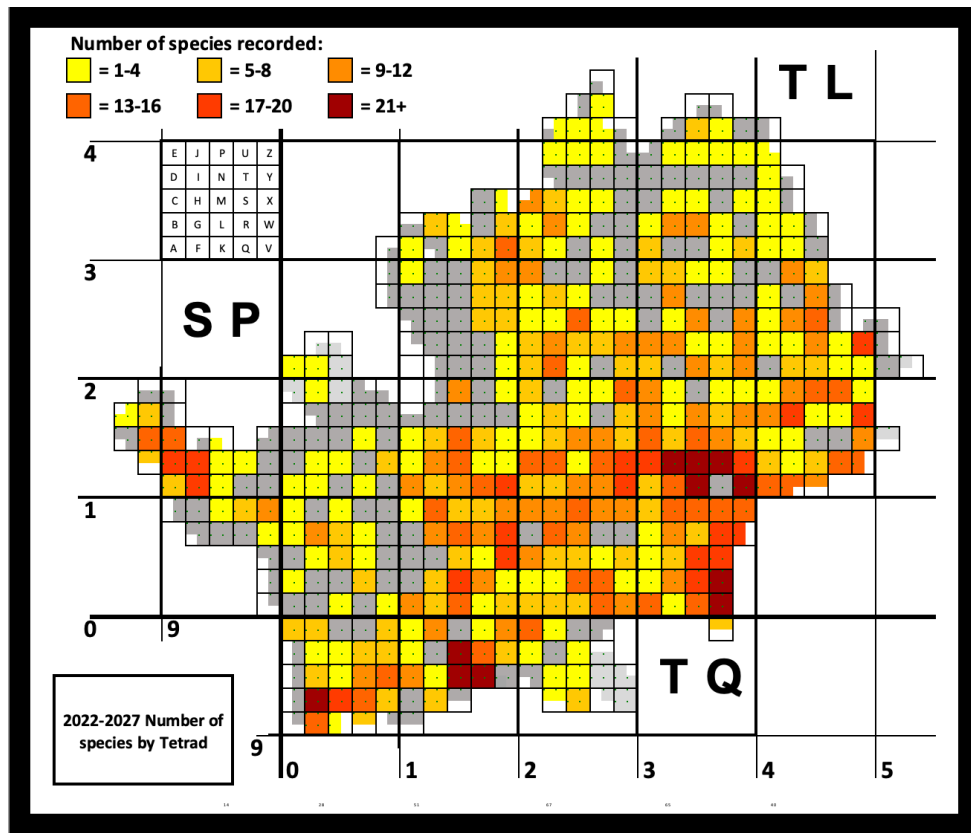


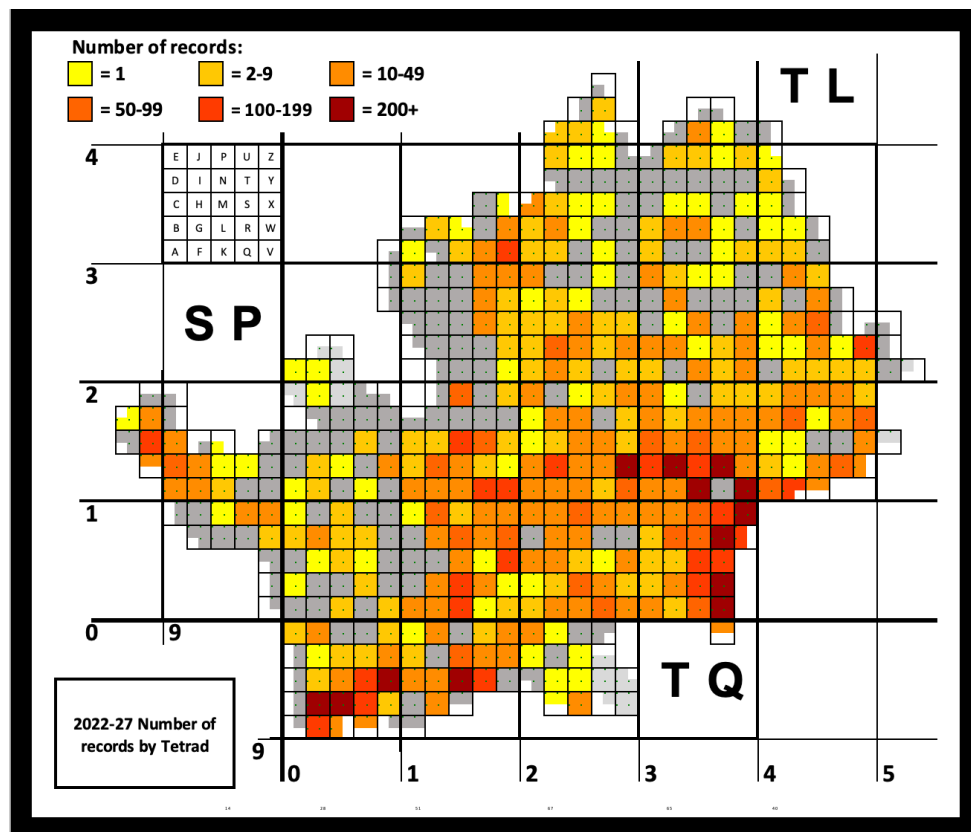
Hertfordshire Dragonfly Atlas 2022-2027

With four years of the planned six-year survey completed, and two remaining, over 13,000 records have so far been collected from over 300 named observers.

Number of species recorded by tetrad:

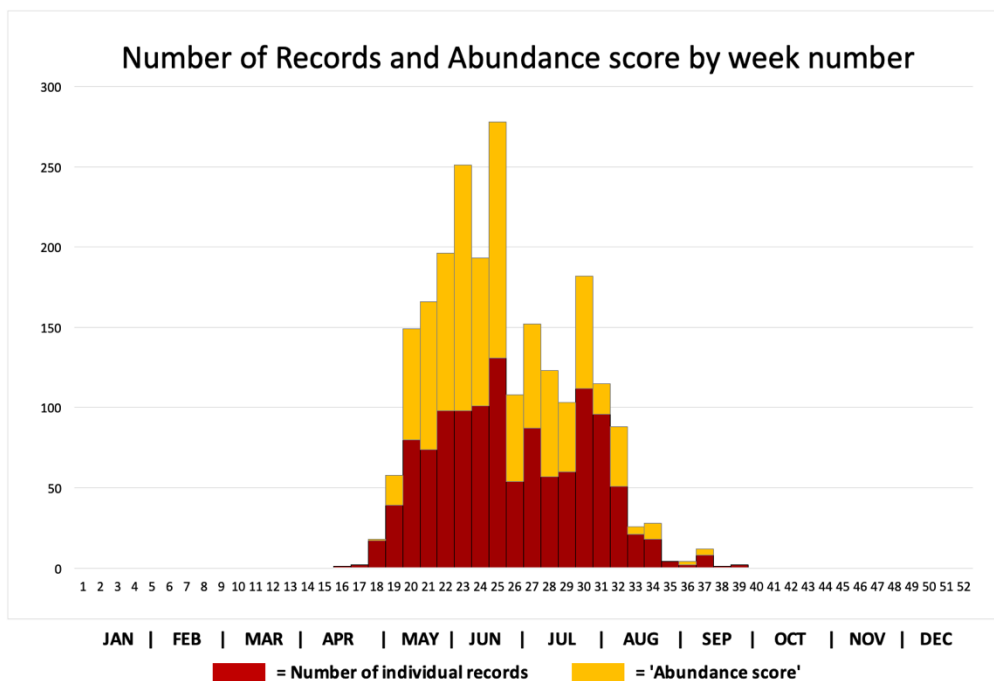
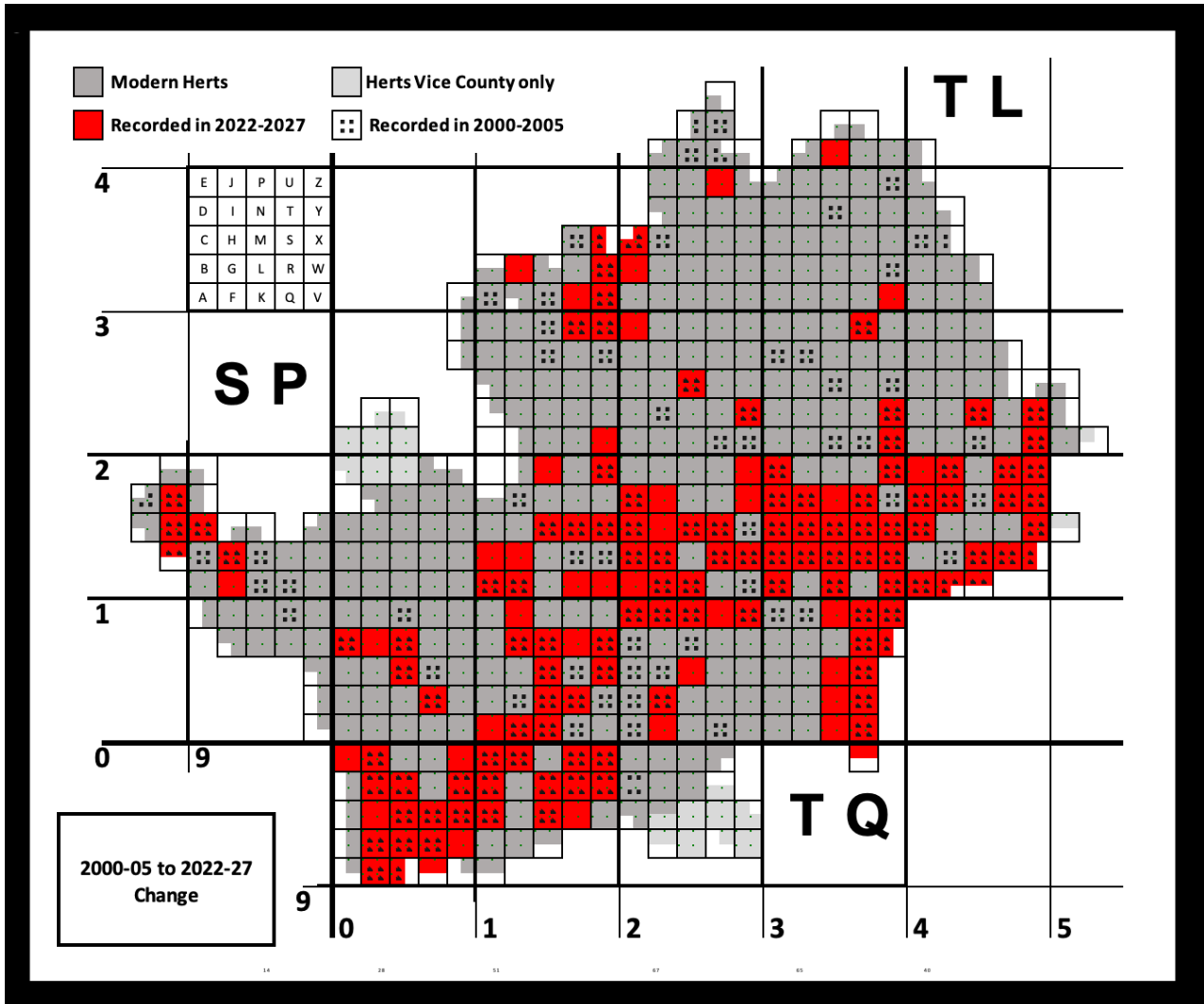


Number of records received by tetrad:



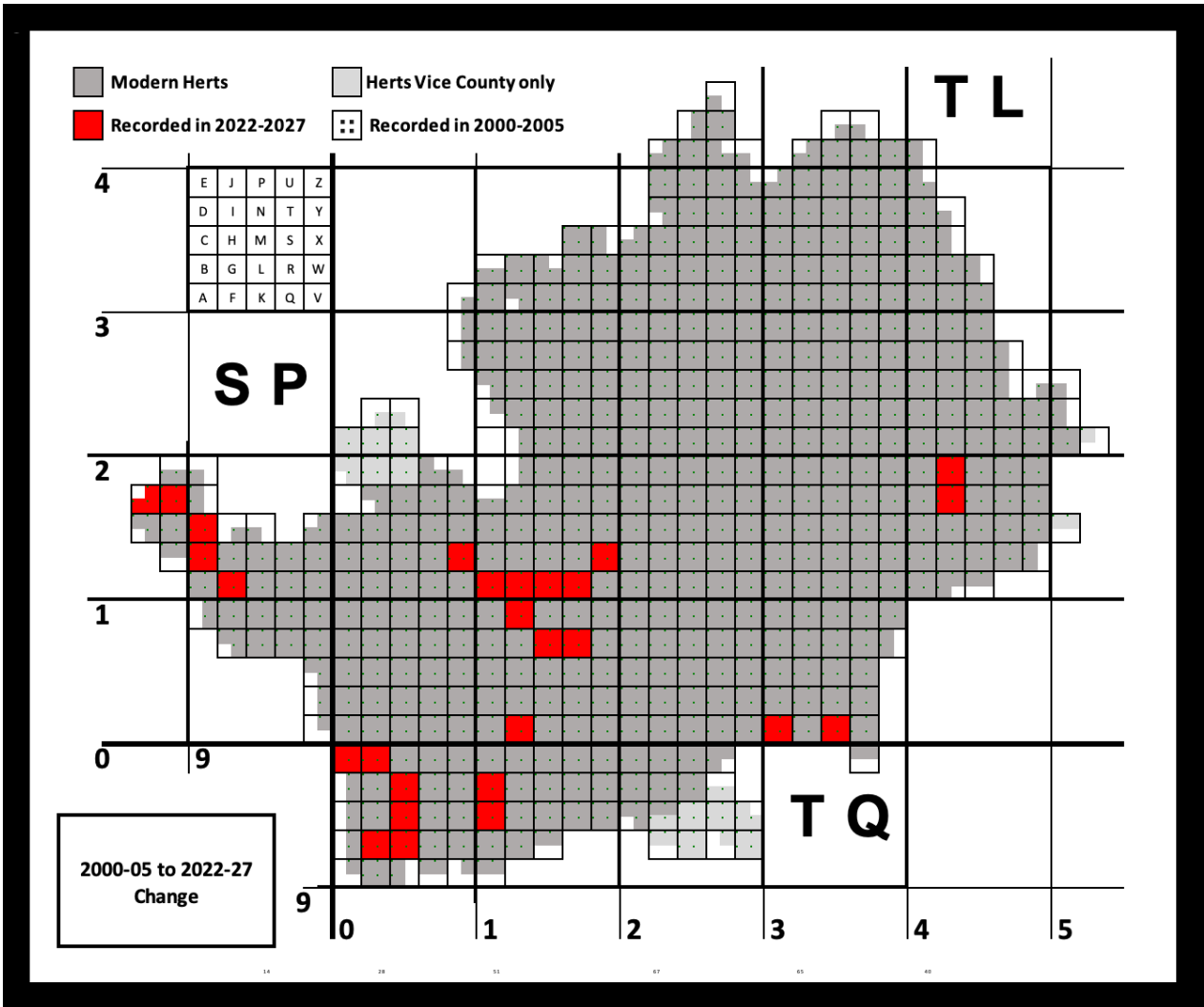
Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)

Common and widespread, mainly found along rivers and canals.

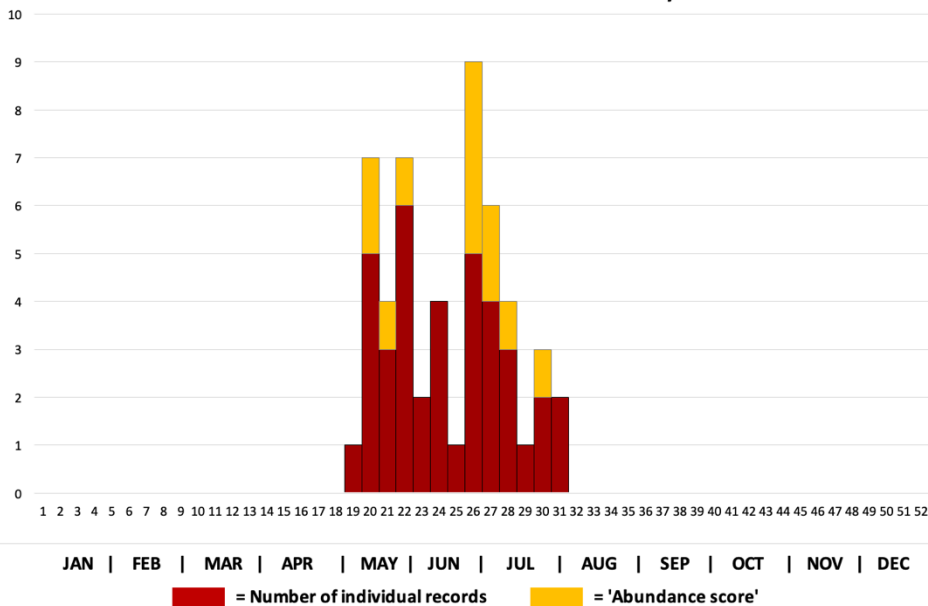


Beautiful Demoiselle (*Calopteryx virgo*)

Scarce but increasing, mainly found along streams, rivers and canals, often smaller and more shaded streams than Banded Demoiselle.

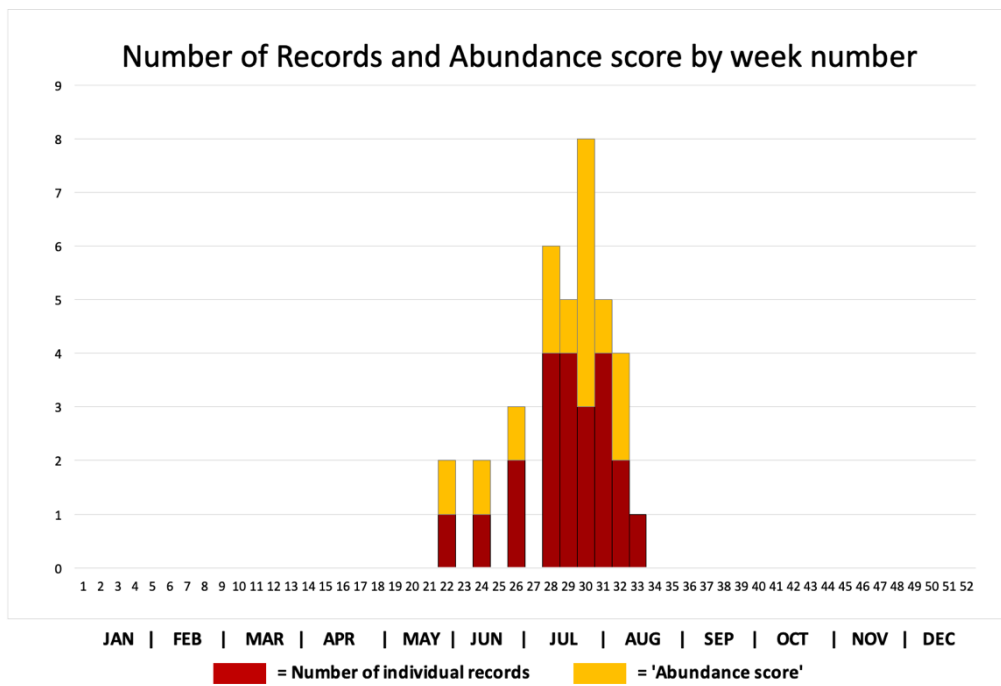
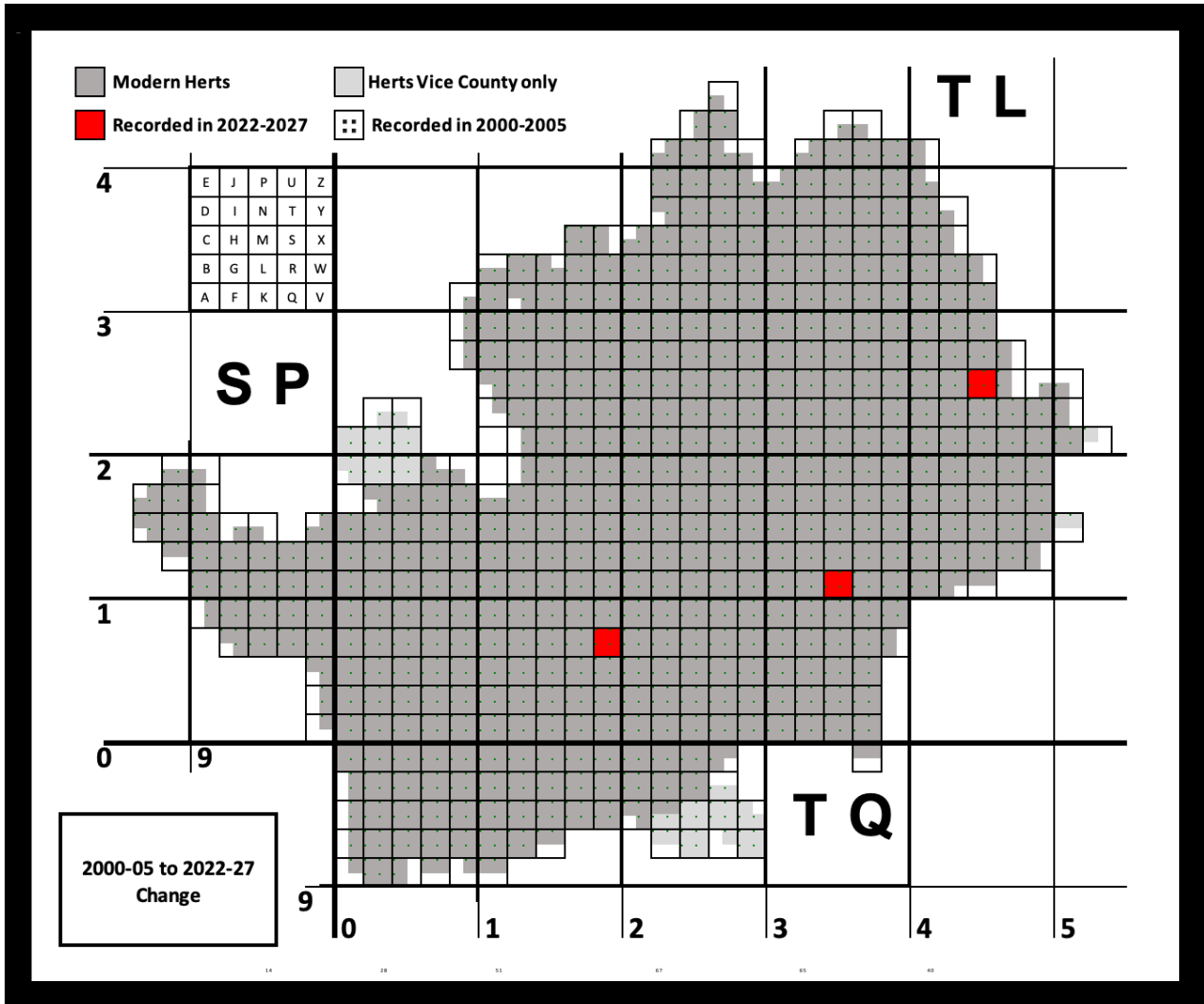


