

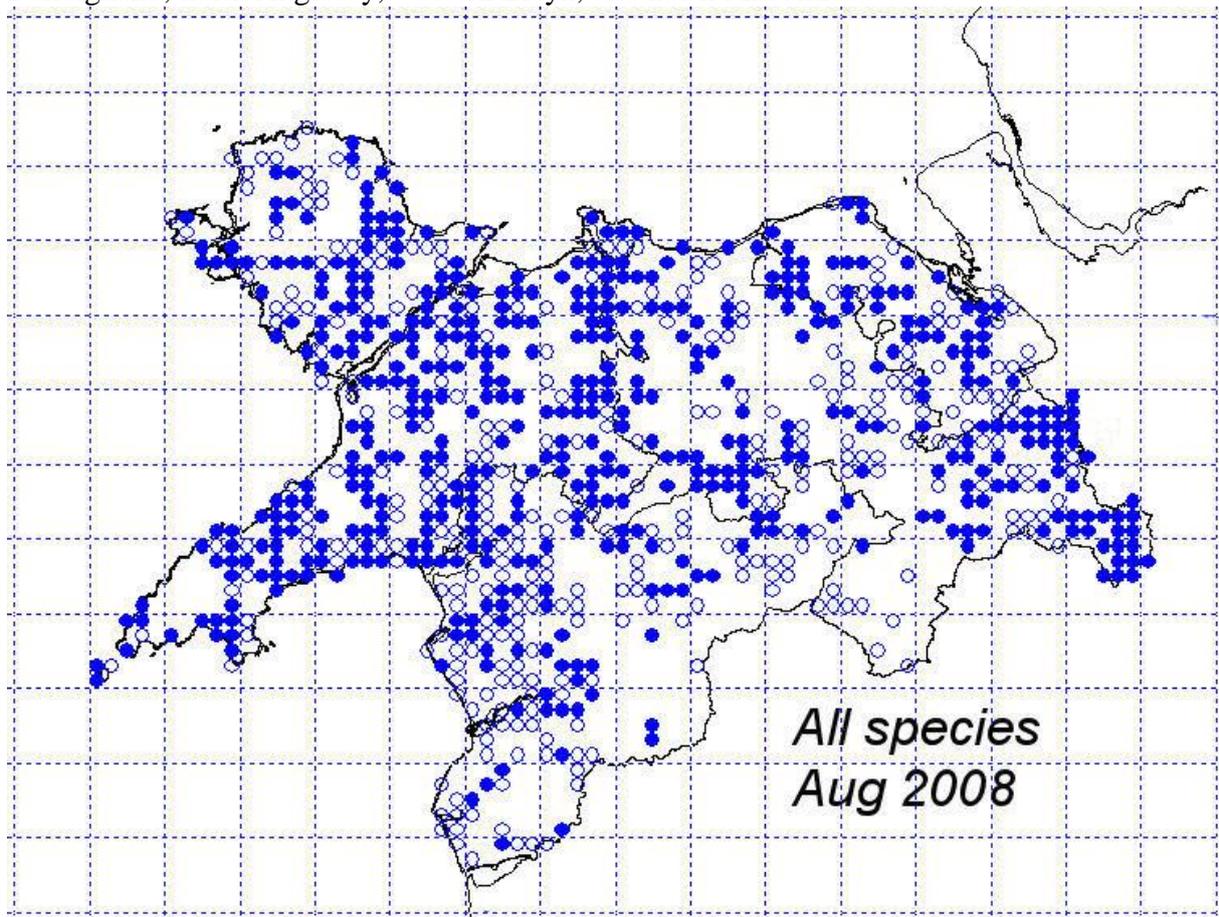
No 22. 10th October 08

Hi all,



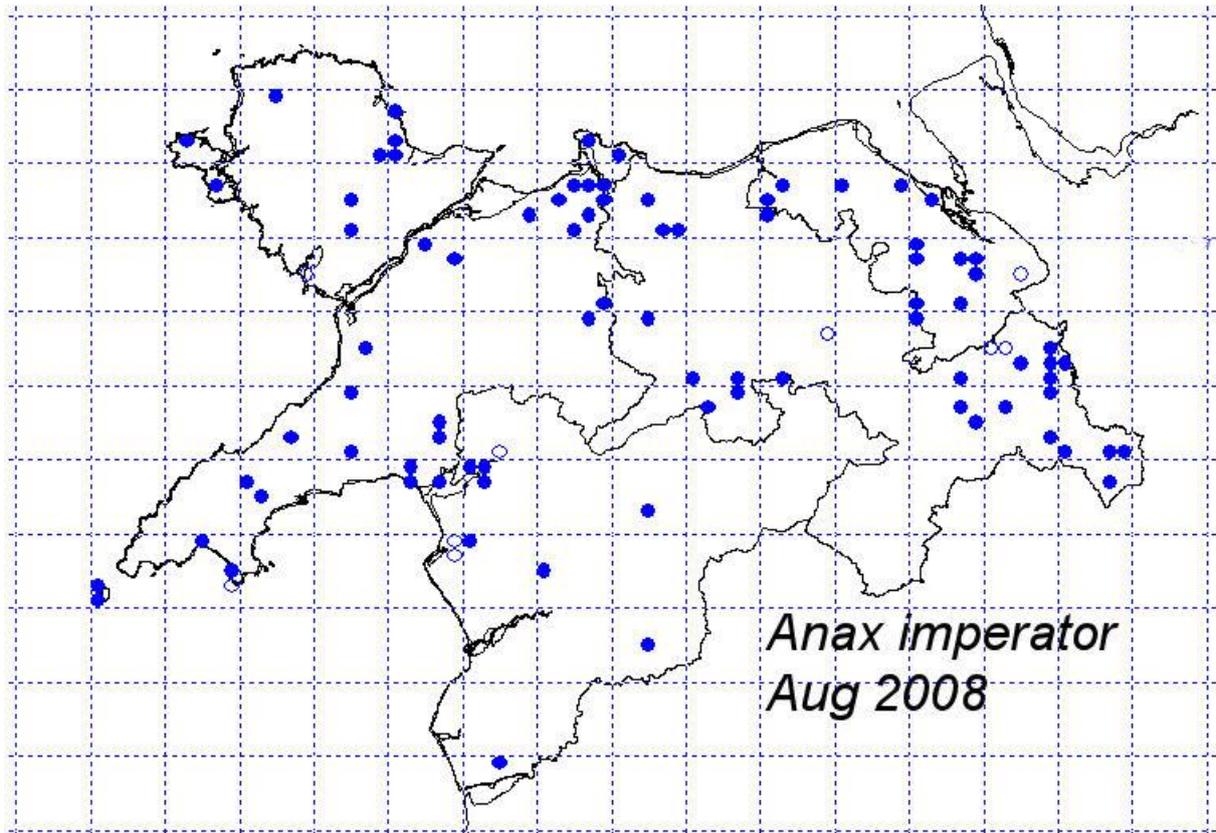
I thought I would send out a selection of North Wales distribution maps so that you can see what sort of things your lovely records are being used for. The maps include all the North Wales records that have passed through the NBN Gateway up to 18 August 2008 and so are up to date. They include the large CCW, Biological Record Centre and North Wales Dragonflies datasets as well as several smaller datasets. Open blue circles denote tetrads with pre-2000 records and filled blue circles tetrads with records dating from 2000. 10 km grid squares are shown. This batch of dragonfly species maps excludes vagrants and rarities. Damselfly plots will be in the next newsletter.

