

# SKIMMER 2017





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 edition.

This is the first edition I have edited and I am very grateful for all the help I have received especially from Paul Ashton.

I hope you all enjoy it.

*June Gittens*  
Editor

*Cover photo:*

*Male Migrant Hawker,  
High Batts Nature Reserve  
Keith Gittens*

## SKIMMER MAGAZINE 2017

### CONTENTS

- 3 Notes from the Chair
- 4 Field Trips and Events 2016
- 7 Banded Demoiselles at Claxton Norfolk
- 8 2017 Field Trips and Events
- 10 Dragonflies a la Francais
- 12 Dragonflies and Shopping – a Brief Update
- 13 Recorders Reports 2016
- 16 A Review of Odonata at Thorpe Marsh 1983 to 2016
- 21 What's in a Name
- 22 Blue -tailed Damselfly as Predator and Prey
- 23 Return Visit to Brittany 2016
- 27 Timble Ings
- 28 North Cave Wetlands YWT Reserve
- 32 BDS Press and Media



## NOTES FROM CHAIR

Each year now there are a number of events that YDG are asked to be involved in, they are great opportunities to promote dragonflies and their conservation. The Leeds Bird Fair at Rodley Nature Reserve last summer was one of the highlights of the year, pulling in people from all parts of Yorkshire. Our joint stand with the BDS had a steady flow of people wanting to talk to us and learn more about dragonflies. It was great to meet some of our current members and also to welcome some new ones on board on the day! This summer the event will be held again, look out for details in this magazine. It is well worth a visit.

One event with a difference we attended was at Ellicarr Gardens near Doncaster, opened as part of the National Open Gardens scheme it is owned by garden designer Sarah Murch and includes a large natural swimming pool. Surprisingly these pools can make good homes for dragonfly larvae due to a combination of clean water, well planted margins and no fish. On the day pond dipping produced nymphs surprisingly easily. Unfortunately these pools are only for those of us with fairly big gardens and plenty of spare cash!

The end of the year saw the BDS members day take place at Nottingham, as usual this event was well attended and on this occasion by the new President of the BDS, TV presenter, Mike Dilger. As passionate about dragonflies as he is other wildlife he has promised to get more features on dragonflies on his programmes. We look forward to them!

Early 2017 has seen some YDG members getting their hands dirty doing conservation work on Strensall Common. This joint conservation initiative is featured in more detail in my VC report so here I would just like to say thank you to all those who have got involved.

I hope you enjoy this magazine, edited for the first time by my wife June. A big thank you to June for taking it on and also to Paul Ashton who has edited and developed this magazine over the last few years.

Wishing you a fruitful dragonfly season.

*Keith Gittens*



## FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS 2016

### Grindleton Fell (SD746475) - Sunday 24th July 2016

Three YDG members met at 10.30am at the southern edge of Grindleton Fell plantation. The weather was far from ideal, being cool, overcast and drizzly. Still, it would not be a Yorkshire field trip without a little rain.

Finding anything at first was a little difficult, with just the odd Emerald Damselfly found hiding in the rushes. Luckily there was another person there who was investigating the ponds for other wildlife and they pointed out some Large Red Damselflies and more Emeralds. Along the road, a couple of Blue-tailed Damselflies were found in the long grass. We ventured into one of the gullies leading off the moor, as the sheltered sides looked like they may hold some dragonflies but we were unable to find anything. When we returned to the original pond, marked Levi Well on the map, and managed to find a few more Emeralds, a couple of Common Blue damsels and another Large Red as well as a teneral Common Darter.

The full species list for the day was eleven *Lestes sponsa*, two *Enallagma cyathigerum*, three *Ischnura elegans*, six *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* and a single *Sympetrum striolatum*.

Although we had a disappointing visit, the area is well worth further investigation and thirteen species of dragonfly have been recorded here in the past few years. Given the weather conditions we decided not to visit to Cross of Greet, eight and a half miles to the north, to search for Golden-ringed Dragonfly.

*Tom Hubball*

#### Yorkshire Dragonfly Group contacts:

Chairperson Keith Gittens	01347 868606	<a href="mailto:keith.gittens@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk">keith.gittens@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk</a>
Secretary Martin Roberts	01904 761918	<a href="mailto:vc61@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk">vc61@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk</a>
Treasurer /Editor June Gittens	01347 868606	<a href="mailto:june.gittens@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk">june.gittens@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk</a>
Website Editor Paul Ashton	01430 803005	<a href="mailto:paul.ashton@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk">paul.ashton@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk</a>



## FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS 2016

### Cleveland Naturalists Field Club / Yorkshire Dragonfly Group Joint Field Meeting Strensall Common, Saturday 13th August 2016

This joint meeting was attended by seven Cleveland Naturalists Field Club members, with a further fifteen participants made up of Yorkshire Dragonfly Group members and others who had seen notices of the meeting on the YDG Facebook page, making a very good grand total of twenty two! The weather was sunny throughout the day.

Starting from the car park on Lords Moor Lane the group checked a nearby pond before heading across the common to World's End. This latter area was very productive and included sightings of Small Red-eyed Damselfly, a potential new coloniser of the site. A total of fourteen species were seen including:-

Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes sponsa*)  
Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*)  
Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*)  
Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)  
Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)  
Small Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma viridulum*)  
Common Hawker (*Aeshna juncea*)  
Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*)  
Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)  
Four-spotted Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*)  
Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*)  
Black Darter (*Sympetrum danae*)  
Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)  
Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*)

There was plenty of opportunity for photographs.

It was very noticeable that in many areas of World's End birch was encroaching and scrub clearance was needed and probably overdue.

Of botanical interest were the striking blue Marsh Gentian (*Gentiana pneumonanthe*) and the diminutive Lesser Skullcap (*Scutellaria minor*), showing its tiny foxglove like flowers.

**Bill Hall**



## FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS 2016

### Pocklington Canal 12th June

It was unfortunately a cool, damp morning when six YDG members and two members of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society, met up at Hagg Bridge (SE 717451), to walk the Southern stretch of the canal downstream towards the confluence with the River Derwent.

Seven species of damselfly and eight species of dragonfly are commonly seen on this part of the canal, plus the occasional wandering Black Darter from nearby Skipwith Common. However, although the rain held off and the temperature climbed slightly towards lunchtime there was relatively little Odonata activity and only five species of damselfly were seen (Blue-tailed, Common Blue, Red-eyed, Large Red and Banded Demoiselle), and a single species of dragonfly (Four-spotted Chaser). Only a few individuals of each species were seen but it was still a pleasant couple of hours.

