

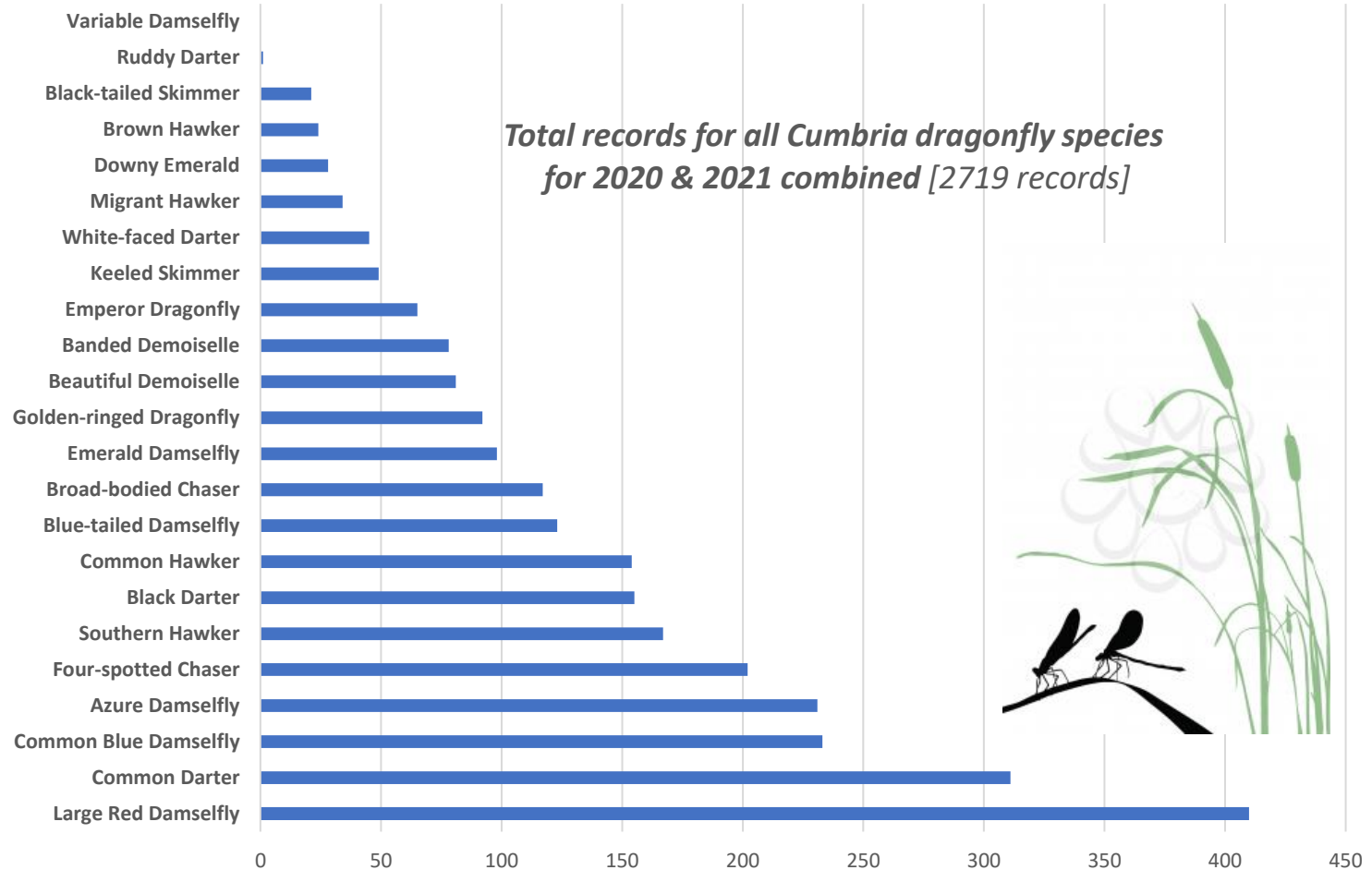


CBDC Conference 2023

Dragonflies 2022

David Clarke
British Dragonfly Society

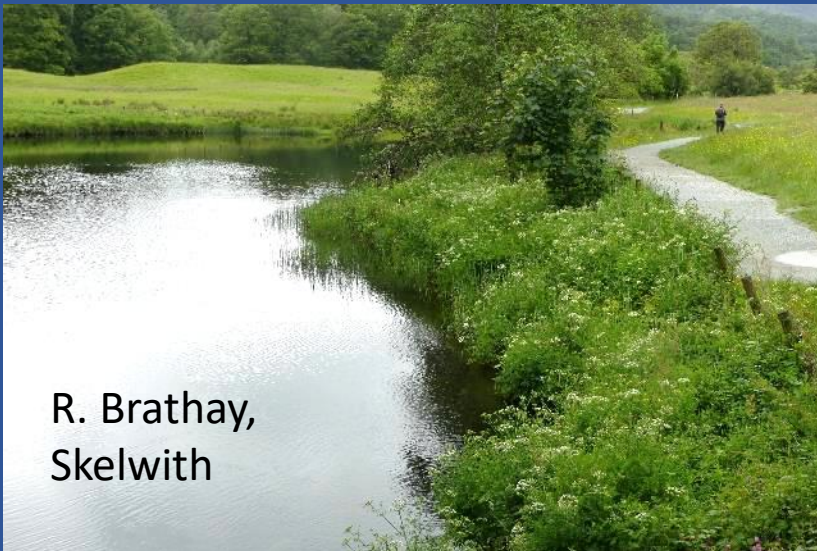
David Natrass



Demoiselles on the move