The first map shows records for all species of dragonfly and damselfly. It is useful in indicating under-recorded areas. Although I greatly welcome records from anywhere in North Wales I particularly would like to receive records from Merioneth, south and central Denbighshire, north Anglesey, western Llyn, and north Flintshire.

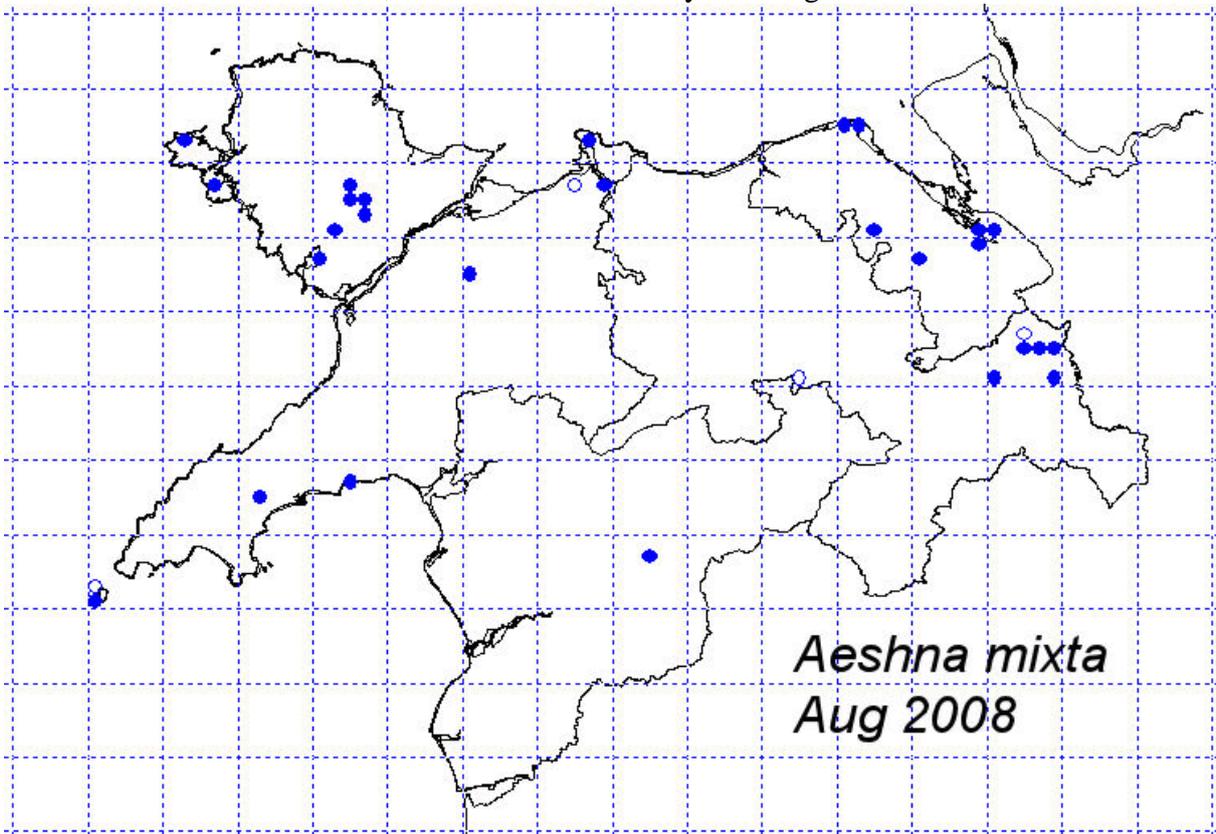


The next few maps are for dragonfly species that have recently extended their ranges across Britain and North Wales in response to climate change. The Emperor (*Anax imperator*) entered North Wales during the late 1990s and is now very common at ponds, even breeding