*Martin Roberts*

---



**EMERGING SOUTHERN  
HAWKER**  
(*Aeshna Cyanea*)

*Jill Lucas*







## BANDED DEMOISELLES AT CLAXTON, NORFOLK

I have been enjoying reading Mark Cocker's recent book, 'Claxton'. The author describes his encounters with nature mainly in and around the village of Claxton, near Norwich. The book is primarily a selection of daily field notes from 2001-2013, supplemented by a comprehensive species list of the fauna and flora he has recorded in the parish. There are nineteen Odonata species listed including Norfolk Hawker and Scarce Chaser, two species we do not see in Yorkshire.

Of particular note is the following description (from field notes dated 12th July 2010) of Banded Demoiselles observed from one of his favourite spots, a bridge over a local stream.

**"What I'm after is the most beautiful of all Claxton's dragonflies, an insect that is more lovely by far than its name, the banded demoiselle. As two males chase and fight, they go skittering over the water, each with four wings caught helicopter-wise in the brilliant sunlight as two interlocking hemispheres of brittle blue-green. Then when they land they become something neither Fabergé nor Cartier could have conjured even in their dreams: a scintillation of turquoise, those blackberry-black eyes bulging on stalks, those fantastical blue-glazed wings and all of it the more precious for being so transient. It is the sort of creature that, come winter, I can hardly believe has ever existed."**

*[Text cited with the kind permission of Mark Cocker, the copyright holder.]*

I like the impact of the last sentence, especially as I have been reading the book on some very cold dull days in January. Another of his books I can recommend is 'Crow Country', an account of his interest in Carrion Crows. For more information about the author, who has contributed to the regular nature column in The Guardian for nearly 30 years, see <http://www.markcocker.com>

*Male Banded Demoiselle - photo by  
Paul Ashton*



*Richard Shillaker*



## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS 2017

**Under 18s are welcome with an accompanying adult, and with the agreement of the event leader.**

**Non-members are welcome – fee £2 per visit.**

**Requirements for all outings – bring lunch, binoculars and wear appropriate footwear and clothing**

### Sunday, 11th June - Timble Ings, North Yorkshire

Timble Ings (SE156528)

Leader/Contact - Tom Hubball 01535 678334

E-mail - [vc64dragonfly@virginmedia.com](mailto:vc64dragonfly@virginmedia.com)

Aim - To see how the extensive range of dragonfly ponds are maturing and to introduce new visitors to the various areas of this extensive site.

Meet - 10.30am at Swinsty Reservoir Car Park (Grid Ref: SE186537 - SatNav: LS21 2NP ) off A59 Harrogate-Skipton road. We will car share to Timble Ings as parking there is limited.

### Sunday, 11th June - Oakhill Nature Reserve and Goole Brick Ponds

(with Friends of Oakhill)

Goole, East Yorkshire

Leader/Contact - Martin Roberts 01904 761918

E-mail - [vc61@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk](mailto:vc61@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk)

Meet - 10.00am at small unsigned car park (SE 727231) adjacent to Tesco Distribution Centre on Tom Pudding Way on the western outskirts of Goole, about half a mile from junction 36 of the M62.

### Saturday, 24th June, Leeds Bird Fair – Rodney Nature Reserve

Moss Bridge Road, Leeds, LS13 1HP

9.30am to 4.00pm. Free entry

YDG will be running a stall

Contact - Keith Gittens -01347 868606

E-mail - [vc62@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk](mailto:vc62@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk)

For full details go to Rodley Nature Reserve website at [www.rodleynaturereserve.org](http://www.rodleynaturereserve.org)





**Sunday, 2nd July - Insect Festival Museum Gardens York**

10.00am to 4.00pm

YDG will be running a stall

Contact - Tom Hubball -01535 678334

E-mail - [vc64dragonfly@virginmedia.com](mailto:vc64dragonfly@virginmedia.com)

For further details go to Royal Entomological Society website –  
[www.royensoc.co.uk](http://www.royensoc.co.uk)

**Sunday, 16th July – World's End Strensall**

Joint meeting with Freshwater Habitats Trust

Meet at 10.00am at Lords Moor Lane Car Park SE64856121

Leaders - Keith Gittens/Anne Heathcote

Contact - Anne 07939 122595 E-mail – [aheathcote@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](mailto:aheathcote@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk)

For further details go to Freshwater Habitats Trust website at  
[www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/flagship/](http://www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/flagship/)

**Saturday, 22nd July - Pocklington Canal**

(joint visit with Canal and River Trust)

A walk along the lower stretches.

Leader – Martin Roberts 01904 761918:

E-mail - [vc61@yorkshiredragonflies-org.uk](mailto:vc61@yorkshiredragonflies-org.uk)

Meet - 10.30am at Hagg Bridge on the B1228 east of Sutton upon Derwent (SE 717451).  
Park east of the bridge with additional limited parking in small lay-by on west side.

**Sunday, 13th August – Jugger Howe, Fylingdales Moor**

Joint meeting with Cleveland Field Naturalists

Leader/Contact – Keith Gittens

Contact – Keith Gittens -01347 868606

E-mail - [vc62@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk](mailto:vc62@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk)

Aims – Golden-ringed Dragonfly and Keeled Skimmer

Meet – 10.30am. Park in layby off the A171 at NZ945002 walking access the moor to  
Jugger Howe beck. If time permits we will visit Harwood Dale ponds also.

**PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR FULL AND UP TO DATE  
DETAILS OF ALL FORTHCOMING OUTINGS AND EVENTS**



## DRAGONFLIES A LA FRANCAISE

In June I travelled with Naturetrek on a Dragonfly-themed holiday to the Vienne and La Brenne areas of France. This is one of five or six Dragonfly holidays that they run each summer to various parts of Europe. It was quite an adventure for me as not only was this to be my first sighting of non-UK species, but it was the first time I'd gone on holiday without my wife. However, she was very understanding, particularly when Naturetrek contacted me a few weeks before departure to explain that they had only one other client booked on the trip, and that was a single woman.



Yellow-spotted White Face

As it turned out Carolyn and I got on very well and the small size of our party meant that we could travel in the leader's car rather than a minibus, and this allowed us to be very flexible and to modify our itinerary to take advantage of daily weather conditions. It was Carolyn's third European dragonfly holiday so she was a mine of useful

information. Nick, our guide, was an ex-pat from Essex who had retired to the Vienne some years earlier and had developed an extensive knowledge of the local flora and fauna. The area we explored lies north and east of the city of Poitiers, to which I travelled by Eurostar from London, changing to the French high-speed train (TGV) at Lille. The Eurostar was packed with England supporters travelling to the Euro 2016 football tournament and I sat with three good-humoured Geordies who were surprisingly interested in my holiday plans. I'm not sure that I made any converts though.

