



Variable Damselfly by Andrew Lee



News from Scotland

Recording Summary by Pat Batty and Graeme Walker

In 2021 the number of sightings that were reported of some of Scotland's southern species were noticeably low, a possible result of the cold winter and spring. The summer weather was exceptionally dry and sunny, especially in the west. As a result of the good weather more people spent time outdoors and there was an increase in the number of records reported to the BDS. Staff and volunteers noted that many bogs had become very dry, with pools not refilling until mid-September, which could have a negative impact on species like **White-faced Darter**, **Northern Emerald** and **Azure Hawker**.

Hairy Dragonfly was first seen on 30 May in Dumfries and Galloway, much later than in 2020. There were fewer records in 2021 but new breeding sites were discovered in Dumfries and Galloway.

Keeled Skimmer is increasing in Scotland, especially in the west. Two new breeding sites were discovered as far north as Assynt, Sutherland. The species was also seen further inland with possible breeding sites identified at Glen Roy near Spean Bridge.

Beautiful Demoiselles were mainly recorded in the west of Argyll, as well as Morvern and Mull, with records from new sites in these areas; the species was also present on Islay and the smaller islands off Oban.

Banded Demoiselle had fewer records in 2021 but this species is increasing its occupancy in



southern Scotland. New sites were discovered in Berwickshire and larvae were found near Gretna, Dumfries and Galloway.

Brilliant Emerald also had a better summer in 2021 with 43 sightings from Argyll and Inverness-shire, with some records at new lochans. Larvae and exuviae were found from the 4 June in Argyll, suggesting an early emergence.

A new **Downy Emerald** site was found near Oban; most 2021 sightings were from the Affric, Cannich and Loch Bran areas.

White-faced Darter records were mainly from the west and Inverness-shire, but several new breeding pools were found in the north-west.

Northern Emerald had 37 records in 2021; this is more than usual and records came from both new and known sites. Notably, records came from Loch Bran for the first time, and from two sites in Sutherland. 2021 counts

were higher at the restored bog pools at Flanders Moss, near Stirling; however, the species was not seen in Mid Argyll, a result of many of the sphagnum filled runnels drying out.

Azure Hawker had an exceptional year with good flight conditions resulting in a high number of adult sightings (85 records in total). There was a slight range extension with new site records from Sutherland. However, only three larvae were found in pools at Corrour, the only larval records for 2021 despite 20 days searching in known breeding sites in the west and Assynt. Pools that dried out in summer had no larvae after rains refilled them in autumn. Searches for Azure Hawker were also carried out in the south-west but they again failed to produce any records; thus, it is extremely likely the species no longer breeds here.

Northern Damselfly had 85 records in 2021, a record total thanks to the Northern Damselfly Project. Many of the records



were from known pools but 15 new pools were discovered, mainly in Strathspey. Most of these were close to other known sites and produced low counts (1-2 adults or larvae). Three, interestingly, were SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) ponds. However, new sites with stronger populations were found near Aviemore and in an upland area of the Cairngorms. On Deeside two new sites were found: one on Balmoral Estate and the other south of Banchory; in addition, a new site near Inverurie was confirmed. The first sight north of the Great Glen was discovered by Bob Swann near Tain, over 30km north of the nearest known site.

We are pleased to report a grant was obtained to carry out management work to enhance Northern Damselfly habitat in the Cairngorms National Park.



Some new sites were discovered for **Variable Damselfly** in south-west Scotland, however there were only 16 sightings in total in 2021.

Southern Hawker had 127 sightings in 2021 and it continued to expand its range north into Caithness and Sutherland; records have now been received from over 200 hectads. Notably, it was seen on the small islands off Oban and for the first time in Wester Ross. Emergence was early again starting from 12 June and the species was on the wing through to 6 October.

Common Hawker (pictured below left) emerged very early in June and sightings continued to the 12 October throughout Scotland; breeding records came from a range of habitats from upland pools and lochans to garden ponds. No decline is apparent in Scotland, and 2021 had a strong count of 530 sightings.

Emperor Dragonfly were less common in 2021 with only 14 records, compared with 42 in 2020, and no breeding activity was recorded.

Migrant Hawker is now seen annually and there were 31 records in 2021; these were mainly from southern Scotland, the furthest north coming from Perthshire.

There were only two records for **Red-veined Darter** in 2021, from the Borders and near Edinburgh.

Broad-bodied Chaser emergence was witnessed at Gelston, in the south-west, on 30 April. There were only two other possible sightings in 2021, one south of

Edinburgh and one near Stirling.

Vagrant Emperor was seen at Scatska, in the Shetlands, on 1 October and at Kirkwall, on Orkney, on 17 October.

Brown Hawker were seen again at Strathclyde Country Park, near Hamilton, from 23 August to 8 September and a pair in copulation were recorded.

BDS staff and volunteers continue to work with organisations like Forestry and Land Scotland to help improve the condition of dragonfly wetlands. For example, recent bog restoration work at the Moss of Achnacree near Oban has resulted in new potential breeding pools. Outreach events activities in 2021 included the annual summer National Dragonfly Walk in Hoy, Orkney.

A huge thanks to the large number of recorders who contributed this year; over 6600 records were submitted by 578 individuals from approximately 2000 recording days. Also thanks again to Butterfly Conservation for passing on their dragonfly records.

Congratulations to Peter Stronach who achieved his goal of seeing all the Scottish species in one year, and Bob Swann for his new sightings in the far north.

For more details on records from 2021 in Scotland and the Northern Damselfly Project please see the full Country Dragonfly Recorder reports on the BDS website.



Welsh Dragons *Recording Summary by Ellie Colver*

At the time of editing this publication, reports for only two Welsh Vice Counties had been received so this is only a short summary.

In Breconshire it was noted that COVID related restrictions were still impacting recording activities. As usual, Llangorse Lake was where all the exciting dragonfly action was in this VC in 2021, despite a dangerous algal bloom limiting access to the water's edge for part of the summer. **Scarce Chaser** were recorded there for the second year and, unusually, **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** had migrated down from the hills to an area of shallow flood. The site's **Red-eyed Damselfly** population is now well established.



Scarce Chaser by Jason Claxton



Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly by Chris Lamsdell

Radnorshire records exhibited a delayed flight season with **Large Red Damselfly** the only species on the wing until late May. Sadly records for **White-legged Damselfly** were very low, and non-existent for **Common Clubtail**. On the brighter side, a stronghold for **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** was discovered in the uplands to the east of Builth Wells. As a Vice County with ample upland heathlands, this part of the country represents an important stronghold for some of our declining heathland specialists, like **Common Hawker**.

Dragonfly Hotspot Funding Appeal



Launched in 2020 Argaty Farm is our newest Hotspot in Scotland. With 13 ponds on the site, it is home to 11 recorded species of Dragonfly. Argaty is also home to a Red Kite viewing experience where thousands of visitors go each year to watch the spectacular birds swoop in front of a custom-built viewing hide. Last year Beavers were introduced at the site, making this wildlife haven an even more popular attraction. To help the British Dragonfly Society engage with and educate all these wildlife enthusiasts we are raising funds to install interpretation boards at Argaty. Interpretation boards cost around £1500 to design and install and are a fantastic way to share our knowledge and inspire future generations to get to know and love dragonflies at these special sites.

Please donate to our Appeal online via the 'donate' button on the homepage of our website or send a cheque payable to the **British Dragonfly Society** and marked '**Argaty**' to:

Ashcroft, Brington Road, Old Weston, Huntingdon, PE28 5LP

Please note: any donations received above our target will allow us to install boards at other Hotspot sites across the UK. Thank you.



Aerial photo of Argaty by James Shooter.



Example of a Dragonfly Hotspot board funded by your generous donations.



Wolverhampton's Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve

Julian Cartwright

I was fortunate to spend a large part of 2021 watching and photographing dragonflies at my local nature reserve, Wolverhampton's Smestow Valley. This urban reserve is well served with potential breeding spots for these enigmatic and beautiful insects, with three ponds and several brooks on the site and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire canal running alongside. Invariably I found myself drawn to a spot known locally as Willow Pond – this peaceful pool is a favourite place within the reserve and appears to be the site with most dragonfly activity. Of the 14 species spotted to date in the valley, 13 have appeared on Willow Pond, with one of them being a first record for the Staffordshire vice-county.



Female Banded Demoiselle

My observations kicked off down on the canal in early June with the appearance of the stunning, metallic **Banded Demoiselles**. Soon after, both the canal and ponds were getting busy with the emergence of several damselfly species: **Azure Damselfly** (header image), **Common Blue Damselfly** and **Blue-tailed Damselfly** were all present in good numbers. These were soon joined on Willow Pond by their larger relatives, the chasers. Both **Four-spotted Chaser** and **Broad Bodied Chaser** occurred regularly, often obligingly posing for photos on vegetation right in front of my viewing spot.

By July, the activity on Willow Pond had increased with the arrival of at least three **Emperor Dragonflies** (with at



Broad-bodied Chaser

least one breeding pair). This, our largest dragonfly, has been doing well in recent years, steadily increasing its range across the UK. However to the best of my knowledge this is the first time they've been recorded on the reserve.

The end of the month saw the arrival of **Brown Hawkers**, with ovipositing females being noted on both Willow and nearby Nursery Pond. Around the same time, small numbers of **Emerald Damselfly** were spotted on Willow Pond.

