



# The Ohio Dragon - Flier



\* *Newsletter of the Ohio Odonata Society* \*

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**CORRECTION** to new officers list for 2008 / 2009.  
by *Steve W. Chordas III*

Much to the chagrin of the editor, an error was made in the new officer list in the last Dragonflier (Volume 18 #2). The member at large was incorrect, it should have been Erik Pilgrim. The corrected list is included here.

- Officers for 2008 - 2009 : (officers hold their elected positions until the next annual meeting in 2009)
- President :** *Dan Riggs* (Sheridan High School, Thornville Ohio)
  - Vice President :** *Brian Keas* (Ohio Northern University, Ada Ohio)
  - Treasurer :** *Robert Restifo* (Ohio Department of Health , retired, Columbus Ohio)
  - Member at Large :** *Erik Pilgrim* (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, Ohio)
  - Past President :** *Dwight Moody* (University of Findlay, Findlay Ohio)



**“Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northeast Ohio, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition” NOW AVAILABLE**

Written by *Larry Rocshe, Judy Semroc and Linda Gilbert.*  
Illustrations by *Jennifer Brumfield.*

The book is now published and available for purchase. Visit <http://www.ddneo.info/> for more information and to download an order form. Alternatively, you can contact Renee Boronka at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History by phone at 216-231-4600 ext 3505 or by e-mail at [rboronka@cmnh.org](mailto:rboronka@cmnh.org).

The volume is a bargain at \$24.95 + shipping. Order yours today !

\* We welcome a review of the book from our membership. Please consider submitting a review to the editor Steve Chordas III via email at [stevechordas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevechordas@sbcglobal.net)



# Mark your Calendars !!!

& see you there !!



**2009 OHIO ODONATA SOCIETY MEETING IS SATURDAY MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> !**

by *Brian Keas & Steve W. Chordas III*

**Keynote Speaker ??** : If you have any suggestions for an individual to be our Keynote Speaker or a Subject for a Keynote talk please send the pertinent information along to either Brian Keas ([b-keas@onu.edu](mailto:b-keas@onu.edu)) or Steve Chordas ([stevechordas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevechordas@sbcglobal.net)) and we will do our best to secure that individual or invite an individual who could fulfill a keynote address on that subject. Thanks !!

**\*\* Call for presentations \*\*** : If you wish to give a presentation (or can pass this invite along to an individual who you know could give a presentation) at the 2009 OOS meeting, please contact either Brian Keas at "[b-keas@onu.edu](mailto:b-keas@onu.edu)" or Steve Chordas at "[stevechordas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevechordas@sbcglobal.net)". We have a couple potential speakers lined up so far but we still have many available time slots to insert your presentation. Please provide the following 4 things : 1) The title of your presentation; 2) Time needed; 3) Media requirements; 4) Full name of Author(s). Also, indicate your preference of Morning or Afternoon presentation (or "any" if you have no time preference).

**Location** : The 2009 OOS meeting will be held at a newly constructed conference facility "The Inn" at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.  
See the website ([http://www-new.onu.edu/community/inn\\_ohio\\_northern\\_university](http://www-new.onu.edu/community/inn_ohio_northern_university)) for more information!

**Date** : **Saturday, 28 March 2009**

**Time** : To Be Determined : \*\* But likely the meeting will run from about 8:00am to 4:00pm (a meeting itinerary will be included in the January 2009 issue of the Dragonflier - watch for it !)

**Lunch** : ? We are happy to announce that lunch will once again be provided for FREE to all those who register !!

**Registration** : Best deal of 2008 : **FREE**. Registration information will be included in the January 2009 issue of the Dragonflier.

**\*\* Volunteers Needed !** : **Three (3)** volunteers are solicited to help with the meeting. Two to help chair sessions (one to chair the morning session and one to chair the afternoon session : introduce speakers, kick them out when their time is up, you know) and one to help with the computer / projection of the meeting presentations. Please contact Steve Chordas at "[stevechordas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevechordas@sbcglobal.net)" if you can help! *Many Thanks !!*



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**Please submit - Newsletter contributions !!** From the editor, *Steve W. Chordas III*

Special Thanks to **Bob Glotzhober & Dr. George Harp**, for submitting excellent contributions to this newsletter!! We are always looking for your thoughts / findings / Odonata related materials, announcements or general information to include in the Dragon-flier. We welcome submissions from our membership. Feel free to send your contributions, ideas, suggestions to Steve Chordas at ([stevechordas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevechordas@sbcglobal.net)) or snail mail at 1063 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Grandview Heights, Ohio 43212.

## THE VALUE OF PHOTO RECORDS

by Bob Glotzhober

A picture is worth a thousand words - or so we have been told. But when it comes to documenting species distribution for conservation efforts, just how much is it really worth?

