

No 26. 3 February 2009

Hi all,



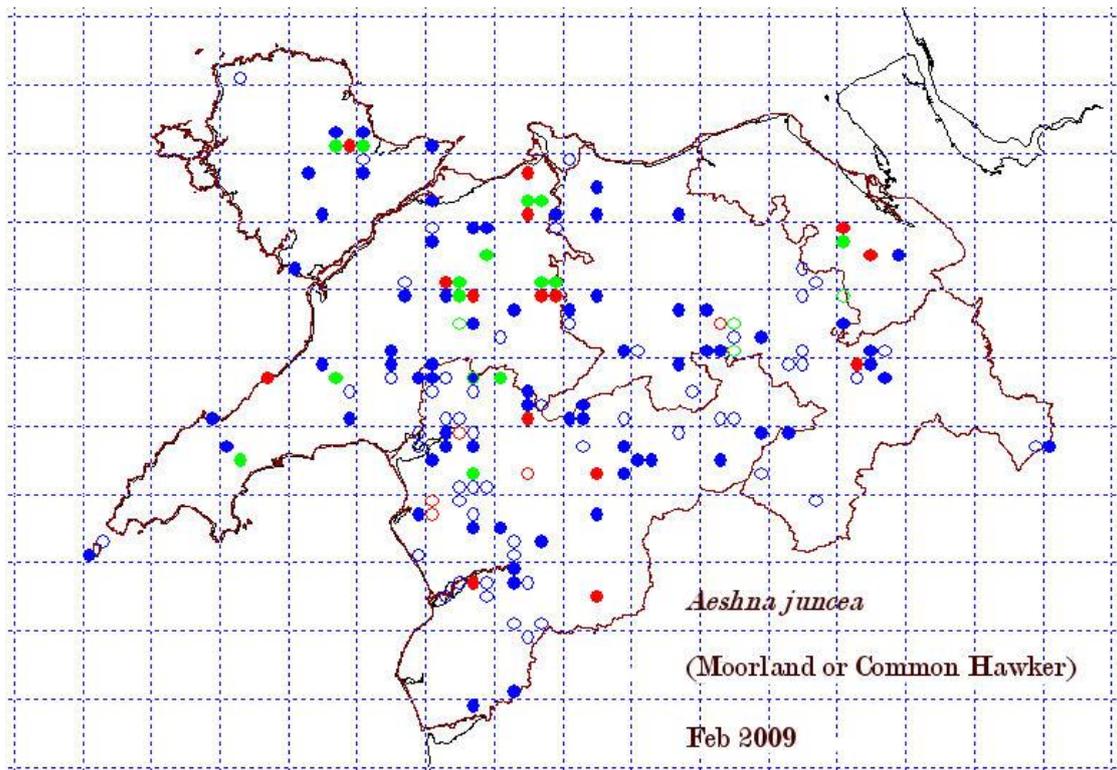
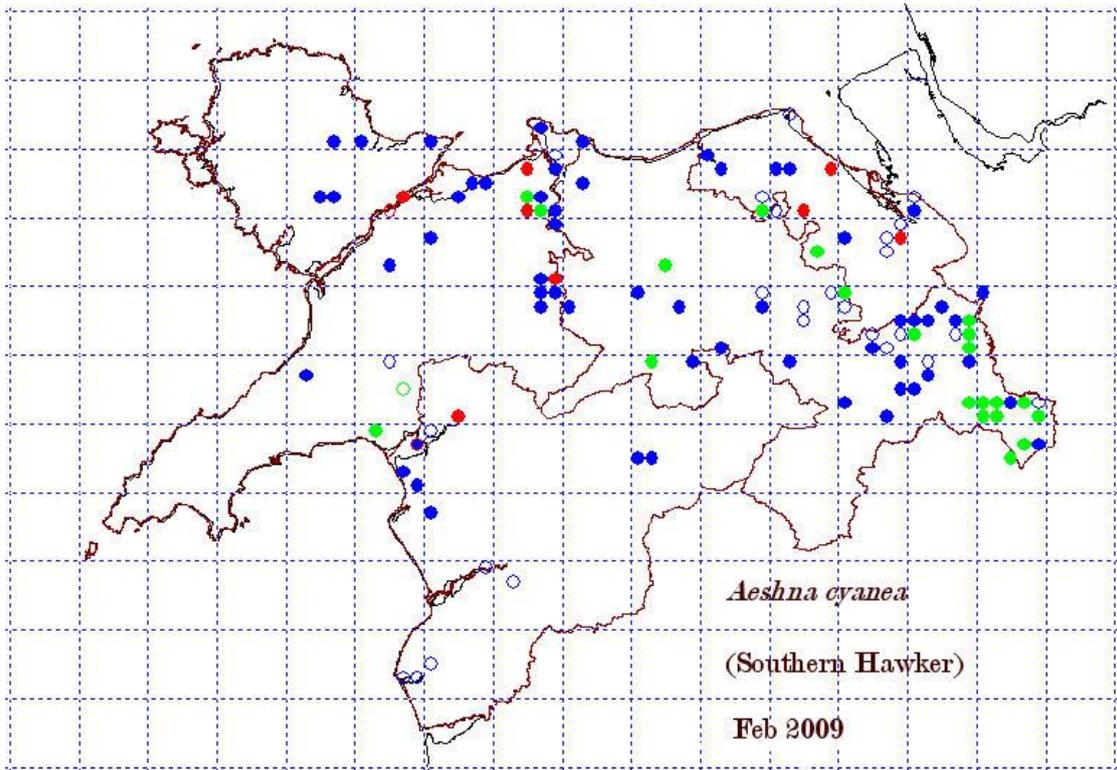
I'm sure dragonflies are a long way from your thoughts at the moment with all this snow and ice. Still, the bad weather has allowed me to update the North Wales Dragonflies database to the end of the 2008 season. I've also been playing around