It wasn't until the end of August that any new arrivals



Emerald Damselfly

were noted, with the seemingly explosive emergence of **Common Darters**, living up to their name and occurring in good numbers across all suitable habitats. The handsome red and yellow males and sombre yellow females are fascinating to watch and often tolerate a close approach. Sometimes too close – at one point a loud buzzing in my ear alerted me to the presence of a mating couple on my shoulder! It's always worth checking amongst the clouds of darters for something a little less common. This turned up a solitary **Ruddy Darter** on Willow Pond one day in early September.



Common Darters

As September rolled on, **Common Darters** became the ubiquitous species in the reserve. They were soon joined by a couple of the big 'mosaic hawkers'. Both **Southern Hawker** and **Migrant Hawker** were regularly sighted on Willow and Nursery Ponds and on vegetated stretches of canal. These large dragonflies rarely keep still long enough to be photographed but patience eventually paid off with some decent shots of both male and female Migrant Hawkets on Willow Pond. The Southern Hawkets proved to be more troublesome: this inquisitive species often investigates humans and will frequently and repeatedly hover within inches of your face while it checks you out. A wonderful experience, but hard to capture with a telephoto lens that won't focus that close! A big male eventually took pity on my frustrations and alighted on a patch of bramble right beside the path for a good 15 minutes.



Common Darter



Migrant Hawker

And so we save the best until last. During the final week of September, on what had become one of my regular "skulking in the vegetation beside Willow Pond trying to photograph a hawket" sessions I snapped what I casually dismissed at the time to be an immature Emerald Damselfly. However, on later viewing the photos on a big screen I began to suspect it was something altogether more exciting: a **Willow Emerald Damselfly**. Had this relative newcomer to the UK reached Wolverhampton? A quick check of my field guide and a post to the British Dragonflies and Damselflies Facebook page suggested yes. My record of the Willow Emerald has since been confirmed as a first for the Staffordshire vice-county, and the furthest west the species has currently been recorded in the UK. It was my great pleasure to show Willow Pond to our county dragonfly recorder Dave Jackson the day after my sighting. After waiting around for two hours, Dave managed to spot the Willow Emerald for himself as it finally put in a 10 second appearance in a willow tree.



A Willow Emerald in a willow tree on Willow Pond. Seems appropriate!



SPOTLIGHT ON

Trentham Estate Eleanor Colver

Trentham Estate has a rich history and its 700 plus acres are equally rich in wildlife. Situated on the outskirts of Stoke-on-Trent, with a shopping village, adventure play area and Monkey Forest (home to 140 Barbary Macaques!) means there is plenty to keep the whole family entertained. However, for those interested in wildlife watching, Trentham Gardens and the estate's sprawling woodland and parkland are the main attractions. The garden walkways reflect the varying tastes of the owners that have inhabited the estate over the decades, for example, its technicolour 19th Century Italian Gardens. More recent additions include the Floral Labyrinth, designed by the renowned Tom Stuart-Smith, which comes alive with pollinating insects each summer; 19 species of butterfly have been recorded on the estate so far, including Purple Hairstreak. Overlooking the gardens is King's Wood, part of the King's and Hargreaves Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest, an ancient, semi-natural woodland dominated by oak. The veteran trees are the perfect habitat for insects, such as saproxylic beetles that eat decaying wood. In turn the rich invertebrate life helps to feed woodland birds, such as Pied Flycatcher.

Of course, it is down by the estate's wetlands that you are most likely to spot dragonflies. Banded Demoiselles flit across the River Trent as it meanders through the grounds, while Trentham Lake, the centrepiece of the estate, attracts larger species, such as Brown Hawker. The mile long serpentine lake was constructed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in 1759, and is looped by nature trails that lace through the surrounding wildflower meadows. From these pathways you can enjoy the sounds of the heronry hidden on the lake's island, or marvel at the abundance of Damselflies that appear like magic on summer days. The team at Trentham are dedicated to safeguarding the estate's wildlife; for example, in recent years considerable effort has been made to improve the lake's marginal habitat by planting native marginal species, including thousands of reeds and Greater Tussock Sedge. These shallow, sheltered areas are perfect habitats for dragonfly larvae. In addition, motorised water sports activity has been reduced which will reduce disturbance to breeding populations of dragonflies.

More information:

To find out more about the Trentham Estate and its wildlife, visit the website:
<https://trentham.co.uk/>

You can keep up to date with the latest news and upcoming events by following Trentham Estate on social media:

Facebook: Trentham Estate

Instagram: @trenthamestate

Twitter: @TrenthamEstate



Above: Broad-bodied Chaser by Kevin Reynolds. Header image by Martin Wright.

Volunteering Opportunities

Could you contribute to the continued development of the BDS?

We are looking for new people to join the Board of Trustees to help to continue the development of the Society. Ideally we are looking for recruits with experience in managing businesses or projects, finance, human resources or other skills which will add to the skills among the Trustees. However, this is not essential and if you think you can make a contribution, we would be delighted to hear from you. An expert knowledge of dragonflies is not necessary. If you are interested in becoming a Trustee or would like more information, please contact our Chair, Brian Walker, at :

brian.walker5@btinternet.com

Do you want to help to inspire the next generation of dragonfly champions?

Devon County Dragonfly Recorder Dave Smallshire is recruiting experienced dragonfly watchers to set up a local group based at Stover Dragonfly Hotspot. The group will assist Dave in all aspects of recording and running training and outreach events on site. The longer-term aim is to recruit and train young dragonfly recorders. If you are passionate about dragonflies and want to help share knowledge with the next generation please get in touch!

Dave Smallshire: 01626 853393; email davesmall@btinternet.com

Dragonfly Hotspot Launches 2022

**Llangorse Lake, Brecon
Beacons, Wales**

**WWT Steart Marshes,
Somerset**

**Saturday 16th July
10am - 3pm near the
Sailing Club**

**Saturday 23rd July
10am - 3pm on the
reserve**

Full details can be found on our website 'Events' page





Young Naturalist Section

Dragonflies and me....

Dave Smallshire

We chatted to author and dragonfly guru Dave Smallshire about his favourite dragonfly experiences:

Why did you first become interested in dragonflies?

My early years of birdwatching in the West Midlands focussed very much on wetlands, where dragonflies always vied for my attention during the summer months. They offered the same challenges as bird identification, but without field guides to help. As soon as Hammond's Dragonflies of Great Britain and Ireland was published in 1977 I had the means to identify them. So really it was the ID challenge and their association with freshwater that hooked me on dragonflies.

What is your favourite species of dragonfly/damselfly and why?

That depends on where I am in the world! Yes, we do have some fabulous species in Britain – and who could not love Beautiful Demoiselles and Golden-ringed Dragonflies along an idyllic Dartmoor stream or the territorial Southern Hawker that comes to greet me at my pond? – but I've also been spoilt by some real stunners abroad. Maybe the gaudy Violet Dropwing (pictured right) takes the prize in Europe – it seems destined to get here one day. At REGUA, in Brazil, I was blown away by the Clearspot Bluewing that waves its wings up and down, and in Malaysia by the iridescent wings of *Rhyothemis plutonia*. In Central America, it's hard not to be impressed by the breath-taking

slow-motion flight of a Blue-winged Helicopter hunting in a rainforest glade. I could go on!

What is your best memory of a dragonfly encounter?

That's hard to narrow down after more than 40 years of encounters, so I'm offering three! I got very excited in Costa Rica when one of the aforementioned Blue-winged Helicopters flew just over my head and then over all the group I was leading. I think I was the first person in the world to set eyes on a Gem (*Libellago* species) in Sri Lanka that was unlike anything known; it was subsequently described and named after Phillip Corbet. The third was the shock of seeing 'flocks' of *Rhyothemis obsolescens* apparently migrating over Borneo; insect migration has always interested me and dragonflies give us a way of actually seeing it in action.

What is your favourite dragonfly fact?

Apologies again, but two spring to mind. As well as the fairly recent discovery that Four-spotted Chasers roost communally, there are old reports of swarms in Europe estimated to contain 2.5 billion Four-spotted Chasers, extending over 500m long x 20m wide and 3-4m high! I love the fact that radio-isotope analysis of Wandering Gliders has shown that they migrate over the Himalayas, the Indian sub-continent and the Indian Ocean to breed in East Africa.

What is your favourite place to watch dragonflies?

Apart from my garden pond (which goes without saying), I'm fortunate to live near ball-clay deposits in the Bovey Basin, which have led to the creation of dozens of water bodies of various types and ages. There are also two rivers and several more formal ponds and lakes, so there's plenty of choice locally. No fewer than 29 species have occurred here and 26 have bred. The obvious contender for me has to be Stover Country Park, which of course hosts one of our Dragonfly Hotspots.

What one thing do you think people should do for dragonflies?

No question: dig a pond ... anywhere!

Any advice for aspiring young naturalists?

Read the books! I'm a little concerned that younger generations try to learn from the internet, where not everything is reliable. Try to identify photos yourself, rather than asking others to help. Learning directly from experienced humans in the field is also a good way of gaining knowledge and experience, so try to join some BDS field meetings. And most of all, enjoy the dragonflies you encounter!