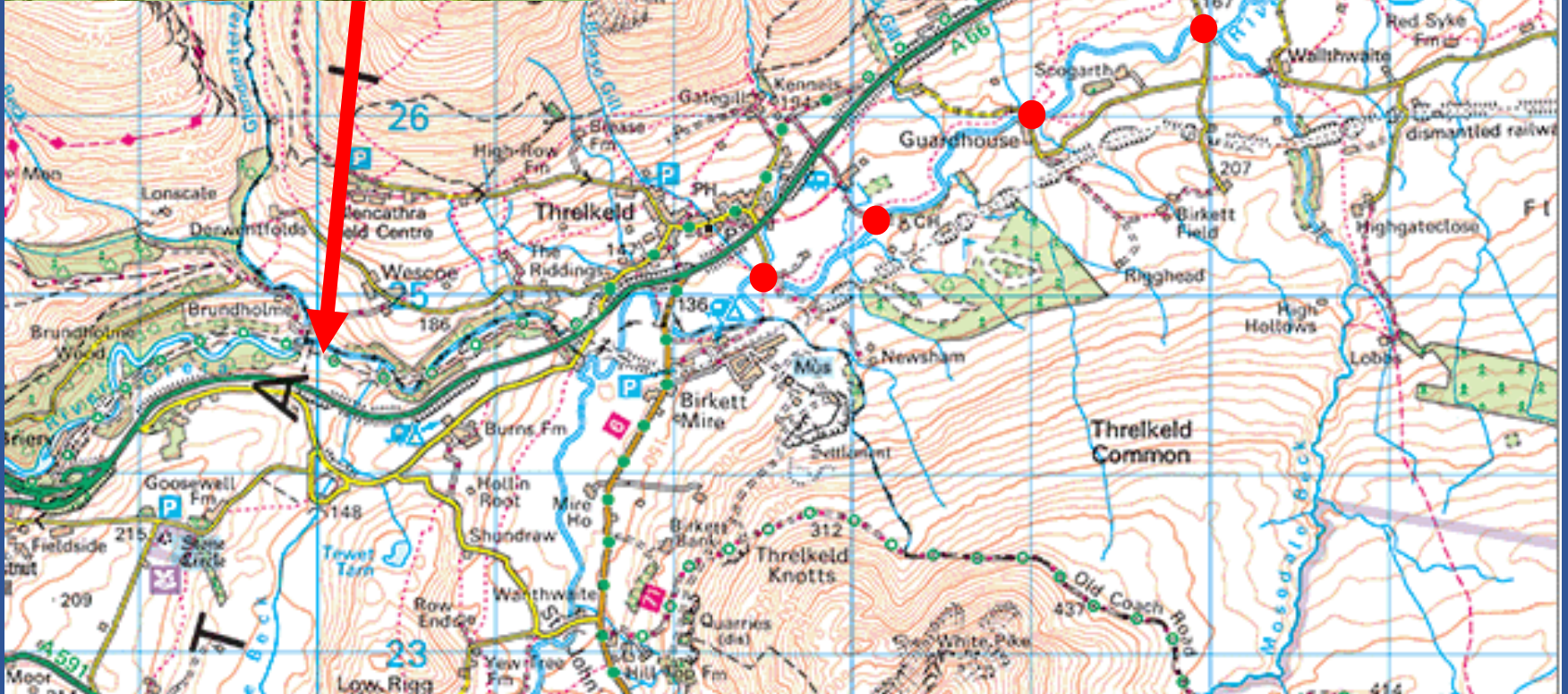
Ralph Frost/*iNaturalist*



R. Brathay,
Skelwith



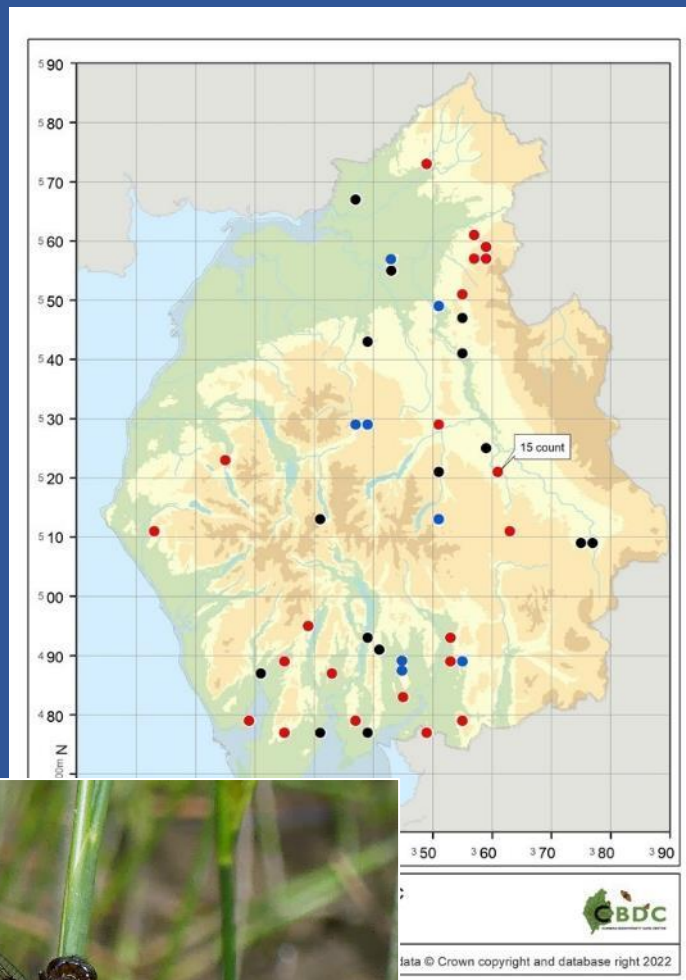
R. Greta,
Brundholme



Broad-bodied Chaser continues to spread



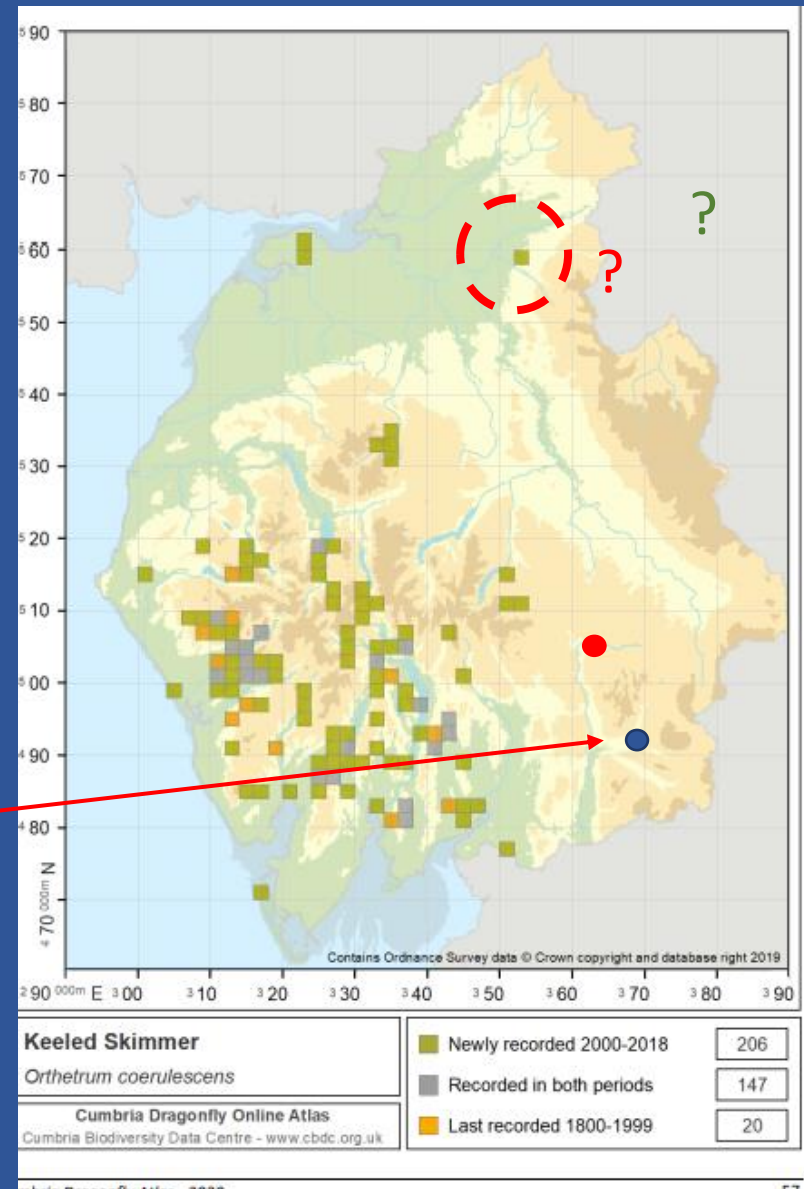
