

Skimmer

Yorkshire Branch Magazine 2011



www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk

Notes from the Chair

Well, it's that time of year again when I have to put together a few words for Skimmer. This year it starts with a series of requests...volunteers are needed for the Committee, as all of the current committee members' posts are up for re-election at the AGM. I would also like to know if anyone is, or knows, an artist who could design an image for the Branch and one for the front cover of Skimmer (my initial thoughts on the latter is a Black-tailed Skimmer dipping its abdomen into a bottle of ink....oh, if I could only draw!). Thirdly is there anyone who could, or knows anyone who can, help to design a series of leaflets for the Branch in .pdf format. Finally the vice-county recorders need your dragonfly sightings as we are now midway through the BDS atlas project and the more records we can submit, the more comprehensive and accurate the coverage will be.

If anyone feels that they could contribute with any of the above, please contact either myself, one of the other Committee members, or their vice-county recorder, as soon as possible.

This year, we will not be organising field trips in the same way as previous years but will be trying something new as part of a drive to get Branch members up to scratch with dragonfly identification. This statement may shock you but over the course of the past couple of years it has come to my attention that the main reason that the vice-county recorders receive so few records from Yorkshire Branch members is that some of you are not confident enough with your identification skills and therefore feel that you cannot pass on any sightings in case you have misidentified the dragonflies you've seen. We have therefore decided to suspend organised field trips this year and await requests from you, inviting us to your local patch at a mutually agreeable date, to pass on a few tips on identification and recording.

The Branch will continue to attend various events, bringing our display board and promoting dragonflies to the general public. One such event will be the RES Insect Festival at York Museum and Gardens on 3rd July. Volunteers to man the stand, even for half an hour or so, would be welcome. Unfortunately, we cannot get everyone free admission but there will be lots of things to see, so please come along if you can make it. If you have an event near you, which you would like to attend on the Branch's behalf, please let me know so that you can borrow the display board, etc.

Although we try to arrange our indoor meetings wherever we can get them for free, we've started to run out of places that are convenient for all members to get to. Therefore in order to prevent an increase in the membership fee, please can I ask each and every one of you to try and get someone to join the Branch this year.

Don't forget to visit the website and keep an eye on the Sightings page during the season to see what's about in your area. Please email your sightings and photos to Paul Ashton at vc61@erdragonflies.co.uk and if you could add your local/favourites sites to the Locations page, please email Paul details of how to access the site, the grid reference, habitat type(s) and which species you've recorded there and he will work his magic.

Thanks and happy dragonflying

Tom Hubball

Minutes of the Indoor Meeting

Tom Hubball

Saturday 29th January 2011 at 1.30 pm, The Quaker's Meeting Rooms, Friargate, York.

Attendees, Tom Hubball (Chair), Paul Ashton (Secretary), Chris Abbott, Joan Archer, Keith Gittens, Bill Hall, Vicky Kindemba, Peter Mill, Josh Parker and Richard Shillaker.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

Mike Wilcox, Howard & Chris Frost, Ken & Pat Limb, Miles Langthorne, Paul Forster, Emma Marshall and Steve Warrillow.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. TH commented on matters arising from the last meeting, explaining that he had contacted Leeds Museum about their conference rooms and the cheapest one was £300 for a full day or £210 half day plus VAT. The attendees agreed that these costs were out of range as far as the Branch was concerned and agreed that existing venues should be utilised. TH also confirmed that he had received the update from the BDS on the evening after the last meeting; however there was nothing major to update members with as most of it was contained in Dragonfly News 58 which was received later that week.

3. Membership report

PA stated that there were no new members since AGM and that, at present, the Branch membership was 55 but some still had to pay for 2011.

4. Treasurer's Report

As Emma Marshall and Steve Warrillow were unable to attend, TH read out the statement prepared by EM. The current balance, as of 28th January, was £585.91 and TH confirmed that the reserve amount of £100 should be retained. Funds would be available to PA for the VC61 Atlas if required. TH also stated that funds would be required to purchase new membership leaflets as the Branch was down to the last few copies.

5. Skimmer articles

PA confirmed that he had already received sufficient articles to produce another 32 page edition of Skimmer and thanked everyone for their efforts. However, articles are always required for future publications.

6. Records

TH reminded everyone that all records should now have been sent in for 2010 and explained that Vice-county recorders had received an updated version of AditSite Darter from Steve Prentice which should have ironed out problems with the original software. PA commented that he was still having issues with it and would continue with MapMate. KG stated he would be in contact with SP about several issues, including the program still bringing up the wrong vice-county when running a report even though the underlying record was correct, the search facility not working correctly and the inability to make the distinction between males and females in the entries, apart from adding it to the Notes section. KG also explained that most time was taken up with entering site information but once done records could be swiftly entered. KG also confirmed that SP was unable to send updated records from one VC to another and instead would have to send a complete update. This means that VC recorders would have to completely update all the existing records, including all site information, and send this to SP, otherwise their data would be overwritten by the update. All recorders confirmed that this made AditSite virtually unusable in its current format. CA asked what happened to records where the landowner did not want the site to be disclosed. TH confirmed that any records marked by the sender as such would not be passed onto the BDS, however they were useful to the VC recorder. PA did not agree and stated that they would go into the atlas but as a 10km grid reference, so as not to identify the specific site. TH agreed that this should be the case except where the landowner expressly forbids any disclosure. KG stated that VC recorders should be aware that the restriction of site information on AditSite Darter goes on the record file, not on the site file, so care must be taken to include this on every record. KG would also be raising this with SP.

TH and KG confirmed that they would be attending the next Dragonfly Recording Network meeting on Saturday 12th March at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Wolseley Centre in Staffordshire.

7. Getting to grips with identification / Events

TH explained that the main reason the recorders appear to receive so few records from Yorkshire Branch members is that members are not confident enough to identify exactly what they see when they're out and about. Therefore TH suggested that instead of the usual practice of arranging field trips, where few people turn up, the Branch would be leaving it to the members to suggest dates/places, and either on a one-to-one or group basis, experienced members would provide them with a couple of hours tuition in the field to enable them to confidently identify any species. TH remarked that it could lead to clashes with dates/times but hoped that everyone who expresses an interest could be visited at some stage throughout the summer. Members should contact TH on 01535 678334 to arrange a place/time. TH asked that a few days/weeks warning would be helpful. TH also confirmed that the Branch would have at least one field trip between 11th and 19th June for National Dragonfly Week and suggested Rodley Nature Reserve, Leeds or Oakhill, Goole. TH to contact respective parties to arrange. PM remarked that there were now two dipping ponds at Rodley and that an extension to the visitor centre was nearly complete.