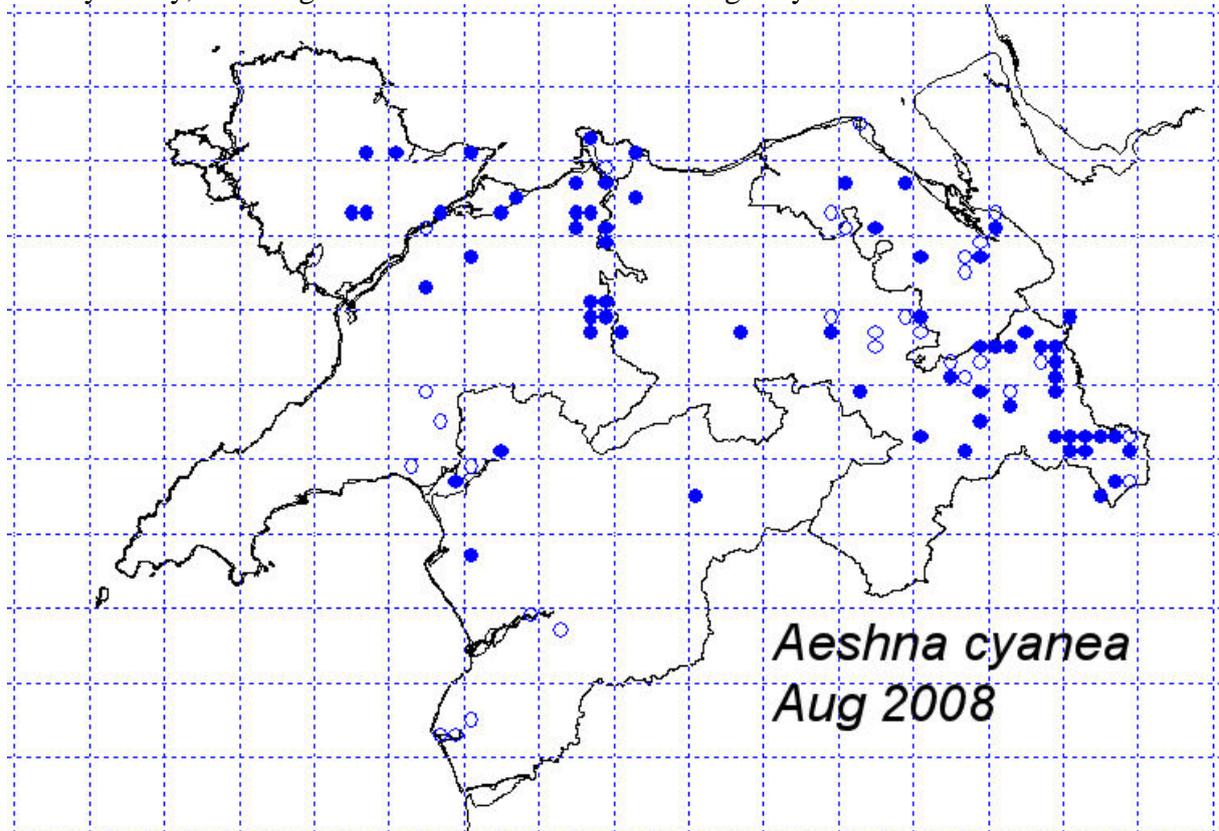
in mountain tarns



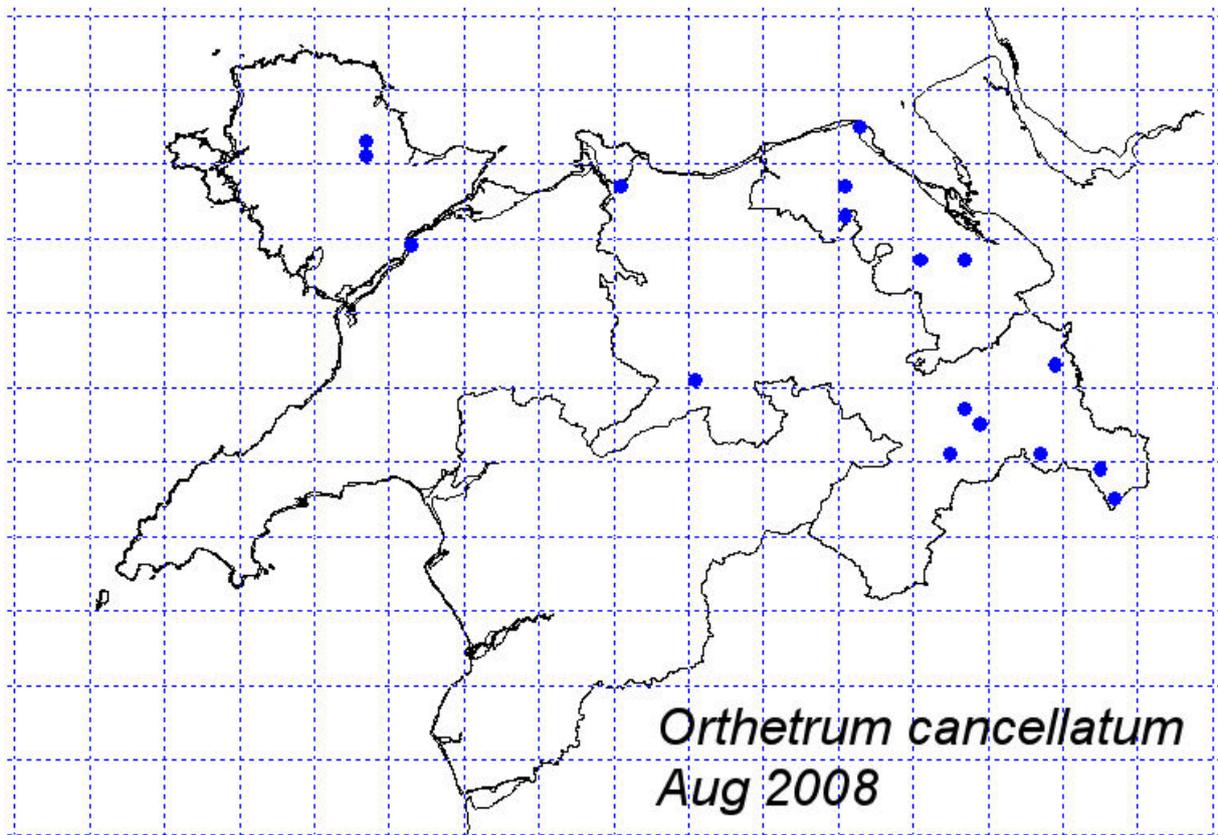
The Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*) also moved into North Wales in the late 1990s and is common in lowland areas late in the dragonfly flight period, mainly late August to October. An exuvia sent in by Bryan Dickinson from his Bethesda garden pond this year, the only known Snowdonia NP record, shows that it is actually breeding here.



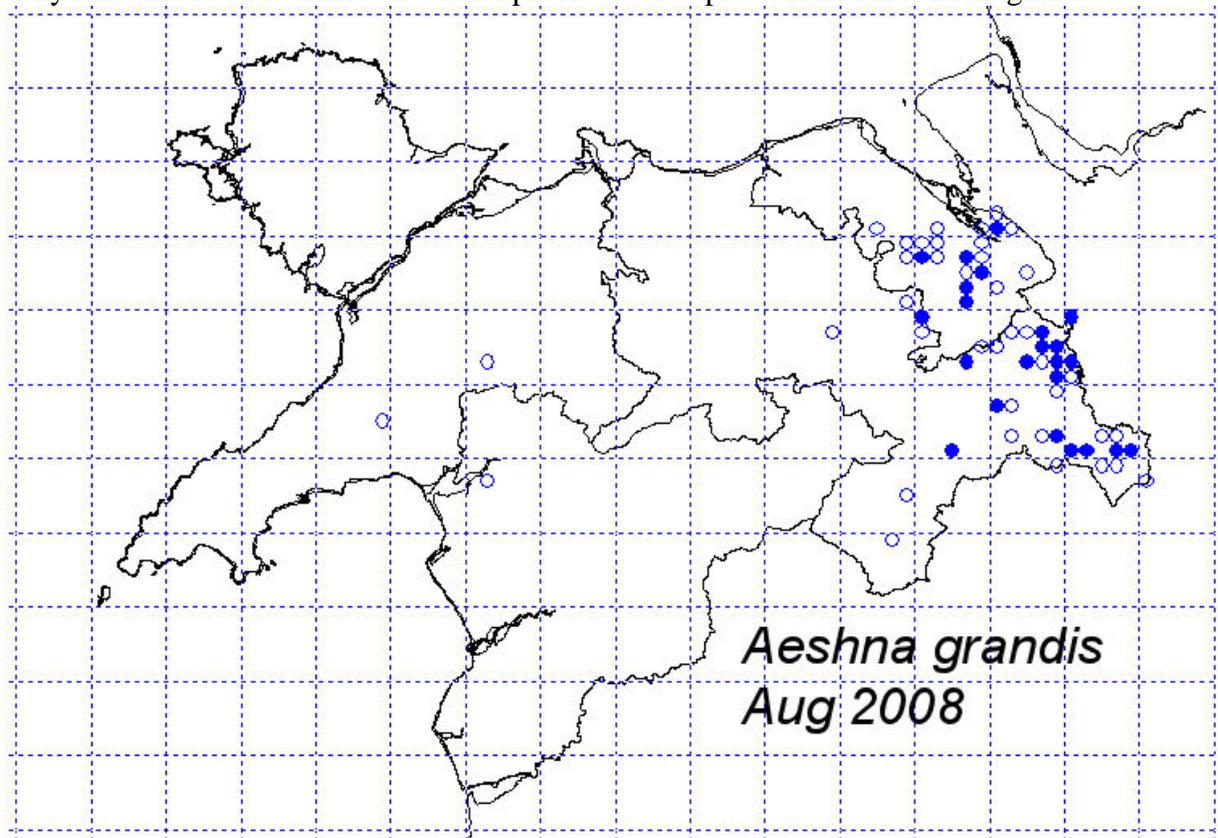
The Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*) has been in the eastern and south western parts of North Wales for many years but since about 2000 has expanded its range to include the Conwy valley, the margins of North Snowdonia and Anglesey.



