

DRAGONFLIES IN SOUTH SOMERSET VC5 – AN APPEAL FOR RECORDS

Having recently taken on the role of Recorder in South Somerset, VC5, for the British Dragonfly Society (BDS), I am keen to receive records of dragonflies and damselflies from anyone who has observed them in the region. The BDS is currently running a national Atlas project covering the years 2000–12. Unfortunately, we have surprisingly few records from VC5 during this period and these are somewhat sparsely distributed, with a notable dearth of records from Exmoor away from the coast and from the south-east of the vice-county around Yeovil. Any records from SANHS members living in or visiting these areas would be greatly appreciated. I would also be interested to receive details of even the commonest dragonflies and damselflies breeding in garden ponds, as there are remarkably few confirmed breeding records (larval exuviae or emergent dragonflies) from the vice-county.

Records of all species are welcome, but I would be especially pleased to hear from anyone who has seen Scarce Chaser (*Libellula fulva*), Black Darter (*Sympetrum danae*), Keeled Skimmer (*Orthetrum*

coerulescens) or White-legged Damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*). The Scarce Chaser has recently been recorded in VC5 for the first time, which fits with an observed range expansion in neighbouring vice-counties. The other three species have no 21st-century records in the BDS database for the area, although all three were recorded in the 1990s and ought to be present still, the Black Darter and Keeled Skimmer on Exmoor and the Quantocks, and the White-legged Damselfly on slow-moving, floristically rich rivers around the fringes of the Levels (I have found it in VC6 at Baltonsborough, for example).

I would be grateful if you could please send records (species name, stage of life-cycle, how many you saw, site name, grid reference and date) to me at

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