



TOUR REPORT
NORFOLK BUTTERFLIES & DRAGONFLIES
5TH – 8TH JULY 2022

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WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY – *Overcast day with a fresh NW wind, 18C*

Despite this being very much a ‘bugs’ tour, we nevertheless were not going to ignore the fantastic breeding **European Bee-eaters** over at Gimingham in North-east Norfolk and so that was the first port of call for us today, especially since it was a fairly cool and breezy morning and not the best for butterflies. We saw five **Bee-eaters** in total, with two sitting on the wires when we arrived, before joining up with three more all of which then flew high west and didn’t return while we were there. Two other birds did appear, at least one of which came out of one of the two active nest burrows, and these birds gave us our best views as they flew around the quarry below us calling. A great start to any trip!

Next up, we headed to the heaths in order to start our search for insects (with a few birds thrown in!). The two species of little skipper (or ‘Golden Hogs’) were both on the wing, and we had great comparisons of Small and **Essex Skipper** side by side, nectaring on Viper’s Bugloss. Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet were quickly added to our tally too, and there were singles of **Common Darter** and **Black-tailed Skimmer** to get the ‘odo’s’ off to a start as well. Bird-wise, there was plenty to see, with common species such as Linnet, Yellowhammer and Stonechat (three families seen) were supplemented nicely by at least five **Dartford Warblers** – two different males with attendant fledged young. Try as we might, we couldn’t find any Silver-studded Blue Butterflies today – perhaps they are over already?!



Essex Skipper, 6th July

Moving to a nearby woodland site we had some fantastic success with butterflies, as at least six gorgeous **Silver-washed Fritillaries** were swirling around the last of the bramble blossom in a forest clearing. Just watching this one clump also gave us wonderful views of **White Admiral**, plus lots of other common butterflies too. The highlights were two-fold though – first a diminutive **White-letter**

Hairstreak feeding on the blossom just inches from our camera's, and then a female **Silver-washed Fritillary** of the 'greenish' form, known as *valezina*. This stunning beast really had the wow-factor!



White-letter Hairstreak, near Kelling 6th July

Cley would be our last stop of the day, and a birding walk along the East Bank which produced hordes of squabbling summery **Black-tailed Godwits** of the form *islandica*, several **Little-ringed Plovers**, fly-by **Bearded Tits** and three lovely male Ruff. Arnold's Marsh hosted two summer plumaged **Golden Plovers**, two **Dunlin**, a Curlew, two **Little Gulls** and a clutch of adult **Sandwich Terns** from the nearby colonies, already moulting their black caps into non-breeding plumage. We had a butterfly target here too – the master of disguise himself! Walking slowly along the shingle ridge among the Yellow-horned Poppy and Sea Campion would be the tactic to try and locate a **Grayling**, a small shingle colony of which exists along this stretch of coast. We soon found one, and were treated to the usual mega close-up views as it rested among the pebbles – surely our most cryptic UK butterfly and a firm crowd favourite! From here it was back to base along the coast road to Titchwell at the end of a super day.

THURSDAY 7TH JULY – *Cool and drizzly start, warm and sunny later. 20C*

The forecast was way off beam this morning and instead of a sunny and breezy morning, we were greeted with low cloud and drizzle backed by the fresh NW winds coming off the sea – no good at all for butterflies and dragonflies! A back up plan was swung into action though, and we were soon heading down the west bank path at Titchwell, just five minutes away from our hotel. The freshmarsh was dominated by the swarming **Swifts**, feeding in their hundreds over it's eastern flank and the edge of the reedbed, and driven down by the cool winds. Waders, other than more

resplendent **Black-tailed Godwits**, were in short supply – single **Ruff** and two Dunlin being about the best of it. Two **Little Gulls** floated on the water just out from the Island Hide, and a smart adult **Mediterranean Gull** dropped in to the loafing pack. **Great White Egrets** are of course a familiar sight these days on the North Norfolk coast, but it was still good to see one lumbering in over the reedbed. The weather soon began to show signs of clearing, so we soon made our way back to the visitor centre, and then on to our first bugging site of the day!