Adam Moan, 2022



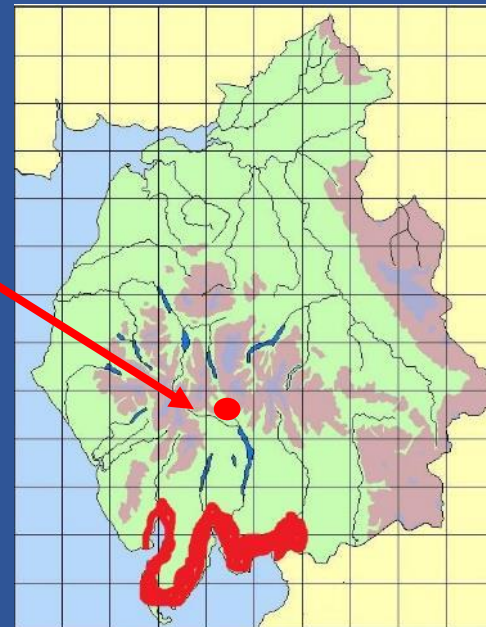
Variable Damselfly –
Low Church Moss, Beckermat



Keeled Skimmer: more sites?



Brown Hawkers at High Arnside Tarn, 2022



Mid September Migrant
Hawkers ... were they
immigrants?



Adam Moan

White-faced Darter – Drumburgh 2022



Unrecorded Cumbria!

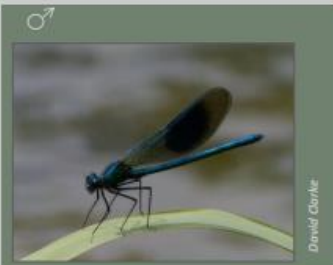


Moss Dub,
Ennerdale
NY145137

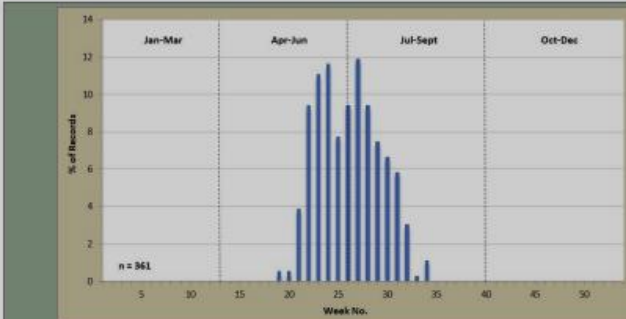
No records!