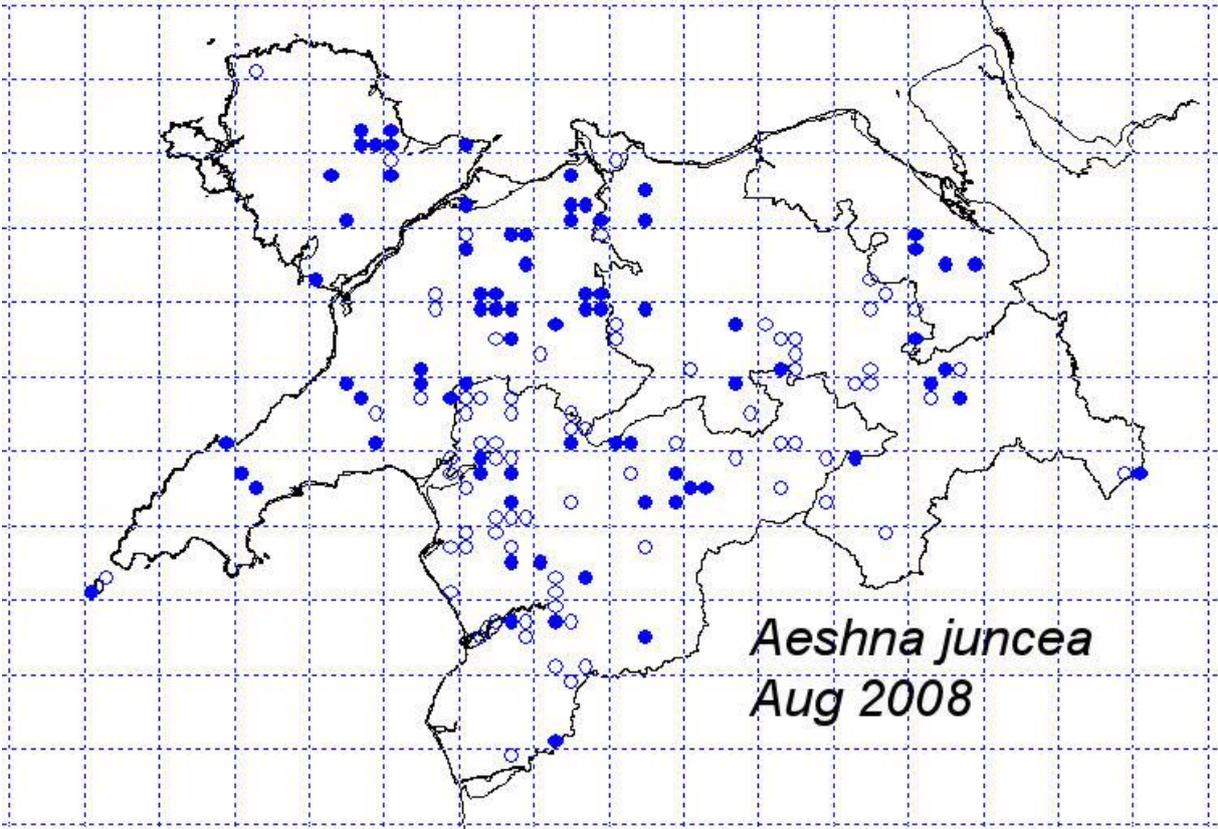
The Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*) has recently undergone a remarkable range expansion to the north and west in Britain. In 2000 I found only the second breeding site in Cheshire and the species had not then been recorded farther west. In 2002 the first North Wales sighting was made by Andy Harmer at a small pond between Wrexham and Holt. It then spread rapidly westwards as far as Anglesey, where it was seen by Les Colley at Cors Erddreiniog in 2003. Debbie Evans saw it at Llyn Vaynol this July. It has been found at widely scattered localities and never in great numbers.



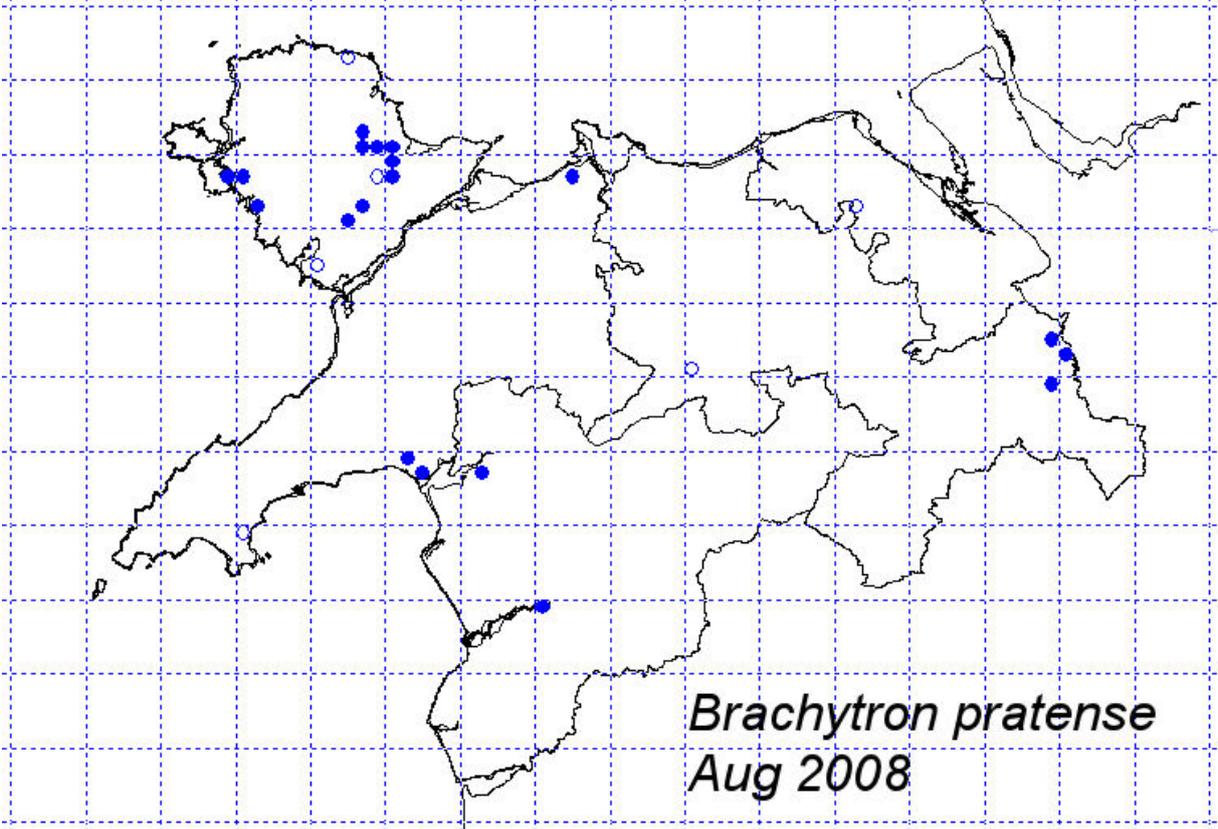
Conversely, the Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*) is reluctant to move from its Flintshire and east Denbighshire ponds although there are a few stray pre-2000 records from Snowdonia. Why this should be is unknown as the species is widespread in Ireland and England.