Number of Records and Abundance score by week number



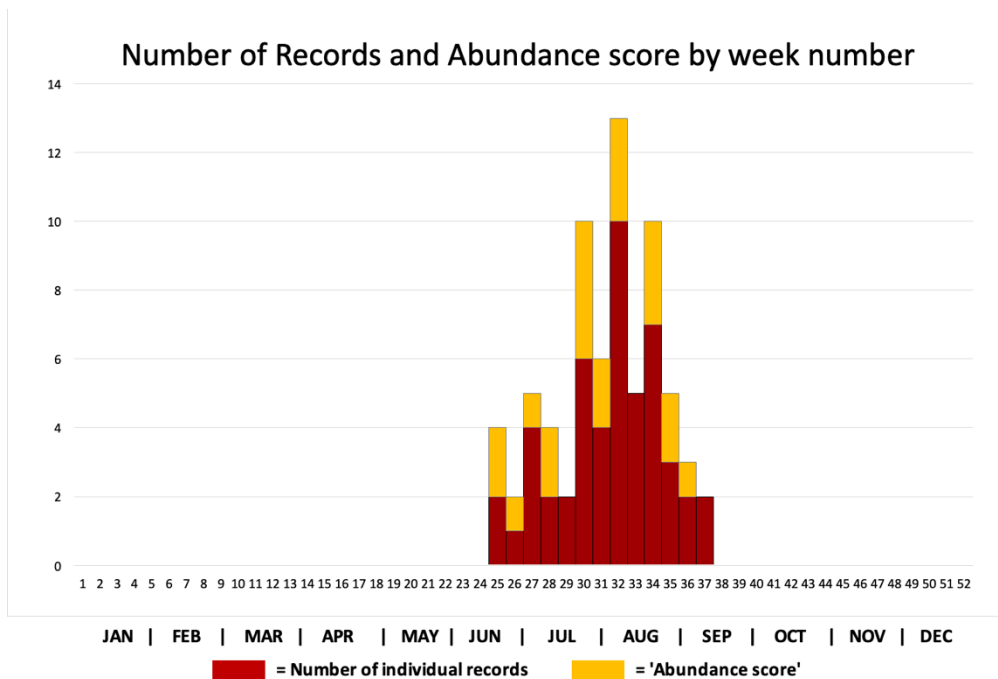
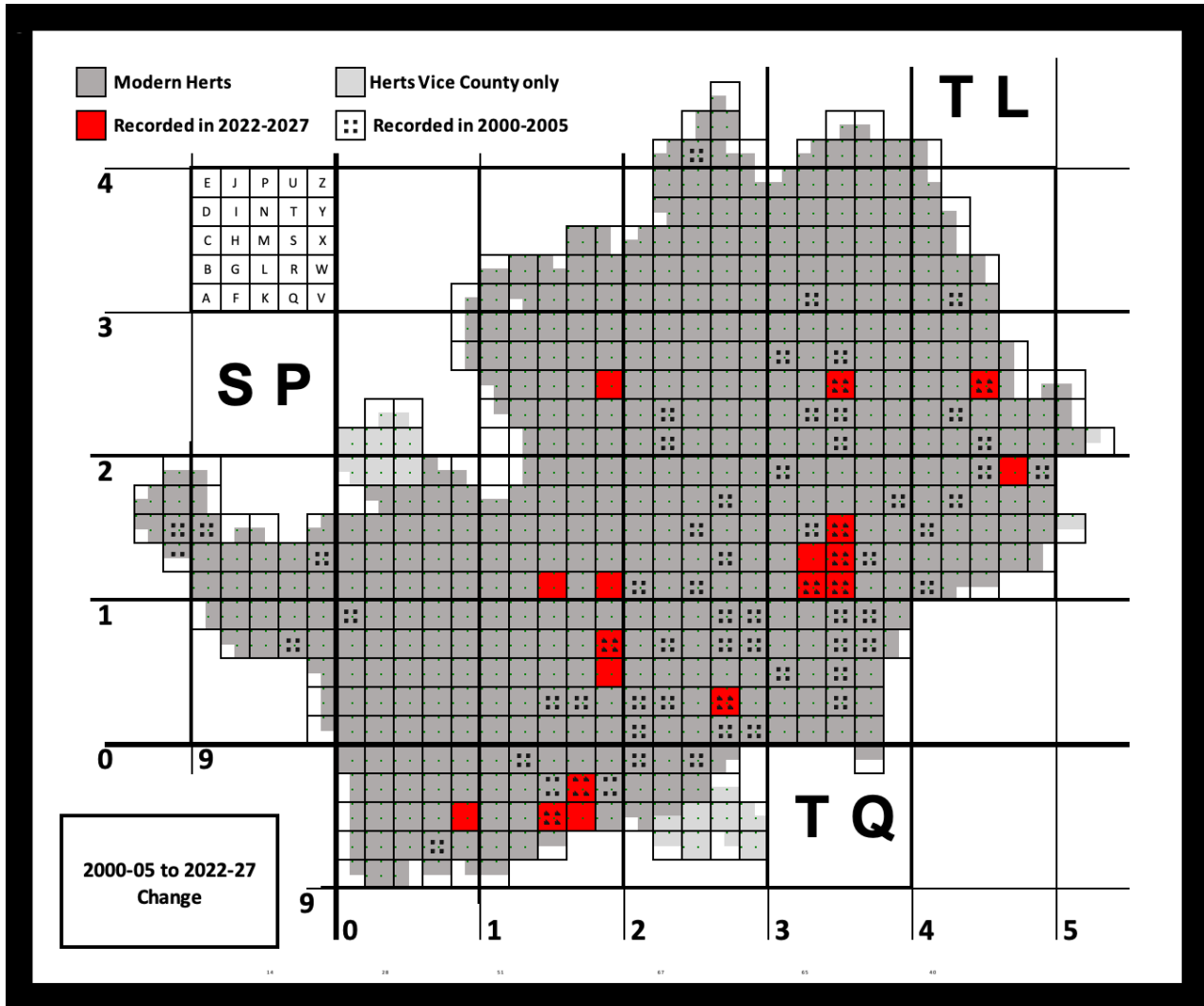
Scarce Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes dryas*)

Rare – has only been found at a few sites, usually in very low numbers



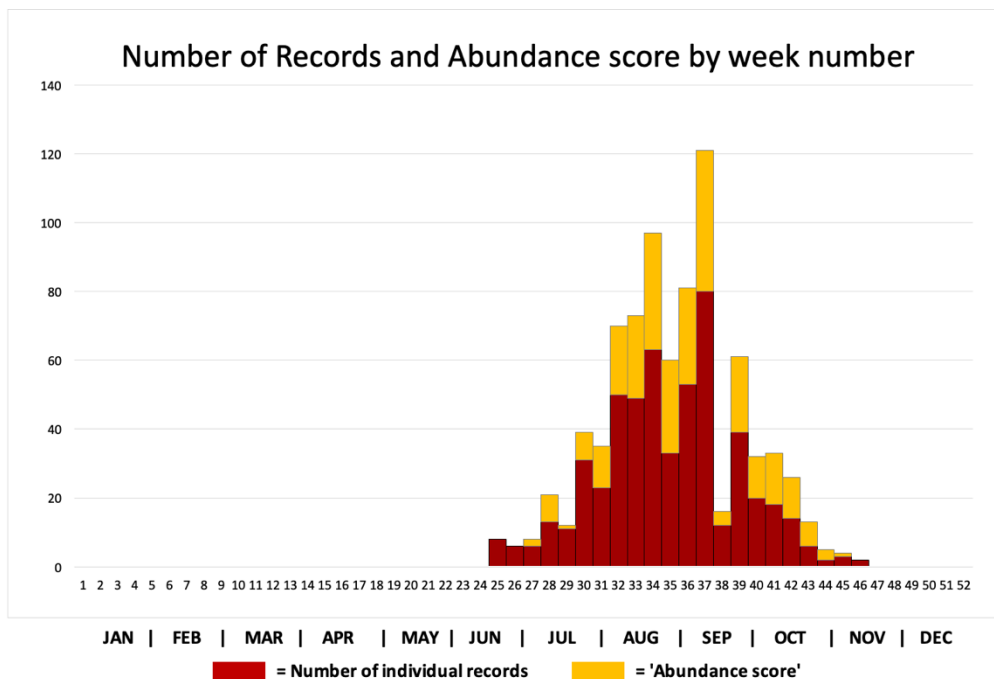
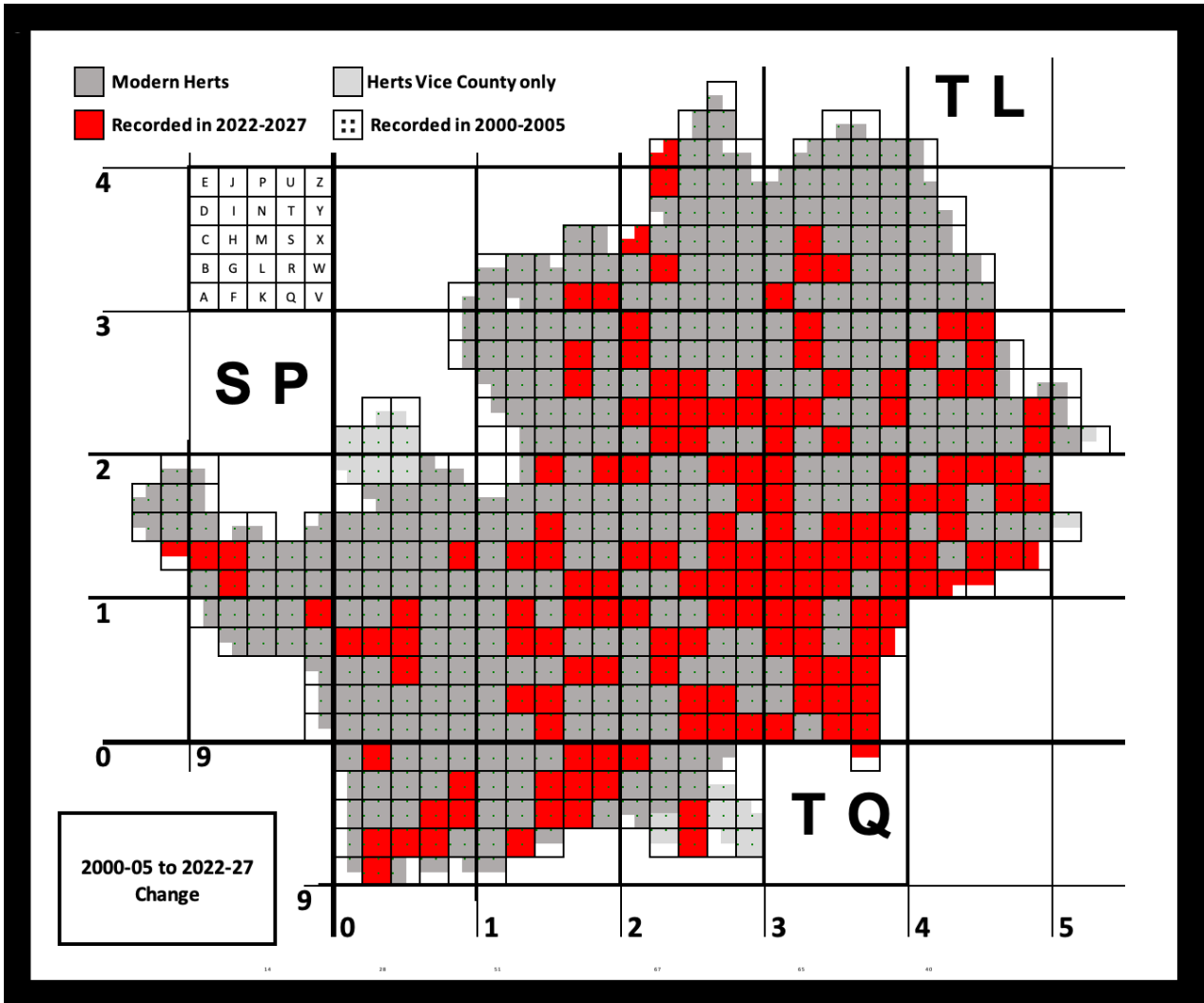
Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes sponsa*)

Now fairly scarce and seemingly declining.



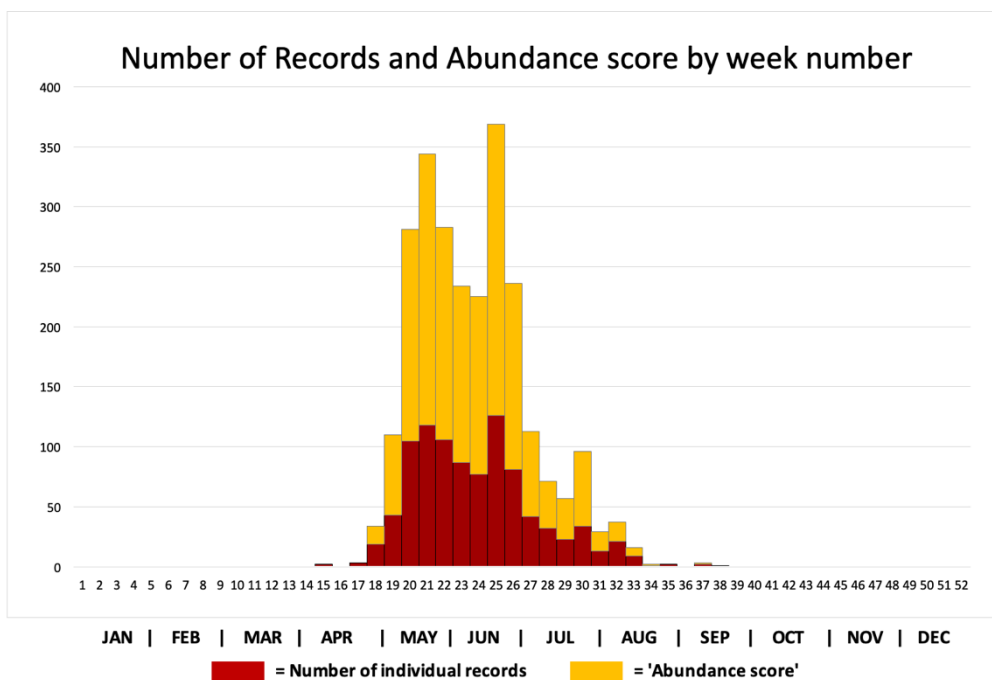
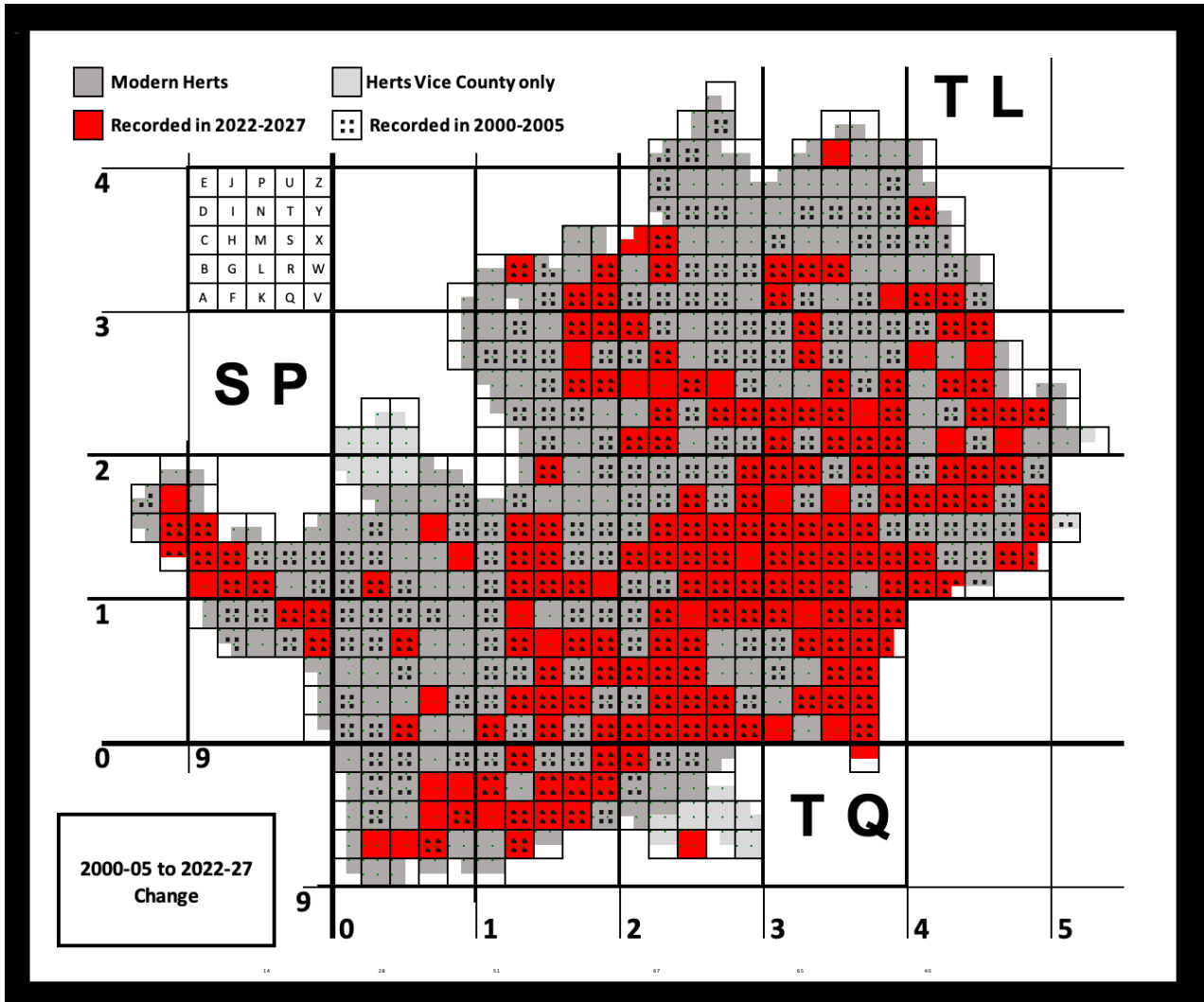
Willow Emerald Damselfly (*Chalcolestes viridis*)

Now common and widespread, although easily overlooked. May be found at any wetland habitat.



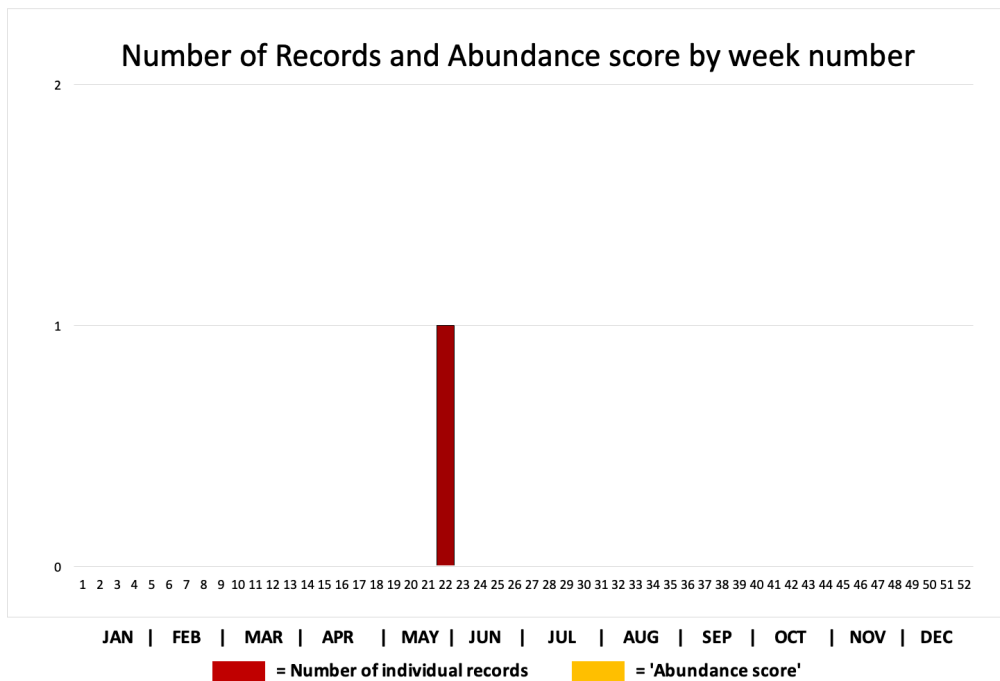
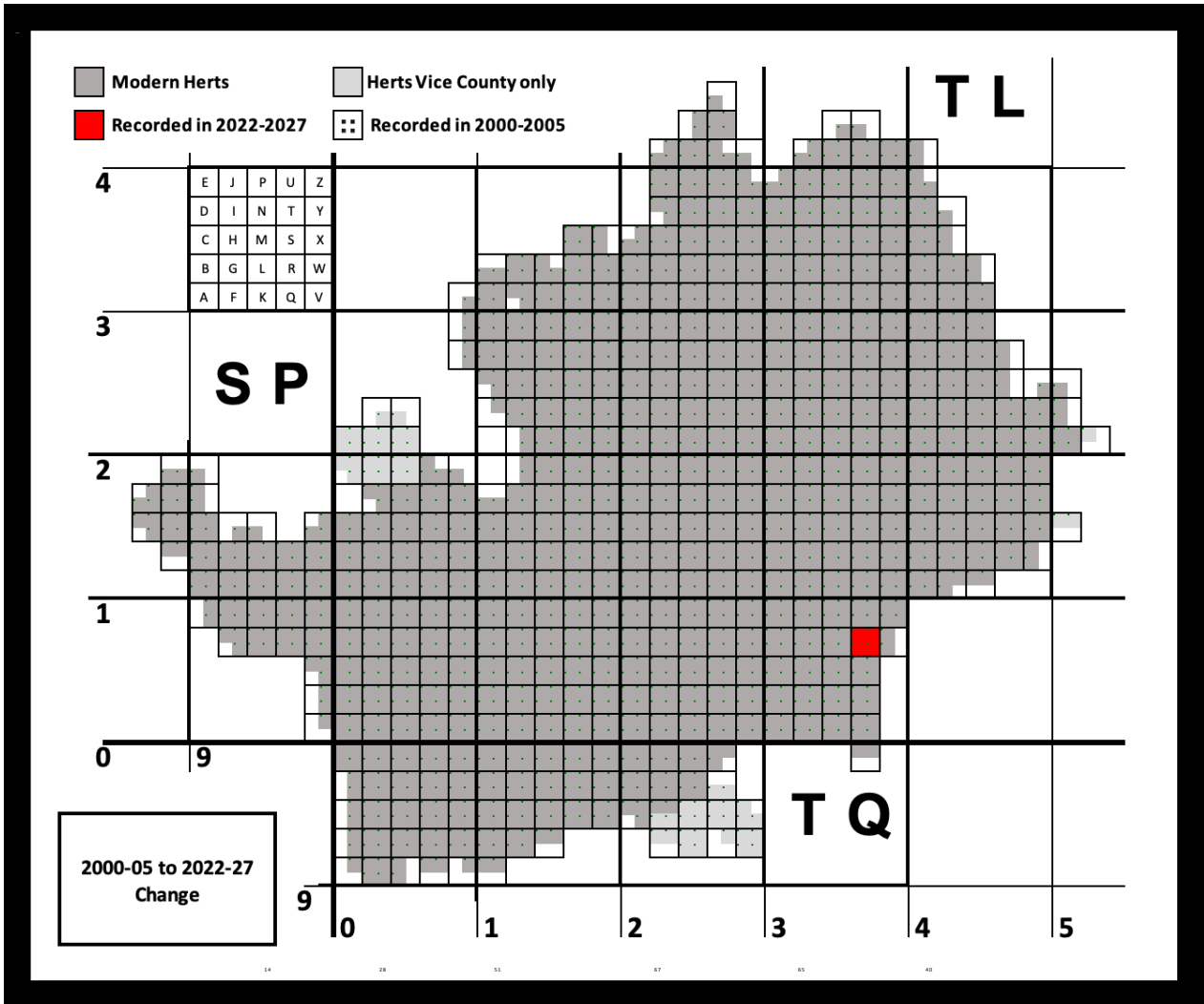
Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*)

Common and widespread. Favours ponds but may be found at any wetland habitat, including garden ponds.



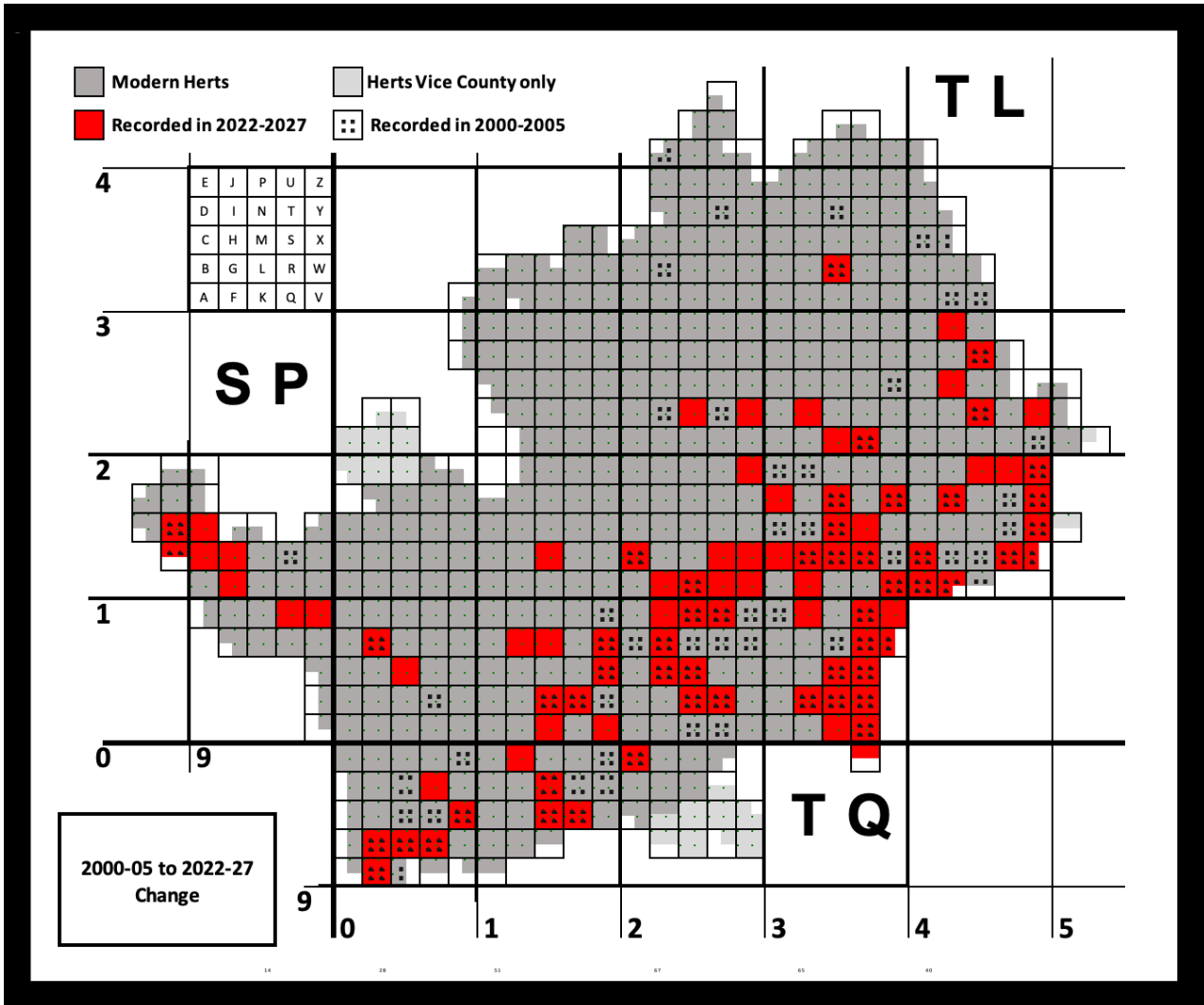
Variable Damselfly (*Coenagrion pulchellum*)

A very rare visitor with no known populations in Hertfordshire.