Working With Wildlife

Colin Marshall

I am Colin Marshall, creator of Living World Education. I have written a book on the lives of sharks and am constantly developing the website to support children who want to learn more about nature. The idea behind LWE began as a hobby and to share resources I have made as a teacher and as an opportunity to be creative and use my degree in Biological Imaging.

What is the best thing about your work?

I love getting feedback when young people have enjoyed an activity or learnt something. It has been amazing to get messages from China, USA, Australia as well as from around the UK. It makes me so happy to know that we have a generation of nature champions ready to make the world better than the one they have. I have really enjoyed starting to work with other organisations (e.g. Wildlife Garden Project and a couple of other organisations that I can't talk about yet!) and this has been exciting and interesting to meet new people who are doing amazing things for wildlife.

What does a typical day/week involve?

During the week in term times, I am a Deputy Head at a secondary special school which I love, so LWE is a weekend and holiday hobby. I very much struggle to stop and am constantly scribbling and I simply don't have time for all the ideas I have. I tend to find I will get stuck in to some graphic based work on a Saturday morning before a good walk and pick it up again in the afternoons. As a dad of two boys, we like to get out and this again proves to be inspiring. Ultimately, the work I put in comes in surges with times I put a lot in and balanced with my real job and family. The website, books and resources are slowly developed over time.

Describe the most challenging aspect of your work?

Technology! I am very much self-taught and my 13 year old son tends to despair at the hardware I have. Maybe I will get better one day! Actually, the biggest challenge is that of time. I would dearly love to split myself in two at times. There is so much I want to create!

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to start a career in Wildlife Conservation?

I don't have a career, but my life is greatly enriched by my involvement with communicating my passion for the living world. I have been helped enormously by linking up with wonderful people and it is always worth making a polite introduction and sharing your interests certainly helps put you in the shop window. I made my contacts through sharing materials on line. It felt like ages before I started to get a bit noticed, but things have recently started to develop. My tip, just enjoy what you are doing and see where it leads!

Finally, what, or who inspired you to want to save species for a career?

Whilst I cannot claim to have saved a species, my love for the natural world has been inspired by my very tolerant parents who indulged my collection of various creatures (including keeping slugs in my dad's greenhouse so they had food). I have always been fascinated by nature and continue to seek out encounters from Great White Sharks in South Africa or meeting black bears in the dead of night in Yosemite – I still never ever tire of the excitement that comes with the incredible wildlife that I find in a good British pond!

How can we keep in touch with you?

Twitter - @LivingWorldEdu

Facebook - Living World Education

Instagram - @livingworldedu

Website - www.livingworldeducation.com

Email - info@livingworldeducation.com



Amelia

Hello, my name is Amelia and I am 11 years old and I love wildlife.

I've just started my first year of secondary school and have carried on Climate Striking. By the end of primary school I'd inspired a small group of us to Climate Strike but, unfortunately, I'm now back to doing it alone. Fingers crossed as my friends get used to secondary school they come and join me again.

Last year I was hoping to see Badgers, Foxes, Gannets and Firecrests. I was lucky to see a Firecrest as almost my first bird of a trip to the New Forest. The New Forest was an amazing experience, full of natural beauty and life. As well as the Firecrest, I spotted a Silver-studded Blue butterfly, Woodlark and my first ever Keeled Skimmer Dragonfly.



To see the Gannets my dad and I headed to Bempton Cliffs in Yorkshire. I loved seeing the Gannets swoop down for the fish and catch them with their amazing beaks, their bright blue eyes look as if they are staring into your soul. While there, we were also hoping to spy a Golden-ringed Dragonfly, sadly we didn't find it so I'm going to go looking for it again this year.

Most of my insect watching is done in my garden. In the summer when there are tons of insects flying around, we often end up with some in our pond. I always remember scooping them up and putting them in the sun to dry off, although I'm guessing some of them flew straight back trying to get a drink.

The pond is a bit crazy, we've got a boggy area, a deep part and we even added a stream... so we've got all the habitats. But you don't have to be quite as mad as us, we just started with an old play sandbox filled with rain water. It doesn't matter how big or small, any type of pond will always benefit wildlife.

Our pond is only a couple of years old, we had to wait a year or so to finish it as a colony of bees had nested in the wall of the deep area of the pond... oops. I remember the first time I saw a damselfly in our pond, my dad shouted into the house 'damselfly' and we all came rushing out. Even though it was such a little thing, having the experience was amazing. And



then last year I saw my first dragonfly larva casing on a stinging nettle leaf dangling over the water.

Living in Norfolk, I am a lucky to have a few uncommon species of dragonflies and damselflies to see. The Norfolk Hawker obviously and then in 2020 I went to Thompson Common with its Pingo ponds where I saw the Scarce Emerald Damselfly.

I hope you see some amazing Dragonflies and Damselflies this year.

Follow Amelia on social media:

Twitter: @WildlifeMimi

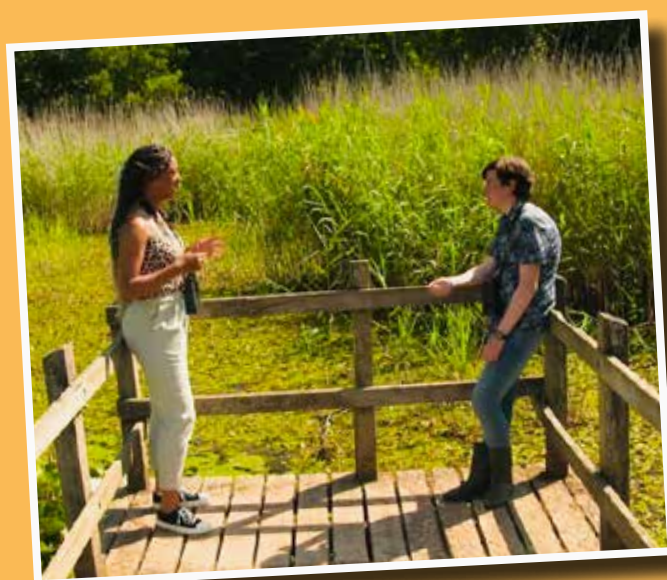
Instagram: @wildlife.mimi



Update From Youth Ambassador Green Fingered George

George is now at sixth form college studying Biology, Geography and Drama and has been keeping busy: designing and creating a garden for his grandma, filming at Dragonfly Hotspot Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre for CBBC (pictured), getting out wildlife watching, exploring the local moors with his family and dog, and volunteering at RSPB Dovestones to restore peatland habitat. Phew, what a busy bee he is! You can keep up to date with all of George's adventures on his website:

<https://greenfingeredgeorge.com>



You can find him on Twitter Facebook, Instagram and YouTube too!





Beavers Arrive at Dragonfly Hotspot Argaty Red Kites

Daniele Muir

Argaty Red Kites is our newest Scottish Dragonfly Hotspot, officially launched in 2020. And 2021 was another exciting year for them as a family of beavers arrived at the farm in November – on St Andrew’s Day no less - to take up residence in some of the wonderful ponds.

Beavers were officially reintroduced to Knapdale in Argyll in 2009, where our own Pat Batty has been carrying out surveys to monitor the impact they are having on the dragonflies there. The beavers that came to Argaty were relocated from Tayside where beavers escaped from private collections from the early 2000s onwards, and became well established in the River Tay catchment over the last twenty years. Despite the beavers having European Protected Species status, landowners with prime agricultural land who don’t want beavers there can easily get a licence to kill them.

After a legal challenge to this policy in 2021 by the charity Trees for Life, the Scottish Government has recently made a change to its beaver policy and is now promoting the relocation of beavers which come into conflict with humans, within Scotland. Argaty received the first of these beavers, which had previously been earmarked for being killed.

We had a chat with Tom Bowser, manager of Argaty, to find out how the beaver family has been faring over the past few months.

Q: What made you want to offer a home to this family? Have you given any of them names?

A: We applied for beavers because we know how amazing they are, what wonders they do for biodiversity and we were saddened that they were being shot



when they could have been moved to other more suitable areas.

The beavers are named Tulla (mum), Mull (dad) and kits Skye, Iona and Arran

Q: How do you think they have settled in?

A: They have settled in brilliantly, moving into the lodge we built for them, digging canals and felling trees. Already the pond is expanding and will be filled with so much more wildlife in the years to come.

Their favourite trees to eat so far are willows and they also love sweetcorn, parsnips and carrots. People have heard about the translocation and been so kind, sending food donations to help the beavers settle in. We've been pretty blown away by all the generosity.

Q: How do you envisage changes to the farm with the arrival of the beavers?

A: Obviously, the beavers will change the ponds hugely, in ways that we cannot predict. That uncertainty is hugely exciting. Already we are seeing otters coming to the pond, lured in by the scent of beavers (which apparently is very attractive to other mammals). Herons are hunting in the freshly dug canals and insects are crowding to the beaver gnawed tree, drawn in by the warmth of the exposed tree centre and the availability of sap. An ecosystem is being rebuilt by these five animals and it's truly incredible to see.

Q: Where would you like to see beavers in Scotland in 25 years' time? And the rest of the UK?

A: In 25 years' time, I hope that we will see beavers across the majority of the UK. These animals are so important in our fight against the environmental crisis. We have to find ways to accommodate them.

Q: What advice would you have for landowners who may be thinking about offering a home to beavers but are unsure about it?