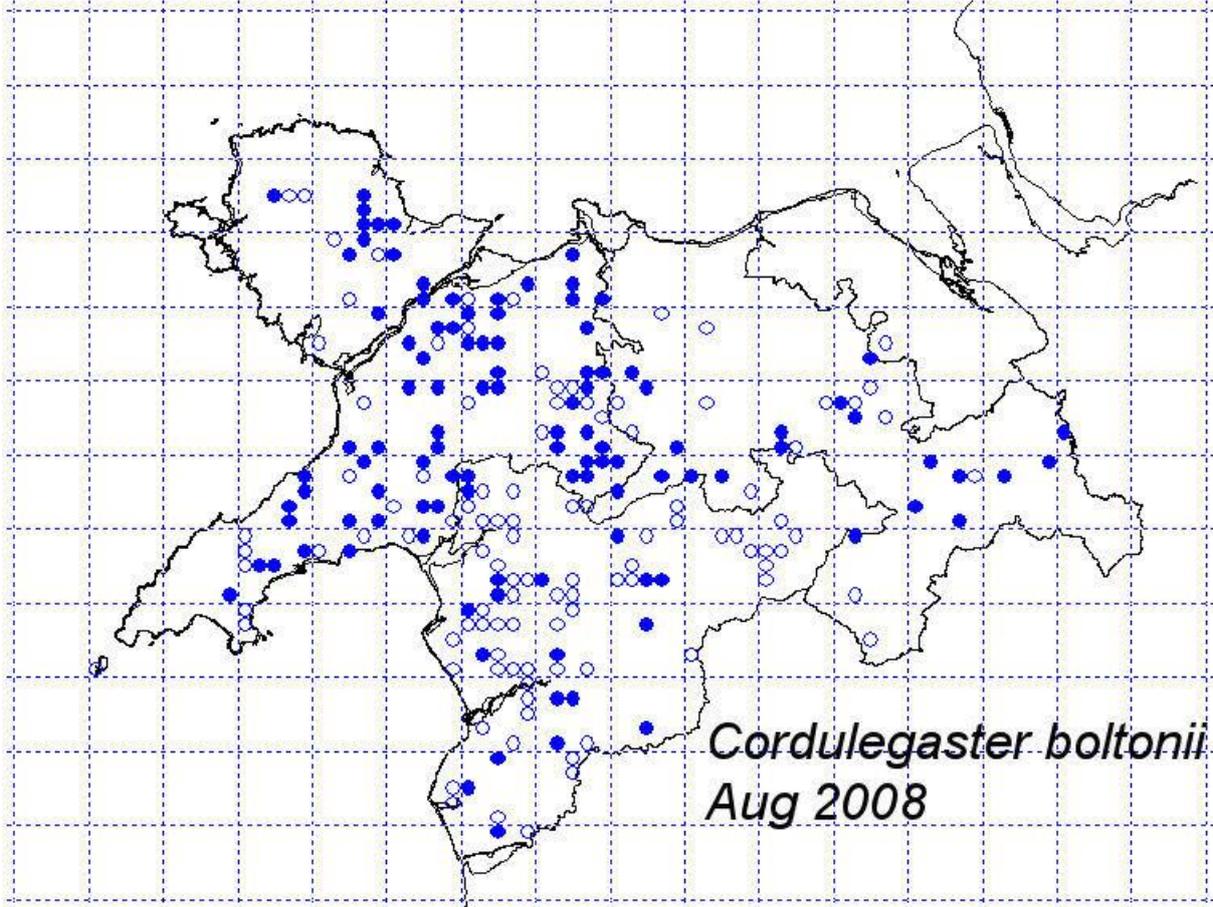
The Common or Moorland Hawker (*Aeshna juncea*) is widespread at lakes and ponds across the acid moors of Snowdonia and the Denbigh Moors.



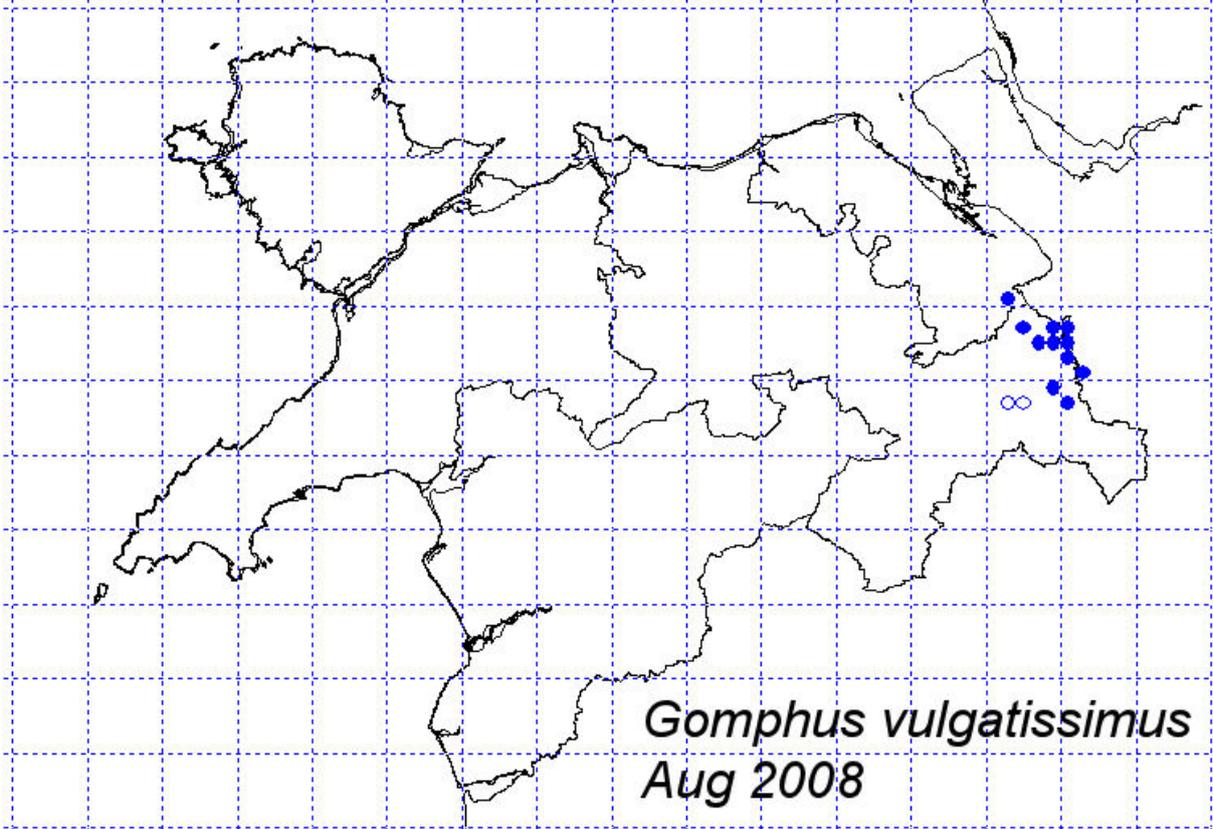
The Hairy Hawker (*Brachytron pratense*) apparently has localised populations in North Wales though there is evidence from England that it is extending its range. It is particularly common in Anglesey and the Cheshire borders.