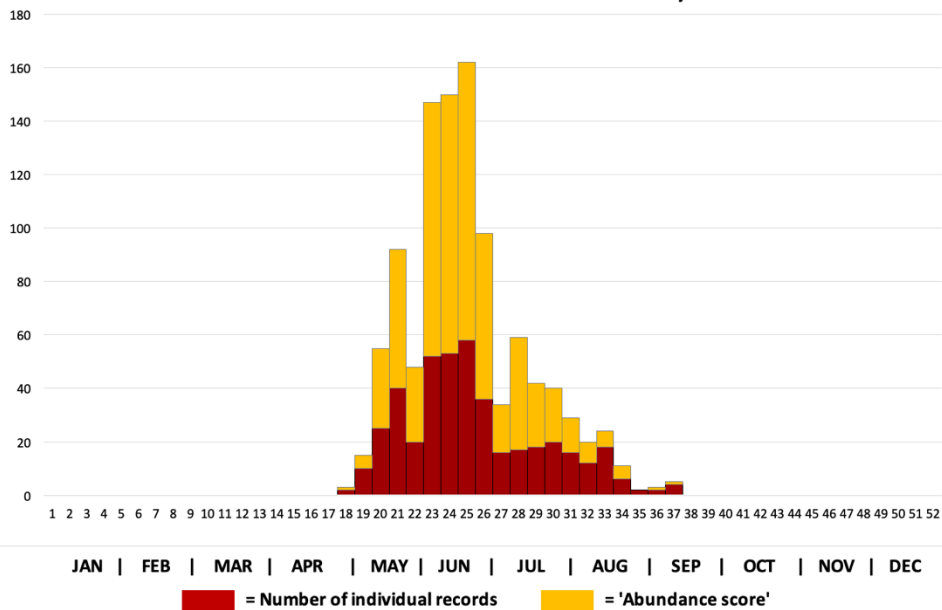


Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma najas*)

Fairly widespread and sometimes numerous. Favours lakes, ponds and canals with floating vegetation such as waterlilies.

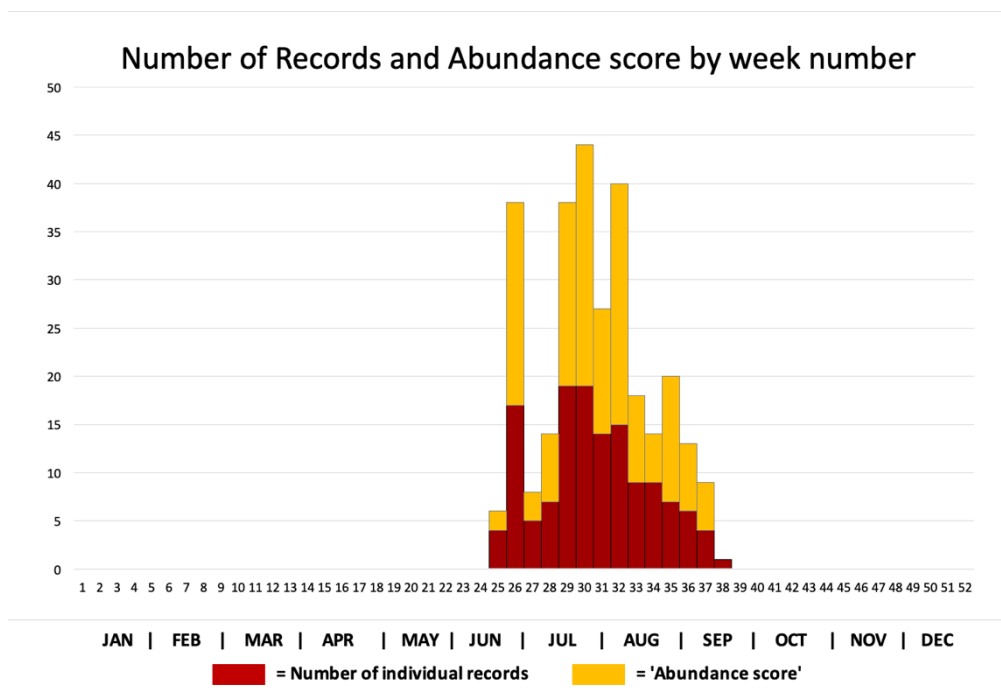
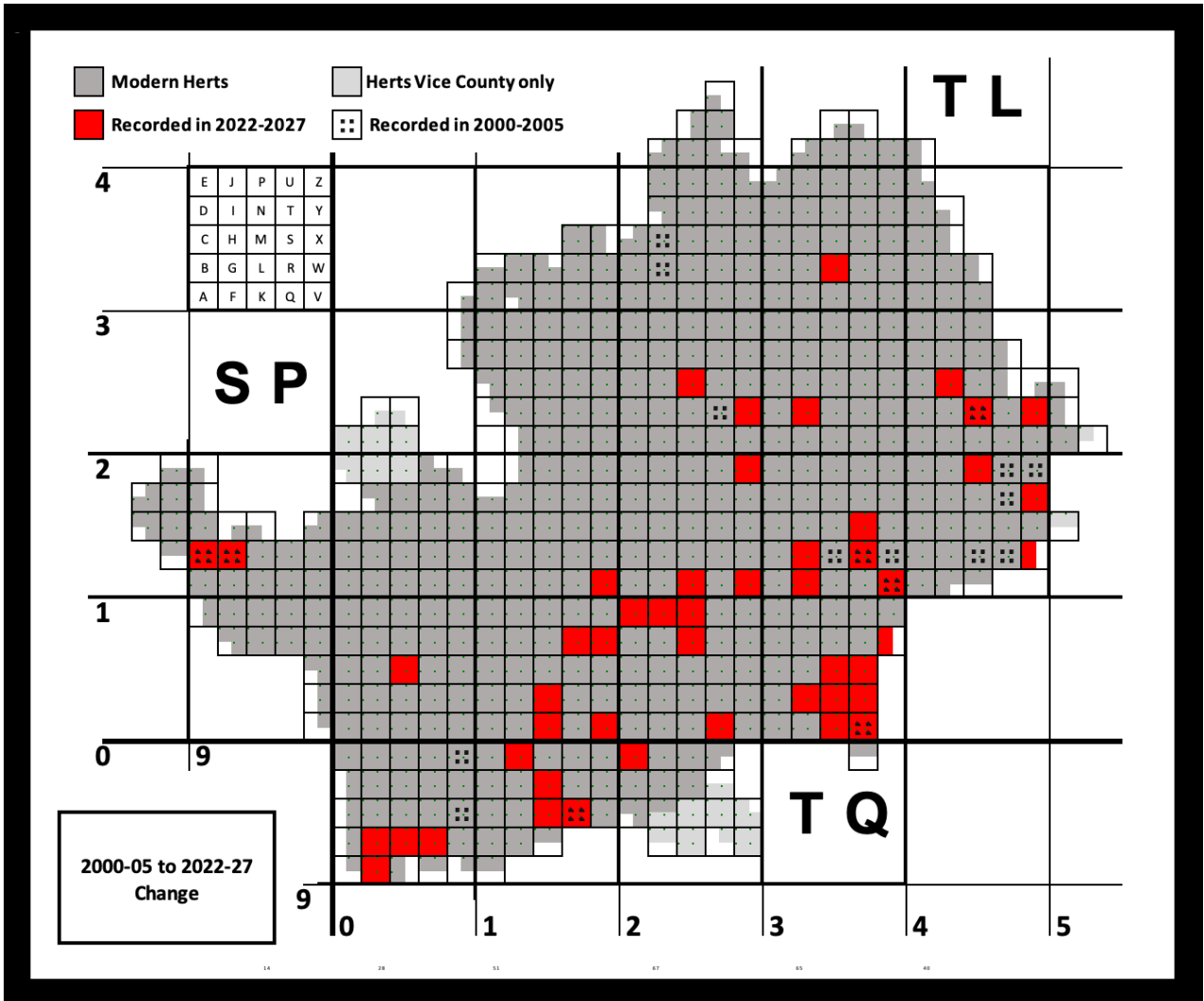


Number of Records and Abundance score by week number



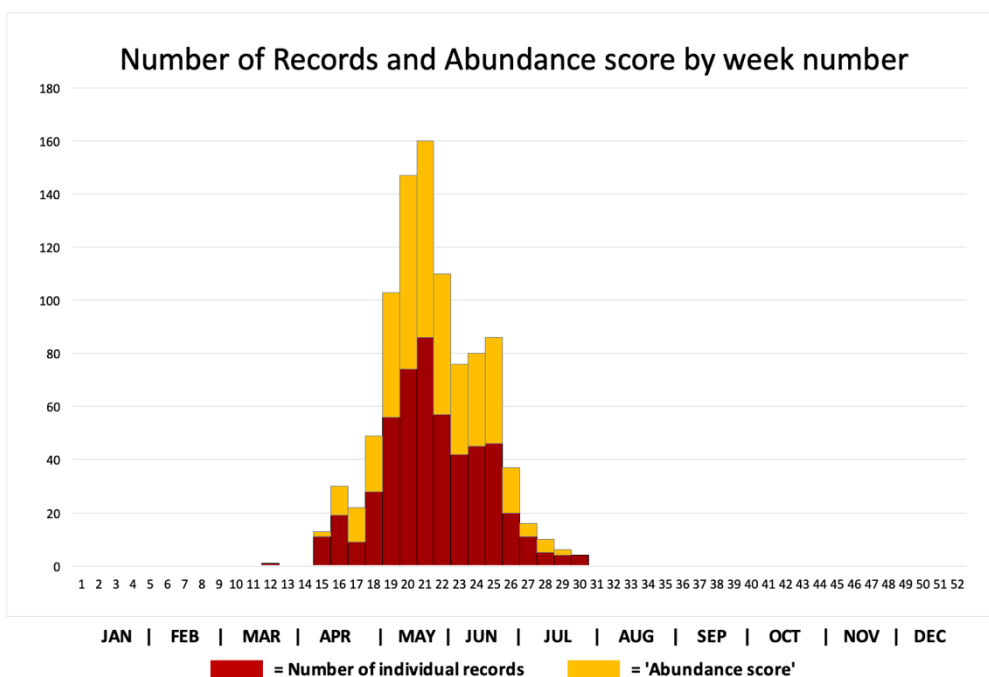
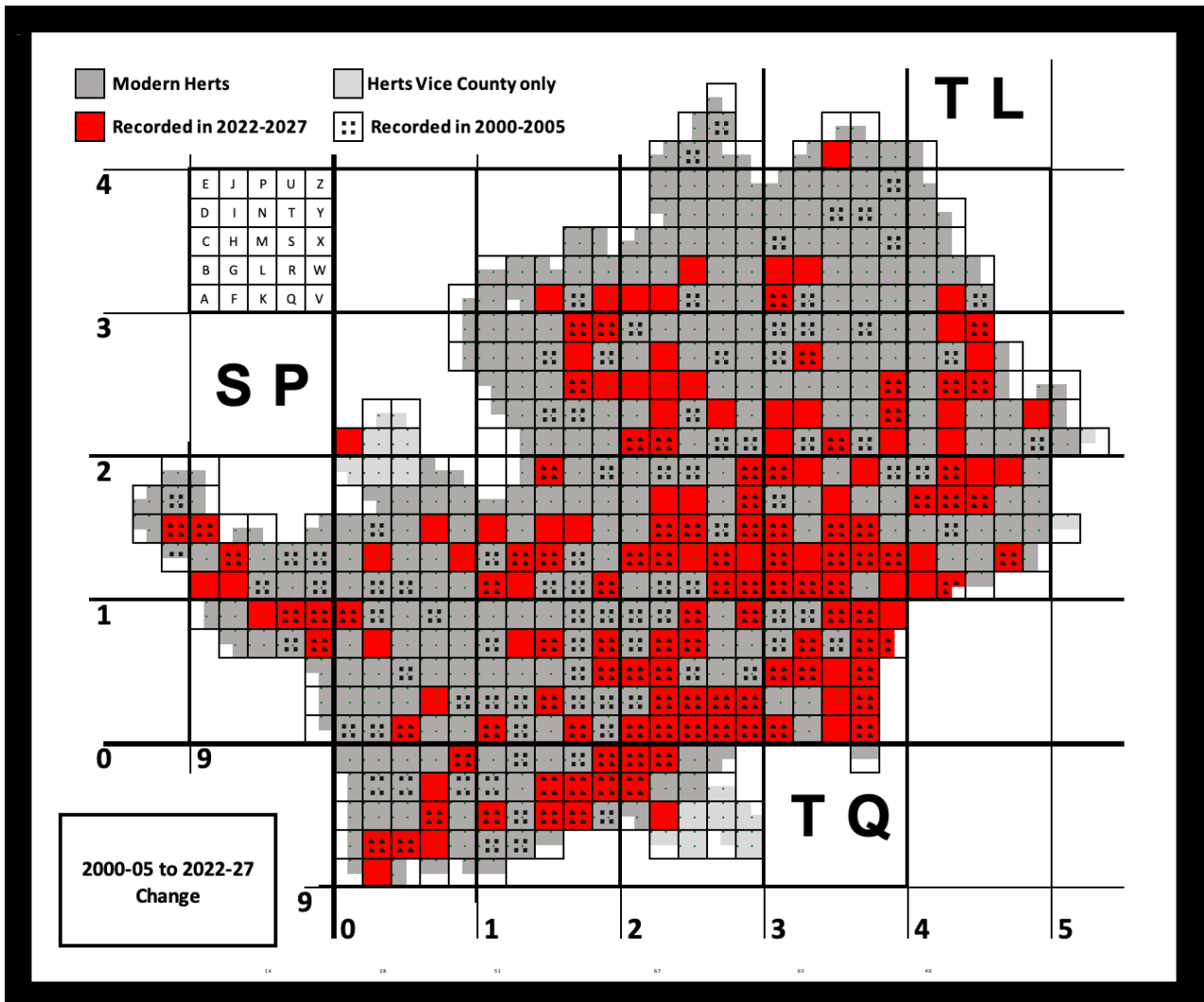
Small Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma viridulum*)

Fairly widespread and sometimes numerous. Favours lakes, ponds and canals with floating vegetation seemingly preferring smaller leaved plants than the previous species.



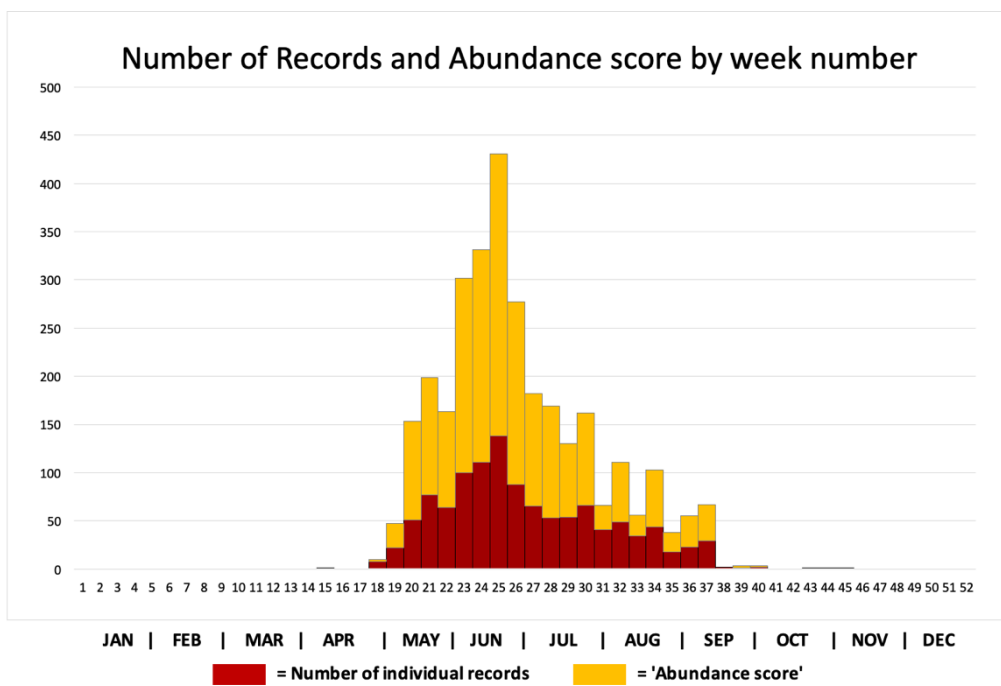
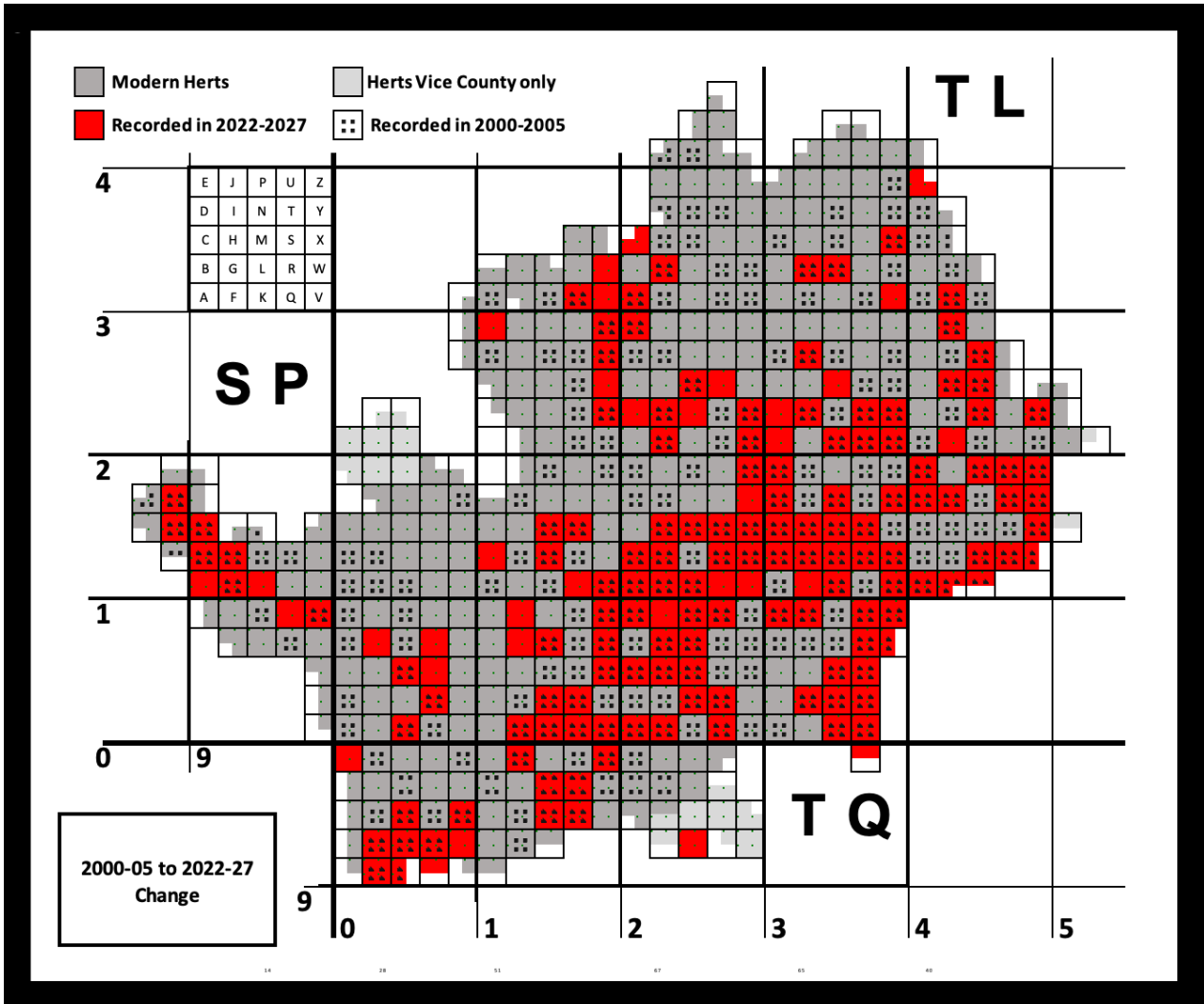
Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*)

Common and widespread. Favours ponds, including those in woodland and gardens, but may be found at any wetland habitat.



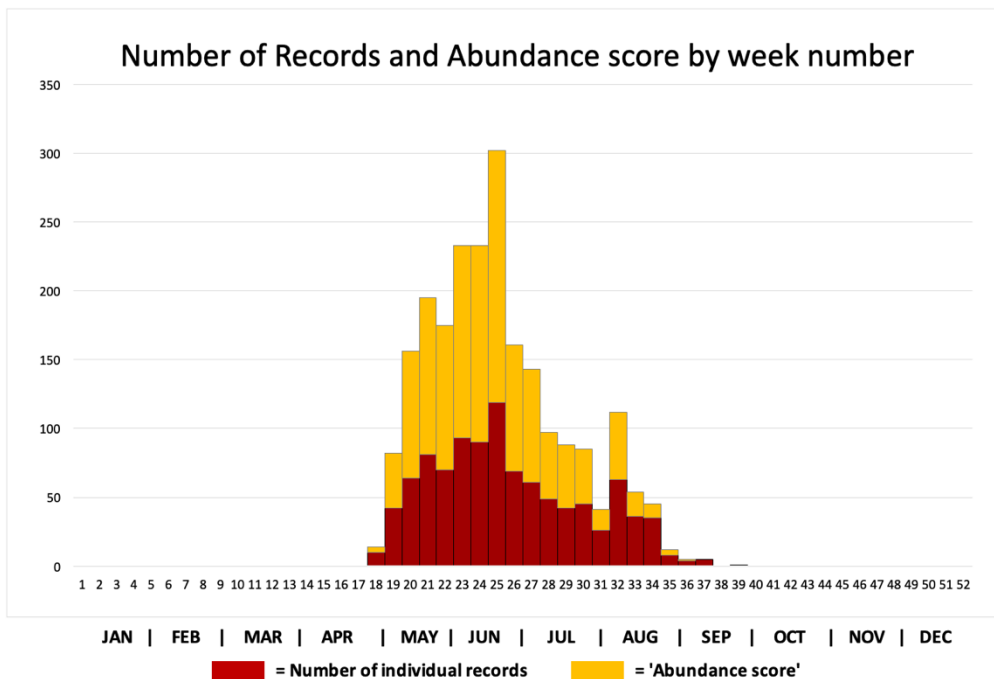
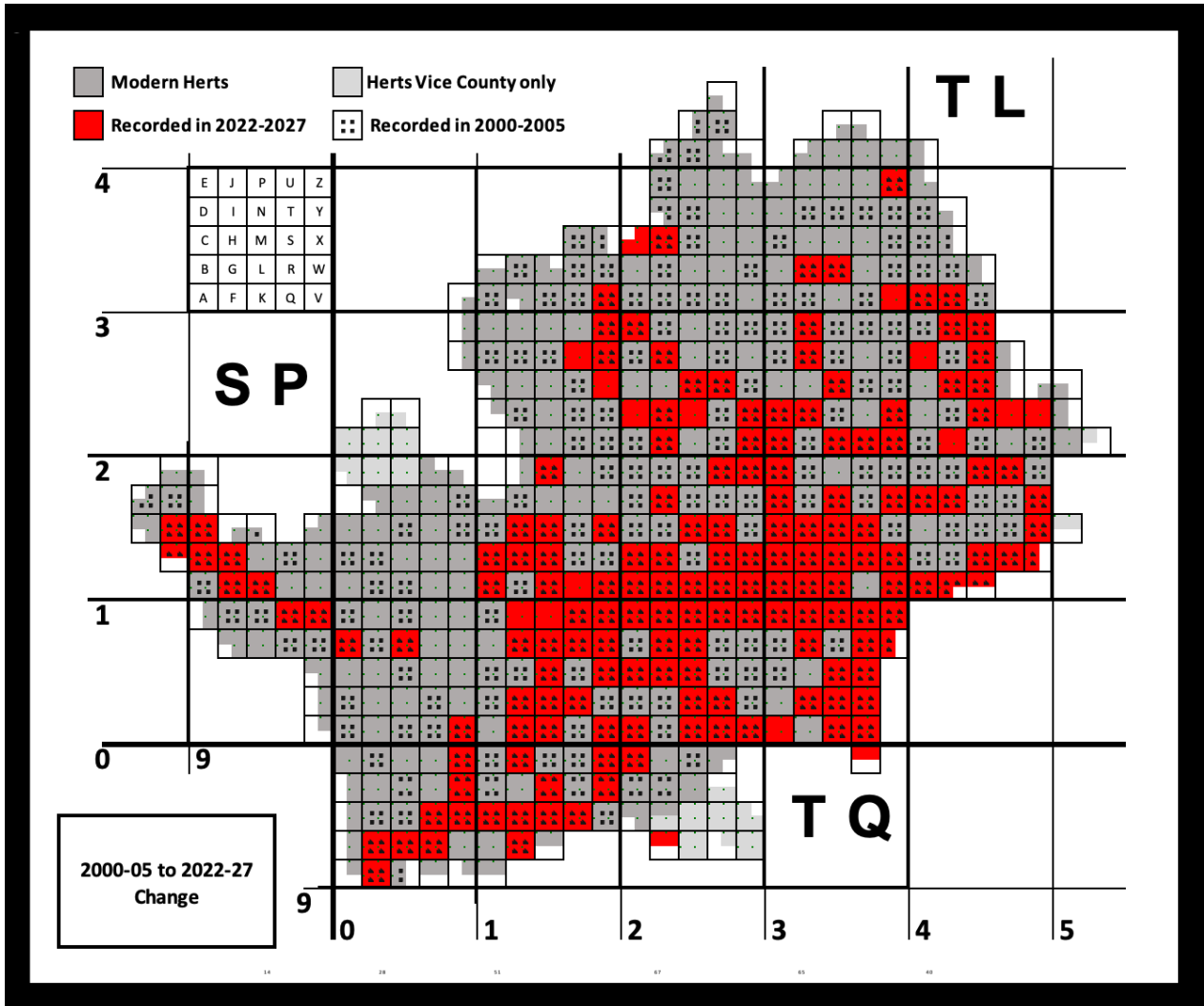
Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

Widespread and often very numerous. May be found at any wetland habitat but most abundant at large lakes and gravel pits.



