

May 2009



Freshly emerged Emperor Dragonfly (by Ian Hodgson)

A **Broad-bodied Chaser** flew across the meadow near the Haven on the 2nd, a female **Azure Damselfly** was seen on the Estate on the 3rd, with 3 more in the Elms on the 5th and a **Variable Damselfly** was resting on nettles in the Elms on the 10th. Despite the weather, a **Hairy Dragonfly** was seen in the Cellars on the 12th and 4 **Common Blue Damselflies** were present there on the 14th. Despite being rather windy, a walk across Worth marshes on the 19th revealed the first **Four-**

**spotted Chaser** and **Red-eyed Damselfly** of the season, at least 12 Hairy Dragonflies, 30 **Blue-tailed Damselflies** and one Variable Damselfly among small numbers of Azure and Common Blue Damsels. Four-spotted Chasers and Hairy Dragonflies were becoming more widespread by the 21st, when the first **Black-tailed Skimmer** of the season was found on the golf course and a spectacular emergence of **Emperor Dragonflies** took place on the 22nd, with at least 40 exuviae in a two-metre stretch of reeds at a pond on the Estate. At least five Broad-bodied Chasers were present on the Estate on the 24th and a walk along the Delf Stream was rewarded by unusually large numbers of Variable Damselflies, including at least 24 pairs in tandem, and 16 Red-eyed Damselflies and two Four-spotted Chasers.

The first **Banded Demoiselle** of the season was seen on the North Stream on the 29th; the earliest emergence at the Bay by a couple of days, and good numbers of Variable Damselflies were also evident in the adjacent dykes.