PM stated that the Branch would also be attending the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society Science Fair on Saturday 19th March and requested volunteers to help on the day. TH confirmed that he would be attending with the Branch display board and additional volunteers would be welcomed.

PM also confirmed that the Branch would be attending Go Wild 2011 which is running for 9 days from 19th to 27th February at the RHS gardens at Harlow Carr, Harrogate from 11am to 3pm. The BDS would be attending on at least one day and volunteers would be required to help out as many days as possible. TH said that he would come on Saturday 19th with the Branch display board and this could remain for the duration of the event. PM said that anyone interested in helping should contact him and requested that PA send an email to all members informing them of his contact details.

TH informed everyone that John Bowers would be running a How to Identify Dragonflies event in conjunction with the Yorkshire Naturalists Union on Saturday 2nd July from 9-4. The morning session at Leeds Museum Resource Centre and afternoon at Rodley Nature Reserve. £10 booking fee and own lunch and transport required. Contact JB on 0113 214 1548.

TH confirmed that he will also be attending the Royal Entomological Society Insect Festival 2011 at York Museum Gardens on Sunday 3rd July. Claire Install and/or Steve Prentice will also be there with the BDS stand. TH said that there will be lots of local natural history societies present as well as natural history booksellers, entomological suppliers, etc and volunteers, even for the odd half hour, would be welcome but, unfortunately, would have to pay to get in as the RES is running everything on a very tight budget.

KG said that there was an event planned at Castle Howard Arboretum on 9th July entitled 'All Things Flying' but had no further details at present.

BH stated that there would be a walk at Margrove, possibly in early August but nothing had been finalised yet.

RS said that Steve Cham is running an 'Identifying larval dragonflies and damselflies' course with the Freshwater Biological Association on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th May at the FBA River Laboratory in Dorset, see www.fba.org.uk for details.

RS also confirmed that the YNU has organised a Scarborough BioBlitz from 2nd to 4th June. RS also remarked that the Driffield Show now has a natural history section and would see if it were possible for the Branch display to be shown on 20th July.

PM announced that he would be surveying the Bedale Arboretum in the summer.

TH remarked that Helen Dinsdale, PM and himself attended the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Conference, entitled 2020 Vision, on 2nd October at Middleham Key Centre. After a series of talks in the morning there were a variety of discussion workshops in the afternoon. To assist YDNP with their biodiversity and get more dragonfly records to boot, TH and PM plan to undertake some kick-sampling sessions in the YDNP streams looking for dragonfly larvae. Some suitable sites have been identified already, one being near Ingleton.

8. Proposals to improve the habitat at Broomfleet Washlands

RS stated that at the East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Partnership meeting on Friday 14th January it was noted that the habitat at Broomfleet was degrading in terms of reduction in area of open water, with scrub and trees moving in, etc and that Market Weighton Drainage Board want to make more use of the Washlands for flood control. Their first

proposal was to clear some of the scrub and work has already commenced. A group of interested parties had also been formed: MWDB, RSPB, Environment Agency, YWT and Natural England. PA stated anything done to remove the encroachment of scrub would be great and confirmed that he had already sent records to them. KG remarked that Variable Damselfly is susceptible to drainage clearance but PA stated that they were probably not breeding on site but around the edges and on the tile works ponds which are not part of the scheme. TH queried whether the addition of hedges to provide windbreaks and to establish feeding areas would be beneficial. RS asked TH to contact Jon Traill at YWT to put across the Branch's views on the proposed work.

JP raised the issue of Yorkshire Water's plan to allow flooding at Dalby Forest rather than letting it flood further downstream and TH said that they were doing similar work in the South Pennines, particularly with respect to 'brown water' coming off the moorland.

9. Website update

PA said that nothing much had happened on the website since the AGM. PM mentioned that the new Rodley Nature Reserve website was now online at www.rodleynaturereserve.org

10. Talks and presentations

KG confirmed that he had done a one hour talk using the BDS slides to Darlington Field Naturalists and 30-40 had attended. He also stated that he would be doing another talk to members of Ryedale Natural History Society on 15th March at Kirkbymoorside Methodist Hall.

BH stated that he would be presenting a talk on dragonflies and other things of La Brenne in France to members of Cleveland Naturalists Field Club on March 28th at Nature's World, Middlesbrough.

11. East Yorkshire Atlas

PA confirmed that due to a change of publisher he would have to completely redesign the maps and layout to fit their format so the publication would be delayed until the summer. PA also informed attendees that ISBN numbers are not transferable and must be purchased ten at a time, increasing costs further. PM asked whether PA had contacted the BDS to see if they had any to use and therefore a transfer would not be necessary.

12. BDS News

TH confirmed that four Yorkshire Branch members attended the BDS Members Day on 23rd October at Harper Adams College in Shropshire. There was the usual series of talks, AGM, BDS shop etc. Highlights of the talks were Peter Allen's review of his trip to Missouri, USA; reports of larvae feeding on carrion by James Coulter and Wendy Harris describing a study she'd undertaken where she attached microwave transponder tags to dragonflies. PM remarked that he found Florian Weihrauch's talk on parthenogenetic damselflies particularly interesting.

TH reminded everyone that the main focus is centred on the forthcoming national atlas, noting that unrecorded areas should be targeted. TH remarked that this means that big

parts of North and South Yorkshire need to be covered as well as major towns and cities such as Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Doncaster and York. Records from garden ponds can help immensely in these areas, so ask your neighbours or relatives and get those records in so we can get another dot on the map.

TH advised anyone to keep an eye out for the 'Killer Shrimp' *Dikerogammarus villosus* which had now been found in a couple of reservoirs in England and Wales. Various members around the table entered into the discussion and further information of what to look for can be found on the Environment Agency website www.environment-agency.gov.uk

TH remarked that David Chelmick's article in the Journal of the BDS Vol 26 No.2 stated that *L.dryas* is 'now' recorded in Yorkshire. PA informed everyone that he had contacted DC and that it had been included in the article as it was rumoured to be in Yorkshire. PA advised that it had been recorded historically and TH asked PA to amend the website from Rare Vagrant to Rare Ex-resident.

TH remarked that it had been a good year for migrants in other parts of the UK, with the discovery of Dainty Damselfly in Kent after an absence from Britain of well over fifty years. Kent also played host to Southern Emerald Damselflies and Southern Migrant Hawkers, as did other counties such as Norfolk for the former and Essex for the latter.

