

Newsletter of the Ohio Odonata Society

Ohio Dragon Flyer



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Contents

1. Macromia – Long, Dark and Handsome. ID Series. Sally Issaco, Jim Lemon and Rick Nirschl
2. November Odes – End of the Line. Jim Lemon
3. 2022 Numbers To-Date – Species – Counties. Jim Lemon

Cover Photo: Great Spreadwing *Archilestes grandis*
Stark County, Ohio, 3 September 2022, Jon Cefus

Nikon D610 DSLR (FX), Nikon 300mm, F4.0, ISO 400, +0.3 ev, f5.6, 1/1000

One of Jon's frequent stops in his home county of Stark is Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve. On this September morning, Jon found multiple Great Spreadwings, including this one which posed nicely with some early fall color in the background.

The 2022 Season Jim Lemon jlem@woh.rr.com

So far on the year, we have over 34,000 research grade (RG) observation submitted to iNaturalist, now the most reported season for OOS data. This represents 136 species. The top reported species for the year: Eastern Pondhawk, Blue Dasher, Eastern Forktail, Fragile Forktail and Common Whitetail.

Autumn Meadowhawk leads species numbers for October with 370+ observations. Familiar Bluet, Fragile Forktail, Blue-faced Meadowhawk, Eastern Forktail, and Shadow Darner all have over 40 observations in October.

Notable finds in October: Eight records for Elusive Clubtail and 33 records for Great Spreadwing.

Still hoping for a Variegated Meadowhawk.

Please submit your 2022 observations to iNaturalist. Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Macromia – Long, Dark, and Handsome

Sally Isacco disacco@roadrunner.com | Rick Nirschl ricknir@hotmail.com | Jim Lemon jlem@woh.rr.com

Ohio has some number of *Macromia*, commonly known as River Cruisers. They appear black or dark brown with glowing green eyes and various yellow markings. If you look at the field guides, ID seems to be fairly straightforward based on size and markings. The reality is less so.

Complicating things is (once again) natural variation and potential hybridization. Further, we see many more River Cruisers than we actually record – typically in thrilling flybys when you're knee-deep in a stream. They will occasionally perch upright if you know where to look. We need more photos.

Larval habitat is mid-to-large sized rivers, so it's not a surprise to see them there. Males patrol close to the water, usually not too far from the shore. Adult River Cruisers can also be found away from water as they hunt flying prey. Our most commonly recorded *Macromia* are Swift River Cruisers, followed closely by Royal River Cruisers. Gilded River Cruiser and the Hybrid *Macromia* have much lower numbers. Allegheny River Cruiser has been recorded in single digits.

While not uncommon, River Cruisers provide just one percent of our total data. We are recording a lower percentage in iNaturalist than the years of collecting specimens. They are described as not hard to capture, but from experience I can relate they are hard to photograph in flight.

Let's start with some aerial shots – this is how we usually see *Macromia*, but when we manage a shot, there is, generally, a lot more blur than bug.



Swift RC, Lateral, Darke Co, Jul 22, 2021, Jim Lemon.



Royal RC, Lateral, Defiance Co, Jul 26, 2021, Jim Lemon.



Gilded RC, Lateral, Darke Co, Jul 17, 2020, Jim Lemon.



Swift RC, Male, Dorsal, Butler Co, Jul 25, 2019, Jim



Royal RC, Male, Dorsal, Lucas Co, Aug 24, 2022, Rick Nirschl.

Following are species descriptions. As with earlier ID segments, these photos are the best examples of individual type. Not everything appears so close to type. As already mentioned, there is considered to be a hybrid, which is given treatment here. I'll note as well that there are many photos (200+) awaiting ID because it's not clear where they fit. This is one of the higher percentages of genera waiting on ID.

Swift River Cruiser *Macromia i. illinoiensis* is maybe the easiest to ID. Uniformly dark with a bright dorsal spot on the seventh abdominal segment, and a single yellow thoracic stripe. Swift range covers all of Ohio, with a flight from June through August. Ohio Swifts are primarily the *illinoiensis* subspecies. A southern subspecies, *M georgiana*, is larger and has more yellow. We may begin to see some *georgiana*, we are certainly seeing more southern Skimmers.

The infrequently observed **Allegheny RC** *Macromia alleghaniensis* is most similar to Swift, and so mentioned here. Allegheny is slightly smaller than Swift and has a complete yellow ring on abdominal segment 7. Observers in the southern counties should be on the lookout for Allegheny. (No photos).



Swift RC, Male, Lucas Co, Aug 8, 2019, Jim Lemon.



Swift RC, Male, thorax detail, Lucas Co, Aug 8, 2019, Jim Lemon.



Swift RC, Male, abdomen detail, Lucas Co, Aug 8, 2019, Jim Lemon. Note club.

Swift RC, Female, abdomen detail, Montgomery Co, Aug 6, 2021, Jim Lemon. Note large spot on S7.



Swift RC, Female, Montgomery Co, Aug 6, 2021, Jim Lemon.

Swift RC, Pair, Lucas Co, Jul 25, 2013, Rick Nirschl

Swift RC, Female, thorax detail, Montgomery Co, Aug 6, 2021, Jim Lemon.



Royal River Cruiser *Macromia taeniolata* is our largest Macromia. Markings are small and Royal looks black in flight. Long slender wings, long abdomen. With the right sun angle, eyes are emerald green, but also frequently look dark. Royal abdomen is trim without the clubbing seen in Swift. Royal flies in July and August, probably statewide. Seemingly fearless, I've had them fly by within a foot or two – an impressive sight.



Royal RC, Male, Putnam Co, Jul 25, 2019, Jim Lemon.

Royal RC, Male, lateral, Lucas Co, Aug 17, 2021, Rick Nirschl.