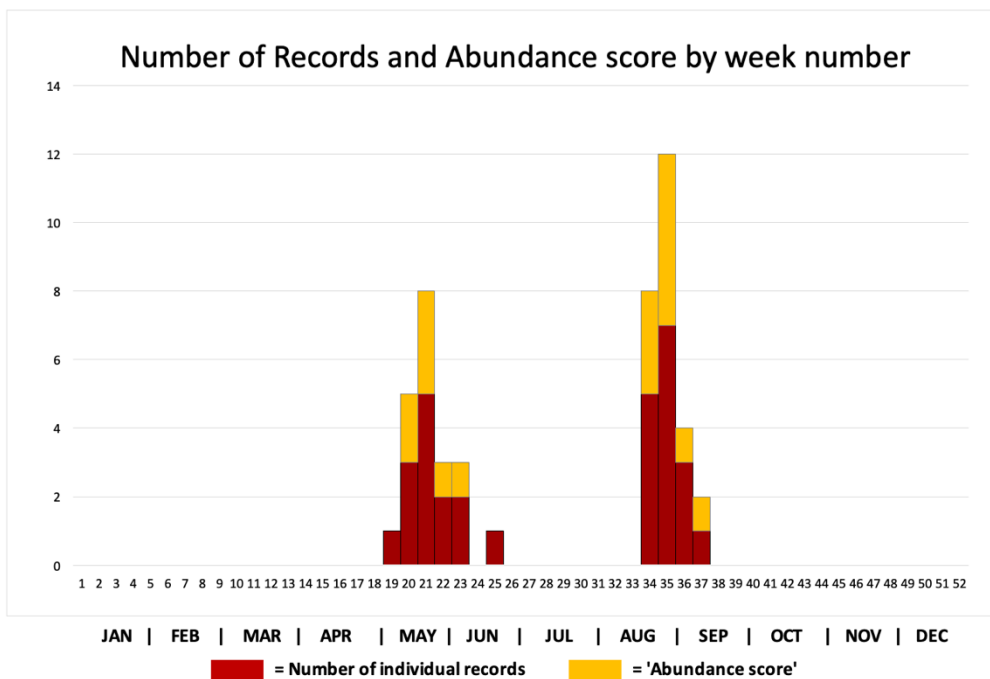
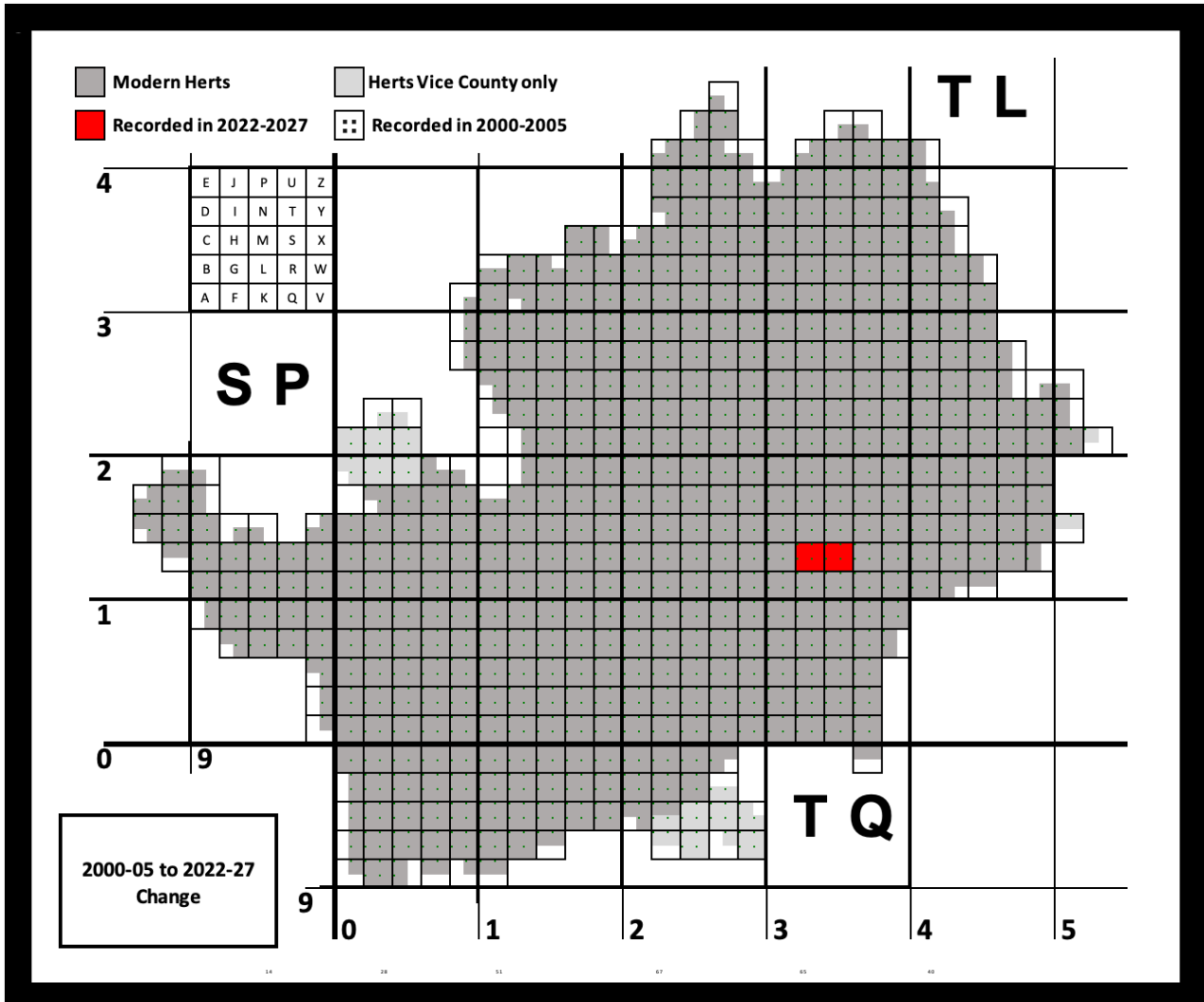
Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

Common and widespread. May be found in any wetland habitat.



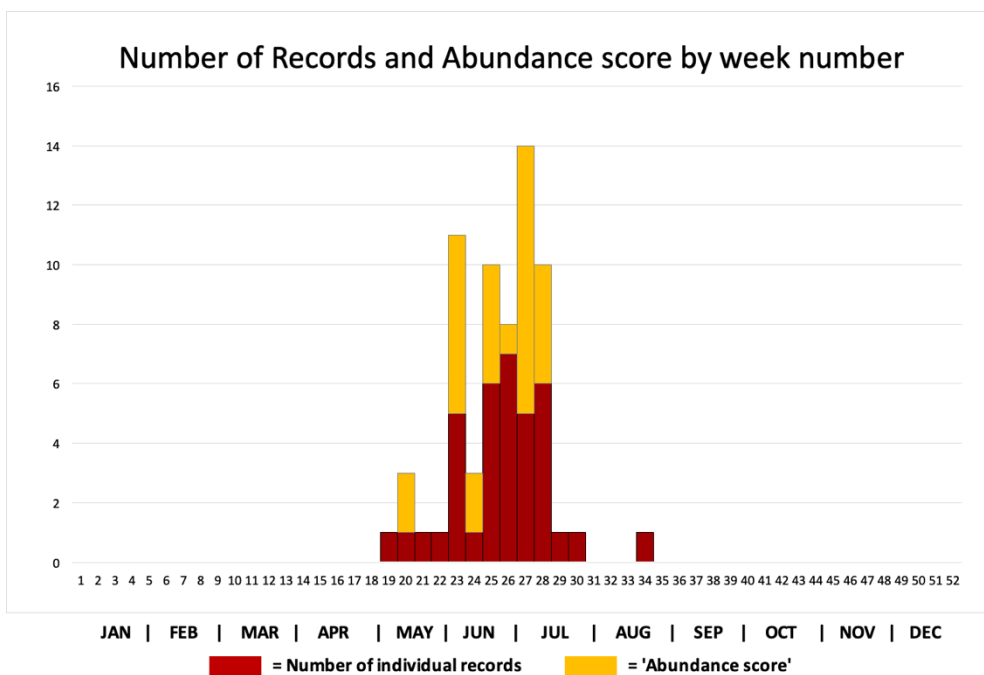
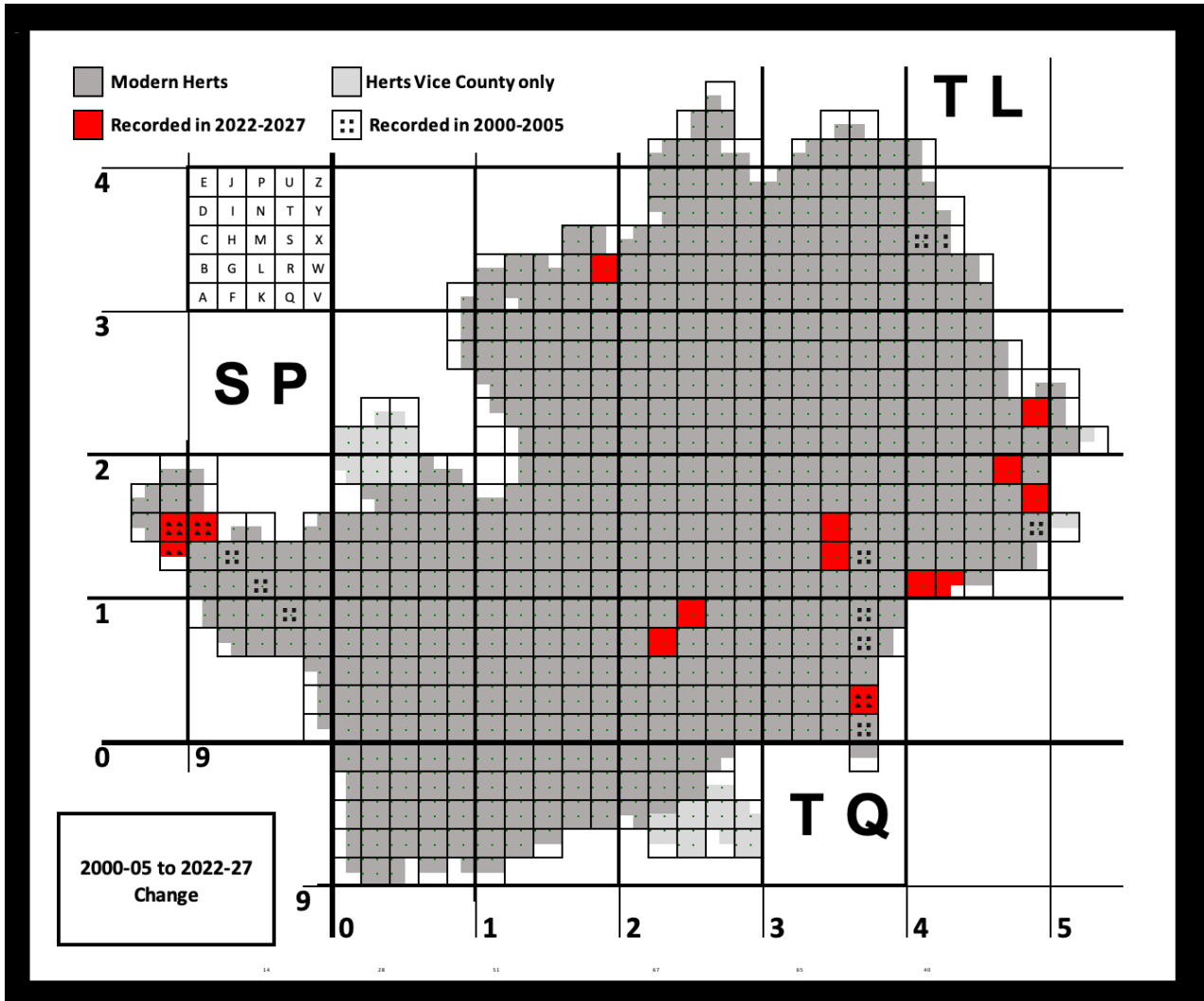
Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura pumilio*)

Rare – present at a single Hertfordshire site from 2022 to 2024 but there were no records during 2025.



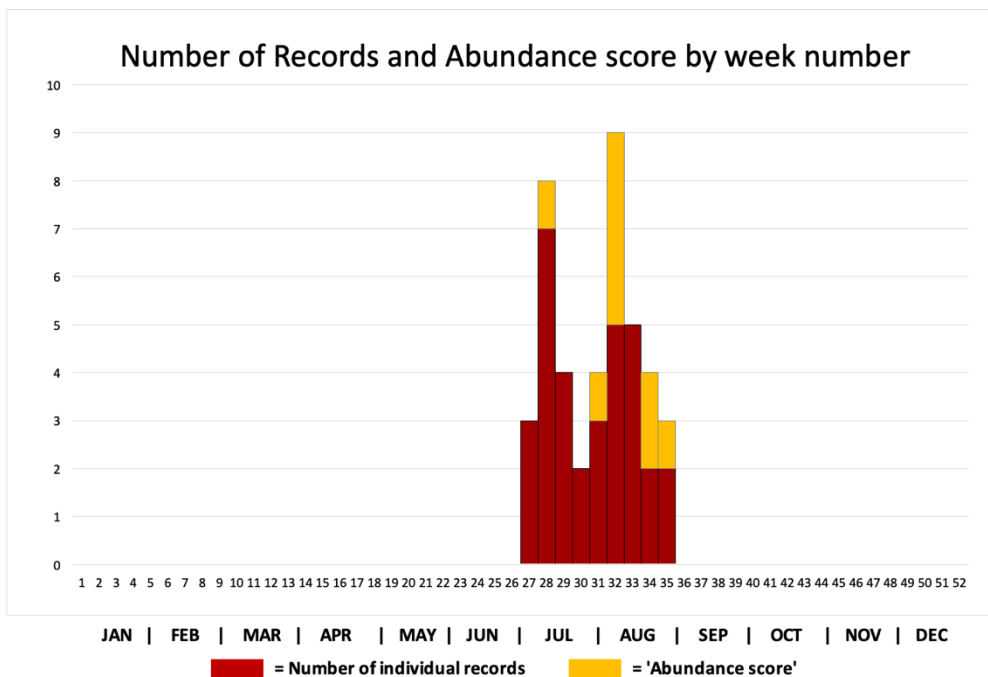
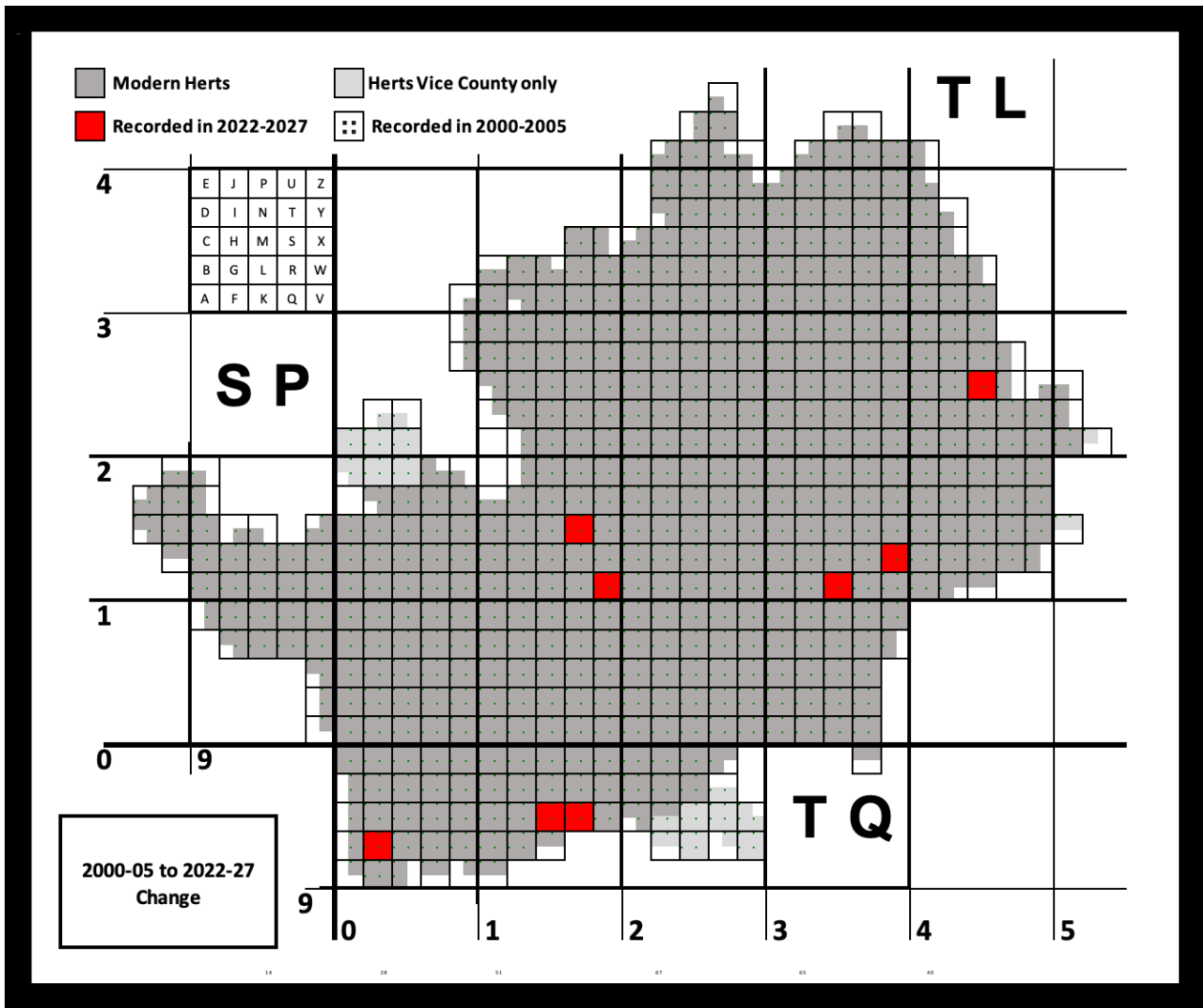
White-legged Damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*)

Localised and usually scarce but seems to be reaching new sites. Most likely to be found along rivers and canals with abundant vegetation along the banks.



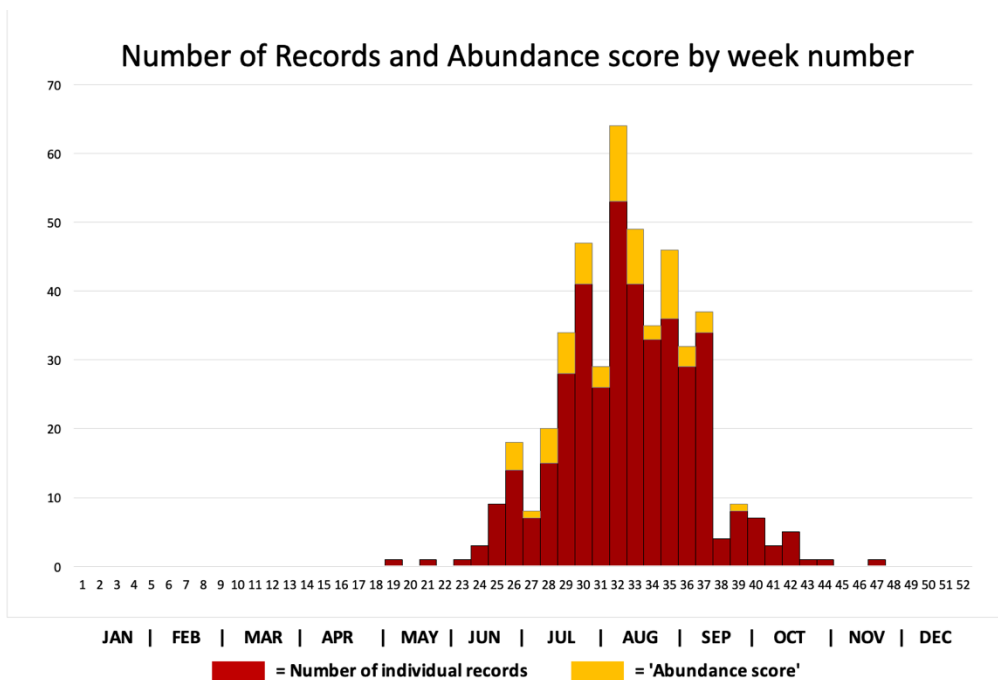
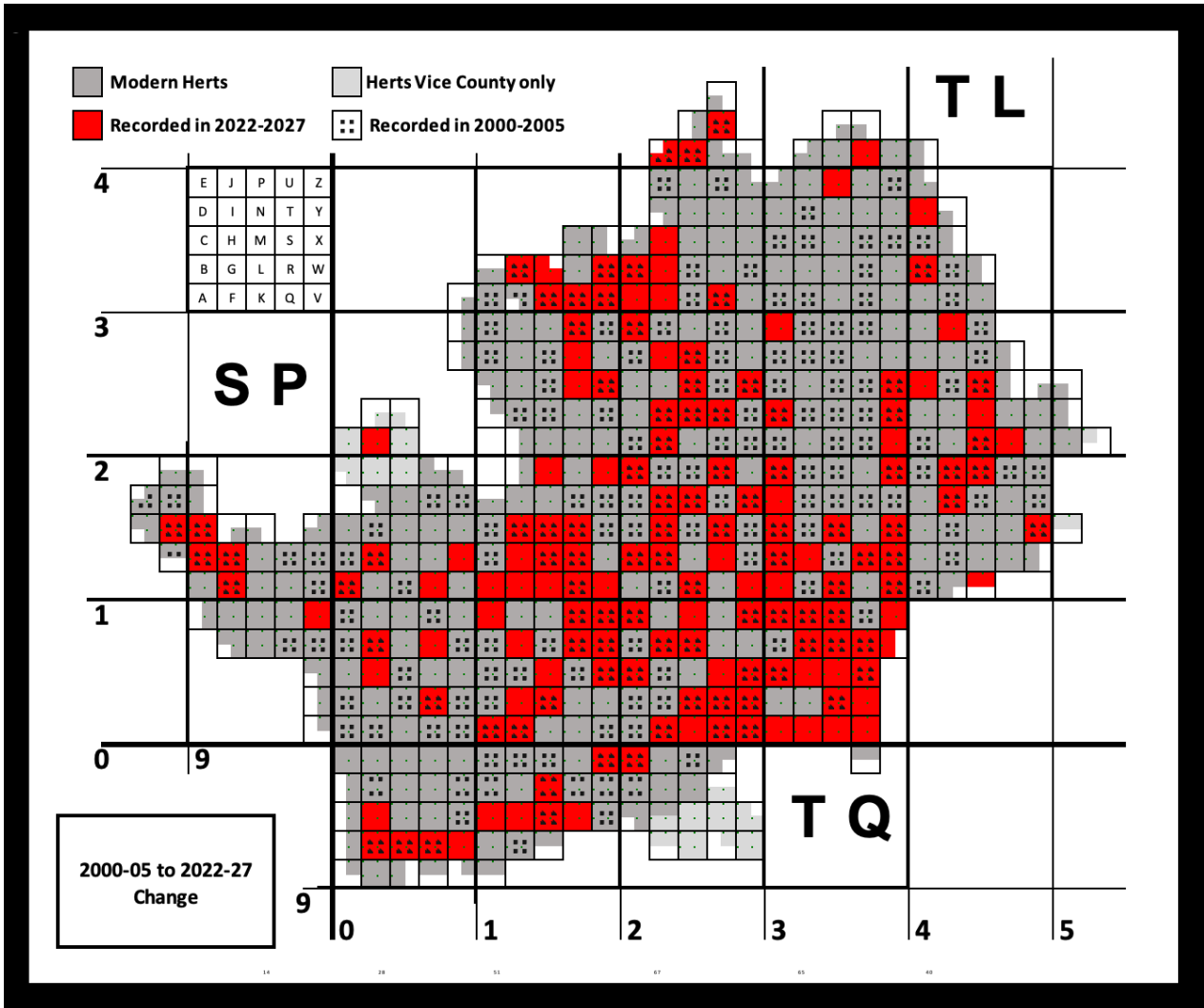
Southern Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna affinis*)

A scarce migrant with the potential to turn up anywhere in the county. Favours ponds and ditches that may dry up during the summer as breeding sites but may also potentially be encountered away from water.



