

No 30. 16th April 2009

Hi all,

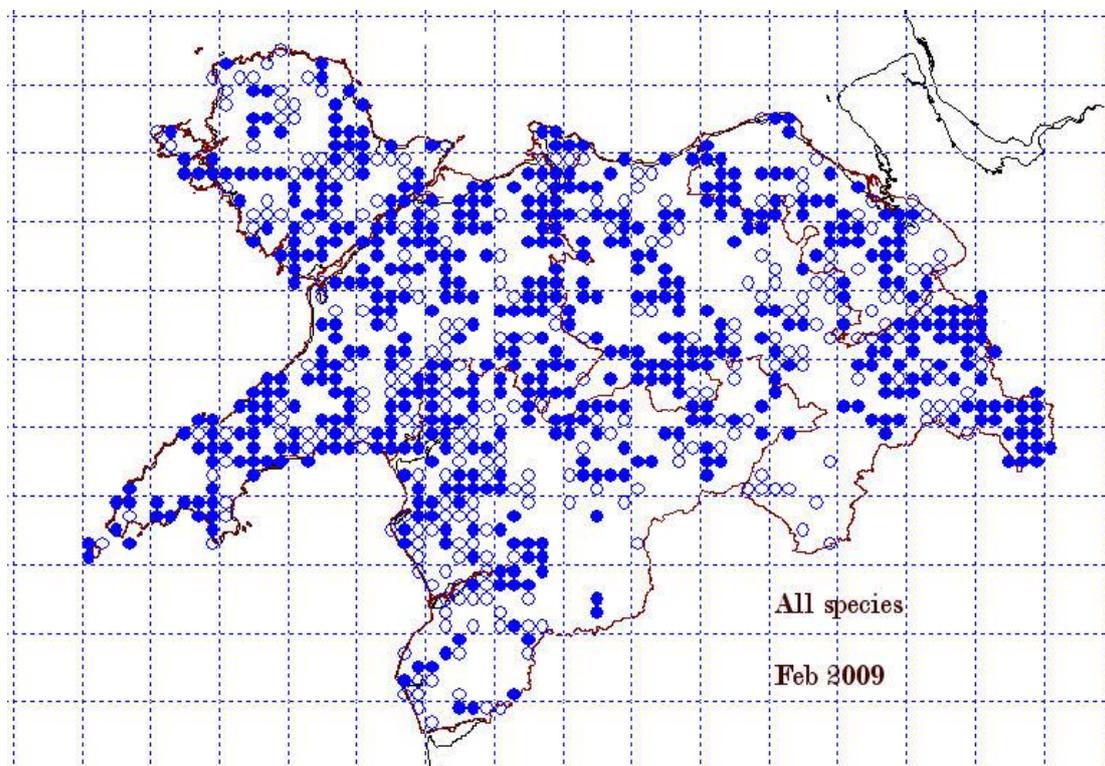


### Start of 2009 flying season

The British flying season has already begun with the first Large Red Damselflies (*Pyrhosoma nymphula*) reported just before the end of March. So, hopefully, we should soon be getting sightings from North Wales. It remains to be seen what toll last winter's hard frost has had on our most recent arrivals such as the Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*). Could the liberal use of salt on our roads have affected nymphal development of riverine species? As usual, it would be good to get new site records for our earliest dragonfly, Hairy Hawker (*Brachytron pratense*), from the end of April through May.

### Proposed British Isles atlas and recording

The new atlas is still scheduled for 2013 (or possibly 2014) so we still have at least four full flight seasons worth of recording to do before then. I've added the current distribution map of all species again as a reminder of the areas with fewer odonate records. (Open tetrad circles are pre-2000 records only, filled in tetrad circles contain at least some 2000 onwards records.) If anybody wishes to adopt a 10 km square or Tetrad to focus their recording in please let me know.



Dragonfly recording software

For small numbers of records one can send them to me using the new Odonata Recording Card RA 83 or an excel spreadsheet system known as Species Recorder (both downloadable from <http://www.dragonflysoc.org.uk/recording.html>).

### Recording life stages of dragonflies

The main points to note are that tandem pairs should be recorded in the 'Co' column along with actual copulating pairs. The reason for this is that both qualify as 'Possible Breeding' according to the BDS *Proof of Breeding Criteria*. In both cases it is the number of pairs that should be counted here, but they also count as two individuals in the Adult column. In the same way, ovipositing females are counted for the 'Ov' column, but that is also a sub-count of the Adult column, so they should also be included in the 'Ad' total. Finally, emergents (Em) are now defined as any dragonflies found emerging or just emerged, that are judged still to be at their site of origin. This could include deformed individuals incapable of flight. If these are changes to your past practice, please don't worry, just start recording according to these guidelines from now on. For further details, please check the BDS website.

### More 2008 records

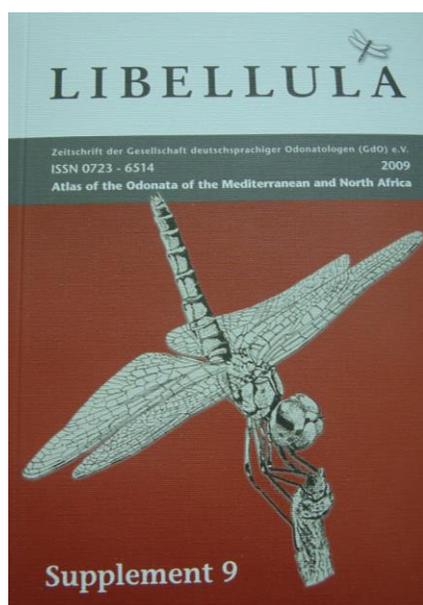
John Bratton has given me a lovely set of dragonfly records for the 2008 flight season. Thanks John.

### New atlas for southern regions

Please see attached A5 flyer concerning the new GdO "Atlas of the Odonata of the Mediterranean & North African" which is now in the BDS Shop. The work is excellent, with good colour photos and all English text, and well worth the price. Contact Lynn at the BDS Shop.

## Atlas of the Odonata of the Mediterranean and North Africa

(Boudot, Kalkman, etc, 2009 )



- 256 pages, 224 printed in colour and 32 in black and white, text in English
- Covers all known 179 species of damselflies and dragonflies
- Each species with colour photograph, information and distribution maps
- In Libellula format, price **£22.50** + p&p £2.50
- Please send a cheque made payable to "British Dragonfly Society" to BDS Shop, 23 Bowker Way, Whittlesey, PE7 1PY



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