TH reiterated that National Dragonfly Week will run from Saturday 11th-Sunday 19th June, so please try to target walks, talks and dragonfly articles in the local press to this period if you can. He also remarked that after next year Dragonfly Week may well move to July or August.

13. Next meeting

TH asked everyone if they approved of this new venue and all were in agreement. It was decided to hold the AGM here, at a date to be arranged, and move the spring meeting around the county so everyone had an opportunity to attend an indoor meeting at some stage.

14. AOB

With no further business, TH closed the meeting everyone went to Reception where tea and coffee were waiting.

BDS - Yorkshire Branch Website

Check out the website for the latest news, first sightings of the year, field trip diary, contact details, dragonfly locations to visit and how to submit your records.

Lost a previous issue of Skimmer! Latest editions available for download, please contact Paul Ashton for password.

www.yorkshiredragonflies.co.uk

Field Trips and Events – 2010 Summary

Tom Hubball

Denson Marston Nature Reserve Open Day – Saturday 19th June

Steve Warrillow, Emma Marshall and Tom Hubball confirmed that over 110 people attended this event and they had been busy all afternoon. Tom manned the Yorkshire Branch stand and showed not only exuviae to interested people but also a couple of Southern Hawker larvae that had been netted in one of the pond dipping sessions. In addition to the various natural history groups and other stalls, there was a talented artist who was face painting and a photograph of Steve, with a lovely dragonfly across his face, would be appearing in the next edition of Dragonfly News.

River Dearne – Old Moor RSPB – Saturday 19th June

This trip was well attended by around 16 people. The main aim was to search for the possibility of Beautiful Demoiselle being present on the River Dearne, none were found. Banded Demoiselle were plentiful, with mating behavior observed, including the female submerging to oviposit her eggs. In total eight species were observed.



River Ure, River Bain and surrounding areas – Saturday 3rd July

Only two members, Tom Hubball and Keith Gittens, met at Ballowfield NR and proceeded to investigate the two rivers at suitable points where safe car parking and access to the bankside was available. In spite of the weather, which although was not ideal, only one species was seen...a Blue-tailed Damselfly. Unfortunately for Keith this was only seen by Tom as it flew into dense foliage. On returning to Ballowfield NR we investigated the flora of the site, finding Spring Sandwort and, with a bit of help from someone whom we met by chance, Moonwort.

Marfield Nature Reserve – Saturday 17th July

Tom Hubball stated that five members attended this event on an overcast and blustery day. Unfortunately due to the conditions, only four species were seen; Common Blue, Blue-tailed and Emerald Damselflies and a lone Common Darter.

Tranmire Bogs and Goathland Tarn – Saturday 7th August

A full account of this trip can be found on page 10.

Treeton Dyke – Saturday 21st August

Tom Hubball reported that five members were present for this field trip and for such an unpromising site, on paper at least, it turned out to be the best field trip of the year with nine species being seen and numbers of Common Blue Damselflies and Common Darter recording over 100 individuals.



Copulating pair of Common Hawker observed at Goathland Tarn on the Cleveland Naturalists Field Club / Yorkshire Dragonfly Branch Joint Field Meeting. Photo: Graham Featherstone.

Cleveland Naturalists Field Club / Yorkshire Dragonfly Branch Joint Field Meeting

Bill Hall

Tranmire Bogs and Goathland Tarn, 7 August 2010

This joint meeting was attended by 6 Cleveland Naturalists Field Club members, 4 Yorkshire Dragonfly Branch members and 1 joint member. It had an emphasis on finding and identifying dragonflies and damselflies.

Neither the forecast nor the morning weather looked promising with showers predicted and complete cloud cover at the start. We walked South from the meeting point at Wheeldale Bridge and then into Cropton Forest to two very beautiful ponds. From then on the weather started to improve with some warm sunshine and dragonflies started to appear. Keith Gittens was able to net an Azure Damselfly to demonstrate the marks which distinguish it from the very similar Common Blue Damselfly also present. Two other damselflies were found, Emerald and Large Red. Of the true dragonflies we had Golden ringed, Common, Southern and Brown Hawkers, Common and Black Darters and Four spot Chaser. Of interest was a Common Lizard lurking in the top of the vegetation possibly hoping to catch one of the damselflies. With some reluctance we returned to our meeting place at Tranmire Bogs, where we hoped to see Keeled Skimmer. The weather had deteriorated a bit and nothing was flying though Keith managed to net one rather worn Keeled Skimmer and then, being in very good form, netted a Golden ringed flying down the stream. Lunch was taken sitting overlooking the stream in light rain but nevertheless with more Golden ringed flying up and down in front of us.

The rain became heavy and continuous as we drove to Goathland Tarn, though our luck was in since it cleared as we arrived. Goathland Tarn provided more joy for the party, the outstanding feature being over 500 Emerald Damselflies. We also had a new species for the day, Black tailed Skimmer. Other species seen were; Common Blue Damselfly, Common and Black Darter and a number of Common Hawkers, including a copulating pair of which the female was of the blue form.

The meeting turned out to be a very good one for dragonflies with 13 species seen, which is excellent by any standards.

Contacts for the Yorkshire Branch

Chairperson:

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Secretary, Website and Skimmer Editor:

Paul Ashton H: 01430 803005 E: vc61@erdragonflies.co.uk

Treasurer:

Emma Marshall H: 01274 567860 E: janetemma_marshall@yahoo.co.uk

Events 2011

Identification Help

Please note that there are fewer field trips organised this year. The plan this year, were possible, is to assist individual observers with identification skills, or alternatively survey new sites that you may be aware of, but don't know where to start. If you would like one of the vice county recorders to visit your site, and assist with identification, then in the first instance contact Tom Hubball, Tel: 01535 678334 after 6pm, E-mail: vc63dragonfly@blueyonder.co.uk. Tom will then try and co-ordinate an appropriate time and date to visit the site. This is very much a new approach this year, and we cannot guarantee being able to full fill all requests.

Rodley Nature Reserve - Saturday 11th June - 10.00am

This event coincides with Rodley Nature Reserves 2011 Springwatch event. There will be pond dipping, moth trapping, small mammal trapping, a bug hunt, bird and botany walks and other activities taking place on the day too.

Denso Marston Celebration Day - Saturday 18th June 1pm - 4pm

Leader/Contact: Steve Warrillow

E-mail: whirlygigwarrillow@googlemail.com

Aim: An Open Day to celebrate the Nature Reserve where Steve is Warden.