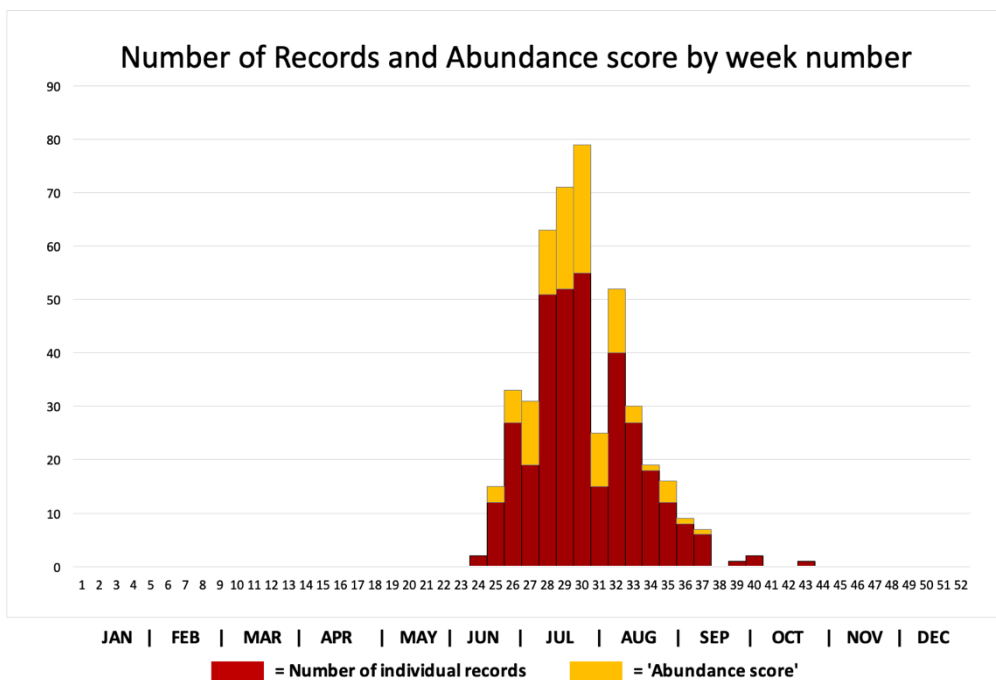
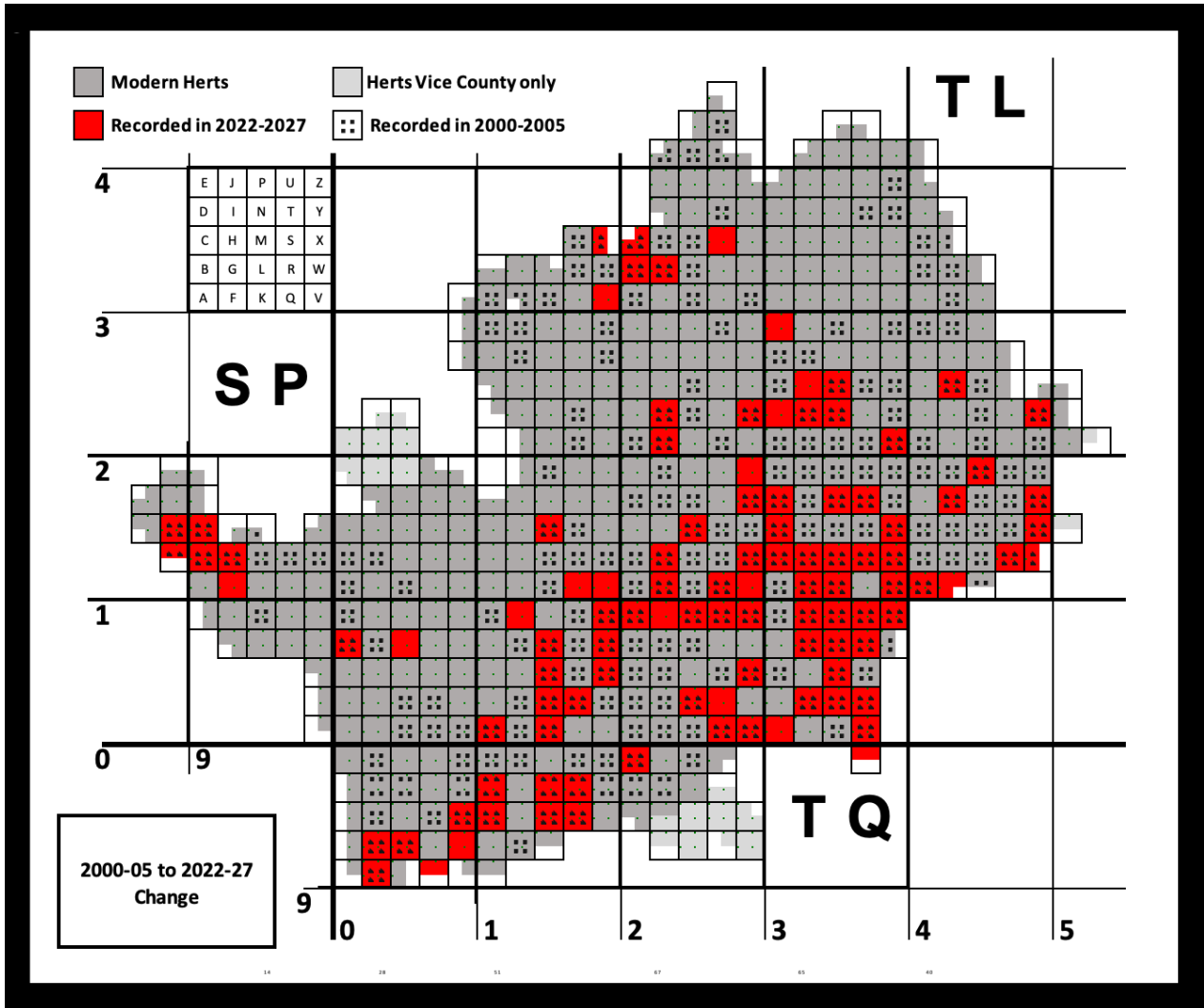
Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*)

Widespread but not usually seen in large numbers. A regular species in woodland and garden ponds but will also breed in other habitats.



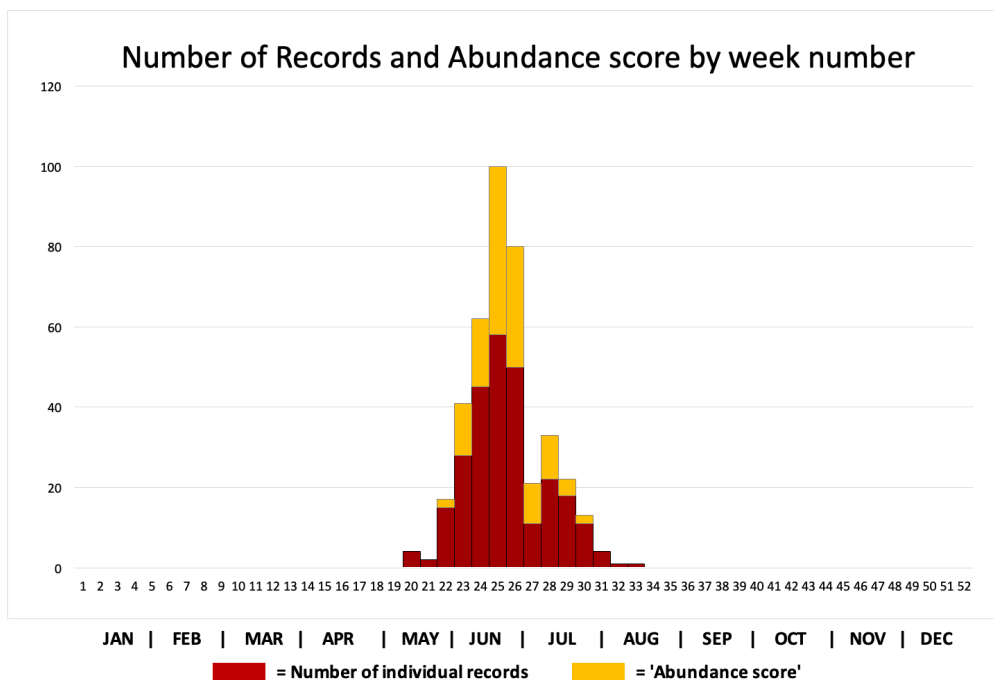
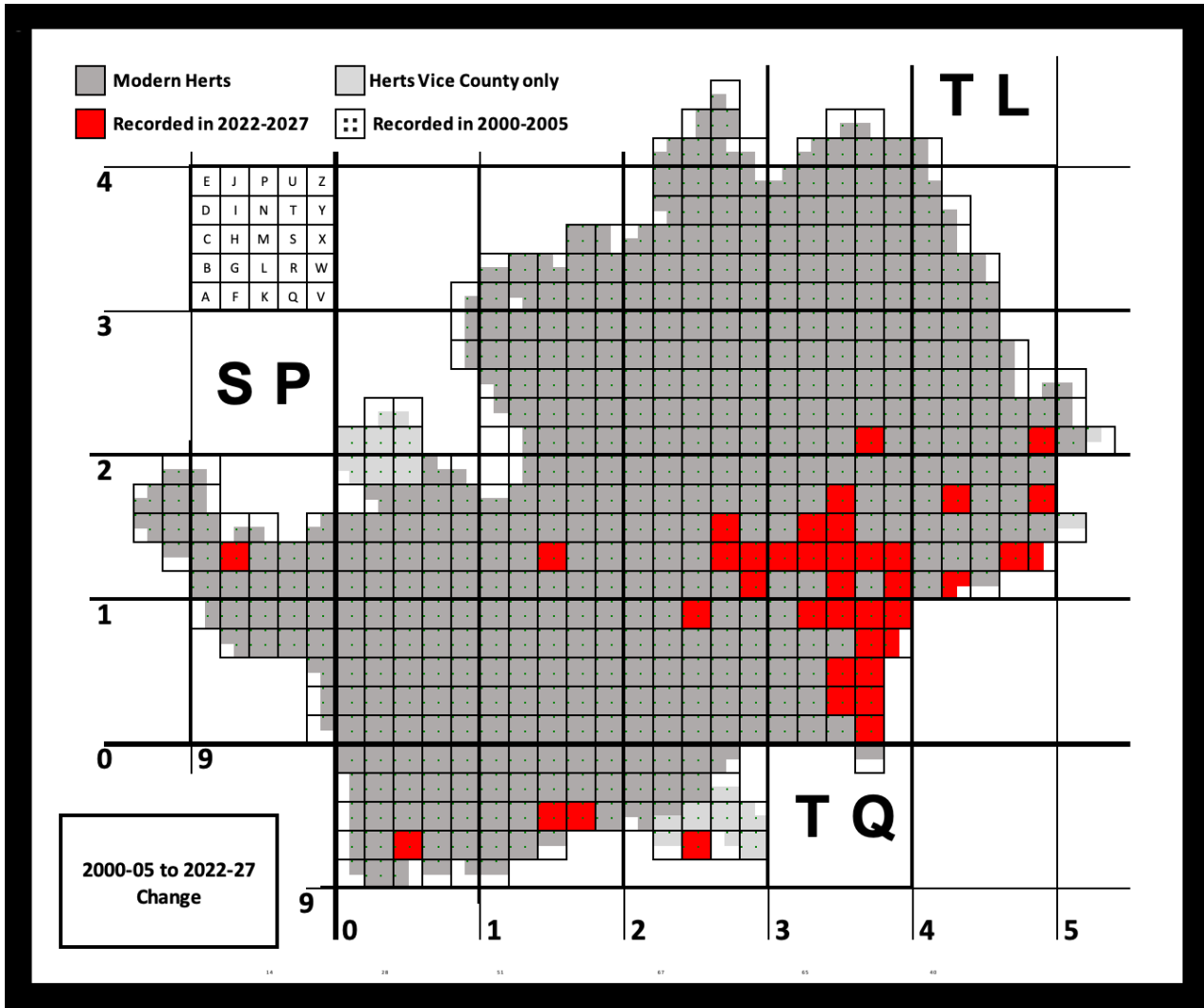
Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)

Widespread but potentially declining slightly. May be found at any wetland habitat, most often those with woodland nearby.



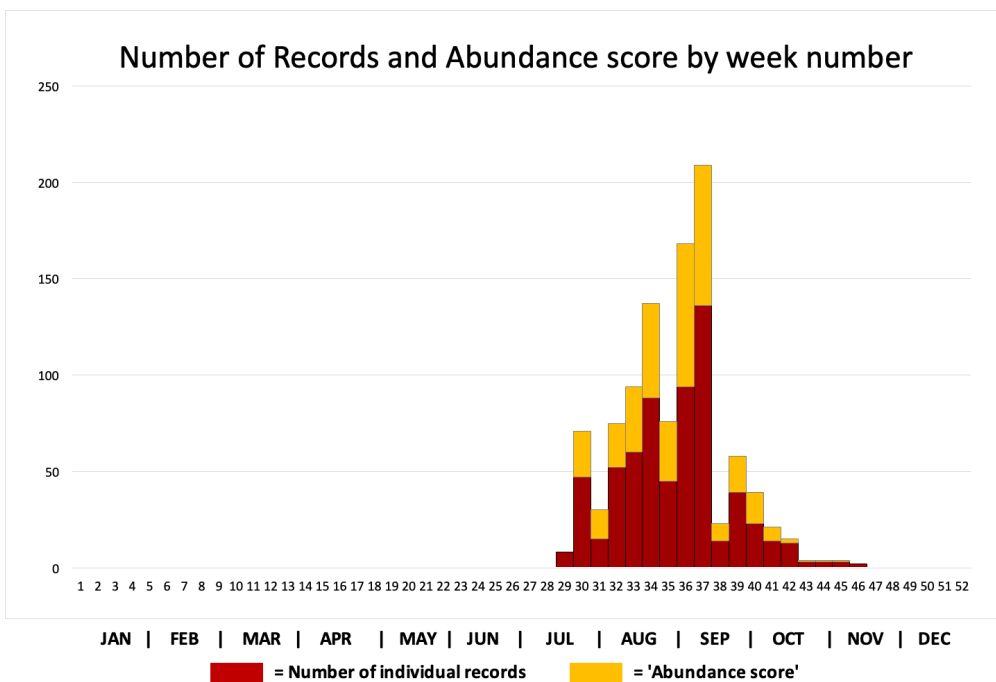
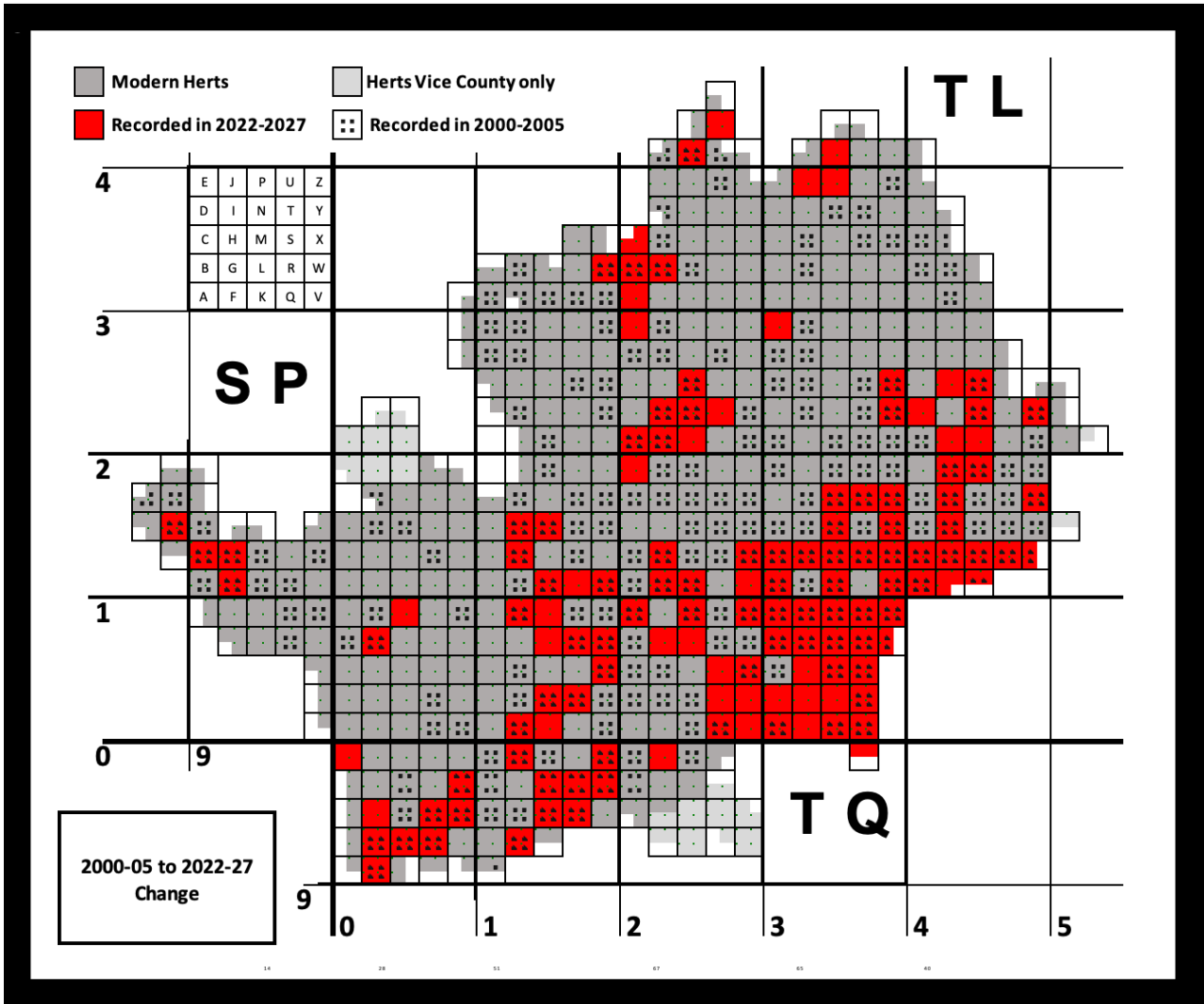
Norfolk Hawker (*Aeshna isoceles*)

Localised and but increasing and reaching new sites. Most likely to be found at lakes and gravel pits, and along rivers and canals, with abundant vegetation along the banks.



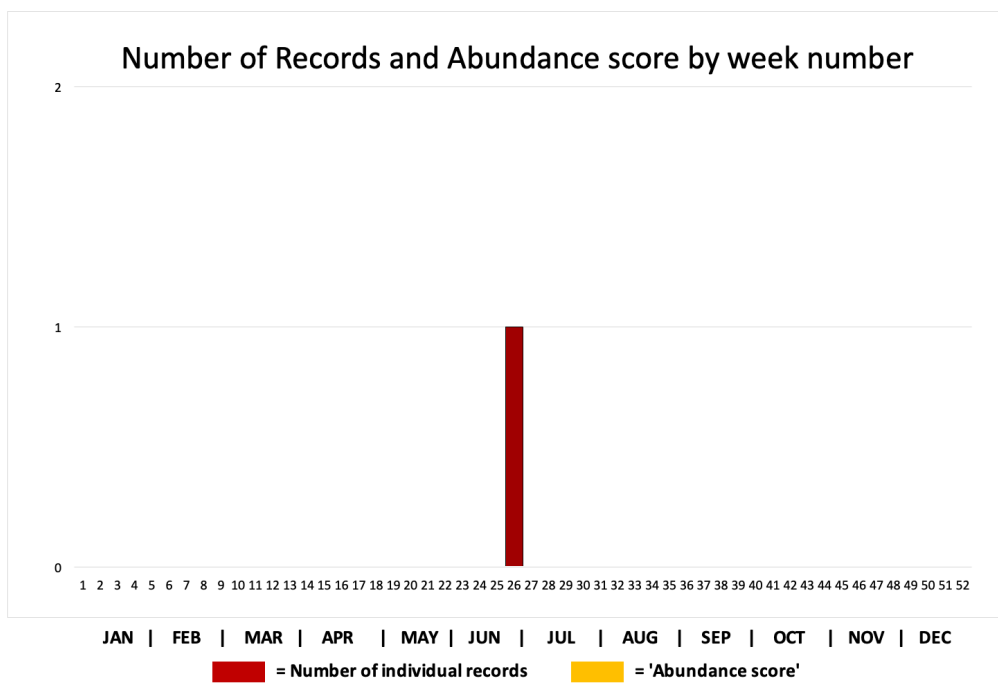
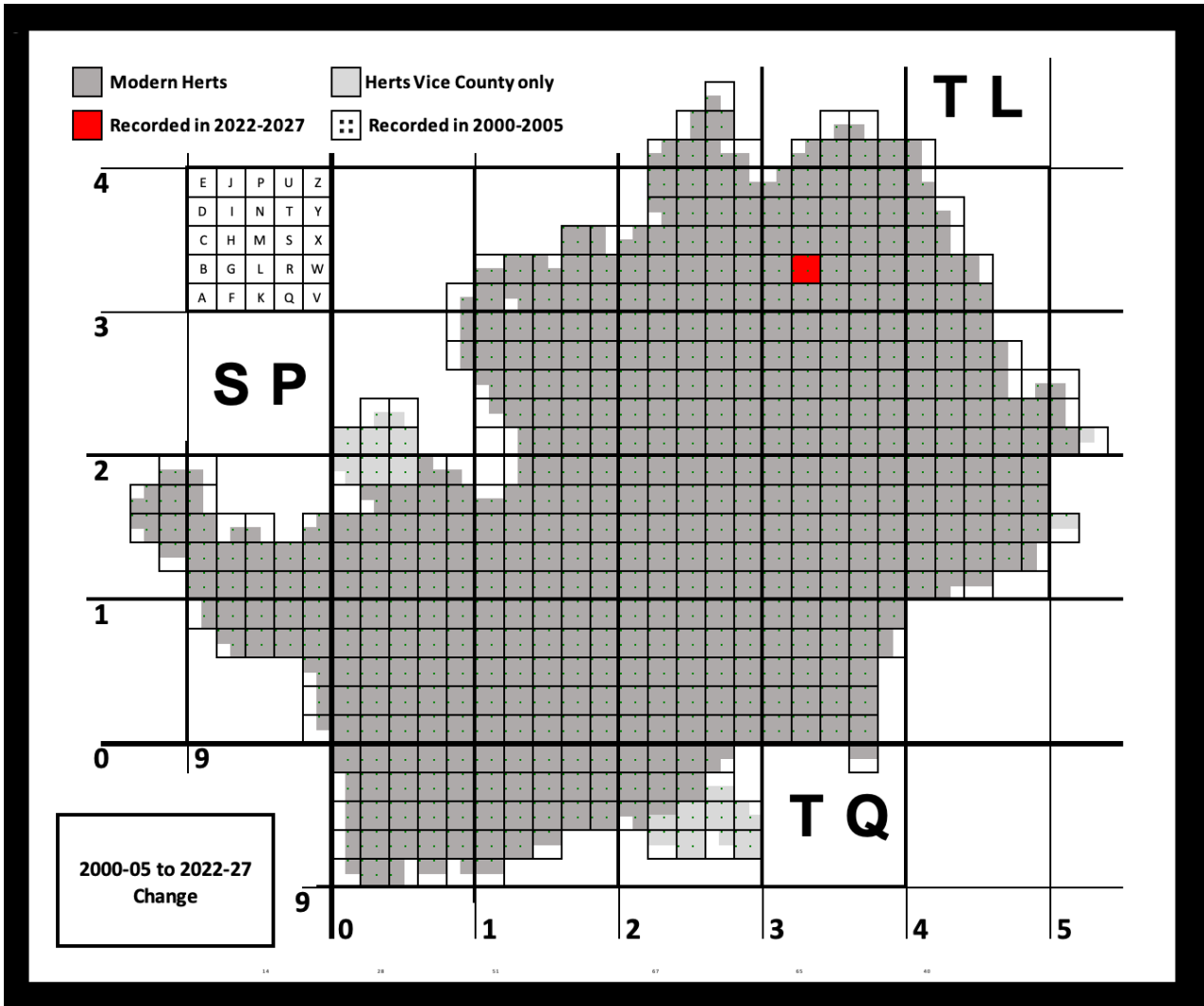
Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

Common, widespread and often numerous. Will breed in any wetland site and also commonly encountered well away from water.