For the first three nights we were based in the town of Moulismes in the Vienne and the last four nights in Mezieres-en-Brenne. Neither town could be described as touristy and both hotels were fairly basic, though perfectly adequate for our purposes.

The weather throughout the week was cooler than expected, with occasional rain, which limited the range of species we were able to see. In particular, many of the larger rivers were still running unseasonably high due to very heavy spring rainfall, so we didn't even try for riverine species such as Clubtails and Pincertails. Nick reckoned we saw



37 different species of Odonata in total, but to be honest some were very brief and/or very distant glimpses, and personally I am only happy to claim 18 species of Damselfly (10 new to me) and 17 species of Dragonfly (also 10 new to me). So not a bad total really.

My 20 new species were:

Willow Emerald (=Western Willow Spreadwing) (*Lestes viridis*)  
 Small Emerald (=Small Spreadwing) (*Lestes virens*)  
 Southern Emerald (=Migrant Spreadwing) (*Lestes barbarus*)  
 Common Winter Damselfly (*Sympecma fusca*)  
 Mercury Bluet (=Southern Damselfly) (*Coenagrion mercuriale*)  
 Dainty Damselfly (*Coenagrion scitulum*)  
 Goblet-marked Damselfly (=Blue Eye) (*Erythromma lindenii*)  
 Small Red Damselfly (*Ceragrion tenellum*)  
 Blue Featherleg (=White-legged Damselfly) (*Platynemesis pennipes*)  
 Orange Featherleg (=Orange White-legged Damselfly) (*Platynemesis acutipennis*)  
 Southern Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna affinis*)  
 Green-eyed Hawker (=Norfolk Hawker) (*Aeshna isocetes*)  
 Downy Emerald (*Cordulia aenea*)  
 Brilliant Emerald (*Somatochlora metallica*)  
 Yellow-spotted Emerald (*Somatochlora flavomaculata*)  
 White-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum albistylum*)  
 Keeled Skimmer (*Orthetrum coerulescens*)  
 Yellow-spotted Whiteface (=Large White-faced Darter) (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*)  
 Lilypad Whiteface (=Dainty White-faced Darter) (*Leucorrhinia caudalis*)  
 Scarlet Darter (=Broad Scarlet) (*Crocothemis erythraea*)



The various Emerald Damselfly species were quite common but in contrast we saw only individuals of Southern Migrant Hawker and Lilypad Whiteface. We visited about 30 locations over the week, some more than once, but the 'stand-out' site for me was La Réserve Naturelle du Pinail which we visited on



the day we travelled between the two hotels. The Pinail really is a remarkable area of about 135 ha, containing about 3,000 ponds that are the result of millstone extraction in centuries past. The adjacent forest planted during the 1970's, 80's and 90's apparently contains up to another 10,000 extraction ponds. If you had the power of a Deity and decided to create 'Dragonfly Heaven', you would be hard put to do better than the Pinail.



Female Southern Migrant Hawker

The website (<http://www.biodiversite-poitou-charentes.org/etude/Etude-151-Les-Libellules-de-la.html>) lists 19 species of Damselfly and 29 species of Dragonfly recorded on the reserve, though we saw rather less than half of them during our three-hour visit. I would love to return to spend a few days concentrating on just that one reserve. In the car park we spoke to an English couple who were also there for the Odonata, and later back in the hotel bar we saw another English couple pouring over K-DB Dijkstra's Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Europe, but unfortunately were unable to compare notes with them.

*Martin Roberts*

## DRAGONFLIES AND SHOPPING A BRIEF UPDATE

Readers may remember my short report in the 2016 issue of *Skimmer* on the Odonata that I had recorded on and around the rainwater balancing ponds at the new Vangarde Shopping Centre on the outskirts of York.

In 2015 I recorded four species of Damselfly and five species of Dragonfly over the course of three visits. In 2016 I was only able to visit twice but, as predicted, I was able to add Large Red Damselfly and Brown Hawker to the site list, though I did not see Azure Damselfly or Black-tailed Skimmer, both of which were seen the previous year.

The full site list based on sightings in 2015 and 2016 now stands at 11 species, so you can easily find a worthwhile distraction when you've had your fill of shopping and need a breath of fresh air.

*Martin Roberts*



## RECORDERS REPORTS 2016

### VC 61 SOUTH-EAST YORKSHIRE

My first season as VC61 recorder started slowly with the first Large Red Damselflies not reported until 6th May, three weeks after this species was reported just over the border in NE Yorkshire.

After that, activity increased and by the end of May six species of Damselfly and four species of Dragonfly were on the wing, including five Red-veined Darters seen on 27th May around Clubley's Scrape on Spurn. This was the only record of RVD this year, compared to sightings at five locations in 2015.

By the end of June a further two species of Damselfly and five species of Dragonfly had joined the party. July brought three more species of Dragonfly and in August Small Red-eyed Damselfly and Migrant Hawker finally arrived, bringing the total number of species for the year to nine Damsels and 13 Dragons, which is about normal for this area. The least often recorded of our regular species were Hairy Dragonfly and Small Red-eyed Damselfly, with just two records of each.

At the end of the season, Migrant Hawkers and Common Darters remained frequent and widespread until early November. Of particular note is a late record of Common Blue Damselfly at North Cave Wetlands on 6th October.

In total, 402 records were submitted in 2016 compared to 82 in 2015 when iRecord was just starting to be adopted by our recorders.

The transfer of iRecord verifier status from my predecessor suffered some IT-related difficulties and it is possible that some early-season records were lost as a consequence. The guys at BRC were very helpful and verification now appears to be working satisfactorily, although an anomaly regarding the name of the actual verifier remains unresolved

*Martin Roberts*



## VC 62 & 65 NORTH-EAST AND NORTH-WEST YORKSHIRE

Red-eyed damselflies (*Erythromma* sp.) continue to dominate the news. In August 2014 a male Small Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma viridulum*) had been spotted on a pond on Strensall Common near York. With no records in 2015 it was taken as being a lone wanderer. However in 2016 evidence of breeding was found with cop pairs and oviposition being seen at the same pond complex on three separate occasions. These ponds must now be considered the most northerly site where both species of Red-eye breed in Britain.

