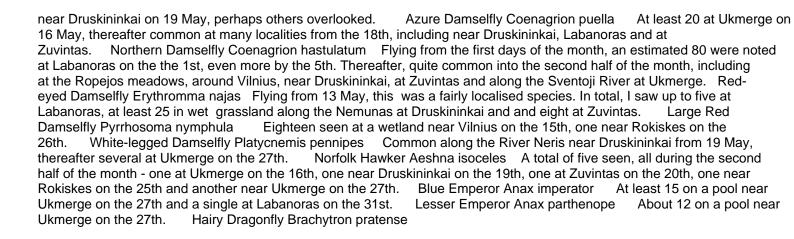
Jos Stratford, Birding Lithuania & Beyond Dragonflies, May 2018. Contributed by Jos Last Updated Saturday, 09 June 2018 Bar a small number of Siberian Winter Damselflies a few weeks earlier, my 2018 season for Odonata really kicked off in May with very good numbers of both dragonflies and damselflies flying from the very first day of the month. With sun and high temperatures throughout, numbers of both dragonflies and damselflies were impressive across the whole month - massive flights of Downy Emeralds, Northern White-faced Darters and Northern Damselflies in the first days, soon followed by Common Clubtails, Four-spotted Chasers and assorted damselflies, including Red-eyed Damselflies and Large Red Damselflies. As the month progressed, increasing diversity was noted and by the third week, a good couple of dozen species were on the wing, including assorted damselflies, darters, chasers, skimmers and hawkers, amongst the most dramatic being Golden-ringed Dragonfly, Blue Emperor and Lessor Emperor.

SPECIES LIST

In total, 27 species were identified in May:

Banded Demoiselle Calopteryx splendens Flying from 16 May, rapidly became common along major rivers and larger pools, especially along the River Sventoji near Ukmerge and the River Neris near Druskininkai. Beautiful Demoiselle Calopteryx virgo Only ones seen in May were about 30 along a wooded stream near Rokiskes on 26 May. Common Bluetail Ischnura elegans Six at one locality near Druskininkai on 19 May, perhaps others overlooked. Common Blue Damselfly Enallagma cyathigerum Several at Druskininkai on 19 May and at Zuvintas on the 20th, thereafter becoming common from the 25th, including at Ropejos and Ukmerge. Variable Damselfly Coenagrion pulchellum Several noted

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Recorded at two localities - one in the Ropejos meadows on the 6th, six at Zuvintas on the 20th.

Common Clubtail Gomphus vulgatissimus Already in good numbers in the Druskininkai area on the 6 May, thereafter becoming common at almost all localities throughout much of the month, especially at Labanoras and Ukmerge. ringed Dragonfly Cordulegaster boltonii One in meadows south of Vilnius on 26-31 May. Downy Emerald Cordulia aenea Abundant in the first half of the month, with some hundreds along woodland edge at Labanoras on 1-5 May and similar numbers in the Druskininkai area in the following days. Less abundant in the second half of the month, numbers dwindling to single figures at most sites by the month's end. Yellow-Spotted Emerald Somatochlora flavomaculata One near Druskininai on the 19th, one near Ukmerge on the 27th, Two-spotted Dragonfly Epitheca bimaculata mobile individuals noted near Druskininkai on 19 May. Four-spotted Chaser Libellula quadrimaculata A scatter of records across the month, including several at Druskininkai on the 6th, two near Vilnus on the 15th, at least 30 at Zuvintas on the 20th, five in Rudninkai on the 25th and eight near Rokiskes on the 26th. Broad-bodied Chaser Libellula depressa records from the middle of the month onwards, including three at Labanoras on the 13th, one near Vilnius the 15th, eight near Ukmerge on the 16th and four near Ukmerge on the 27th. Scarce Chaser Libellula fulva Generally less common than the previous two species - logged individuals included four at Labanoras on the 18th, three at Zuvintas on the 20th, five near Rokiskes on the 26th and three at Labanoras on 31st. Black-tailed Skimmer Orthetrum cancellatum individuals seen at Labanoras on the 13th, thereafter becoming abundant in the second half of the month, especially at Labanoras, Ukmerge, Ropejos and the Druskininkai area. Large White-faced Darter Leucorrhinia pectoralis

One near Rokiskes on the 26th, at least two at Ropejos on 31st. More seen from the begining of June.

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