A: Get in touch! We've been through this, and run the gauntlet. We want to help others to translocate beavers. It's not an easy thing to do. Those opposed to beaver translocations make things very hard, but the support you get is incredible, and if you manage to save beavers from being culled then you will have done a great thing, for beavers and for the environment.

It was wonderful to talk to Tom and hear such enthusiasm for these wonderful animals. As we know, beavers create wetlands that are fantastic for all kinds of wildlife, including Odonata.

Visit Argaty for its eleven species of dragonfly as well as its Red Kites and Beavers! I also run beaver tours through Perthshire Wildlife if anyone would like to book a place, we see plenty of dragonflies in the summer too.



All photos by Scotland The Big Picture. Above image of Tom and daughter Rowan watching the beavers being released.



Field Notes



An Unexpected Golden Start to The Day by Des Sussex

On the 7 June 2021 I took an early walk at Shepherd Meadows by the River Blackwater in Sandhurst, Berkshire. I was not particularly 'dragonflying', but just by chance I noticed a Golden-ringed Dragonfly perched on its exuvia on a metal post on a concrete culvert at a dried up ditch in a belt of woodland. As I did not see exactly where the larva had crawled from, I can only assume (but we should never assume anything with wildlife...) that it had crawled out of the dried up ditch. As you will see from the photos the ditch was just damp mud and silt. At the best of times it looks stagnant and does not have much of a flow. The surrounding habitat is floodplain meadows and damp woodland - this was definitely not 'typical' habitat for Golden-ringed, and if I had not seen it myself I would have definitely been sceptical of a report like this. The species is frequent in the local heaths and forestry areas on sands and gravels, and the nearest known breeding sites are about 1 km away. Some of the watercourses and ditches from the heaths and forests do drain towards ditches at Shepherd Meadows but even so I was amazed that any larva would have emerged considering the state of the ditch on that day.

In the past I have found Golden-ringed Dragonfly larvae in quite a few local 'streams' and also in the drainage ditches in the local forests, including in some ditches that do not have much water or flow for part of the year. I also found an exuvia a few years ago on Sphagnum mire at Wildmoor Heath where there was no significant flowing water very nearby. There is clearly a lot more to the larval habitat preferences and tolerances of this wonderful species than I had realised..



"No Swallowtails yet at Strumpshaw but did get this Black-tailed Skimmer trying to shake off a pesky ant as it took off. Flight and Fight! "

Andrew Fusek Peters sent us this incredible image (above) via Twitter. He captured the moment that a Black-tailed Skimmer took off with an ant attached to its leg! You never know what you might see when you are out wildlife watching.

Neil Galton got in touch to let us know that one of the activities that occupied much of his time during lockdown was building a website. It has about 350 photos and covers ovipositing, emergence, mating, feeding, cameos and portraits. Neil says:

"I've been a member for quite a while and our garden (in Somerset) has been visited by 20 species during the 11 years we've been here. I hope you find something of interest."

website: www.evoques.co.uk .

Photo right : White-legged Damselflies mating by Neil Galton..



If you photograph anything unusual or of interest please let our editor know:



2022 Recording Activities

March

April

May

June

July

August

Sept.

Oct.



White-legged Damselfly Investigation

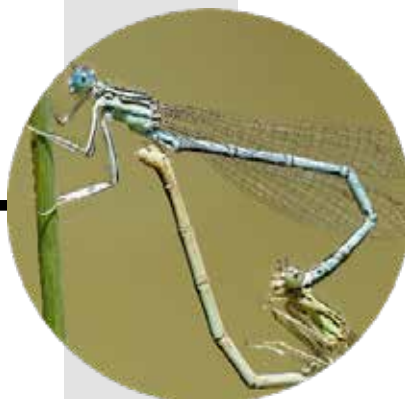
If you live in England and Wales (as far north as Derbyshire and as far west as Powys) keep an eye out for this cheeky character hiding in the grass near slow flowing waterways and ponds from May to August. Males are pale blue with blue eyes and pale brown wing spots.

Don't know where to go looking for dragonflies? Get in touch with your local County Dragonfly Recorder; they will be able to recommend sites and wetlands that need surveying.

Willow Emerald Damselfly

The Willow Emerald is spreading across England! Look out for this species near still and slow-flowing water from July to October. This metallic green species has a very long spur on the side of the thorax and pale brown wing spots.

The season starts between March and May and, as the weather warms up, the first dragonflies will start to emerge. Large Red Damselfly is the first species you are likely to spot. Males are mostly red with black legs.



You don't have to get involved in a specific recording activity. Any dragonfly records you send into the BDS will help us track the distribution of dragonflies and changes in their populations.



Northern Damselfly Survey

Volunteers are needed to look for the endangered Northern Damselfly in June and July, in Speyside, Deeside and Perthshire. Males can be identified by their 'ace of spades' marking.



Images: Male Large Red Damselfly by Dave Smallshire; White-legged Damselflies by Iain Leach; Northern Damselfly by Iain Leach; Willow Emerald Damselfly by Bruce Hyde.

Complete List/Adopt a Site - Make a list of all the species you see within a 1km site. If you have time to do this 3 times every year (between May-September), you can adopt the site. This data helps us develop atlases and trend analyses.

Priority Site Assessment - Sites that support breeding populations of rare species, or a high diversity of species may qualify as a BDS Priority Site, a BDS designation identifying the best sites in the UK for dragonflies. The assessment involves collecting records of breeding behaviour, including records of exuviae and larvae.

Site Monitoring - We encourage landowners that are interested in enhancing their sites for dragonflies to also monitor where dragonflies are breeding and how their numbers fluctuate year on year. We recommend that monitoring projects involve carrying out repeat surveys at least 3 times a year.

Full information about all these projects can be found on our website www.british-dragonflies.org.uk



DONALD ARTHUR TAGG

by Brian Spooner & Graham Vick

Don Tagg, a long-serving member of the BDS, sadly passed away just before New Year, on 29 December 2021. He was born in Kingston on 28 October 1933. For much of his life he lived at the family home at Hampton Hill near Richmond, in Middlesex. There, from the 1960s, he ran his popular second-hand bookshop, 'Don's Books'. It was a regular haunt of many collectors, including staff from Kew and the Natural History Museum. He was a specialist dealer in books on natural history, and transport topics. There was always a wonderful, interesting stock of books, new and old, which he obtained largely during long day trips to other dealers and shops throughout much of the south and south-east. All were at very reasonable prices, and it was a rare visit to his shop to come away without a purchase – usually several!

Don didn't just sell books – he seemed to have read all of them. He was an absolute mine of information on so many topics. He was an excellent all-round naturalist, knowledgeable on many aspects, but he had also a specialist knowledge of dragonflies, not just the British species but worldwide. He had studied in particular the South American fauna. Don was a member of the British Dragonfly Society, at one time editing the Journal, and also of the Hants and Surrey Borders Dragonfly Group for which for many years he was editor of the Newsletter.

In 1990, Don retired from the bookshop, and moved to Heath End at Farnham, Surrey. He

continued to deal in books from the house. He also, of course, maintained an active interest in natural history and was an extremely knowledgeable and competent naturalist on many aspects including habitats, ecology, and conservation. He was regularly in the field and was familiar with many of the key wildlife sites in Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex.

His specialist interests extended also to other insect groups notably butterflies and moths, beetles, flies, and caddisflies, as well as spiders, amphibians and reptiles. He also led many field meetings, especially to Thursley Common SSSI, which he monitored thoroughly for many years. This is a key site of great natural history interest, especially for its dragonflies; and particularly notable as the last stronghold in the south for the White-faced Darter, *Leucorrhinia dubia*, sadly now lost from Surrey.

A key event occurred in the late sixties. Don acquired a huge package of dragonflies from the rain-forests of Brazil. This was an enormous challenge for identification. Don gradually obtained literature and, with some help from NHM, he made progress - but it was all largely self-taught. In those days, there were very few people in the UK with that sort of knowledge. There was no 'field guide'. Slowly he improved his knowledge over many years. This gave Don a 'handle' on dragonfly taxonomy which made him very useful to so many others in the future. In 1996 some of us were planning

a second dragonfly expedition to Cameroon. It was still very much the African jungle of Gerald Durrell's books – which Don knew so well. Don was an obvious choice for the group. A good companion who was very pleasant and sociable, really liked by the African helpers. He loved to chat and offer a whisky (or two) to the Tribal Chiefs of the villages. A mine of information on the various chameleons, rare frogs, and many birds as well as dragonflies. He had a wonderful time in Cameroon. He had the patience and the keen eye to help so much with the dragonflies. He was a natural – his first tropical trip at 63!

He also managed to join several overseas field trips to the tropics to Thailand, and to Queensland, Australia, which had dragonflies as a main focus. He played a useful role in working out the distribution of *Petalura ingentissima* – the Giant Petal-tail.

Until recently, he was co-owner of a small oak woodland at Wisborough Green in West Sussex, which he regularly visited and carried out much active management work to benefit insect conservation.

Don was an easy-going and modest person, always pleasant, friendly and helpful, with the ability to get on with people. He enjoyed discussion of many aspects of natural history and indeed of a wide variety of subjects. He will be very much missed by the many people who knew him and counted him as a friend.