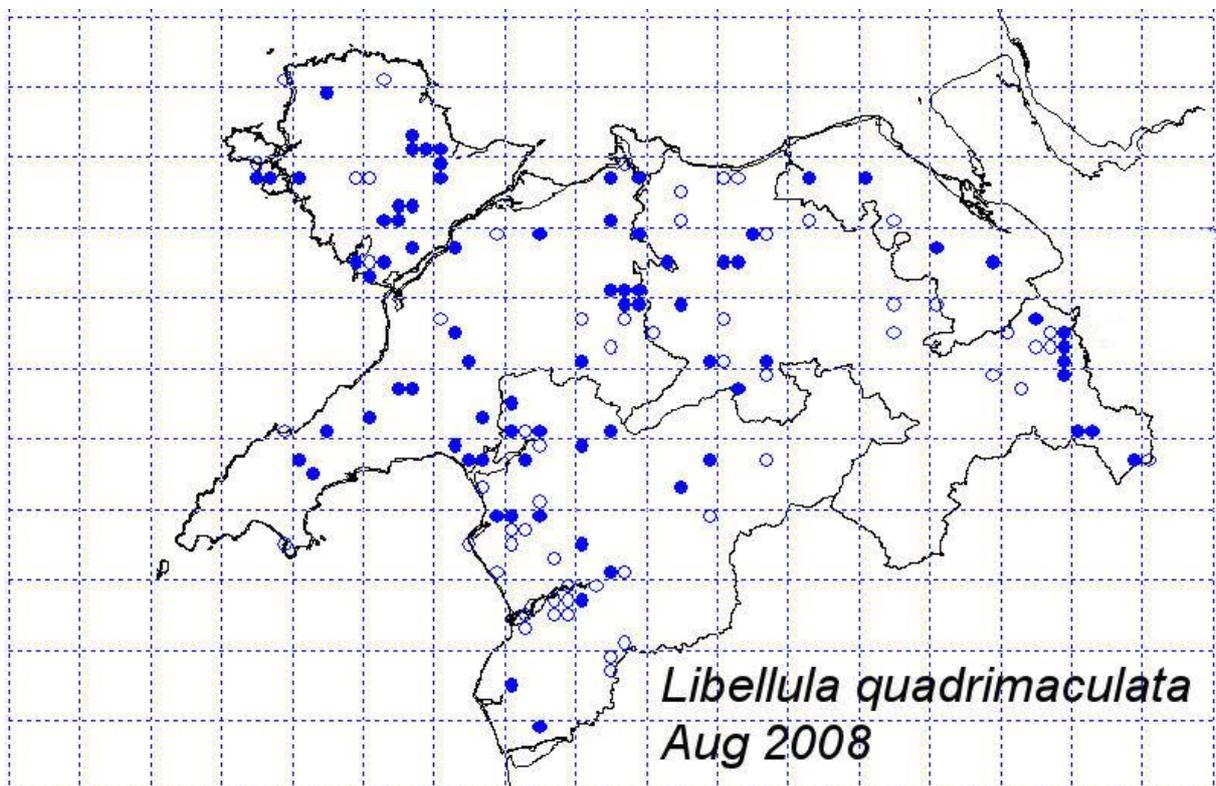
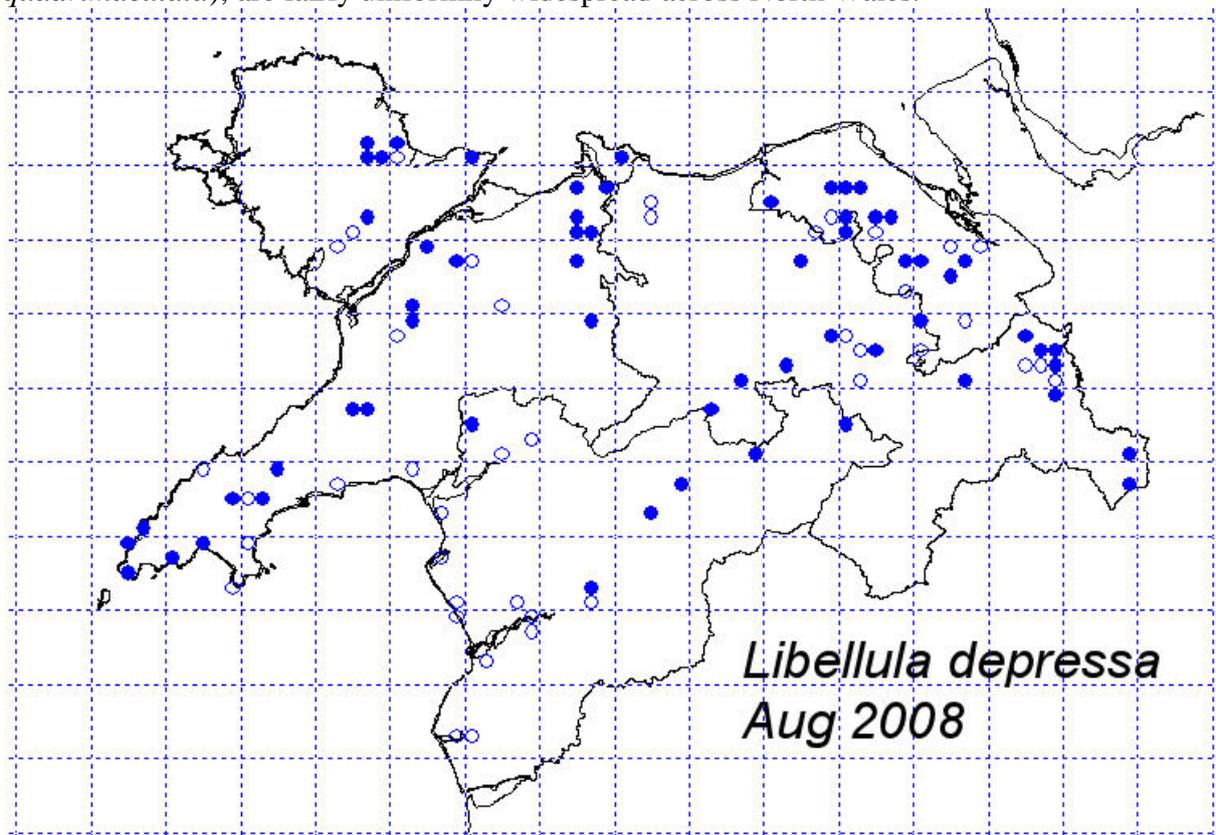
The Common Goldenring (*Cordulegaster boltonii*) is ubiquitous along the rivers and streams of the western regions and the Denbigh Moors.