with Recorder 6 and have come up with new species plots showing distributions of the various odonate stages based on the observations. For each species I've grouped the observed stages into three categories:

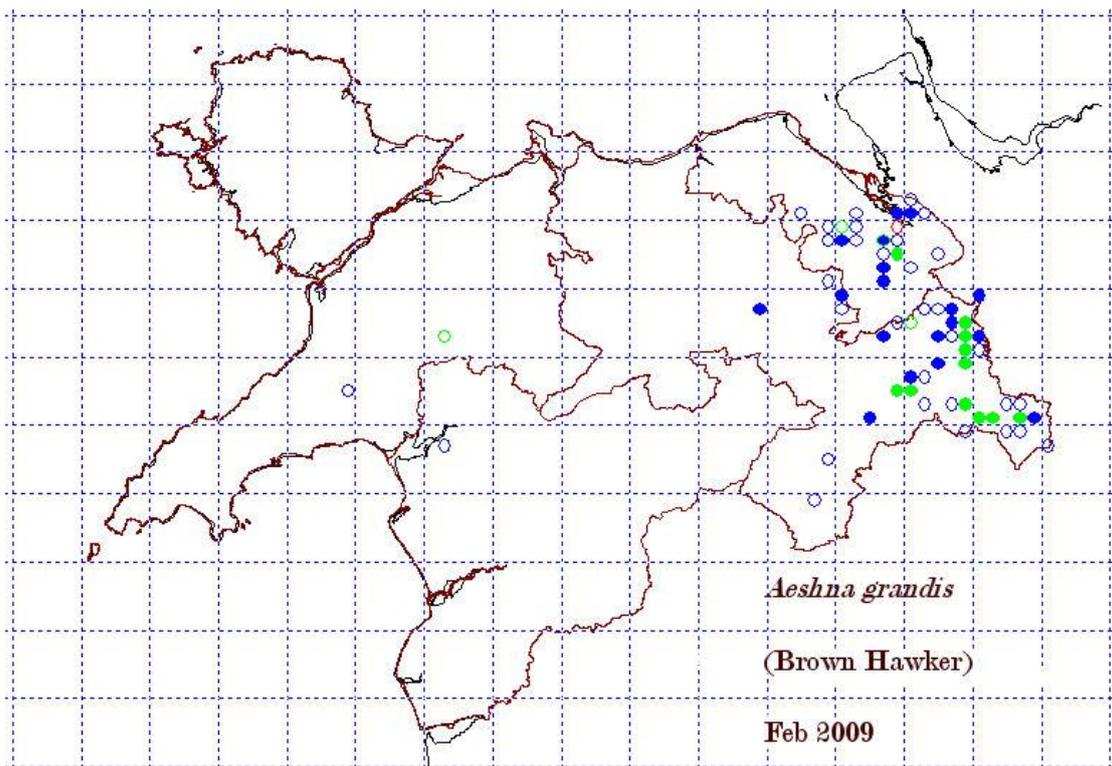
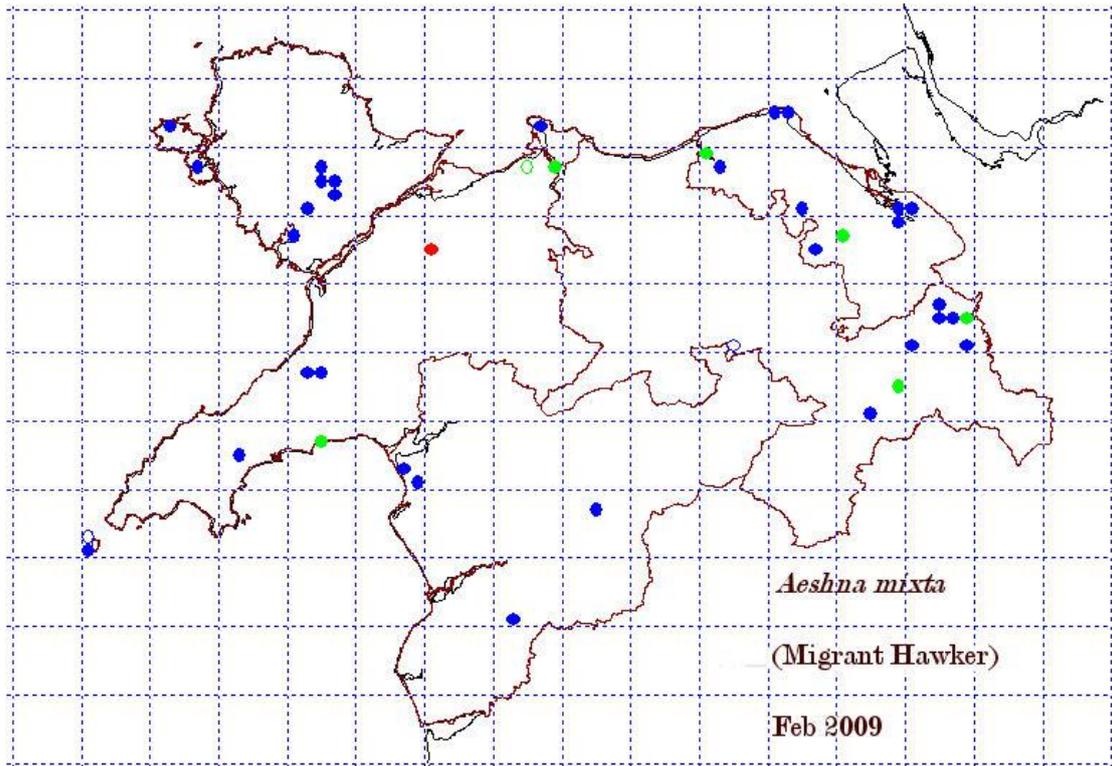
1. Adults only – blue on the maps
