

# The Ohio Dragon-Flyer

Newsletter of the Ohio Odonata Society

September 2021

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*President* – MaLisa Spring,

[spring.99@osu.edu](mailto:spring.99@osu.edu)

*Vice-President* – Kyle Bailey,

[kbailey@richlandcountyoh.us](mailto:kbailey@richlandcountyoh.us)

*Past-President* - Shane Myers,

[srmyers429@gmail.com](mailto:srmyers429@gmail.com)

*Member-at-Large* – Dave McShaffrey,

[mcscaffd@marietta.edu](mailto:mcscaffd@marietta.edu)

*Treasurer* – Bob Restifo,

[rarestifo@yahoo.com](mailto:rarestifo@yahoo.com)

## Dragonhunters

**Duckweed Firetail** – Dennis Meyers describes his July 14th, 2021 discovery of a Duckweed Firetail *Telebasis byersi*, an Ohio State record:

*“It was hot, humid and partly cloudy. I had been checking several of the Cincinnati Nature Center ponds for a couple of hours since about noon, and the Lotus Pond was going to be my last stop. Most of what I was observing were Blue Dashers and Eastern*



*Pondhawks. There were a few damselflies. I noticed one of them was bright red which I hadn't seen previously. It has been only in the last couple of years that I have been concentrating on Odonates as photo subjects. It was somewhat skittish and only remained perched on the Duckweed for a minute or so before flying. So, I was only able to get a series of 10 shots. It was difficult to follow as it flew over the duckweed and in and out of shadows. I found it a couple of more times, but was unable to get additional photos.*

*Then a family came with nets to catch frogs, so I decided to call it a day. I identified it as a Duckweed Firetail using Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East by Dennis Paulson. I consider myself an amateur photographer and am in the early stages of identifying Odonata.” Dennis Meyers*



*Photo credit – Dennis Meyers*

Editor's notes: Mapping Duckweed Firetails within Odonata Central and iNaturalist indicates that this observation is a geographic outlier, but it has been anticipated in Southern Ohio [So you want to get a county record | Ohio Dragonfly Survey \(osu.edu\)](#). Observations of other Southern Odonates in Ohio, such as Rambur's Forktails and Scarlet Skimmers, are associated with the aquatic plant business. However, the Cincinnati Nature Center does not introduce aquatic plants. It is possible that this individual was introduced with aquatic plants into a private pond outside the CNC and, upon emergence, flew off in search of suitable habitat before finding the shady duckweed pond in CNC's Rowe Woods. Another possibility is that Duckweed Firetails have become established in bordering Kentucky, a state with an abundance of rural duckweed ponds but few Odonate observers. The possibilities are intriguing and Dennis won't be the only one with an eye out for the miniature, red Twizzlers® in every shadowed duckweed pond next summer. Kudos to a talented

naturalist and dragonhunter, Dennis Meyers, for this Ohio State record!

### August ID Challenge Revealed

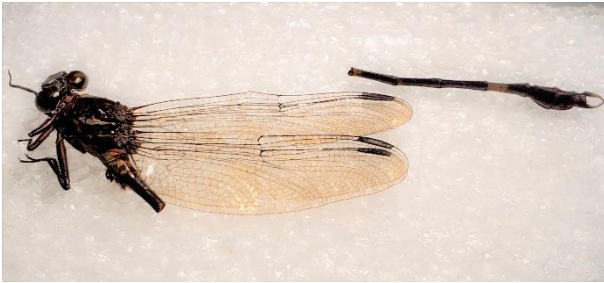


The long femur, festooned with long spines, narrows the field to the Spineylegs (*Dromogomphus*) which, in Ohio, is a field of two – Black-shouldered and Flag-tailed. The Black-shouldered abdomen is black with yellow-grey lines; the Flag-tailed abdomen has brown markings over yellow on S1-2 and over white aft of the S2 to the yellow-orange flag tail S7-10.

Congratulations to the only correct responder to the August ID Challenge – Kim Smith!

## Outside Ohio

“Two males, that were taken as imagoes, were flying over a deeply shaded tiny stream in the forest near the Panama Canal.” Uncredited.