Three pond complexes across VC62 and 65 have been given Flagship pond status by the Freshwater Habitats Trust, all good sites for a wide variety of dragonflies.



scrub with members of the BDS/Yorkshire Dragonfly Group doing their bit. It is down to recording effort at this site that has identified the ecological value of the area not only for dragonflies but a wide variety of flora and fauna and helped to stimulate the current management.

Three cheers to all involved.

Strensall Common is one of these and the part of the site which holds the Red-eyes has been in danger of disappearing under a sea of birch scrub, shading out heathland and the ponds. Fortunately a joint collaboration spearheaded by FHT and the local conservation volunteers group of Butterfly Conservation have come to the rescue with a series of workdays organised to clear the



Otherwise it was a slow start to the year and numbers recorded were limited but the latter half of the season proved more productive with a few records in to November.

*Keith Gittens*





## VC64 MID-WEST YORKSHIRE

At the start of the year, I was hoping that 2015 was just one of those bad years that happen once in a while but 2016 carried on in the same vein then went downhill badly. Damselfly numbers remained low and the larger dragonflies fared even worse. Although, at the time that I write this, I have not received all of the 2016 records from people that usually submit them to me, the general trend is fewer recorders, seeing fewer species at lower densities than one would expect. The weather certainly played a part as the number of warm sunny days usually occurred, in my experience, during the working week leaving dull, cold and mainly wet weekends. I don't blame recorders and dragonflies hiding away when the conditions are that bad.

Southern Hawker, Broad-bodied Chaser, Black Darter and Ruddy Darter appear to have suffered markedly with only sixteen, two, two and two records respectively. That is not a misprint...two records each of Black Darter, Ruddy Darter and Broad-bodied Chaser in the whole of 2016!! Could the colder than normal winter of 2010/11 coupled with the exceptionally wet ones in 2013/14 and 2015/16 and poor summer weather have had such a dramatic effect on dragonfly abundance? One positive record is a sighting of a Golden-ringed Dragonfly which was photographed south of the River Wharfe, at Wharfedale Naturalists Society's Sun Lane Nature Reserve. Once again thanks go to all the individuals that have submitted records and to all of the organisations who passed on their sightings, especially David Alred from Wharfedale Naturalists Society and Gordon Rickers from Swillington Ings Bird Group.

At the Yorkshire Dragonfly Group AGM on 5th November I stated that I would like to step down as VC64 Recorder in time for the start of new season (ie April 2017) but do not expect the other VC Recorders in Yorkshire to take on the role. To date I have not had an offer from anyone willing to take on the role but I hope that a volunteer will come forward once they read this. In the meantime I am reluctantly prepared to carry on for a time if no-one takes on the role. Full training would be given and if anyone is interested, they can contact me via email at [vc64dragonfly@virginmedia.com](mailto:vc64dragonfly@virginmedia.com) to discuss what the role entails.

Hopefully 2017 will prove to be a better year...it certainly could not be any worse.

*Tom Hubball*

### BDS County Dragonfly Recorders

VC61 – Martin Roberts	<a href="mailto:vc61@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk">vc61@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk</a>	01904 761918
VC62 – Keith Gittens	<a href="mailto:vc62@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk">vc62@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk</a>	01347 868606
VC63 – Alistair McLean	<a href="mailto:vc63@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk">vc63@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk</a>	01142 782648
VC64 – Tom Hubball	<a href="mailto:vc64@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk">vc64@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk</a>	01535 678334
VC65 – Keith Gittens	<a href="mailto:vc65@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk">vc65@yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk</a>	01347 868606

We recommend using iRecord, an on-line recording application developed by the Biological Records Centre – [www.brc.ac.uk/record/](http://www.brc.ac.uk/record/). Ideally all records for the current year should reach the recorders by the end of December for onward transfer to the British Dragonfly Society.





*Thorpe Marsh Nature Reserve*

## A REVIEW OF ODONATA AT THORPE MARSH, 1983 TO 2016

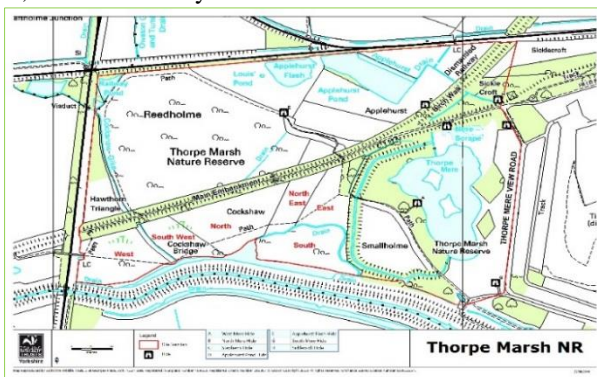
Since Thorpe Marsh Nature Reserve was opened in 1980 twenty species of Odonata have been recorded. However, one of these, Black Darter, was recorded only in 1984 and another, Golden-ringed Dragonfly, was reported only in 1987, 1988 and 1991.

During the most recent five years, 2012 to 2016, eighteen species have been recorded, with several species having been recorded for the first time in the last five to ten years.

Thorpe Marsh Nature Reserve is managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) on land owned by HJ Banks Ltd. It is situated 2½ miles north of Doncaster, on the River Don flood plain and straddles the five metre contour line. The nature reserve occupies 73 hectares over most of grid square SE5809 and the eastern edge of SE5909 but for recording purposes the whole of square SE5909 is included. References to “the recording area” mean the nature reserve and the rest of square SE5909.

The nature reserve has a range of habitats including unimproved and semi-unimproved neutral grassland, two large still-water bodies (3.5 and 1.5 hectares), several small ponds and scrapes, land drains, disused railways embankments lined with trees and scrub, two small copses, scrub land and areas of coarse vegetation.

The land immediately to the east of the reserve occupies most of square SE5909 and comprises grassland, with a shallow still-water body, surrounded on three sides by a thirty-metre high bund, scrub land, a copse, land drains and narrow borrow pits (named L-ponds by wardens). The large ponds, the scrape and the borrow-pits all have Phragmites beds as well as open water. Most of the grassland is grazed by beef cattle.





## Odonata recording

From 1983 until 1986 records were kept by a paid part-time warden, Michael Betts, and by volunteer wardens. Volunteer wardens have maintained records since then. Between 1996 and 1999 almost all Odonata records were made by Doug Parker. From 2006 onwards I have collated the records made by me and by some of the other volunteer wardens. Numbers recorded should be used as a guide rather than a precision instrument because different areas are recorded on different visits and the expertise of observers varies.

