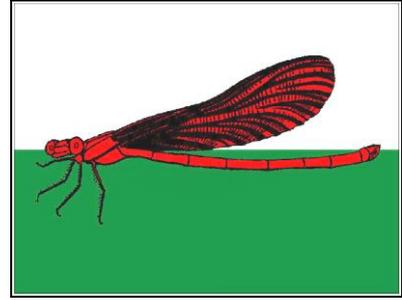


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**North Wales
Dragonfly
Newsletter
No. 88**

13th October 2016



**Odonata news and events from across the vice counties of
Anglesey, Merionethshire, Caernarvonshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire**



Hi all,

The flight season, which is now slowly winding down, has progressed well if rather uneventfully with little news of unusual or rare sightings across our region. Keep sending the records in!

Vagrant Emperor arrives in UK

According to the British Dragonfly Society News-in-Brief for 12th October 2016 two recent sightings of the southern species *Anax epiphiger* (Vagrant Emperor) have been reported in the UK. One was recorded on Orkney (South Ronaldsay) on the 18th September and two were seen on the Scilly Isles, at Newford on the 25th September, and on St Agnes the week before. So it is worth keeping a look out for this small darkish emperor dragonfly.

A Small Bluetail population at Minera!

Steve Palin found a male *Ischnura pumilio* (Small Bluetail) at the shallow pool in Minera limestone quarry [SJ2519952174] on the 16th June (see photo). This follows on from Sue Loose's discovery of an immature female of the species there on the 6th May and makes it more likely that the species is breeding at the site.

Sue Loose paid another visit to the site on the 21st July and got 3 mature males and a mature female. She suggests there is probably a healthy population there. It would be good to find other sites with *pumilio* in the area, so far removed from any previously known colonies.



Ischnura pumilio male, Minera quarry, 16th June 2016. Photo Steve Palin.

A new Denbighshire site for Large Red-eye

We get exceedingly few records of *Erythromma najas* (Large Red-eye) from our region, and all from the extreme east. The species requires floating vegetation, such as pond lily pads, on which the males are territorial.



Male *Erythromma najas*, Redwither pond, 24th July 2016. Photo Sue Loose.

Sue Loose picked it up at Redwither pond [SJ385501] on the Wrexham Industrial Estate on the 24th July 2016, this being a new locality for the species (see photo). She observed a minimum of 3 males, possibly a pair in tandem and also a lone blue-tail *Ischnura elegans*. She states that this new site for *E. najas* is relatively close to Llay Pool, to north of Wrexham, were it had previously been recorded in recent years by Steve Palin but is not a common species in the area yet. Steve reported to me at the recent Cofnod annual meeting that it had not been seen at Llay this year.



A teneral male *Sympetrum danae* (Black Darter), Llyn Tecwyn Isaf, 21st June 2016. Photo Malcolm Watling. Note the white pterostigma and the glossy wings of the teneral. A male is indicated by the closely spaced cerci or anal appendages at the end of the abdomen.

Allan

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