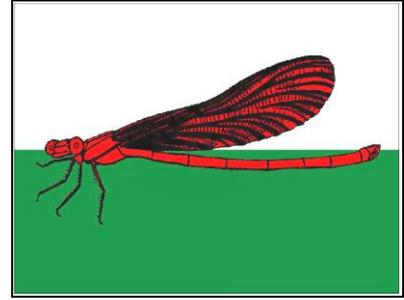


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**North Wales
Dragonfly
Newsletter
No. 84**

1st May 2016



**Odonata news and events from across the vice counties of
Anglesey, Merionethshire, Caernarvonshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire**



Hi all,

Not good weather for adult dragonflies is it? With all the cold weather emergence seems late this year and I didn't note the first emergence of the Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) from my Rowen pond until the unusually warm sunny 22nd April. House Sparrows seem to have an uncanny knack of detecting emergence from my pond and such days are the only time I see them in my garden! Coincidentally, Duncan Brown sent me a photo of an immature female of the same damselfly he had taken that day near Castellmai, Caethro. I was walking the northern Rhinogs yesterday and parked at the renowned Llyn Tecwyn Isaf, probably the best site for Odonata in North Wales, and didn't see a single adult flying!

Adopt a chosen wetland for recording

The British Dragonfly Society is calling on recorders to make full lists of species from chosen sites. This is something I have always encouraged but I don't agree that they do not need to include behaviour, life-stages or adult numbers as this useful information may as well be collected at the same time. I have this from Genevieve Dalley, BDS Conservation Officer:

“As you may have seen in your recent edition of Darter, we are now encouraging people to produce complete lists of dragonflies on visits to wetland sites in order to provide data which can be used for robust trend analysis of dragonfly populations across Britain. In addition, we are providing the opportunity for people to adopt a chosen wetland site. This means they are committing to creating complete lists for this site at least 3 times between May and September in successive years.

Complete lists do not need to include behaviour, life-stage or adult numbers – they can be as simple as a full list of adult dragonflies and damselflies seen on a single visit to a wetland site. This level of information is useful in creating trends and we aim to make complete listing as accessible as possible to a wide audience. However, if people want to include additional information such as counts, life stage etc. then we would encourage this as it adds greatly to the value of the record.

There are no strict guidelines as to the conditions complete list surveys need to be carried

out in, but obviously warm, calm and sunny days are the optimum as more dragonflies will be visible in such conditions.

Ideally, adopted sites across a vice county would include the most important sites for dragonflies and, between them, cover the full suite of breeding species in that vice county. We are particularly keen to have complete lists from sites holding rare species or on under-surveyed habitat (e.g. moorland). We are suggesting that people either choose their own adopted site and inform their Vice County Recorder or contact their Vice County Recorder for advice on choosing a suitable site. It would be really helpful if you could keep a record of adopted sites in your Vice County so we can keep track of those sites being covered and anything you can do to encourage recorders to take part will be most welcome.”

Please see the BDS poster below.

Shropshire Dragonflies goes live

Sue Rees Evans, Shropshire Dragonfly Recorder, announced on the 1st April that there is now a brand new website devoted to the dragonflies of that vice county: <http://shropshiredragonflies.co.uk/> The website, which also includes the Shropshire Dragonfly Watch blog, looks really impressive.

Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*) is truly global

Newly published research has revealed that the aptly named Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*) is the world's longest distance flier. The following is taken from the BDS newsletter Mar 17, 2016.

“In a ground-breaking study, biologists at Rutgers University-Newark (RU-N), have used genetic evidence to discover the true extent to which the Wandering Glider wanders.

Individuals of the species as far apart as Texas, Japan, Korea, India, eastern Canada and South America have been found to have incredibly similar genetic profiles. The degree of similarity indicates that they are in fact part of a common, worldwide gene pool created by the dragonflies inter-breeding.

In order to achieve this, the Wandering Glider is travelling extraordinary distances, with the greatest migratory ranges of any known insect. The species has a number of adaptations to help them do so. For example, the broad, triangular hindwings provides an increased surface area, allowing them to glide for long periods and expending minimal energy.

Flight patterns of the migrating dragonflies appear to vary. The most robust individuals can make the trip non-stop, using strong air currents. Others appear to stop en-route when they come across a suitable pool of water to mate and lay eggs. Wandering Gliders have even been found on remote oceanic island, and, with a rapid maturation period, they can also make use of temporary pools. The young then simply rise up and join the global, panmictic, population of the Wandering Glider.

With occasional sightings of the species in the UK (one in Devon in 2015), it is worth keeping your eyes-peeled for this incredible insects.”

Full information can be found on:

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0148949>



Male *Pantala flavescens*, Taman Alan Nature Park,
Malaysia, 29th August 2013. Photo A. Brandon.



Pantala swarm in Kerala, India, November 2005. Photo A. Brandon.

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Complete Lists

Get closer to the dragonflies of your favourite wetlands.

What is it?

Complete Lists are as simple as they sound. They are a list of the adult dragonfly and damselfly species you see during a single visit to a wetland site. The aim is to record all the species likely to be breeding at the site.

Complete Lists give us data which can be used to create robust population trends. This tells us how dragonflies are faring across Britain, highlighting any changes, such as those caused by climate change.

How do I take part?

You need no special equipment to take part in this survey. If you are visiting a wetland site, simply make a list of the species you see. Complete lists should be carried out in warm, calm and sunny weather between May and September.

Jot down the date and location. Then walk around all the main breeding areas and note down all the species you see on your visit. You do not need to include numbers seen, life-stage or behaviour, although if you would like to this will add to the value of your records.

How do I submit my records?

You can submit your records online using iRecord, via the Dragonfly App or by sending them to your BDS Dragonfly Recorder. Remember to note that you are submitting a Complete List. For more information, visit our website.

Adopt a site...

You can adopt a chosen wetland site on which to carry out complete lists two or three times between May and September over successive years. This will increase the value of the records for trend analysis. Get in touch with your BDS Dragonfly Recorder to inform them of your adopted site or for help choosing a site.

A full list of BDS Dragonfly Recorders can be found on our website.

www.british-dragonflies.org.uk