Field Meetings *Compiled by Mike Averill*

We have listed a small selection of Field Meetings here. This list, along with any additional events, will be added to the 'Events' page of our website. Please check the website throughout the year for the most up to date events information. You can find the latest risk assessments and notes for Field Meeting Leaders on this page too: www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/news-events/our-events/

If you would like to advertise your own event on our website please contact Eleanor Colver: conservation@british-dragonflies.org.uk

Annual Celebration: Dragonfly Week Saturday 16th July to Sunday 24th July 2022.

Sunday, 15 May 2022

Staines Moor, Staines-on-Thames

Leader/contact: Sue Webber & David Hepper

Email: hsbg@british-dragonflies.org.uk / 07768 452365

Aims: Come and explore Staines Moor for Hairy Dragonfly and other early species. We aim to visit the Lammas lands and the canal.

Meet: Details to follow on the BDS website.

Requirements: Boots, lunch.

Saturday 21st May 2022

Stover Country Park, Devon

Leader / contact: Dave Smallshire (01626 853393; email davesmallshires@btinternet.com)

Aim: To see early emergers such as Hairy Dragonfly and Downy Emerald and to establish a small group of experienced dragonfly-watchers who can help to monitor the various wetland habitats around Stover. If a large Lottery bid is successful, this group will help next year to train and mentor a dozen 16 to 25-year-olds, and together with them track dragonfly populations as they respond to habitat changes.

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

Requirements: Attendance is limited to those willing to help with monitoring and training. Bring lunch. Close-focus binoculars useful. Pay and display car park.

Sunday 29th May 2022

Grand Western Canal, Devon

Leader / contact: Dave Smallshire (01626 853393; email davesmallshires@btinternet.com)

Aim: To look for Scarce Chasers, Hairy Dragonflies and Red-eyed Damselflies.

Meet: At 10.00 a.m. at Ebear Bridge, Westleigh (ST060163): take A361 from M5 at junction 27; in 500m take slip road (signpost Tiverton Parkway); turn right at first and right at second roundabouts; follow minor road for 2 miles until alongside straight section with canal on left; park before canal bridge. The meeting will end at lunchtime.

Requirements: Close-focus binoculars useful. Booking not necessary.

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Mottisfont (NT), Hampshire

Leader/contact: Phil Young (CDR for S. Hampshire)

Email: ygphil21@gmail.com

Aims: Primarily for Southern Damselfly and possibly Hairy Dragonfly. Also has Golden-ringed, Four-spotted, Demoiselles and several others.

Meet: 10:30 at National Trust car park, NW of Romsey (SU3226), postcode SO51 0LP

Requirements: Boots, lunch. NT members: free; non-members: we may be able to negotiate something.

Saturday 18th June 2022

Yardley Chase, Northamptonshire

Time: 10am

Leader: Mark Tyrrell

Aim: to see the Downy Emerald at its only site in Northamptonshire. Also Hairy Dragonfly, Four-spotted Chasers and many other late spring species.

Requirements: bring strong walking shoes, although it isn't difficult walking, the ground will be wet, and a packed lunch.

Booking: Yardley Chase is a private woodland, and entry is by permission of the Compton Estates. Numbers are limited, so book early. Contact mark.p.tyrrell@ntlworld.com. Joining instructions will be sent about 1 week prior to the field trip.



Sunday 19th June 2022

Stover Country Park, Devon

Leader / contact: Dave Smallshire (01626 853393; email davesmallshires@btinternet.com)

Aim: A follow-up to the May meeting for those who commit to monitoring Stover and potentially mentoring trainees in 2023.

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

Requirements: Attendance is limited to those who agreed to help at the May meeting. Bring lunch. Close-focus binoculars useful. Pay and display car park.

Saturday 25 June 2022

NWT Upton Fen, Norfolk

Leader / contact: Dr Pam Taylor – Norfolk Dragonfly Recorder

Email: pam.taylor@british-dragonflies.org.uk to book or phone 01692 670311

Aim: Morning walk (approx. 3 hours) to look for a broad range of dragonfly species, including Norfolk Hawker and Variable Damselfly.

Meet: 10.00am at Upton Fen car park, TG379136. Postcode NR13 6EQ (Low Road)

From Acle, Norwich or Wroxham head towards South Walsham, then follow signs for Pilson Green. Local public transport services are limited. The nearest train station is Acle (3.5 miles).

Requirements: Booking essential – preferably by email. Numbers strictly limited.

Wellies or boots, insect repellent. Packed lunch if staying on site (unguided) for the afternoon.

Sunday, 26 June 2022

Fifty Acre Piece, near Mortimer, Berkshire

Leader/contact: Steve Cham

Email: SteveCham1@aol.com

Aims: Following up on the 2021 highlights of Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly and Black Darter at Fifty Acre Piece SU631649 near Mortimer. If time allows we can also visit the nearby Oval Pond, which is a good site for Downy Emerald and occasional Brilliant Emerald.

Meet: There is limited parking by the road at Hundred Acre Piece - SU63916516 - where we access for a short walk along firm rides to Fifty Acre Piece. Depending on numbers, there is also parking at various pull-ins along nearby Camp Road - SU63556597.

Requirements: Good boots (not wellies). Lunch (no nearby hostelry). Booking would be helpful.

Sunday 3rd July 2022

Bystock DWT Reserve and Squabmoor Reservoir, Devon

Leader / contact: Dave Smallshire (01626 853393; email davesmallshires@btinternet.com)

Aim: To look for Small Red and Red-eyed Damselflies, Downy Emerald, Keeled Skimmer and Golden-ringed Dragonfly.

Meet: 10:00 a.m. at Bystock entrance off road at SY034 843 (alternatively at Squabmoor car park SY038844), finishing by 1:00 pm.

Requirements: Close-focus binoculars useful. Booking not necessary.

Saturday, 16 July 2022

Ober Water / Mill Lawn Brook, nr Brockenhurst, Hampshire

Leader/contact: Phil Young (CDR for S. Hampshire)

Email: ygphil21@gmail.com

Aims: Primarily for White-legged Damselfly. Also Small Red Damselfly, Southern Damselfly, Keeled Skimmer, Small Red-Eyed Damselfly and possibly Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly. This site used to host Common Clubtail, many years ago.

Meet: tba

Requirements: Good boots (not wellies). Lunch (no nearby hostelry). Booking essential.

Additional Info: Please see the Events pages of the BDS website for more info.

Sunday 17th July 2022

Stover Country Park, Devon

Leader / contact: Dave Smallshire (01626 853393; email davesmallshires@btinternet.com)

Aim: A Dragonfly Hotspot event: a chance to see the species of mid-summer, including both Red-eyed damselflies, Emerald Damselfly and skimmers.

Meet: Members only 10:00 a.m. at the visitor centre (SX833751; entrance off A382 to Newton Abbot, 300m from A38, 10 miles from M5) finishing by 1:00 pm. **General public** 2:00 pm at the Visitor Centre, finishing by 4:30pm.

Requirements: Close-focus binoculars useful. Pay and display car park. Booking not necessary.

Field Meetings continued

Saturday, 6 August 2022

Bucklers Forest & Crowthorne Woods, Hampshire

Leader/Contact: Nick Percival, Hants & Surrey Borders Group, 07824 527501.

Email: nick@perci.u-net.com

Aims: Look for late summer species including heathland specialists such as Small Red Damselfly, Keeled Skimmer & Black Darter. This meeting was cancelled last year due to cold weather, so we hope for something warmer this year.

Meet: 10:30 am at the forest car park, Woodcote Green, RG45 6HZ, SU 843 648

Requirements: Good boots (not wellies). Lunch (no nearby hostelry). Booking essential.

Additional Info: Walking is largely along gravel paths but there are some muddy areas around the ponds. Please notify the trip leader if you plan to attend or subsequently need to cancel.

Sunday 7th August 2022

Stover Country Park, Devon

Leader / contact: Dave Smallshire (01626 853393; email davesmall@btinternet.com)

Aim: A Dragonfly Hotspot event: a chance to see a good range of dragonfly species including both Red-eyed damselflies, Emerald Damselfly, hawkers and darters.

Meet: 10:00 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the visitor centre (SX833751; entrance off A382 to Newton Abbot, 300m from A38, 10 miles from M5). Each walk will last about 2.5 hours.

Requirements: Close-focus binoculars useful. Pay and display car park. Non-members must pre-book with Stover Country Park (numbers limited).

Tuesday, 16 August 2022

Wildwood Golf Course, Surrey

Leader: Francis Kelly.

Website: butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/surrey-and-sw-london-branch

Aims: 18 of the 33 ponds are suitable for viewing odonata, including Willow Emerald & Small Red-eyed Damsels. Joint trip with Butterfly Conservation Surrey Branch.

Meet: 11:00, 10 miles SE of Guildford at GU6 8JR, TQ04813606. From A281 Horsham Rd, turn east into Wildwood Lane (note signpost for Cranleigh Rugby Club); after 500y (passing Rugby Club on left), turn right into the parking area.

Requirements: Boots, lunch, close-focussing binoculars. Booking is not required but please check the BC website before attending.

Additional info: This is a joint meeting with the local branch of Butterfly Conservation. The golf course was abandoned in 2017 and is reverting to, er, wildwood with ponds. Result!

