

May 2011

A walk along the Delf Stream on the 4th produced 5 Hairy Dragonflies and our first **Blue-tailed Damselflies** of spring and by the 8th totals had risen to 11 Hairy Dragonflies and at least 25 Blue-tailed Damsels, while 6 **Variable Damselflies** were also seen along one of the dykes on Worth. As with several other species this spring they were the earliest to have been recorded at the Bay and a **Four-spotted Chaser** on New Downs on the 9th was also the earliest to have been seen at the Bay (photo on right by Ian Hodgson). A search of New Downs and the bund that skirts the Sampher the next day produced numerous **Azure Damselflies**, which have clearly been on the wing for some time, 4 Four-spotted Chasers, 4 Hairy Dragonflies, 7 Broad-bodied Chasers and a Variable Damselfly, which is fairly scarce north of Worth marshes. A **Red-eyed Damselfly** on the North Stream on the 11th was the earliest to have been seen locally by 8 days and the pattern of early emergence continued with an **Emperor** on Worth on the 17th, while 11 Red-eyed Damselflies were found along the North Stream.



A **Banded Demoiselle** in a ditch by the North Stream on the 19th was the earliest Bay record by ten days

and excellent numbers of Red-eyed Damselflies were evident, with no fewer than 41 on Worth, mainly on the North and Delf Streams. The season's first **Black-tailed Skimmers** were found on Worth on the 24th, equalling the earliest recorded date for the species, while at least 30 Variable Damselflies were present along the Delf and the next day a circuit of the Sampher riverbank revealed no fewer than 16 Broad-bodied Chasers; a species that is relatively scarce elsewhere in the area.