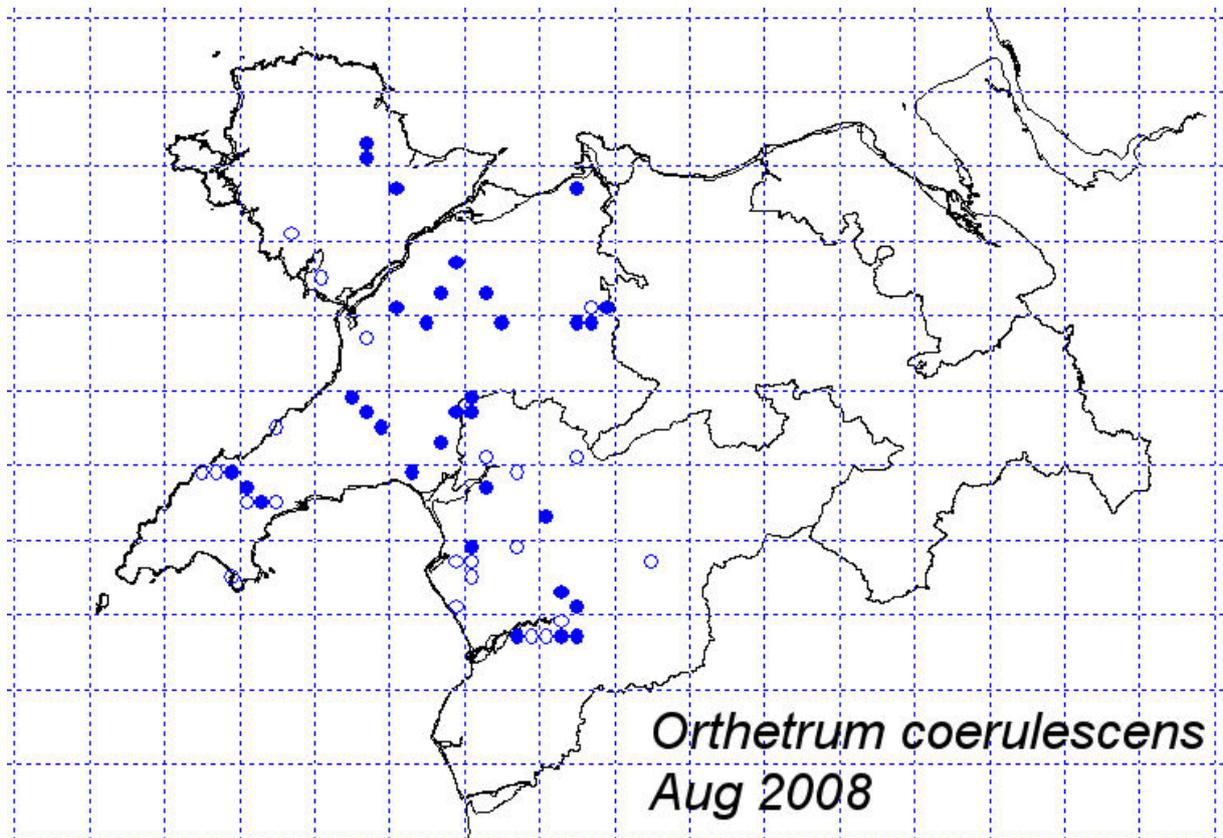
There is no indication that the Common Clubtail (*Gomphus vulgatissimus*) is moving from the Dee system into any other rivers.



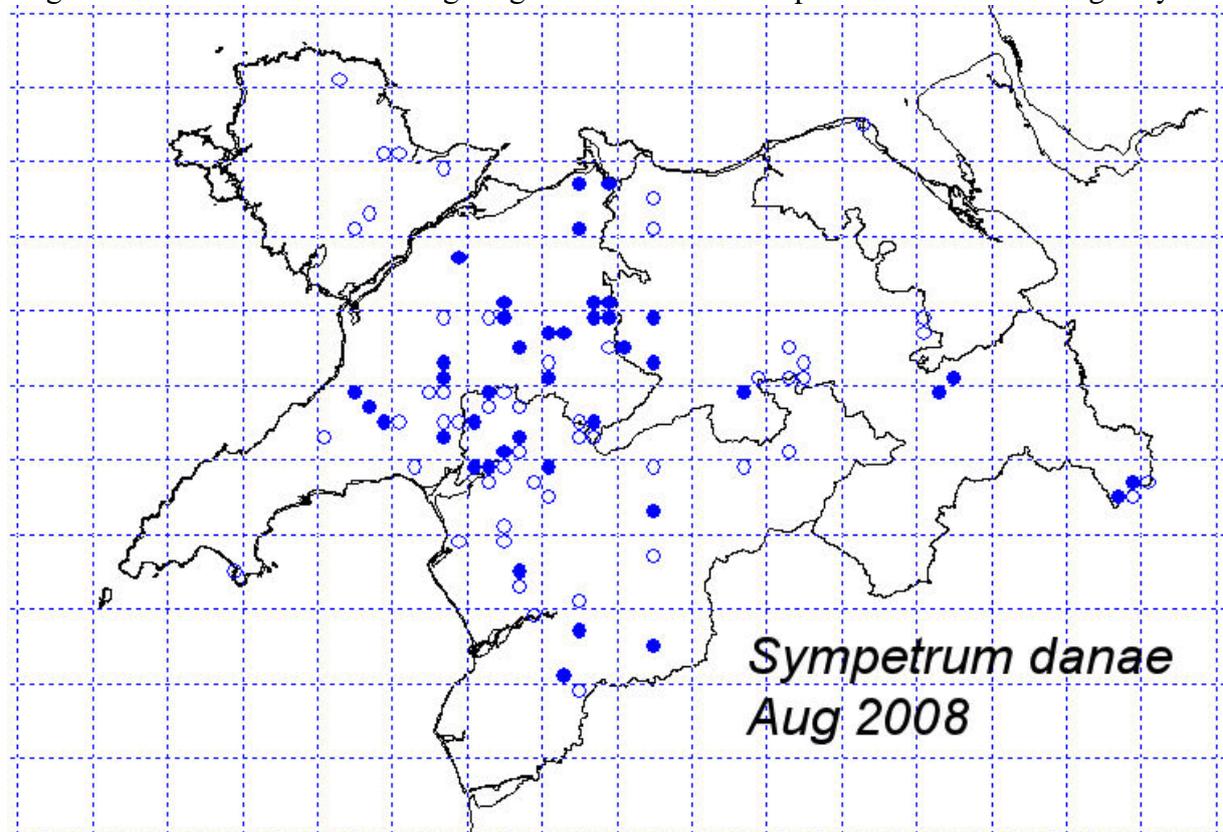
The two chasers, Broad-bodied Chaser (*Libellula depressa*) and Four-spotted Chaser (*L. quadrimaculata*), are fairly uniformly widespread across North Wales.