Tuesday, 23 August 2022

Guildford Riverside Nature Reserve, Surrey

Leader/contact: David Hepper and Linda Pryke

Email: hsbg@british-dragonflies.org.uk / 07768 452365

Aims: Our first visit to this small reserve adjacent to the A3 near Burpham.

Meet: 10:30 at the car park in Bowers Lane, Burpham, GU4 7ND - parking may be limited.

Requirements: Boots, lunch, close-focussing binoculars. Booking is not required.

Courses:

Wednesday 11th May, 2022 Learn to Love Dragonflies and Damselflies, Knapp & Papermill Nature Reserve, Worcestershire. Full details available soon: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/biolinks-courses/>

Thursday 30th June, 2022 Identifying Damselflies. Bishops Wood FSC Field Centre, Worcestershire. Full details available soon: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/biolinks-courses/>

22nd-24th July, 2022 Introduction to Dragonflies and Damselflies. Preston Montford Field Centre, Shropshire. Full details available soon: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/biolinks-courses/>

Thursday 4th August, 2022 Identifying Dragonflies Bishops Wood FSC Field Centre, Worcestershire. Full details available soon: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/biolinks-courses/>

Saturday 25th June 2022 Damselfly Identification Course. North Meadow NNR & Jenner Hall, Cricklade, North Wiltshire. Tutor: Sue Rees Evans. For full details and booking please follow the link: <https://crickladecourtlet.org.uk/2022-courses/>

Please see our website for more events and courses: www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/news-events/our-events/



BDS Business Update

Minutes of the 5th CIO BDS AGM held on 27th November 2021 via Zoom

1. Notice for this AGM had been published in Dragonfly News (DN) No 79 and 80.
2. Carolyn Cooksey agreed to take the minutes.
3. Minutes of the 4th CIO BDS AGM as published in Dragonfly News 79 were accepted as a true and accurate record via a Zoom poll.
4. Apologies for absence were received from Andy McGeeney and Dave Goddard.
5. One minute's silence was observed for deceased members.
6. Greetings were sent to our patron Sir David Attenborough, our president Mike Dilger and Honorary members.
7. Reports from Trustees:

Chair's report:

- a. Brian reported that the pandemic was continuing to have an impact on the work of the Society, but we were seeing a gradual return towards normality. Donations continue to support the provision of interpretation boards at Dragonfly Hotspots.
- b. Conservation highlights included the launch of the State of Dragonflies 2021 report, habitat restoration for Southern Damselfly and a survey of Northern Damselfly habitat along with a contract to restore habitat.
- c. Brian confirmed we would need to seek and re-confirm Gift Aid declarations from members in order to be able to continue to benefit following the change to a CIO.

Secretary's report:

- a. Membership continues to grow, with a 4% increase compared to November 2020, and stands at 1929 members (2057 people accounting for joint memberships).
- b. The option of a payment holiday was offered again this year in light of Covid-19, but again, only a handful of members took this option up.
- c. Trustees have held four meetings as part of BDS business, all through video conferencing.

Treasurer's report:

- a. Total income of £65,035 and expenditure of £120,856 was seen in 2020-21. Three legacies had been received this year including one of £45,000.
- b. Funding of £25,000 per year for three years has been secured from the John Ellerman Foundation, and a £55,000 grant for work on habitat restoration for the Northern Damselfly. The first year of £29,000 funding for work with Volunteers in Scotland has also been secured.
- c. We continue to examine our costs to ensure value for money for our growing membership base.
- d. The financial report was approved through Zoom poll unanimously.

8. Election of trustees:

- a. Three Trustees were confirmed as standing down, two were proposed for re-election (Peter Brown and Carolyn Cooksey), and one (Tom Cunningham) was not standing for re-election.
- b. Peter Brown and Carolyn Cooksey were unanimously re-elected via a Zoom poll.

9. The notice of the next AGM will be published in Dragonfly News No 81 and the venue (virtual, physical or blended) will be decided during 2022.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

The Autumn Meeting and the 6th CIO Annual General Meeting of the British Dragonfly Society will be held online on:

Saturday 19th November 2022

Please check our 'Events' page on the website for more details nearer to the time.



Leave a Lasting Legacy

A legacy to the British Dragonfly Society will provide a lasting gift. Dragonflies and damselflies are beautiful insects which have inhabited Earth for over 300 million years. With your support, by remembering the British Dragonfly Society in your will, we can safeguard our dragonflies and damselflies to provide a lasting legacy that will ensure future generations enjoy these fascinating insects.

Gifts, in wills, make a positive difference. Legacy gifts enable The British Dragonfly Society to:

- Conserve dragonflies and their wetland habitats.
- Conserve Nationally-Important species.
- Record and monitor the distribution and populations of dragonflies.
- Encourage the scientific study and research of dragonflies.
- Undertake education projects.

Please consider leaving something to British Dragonfly Society when you write or update your will. We are so grateful for your continued support.

You may like to use the following wording to include in this legacy:

"I give the sum of £..... to British Dragonfly Society (Registered Charity No. 1168300), Ashcroft, Brington Road, Old Weston, Huntingdon, PE28 5LP for its general purposes."

A Gift in Memory

Celebrating and commemorating the life of your loved one with a gift in their memory is a fitting tribute that helps to support our work for dragonflies and damselflies. We're always incredibly touched and grateful to receive donations large or small, which will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Image by Andrew Fusek Peters

BDS Business Update Continued

The Trustees have proposed that a change is made to the British Dragonfly Society Constitution to vary the definition of a quorum at general meetings of the Society. The current requirement is as follows:

5(b) Subject to the following provisions, the quorum for general meetings shall be the greater of 3% or forty members. An organisation represented by a person present at the meeting in accordance with sub-clause (7) of this clause, is counted as being present in person.

The proposal is to change "greater" to "lesser" in this paragraph. The reason for this change is that our membership has grown and is now edging towards 2,000 which means the quorum would be at 60. Attendance at past general meetings has tended to be 70 to 80 depending on geographical location and other circumstances such as weather. We are now close to a situation where we might be unable to conduct routine business because insufficient members were present at the AGM, which forms part of the BDS Autumn Meeting. Notice is always given of any resolutions prior to the general meeting so that members will always have time to express their views on any proposal. The proposed change will avoid the possibility of having to close a general meeting if we are short of a quorum and then organise another and the expense that this would cause.

There will therefore be a resolution as follows put to the 2022 general meeting.

That the Constitution shall be amended so that the quorum for a general meeting is the "lesser of 3% or forty members" instead of "the greater of 3% or forty members."



2. Tell us about your favourite Dragonfly encounter

Tough question! I've had some good days, one standing in the middle of the River Stour at Daws Hall Nature Reserve in chest waders surrounded by Banded Demoiselles, and others surveying the RSPB's South Essex Marshes reserves with Southern Migrant Hawkers flying around as hundreds of Scarce Emerald Damselflies and 1000+ newly emerged Ruddy Darter Dragonflies fluttered around the rushes below. But I guess it was hard to top the day that I found this odd looking emerald damselfly that turned out to be the first Southern Emerald Damselfly found in Essex!

3. Where is your favourite spot to watch dragonflies?

We have some great sites in Essex, but Crockford Stream in the New Forest takes some beating. I've stood in one spot and watched two Golden-ringed Dragonflies battling over the stream, Beautiful Demoiselles displaying a bit further along, Keeled Skimmer whizzing around and two Dark Green Fritillary butterflies tussling over the Bog Myrtle, all with the rare Southern Damselflies buzzing around the rushes near my feet.

4. What is your top tip for helping Dragonflies?

I will skip past the obvious dig a pond and join the BDS! I'll go with the environmental educator answer of spread the word about these amazing insects. Point them out to friends, family and (if you are feeling

brave) random passing people! Slip in the fact they do not bite or sting, but eat insects that DO bite and sting, perhaps explain they hang around ponds because their larvae live there and amuse them with the fact the larvae breathe with their bottom!

You can listen to Neil on the UK Wildlife Podcast on his website:

<http://www.uk-wildlife.co.uk/uk-wildlife-podcast/>

Be sure to follow Neil on social media too as he is planning an exciting project to see all of our resident species of dragonfly and damselfly in one season! We hope to bring you an update on this dragonfly tour in our Autumn magazine!

Twitter: UK_Wildlife

Facebook: UKWildlife

Instagram: neil_uk_wildlife

Photos all by Neil: top left Neil out with his camera, bottom left Lesser Emperors, middle row Southern Emerald Damselfly. Below: top Northern Damselfly larva, middle Southern Migrant Hawker larva, bottom SMH adult.

Championing Dragonflies

We asked volunteer Neil Phillips about what volunteering with us means to him. We'll hand over to Neil to introduce himself:

"Hello, I'm Neil Phillips, I work in environmental education, I'm a wildlife photographer and naturalist, but I volunteer as the Essex County Dragonfly Recorder.

I am also co-host of the UK Wildlife Podcast, which covers all sorts of topics, including an increasing number on dragonflies!"

1. What does the British Dragonfly Society mean to you?

The society is important as it is the organiser of the national recording scheme and involves many of the people conserving and researching these amazing insects. This in turn also helps with conserving and creating ponds and wetland habitats, which benefits all the species found there.



BDS RECORDING SCHEME

Please submit records directly through iRecord or send them in bulk to the local County Dragonfly Recorder for upload.