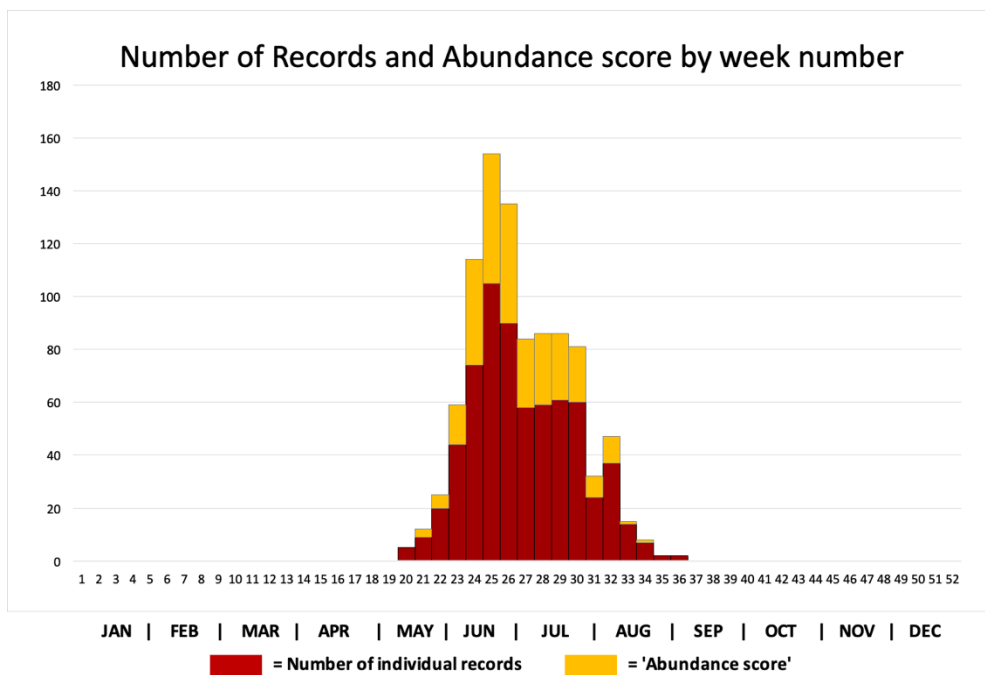
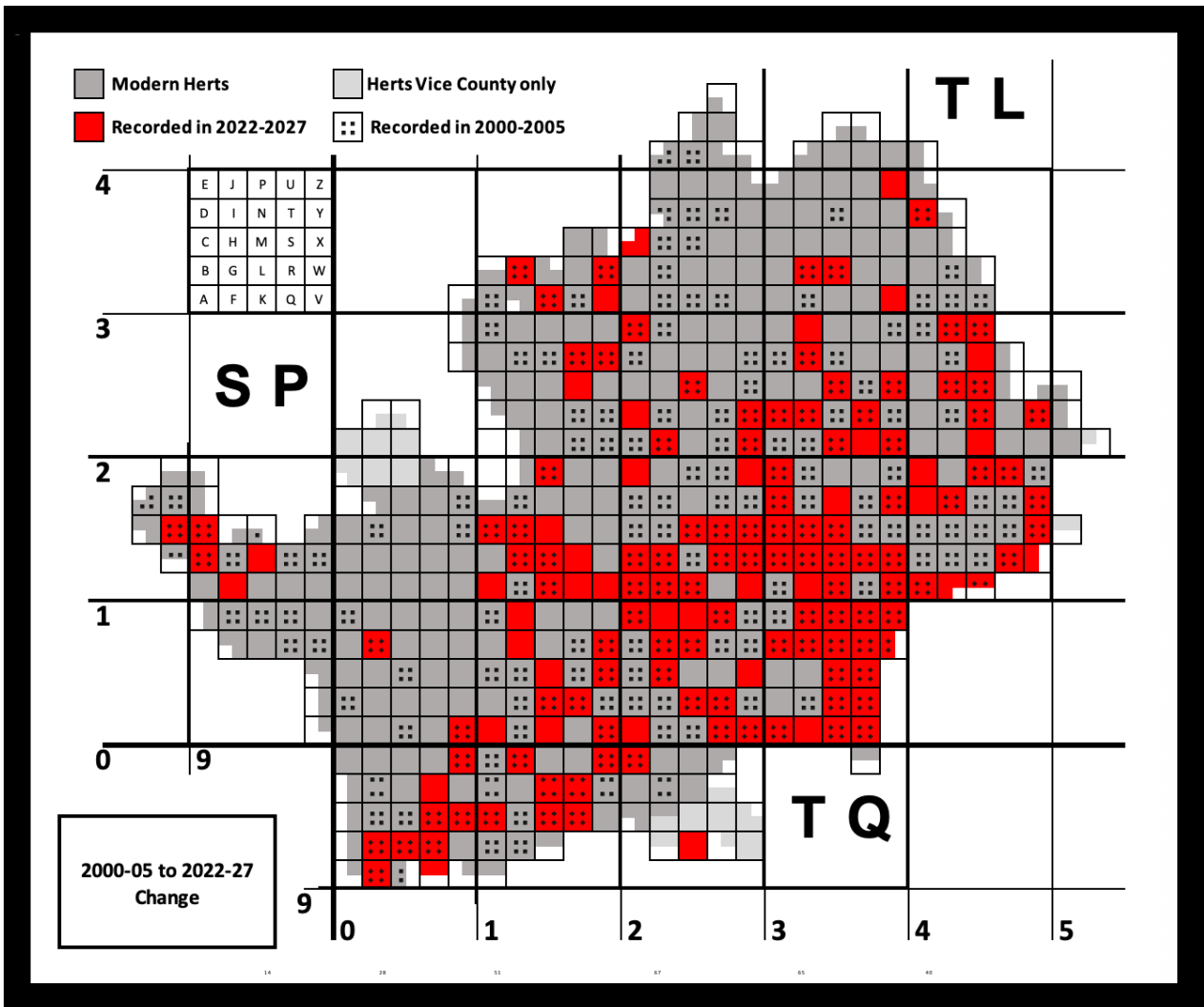
Vagrant Emperor (*Anax ephippiger*)

A very rare visitor to the UK with records requiring acceptance by a British Dragonfly Society national committee (the record shown has not yet been confirmed as accepted).



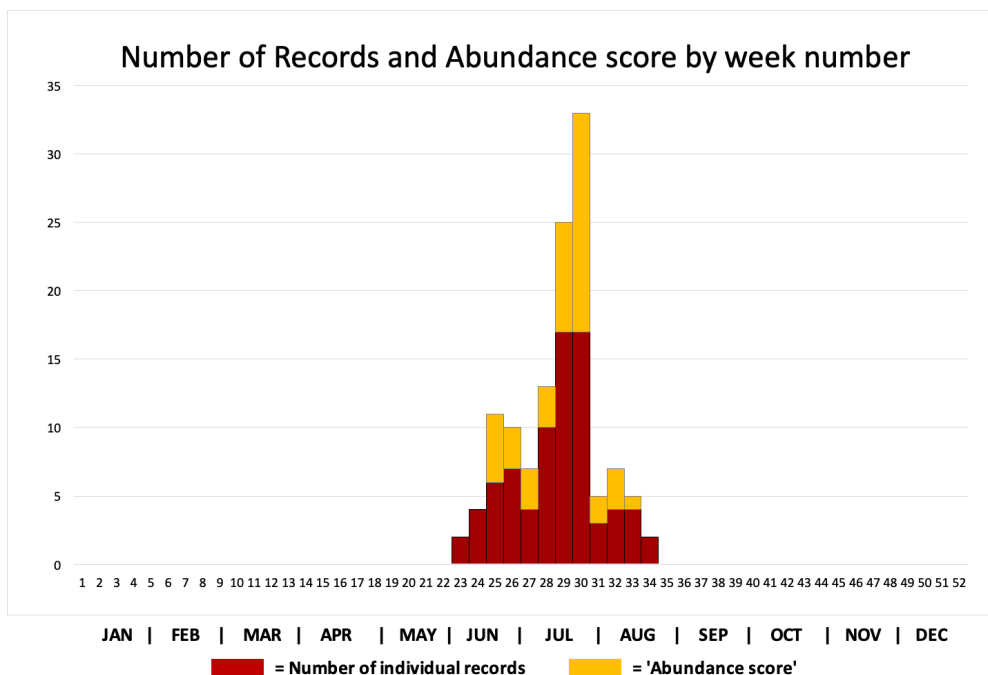
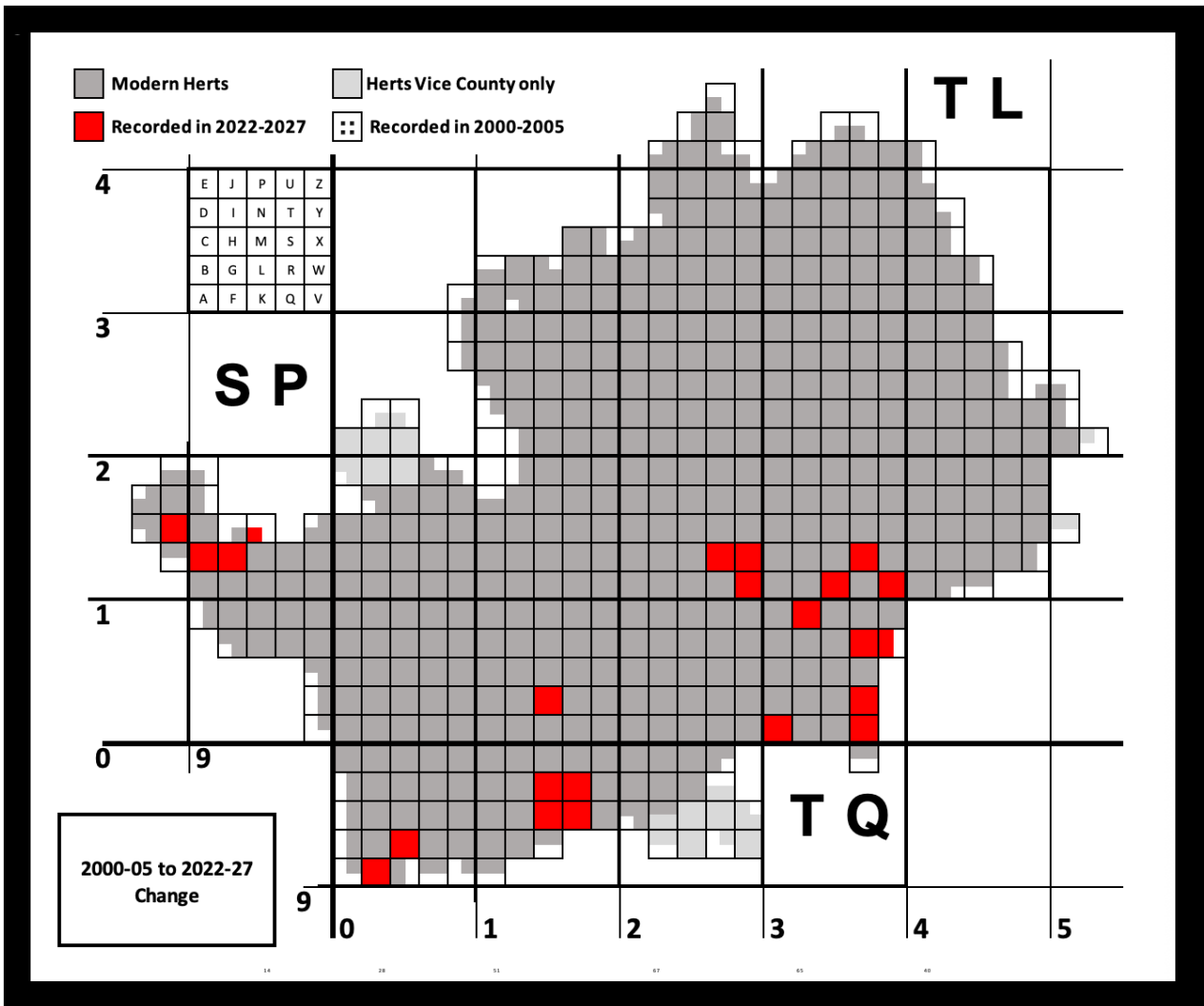
Emperor (*Anax imperator*)

Widespread and common. Will breed in any water bodies and is also frequently encountered away from water.



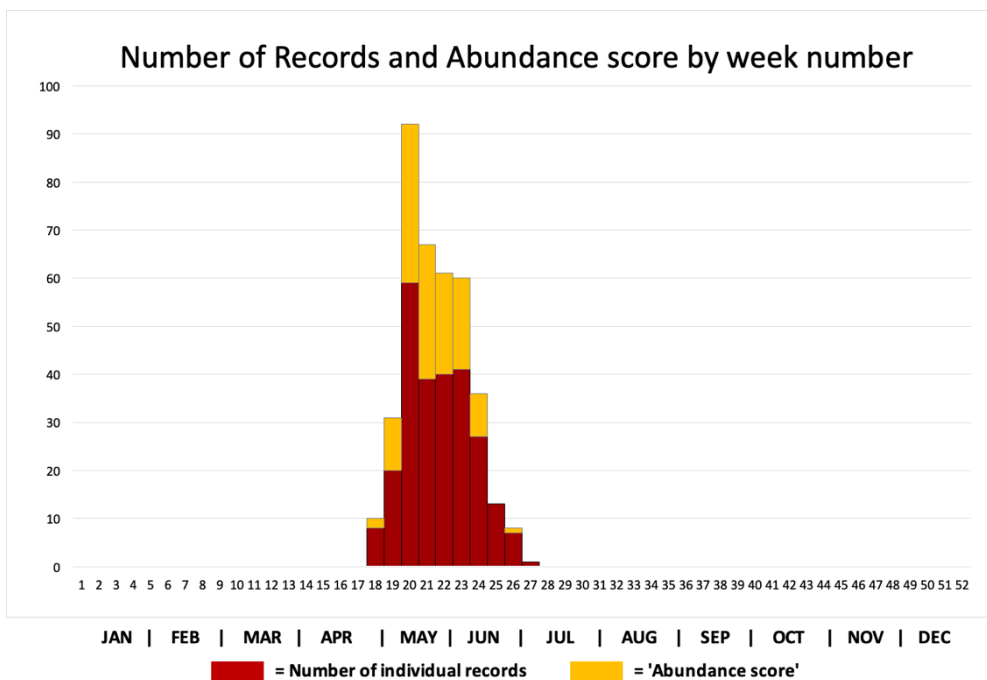
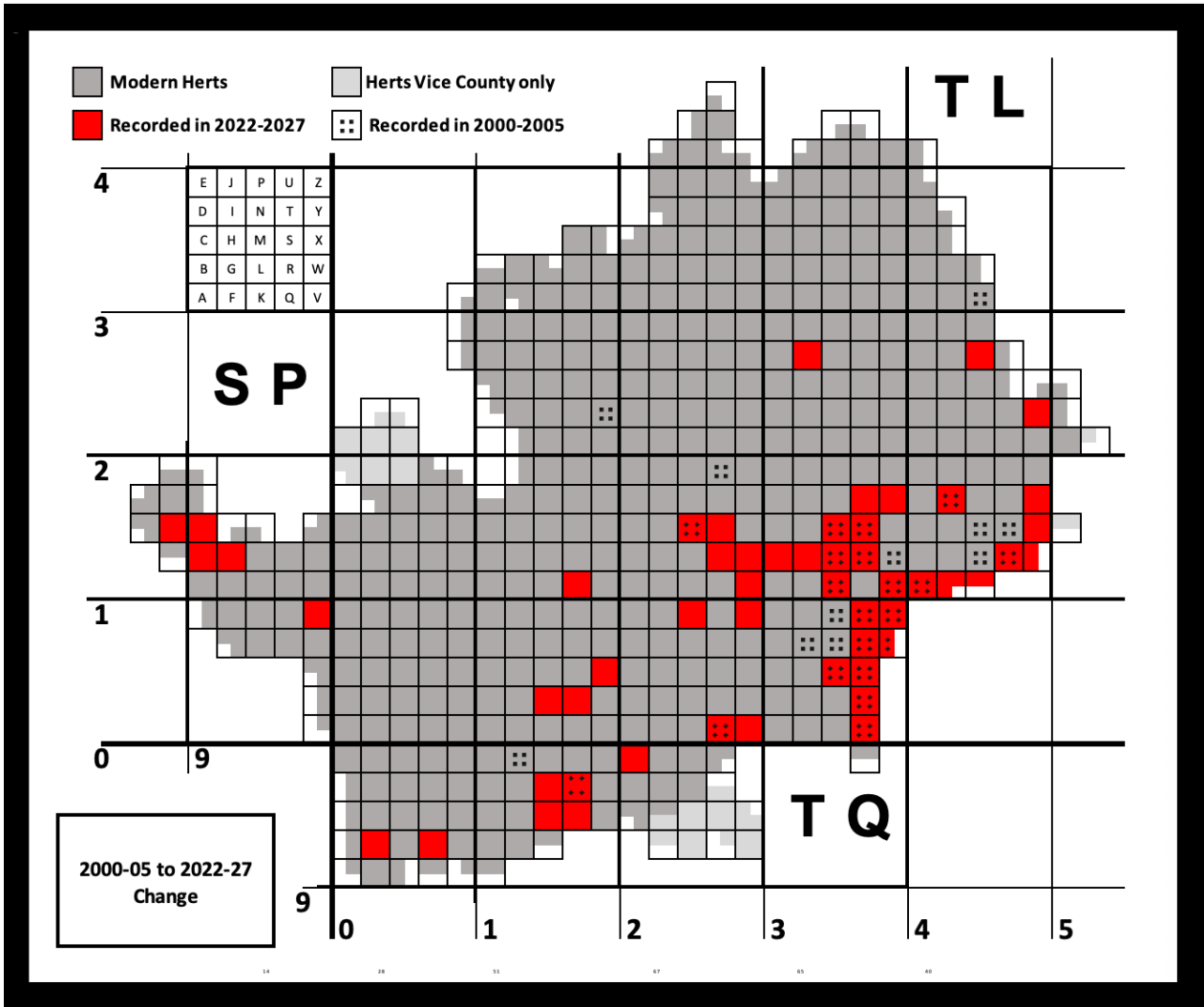
Lesser Emperor (*Anax Parthenope*)

A species that has increased its distribution rapidly in the last few years. Most likely to be found at reservoirs and large gravel pits with abundant emergent vegetation.



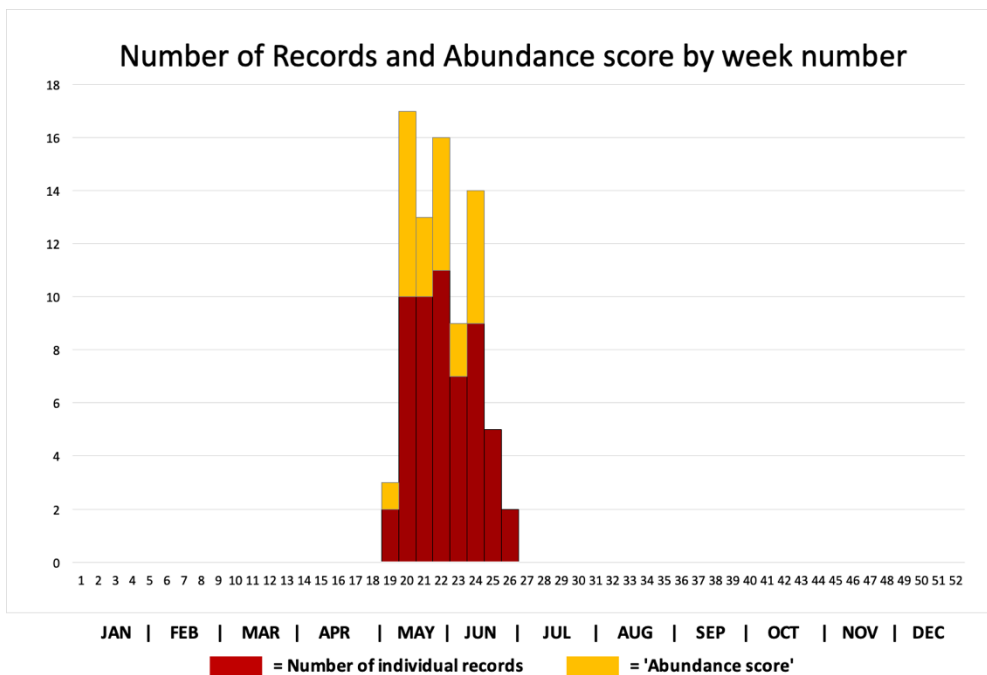
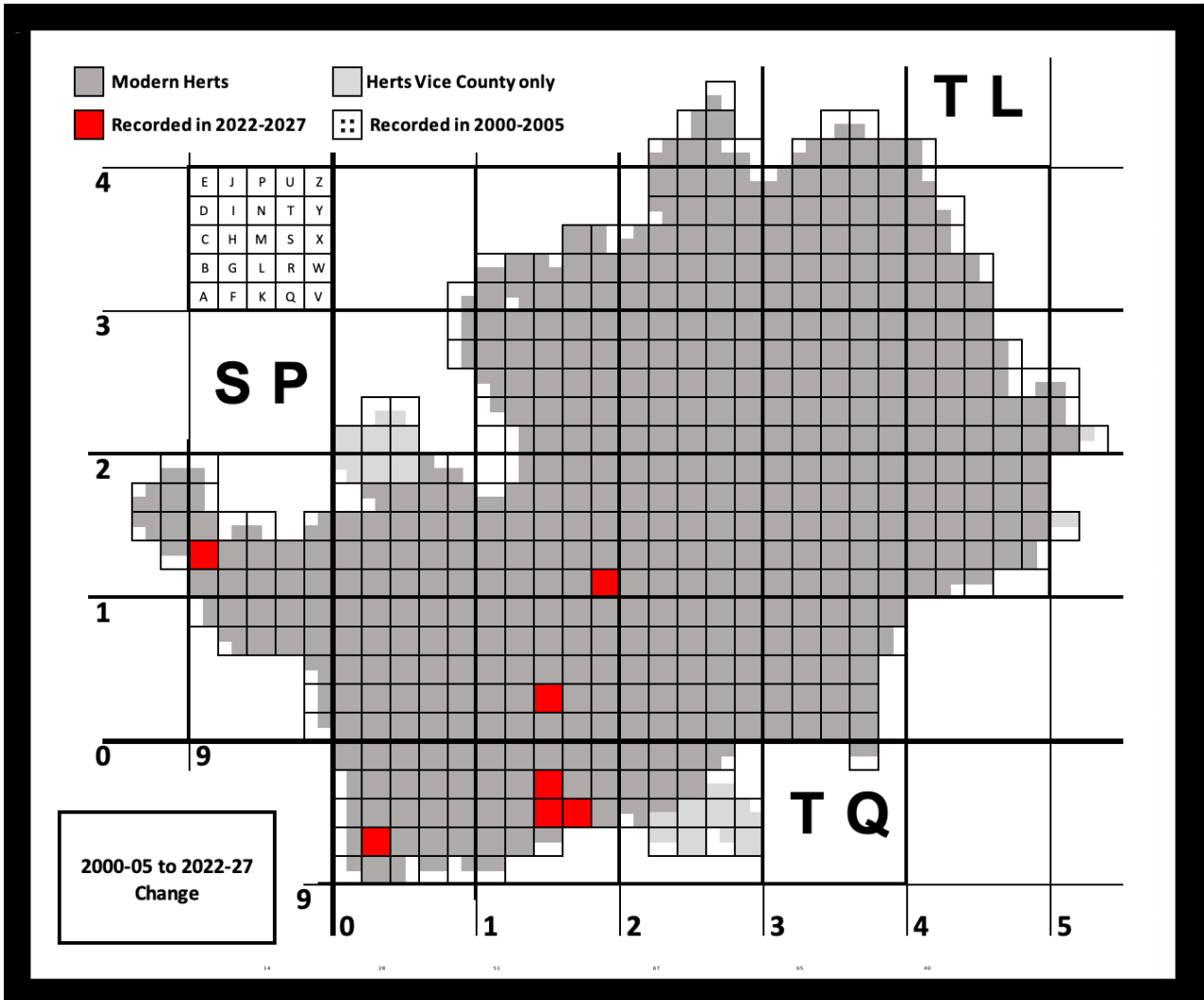
Hairy Dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*)

Uncommon but spreading. A species with a relative short, early flight period that favours rivers, canals and lakes/gravel pits with plenty of emergent vegetation around the banks.