Meet: 13.00 – 16.00 at Denson Marston Ltd, Otley Road, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD17 7JR.

Oakhill, Goole - Sunday 19th June - 10.30am

Leader/Contact: Tom Hubball

Tel: Tom Hubball 01535 678334 after 6pm, E-mail: vc63dragonfly@blueyonder.co.uk

Meet: Car park leave M62 at Junction 36, towards Goole on A614, take second road on right and proceed through 'no entry' signs to car park (grid ref SE728231)

This is a joint event with Goole and District Natural History Society and Friends of Oakhill.

Strensall Common Saturday, 13th August, 10.30am

Leader/Contact: Bill Hall

Tel: 01642 823170 or 07753663589.

Meet: At car park on Lords Moor Lane by the cattle grid. GR SE648611.

Aim: A walk with a focus on dragonflies.

Please note:

Check the website for the latest status and updates on planned field trips.

Remember to bring a packed lunch, stout footwear and waterproof clothing.

Young persons under the age of 18 are welcome to attend all meetings. However, as the Yorkshire Branch of the BDS has no member registered under the Children's Act, their parent or guardian must accompany them. The leader of an event should also be consulted in advance if children wish to attend.

Dragonfly Recording Network Meeting 20th March 2010

Tom Hubball

Keith Gittens, Paul Ashton and I attended the Dragonfly Recording Network meeting at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Wolsley Centre nr Rugeley, Staffs.

Steve Cham opened the meeting at 10:30 and introduced Steve Prentice who presented the first talk of the day. He started off by updating us with what had been happening with the Dragonflies in Focus project. In the last six months, he had received over 30,000 records, showing a large scale map of all the new areas covered. He confirmed that the database now contains 688,541 records with the NBN Gateway dataset containing approximately 651,000 records...the difference mainly due records from surveys spread over several years and therefore unable to date specifically. Steve set the challenge for the one millionth record, which although seems distant, could with some effort become a reality in the not too distant future. He then outlined a joint project with OPAL (Open Air Laboratories) which will see 40,000 Water Survey packs being sent out to schools and community groups. Six species of common dragonflies are included on the ID chart. He restated that grants for £1000-£4000 were available from OPAL but a co-ordinated approach between the BDS and local branches would be required to avoid duplication.

Steve Cham was next, with an update on the dragonfly Atlas, showing sample pages and requesting assistance in writing sections of it. At a proposed 400 pages, it promises to be a must have publication, covering everything from dragonfly habitats to species accounts, not to mention the excellent maps showing the spread, or contractions, of dragonflies recorded across the country. Other sections will provide a background to the project, recording and data collection, species anticipated to arrive or become extinct in the UK, conservation of dragonflies and their habitats as well as a complete set of appendices and references.

Dave Smallshire then took to the floor, providing feedback on the Dragonfly Monitoring Scheme. Following the previous year's trial, where 52 transects in 21 vice-counties were undertaken, several tweaks appear to be needed and therefore the trial will continue throughout 2010 so that a fully defined scheme can be setup from 2011 onwards. It appears that a 'fixed point count' format may be more suitable as dragonflies may be in vegetation if the weather is unsuitable, needing time to count them accurately. Also views over the water may be restricted by tall vegetation or other obstacles. It also appears that six visits to a site per season is the optimum number, however this does not mean more cannot be made if practicable. Wind direction and percentage of sun also appear to be key in the results and therefore these should be made note of too.

Steve Prentice returned to give a demonstration for the new online recording system, which utilises a traffic light approach, requiring all the relevant details to be entered before the user can progress onto the next part. There is also a mapping function to enable the user to correctly identify the site and its relevant grid reference. There will also be a more advanced entry system to allow multiple records to be entered.

All of these records will be forwarded to the relevant vice-county recorders to validate and verify. Hopefully this will prevent invalid records being input into the BDS records database and NBN Gateway. The Yorkshire vice-county recorders asked Steve when AditSite Darter would be available to help us improve our record keeping tasks and he said that we would be prioritised for the next roll-out of the software.

Pam Taylor led a discussion on defining the role of the VCR (vice-county recorder), stating the primary and secondary functions within the role and ways it could be expanded. She also confirmed that the BDS will be developing a framework to support existing and encourage new VCRs. Other areas that the BDS will be investigating include clarifying the aims of the BDS, increased communication between VCRs and support for local groups and initiatives.

She then continued with a talk on "Quantifying what we do" providing examples of how the volunteer time can be quantified into £s, for example fieldwork, data entry, report or article writing, attending or running events or walks and talks, presentations and courses. The time can then be converted to match funding, approximately £100 per 8 hour day) which is really useful for projects, BDS staff funding, etc

By now, it was time for lunch and several small groups formed to discuss various projects or observations on both the past and forthcoming dragonfly seasons. Members of the Kent Field Club sold copies of their new dragonfly atlas.

After lunch, Pam Taylor provided us with a brief update of BDS Strategy meeting where they discussed the vision of where the BDS wants to be in the next five years and how to get there. They agreed that the Society had become reactive rather than proactive and this needed to change. Given that the notes went on for 46 pages, Pam only provided highlights of the nine main themes plus an additional two which encompassed similar objectives. The nine main themes, in no particular order, were as follows:

- Leadership
- Funding
- Membership
- Research
- Future Staffing
- Publicity
- Marketing and Communications
- Website
- Strategic Alliances

The other two were:

- Targets and Projects
- People

The BDS Trustees will now draft up a business plan and this will subsequently be sent out for consultation before being adopted by the Society.

Steve Prentice then provided a demonstration of the Data Validation toolkit which it is hoped will assist VCRs in cleaning up both their own and any other records on the NBN Gateway so that the data on their can be relied on to be valid.

This software has been developed by Natural England and appears to work rather well, covering all Orders, not just dragonflies, and provides lists of valid and invalid records from the datasets on the NBN Gateway enabling any suspect records to be queried and verified. This software is free and details can be obtained from Steve Prentice stephen.prentice@naturalengland.org.uk

Pam returned to the front, presenting a discussion on "Filling the gaps – identifying and targeting unrecorded areas". Several maps, showing records received from all over the UK, were shown to illustrate which counties still had records to be sent into Steve Prentice. Smaller county maps were then used to illustrate how targeting unrecorded 10km squares improved coverage of already recorded vice-counties.