In 1991, when a small group of us first started surveying Ohio for dragonflies and damselflies, we had a couple of long discussions regarding what would be accepted for our database of records from Ohio. We quickly determined that we wanted a database that could be supported by science. That meant we wanted people to be able to question a record, review the identification of the specimen, and re-evaluate over time the status of records and species distribution. We had limited discussion of private collections versus public collections. We had some concern about the potential for private collections to disappear over the years, getting thrown away by someone's children or grandchildren after the person's death. It is a realistic concern and some of us have seen that happen. Regardless, for a period of time there was potential for a worker to contact the private collector and be able to review their specimens - so we decided to include records from specimens in any sort of collection.

In contrast, we determined to eliminate from the database any sight records. We all knew and respected the capabilities of Dr. Donald Borror, who often included in his publications notation of sight records. Of course, he always identified such records as only from observation. In those days there were no pictorial field guides to Odonates, and the number of people who could reliably identify anything beyond the most common species by sight was very limited. We therefore determined to not judge who was or was not reliable, but to discount from the database all records based upon sight only. We might make note of the record somewhere, and it might provide impetus to search a particular area to add a solid record for that species, but sight records were out as far as the official database was concerned!

Also in the early 90s, the numbers of good photographs available, and the number of good photographers shooting images that could be reliably identified were very, very small. During the late 90s and early part of this decade that changed dramatically. Probably all of us have at least one, if not a handful, of well illustrated photographic manuals for dragonflies and damselflies. More are coming out every year. They greatly simplify identification of species for most species. Hence, early this decade a group of us started looking at how we might set up a committee to review photos and determine which ones might be fully acceptable for inclusion in our database. If you have been a member for a while, you know we have completed this, and have added photo records every year since 2003. The complete guidelines for the committee are available on the OOS

website, or you can contact any of the committee members for PDF or printed version of them.

Of course, photo records do have some limitations. You can never run DNA on a photo record. A group of folks have recently been looking at *Macromia* (River Cruisers) in Ohio and elsewhere - and their identification and even the genetics is not fully worked out yet. It's also very hard to determine after the fact which species might be in the photograph, when at some time after the photo was taken it is discovered that what we thought was a single species is actually two! The confusion in Ohio between the Slender Baskettail and the Common Baskettail was not even known when we first approved the PRC. Just the same, Photo Records in most cases provide a valuable addition to our information about distribution in Ohio. Our database indicates which records are from photos, so that they could be filtered out for some particular scientific analysis.

Some folks have wondered about the value of our "restrictive" guideline for accepting records from photos, and/or the reasoning for not accepting sight records. A very interesting article that speaks to this issue was published in the June, 2008 issue of BioScience magazine:

**McKelvey, K.S., K. B. Aubry and M.K. Schwartz.**

**2008.** Using anecdotal occurrence data for rare or elusive species: The illusion of reality and a call for evidentiary standards. *BioScience* 58 (6):549-555.

The authors review three cases where conservation biology mingled with politics variously reacted too slowly or too quickly to conservation needs because the data being used was co-mingled with anecdotal sightings without any hard evidence. The examples reviewed included a decade-delayed listing for the fisher in the Pacific northwest, a greatly misled over-confidence in wolverine numbers in California, and (author's conclusions) too much expenditure of limited time and monies for the ivory-billed woodpecker without sufficient hard evidence. I believe the type of guidelines we have for the Photo Records Committee should help preclude similar problems. I should note that Ohio was one of the first places in the country to have such guidelines for Odonates.

For your reference, Dr. Tom Schultz at Denison University is the current chair of the Photo Records Committee. The following are the members and their contact information. All proposed listings should be sent directly to the chair.

2008 Members of the PRC

- 3 years (08, 09, 2010): Bob Glotzhober ([bglotzhober@ohiohistory.org](mailto:bglotzhober@ohiohistory.org)) and Shane Myers ([rebo429@gmail.com](mailto:rebo429@gmail.com))
- 2 years left (08, 09): Tom Schultz ([schultz@cc.denison.edu](mailto:schultz@cc.denison.edu)) and John Pogacnik ([jpogacnik@adelphia.net](mailto:jpogacnik@adelphia.net))
- 1 years left (08): Dave McShaffrey ([mcscaffd@marietta.edu](mailto:mcscaffd@marietta.edu)) and Larry Rosche ([LOROFS@aol.com](mailto:LOROFS@aol.com))

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## LUNCH ITEM FOR *ENALLAGMA CIVILE*?