2. Breeding (copulation, oviposition, larvae) – green on the maps
3. Successful breeding (pre-flight emergence & exuviae) – red on the maps

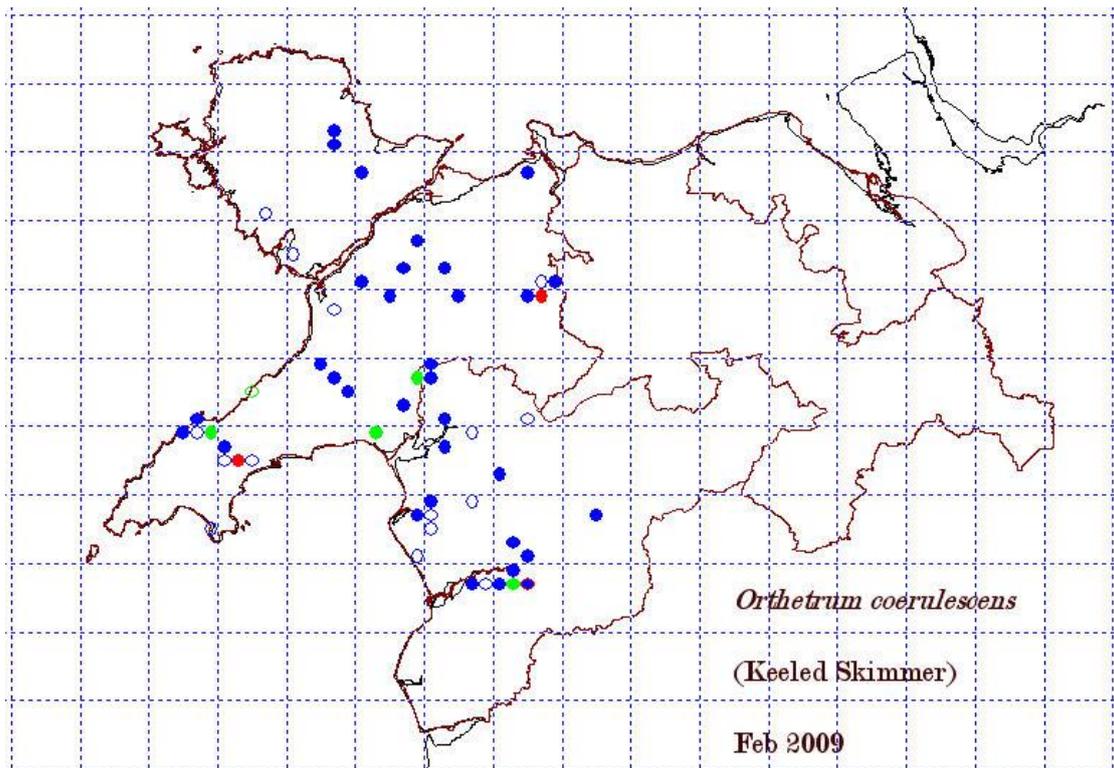
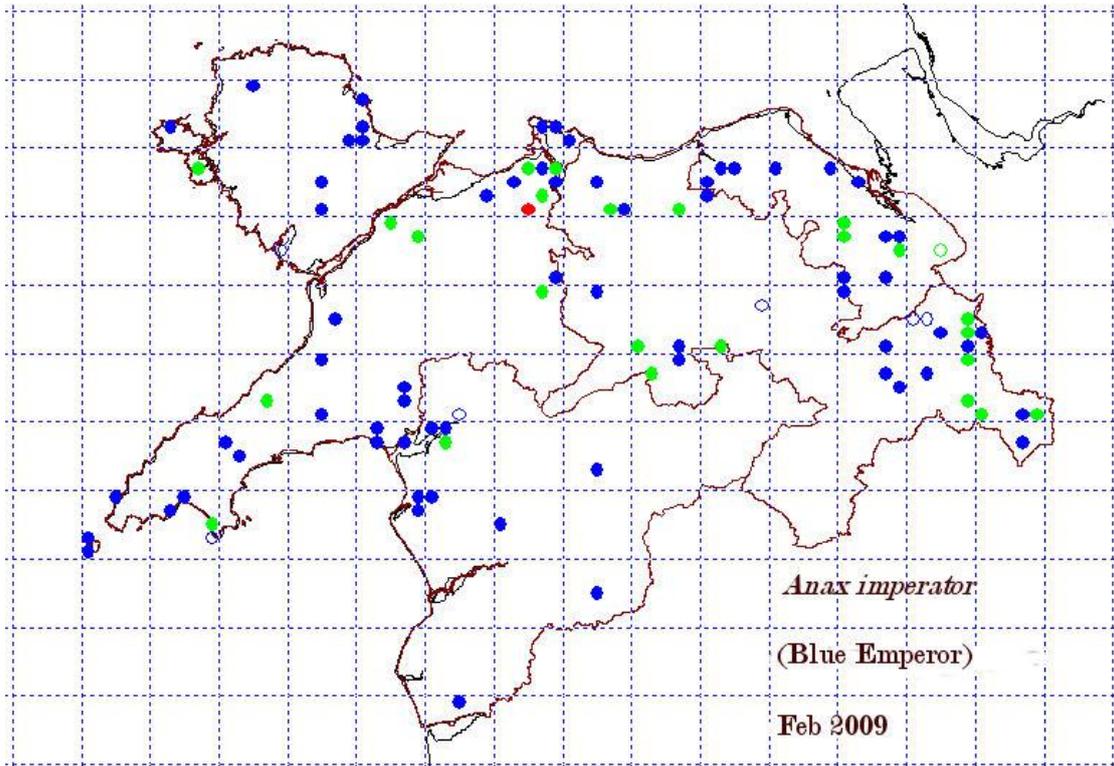
Although I record *tandem pairs* as routine, this coupling is unfortunately not recognised as a separate category on the Darter and Recorder 6 programmes even though the pairing is obviously linked to copulation and oviposition. Consequently, tandem pairs are included with adult observations. I think this is a great shame. The best I can do is put tandem occurrence as a note in the record. Likewise teneral (newly emerged) imago dispersal from water bodies is not recognised as a separate category although routinely recorded.