Pam finally chaired the Recorders Forum, where questions from the assembled recorders could be answered, if possible. Various questions were raised including whether Irish data for the forthcoming Atlas would be 'new' or just taken from the recent Irish atlas, whether water body GIS layers were available (discussions would be held with the Environment Agency) and how the key-site threshold was obtained (this was calculated as 'species breeding records for the site' being over 60% of the 'total seen list for the particular vice-county').

The meeting closed at 16:20 with some recorders taking up the offer of a guided walk around the SWT Wolseley Centre Reserve, whilst others headed home.

VC62 (North-east Yorkshire) Recorders Report 2010

Keith Gittens

The year was one of mixed fortunes, getting off to a good start particularly for records of **Broad-bodied Chaser** *Libellula depressa*. One site on the edge of the Hambleton Hills, which has only occasional records for this species had close to double figures with plenty of breeding activity noted.

As the summer progressed wind became a regular feature and when combined with cloud affected recording. A lack of rain resulting in the drying up of pools particularly at lowland heath sites like Strensall Common.

Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum* produced some new records with breeding activity noted at two new sites, one atop the North York Moors near Goathland. This latter site also produced a blue form female of **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea* in cop. The pair conveniently spent some time in the heather allowing it to be photographed by the group out dragonfly hunting that day.

While **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** *Cordulegaster boltonii* is regularly recorded on the eastern side of the North York Moors records from the west are scarce, however one site to the west was identified, having adults present and a return visit will be made to look for larvae. There is a need to investigate the western side of the moors further for this species.

The site near Scarborough where **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma viridulum* was discovered in 2009 produced a number of males in 2010; however no breeding activity or females were noted. It will be interesting to see what can be found in 2011.

There were few records for **Migrant Hawker**, all of which were individuals. This was in contrast with a good number of records for 2009.

Thanks once again to all those who sent records in.

Yorkshire Ponds Workshop, York, 22nd April 2010

Richard Shillaker

The following article was published in the Summer 2010 edition of FBA (Freshwater Biological Association) News. The workshop was also attended by Keith Gittens who drew people's attention to the work by our Members in mapping the distribution of dragonflies in Yorkshire.

The Yorkshire Ponds Workshop, organised by Martin Hammond, was a much welcomed opportunity to learn about and discuss the conservation of still-water habitats in Yorkshire and neighbouring counties. The meeting, held in a pleasant church hall in the middle of York, was well attended with it seemed nearly all of the available 40 or so seats taken. Official supporters of the workshop were City of York Council, Environment Agency, Pond Conservation (Million Ponds Project) and Lower Ure Conservation Trust. Here are some personal observations on the day.

The workshop started with a talk by Dr Jeremy Biggs (Director of Pond Conservation) entitled "The State of Britain's Ponds: where next?" The recent report on the state of Britain's ponds (based on an assessment of pond plants), as a part of the Countryside Survey 2007, has shown that 80% of ponds in England and Wales are in a 'poor' or 'very poor' condition. Although pond quality is better in Scotland, the study also shows that the condition of lowland ponds has got worse since 1996. The British countryside has around 500,000 man-made and natural ponds, of which it estimated that 50,000 are of high quality. The number of ponds in the countryside has decreased from the million believed to be present at the beginning of the 20th century, but the trend has been reversed slightly over recent years. Other good news highlighted by Dr Biggs was the more widespread distribution of the Lesser Silver Water Beetle (*Hydrochara caraboides*) notably in Cheshire, and the northward spread of some dragonflies and water bugs (eg the Water Stick Insect *Ranatra linearis*). On the negative side was the issue of clean water being exceedingly rare in the UK and the fragile state of some UK species: for instance the tadpole shrimp (*Triops cancriformis*) is known only from two locations in the UK. The photograph of where this species has been found in Scotland was particularly striking: an 'insignificant little puddle' created by cattle congregating around a wooden post. Sadly, the glutinous snail (*Myxas glutinosa*) which used to be found only a few miles from the Pond Conservation headquarters in Oxford is now probably extinct in England (with just one known location in Wales). As to the future, Dr Biggs argued that one of the most effective ways to improve freshwater biodiversity generally was to create new ponds with a clean water source, especially if part of a network of such ponds. He presented evidence to show that ponds less than ten years old contain more species of plants than older ponds. Critically he noted that there was little information available on the benefits that accrue from management of existing ponds; hence the current emphasis of Pond Conservation of pressing for the creation of new ponds rather than encouraging the restoration of existing ponds.

This point then led nicely on to the second speaker, Becca Cleaver (Million Ponds Project Northern Officer). The aim of Million Ponds Project is to create new ponds such that within 50 years there will be a million ponds again in the British countryside. She stressed three key aspects of creating a new pond: a clean water source, allowing the pond to be colonised naturally and protection from disturbance. Allowing a pond to be colonised naturally prevents the introduction of unwanted species (e.g. invasive alien aquatic plants found in garden ponds). Interestingly she also emphasised the fact that natural colonisation allowed a pond to pass through the early stages of succession which can be

short for many plant and animal species (mention was made of stoneworts and water beetles such as *Hydroglyphus geminus*).

Factsheets providing advice about the creation of new ponds can be found at:

<http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds/pondcreationtoolkit>

In addition, BAP species associated with ponds for England and for Wales are listed (divided into species with restricted distribution and widespread species), see

<http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds/bapspecies>

Becca asked for information on potential sites for new clean water ponds in Yorkshire.

After a short lunch break, Dr Jim Innes (Dept of Geography, Durham University) gave a talk entitled "Ponds and wetlands in the prehistoric landscape" which outlined some of the findings from an intensive series of studies of the prehistory of the Swale and Ure washlands in North Yorkshire. Dr Innes drew attention to the fact that Yorkshire was a much wetter landscape in these past times, with many more extensive water bodies.

There followed a very enthusiastic account by Simon Warwick (Director/Trustee, Lower Ure Conservation Trust) on work that has been carried out at Nosterfield Local Nature Reserve, the site of an old quarry characterised by very fluctuating water levels. The reserve had been created with the primary objective of providing an area of wet grassland for birds such as shoveler and redshank. An interesting, but not very spectacular, plant to flourish in the muddy drawdown zone was the Mudwort (*Limosella aquatica*).

