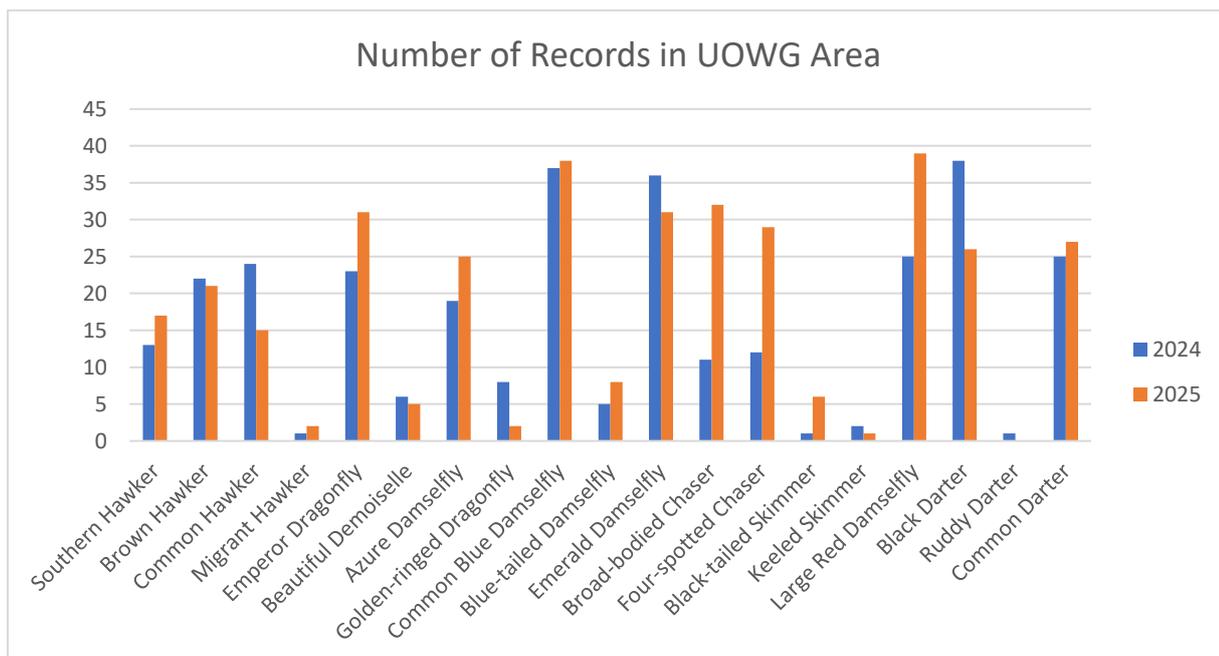


## Dragonflies and Damselflies in UOWG Area 2025

The county recorder for dragonflies and damselflies, Sue Rees-Evans, has kindly provided a list of all the records submitted to iRecord for the UOWG area by January 2026. In total 18 species were recorded in 2025 – one species (Ruddy Darter) fewer than in 2024 (see chart). It might be expected that the sunny summer in 2025 would have led to more records than the often cool and cloudy weather in summer 2024, but for many species there were similar numbers of records in the two years. Possibly there was less need for dragon- and damsel-flies to bask in 2025, with more individuals on the wing, making identification harder for relative novices (me included!)

Seven species did have noticeably larger numbers of records in 2025: Southern Hawker, Emperor, Broad-bodied Chaser, Four-spotted Chaser, Black-tailed Skimmer dragonflies, Azure and Large Red damselflies. Golden-ringed and Keeled Skimmer dragonflies had fewer records in 2025, but both have few records in both years. Of course, number of records is not necessarily a guide to absolute abundance; for example, one record of Common Darter was for nine individuals (three pairs 'in-tandem' and three singles); all were around a large puddle in which the in-tandem females were ovipositing.



As usual in the UOWG area, the first species on the wing was Large Red Damselfly (first record 2<sup>nd</sup> May) followed by Broad-bodied Chaser (9<sup>th</sup> May). Last records were for Southern Hawker (8<sup>th</sup> October) and Common Darter (10<sup>th</sup> October).

Perhaps most important of these species are the upland species such as Golden-ringed Dragonfly and Black Darter that may be under threat from climate change, and the nationally declining Common Hawker and Emerald Damselfly; although records from two years are not indicative of a trend, there were fewer records of all four species in 2025. Sue will produce a more detailed report for the whole of Shropshire and this will be published on her website <http://shropshiredragonflies.co.uk/>, hopefully in February.