

June 2011

At least 40 Four-spotted Chasers were present on and around New Downs, with a further 7 on Worth, where 6-7 Banded Demoiselles were also evident. Although things became very quiet in unsettled weather, a **Scarce Chaser** was found along the North Stream on the 7th; more than a month later than first recorded in the middle reaches of the Stour but still three days earlier than the previous earliest locally.

It remained very quiet until the sudden onset of hot weather on the 26th. As temperatures soared into the thirties, the following day brought the summer's first **Emerald Damselflies**, 14 of which were on a flight pond on Worth, the first **Common Darters**, including ten or more teneral individuals scattered along one of the dykes on Worth and a **Brown Hawker**, which dashed from shade in the Little Gully. There were also at least 27 Four-spotted Chasers, a species that prior to 2009 was regarded as irregular in occurrence and not to be expected every year. This season's tally has reached over 70 already! About half a dozen Scarce Chasers were also evident, mainly along the Delf Stream, and the summer's first **Ruddy Darters** were seen on the Hundred Acre Field on the 28th.