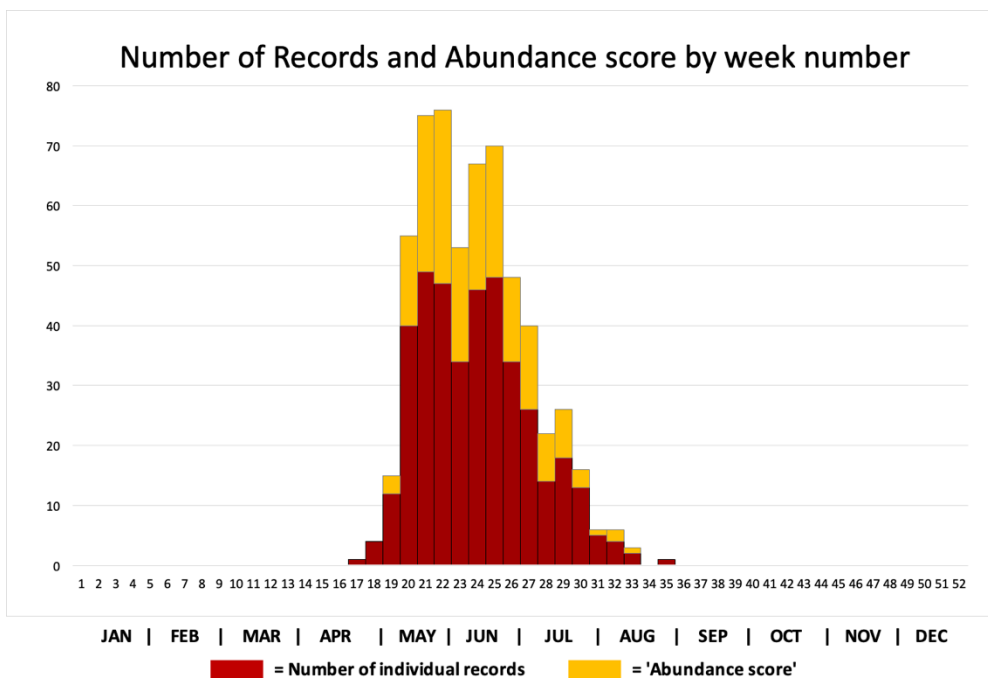
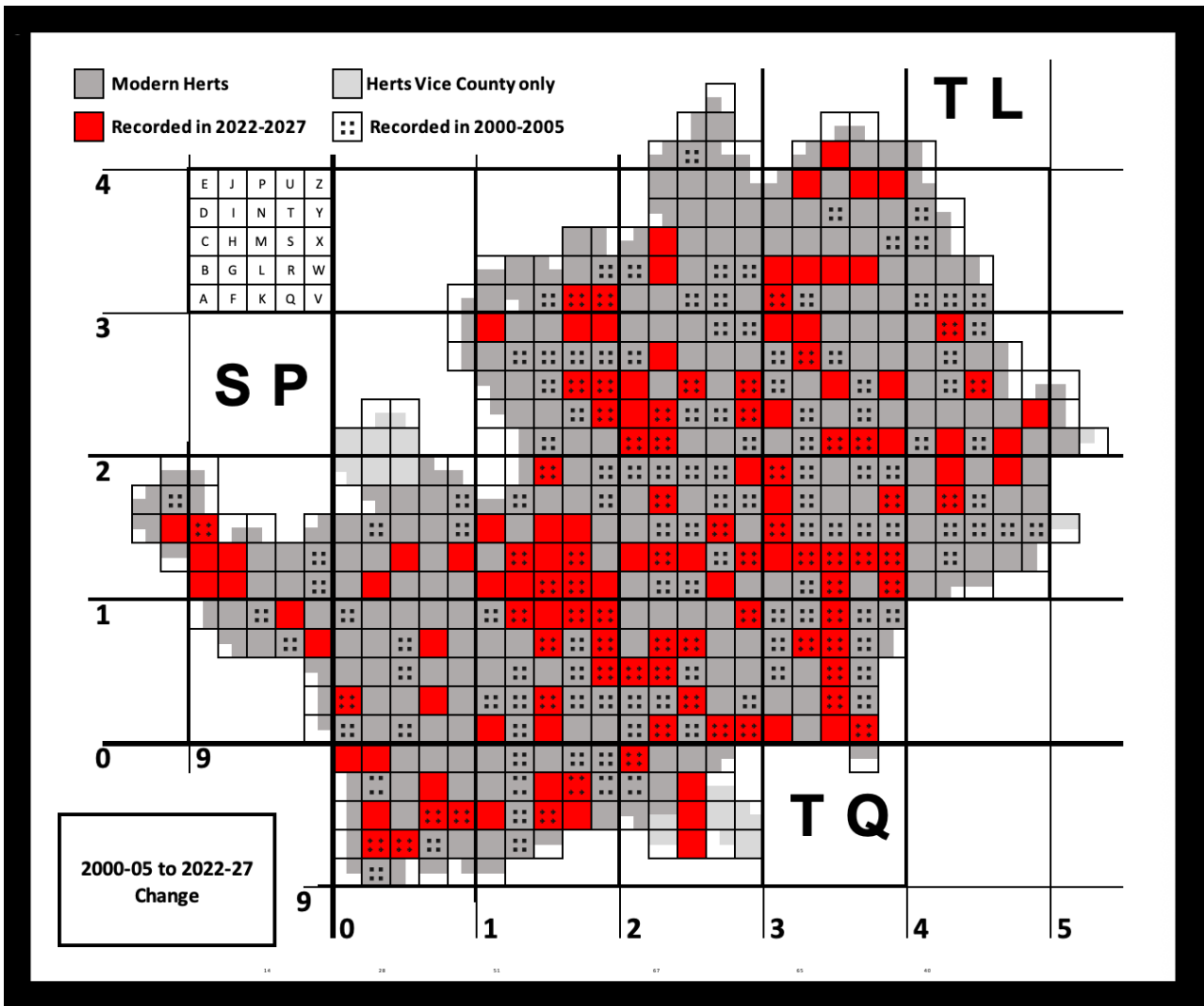
Downy Emerald (*Cordulia aenea*)

Scarce and very localised – perhaps not yet properly established at any site.



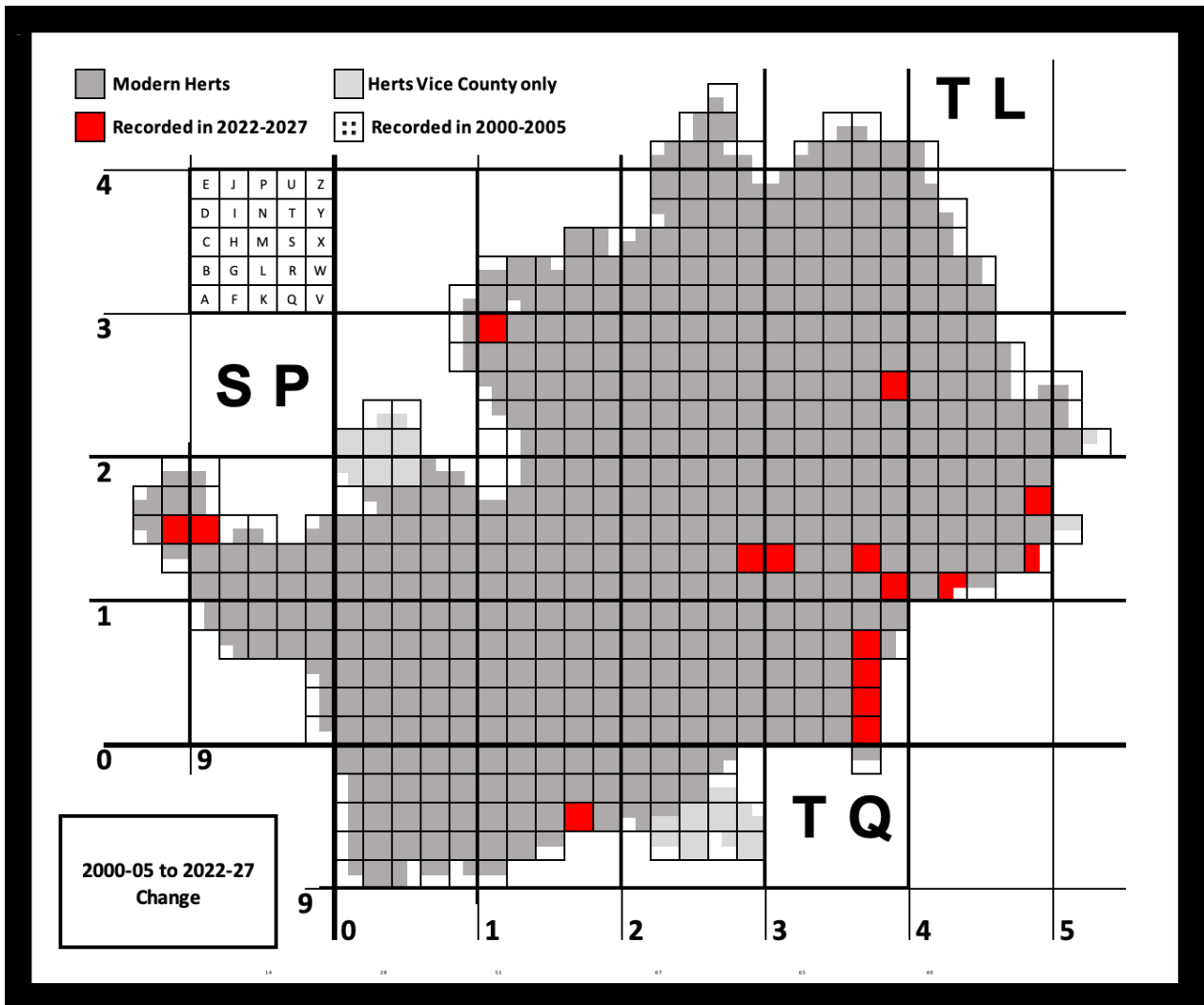
Broad-bodied Chaser (*Libellula depressa*)

Widespread and fairly common. A species that is typical of ponds, especially those that don't have much vegetation. Often one of the first species to colonise recently dug ponds.

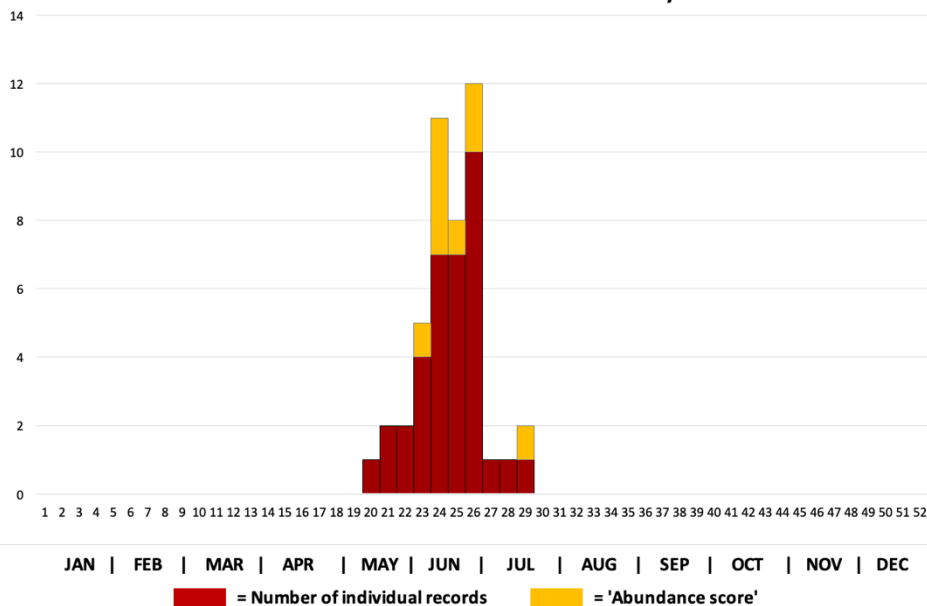


Scarce Chaser (*Libellula fulva*)

Scarce and localised. Small populations are established on the Grand Union Canal near Wilstone and along the Lea and Stort canals, with individuals occasionally also being found elsewhere.

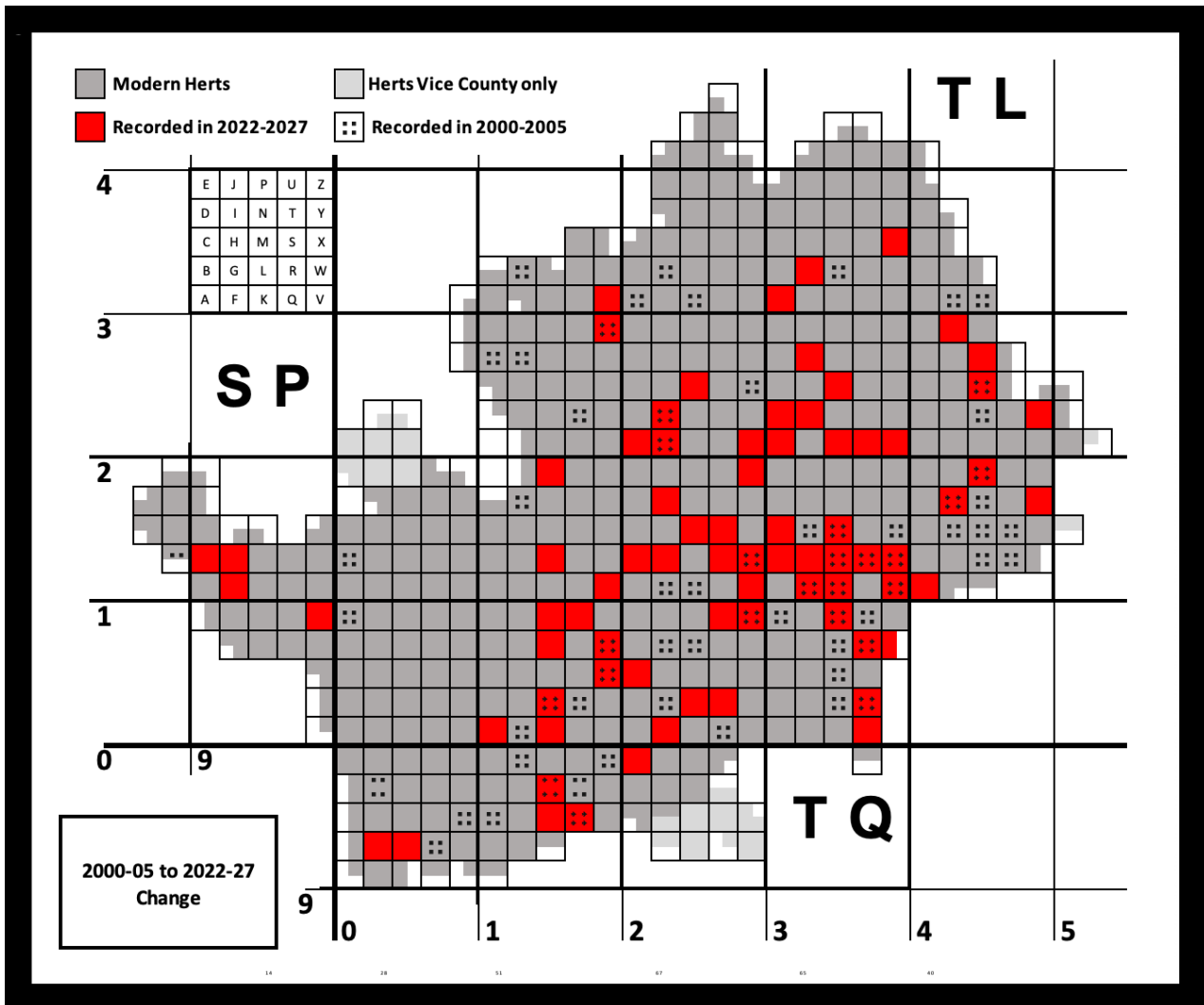


Number of Records and Abundance score by week number

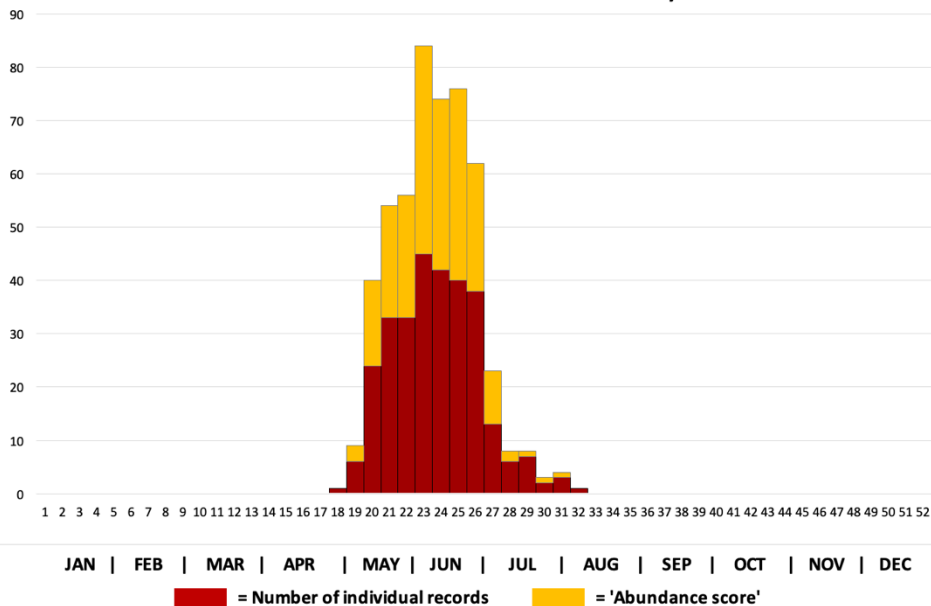


Four-spotted Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*)

Widespread and fairly common. Typically found at ponds, especially those with extensive emergent vegetation



Number of Records and Abundance score by week number

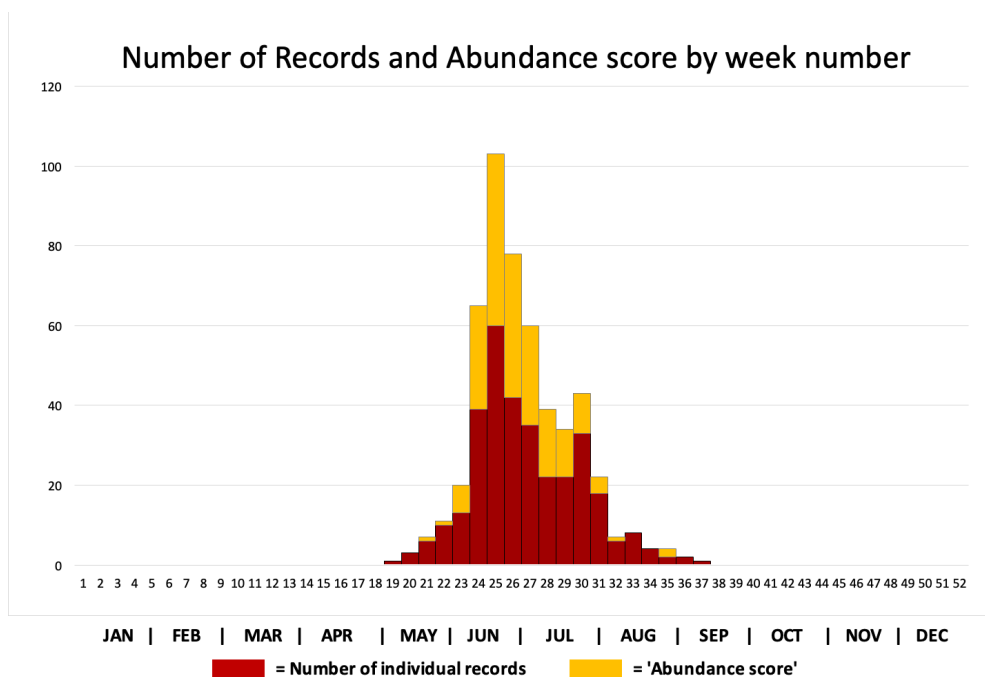
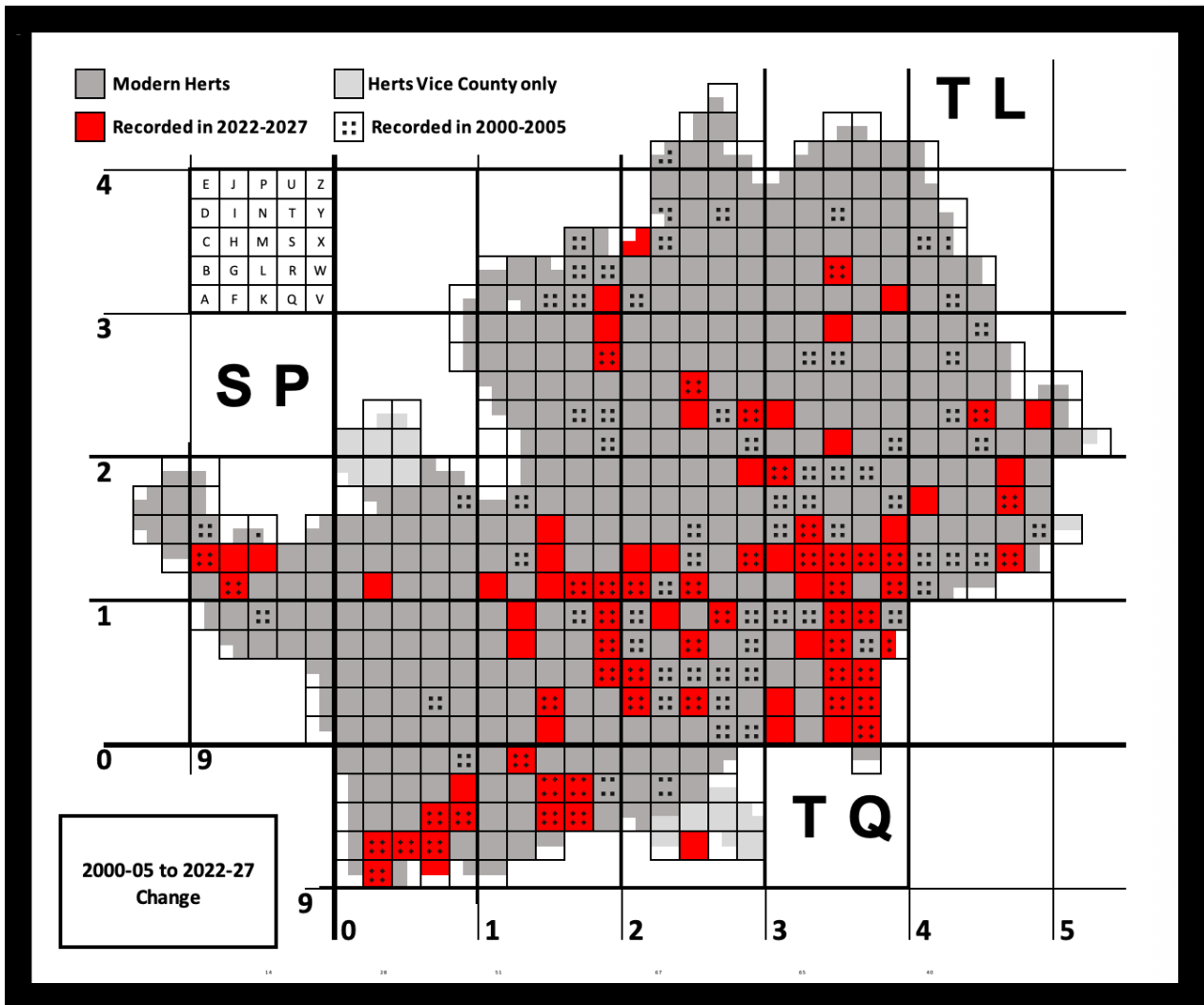


JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC

■ = Number of individual records ■ = 'Abundance score'