Visits by Yorkshire Naturalists' Union members in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and by Goole and District Naturalists' Society (G&DNS) in 2014 boosted the maximum numbers recorded for some species.

From 2011 onwards records have been made of teneral, wheel pairs, tandem pairs and ovipositing individuals.

## Species accounts

Zygoptera.

**Banded Demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens*.**

First recorded in 2006 and seen every year since. All counts have been in single figures except for 12 once in each of 2015 and 2016 and a 2015 report of a tandem pair east of the recording area at the site of the demolished Thorpe Marsh power station.

Most sightings are from the River Eaubeck and the nearby L-ponds. The Eaubeck is a slow-flowing land drain also called Thorpe Marsh Drain, typical Banded Demoiselle habitat. They are also recorded over much of the nature reserve itself.

**Emerald Damselfly, *Lestes sponsa*.**

Recorded every recording year from 1984 to 1991, in 2007 and every year from 2009 onwards. All counts have been in single figures except for 11 in 2014 and 2016 and 30 in 2014 when a group from G&DNS visited. The variety of ditches, ponds and the Eaubeck, all with plenty of emergent vegetation, provides ideal habitat for larvae. Tandem pairs were seen in 2014 and 2016.

**Large Red Damselfly, *Pyrrosoma nymphula*.**

Reported all years except two. Most counts were in single figures though 2005 had a 65 and 2015 had a 25 and 35. Most sightings have been in the North Mere/Mere Scrape/Field Station Road west/Sicklecroft area, with the L-ponds and L-ponds south featuring. These areas have suitable larval habitat and Field Station Road west comprises a double line of silver birches with verges containing brambles patches for perching adults.

Wheel or tandem pairs were seen during four of the six years from 2011.



### **Azure Damselfly, *Coenagrion puella*.**

Recorded every year except one. Nearly every year has had a maximum of more than 40 adults. 2013 to 2015 had maxima in excess of one hundred adults including an impressive 257 in 2013 seen throughout the recording area with its variety of water bodies. On one July day in 2013 at least 180 adults were criss-crossing Applehurst Pond, including at least 25 pairs in tandem and ovipositing. Teneral and wheel and tandem pairs have been seen in each of the last six years and oviposition has been observed during five of those years.

### **Common Blue Damselfly, *Enallagma cyathigerum*.**

Recorded most years and every year from 2008 onwards. Most counts were of up to ten adults. The overall maximum of 40 in 2014 was a result of a visit by a group from G&DNS. Seen throughout the recording area with the L-ponds particularly frequented. Wheel or tandem pairs have been reported during four years since 2011 and oviposition in three of those years.

### **Blue-tailed Damselfly, *Ischnura elegans*.**

Recorded every year except two and every year from 2007. Most counts were of up to ten adults, although 2014 and 2015 had most counts up to twenty with maxima of 33 and 35 respectively. Seen widely throughout the recording area but predominantly in the L-ponds area, Applehurst Pond and the Field Station Road west/Sicklecroft area. Teneral and wheel pairs were seen during each of the last six years and oviposition occurred in 2015.



*Male Red Eye*



*Female Red Eye*

### **Red-eyed Damselfly, *Erythromma najas*.**

First recorded in 2013 (a single adult). In 2014 there were 12 at the southern end of Applehurst Pond and in 2015 a female and a male were within two metres of each other near the drain into Thorpe Mere. 2016 had no sightings. Applehurst Pond has an area of water lilies that this species favours.



## Anisoptera

### **Hairy Dragonfly, *Brachytron pratense*.**

First recorded in 2007 and in every year since. Generally up to 4 individuals seen but there was one count of seven in 2012. Seen widely in the recording area and particularly at the L-ponds and the Thorpe Mere north/Mere Scrape area.

One was seen ovipositing in 2009.

### **Common Hawker, *Aeshna juncea*.**

Seen during most years up to 2007 but since then recorded in 2014 only, with five sightings of up to three adults.

### **Migrant Hawker, *Aeshna mixta*.**

A maximum of 14 was reported in 1983 and there is a record from 1985 but the next report was from 2006. They have been recorded in every year since then. Most yearly maxima are six to ten but there was one count of 16 in 2012. Seen throughout the recording area, especially around Thorpe Mere, at the Mere Scrape, in Reedholme and in the bridle path/Smallholme area. The variety of water bodies is ideal for this species. A teneral was seen in 2011, a tandem pair was reported in 2013 and wheel pairs in 2011 and 2014.



*Brown Hawker Exuvia*

### **Brown Hawker, *Aeshna grandis***

Reported in every year except 2005. Maxima range up to 11, although a group from the G&DNS counted more than 20 on a visit in 2014. Found throughout the reserve and recording area. The range of water bodies suits this dragonfly. Oviposition was seen in 2011 and an exuvia was found at Applehurst Pond in 2015.

### **Southern Hawker, *Aeshna cyanea*.**

There were no reports before a possible sighting in 2007. Recorded every year from 2009 onwards. Generally one or two seen but there are a few counts of up to five. Seen across most of the recording area. Adults are seen most often in areas bordered by hedgerows, such as Field Station Road west/old field station area, the bridle path near to Smallholme and east and north Reedholme. The L-ponds also feat



*Male Brown Hawker*

**Emperor Dragonfly, *Anax imperator*.**

First recorded in 2008 and subsequently every year except 2012. No more than two have been seen on any single day. Almost all records are of one or two males at the L-ponds. The exceptions are a female at rest in Smallholme (a hay meadow) in 2008, a male at the Mere Scrape in 2009 and single males at the River Eaubeck, Thorpe Mere View field and Applehurst Field in 2015 and a female ovipositing in the tip area in 2016.

**Golden-ringed Dragonfly, *Cordulegaster boltonii*.**

Recorded in 1987, 1988 and 1991. No numbers were recorded.

Seen in Sicklecroft and Smallholme in 1987.

Reported by reliable recorders so these are considered to be valid records even though Thorpe Marsh does not match the breeding habitat of acidic rivers and streams.

**Four-spotted Chaser, *Libellula quadrimaculata*.**

Recorded up to 1991, in 1998 and then every year from 2007 onwards.

Maxima are in the range of seven to nine but 2009 had a 13 and 2013 had an 11.

Ranges widely across the recording area including the pastures and meadows but favours the L-ponds and Mere Scrape in particular.

Oviposition was observed in 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015.