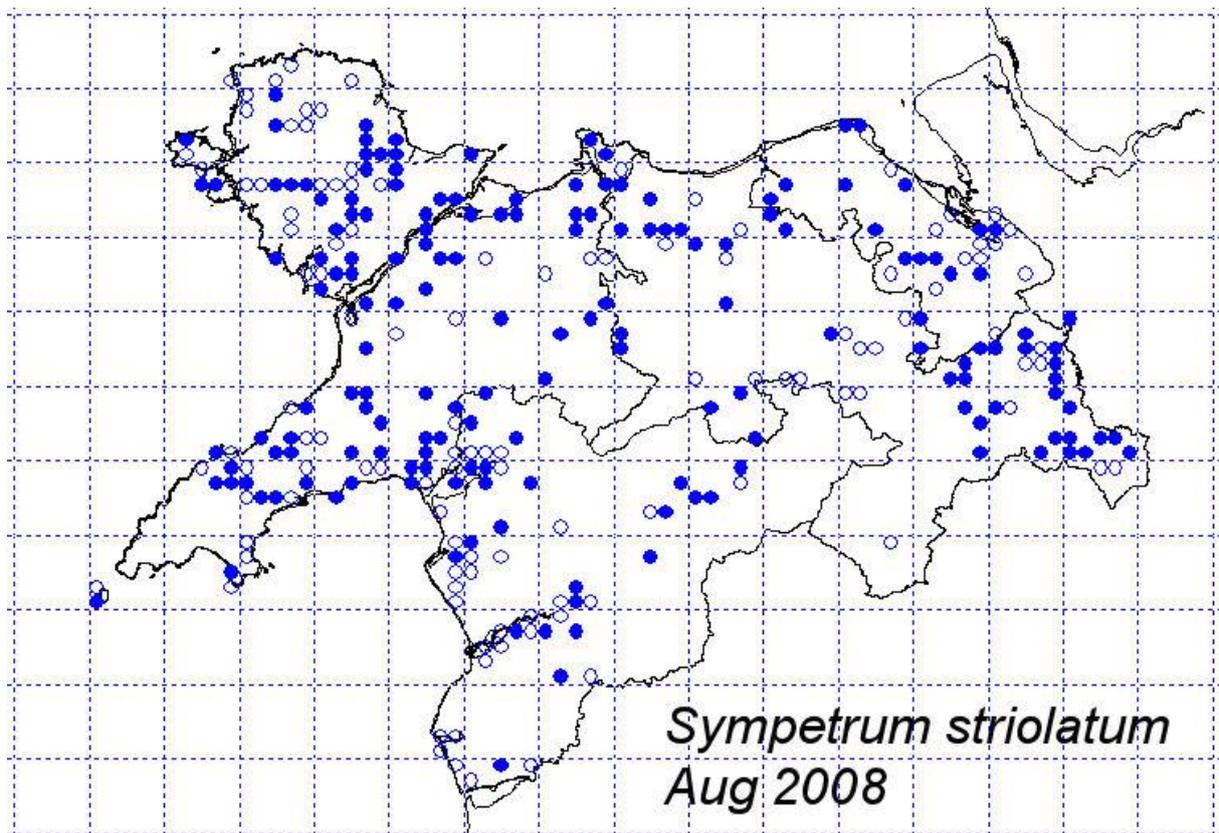
The Keeled Skimmer (*Orthetrum coerulescens*) is well and truly a resident of western regions, no Denbighshire or Flintshire records being known.



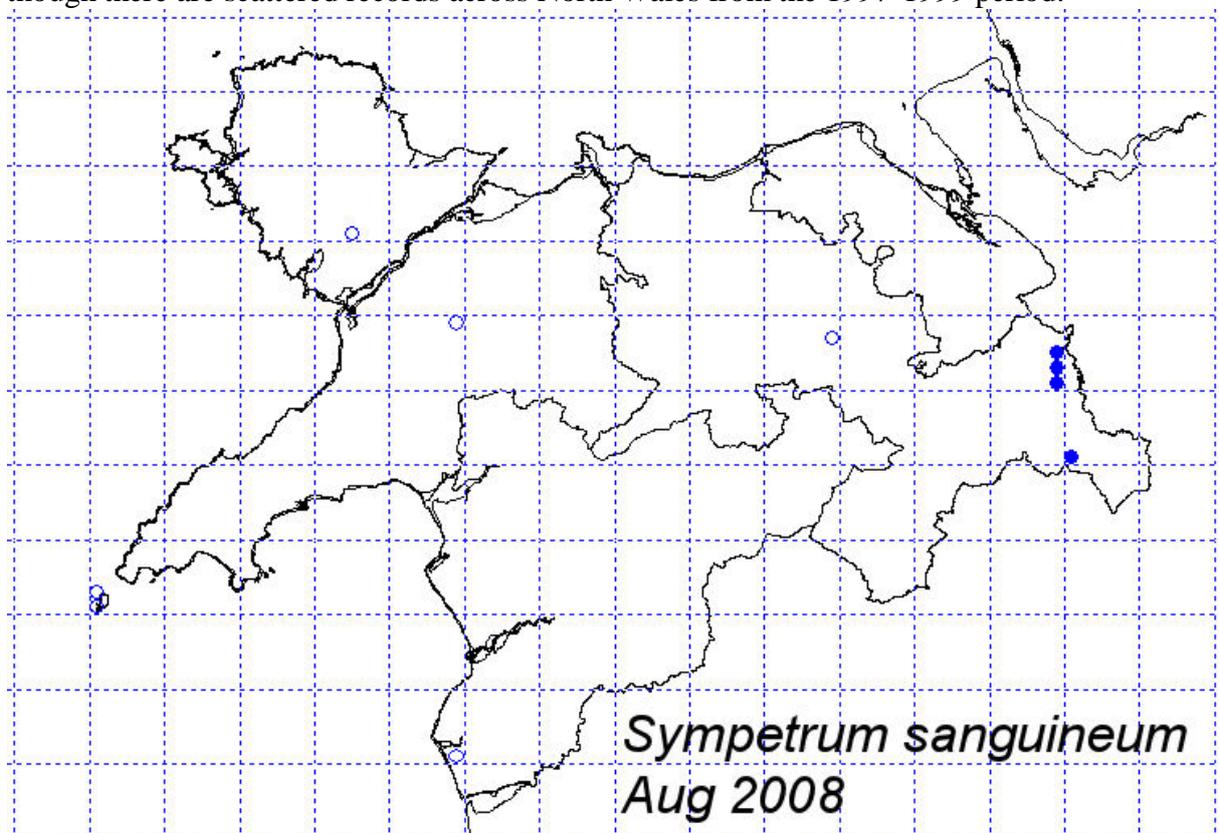
The Black Darter (*Sympetrum danae*) is at home in the sphagnum bogs of the west and a few places to the east including Fenn's Moss. There are no recent Anglesey records, the last being Hugh Knott's Malltraeth Marsh sighting in 1993. Could the species be extinct in Anglesey?



The Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*) is ubiquitous at ponds and lakes across North Wales.



The Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*) is currently confined to eastern Denbighshire though there are scattered records across North Wales from the 1997-1999 period.





Dr Allan Brandon
North Wales Dragonfly Recorder
Bryn Heilyn, Rowen, Conwy LL32 8YT.
01492 651066.

Allan@rowenconwy.wanadoo.co.uk