Three separate speakers then described projects to encourage pond creation in the Yorkshire/Teesside area: the South Yorkshire Ponds Project (Bob Eades), Tees Valley Pondscape (Rachel Jackson) and ponds in East Yorkshire as part of the River Hull Living Landscapes project (Jon Traill). Notable successes were described for the Tees Valley including on an industrial site and with a positive response from farmers. For more information see <http://teesvalleybiodiversity.org.uk/pondscape>

Martin Hammond then rounded off the formal presentations with an engaging talk on "Water Beetles of the Yorkshire and Humber region". Martin noted that nearly 80 % of British species are found in this region and that beetles comprise one of the most species rich groups of animals in British ponds. He drew attention to beetle assemblages found in a number of particular habitats, i.e. seasonal pools, relic and secondary fens, brackish water pools and upland tarns. Martin has been working with Bob Merritt on this topic and their findings are due to be published by the Lincolnshire Naturalists Union in 2011.

*NB: the request above from Becca Cleaver (beccacleaver@pondconservation.org.uk) for information on potential sites for clean water ponds in Yorkshire. In a recent brief update Becca notes that " Yorkshire, in theory, is a good place to go looking for clean water. However, despite an increase in pond creation activity over the last few years, it is not clear whether the vital ingredients for clean water ponds, necessary to support our rarest freshwater wildlife, are being incorporated. One fantastic recent development has been the initiation of plans to create a series of ponds to secure a population of the rare tassel stonewort *Tolypella intricata* in North Yorkshire. The Million Ponds Project, with support from Biffaward, is hoping to fund the work later in 2011. Help to spread the word about the importance of clean water is much appreciated."*

Attempted sub-aquatic predation on an egg-laying damselfly

Richard Shillaker

The following observations were made on 15th August 2010 at a newly dug large pond in East Yorkshire. There were numerous Common Blue Damselflies (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) flying over the pond. I watched one pair in tandem land on a stem of Marestail (*Hippurus vulgaris*) which was sticking out of the water. The pair then flew in tandem down to the water surface where the male seemed to pull the female head first under the water close to a Marestail stem. The male then released his grip and the female apparently walked down the stem until she was totally submerged. After about 30 seconds she was harassed by a stickleback. Then 2-3 other sticklebacks joined in, and from their jerky to and fro movements around the damselfly, the fish were obviously trying to bite the damselfly. During this attack the damselfly struggled back to the surface where she seemed to get stuck in the surface film. However a male, who appeared to be the female's earlier tandem partner and was perched on a nearby Marestail, came to her rescue and pulled her clear of the water. The pair then flew away together in tandem.

The fish involved in the attack were definitely three-spined sticklebacks (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) which were present as numerous shoals in the pond.

Underwater oviposition, where the female is totally submerged during egg laying (as distinct from egg-laying by dipping the abdomen below the water surface) occurs in many species of damselfly that lay their eggs within plant material (Cham 2008, Corbet and Brooks 2008). As both these types of oviposition involve egg laying underwater, it would seem preferable to refer to the former more dramatic and 'unusual' behaviour by a flying insect as **submerged oviposition** (a term used by Miller 1995). Submerged oviposition is reported to be a common occurrence in the Common Blue Damselfly and Red Eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma najas*) and is sometimes seen in other British damselflies (Miller 1995, Starmore 2008).

Corbet and Brooks (2008) have considered the benefits and costs of submerged oviposition (referred to as underwater oviposition by these authors). They propose possible benefits to include freedom from interference by searching males, freedom to choose an oviposition site, a heightened assurance that the laid eggs will not be subject to desiccation after a fall in water level, reduced likelihood that eggs will be parasitised by Hymenoptera and thermoregulation by evaporative cooling (although this last proposed benefit is presumably not of relevance in the UK). Another advantage could be the freeing of males from long periods of contact guarding (a feature of many Coenagrionids) and thus allowing more time for mating with other females (Miller 1993). The costs of submerged oviposition include increased mortality from drowning (resulting from an inability to escape the surface film on resurfacing) and predation.

Egg laying when totally submerged subjects the female to the risk of predation when underwater and when the female has risen to the surface and is struggling to escape from the surface film. Egg laying with just the abdomen below the water surface is also associated with the risk of attack from aquatic predators (e.g. amphibian, fish or predatory invertebrate) or of being seized by an aerial predator (e.g. bird, large dragonfly or hornet). Fincke (1986) proposed that females may be safer by ovipositing underwater on large stems on which they move minimally, than if repeatedly repositioning themselves on mats above water, where they could attract the attention of frogs or other surface-active aquatic predators.

Predation of female Common Blue Damselflies at the water surface and underwater by small pike (*Esox lucius*) has been observed (Miller 1993). A North American relative of the Common Blue Damselfly, Hagen's Bluet (*Enallagma hageni*) submerges to oviposit and is reported to be

subject to predation by aquatic predators such as belostomatid bugs, water scorpions, diving beetles and their larvae, fish, frogs, and raft spiders (Fincke 1982).

Predation by the backswimming water bug *Notonecta glauca* on female Azure Damselflies (*Coenagrion puella*), ovipositing with just their abdomen before the water surface, has been investigated experimentally (Zeiss *et al* 1999). The risk from predation for females ovipositing singly was compared with that for females ovipositing in tandem with a male. Females in tandem were more frequently touched and grasped by the water bug than solitary females. It would appear that the female detected the water bug sooner than the male and the presence of the male slowed the female's escape. However there was some evidence to suggest that once contact between the water bug and the female damselfly had been made the female damselfly was more likely to escape if in tandem with a male.

Another possible cost of submerged oviposition is that it facilitates completion of the life cycle of water mites (with aquatic larval stages) that are ectoparasitic on adult damselflies. Rolff (1997) has compared detachment of mite larvae from the Azure Damselfly which oviposits at the water surface with the Northern Damselfly (*Coenagrion hastulatum*) which oviposits when submerged.

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Red-veined Dropwing

Geoff Hall



Red-veined Dropwing - Geoff Hall

Red-veined Dropwing, *Trithemis arteriosa*, is a common and characteristic African savanna dragonfly which is abundant and widespread across its range, including much of Africa, the Mediterranean area, and parts of the Middle East, and also occurs in the Canary Islands including Tenerife. Red-veined Dropwing is one of only 14 species occurring in the Canary Islands - 3 damselflies and 11 dragonflies, 1 damselfly and 2 dragonflies apparently being vagrants. The male Red-veined Dropwing above was photographed in the Jardin de la Orotava, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, June 2010. Emperor Dragonfly, *Anax imperator*, observed flying amongst the stunningly desolate landscape of the lava fields, dark volcanic rock and sparse vegetation of Mount Teide, Tenerife, added colour to areas with a distinctly lunar appeal and which, apart from endemic Canary lizard and tall red Teide bugloss, seemed almost devoid of life. Mount Teide is still active, and at 3,718 metres is the highest point in Spain.