**Broad-bodied Chaser, *Libellula depressa*.**

Recorded in 2009, 2011, 2014 and 2015.

All counts were of one or two adults including a wheel pair at the Mere Scrape on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Adults have been seen in east Reedholme, adjacent to Applehurst Field, at Louis's Pond in 2014 and 2015 and the north Thorpe Mere/Mere Scrape area in 2011.

It is interesting that during 2010 there were two developments that may have benefitted this species, which often uses recently-created ponds. Louis's Pond was excavated in Applehurst Field and half of the Mere Scrape was opened up by the clearance of Phragmites and Typha.

**Black-tailed Skimmer, *Orthetrum cancellatum*.**

First recorded in 2010 and in every year since except for 2014.

Usually single adults but 2011 and 2016 each had two on one occasion.

Males and females have been seen in most parts of the recording area.

As with Broad-bodied Chasers this is a species that favours newly-created ponds.

**Common Darter, *Sympetrum striolatum*.**

Reported during every year that has had a full set of records. Most counts were of up to 25 adults with year maxima generally between 20 and a high of 60 in 2014.

The wide range of water bodies provides plenty of habitat for this species.

Wheel and/or tandem pairs were seen on five of the last six years and oviposition was observed on four of the years.

**Ruddy Darter**, *Sympetrum sanguineum*.

Recorded every year from 2013 to 2016. All counts have been in single figures except for 50 seen by G&DNS in August 2014. It is possible that this species was present before 2013 but that some individuals were misidentified as Common Darters. The use of digital cameras has been a great help in distinguishing the two species.

Seen throughout the recording area especially in Reedholme, at Applehurst Pond and at the L-ponds. A wheel pair was seen in 2014.

**Black Darter**, *Sympetrum danae*.

As reported by Michael Betts, paid YWT nature reserve warden, "A male specimen of *Sympetrum danae*, a semi-migratory species more typical of acid marsh, was found in the New Drain on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1984."

New Drain is now referred to as the Mother Drain.

*Mick Townsend*,  
Volunteer Warden

---

## What's in a name? All change for the DRN and VCRs...

On 1st February this year all BDS Vice-county Recorders (VCRs) received an email from David Hepper, the British Dragonfly Societies Records Officer. This informed us that, following a decision by the BDS' Dragonfly Conservation Group, the Dragonfly Recording Network (DRN) has been renamed to BDS Recording Scheme. The new name will not be abbreviated.

It was also decided that VCRs should now be referred to as BDS County Dragonfly Recorder, which may be abbreviated to CDR. However, the BDS have acknowledged that it will take some time for the new names to bed in and for the old terms to be removed fully from the BDS website, iRecord and National Biodiversity Network (NBN). The reasoning behind this is that Vice Counties are anachronistic, though useful for comparison with old data. As modern administrative counties are drifting further from the Watsonian vice-counties as time passes, it makes it harder for field recorders to be sure to whom their records should go. I, for one, do not share that view but I do recognise that it may be off-putting for people to submit records if they are unfamiliar with a prehistoric, in their eyes, system of breaking the United Kingdom into easily managed chunks. However this system has served the British natural history recording society well since 1852 or thereabouts when Hewett Cottrell Watson first devised it. Whilst recording will continue to use Watsonian Vice Counties, modern observers can simply enter records onto iRecord and this system assigns their record to the appropriate CDRs Verify queue to validate.

*Tom Hubball*





## B LUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY AS PREDATOR AND PREY



*Colin Rew*





Some locks on the canal near Hédé

## RETURN VISIT TO BRITTANY 2016

At the end of June I returned to Tréverien (some 15 miles south of Saint-Malo) in northern Brittany where I had taken a late summer holiday the previous year. This visit yielded a better dragonfly tally than last year (see Skimmer 2016), but species

identification was sometimes a challenge and conclusive identification was not always achieved. I again went dragonfly spotting along the Canal D'Ille-et-Rance: at Tréverien, at the series of locks near Hédé (see photograph), as well as at Saint Domineuc. I also investigated three lakes (étangs): two at Tréverien and the large Étang de Bétineuc near Évran.

By far the most interesting site was the small lake at Tréverien. Although it was only a few metres from the larger lake it had a much more diverse dragonfly fauna (13-14 species were recorded). The small lake had a regular rectangular shape and was completely edged by a variety of submerged and floating vegetation. This extended 2-3 metres from the bank around most of the lake but formed



Small lake at Tréverien: at the bush end with extensive submerged and floating weed

a much more extensive patch at one end where there was bush growing out over the water (see photograph).



Large lake at Tréverien

There was also a metre or so of bankside and vegetation then an area of short mown grass around the lake. Both lakes were used by rod fisherman; the larger lake was also used for water sports (see photograph) and had limited

floating vegetation around the edge.

Here are some notes on my sightings.

### Damselflies

**Demoiselles:** **Banded Demoiselles** of both sexes were frequently seen at the Tréverien lakes probably because the lakes were close to a river. Two sightings of probable/possible female **Beautiful Demoiselles**, based on brownish wings, were logged. However I am now less certain of the ID of these two individuals because I saw no males. One sighting was by a lock on the canal near Hédé (near fast flowing water when the lock gates opened) and the other at the small Tréverien lake.



**Featherlegs:** **Orange White-legged Damselflies** were common at all sites visited. At first I wondered if they might be Winter Damselflies (because of their colouration). However subsequent good views of their wide head and feathery legs convinced me otherwise. **White-legged Damselflies** were also seen at the Tréverien lakes; mature males had a distinctive black patterning on the dorsal surface of the abdomen.

**Reds:** A **Small Red Damselfly** was immediately identified by its completely red abdomen (no black markings) at the small Tréverien lake. I had one possible sighting of a pair of **Large Red Damselflies** flying in tandem at lake Bétineuc.

**Blues:** **Common Blue Damselflies** were seen only at lake Bétineuc. **Azures** were also present there and beside the canal at Tréverien.

**Blue-tails:** **Blue-tailed Damselflies** were noted at all sites visited. I assumed, from the type of habitat, that they were all *Ischura elegans* rather than *I. pumilio* which is reported to prefer shallow-water open sites with sparse vegetation.

**Brighteyes:** A few **Red-eyed Damselflies** were seen perched on vegetation at both Tréverien lakes; egg laying on water lily leaves by the female of pairs in tandem was observed. However without close examination I was not able to tell if they were *Erythromma najas* or the smaller *E. viridulum*. Some of the other male blue damselflies I saw were eventually identified as **Goblet-marked Damselflies** (see photographs).