Black Darters mating, 7th July

We had two main dragonfly targets this morning, as we ventured onto the heaths in search of a couple of acid bog specialists and with the aim of boosting up our odonata list generally. As we wandered through sunlit woodland en route, we added our first **Large Skippers**, **Green-veined White** and **Red Admiral**, plus scores of Ringlet and Meadow Brown. Out on the heath, we headed for a boggy flush where we hoped to find the newly emerging **Black Darter** – and walked straight onto an immature male from the off, settled in a sheltered spot in the heather out of the wind. We went on to see many more, including several mature males, and a pair in cop which posed brilliantly for us. Four-spotted Chaser and **Keeled Skimmer** were very abundant, and we also managed to find a couple of **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly**, with the best views being of an ovipositing female. The whole area was alive with dragons and damsels and we had a really enjoyable couple of hours here watching and identifying as much as possible. By the time we walked back to the van, it was already 2.30pm!

For our last stop today we would have an hours drive down into the brecks and Thompson Common, a lovely site well managed for dragonflies and other wildlife by the NWT. **Brimstone**, Gatekeeper,

Green-veined White and **Silver-washed Fritillary** were encountered in the woodland and out on the common, we found our targets – both the **Common Emerald Damselfly** and it's very similar but much rarer and more localised **Scarce Emerald Damselfly**. We saw both males and females of both species, allowing for close up study of their intricate and subtle differences. Several **Ruddy Darter** were also seen, plus a couple of **Emperor**, and a bonus **Norfolk Hawker** which was defending a perch by the main pond. On our way back through the woods, a nice mixed flock gave us **Marsh Tit**, Nuthatch and Treecreeper, while a **Kingfisher** posed briefly by one of the pingo's where a **male Grey Wagtail** was watched gathering food. **Garden Warblers** also deserve a special mention, as a pair were seen extremely well, also gathering food for fledged youngsters close by and showing much better than is the norm for this skulking species. A nice varied day!



Scarce Emerald Damselfly, Thompson Common 7th July

FRIDAY 8TH JULY – *Hot and sunny in light winds, 25C*

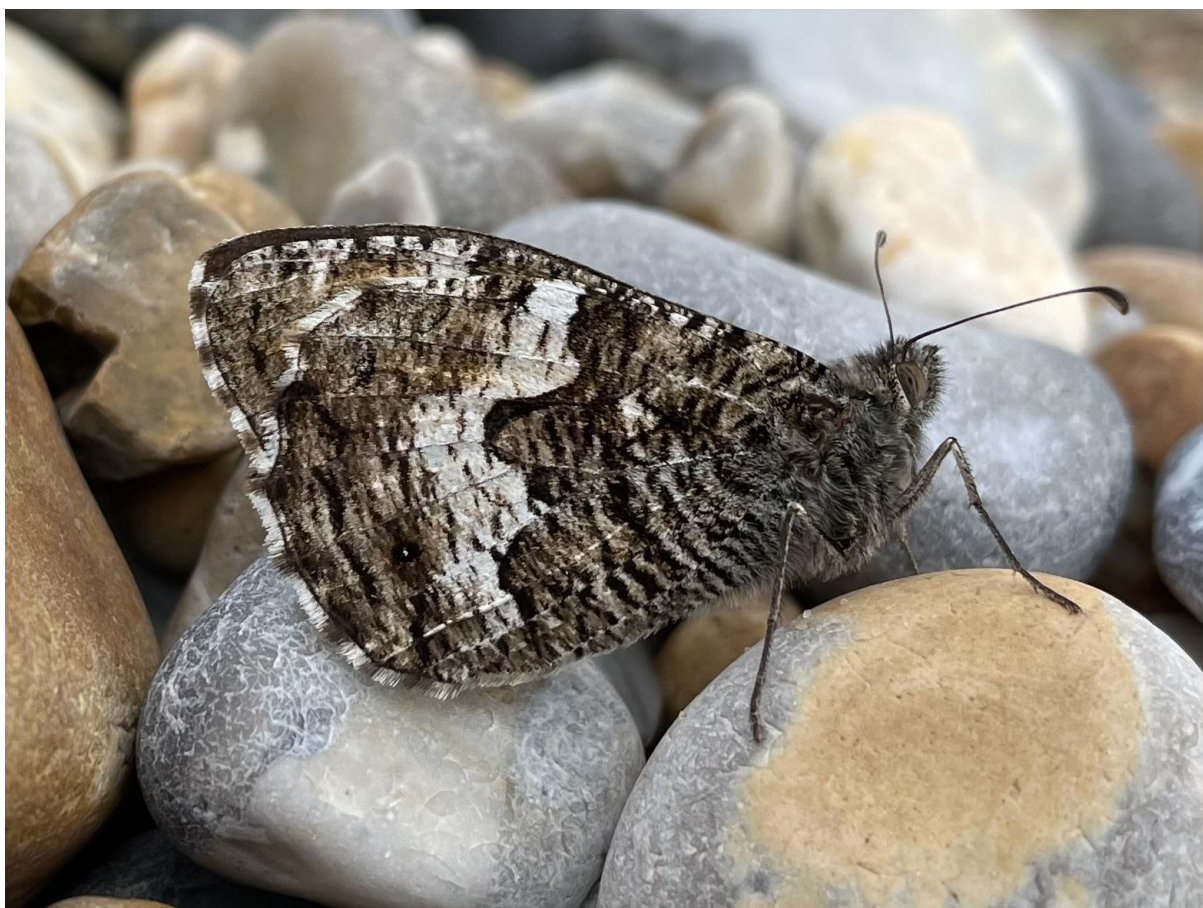
A baking hot summer's day today saw us start off with a visit to the raptor watchpoint at Swanton Novers which has swung back into operation recently with the surprise reappearance of **Honey Buzzards** at the site after a 12 year absence. The car park was already filling up as we arrived around 0930, and it was a cracking morning's watch as our first **Goshawk** appeared only moments after setting up the scopes. The bird – an adult male – soared up quickly on the warm thermals and was soon way up in the blue sky above us, giving good views through the scope. Shortly after the first **Honey Buzzard** appeared, a cinnamon-toned male bird which was circling very distantly over