Warwick & Michèle Tarboton (2009), have studied the lifespan of male Red-veined Dropwing on their farm in a savanna environment north of Johannesburg, South Africa. What they described as 'this iconic dragonfly' was the dominant odonate on their large pond, and in summer 2005/2006 they marked 407 males.



Marked male Red-veined Dropwing - Warwick Tarboton

When caught, each male's left hindwing was marked with a small 2- or 3-digit number, the numbers written in reverse so that they appeared normal when viewed through the wing from above. The numbers were painted onto the wing using a tooth-pick dipped into quick-drying, red nail varnish, the red colour being selected to match the male's abdominal colour. After being held for about a minute for the varnish to dry, the marked dragonfly was released onto a branch next to the pond. The detailed monitoring procedures can be observed in the referenced article.

In summary, Warwick & Michèle reported on how long the territorial males occupied sites on the pond and what became of them. What was witnessed was a progressive deterioration of the wings as the males got older, resulting from hundreds of territorial interactions. In Red-veined Dropwing, these take the form of an aerial skirmish in which the two (or less often three) competitors fly rapidly around each other in tight circles ("spinning"), the defender apparently seeking to drive the intruder/s upwards. The males frequently came out of such skirmishes with damaged wings which, prior to the conflict, were intact. During these skirmishes it looked as if the combatants lowered their legs while spinning, suggesting that red-veined dropwings may be using their legs in this way, perhaps to inflict wing damage on the opponent? Their conclusion from watching this 'charming little dragonfly' was that wing wear-and-tear progresses with age, and is largely inflicted during territorial skirmishes. Also, as males get older and more wing-damaged, they become progressively more handicapped in such contests and, even if they survive, are eventually side-lined from the mating arena by younger males. The added disadvantage of deteriorating wings was a diminishing ability to both avoid predators and hunt successfully.

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Warwick & Michèle Tarboton. Red-veined dropwings: how long do they live?
AGRION, Volume 13, Number 2, Page 48, July 2009

See also: http://ecoevo.uvigo.es/WDA/Agrion/Agrion_13_2_July2009_lq.pdf

Further links:

Red-veined Dropwing – Warwick Tarboton
<http://www.warwicktarboton.co.za/dfpqs/135arteriosa.html>

A Field Guide to the Damselflies of South Africa
Warwick Tarboton and Michèle Tarboton

A Field Guide to the Dragonflies of South Africa
Warwick Tarboton and Michèle Tarboton

<http://www.nhbs.com/browse.php?pub=12110>

I am grateful to Warwick & Michèle for permission to quote from their article, and to publish their photograph of a marked male Red-veined Dropwing

Vice-county recorders

VC61 - Paul Ashton	vc61@erdragonflies.co.uk	01430 803005
VC62 - Keith Gittens	vc62@brilliantemerald.wanadoo.co.uk	01347 824480
VC63 - Tom Hubball	vc63dragonfly@blueyonder.co.uk	01535 678334
VC64 - Helen Dinsdale	bds64recorder@blueyonder.co.uk	01535 653041
VC65 - Tom Hubball	vc63dragonfly@blueyonder.co.uk	01535 678334

Please submit your records to the relevant recorder as soon as possible. Ideally all records for the current years should reach the recorders by the end of December for onward transfer to the British Dragonfly Society.

Balinese Gems

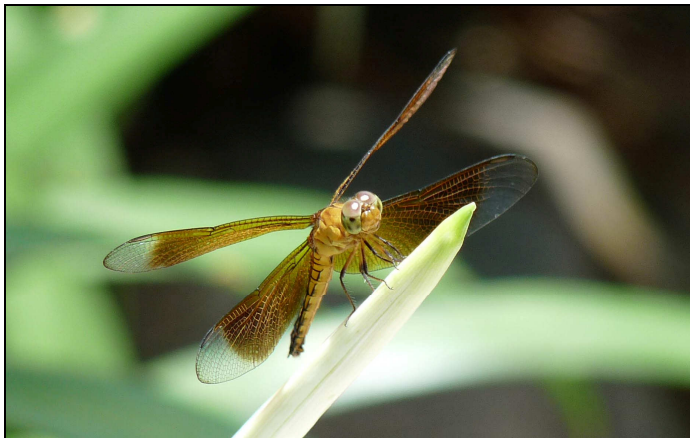
Bill Hall

In February 2010 I was fortunate in being able to make a stopover in Bali on the way back from visiting my daughter in New Zealand. Actually the visit to Bali was the second of my lifetime ambitions to be realised on this trip – the other was seeing an Albatross in New Zealand.

The first dragonflies seen were in a hotel near to the airport. These turned out to be the very common (of course), but very beautiful, Lamburii Red Parasol (*Neurothemis lamburii*).



Neurothemis lamburii male



Neurothemis lamburii female

The main part of my stay in Bali was in the central town and cultural hotspot of Ubud. From there I had arranged to do a guided walk with Bali Bird Walks (<http://www.balibirdwalk.com>), an organisation typically started by an enthusiastic Englishman but now operated by Sumadi, a very knowledgeable Balinese lady. The main part of the walk was through the rice paddy fields on the edge of town where dragonflies were abundant. I found the environment of the paddy fields extremely attractive. I had not realised that the water is always flowing gently through them – there is nothing stagnant. Because of the movement of the water the atmosphere was delightfully fresh and cool, even in the humid rainy season when I was there.



Rice paddy field. Bali

The commonest dragonfly in the paddy fields was Green Skimmer (*Orthetrum sabina*) which has a very wide range in Asia and extends to Turkey, where Keith Gittens tells me he has seen it.



Orthetrum sabina

Another Orthetrum was Scarlet Skimmer (*Orthetrum testaceum*).



Orthetrum testaceum male



Orthetrum testaceum female

Along with the Lamburii Red Parasol (*Neurothemis lamburii*).
Another common Parasol was the Straight-edged Red Parasol (*Neurothemis terminata*).



Neurothemis terminata male

The other dragonflies were *Paragomphus capricornus* and Blue Pursuer (*Potamarcha cogener*),.



Paragomphus capricornus



Potamarcha cogener

Unfortunately, the last photo is in poor focus and has had to be enhanced – but it is a very attractive dragonfly so perhaps it is worth it.