Vice-County	County Recorder	Contact details
ENGLAND AND WALES		
1. West Cornwall (with Scilly)	David Cooper	12 Ashfield Villas, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 2EU 01326 311337. cooperplace@outlook.com
2. East Cornwall		
3. South Devon	Dave Smallshire	8 Twinville Road, Chudleigh, Newton Abbot, TQ13 0PF 01626 853393. davesmallsh@btinternet.com
4. North Devon		
5. South Somerset	Chris Iles	Ardenfield, Holcombe Hill, Holcombe, Blandford, Somerset BA3 5DN 01761 239892. bf8022@hotmail.com
6. North Somerset		
7. North Wiltshire	Rosie Ray	01970 875155. rosierays@yahoo.co.uk
8. South Wiltshire		
9. Dorset	Andrew Brown	Ground Floor Apt, 15 Lytton Road, Bournemouth, BH1 4SH 01202 573267. brown_a_r@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.dorsetdragonflies.org.uk / Facebook: 'Dorset Dragonflies'
10. Isle of Wight	Jim Baldwin	21 Hillcrest Road, Romsey, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3PB 01983 721137. wightdragonflies@gmail.com
11. South Hampshire	Phil Young	Medstead, nr. Alton, Hampshire. ypphil21@gmail.com
12. North Hampshire	David Murdoch	01962 888553. dsmurdoch@hotmail.com
13. West Sussex	Ben Rainton & Bob Foreman & Simon Lington	Recorder: Ben Rainton - benrainton@ntlworld.com Send records to: Bob Foreman - 01273 497570. bobforeman@sussexnet.org.uk Assistant verifier: Simon Lington - 01273 480419. lingtonsm@gmail.com Website: sussexdragonflies.org.uk
14. East Sussex		
15. East Kent	Marc Heath	01834 280205. heathym187@aol.com
16. West Kent		
17. Surrey ¹	Linda Pryle	01931 873745. linda@pryle.net
18. South Essex ²	Neil Phillips	neil_fal@yahoo.com / @uk_wildlife
19. North Essex		
20. Hertfordshire ¹	Roy Woodward	62c High Street, Chessington, Hertfordshire EN8 0AH 01855 567332. roywoodward@outlook.com *
21. Middlesex ¹	Linda Pryle	See 17. Surrey
22. Berkshire ¹	Des Sussex	14 School Hill, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 8LD 01344 778800 / 07958 888057. dsussex14@outlook.com
23. Oxfordshire ¹	Stephen Lurch	stephen@stephenlurch.com Website: www.stephenlurch.com
24. Buckinghamshire	Alan Nelson	74 Holland Way, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK16 8LW buckdragonflies@googlemail.com
25. East Suffolk	Adrian Parr	38 Orchard Way, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 5BX 01284 810 465. adrian.parr@btinternet.com
26. West Suffolk		
27. East Norfolk	Pam Taylor	Decoy Farm, Decoy Rd, Potter Heigham, Norfolk, NR29 5LX 01692 670 311. pam.taylor@british-dragonflies.org.uk
28. West Norfolk		
29. Cambridgeshire	Val Perrin	valperrin@aol.com
30. Bedfordshire	Rory Morrissey	25 Ainslie Field, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 2JF 01525 372477. dragonflies@brins.org.uk
31. Huntingdonshire	Val Perrin	See VC 29, above
32. Northamptonshire	Mark Tymell	8 Warwick Close, Raunds, Wellingborough, Northants, NN9 6H 01933 389 748. mark.p.tymell@ntlworld.com Website: www.northantsdragonflies.blogspot.co.uk
33. E. Gloucestershire	Richard Mundy	glos.dragonflies@gmail.com
34. W. Gloucestershire		
35. Monmouthshire ¹	Steve Presdy	01598 870508. steve.presdy@nec.com
36. Herefordshire	Chris Harris	01779 339882. chris@cggraphics.co.uk
37. Worcestershire	Mike Averill	48 James Road, Kidderminster, Wores, DY10 2TH 01562 638571. mike.averill@blueponder.co.uk
38. Warwickshire	Mick Schilling *	mick.schilling@outlook.com / www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk
39. Staffordshire	Dave Jackson	01940 826671. jacksongrus@talktalk.net
40. Shropshire	Sue Flees Evans	Tel: 01743 354507. sussexesrns75@gmail.com Website: shropshiredragonflies.co.uk
41. Glamorganshire ¹	Mike Powell	87 Oued Glas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5EL 029 2076 2182. mike.powell02011@btinternet.com



List of BDES County Dragonfly Recorders, last updated 1 March 2022

42. Herefordshire ¹	Keith Noble	25 Belle Vue Gardens, Brecon, LD3 7HT 01474 620131. knoble.jm@btinternet.com
43. Radnorshire ¹	Bob Dennison	Maes y Geidfa, Cwmgates, Llanfrynodd Wells, Powys, LD1 6RP 01597 851 702. rd15966@gmail.com
44. Carmarthenshire ¹	Stephen Coler	Mountain Grove, Clabeston Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 4SG
45. Pembrokeshire ¹		01437 563 566. stephen.coler@btopenworld.com
46. Ceredigion ¹	Lin Gander	Penrallt Uchryd, Cardigan Ceredigion, SA43 2PS 01238 602405. Lingander@strandrings.com
47. Montgomeryshire ¹	Anne Coler	Mountain Grove, Clabeston Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 4SG 01437 563 566. stephen.coler@btopenworld.com
48. Merionethshire ¹ to 52. Anglesey ¹	Allan Brandon	Bryn Heilyn, Rowen, Gerny LL32 8YT 01492 651 066. allanrowen@sky.com Website: www.confined.org.uk/news (and search 'dragonfly newsletter' – issue 100 is year 2019)
53. South Lincolnshire	Nick Tribe	12 Little Barge Street, Lincoln, LN5 8JR
54. North Lincolnshire		01522 822868. nick.tribe@btopenworld.com
55. Leicestershire (with Rutland)	Ian Merrill	125 Church Lane, Whitwick, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 5DP 01530 815866. ianmerrill@btopenworld.com
56. Nottinghamshire	Chris Bradbury	5 St Michaels Court, Union St, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts, NG17 5EL
57. Derbyshire		01462 340297. mail@chrisbradbury.com
58. Cheshire & Wirral ²	John Roberts	01629 733140 / 07775 708638. cheshiredragonflies@outlook.com
59. South Lancashire	Steve White	0151 707 2744 (daytime). steverwhite182@btinternet.com
60. West Lancashire		
61. S.E. Yorkshire	Martin Roberts	48 Stratford Way, Huntington, York YO12 9YW 01404 761918. wd81@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk. Ftc: 'yorkshiredragonflies'
62. N.E. Yorkshire	Keith Gitters	Sunnybank, Law Street, Huddersfield, York. YO61 4QA 01484 868606. brilliantmerrill@btinternet.com
63. S.W. Yorkshire	Alistair McLean	Museums Sheffield, Weston Park, Western Bank, Sheffield, S80 2TP 0114 278 2648. alistair.mclean@museums-sheffield.org.uk
64. Mid-west Yorkshire	Sirwan Joseph	11 Sandholme Villas, Easingwold, Yorkshire, WF11 6NF 01752 054808. sirwanjoseph1967@sky.com
65. N.W. Yorkshire	Keith Gitters	As YO62
66. County Durham	Michael Coates	07715 180644. michaelcoates@ashmail.com
67. S. Northumberland	Michael Gardner	11 East Lane, Consett, County Durham, DH8 0QJ
68. N. Northumberland		07827 842516. yod76dragonflies@gmail.com
69. Westmorland	David Clarke	Burnfoot, Cumbria, Brampton, Cumbria, CA11 9EX
70. Cumberland		01228 540117. davidclarke8970@gmail.com
71. Isle of Man	Pete Hatfield	07624 471794. immanon1@gmail.com
SCOTLAND 72. Dumfriesshire to 112. Shetland, except:	Pat Batty	Kinnon Farm, Kilmichael Glen, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QJ 01546 685 316. dragonfly.batty@gmail.com
95. Moray	Stephen Coonan	07957 696871. stephenjcoonan@hotmail.com
96. E. Inverness-shire	Colin Hall	01308 271386. colhall@hotmail.co.uk
111. Orkney	Graeme Walker	asunchwalker@aol.com
113. Channel Isles	Jersey Biodiversity C.	01534 633691. jbc@societe-jersiaise.org / jerseybiodiversitycentre.org.je
	Guernsey BRC	01461 715798. gylionet@guernsey.net / www.biologicalrecordscentre.gov.gg
	Alderney WT	admin@alderneywildlife.org / www.alderneywildlife.org
NORTHERN IRELAND and EIRE	Damian McFerran	National Museums Northern Ireland, Cultra, Holywood, Co. Down, BT18 0EU Ftc: 'Dragonfly Ireland' / Web: www.nmni.com/CEdall/CEdall-submitting-records.aspx
Migrant Dragonfly Project	Adrian Parr	10 Orchard Way, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 5BX 01284 810 465. adrian.parr@btinternet.com
RECORDS OFFICER	David Hepper	12 Three Stiles Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7DE 01252 723863. records@british-dragonflies.org.uk

¹ Don't worry about county boundary changes! Once records have a grid reference they will be seen by the correct CDB for verification.² Indicates that the CDB or the asterisk details have been updated recently.Amendments or corrections? Please contact the BDES Records Officer, David Hepper: records@british-dragonflies.org.uk

Checklist of the Damselflies & Dragonflies of Britain & Ireland

Last Revision: 11/8/20. The sequence and nomenclature follow Schorr and Paulson, July 2013:

<http://www.pugetsound.edu/academics/academic-resources/slater-museum/biodiversity-resources/dragonflies/world-odonata-list>

Table 1. Category A: resident and/or regular migrant species recorded since 2000

This category comprises species with well-established breeding populations and migrant species that have been recorded regularly since 2000, the latter often attempting to establish temporary breeding populations.