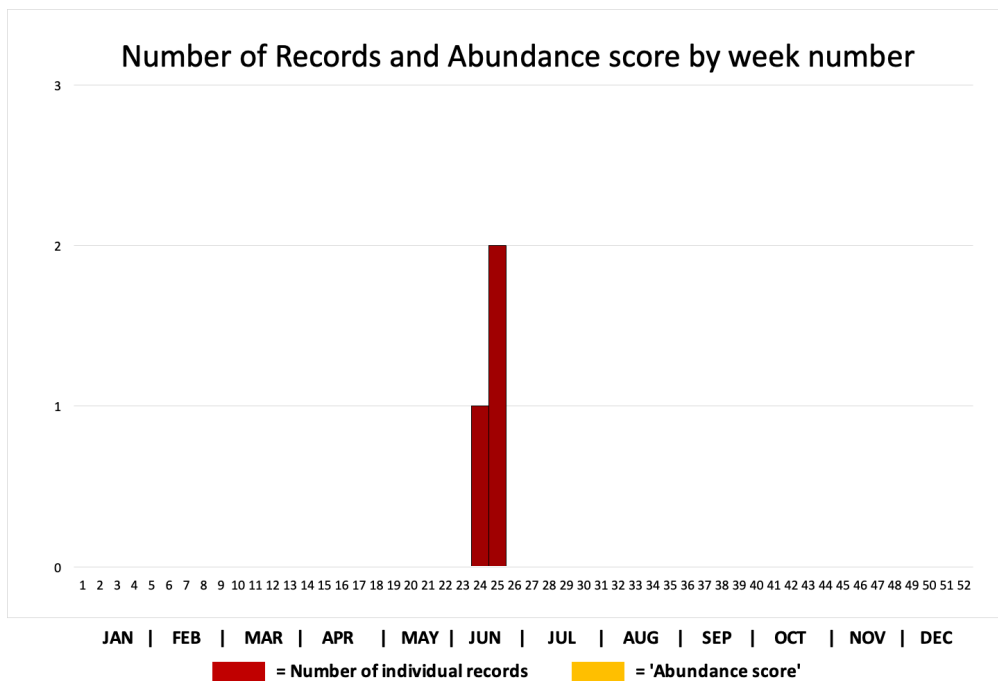
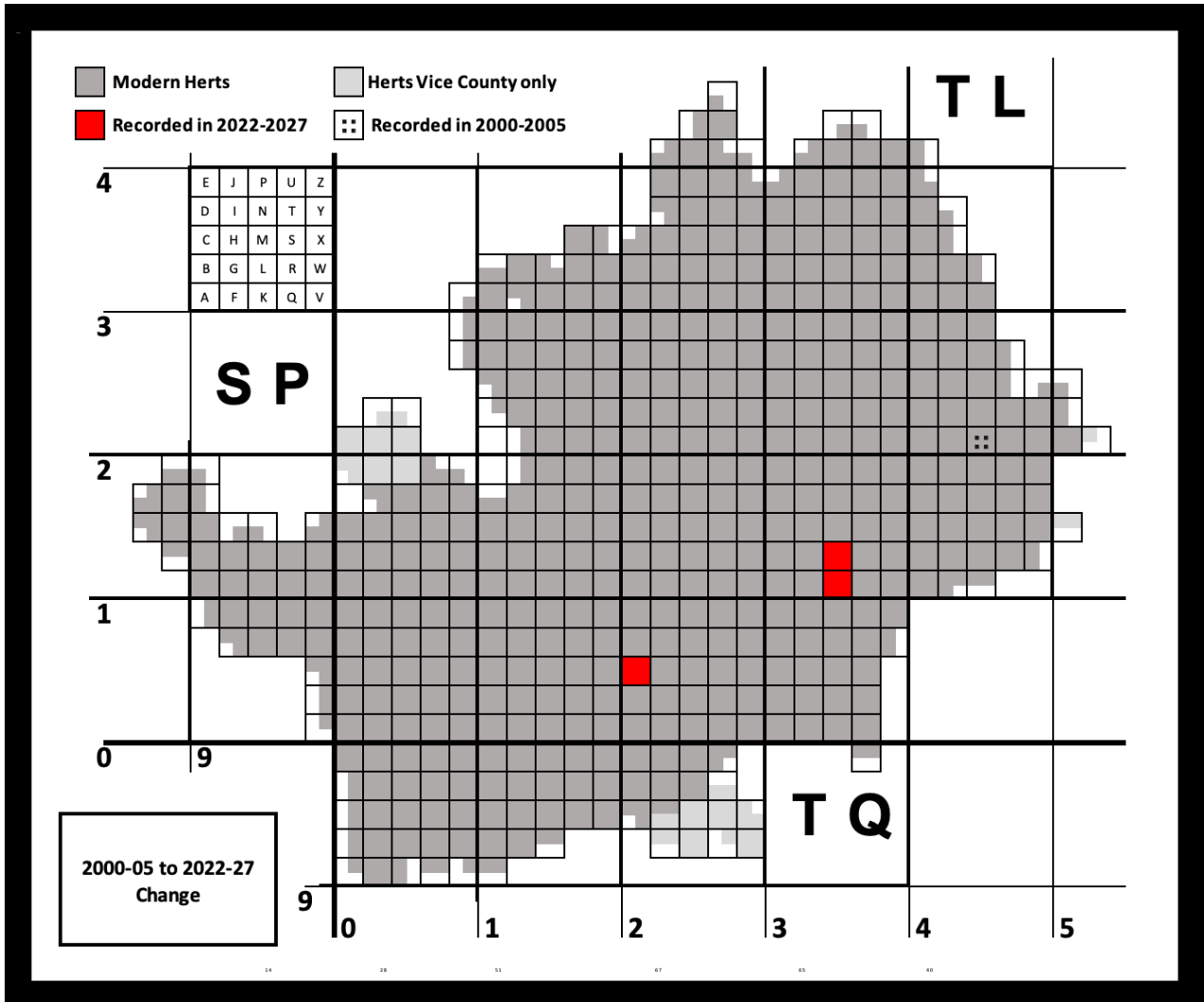
Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*)

Widespread and fairly common. Favours larger lakes and gravel pits, especially those with bare, unvegetated areas around the banks.



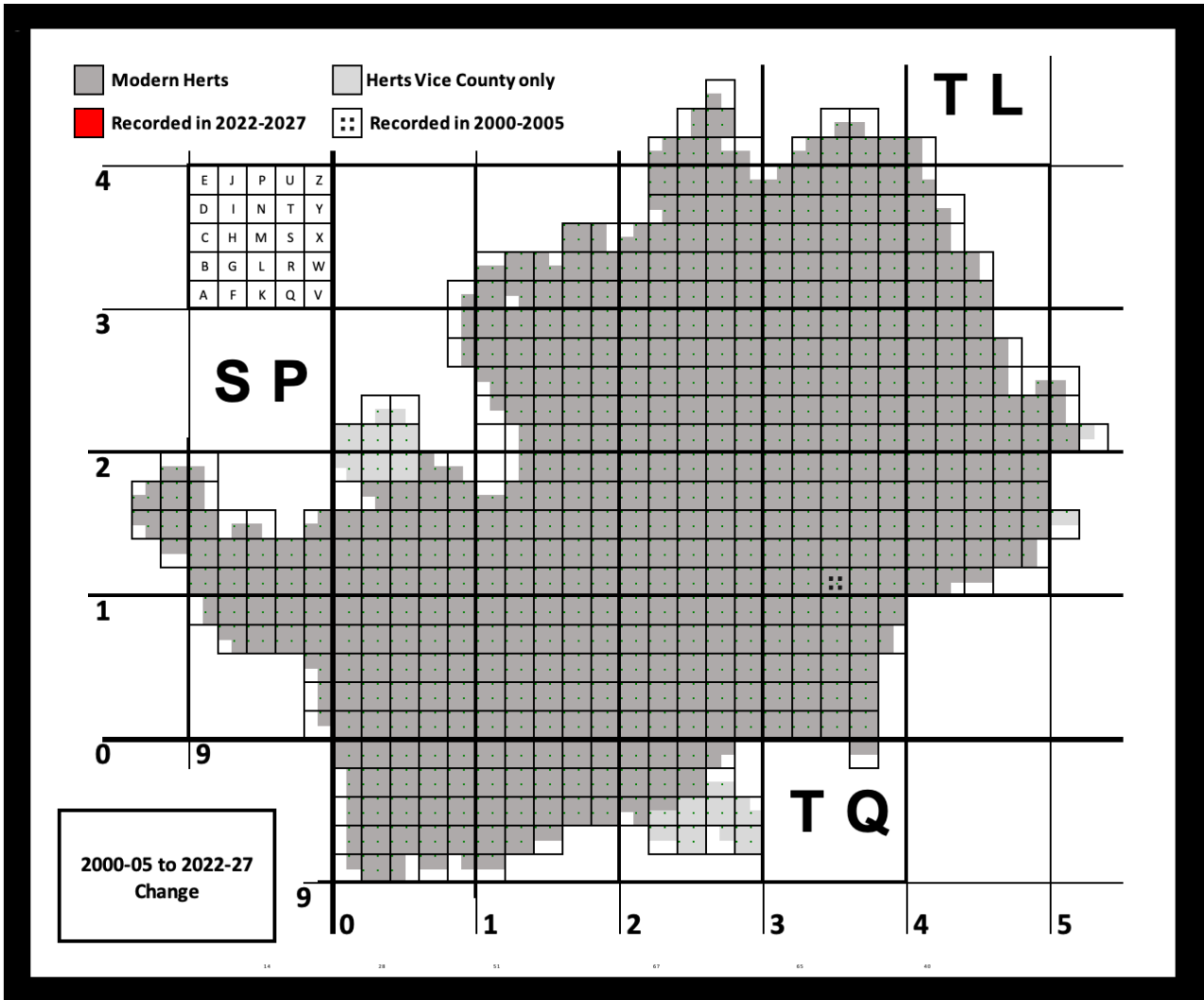
Keeled Skimmer (*Orthetrum coerulescens*)

A very rare visitor to the county with no known established population.



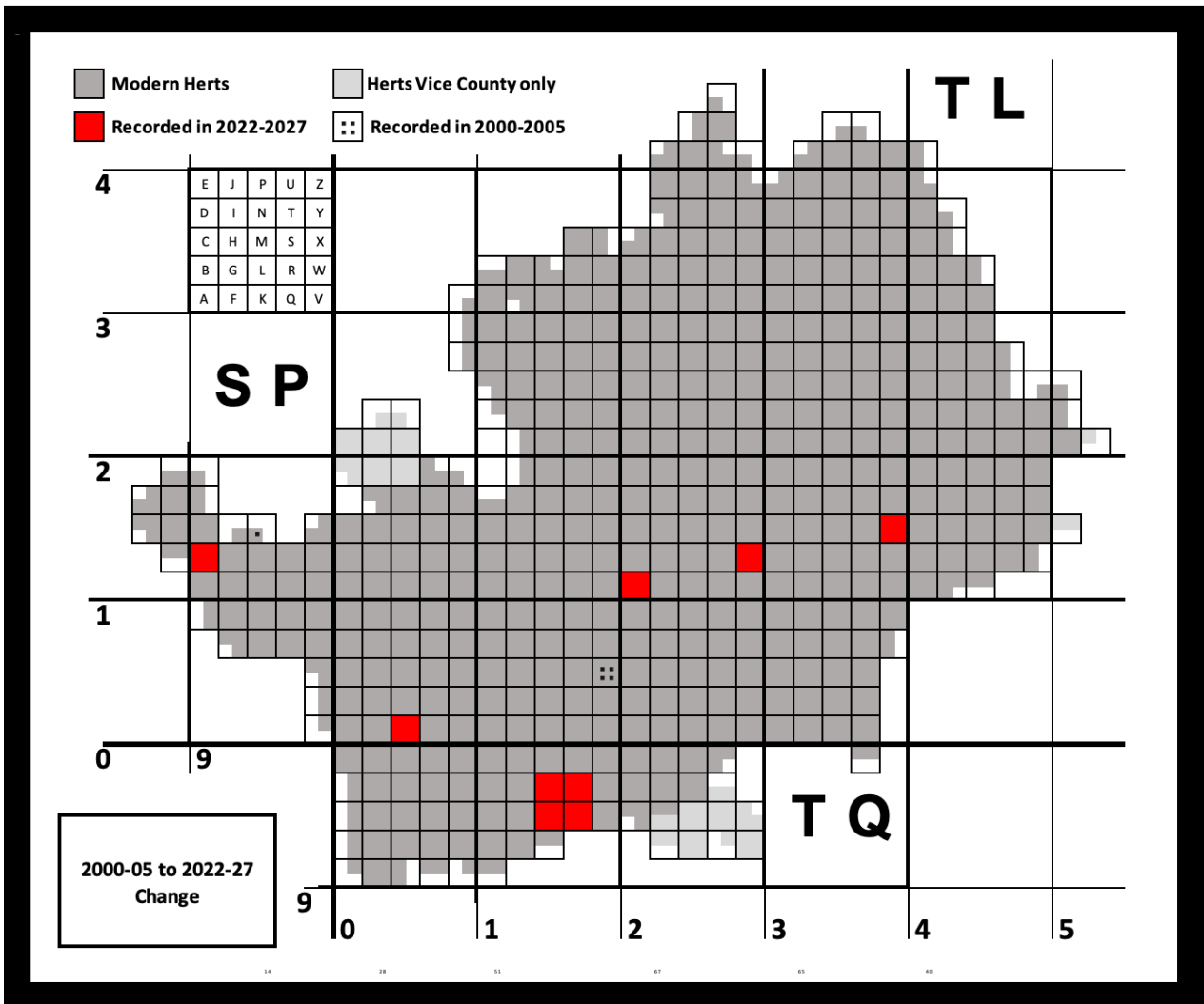
Black Darter (*Sympetrum danae*)

A rare visitor to Hertfordshire with no records in recent years.

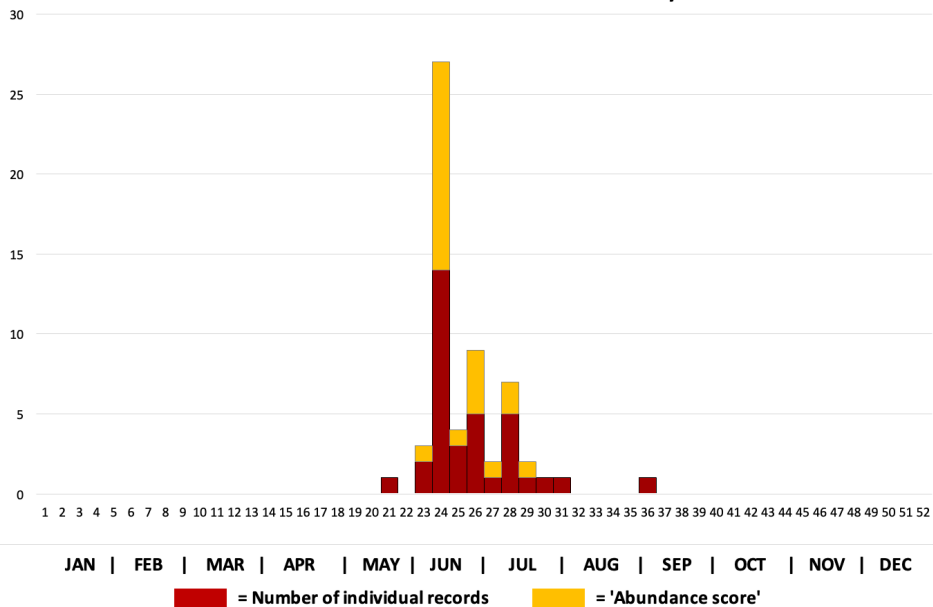


Red-veined Darter (*Sympetrum foscolumbii*)

An uncommon migrant which seems to be occurring with increasing regularity. Most county records have come from reservoirs and larger gravel pits.

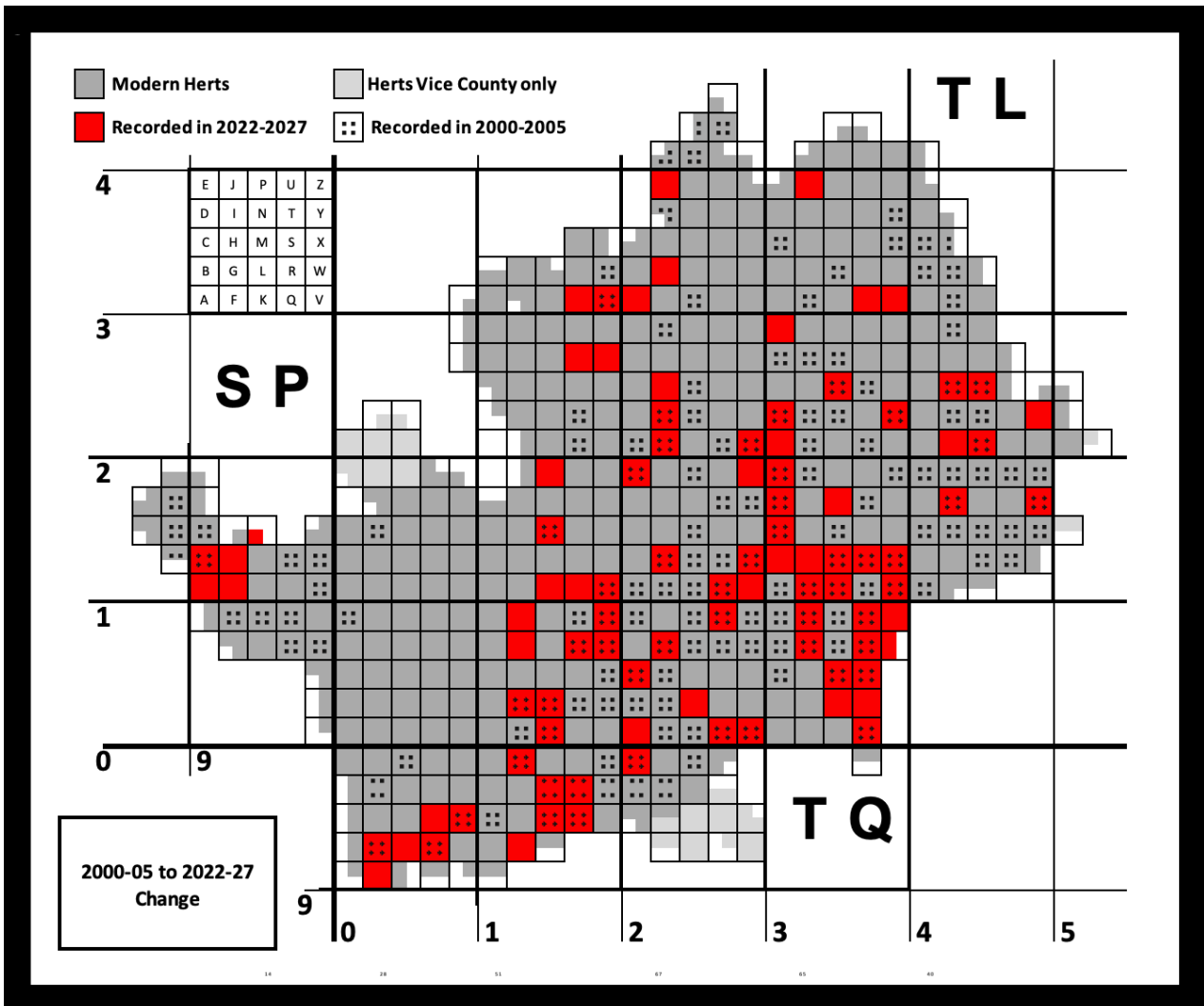


Number of Records and Abundance score by week number

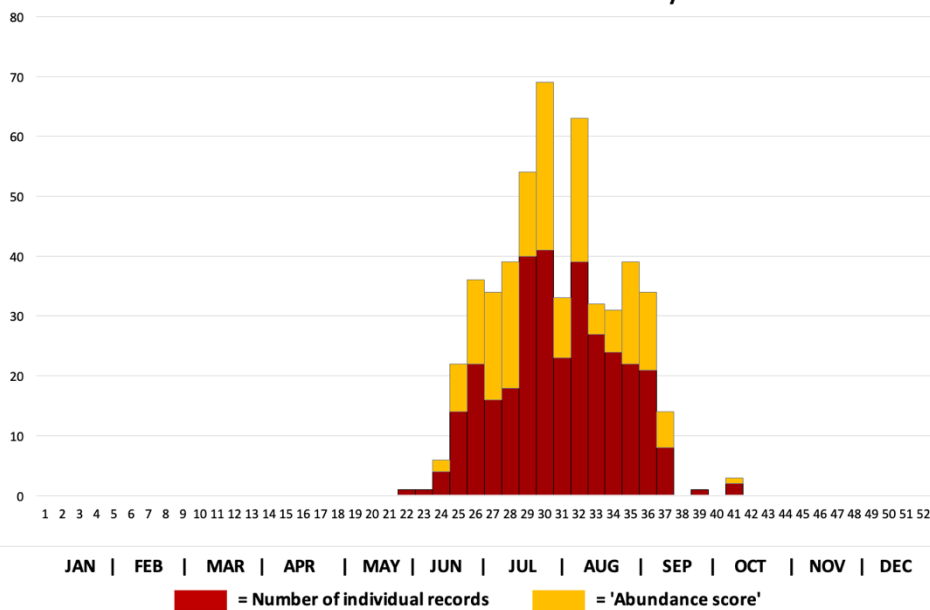


Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*)

Widespread and locally common. Favours ponds, including ponds that may dry out completely during the summer.

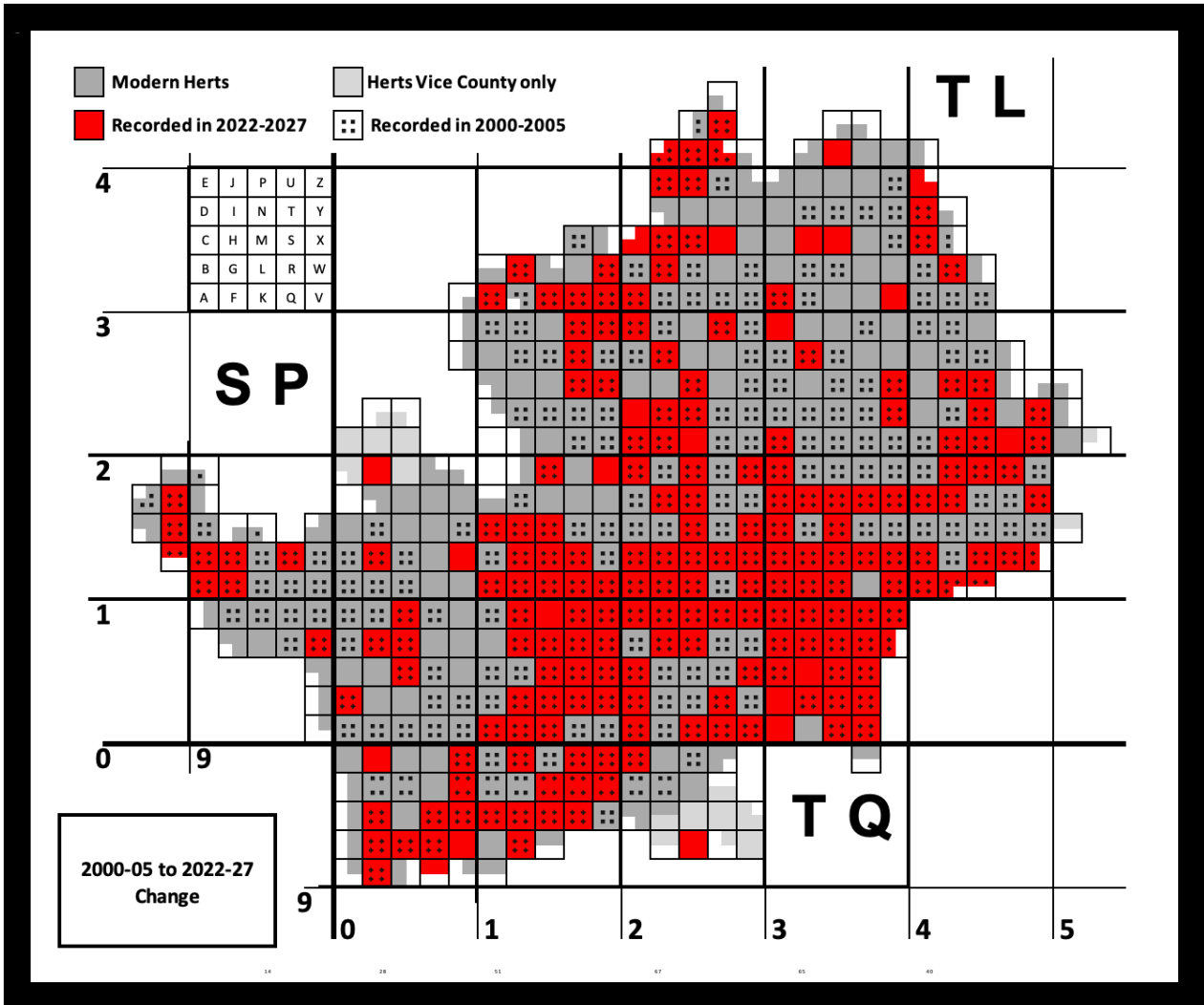


Number of Records and Abundance score by week number



Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

Widespread and common. May be found breeding at any wetland site and also often encountered well away from water.



Number of Records and Abundance score by week number