Florida State Collection of Arthropods.  
*Phyllogomphoides insignatus* (holotype). Image by Bill Mauffray, Curator, Resident Research Associate.

T.W. Donnelly and E.S. Morton collected the holotype specimen August 1970 on the Pipeline Road. The holotype and paratypes, all collected within the Panama Canal Zone over the next few years, provided Donnelly’s original description of the new species, *Phyllogomphoides insignatus*, found in: T.W. Donnelly. (1979). The genus *Phyllogomphoides* in Middle America (Anisoptera: Gomphidae). *Odonatologica*, 8(4), 245–265.

[Natuurtijdschriften: The genus \*Phyllogomphoides\* in Middle America \(Anisoptera: Gomphidae\)](#)

“In and out of patches of sunlight over a rocky area with a shallow seep, the dragonfly would patrol a distance before alighting briefly on favored perches.” Shane Myers



Photo credit – Shane Myers

July 2019, Ohioan Shane Myers was having an amazing adventure in Panama. It was his second trip to Panama, but he promises it won’t be his last. He stayed in a Kuna village, and they had led him to a Harpy Eagle nest they protected. He found himself in a West African refugee camp and talked with people from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana and the Ivory Coast. He explored the San Francisco Reserve, purchased and maintained by a Franciscan priest who raised tilapia and trucked in potable water for the locals. There, Shane took a series of photos of a dark dragonfly with pale markings. Shane posted his photos to iNaturalist, where the observation remained unidentified as to species.

*“This dragonfly was hovering over the intersection of a sandy run that had formed along a forest trail and a seep that crossed the trail as it went downslope towards a small river.” Bill Hull*



*Photo credit – Bill Hull.*

June 2021, Ohioan Bill Hull returned to Panama with his family to look for bugs and birds with his main target being the Harpy Eagle – and they did see an immature Harpy near a known nest sight. In the San Francisco Reserve, Bill’s son, Elliot, sighted a very dark dragonfly with pale yellow-green gray markings. While Bill took a series of flight shots, he explained, “Elliot, I think this is a really good one.” Bill submitted the observation to iNaturalist July 2021 and suggested that it was the same species observed by Shane two years earlier also in the San Francisco Reserve, Chepo District, Panama.

Dennis Paulson provided identification for both observations – *Phyllogomphoies insignatus*. Shane and Bill’s observations, 100 miles east of the previously-defined species range are, ostensibly, the first photographs of living specimens of the **Dark-shouldered Leaf-tail**.

## Photo of the Month



*Susan Brauning. Coolpix P900, 1/125, f/5, 62.5mm, ISO100*

Susan Brauning and Rajat Saksena watched a Wandering Glider cruise over a field in Delaware County when the darner zoomed in and snatched it out of the air. Rajat recognized what had just happened and was able to locate the pair in the vegetation.

## Virtual Dragonhunters

**Dragonfly Society of the Americas Virtual Lecture Series.** Lecture schedules are updated regularly at: [Dragonfly Society of the Americas](http://DragonflySocietyoftheAmericas.org) ([DragonflySocietyoftheAmericas.org](http://DragonflySocietyoftheAmericas.org))

## September ID Challenge



The ID Challenge only includes species known from Ohio. The rather sinister (and somewhat distracting) spikes are spines of a Teasel seed head upon which the dragonfly is perched. A description of how you arrive at your identification is not required but appreciated. Please include your name in the email. Not to worry, only correct responses will be posted in the next newsletter. Send identification to:

[lundbergj@hotmail.com](mailto:lundbergj@hotmail.com).

## Ohio Dragonfly Survey Year-To-Date

### Overview

Current as of August 30: We went over 20,000 research grade observations, most identified to species. We're approaching 1000 contributors for the year. Now at 136 species for the year, just 3 short of the all-time highs of 139 recorded in 2019 and 2020.

