

DAMSELFLY AND DRAGONFLY SPOTTER SHEET

The main difference between Damselflies and Dragonflies is their life-cycle. Dragonflies generally take five years to reach maturity, whereas damselflies have a shorter, one-year life cycle. The eggs of both hatch into 'nymphs' and live among underwater plants, often becoming food for trout and other fish. Nymphs come out of the water and emerge as adults by shedding their outer skins.



There are 40 species of dragonflies & damselflies in Britain!



Large Red Damselfly, (c) Roger Sanderson, flickr



Large Red Damselfly

Large Red Damsels is the earliest Damselfly to appear, hatching from the end of April throughout the summer. It is commonly found on ponds and canals.

Common Blue Damselfly

As its name suggests, this is a common Damselfly. The male (pictured) is a distinctive blue colour, whereas the female has a green and black body.

Common Blue Damselfly, (c) Inside Lancashire, flickr



Banded Demoiselle, (c) Sergey Yeliseev, flickr



Banded Demoiselle

Often found near slow-flowing, muddy streams this large damselfly is one of only two species in the UK with coloured wings. The male has a dark blue-black band across its wings, while the female is pale green.

Four Spotted Chaser, (c) mcamcamca, flickr



Four Spotted Chaser

Active in late spring and summer, this orange dragonfly has dark brown features and a row of yellow spots along each side of the abdomen. The dark spots on its wings give it its name.

Black-tailed Skimmer, (c) ouwesok, flickr



Black-tailed Skimmer

The black tailed skimmer is 44-49mm in length, and flies fast and low, skimming the surface of open water. The blue-black males can be seen basking in the sun while females are paler and more yellow in colour.

Emperor Dragonfly (c) Paul Ritchie, flickr



Emperor Dragonfly

On the wing from June—August, this dragonfly loves large bodies of water such as ponds, lakes and canals. As one of the largest species in Europe, it can fly high and catch large prey such as butterflies, often eating them in mid-air!