Swanton Great Wood on lazy, elastic wings. This bird quickly gained height too and began wing-clapping in display flight before continuing to thermal towards us where it was soon joined by a **Goshawk**. The two raptors sparred, and circled together for some while with the Honey occasionally having a bit of a stoop at the Gos. While we were watching these two, another pair of **Honey Buzzards** drifted in from our right and we had all four raptors in view together! A little later on, the same pair reappeared and drifted low over the watchpoint before circling briefly behind us – much better views, but a shame we hadn't picked them up before they had come over us! Still, good prolonged views for all and a bit of display too, so not bad! Our watch was rounded off brilliantly by another **Goshawk** sighting, though this one was even better as a pair of Sparrowhawks appeared and began to mob the **Goshawk**, giving a brilliant comparison of size and silhouette between the two relatives.

Our next stop would be the NWT reserve at Foxley Wood, only a short drive away. The car parks and entrance track ride were alive with butterflies – mainly whites, Ringlets, Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, but several **Silver-washed Fritillaries** too. A **Purple Hairstreak** was spotted right away as we got out of the van, perched high in the upper branches of one of the car park oaks. We went on to see several more, with lots of scope views as they were mainly settled in the shade quite high in the trees. Our first **Purple Emperor** then appeared, and we ended up venturing no further than the middle car park where up to three were on show almost constantly, though always high up and motoring around and stubbornly refusing to settle. We did eventually get a female perched long enough for everyone to get a look through the scope! **White Admiral** and **Brown Hawker** were also seen, making for a pretty excellent morning. It was then back to base after lunch, for drop off at the end of the tour.



Silver-washed Fritillary – a common sight during the tour



Grayling at Cley – the master of disguise!