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

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

Table 2. Category B: vagrant species

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

ZYGOPTERA	Damselflies	ANISOPTERA (cont'd)	Dragonflies (cont'd)
Lestidae	Emerald Damselflies		
<i>Sympecma fusca</i>	Winter Damselfly	Libellulidae	Darters, Chasers, Skimmers
ANISOPTERA	Dragonflies	<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>	Large White-faced Darter
Aeshnidae	Hawkers	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i> †	Scarlet Darter
<i>Anax junius</i>	Green Darner	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Wandering Glider
Gomphidae		<i>Sympetrum flaveolum</i>	Yellow-winged Darter
<i>Stylurus flavipes</i>	River (Yellow-legged) Clubtail	<i>Sympetrum</i>	
Corduliidae		<i>pedemontanum</i>	Banded Darter
<i>Somatochlora</i>	Yellow-spotted Emerald	<i>Sympetrum vulgatum</i>	Vagrant Darter
<i>flavomaculata</i>			

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



Table 3. Category C: former breeding species now locally extinct in the UK

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

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

Table 4. Category D: species recorded only in the Channel Islands

ANISOPTERA	Dragonflies
<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i> <i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>	Southern Skimmer Southern Darter

Table 5. Category E: exotic species introduced accidentally

These records have come principally from aquatic nurseries (Parr, 2000).

ZYGOPTERA	Damselflies	ANISOPTERA	Dragonflies
<i>Argia fumipennis</i> <i>Ceriagrion</i> <i>cerinorubellum</i> <i>Enallagma signatum</i> <i>Ischnura posita</i> <i>Ischnura senegalensis</i>	Variable Dancer Painted Waxtail Orange Bluet Fragile Forktail Marsh Bluetail	<i>Anax gibbosulus</i> <i>Anax guttatus</i> <i>Crocothemis servilia</i> <i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i> <i>Rhodothemis rufa</i> <i>Tramea transmarina</i> <i>euryale</i> <i>Urothemis bisignata</i>	Green Emperor Lesser Green Emperor Oriental Scarlet Eastern Pondhawk Spine-legged Redbolt Ocean Glider

End.

Guidelines for Contributors

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

Articles requesting information or providing news of forthcoming events are welcome. The editor is happy to receive material by email, preferably in MS WORD (DOC file extension) or txt format. Typed material requiring rekeying is less welcome (unless very short!) but will still be considered. The Editor reserves the right to make changes without prior reference to the author, but will endeavor to contact the author if a lot of editing is required. Please provide contact details with anything you send and note the copy deadlines printed on inside front cover if you want something to appear in a particular issue. Photographs should be high quality jpg format with the quality setting at its highest, please do not embed in a document as this compromises quality. Please use a file sharing service such as drop box or 'Wetransfer' to send large files. Thank you.



BDS Shop

**Les Larves de Libellules de Die
Libellenlarven von
Paul-André Robert**

**Paul-André Robert and his life's work
on dragonfly larvae**

Compiled by Christophe Brochard

Language: Bilingual in French and German

Paul-André Robert (1901-1977) was a Swiss artist and naturalist. In Europe Robert is best known for his book *Les Libellules* ('Dragonflies'), which appeared in 1958. Less well-known is the fact that Robert began to work on a monumental monograph on European dragonfly larvae at the age of sixteen. Producing the manuscript, containing text as well as

illustrations, consumed most of his life and was only just completed at the time of his death. This magnificent work remained unpublished until now. This book finally presents Robert's 107 watercolour illustrations of dragonfly larvae, all in their original size and of unparalleled beauty and scientific precision. In addition, the book features his numerous line drawings and pencil sketches of morphological details, descriptions of species and an identification key.

This book, which is bilingual (French and German), is a unique combination of art and science. It is an invaluable resource for entomology professionals and a significant collector's item for admirers of high-quality entomological books. It is also a stunning piece of artwork that will please anyone with an interest in natural history, realistic art and illustration. As an honorary tribute to Robert, an international team of dragonfly experts added an extensive introduction to the book.

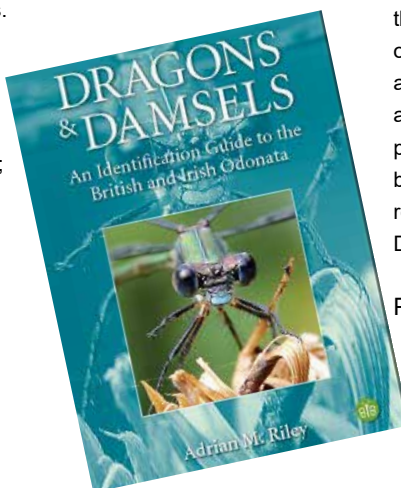
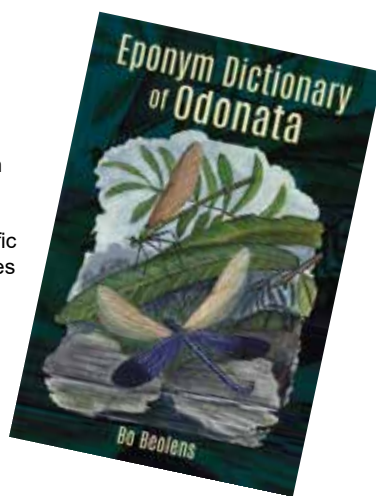
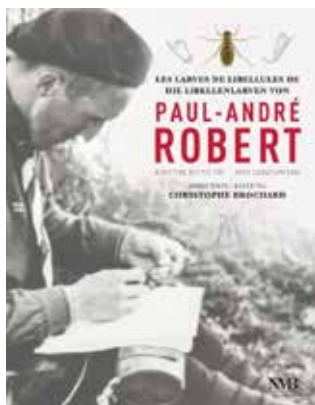
Price £75.00 postage £6.50 or via the shop page

The Eponym Dictionary of Odonata

by Bo Beolens

The Eponym Dictionary of Odonata is a comprehensive listing of all people after whom damselflies and dragonflies have been named in scientific or common names. Each entry provides details of the species and a brief biography of the person. It is also cross-referenced so that the relationships between scientific authors, entomologists and others can be followed. Many entries have been contributed by the people so honoured who are not necessarily odonatologists, entomologists, zoologists or even great men of science. Many damselflies and dragonflies are named for the author's family members, friends and those who collected the species holotypes, while others are figures from myth or history. In fact, it could be anything from the author's mother to a favourite musician! Because entries may include details of dates, places, educational and work institutions, it is possible to discover information about each person and for a picture to be built of how the science sometimes follows groupings of colleagues or those significantly influenced by charismatic teachers. The Dictionary includes other names which might, at a glance, be thought to be eponyms yet are not in the truest sense. These may be species named after characteristics embodied in characters from literature, whole peoples, acronyms or toponyms, etc. To some extent it can read like a canon of the great women and men of science over the last several centuries. Interestingly there are species named after as many as three generations of the same family, veiled references to old lovers, sycophantic homage, financial patronage, etc., as well as all the more 'legitimate' reasons for naming species. Not surprisingly, odonatologists exhibit a range of opinion on the practice, from naming all species after people, to wanting all eponyms banned; they can be totally humourless and pedantic or full of fun and irreverence. Like all of us they have as many reasons for their naming's as ordinary folk have for naming their children or pets! Underlying all this, however, is the value of this volume in cataloguing this fascinating aspect of science for all users, whether scientists or interested lay readers.

Price £38.00 plus £5 P&P or via the shop page



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Dragons & Damsels An Identification Guide to the British & Irish Odonata

This is a comprehensive and user-friendly photographic identification guide to all species, sexes and forms of British and Irish dragon- and damselflies, with essential field notes and habitat photographs.

Review:

In the main, most field guides follow the same pattern, with species accounts laid out in taxonomic sequence. The new guide by Adrian Riley does indeed have two chapters of species accounts covering damselflies and then dragonflies separately. Where this new guide differs, however, is in its approach to the identification of individual insects.

Again, damselflies and dragonflies have their own chapters, but within these, species are grouped according to their appearance, with males and females often treated separately due to their differing colours and patterns. This makes sense when you understand that early dragonfly observers actually thought that, for example, male and female Banded Demoiselles were of two different species because they looked so dissimilar.

Adrian Riley's meticulous approach to each species, sex and colour-form throughout the book should leave no-one in doubt of an identification. There is no question at all that this new guide, with its fresh approach, detailed descriptions and clear photographs, will find a place on the bookshelf of many dragonfly watchers and recorders, no matter how experienced. — Dr Pam Taylor, British Dragonfly Society

Price £22 plus £3.00 P&P

