

North Wales Dragonfly Newsletter No. 61. 10th April 2012.

Hi all,



**THIS IS THE LAST YEAR TO SEND IN RECORDS FOR
THE 2013 BRITISH AND IRISH DRAGONFLY ATLAS!**

Early emergence of adults this year

As usual the first species to emerge this flight season is *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* (Large Red Damsel). At least two emerged from my garden pond in the Conwy valley on a sunny 6th April and another adult was in the garden the day before, these being the earliest records for North Wales. I had thought an early emergence was on the way this year due to a relatively mild winter and the exceptional spring weather but I gave up the idea at the arrival of the few cold days with gales and snow. Fortunately we didn't get freezing conditions here and the Large Red emerged a couple of days after it had stopped snowing! My attention was drawn to this emergence event by blackbirds hopping around the pond looking for pre-flight teneral to pick off! Last year, which broke several new species records for early flying in North Wales, the first emergence of Large Red from my pond was on the 21st April and the first record of an adult for North Wales was by Andrew Spottiswood at Rhoscolyn headland, Anglesey, on the 10th April, this now being the second earliest emergence on record for the North Wales region.

Other emerging species should now quickly follow and, as usual, I would urge you to look out for *Brachytron pratense* (Hairy Hawker) which should be on the wing from now until possibly the end of June. Its known distribution in North Wales is very irregular and I suspect it is present in more places than currently found. Please take a photograph if at all possible.