ORIOLE BIRDING

NORFOLK BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES JULY 2022

Species order, names and taxonomy follows - Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.1).
<http://www.worldbirdnames.org/>

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	6	7	8	Comments
1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	▪	▪		
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	▪	▪		
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	▪	▪		
4	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>				
5	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	▪	▪		
6	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		▪		
7	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	▪	▪		
8	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>				
9	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	▪	▪		
10	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				
11	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		▪		
12	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>				
13	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		▪		
14	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				
15	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		▪		
16	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				
17	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	▪	▪	▪	
18	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	▪			
19	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				
20	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	▪			
21	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	▪			
22	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		▪		
23	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	▪	▪		
24	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	▪	▪		
25	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			▪	
26	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	▪	▪	▪	
27	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	▪	▪	▪	
28	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	▪	▪	▪	
29	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		▪		
30	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	▪	▪		
31	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	▪	▪		
32	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	▪	▪		
33	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	▪			
34	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	▪			
35	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				
36	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	▪			
37	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	▪			
38	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	6	7	8	Comments
39	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	▪	▪		
40	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				
41	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	▪	▪		
42	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				
43	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				
44	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	▪	▪		
45	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				
46	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	▪	▪		
47	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				
48	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				
49	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				
50	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	▪	▪		
51	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				
52	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				
53	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	▪	▪	▪	
54	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		▪		
55	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	▪			
56	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	▪	▪		
57	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	▪			
58	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	▪	▪		
59	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		▪		
60	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	▪	▪		
61	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				
62	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		▪		
63	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>				
64	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		▪		
65	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	▪	▪	▪	
66	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				
67	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	▪	▪		
68	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				
69	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				
70	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				
71	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				
72	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	▪	▪	▪	
73	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		▪		
74	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				
75	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		▪		
76	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	▪	▪	▪	
77	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				
78	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				
79	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	▪	▪	▪	
80	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	▪	▪	▪	
81	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		▪	▪	
82	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	▪	▪	▪	

#	Common Name	Scientific Name		6	7	8		Comments
83	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>						
84	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			▪			
85	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			▪			
86	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			▪			
87	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>		▪				
88	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>						
89	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			▪	▪		
90	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			▪	▪		
91	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		▪				
92	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			▪			
93	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>						
94	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			▪			
95	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						
96	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	▪	▪		
97	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			▪			
98	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		H				
99	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			▪			
100	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			▪			
101	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						
102	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		▪	H	▪		
103	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		▪				
104	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>						
105	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>						
106	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	H			
107	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			▪			
108	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			▪			
109	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		▪	▪	▪		
110	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		▪	▪	▪		
111	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>						
112	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			▪			
113	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						
114	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						
115	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		▪	▪			
116	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
117	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			▪			
118	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			▪			
119	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		▪				
120	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>						
121	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>						
122	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>						
123	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			H	▪		
124	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>						
125	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		▪	▪	▪		
126	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		▪	▪	▪		

#	Common Name	Scientific Name		6	7	8		Comments
127	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>						
128	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		▪	H	▪		
129	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			▪			
	ADDITIONAL SPECIES							
130	European Bee-eater			▪				
131	Honey Buzzard					▪		
132	Goshawk					▪		

BUTTERFLIES								
<i>The species list below follows the taxonomy of the checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles; Agassiz (2013)</i>								
#	Common Name	Scientific Name		6	7	8		Comments
1	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		▪				
2	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		▪				
3	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>			▪			
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		▪	▪	▪		
5	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>						
6	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			▪	▪		
7	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			▪			
8	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>						
9	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				▪		
10	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>						
11	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
12	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		▪	▪	▪		
13	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>		▪	▪	▪		
14	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>		▪				
15	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		▪	▪	▪		
16	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>						
17	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>		▪		▪		
18	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			▪			
19	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>						
20	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>			▪	▪		
21	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		▪	▪			
22	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		▪	▪	▪		
23	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>						
24	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Favonius quercus</i>				▪		
25	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>		▪				
26	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>						
27	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>						
28	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>						
29	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>						
30	Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>				▪		

DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES

The dragonfly lists presented below follow the taxonomy of Schorr and Paulson (2013).

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	6	7	8	Comments
1	Scarce Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes dryas</i>		▪		
2	Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>		▪		
3	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>			▪	
4	Small Red Damselfly	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>				
5	Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>		▪		
6	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>		▪		
7	Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>				
8	Small Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>				
9	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		▪		
10	Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>				
11	Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>				
12	Brown Hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>		▪	▪	
13	Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>		▪		
14	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>				
15	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>		▪		
16	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	▪			
17	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>		▪		
18	Black Darter	<i>Sympetrum danae</i>		▪		
19	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>		▪		
20	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	▪	▪		
21	Scarce Blue-tailed Damsel	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>		▪		
22	Norfolk Hawker			▪		