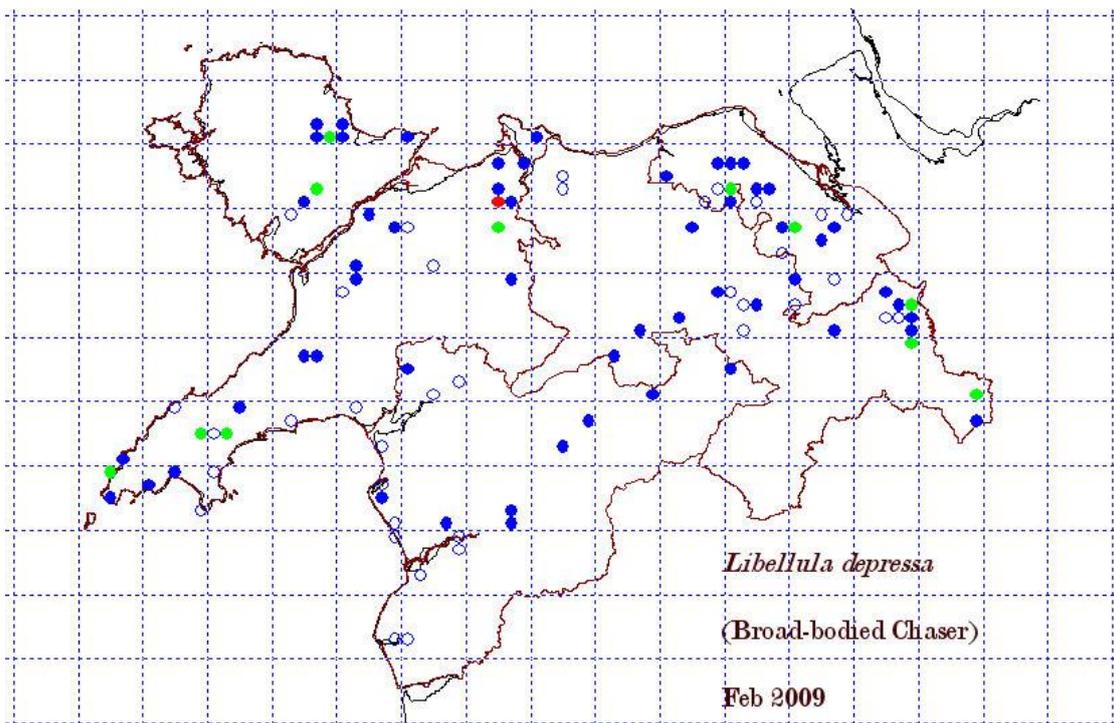
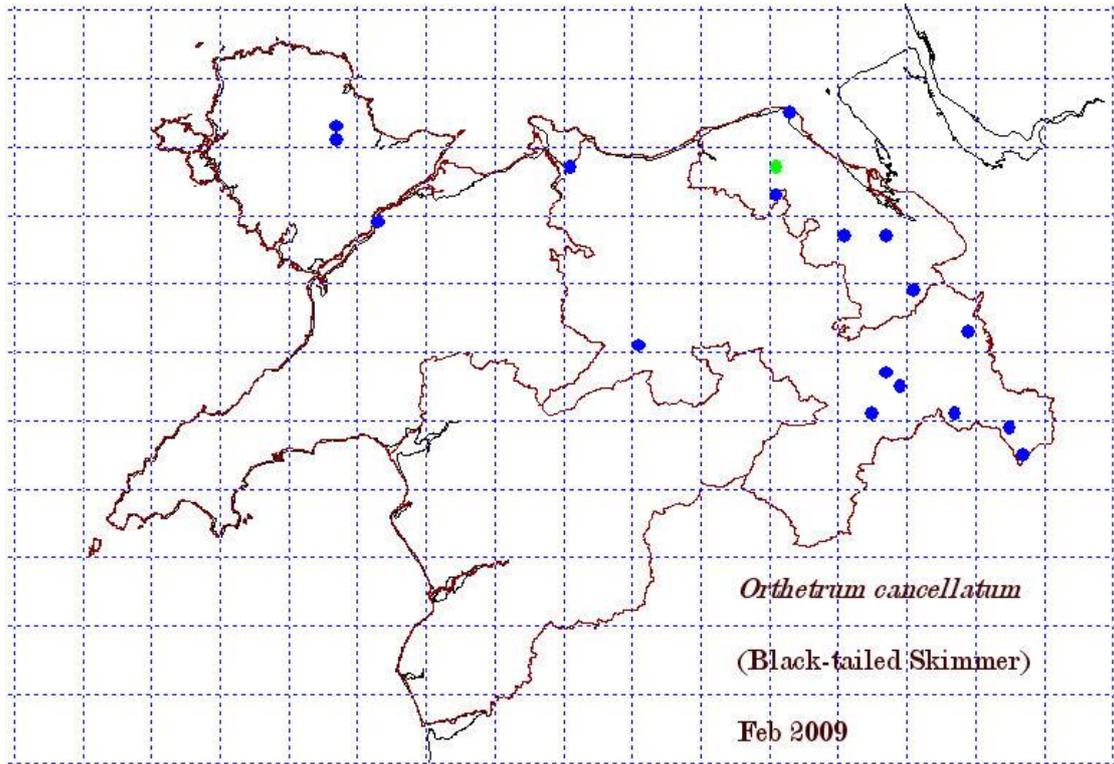
In the following selected species distribution plots you will notice that data on breeding is not that widespread with some species and I would hope that more observations on breeding