

Southern Hawker

Aeshna cyanea

Insects · On the wing Jun–Oct



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A large, handsome hawker, dark with bright apple-green markings: two broad green stripes on top of the thorax and, distinctively, green rather than blue bands across the last abdominal segments in both sexes. Southern hawkers have spread north and are found around garden ponds, woodland rides and sheltered still water in the Dumfries area.

BEHAVIOUR

This is the dragonfly most likely to investigate a person: it hovers close, moves its head to look, then carries on hunting. It is very tolerant of shade and will hunt along woodland paths well away from water into the evening. It breeds happily in small garden ponds — even ones with no fish and little open water — which is part of why it has spread so successfully.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Hawkers (Aeshnidae)
SIZE	Body 67–76 mm
STATUS	Native; expanding north

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