Banded Demoiselle

Calopteryx splendens

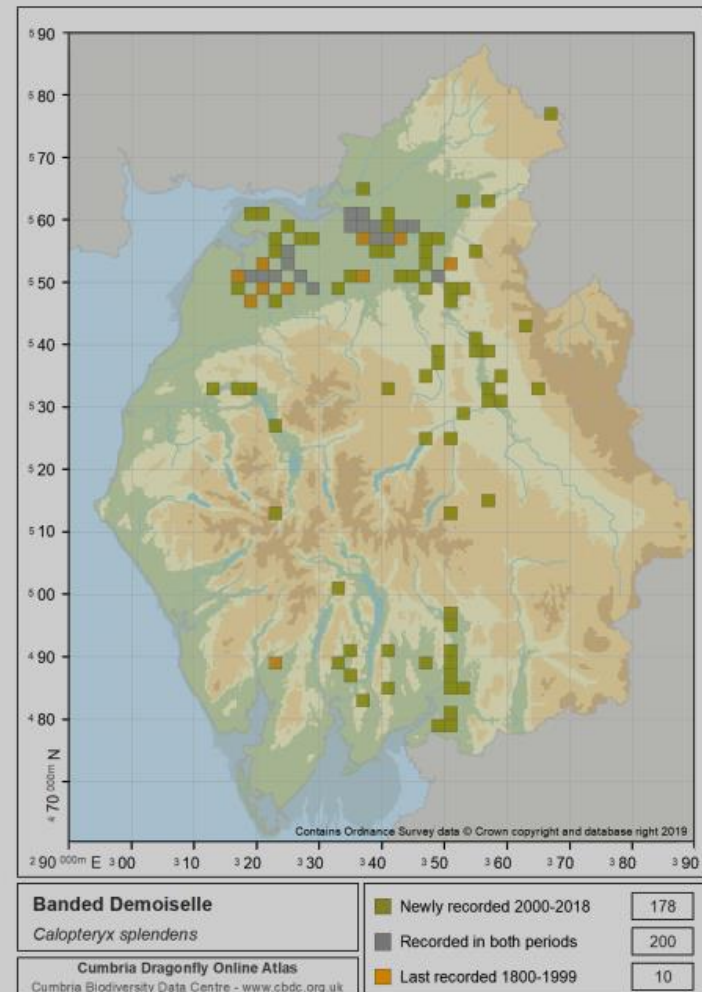


- a) **GB Status:** common and widespread throughout most of England now spreading in Scotland
- b) **Cumbria Status:** currently spreading on lowland rivers
- c) **Confusion Species:** Beautiful Demoiselle female



Notes:

- a) Occurs on slow-flowing stretches of rivers and streams
- b) Until c. 1980 only occurred on lower reaches of Solway rivers. Some exceptional movements occurred in the hot summer of 2018. Colonisation of south Cumbria may be from Lancashire
- a) The females of this and the Beautiful Demoiselle are very similar and need examination at close quarters to confirm ID. Check which males are present ... occasionally both species can occur together



Banded Demoiselle

Calopteryx splendens

Cumbria Dragonfly Online Atlas

Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre - www.cbdc.org.uk



The state of dragonflies in Cumbria 2022

Our county recorder, David Clarke, reveals what has been going on in the changing world of Cumbria's dragonflies and damselflies and what to expect in the coming years.

1 Cumbrian Wildlife Extra | January 2023

EMERSON DRACOWEY, DAVID CLARKE



Drumburgh Moss Nature Reserve

© DAVID CLARKE

My choice of title deliberately echoes that of the British Dragonfly Society's report *The State of Dragonflies in Britain & Ireland 2022**. This is an excellent, very readable and timely document, based on analysis of the large number of records amassed nationally over the past half century or more. This article discusses the situation in Cumbria against the background of that document.

What's in a name?

Dragonflies and damselflies are sub-groups of the distinctive (and ancient) Order of insects, the Odonata. Unfortunately, the English collective name for members of the Odonata, as used in the title of the report just mentioned, is 'dragonflies' – which leads to the word being used, quite correctly, in two slightly different senses. I hope this will be obvious in what follows.

Where dragonfly information comes from, and goes to

Almost all of the many thousands of dragonfly records collected over the years come from the voluntary activities of interested amateur enthusiasts – such as some of our readers! At present, with few exceptions, this important work is individually organised. The advent of free online computer recording systems for phones and computers has made the whole business of data gathering (now often with photos)

much easier than in the past. The system many recorders use is iRecord, which is operated by the Biological Records Centre. Some recorders still choose to accumulate records and send them in by email, or even manually. Some records go direct to our local records centre, Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre, who provide the very useful *Cumbria Dragonfly Atlas***. Whichever the method, data from this informal network eventually comes my way as county recorder for the British Dragonfly Society. My task is to check all Cumbria records and verify them if possible – not always a straightforward task! Records verified in iRecord are collated by the British Dragonfly Society, who manage data for the whole of Britain. This in turn, together with data from CEDaR in Northern Ireland, goes to the National Biodiversity Network. British Dragonfly Society and CEDaR data is used for the production of national atlases.

How many species?

Cumbria currently has 23 breeding species of Odonata: eight damselflies and 15 dragonflies, with no regular migrant species. In addition, six species of casual visitors or scarce migrants have been recorded. This compares to 46 species of residents or regular migrants to the UK as a whole, with another 10 as irregular visitors. Five of the species now breeding in the county have been added since the late twentieth century: **migrant hawker**, **emperor dragonfly**, **broad-bodied chaser**, **black-tailed skimmer** and **ruddy darter**. No species have been lost, recently or historically.

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6 A4 pages. As issued to those CWT members who elect to receive long-read articles; pdf also available from author