

ODONATA REPORT

WOOLSTON EYES NATURE RESERVE 2010

The scantiness of this season's report on the Dragonflies at Woolston Eyes is due to reasons beyond my control (the original compiler having now moved to pastures new leaving me to "volunteer" retrospectively – it seems I just cannot say no to our Editor!). I just happened to take a few notes on a couple of days in summer. Hence the 'list' below can only reflect a snapshot of this year, but in the coming years I hope to be better prepared for my new task on the Reserve.

Banded Demoiselle

Calopteryx splendens

These exotic looking dragonflies were noted at what now appears to be a favoured spot on the bank of the Mersey adjacent to the old Weir Lane car-park. Three males and two females were noted on the 26th June flitting about on a beautiful sunny and hot June morning.

Common Blue Damselfly

Enallagma cyathigerum

Although this species has been seen on all of the beds this season, no records were received apart from my own and these are from No.1 Bed on 26th June, when I noticed six individuals and on 3rd July when I logged three on No.3 Bed. Next season I will try to encourage a more systematic approach to recording by all!

Blue-tailed Damselfly

Ischnura elegans

Fortunately the field guide states that there is little colour variation in the males of this species hence I confidently noted one on NO.1 Bed on 26th June.

Brown Hawker

Aeshna grandis

This is definitely a nascent 'Dragonfly Recorders' dream for it virtually tells you what it is as soon as you see it hawking, by looking nothing but brown. This is a regular along the track that connects the footbridge to the Sybil Hogg Hide on No.3 Bed but I have only one written record for this species with one noted at the aforementioned spot on 3rd July.

Emperor Dragonfly

Anax imperator

This is the largest of the Hawker Dragonflies and I managed to gain a record of two males hawking over a reed bed pool on No.1 Bed on 26th June. What a joy they were to watch as they flew about in all their blue livery.

Broad-bodied Chaser

Libellula depressa

I am aware that this species is often associated with areas of recent disturbance. The area of the Reserve which is undergoing more upheaval than the rest is No.1 Bed, where two were noted around the newly created pool in the north-west corner of the bed by the Thelwell Viaduct on 5th June.

Four-spotted Chaser

Libellula quadrimaculata

I am aware that this report is about what has been noted at Woolston during 2010 but I cannot help saying that this is my favourite Dragonfly, owing to its regular presence on my beloved local patch. Six were noted on No.1 Bed on 26th June but this obviously does not reflect the fact that this is quite a common species throughout the Reserve.

Common Darter

Sympetrum striolatum

In the early sixties I made the mistake of believing that the Barn owl was a common sight and it did not need recording – history now tells me otherwise. I hope that next year I do not make the same mistake as I did this year with this widespread Dragonfly, for I have no specific notes of this Darter but I can confirm that I observed it on the Reserve in 2010.

Dave Steel