Species seen in 2020 but not yet in 2021:

Skillet Clubtail
Green-striped Darner
Brush-tipped Emerald
Racket-tailed Emerald
Four-spotted Skimmer
Striped Saddlebags
Red Saddlebags
Hagen's Bluet

Species seen in 2019 but not yet in 2021:

Green-striped Darner
Uhler's Sundragon
American Emerald
Racket-tailed Emerald
Little Blue Dragonlet
Striped Saddlebags
Red Saddlebags
Hagen's Bluet
River Bluet
Furtive Forktail

From these, likely candidates might be Green-striped Darner and Striped Saddlebags. We'll need some luck with something else on making 139.

The most observed species for August was Eastern Pondhawk (360+), above Blue Dasher, Widow Skimmer, and Eastern Amberwing by a wide margin. New species for the year were Arrow Clubtail, Black-tipped Darner, Lance-tipped Darner, Ocellated Darner, Russet-tipped Clubtail, and Smoky Rubyspot.

In 2018 we had one species (Blue Dasher) that was observed in all 88 Ohio Counties. We improved on that in 2019 with 7 species that were observed in all Counties. Blue Dasher had the most Counties in 2020 with 81. So, where are we in 2021? We have 4 species 'in the zone' to maybe get all 88. Here are the candidates: Widow Skimmer (86); Blue Dasher (85); Eastern Pondhawk (85); Common Whitetail (82).

The needed counties:

For Widow Skimmer - Lawrence, Seneca
For Blue Dasher - Lawrence, Putnam, Tuscarawas
For Eastern Pondhawk - Columbiana, Hardin, Henry
For Common Whitetail - Henry, Lawrence, Marion, Monroe, Putnam, Vinton

## Species Count

Species	#
Amber-winged Spreadwing	89
American Rubyspot	296
Arrow Clubtail	15
Arrowhead Spiketail	19
Ashy Clubtail	76
Aurora Damsel	44
Autumn Meadowhawk	211
Azure Bluet	201
Banded Pennant	58
Band-winged Meadowhawk	41
Beaverpond Baskettail	3
Belted Whiteface	24
Black Saddlebags	226
Black-shouldered Spinyleg	61
Black-tipped Darner	7
Blue Corporal	31

Blue Dasher	1450
Blue-faced Meadowhawk	53
Blue-fronted Dancer	542
Blue-ringed Dancer	211
Blue-tipped Dancer	428
Brown Spiketail	31
Calico Pennant	292
Carolina Saddlebags	153
Chalk-fronted Corporal	1
Citrine Forktail	81
Clamp-tipped Emerald	13
Cobra Clubtail	78
Comet Darner	58
Common Baskettail	27
Common Green Darner	400
Common Sanddragon	11
Common Whitetail	1342
Cyrano Darner	30
Delta-spotted Spiketail	19
Dot-tailed Whiteface	149
Double-ringed Pennant	10
Double-striped Bluet	361
Dragonhunter	77
Duckweed Firetail	13
Dusky Clubtail	14
Dusky Dancer	82
Eastern Amberwing	774
Eastern Forktail	1016
Eastern Least Clubtail	25
Eastern Pondhawk	1310
Eastern Red Damsel	125
Eastern Ringtail	13
Ebony Jewelwing	860
Elegant Spreadwing	47
Elfin Skimmer	65
Elusive Clubtail	2
Emerald Spreadwing	38
Familiar Bluet	297
Fawn Darner	14
Flag-tailed Spinyleg	48
Fragile Forktail	1065

Frosted Whiteface	1
Gilded River Cruiser	3
Golden-winged Skimmer	12
Gray Petaltail	46
Great Blue Skimmer	25
Great Spreadwing	26
Green-faced Clubtail	5
Halloween Pennant	327
Handsome Clubtail	9
Harlequin Darner	12
Jade Clubtail	6
Lance-tipped Darner	6
Lancet Clubtail	145
Lauras Clubtail	3
Lilypad Clubtail	15
Lilypad Forktail	63
Lyre-tipped Spreadwing	18
Macromia Hybrid	1
Marsh Bluet	2
Midland Clubtail	108
Mocha Emerald	15
Northern Bluet	4
Ocellated Darner	1
Orange Bluet	242
Painted Skimmer	107
Paiute Dancer	36
Plains Clubtail	54
Powdered Dancer	590
Prince Baskettail	252
Pronghorn Clubtail	45
Rainbow Bluet	18
Ramburs Forktail	2
Rapids Clubtail	22
Riffle Snaketail	1
River Jewelwing	17
Royal River Cruiser	25
Ruby Meadowhawk	18
Russet-tipped Clubtail	6
Rusty Snaketail	9
Sedge Sprite	26
Seepage Dancer	106

