

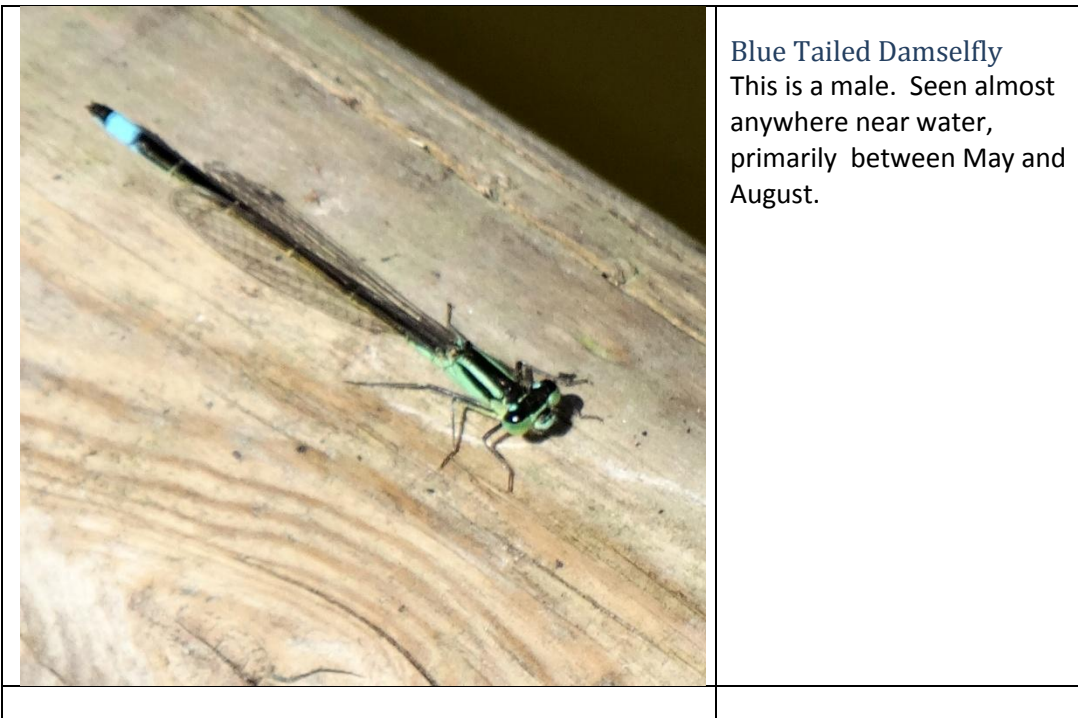
DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES

There are fourteen damselflies and sixteen dragonflies that occur in Dorset, but not necessarily in Sutton Poyntz. In theory this means remembering identification points shouldn't be too difficult if you have a keen eye for detail and aged less than 50. As I fail on both counts I find taking pictures and blowing them up on a computer screen a better solution.

A good local website to help is <http://www.dorsetdragonflies.org.uk/>

Damselflies

These are usually smaller in size when compared to dragonflies, their flight is weaker and they fold their wings behind them over the abdomen when at rest. A close look should reveal that their eyes are separated.



Dragonflies

These are usually larger and more robust than damselflies. They hold their wings out from the thorax when at rest and the eyes usually meet.



Migrant Hawker.

This is a male. Very similar to the Sothern Hawker but a distinguishing feature is that it lacks the bands on the last two segments (S9 and S10) of the abdomen.

Most common between July and September when away from water it can be seen hawking for insects up to butterfly size in tree canopies.



Emperor Dragonfly.

This is a female ovipositing onto Water Forget-Me-Not.

Britain's largest dragonfly.

They are attracted to new ponds and eat insects up to the size of the Large Cabbage White. So there you go, digging a pond could be an environmentally friendly way of keeping unwanted visitors off your brassica's. But as they only appear between June and August best not to rely on them.



Broad-bodied Chaser.

This stunning picture of a male, females have brown abdomens, was taken by Pat Dodge.

Quite distinctive as it lives up to it's name. Is another dragonfly that is quickly attracted to new ponds where it likes the lack of vegetation. As the pond becomes more established it will visit less. Seem between May and July.



Common Darter

Can be seen away from water
anytime between May and
November