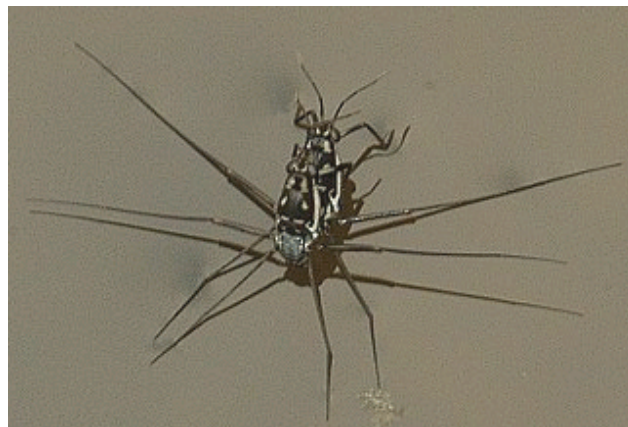
By Steve W. Chordas III

While on the dragonfly field trip to Knox county, Ohio (23-June-2008), the group made a stop along the northern portion of Knox Lake wildlife area in search of lentic Odonata. We did not have much success at this site and mainly observed common zygopterans flying around. We noticed many bluet specimens cruising the banks that all appeared to be the same species. Dr. George Harp netted a few and, using a hand lens, identified them as *Enallagma civile* (the familiar bluet). Searching for other damselfly, I stood out in the water, about 1 meter from the bank, and walked along the bank looking into the shore line. I noticed several small water striders (Hemiptera; Gerridae) between myself and the bank. One male bluet hovered in front of me, facing the bank (same direction I was facing) and appeared to be moving side to side just behind a coupled pair of the small water striders. Approaching from behind the bugs, and very close to the water surface, the male damselfly mirrored the striders movements for only a second or two then suddenly darting forward and reaching with his legs grabbed at the pair of striders. The coupled pair of striders split and attempted to dart off. The bluet was close enough to the striders that he was able to capture the female strider. The male strider was quick to separate from the female and dart off to open water. The bluet held the strider, flew directly to shore and started chewing on the posterior edges of the strider. Amazed by what I just witnessed, I walked over to get a closer look. The bluet was so occupied with his lunch that I was able to get right up on him, watch him chew on his lunch, reach out and capture him with my fingers! I gave the bluet to Dr. Harp who verified that it was indeed a male *Enallagma civile* (see image of this species in the next column). I retained the partially eaten bug and netted (using a dip-net I lugged along with me) a pair of the striders I suspected were the same species. The striders were all *Trepobates* sp (see image of ♂ & ♀ paired *Trepobates* sp. in the next column). The male *Enallagma civile* had captured a female *Trepobates* sp. off of the water and was having it for lunch! I released the male bluet who quickly flew off (likely cursing me for interrupting his lunch!).

Andrew Boose indicated a pretty intense fixation on feeding activity of captured prey for a naiad of the dragonhunter (*Hagenius brevistylus*) in his Leaf Pile Lions article (see the Ohio Dragon-Flier, 18(2): page 4, 2008). Have any of you observed feeding behaviors / or prey stalking behaviors like this in other adult Odonata? If so, share your observations with us.



Above image = adult ♂ *Enallagma civile*.



Above image = ♂ & ♀ paired *Trepobates* sp.

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## Calendar of Upcoming Meetings / Events:

by editor Steve W. Chordas III

**Ohio Natural History Conference** : Saturday, 28-February-2009 : 8am-5pm. The Ohio Historical Society, Columbus Ohio. Registration \$20.00 (Lunch optional for an additional \$10.00). email: [OhioBiosurvey@rroho.com](mailto:OhioBiosurvey@rroho.com)

**Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference** : Wednesday, 11-March-2009 : 8am-5pm. The Aladdin Shrine Complex, Columbus Ohio. Registration required.

**Ohio Odonata Society 2009 Annual Meeting** : Saturday, 28-March-2009 : ? 8am-4pm ?. At Ohio Northern University (The Inn at Ohio Northern University), in Ada, Ohio. Registration and Lunch **free of charge** (registration required for lunch). :

**\*\* Also see meeting announcement on page 2.**

Early Planning for summer 2009 !!! :

- 1). **Old Woman Creek Bioblitz : 2009** : Thursday & Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 2). **Ohio Odonata Society 2009 Summer field trip**  
\*\* More details on both of these events to come in the January 2009 issue of the Dragonflier.