are sent in this year. Please record tandem pairs separately from copulation (wheel position) and also from tandem, guarded or solitary oviposition. Likewise, tenerals should be recorded separately from pre-flight emergent individuals.

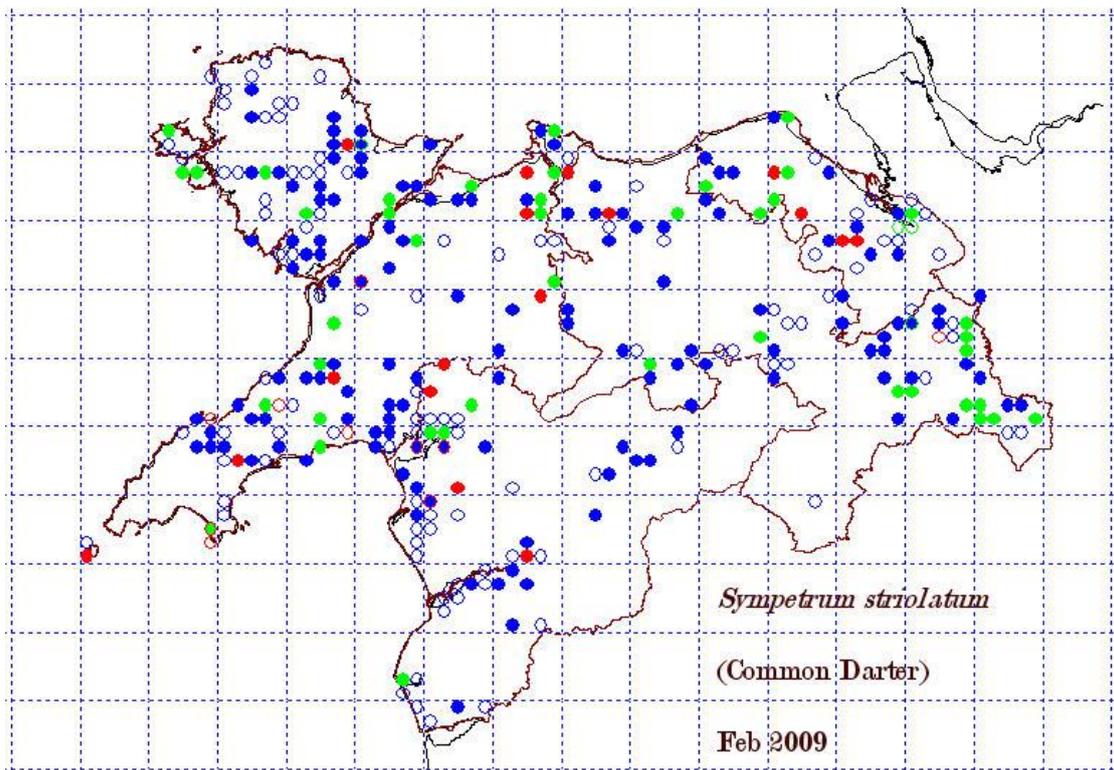