Shadow Darner	8
Skimming Bluet	284
Slaty Skimmer	420
Slender Baskettail	3
Slender Bluet	229
Slender Spreadwing	301
Smoky Rubyspot	4
Smoky Shadowdragon	1
Southern Pygmy Clubtail	21
Southern Spreadwing	12
Spangled Skimmer	114
Spatterdock Darner	32
Sphagnum Sprite	58
Splendid Clubtail	1
Spotted Spreadwing	25
Spot-winged Glider	41
Springtime Darner	19
Stream Bluet	395
Stream Cruiser	4
Stygian Shadowdragon	1
Swamp Darner	52
Swamp Spreadwing	57
Sweetflag Spreadwing	47
Swift River Cruiser	43
Swift Setwing	39
Tiger Spiketail	7
Tule Bluet	59
Turquoise Bluet	138
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	436
Twin-spotted Spiketail	5
Unicorn Clubtail	198
Variable Dancer	638
Variagated Meadowhawk	1
Vesper Bluet	67
Wandering Glider	76
White-faced Meadowhawk	10
Widow Skimmer	1114
Yellow-sided Skimmer	23

## Numbers by County

County	Observations	Species	Observers
Adams	147	30	19
Allen	12	9	5
Ashland	52	24	14
Ashtabula	1516	63	27
Athens	79	31	15
Auglaize	57	24	3
Belmont	47	15	4
Brown	76	31	6
Butler	571	42	43
Carroll	22	14	3
Champaign	823	56	40
Clark	430	51	22
Clermont	365	54	49
Clinton	82	23	12
Columbiana	20	11	7
Coshocton	850	47	6
Crawford	74	34	9
Cuyahoga	620	50	75
Darke	252	51	6
Defiance	65	31	6
Delaware	143	34	50
Erie	210	32	15
Fairfield	43	23	16
Fayette	81	31	5
Franklin	1242	53	121
Fulton	62	26	3
Gallia	25	17	4
Geauga	870	73	46
Greene	570	56	53
Guernsey	40	19	2
Hamilton	502	50	83
Hancock	147	44	14
Hardin	24	18	2
Harrison	45	30	7
Henry	46	21	3
Highland	100	33	15
Hocking	73	30	19

Holmes	39	16	6
Huron	111	22	4
Jackson	85	17	11
Jefferson	26	14	4
Knox	50	17	11
Lake	714	68	45
Lawrence	11	8	4
Licking	238	33	22
Logan	178	40	6
Lorain	809	52	41
Lucas	1428	74	61
Madison	132	25	13
Mahoning	52	15	18
Marion	46	20	5
Medina	275	38	24
Meigs	23	12	3
Mercer	75	25	2
Miami	237	49	15
Monroe	15	10	3
Montgomery	648	72	64
Morgan	67	23	5
Morrow	50	22	8
Muskingum	28	14	8
Noble	39	18	3
Ottawa	103	26	24
Paulding	46	22	1
Perry	100	20	4
Pickaway	37	19	12
Pike	109	24	8
Portage	445	62	37
Preble	42	22	14
Putnam	37	19	2
Richland	44	19	14
Ross	104	27	11
Sandusky	184	29	11
Scioto	26	12	10
Seneca	48	16	7
Shelby	172	43	10
Stark	1299	70	28
Summit	943	62	103
Trumbull	115	32	13



Tuscarawas	33	21	6
Union	107	23	13
Van Wert	28	18	2
Vinton	37	16	4
Warren	208	47	38
Washington	60	25	3
Wayne	96	26	24
Williams	154	37	4
Wood	159	28	17
Wyandot	39	20	7

Ohio Dragonfly Survey  
Target - 2021

