

North Wales Dragonfly Newsletter No. 45: 30th July 2010.

Hi all,



Although we are around the peak of the flight season there have been relatively few records sent in recently so this newsletter is a bit thin. I've been away touring French nature reserves so have not been active in North Wales myself.

Earliest Black-tailed Skimmer records for North Wales

Barry Barnacal has sent in records of sightings for the Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*) from the Shotton area close to the English border which are easily the earliest records for North Wales. He saw a male at the M.O.D pools [SJ 306 724] on 19th July 2000 and two males from Finger Post Gutter [SJ 315 726], adjacent to Shotton Boating Lake, on 10th August 2001. The previous earliest record was held by Andy Harmer's 2002 sighting from a pond between Wrexham and Holt. Barry also found dozens of individuals at the Border Pool, just on the Welsh side of the Inner Marsh Farm RSPB Reserve, on 7th August 2002. Has anybody got an earlier record?

Dainty Bluet or Damsel reappears in SE England!

For those of you who are not in the BDS the national dragonfly society put out a press release about the re-discovery of Dainty Bluet (*Coenagrion scitulum*) in SE England. The Dainty Damselfly has reappeared in Kent after an absence from Britain of almost 60 years. It was previously confined to coastal Essex and known there between 1946 and 1953. Unfortunately local sea defences were breached in 1953 and all known breeding sites were affected. It is at the northernmost extreme of its European distribution and there probably isn't much likelihood of it appearing in North Wales in our lifetime but I thought you'd be interested in some good news all the same.



Male Dainty Bluet (*Coenagrion scitulum*), July 2004, Bulgaria. (Photo A. Brandon).

The only other species of Odonata to go extinct in these islands since recording began, again in the 1950s, is the Orange-spotted Emerald dragonfly (*Oxygastra curtisii*). This used to breed along the tree-lined Moors River in Dorset and the Tamar on the border between Cornwall and Devon. Fortunately, the species is fairly common along similar river sections in the south of France and by coincidence I managed to take some pictures on my recent visit to my favourite site along the River Agly.



Male Orange-spotted Emerald (*Oxygastra curtisii*), l'Agly, St Arnac, Pyrenees- Orientales, 21st July 2010. (Photo A. Brandon).



Female Common Goldenring (*Cordulagaster boltonii*) eating a 'bug' head first, Coedty Reservoir, 20th June 2010. (Photo Bob Garrett).



Tandem pair of Small Red Damsels (*Ceriagrion tenellum*), Llyn Tecwyn Isaf, 7th July 2010. (Photo Rhys Jones). Note the reddish legs which are black on the Large Red Damsel.



Male Common Spreadwing or Emerald Damsel (*Lestes sponsa*), Lac d'Orient, Troyes, France, 25th July 2010. This individual has a bad infestation of water mites but seemed to carry on as normal. (Photo A. Brandon).

Allan

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