

No 31. 14th May 2009

Hi all,



Start of the Flying Season

There was surprisingly quite an early start to the season this year with Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) emerging from my pond in Rowen from the 18th April and still continuing, but with no other species yet. In early May I have had reports sent in of flying Large Red Damselfly at Hendryd [Julian Weldrick, 12 May]; Hairy Hawker and Four-spotted Chaser at Cors Erdreiniog [Les Colley]; Common Bluetail, Azure Damselfly and Broad-bodied Chaser at Wrexham Industrial Estate [Bryan Formstone, 7 May]; Common Clubtail on the Dee at Holt [Neil Friswell, 10th May]. On May 12th Bryan photographed what is thought to be a female Variable Damselfly at the Wrexham Industrial Estate pond. This would be the first of its kind to have been recorded in Denbighshire but positive confirmation is awaited.

Let's not forget the larval stage

While it's true to say that the majority of us regard the flying imago season as 'The Dragonfly Season' Andy Harmer has made a special plea --- 'Can I make a suggestion though....can you touch on the fact that there's no such thing as a recording season where drags are concerned as they're in the ponds all year around in good or bad weather, day and night etc. There's so little in your newsletter to suggest that records (that are arguably more valuable) can be gleaned other than flight records!! Your 'recording life stages of dragonflies' ignores the aquatic stage completely.' He's dead right of course but searching for and identifying larvae or nymphs is a painstaking and tricky task and few of us, unless our livelihood depends on it, have the required motivation. Andy is one such person and he has sent in some invaluable larval records in the last few years, particularly in connection with the Wrexham Pond surveys. The great advantage of larval surveys is that they can result in a complete site list of species in one go. With recording other life stages one may have to make repeated trips to a site to pick up all the species that are emerging or breeding at different times of year.



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