

Odonata of the Warta National Parc
and
Surrounding Area
Poland

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Willem-Jan Hoeffnagel

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*Willem-Jan Hoeffnagel
Mr. J.C. Buhrmannlaan 54
1244 PH Ankeveen
The Netherlands
w.j.a.hoeffnagel@hccnet.nl
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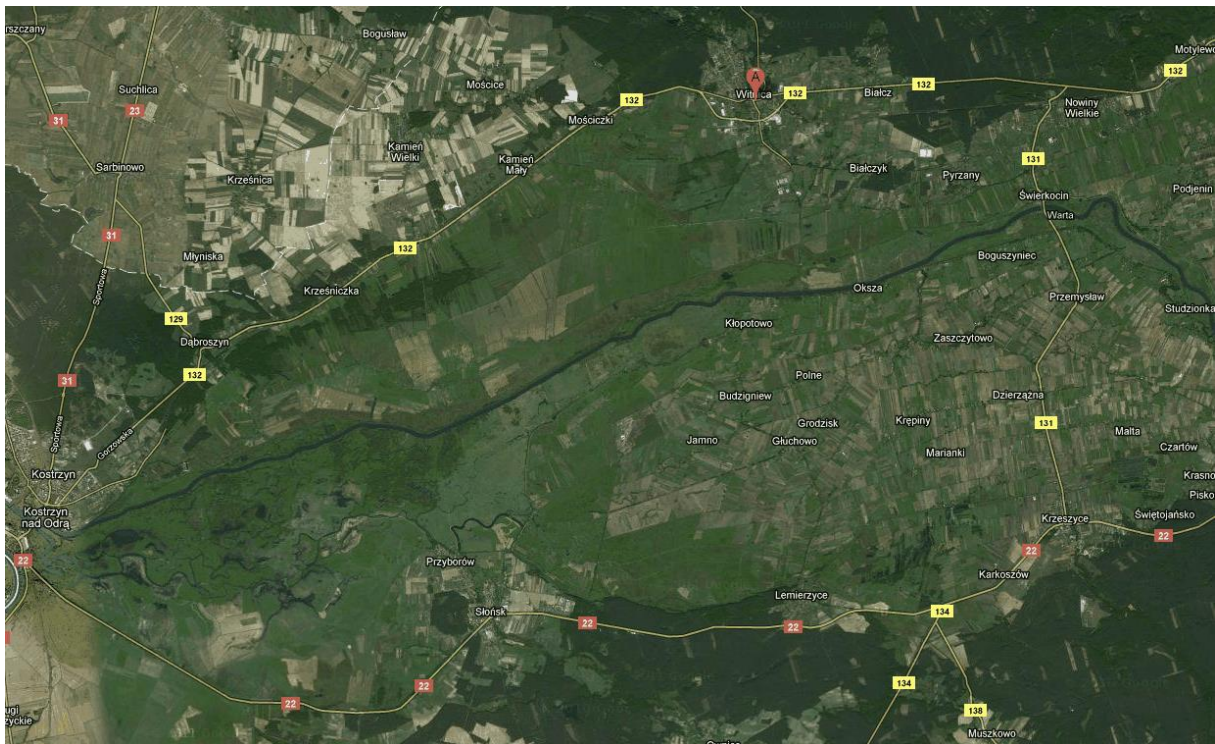
Chapter 1 Introduction

From May 14 till May 28 the author of this report has been visiting the Warta National Parc in Poland near the town of Witnica (see below for the map of the area).

Although the trip was primarily intended to search for birds, also other animals were observed with interest. The author being also an insect observer with special interest in Odonata (Damselflies and Dragonflies) noted down all species he came across.

The next four chapters will describe:

- Short description of the area
- Species observed during the various trips
- Some conclusions
- Reference literature.



Chapter 2 Short Description of the Area

The National Parc is situated on both sides of the Warta river. The area outside the river system is protected by an sandy dike. The river is free flowing and meandering. It is not used for cargo sailing. Between the dike and the river a flat area is present for flooding during high tides. This happens especially during the winter. In the period we visited the area the water was almost back into the summer area. This means that everywhere wet area's are still present with the corresponding bird species you can expect in this type of habitat. Also many species of dragonflies are present as well as mammals (deer, swine, beaver). The vegetation is very much determined by the water flow and a very limited usage by the population. So many willows, poplars etc., could be observed in all kinds of stages of their life cycle.

Around the National Parc various small villages are present and also many farms. The area gives a very rural impression with farmlands and small and larger forests etc.

During the period of the saty various trips were made to the actual National Parc but also in the nearby vicinity.



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Chapter 3 Species observed during the various trips

During these two weeks various trips in the National parc were made by car. Also trips in the wider area around the parc were on the program. During these trips the weather was very good for Dragonfly watching. There were high temperatures, no rain and not much wind.

During these trips 19 species of Dragonflies and Damselflies were observed. Below is the list of species with:

- Scientific name
- Dutch name
- English name

The species observed are:

Scientific name	Dutch name	English name
Calopteryx splendens	Weidebeekjuffer	Banded Demoiselle
Calopteryx virgo	Bosbeekjuffer	Beautiful Demoiselle
Ischnura elegans	Lantaarntje	Common Bluetail
Coenagrion pulchellum	Variabele waterjuffer	Variable Bluet
Coenagrion puella	Azuurwaterjuffer	Azure Bluet
Erythromma najas	Grote roodoogjuffer	Large Redeye
Pyrrhosoma nymphula	Vuurjuffer	Large Red Damsel
Platycnemis pennipes	Blauwe breedscheenjuffer	Blue Featherleg
Aeshna isosceles	Vroege glazenmaker	Green-eyed Hawker
Aeshna cyanea	Blauwe glazenmaker	Blue Hawker (See Note)
Anax parthenope	Zuidelijke glazenmaker	Lesser Emperor
Brachytron pratensis	Glassnijder	Hairy Hawker
Gomphus vulgatissimus	Beekrombout	Common Clubtail
Cordulia aenea	Smaragdlibel	Downy Emerald
Libellula quadrimaculata	Viervlek	Four-spotted Chaser
Libellula depressa	Platbuik	Broad-bodies Chaser
Libellula fulva	Bruine korenbout	Blue Chaser
Orthetrum cancellatum	Gewone oeverlibel	Black-tailed Skimmer
Leucorrhinia pectoralis	Gevlekte witsnuitlibel	Yellow-spotted Whiteface

Table 1 Observed Species

Note: Aeshna cyanea was only observed fast flying by. Correct determination is rather sure but not 100%.

Chapter 4 Some conclusions

Compared with similar regions in The Netherlands the Warta National Park is both in a very original state and can be compared with the Dutch river area of approximately 1950. The seasons are very well visible and therefore you can see high water levels as well as low water levels. The corresponding vegetation facilitates a natural composition of both birds but of also dragonflies. Species which have become rare in this type of habitats in The Netherlands are very well and abundantly represented in the Warta river system.

Examples are *Leucorrhinia pectoralis* and *Libellula fulva*.

Therefore it is very good that the Warta river system is well protected as a Polish National Park.

During the stay of two weeks in the area, 19 species were observed. The weather during this stay was very well which might have improved this number. But still this number is quite high for such a short period.

In order to assess the full Dragonfly richness of the area more visits spread over the summer are needed. The potential for the area is very high and because the late species are not yet observed at all, the total number of species might easily reach 35 or more.



Chapter 5 Reference Literature

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