## 2008 OOS KNOX COUNTY FIELD TRIP RECAP! +3 NEW COUNTY RECORDS

By George L. Harp & Steve W. Chordas III

The 2008 OOS field trip was to Knox County during the weekend of 21 and 22 June 2008. Special thanks to all those who joined the 2008 OOS field trip. Participants included (listed in alphabetical order with hometown indicated for those who included it on the sign in sheet):

**Ian Adams (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio)**  
**Andrew Boose (Columbus, Ohio)**  
**Rich Bradley (Delaware, Ohio)**  
**Pam & Jed Burt (Ashley, Ohio)**  
**Steve Chordas III (Grandview Heights, Ohio)**  
**Islay Cowie (Columbus, Ohio)**  
**Guy Denny (Fredericktown, Ohio)**  
**Kerr Gibson (Columbus, Ohio)**  
**David Gray (Cincinnati, Ohio)**  
**George & Phoebe Harp (Jonesboro, Arkansas)**  
**Dave McSchaffery (Marietta, Ohio)**  
**Barb & Rich Natterer**  
**Alice Phillips (Akron, Ohio)**  
**Susan Ramser**  
**Emily Tice**  
**Roger Troutman**  
**Mary Jo White (Cincinnati, Ohio)**  
**Jerry & Susan Wiedman (Akron, Ohio)**

As evident from the above list, folks from around Ohio (and even all the way from Arkansas !!) made it to the gathering. We intended to make the first day a Kokosing River day to primarily look for gomphids (clubtails). We had little success at the first location and decided to move on downstream. We ended up at 3 locations along the Kokosing River during the day. Overall it was a fun day on an absolutely beautiful river (a must see if you have not been there), but the diversity of Odonata we encountered was a bit disappointing (9 species, see below). We did not add any new Knox County records and only encountered 2 *Gomphus* (clubtail) species and a *Macromia* (river cruiser).

### *Species list / OOS Field Trip / 21-June-2008.*

**Knox County:** Site #1. Kokosing River ~ 1 mi SE of Howard, behind baseball field upstream of Pinesville Road bridge, 21 June. *Argia moesta* (Powdered dancer); *Argia tibialis* (Blue-tipped dancer); *Enallagma exsulans* (Stream bluet); *Hetaerina americana* (American rubyspot); *Macromia illinoensis illinoensis* (Illinois river cruiser).

Site #2. Kokosing River ~ 100m upstream of confluence with small tributary with waterfall, 21 June. *Gomphus fraternus* (Midland clubtail); *Ischnura verticalis* (Eastern forktail); *Libellula pulchella* (Twelve-spotted skimmer).

Site #3. Kokosing River upstream of Staats Road bridge, just off Zuck Road, 21 June. *Argia tibialis* (Blue-tipped dancer); *Gomphus quadricolor* (Rapids clubtail).

On the second day of the field trip we decided to focus more on lentic species. First stop was Knox Lake wildlife area where we hoped to encounter *Gomphus exilis* (Lancet clubtail). We did not! We mainly encountered common odonates throughout the day, but captured 18 species (double the previous days diversity). The final location for the day was a small pond in the Ramser Arboretum. At this location we encountered 3 species that were new Knox County records (in red\* in the Site #3 list below). Day 2 was definitely the better day!

### *Species list / OOS Field Trip / 22-June-2008.*

**Knox County:** Site #1. Upper end of Knox Lake, ~ 4 mi NE of Fredericktown, 22 June. *Enallagma civile* (Familiar bluet) (also see the "lunch item" article on page 4 about this species); *Enallagma signatum* (Orange bluet); *Ischnura verticalis* (Eastern forktail).

Site #2. North Branch of Kokosing River @ St Hwy 95 bridge, east edge of Fredericktown, 22 June. *Argia apicalis* (Blue-fronted dancer); *Argia fumipennis violacea* (Violet dancer); *Argia moesta* (Powdered dancer); *Argia sedula* (Blue-ringed dancer); *Enallagma basidens* (Double-striped bluet); *Enallagma exsulans* (Stream bluet).

Site #3. Pond at Arboretum, ~ 1mi W of St. Hwy 3 on Pealer Mill Road, then ½ mi N on private drive, 22 June. *Aeshna mutata\** (Spatterdock darner); *Anax junius* (Green darner); *Enallagma aspersum* (Azure bluet); *Ischnura verticalis* (Eastern forktail); *Lestes eurinus\** (Amber-winged spreadwing); *Lestes vigilax* (Swamp spreadwing); *Libellula (Plathemis) lydia* (Common whitetail); *Libellula pulchella* (Twelve-spotted skimmer); *Nehalennia irene\** (Sedge sprite); *Pachydiplax longipennis* (Blue dasher)  
**\* = New Knox County Record.**

*All specimens were retained by Dr. George L. Harp, and are in his collection, Jonesboro Arkansas.*

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## What is coming in the January 2009 issue of the Dragon-flier ?

From the editor Steve W. Chordas III  
Member contributions ?? More 2008 OOS field trip results. 2009 OOS Annual meeting agenda, speakers, further information and . Possible 2009 field trip? 2009 membership dues form. National & Regional meeting information and much much more.

★ If you have announcements or event notification information to include in the "calendar of events section", please send them to the editor at [stevechordas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevechordas@sbcglobal.net) for inclusion in the January 2009 newsletter. *Thanks !!*

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## Look forward to the 2009 meeting !