**Male Goblet-marked Damselfly:**  
bright blue eye, black Coenagrion  
spur on side of thorax, blue  
segments 9 and 10 at tip of  
abdomen

**Male Goblet-marked Damselfly:**  
black goblet-like mark on segment 2  
and black lanceolated mark on  
segments 3 and 4 of abdomen (same  
mark on segment 5 is only partly  
visible)





I had been puzzled by these individuals and initially thought they might be Southern Damselflies but the colouration of the last three abdominal segments did not match the pictures in Dijkstra's field guide. My mistake was only comparing with *Coenagrion* species; I did not think to check European *Erythromma* species which include one species without red-eyed males, i.e. *E. lindenii* (Goblet-marked Damselfly; also called the Blue-eye). Keith Gittens told me that this species is widespread across southern Europe, probably one of the commonest damselflies you will see, occurring at a wide range of habitats. He pointed out that the eyes are a brighter blue than the rest of the insect, hence the name Blue-eye. I am now wondering if I misidentified this species on my previous visit to Brittany when I recorded Southern Damselfly. Smallshire and Swash in their field guide note that the Goblet-marked Damselfly has increased in numbers in recent years on the continental side of the English Channel and that if it did make it across the Channel it might be misidentified as a Common Blue Damselfly. Both species have broad pale antehumeral stripes and males have blue segments at/near the tip of the abdomen. However on looking closely at the tip of the male abdomen you will see a difference in the location of the blue colouration: S9 and S10 (both largely blue) in the Goblet, S8 and S9 (both completely blue) in the Common.

### **Dragonflies**

**Hawkers:** Close to the bank of the large Tréverien lake I spotted a recently emerged large hawkler hanging, with its wings spread out, from a Bur-reed leaf. I could only see the ventral surface and so identification proved problematic initially. There seemed to be a yellow line on the top of each wing which is a feature of a Common Hawker. However the thorax was clearly green which suggested Emperor or Southern Hawker. I then noticed a large exuvium attached to a nearby plant stem which I managed to reach and examine. This proved to be that of an **Emperor**, and it seemed highly likely that the Hawker hanging on the reed had emerged from this exuvium. Further supporting evidence came from the fact that on subsequent days I saw Emperors (but no other Hawker species) flying over these lakes. Aerial dogfights involving two or three male Emperors were noted on several occasions at the small Tréverien lake.

**Emeralds:** Two Emeralds were seen. One individual, which was patrolling near a canal lock, proved impossible to identify. It never settled and was hard to follow with binoculars. All that I could determine was a glossy green abdomen with perhaps a dark edge but, disappointingly no dorsal orange-yellow spots (so it was not the hoped for Orange-spotted Emerald). More success was achieved with an Emerald at the small Tréverien lake. It flew constantly up and down a few feet above the water at the bush end of the lake; it mostly kept close to the vegetated bank. Although it was difficult to view clearly, on a second visit I could see its brown furry thorax and noted numerous skirmishes with other dragonflies. Based on its colouration and behaviour I concluded it was a **Downy Emerald**, a species I had not identified before.

**Chasers and Skimmers:** **Four-spotted Chasers** and **Black-tailed Skimmers** were in evidence at the small Tréverien lake; the latter species was also recorded at Lake Bétineuc .



**Darters:** A highlight for me was seeing up to three bright red **Scarlet Darters** around the edge of the small lake at Tréverien. They frequently settled on emergent vegetation and sometimes on the ground which provided plenty of photographic opportunities. As I walked around this lake several teneral Darters flew up from the bankside vegetation into the surrounding trees. These individuals showed features (narrow yellow abdomen and a pale lengthways leg stripe) consistent with other species of Darter, including the **Common Darter**.

### **Other notable aquatic invertebrates**

The lily pads around the large lake at Tréverien were occupied by masses of adult and small-winged, immature **Pond Skaters** (see photograph) and a few beetles. I also watched a **Water Stick Insect** swimming slowly at the surface of this lake.



**Spiny-cheek crayfish** (*Orconectes limosus*) identified by the characteristic red and green markings on the abdomen were present in the small Tréverien lake. One was seen walking during the day over a dense bed of vegetation just below the surface. Several crayfish body

parts were noted which were probably discarded fishing bait. This species of crayfish is reported to be one of the commonest non-indigenous (American) crayfish in continental Europe, having been introduced to Germany in 1890. It is a carrier of crayfish plague and was first recorded in the wild in Britain in 2000. Holdich and Black (2007) report a number of populations in the UK but none in Yorkshire which would seem still to be the case (Stephanie Peay *pers comm*).

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks for the input and advice from David Simpson, Dick Askew, Keith Gittens and Stephanie Peay.

### **Reference**

Holdich D and Black J (2007) The spiny-cheek crayfish, *Orconectes limosus* (Rafinesque, 1817) [Crustacea: Decapoda: Cambaridae], digs into the UK. *Aquatic Invasions*, 2 (1), 1-15.

*Richard Shillacker*



## TIMBLE INGS

Timble Ings is one of the dragonfly hot-spot locations in VC64. It is an area of upland wet woodland to the north of Ilkley and is owned and managed by Yorkshire Water.

Access is off the minor road south of Blubberhouses. Parking for a couple of cars can be found opposite Anchor Farm at grid ref: SE170542, or four cars along the unmade road at grid ref: SE166530. For larger meetings, attendees can park nearby at the Swinsty Reservoir car park and be ferried to the site by other members.

Geoff Lomas, the Catchment and Recreation Manager for Yorkshire Water, ensures that the larger ponds are cleared as and when finances and work schedules allow. The Nidderdale AONB Volunteers occasionally undertake scrub clearance around the ponds too. This opens the area, keeping a check on birch and willow encroachment.



David Alred, the Dragonfly Recorder, from Wharfedale Naturalists Society, can regularly be found roaming around the Ings looking for, and photographing, dragonflies. David's knowledge of the site is probably second to none where dragonflies are concerned. The Yorkshire Dragonfly Group occasionally hold field meetings at the site,



the last being in 2009, with the site speciality Golden-ringed Dragonfly the key species that everyone wants to see. Other species regularly recorded are Common and Southern Hawkers, Common and Black Darter, Emperor, Four-spotted Chaser, Broad-bodied Chaser, Large Red Damselfly, Emerald Damselfly, Blue-tailed Damselfly and the ubiquitous Common Blue and Azure Damselflies.