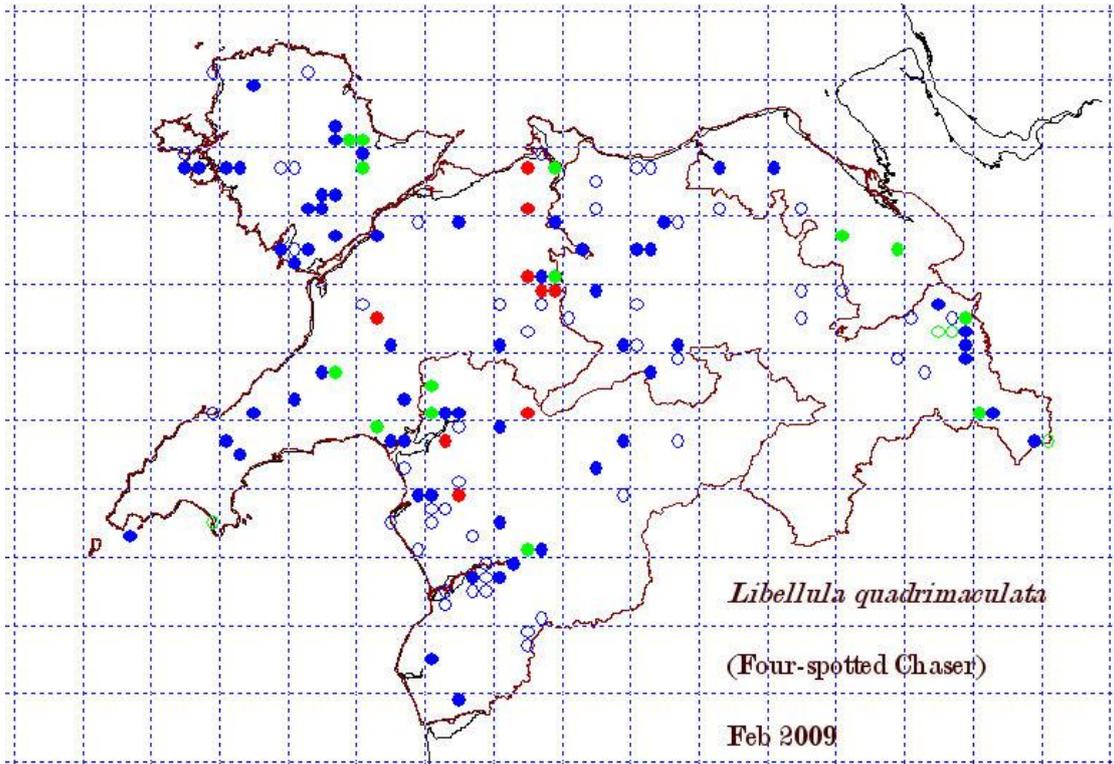
In the species plots the purple lines denote the five VC boundaries. As previously, open coloured circles are pre-2000 occurrences and coloured dots are later occurrences (possibly also with older sightings).

