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The Dragonflies of Great Britain and Ireland by Cyril Hammond.
Revised by Robert Merritt. Published by Harley Books £16.95
(1983)

There is no doubt that the study of British and Irish dragonflies really took off when the first edition of this book came out in 1978. Described by some, at the time as "coffee table" and "expensive", it nevertheless proved to be invaluable to those of us working in the field on museum collections. It clarified and updated all information on identification which one had to extract from the excellent work by Longfield, Corbet and Moore (those lucky enough to have one) or even older publications. More than this, it opened up the study of a relatively unpopular group of insects, to the average naturalist, resulting in a tidal-wave of dragonfly watching, recording and photography. At the same time, the National Recording Scheme, originally run by B.R.C. gained momentum, and this new edition includes some 7,500 new distribution map records.

In this extensively revised work, colour plates provide a clear and simple means of identifying 45 species of dragonflies and damselflies found in these islands, including a species new to the British Isles. Also included are keys to the families and genera, a chart of flight periods, distribution maps, prepared for the first edition by the Biological Records Centre.

116 pages including 20 coloured plates, 23 text figures and 44 distribution maps. Bound in green cloth and blocked in gold.

Likely to be the standard reference work for many years to come.

Incidentally, Basil Harley (Harley Books, Martins, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex CO6 4AH) has done a great service by taking over this publication and the lepidoptera epic from Curwen Press. Rumour has it that a bit of something on spiders is in the pipeline too! Watch this space!

The British Dragonfly Society published its first Newsletter in 1983 and very good it is too! Edited by R. Merritt. Details of membership from Rod Dunn. The Northwood Social Club, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2HQ

BOOK NEWS
AND REVIEWS