It has been a struggle, though an interesting one, to find reasonably secure identifications of these dragonflies. As far as I know there are no field guides to the area. Trip reports can be a help in pointing you in the right direction and there is also the wonderful Asia Dragonfly website (www.Asia-Dragonfly.net) which contains over 7000 pictures of over 2000 species – a lot of pictures to go through if you do not know your dragonflies' name. To be fair you can refine this to 218 photos if you select Indonesia. It looked to me, however, as if there were some misidentifications among these. The nearest field guide appears to be A G Orr's "Dragonflies of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore" which covers some of the species and is available cheaply through Amazon. He has also written "A Guide to the Dragonflies of Borneo" which gets you nearer but is expensive to buy and I could not trace it any local library, even University ones. If anyone has a copy it would be a good idea to check my identifications, though that would probably be a good idea anyway!

Request from the Editor

This magazine is produced for the members, containing articles by the members. Please consider writing just one article during the year for inclusion in the next edition. If the subject interests you, it will be of interest to other members of the group. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. Hope you've enjoyed the read. Paul Ashton.

Damsels in Rock Pools?

Jason Gregory

Damselflies enjoying a bit of summer rock-pooling, can it be so? Well, yes.

In summer 2008 my scuba diving adventures took me north of the border once again, for a week photographing marine life. The Sound Of Mull is a Mecca for sports divers, particularly those interested in wreck diving. But for me, shallow dives from the shore provide much more contact with marine life. I identified a location on the north side of the sound known as 'The Wishing Stone' (a dyke of volcanic rock) ref. NM605-467 close to a tiny village of Fiunary on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula and set off, dive kit and underwater camera at the ready.

A check of the entry/exit point from the sea showed not just good dive potential but also some nice looking little 'rock-pools' about 20m from the water's edge. The water in the pools was stained orange with run-off from the peaty hills and not much more than 150mm deep, mostly less. With the sea being so close and salty spray no doubt entering the pools, I was amazed to see around a dozen healthy looking Large Red Damselflies flitting about in the Scottish sunshine. I had a little taste (as you do) and found it to be *fresh* water, well fresh-ish.



Now, I'm keen on my diving and the sea looked inviting, but with good light and just a slight breeze I decided to enjoy observing and photographing the damsels instead of the dive.

I can only assume the pools provide a viable habitat but it did seem rather precarious. Scotland does of course get its fair share of rainfall but during spring and summer these pools must be at risk of drying out. There was other life in there, water beetles, boatmen, lots of tadpoles and even an odd common newt.

The rocks round and about had a covering of yellow and white lichen adding more colour and contrast to the beautiful reds and yellows of the damselflies. They posed beautifully for me. With lots of light and just a touch of breeze I was able to hand hold the camera and click away. In a location like that with outstanding views to the sea and The Isle of Mull and its mountains, what better way to spend a summer's afternoon?



Photos were taken with a Nikon digital SLR with a 105mm macro lens, using natural light only. I used manual control to get the right balance of depth of field and shutter speed for these hand held close-up shots.

Species list for Yorkshire

Latin Name	Common Name	Status in Yorkshire
<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	Beautiful Demoiselle	Scarce Resident Breeder
<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Banded Demoiselle	Common Resident Breeder
<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	Emerald Damselfly	Common Resident Breeder
<i>Lestes dryas</i>	Scarce Emerald Damselfly	Rare Ex-resident
<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	Large Red Damselfly	Abundant Resident Breeder
<i>Erythromma najas</i>	Red-eyed Damselfly	Scarce Resident Breeder
<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>	Small Red-eyed Damselfly	Scarce Resident Breeder
<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	Azure Damselfly	Abundant Resident Breeder
<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	Common Blue Damselfly	Abundant Resident Breeder
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed Damselfly	Abundant Resident Breeder
<i>Ceriatrigon tenellum</i>	Small Red Damselfly	Aberrant Vagrant
<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>	Variable Damselfly	Scarce Resident Breeder
<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	Common Hawker	Common Resident Breeder
<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	Migrant Hawker	Common Resident Breeder
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Southern Hawker	Common Resident Breeder
<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	Brown Hawker	Abundant Resident Breeder
<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>	Norfolk Hawker	Aberrant Vagrant
<i>Anax imperator</i>	Emperor Dragonfly	Uncommon Resident Breeder
<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Lesser Emperor	Scarce Migrant
<i>Hemianax ephippiger</i>	Vagrant Emperor	Rare Migrant
<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	Hairy Dragonfly	Scarce Resident Breeder
<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>	Golden-ringed Dragonfly	Scarce Resident Breeder
<i>Cordulia aenea</i>	Downy Emerald	Rare Vagrant
<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Four-spotted Chaser	Abundant Resident Breeder
<i>Libellula fulva</i>	Scarce Chaser	Scarce Ex-Resident
<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Broad-bodied Chaser	Common Resident Breeder
<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Black-tailed Skimmer	Uncommon Resident Breeder
<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	Keeled Skimmer	Scarce Resident Breeder
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common Darter	Abundant Resident Breeder
<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	Red-veined Darter	Scarce Resident Breeder
<i>Sympetrum flaveolum</i>	Yellow-winged Darter	Scarce Migrant
<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	Ruddy Darter	Common Resident Breeder
<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	Black Darter	Common Resident Breeder
<i>Sympetrum vulgatum</i>	Vagrant Darter	Rare Migrant
<i>Leucorrhinia dubia</i>	White-faced Darter	Scarce Ex-Resident

Key

Abundant - Occurs in all suitable habitats.

Common - Occurs in nearly all suitable habitats, with some areas sparsely used.

Uncommon - Occurs regularly, but uses little of the suitable habitat.

Scarce - Occurs regularly, but in very small numbers.

Rare - Beyond its normal geographic range, only recorded once or twice a decade.

Aberrant - Far from its normal range. Confirmed sighting but further observations unlikely.

Resident Breeder - Present throughout the year.

Migrant - Non-resident - typical migrant species (confirmed breeding may have been recorded).

Vagrant - Lone non-resident adult recorded

Ex-Resident - Historic resident/migrant not recorded for many years



Copulating pair of Hairy Dragonfly at Broomfleet Washlands on 23rd May 2010. This is a scarce species in Yorkshire, though increasing its range. Photo: Keith Gittens.

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Front Cover Photo: Four-spotted Chaser at Timble Ings. Geoff Hall.

Rear Cover Photo: Male Black Darter at Skipwith Common. Paul Ashton.