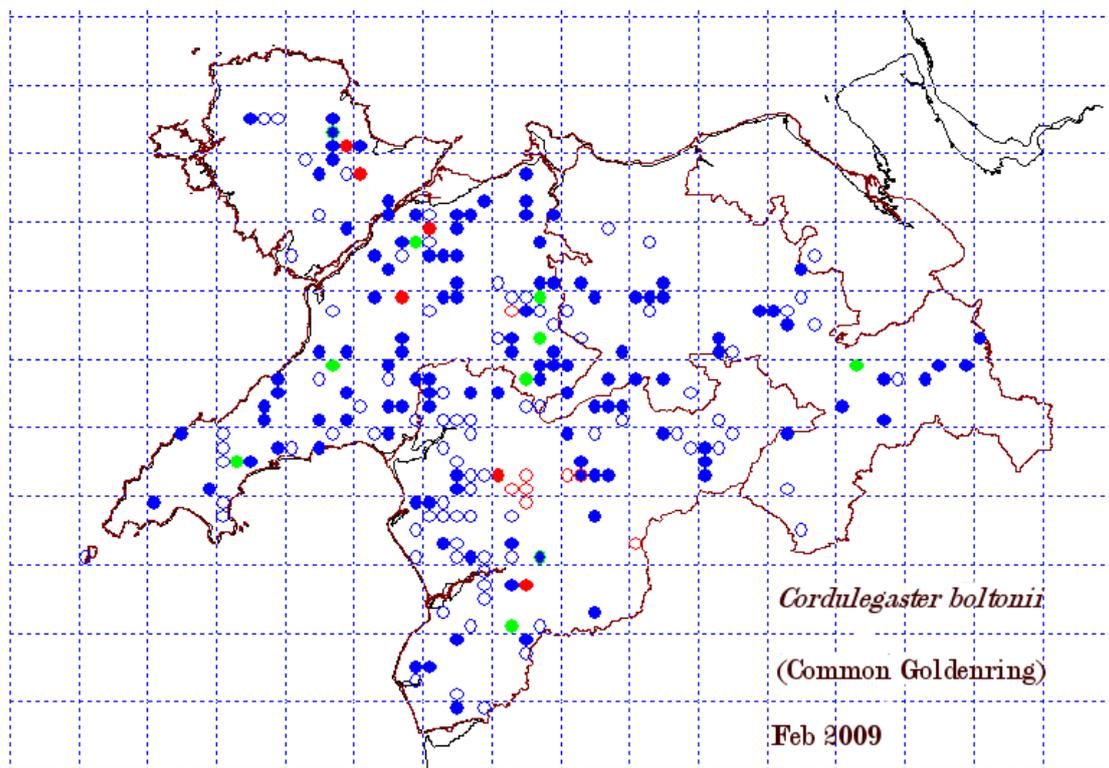
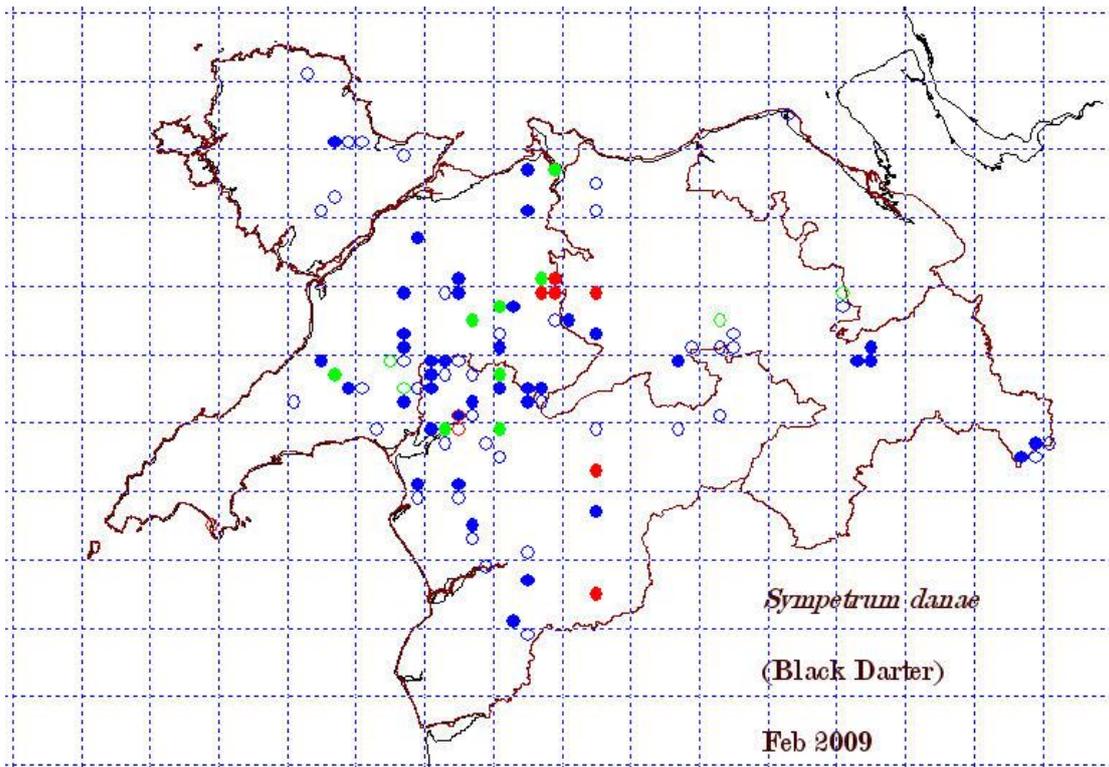












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