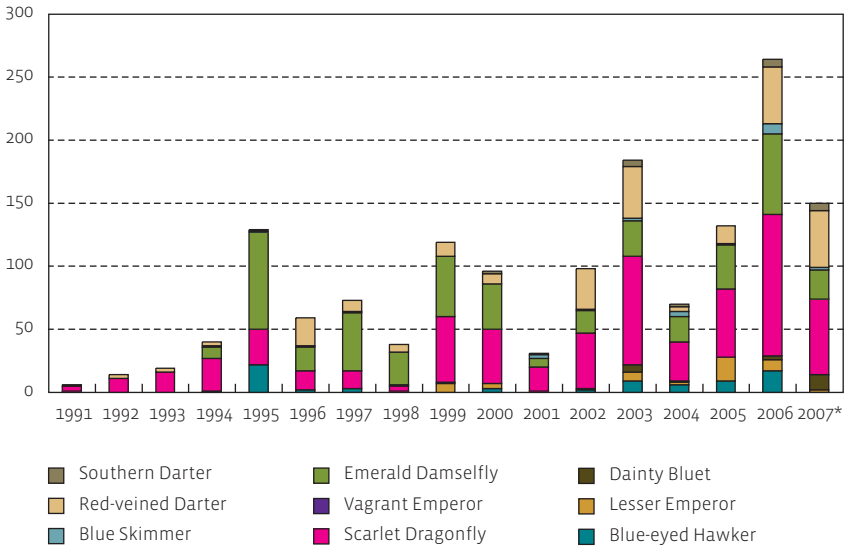




# Movement in the distribution area of South European species of dragonfly

observations (number)



\* provisional figures

Source: www.biodiversityindicators.be based on data from the Libellenvereniging Vlaanderen (Flanders Dragonfly Association)

## Impact of climate change on biodiversity

Increasingly more indications are recorded in Flanders nature of the actual impact of climate change. Some migratory birds arrive earlier from the south. Some butterflies and dragonflies start flying sooner in the season. The birch starts its pollen production earlier. The leaf development of the oak is earlier.

As well as temporal there are also geographical displacements. Thus southern species extend their distribution area northwards. This is also the case for a number of species of dragonfly. The figure shows how the number of observations in 2006 was the highest since counting started. Some species, such as the migrant hawk, which once only came to Belgium as occasional visitors, now have permanent populations.

However, the risk is that some species adapt better than others, as a result of which there is a danger of changes in the food chain and a loss of ecological coherence. This has, for example, been documented for the Pied Flycatcher, a migratory bird whose arrival date advances less than the hatching of the caterpillars, which form the main food source for its young.