

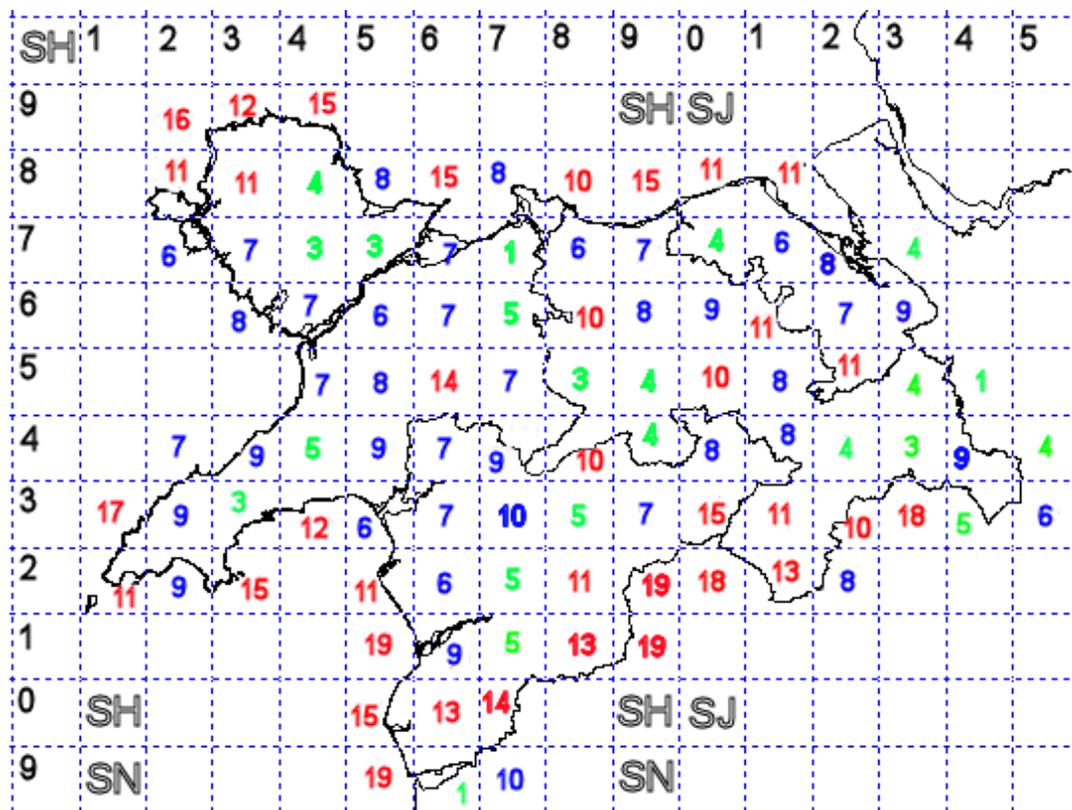
North Wales Dragonfly Newsletter No. 57. 16th September 2011.

Hi all,



Current state of recording

We only have one more year and flight season before the proposed BDS British Dragonfly Atlas is scheduled. Here is the latest 'Missing Species Map' to show the state of recording at 10km square scale. The highest numbered squares are the most poorly recorded. The actual 'missing species' are shown on the attached chart.



Stephen and Anne Cocker visited VC Merionethshire from Pembrokeshire on 21-26th August and sent in a fine batch of records. They did extremely well as they found no less than five species that had either never been recorded, or not been recorded since 2000, from three 10 km squares. For SH82: *Lestes sponsa*, *Aeshna juncea* and *Sympetrum danae*; for SH71: *Aeshna cyanea*; and for SH61 *Sympetrum danae*.

Unusual blue form of female Southern Hawker

Andy Glencross from Berkshire photographed this blue form of a female *Aeshna cyanea* (Southern Hawker) while holidaying near Aberdovey on the 17th August. I have Mike Turton, the Berkshire VC Recorder, to thank for forwarding this on. The coloured spotting on the female is normally green as can be seen in the photo below of one ovipositing. Such colour variations can be associated with changes in temperature.



Blue-form of female *Aeshna cyanea*, near Aberdovey, 17th August 2011. Photo Andy Glencross.

‘Brown Hawker’ from Radnorshire

David Warren took this photo recently of what he thought was an *Aeshna grandis* (Brown Hawker) in Radnorshire and sent it to Bob Dennison, the Radnorshire VC recorder. It is a female *Aeshna juncea* (Common or Moorland Hawker). These brown-winged female Moorland Hawkers could easily be mistaken for Brown Hawker and in my opinion may account for a few sightings of Brown Hawker that have allegedly turn up in the western parts of North Wales over the years. I would love a photograph to prove me wrong!



Dead female *Aeshna juncea*, Beacon Hill, Radnorshire, 8th September 2011. Photo David Warren

Dragonfly-eating spider

On a Cofnod Recorder's Field Day outing to Cors Erddreiniog on the 13th September Richard Gallon, North Wales Spider Recorder, was a little too eager to show me this garden spider eating a male Common Darter!



Garden spider eating male Common Darter, Cors Erddreiniog, 13th September 2011.
Photo A. Brandon.

Did you know

Females of *Aeshna* species (hawkers) oviposit unaccompanied by the males, typically into shallowly submerged dead vegetation but often into vegetation, banks and tree bases above pond water. This female *Aeshna cyanea* (Southern Hawker) was seen inserting her eggs into moss on a tree overhanging a pond along the Dee valley near Llandrillo. The eggs remain dormant during the winter, protected by the vegetation, and hatch out in the following spring when the prolarvae find their way to the water. This individual represented a new record for 10km square SJ03.



Female *Aeshna cyanea* ovipositing into a mossy tree at a Llandrillo pond, 9th September 2011. Photo A. Brandon. The pointed ovipositor can be clearly seen.



Copulating pair of *Sympetrum striolatum* (Common Hawker), Cors Erddreiniog, 13th September 2011. Photo Sue Loose.

Ode to an ode

This is a link to a dragonfly poem for children by Josie Whitehead:
<http://www.josiespoems.webeden.co.uk/#/dragonflies/4535871451>

'Dragonflies and Damselflies'
Josie Whitehead 2011

Dragonflies and damselflies
Bejewelled with colours bright,
Hovering near an emerald lake
Glittering in the light.

They've wings of iridescent shades
And striking, searching eyes.
Their agile bodies soar and glide
Across clear azure skies

Chasing, skimming, flying fast,
Their brilliant colours gleam,
Glistening, glinting in the sun
Over lakes and streams.

They lived their lives upon this earth
Before the dinosaurs.
Since ancient times they've hunted food
Around their watery shores.

The dragonflies and damselflies
Will make you stop and stare.
They're living rainbows in our world -
These artworks of the air.

On the same website there is another poem for children:

'A Dragonfly'
Eleanor Farjeon (born 1881)

When the heat of the summer
Made drowsy the land
A dragon-fly came
And sat on my hand,

With its blue jointed body,
And wings like spun glass,
It lit on my fingers
As though they were grass.

Allan

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