Gill Beck is the main area for Golden-ringed Dragonfly, especially near the ruin of the Besom Inn (SE156537), with Common and Southern Hawker patrolling the rides leading to and from this northern end of the site. Common Darter and Emerald Damselfly are numerous, especially at the ponds on the southern edge along the Red Gate path.

*Tom Hubball*





## NORTH CAVE WETLANDS YWT RESERVE

I've been visiting this site for many years, my first bird records for the site going back as far as 1994. It wasn't until 2002 when I first started to record a few Dragonflies. Back then the site was basic, with large deep water-bodies surrounded by grassland, along with some young trees that had been planted as part of the landscaping. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust bought the freehold in late 2000 and since then the site has slowly developed, becoming regularly visited by many. Over time the Dragonfly fauna has steadily increased, though some species remained scarce or hard to find. Recent extensions and habitat creation have increased the regularity of some species, with the recent Dryham Ings giving a massive boost to several Damselfly Species, which were previously hard to find, but became numerous in 2016.



From the car park as you walk along Dryham Lane, the Ings can be seen to the south. This area has seen a boost in the number of Damselflies. The following were usually encountered in singles figures. Blue-tailed Damselfly can now easily reach three figures



along Dryham Lane, with Azure Damselfly getting in to double figures, with Emerald Damselfly usually easy to find in single figures. As you reach 'Cell A' of the Ings the habitat changes. Here water levels are kept high through the winter killing off most of the vegetation. During the summer water levels are reduced, the resulting bare areas and islands providing breeding sites for Avocet, along with Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers. The positive here is that the habitat is ideal for Black-tailed Skimmers, good



numbers easily seen through binoculars skimming over the water. As you head north along the path west of Carp and Far Lake, it's worth scanning the floating vegetation on the lakes for Red-eyed Damselflies. The south-west corner of Carp Lake appears to be their favoured location.

#### *Dryham Ings*

The sheltered conditions along this path are also a good place to scan for Hawkers which could be hung up on vegetation, sunning themselves. As you head along the Northern path you will eventually reach five small Dragonfly ponds on the northern edge of Snipe Field. This is the best area to get good views of most of the species on site, with plenty of photo opportunities. Most of the scarce visitors to the site appear here, so always worth looking out for Large Red Damselfly, Common Hawker, Broad-bodied Chaser, Ruddy Darter and Black Darter.



#### *Eastern Dragonfly Pond*





Twenty species have been recorded at North Cave Wetlands. A summary of each is detailed below.

### **Banded Demoiselle**

Scarce visitor with singles seen in most years.

### **Emerald Damselfly**

Dryham Ings is likely to hold the main population, with individuals being found along Dryham Lane. Good numbers can also be observed on the Eastern Dragonfly Pond.

### **Large Red Damselfly**

Individuals can be found around the Dragonfly Ponds, usually only ones or twos.

### **Red-eyed Damselfly**

South-west corner of Carp Lake is the main population, rarely encountered further away from this spot.

### **Azure Damselfly**

Dryham Ings again providing a boost for this species, now easily seen along Dryham Lane, as well as at the Dragonfly Ponds.

### **Common Blue Damselfly**

Numerous, reaching thousands on a good day.

### **Blue-tailed Damselfly**

Big increase in numbers around the reserve and the easiest species to now encounter along Dryham Lane.

### **Common Hawker**

Has been a scarce visitor from more suitable habitat nearby. In 2016 however, two males were regularly at the Eastern Dragonfly Pond holding territory.

### **Migrant Hawker**

Common around the reserve from August onwards.

### **Southern Hawker**

The sheltered western path is the best spot to catch up with this species.

### **Brown Hawker**

Western and northern path, along with the Dragonfly Ponds being the best place to catch up with this species.

### **Emperor Dragonfly**

Dragonfly Ponds are the best place to see this species.

### **Hairy Dragonfly**

A few individuals have been observed at the end of the flight season, so possibly only post breeding dispersal, rather than a breeding species.

### **Four-spotted Chaser**

Common at the Dragonfly Ponds.

### **Broad-bodied Chaser**

Scarce visitor or breeder. Best bet is the Dragonfly Ponds.



### **Black-tailed Skimmer**

Common around the site, largest numbers now centred around 'Cell C' of Dryham Ings. Northern Path and Dragonfly ponds also a good spot for close views.

### **Common Darter**

Common around the site.

### **Red-veined Darter**

Several in 2010 as part of an influx. A fresh teneral male was observed on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010, this being the first record of inland breeding in Yorkshire.

### **Ruddy Darter**

Scarce breeder. Best looked for in the heavily vegetated Dragonfly Ponds.

### **Black Darter**

Scarce visitor, usually in September and most likely post breeding dispersal from nearby sites.



*Emperor Dragonfly at the Dragonfly Ponds*

*Paul Ashton*

### Breaking News - Atlas Update 2020

At the BDS spring meeting it was announced an update to the 2013 Atlas is planned. To achieve this the BDS are asking for as many records as possible between now and 2019. Submitting records through irecord makes submitting records easy and allows them to be processed quickly, so please when you are out dragonfly watching record what you see. For more information please contact your recorder or visit:

[www.british-dragonflies.org.uk](http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk)



## BDS PRESS AND MEDIA

Genevieve Dalley, the Conservation Officer for the BDS is creating a BDS Press and Media archive covering the last 10 years. This will be useful to the BDS to support applications for funding, providing evidence of work that the BDS have done in the past and any activities in promoting this work.

It would be really helpful if members could send Genevieve any details of press or media inputs they have had in that time **which have mentioned the BDS**. This includes newspaper articles, radio interviews, books, magazine articles etc – both paper copies and online. Equally, any such articles by people members know would be welcomed.

If you could provide Genevieve the date of release/publication (if you only have the year/month that's fine), what publication it was in, what the topic was, whether you/BDS instigated it and who, from the BDS, was involved in creating the article. Please email [genevieve.dalley@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:genevieve.dalley@naturalengland.org.uk).

*Tom Hubball*

### YORKSHIRE DRAGONFLY GROUP ONLINE

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

To download the latest edition of Skimmer please contact Martin Roberts for password. Previous issues are also available.

[www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/groups/yorkshiredragonflies/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/yorkshiredragonflies/)



[@BDSYorkshire](https://twitter.com/BDSYorkshire)



[www.flickr.com/groups/yorkshiredragonflies.com](http://www.flickr.com/groups/yorkshiredragonflies.com)



[www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk/?feed=rss2](http://www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk/?feed=rss2)