Royal RC, Male, thoracic detail, Putnam Co, Jul 25, 2019, Jim Lemon.



Royal RC, Male, abdomen detail, Putnam Co, Jul 25, 2019, Jim Lemon. Note large size, lack of club, smaller markings.



Royal RC, Female, Lucas Co, Aug 10, 2022, Rick Nirschl.

Macromia Hybrid *Macromia taeniolata x pacifica* is what we're currently calling the RCs that fall in between field marks of Royal and Gilded. Western Ohio is apparently the center of this phenomena, although we now have a couple eastern counties in the mix. We see Hybrid individuals that are marked differently from Royal and Gilded, and are also in between on size. In most locations where Gilded flies, there are Royals (but not all). There is a case to be made that these in-between RCs are a separate Ohio species, the **Wabash River Cruiser** *Macromia wabashensis*. So far, not every county with Hybrids has records of Gilded, which, of course, would be a requirement for a hybrid. Further, we have pairs in wheel that appear to both be Hybrids (Does mating imply viability?). So, there are questions, and maybe speciation right in front of our eyes, or something we're still working out. The key field mark for these RCs is the pattern of the spot on S8 – shaped like the profile of a moth.



Macromia Hybrid, Male, Darke Co, Jul 29, 2017, Jim Lemon.



Macromia Hybrid, Male, thoracic detail, Darke Co, Jul 29, 2017. Jim Lemon.

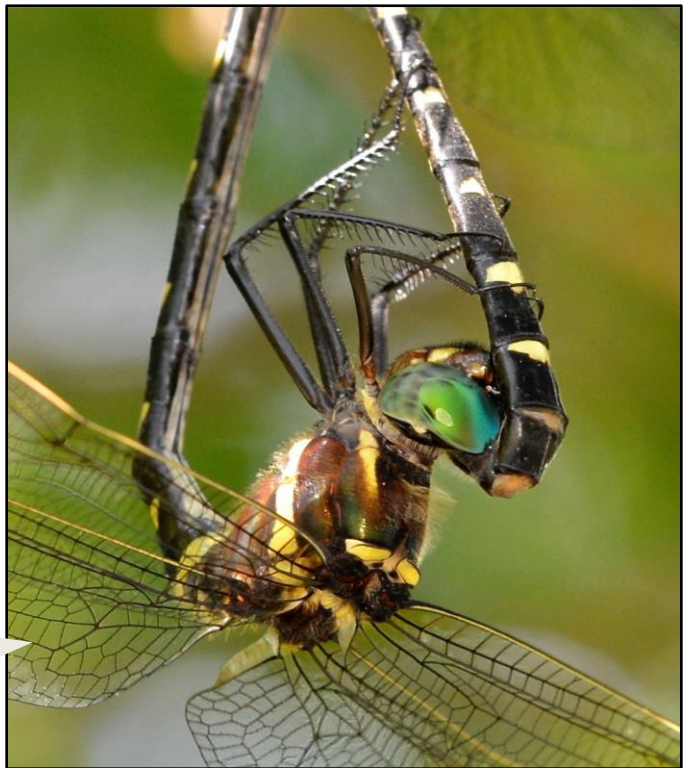


Macromia Hybrid, Male, abdomen detail, Darke Co, Jul 29, 2017. Note "moth marking" on S8. Jim Lemon.

Macromia Hybrid, Female, Lucas Co, Aug 7, 2014, Rick Nirschl. Note intermediate markings.

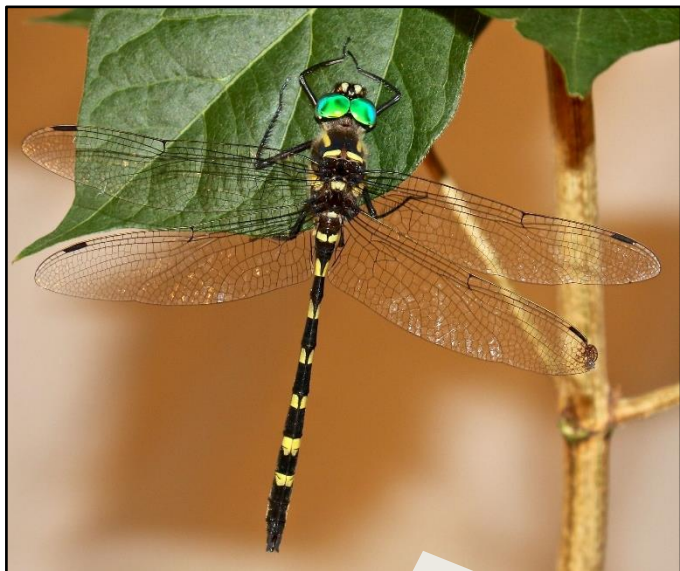


Macromia Hybrid, Pair, Lucas Co, Jul 25, 2014, Rick Nirschl.



Macromia Hybrid, Pair, detail, Lucas Co, Jul 25, 2014, Rick Nirschl. Note "moth marking" on S8. Yellow costa.

Gilded River Cruiser *Macromia pacifica* is the brightest of the RCs. It has so much yellow that it appears yellow in flight. Gilded is not common, only know recently from 10 counties. You might be lucky and find one perched in the morning, otherwise they seem to fly endlessly. Slightly smaller in size than Royal, but larger than Swift. Ohio Flight mostly July into early August. A pretty spectacular bug, even by River Cruiser standards.



Gilded RC, Male, dorsal, Lucas Co, Jul 24, 2016, Rick



Gilded RC, Male, lateral, Logan Co, Aug 11, 2022, Jim

Gilded RC, Female, dorsal, Logan Co, Aug 11, 2022, Jim Lemon.

Gilded RC, Female, lateral, Logan Co, Aug 11, 2022, Jim Lemon. Note large yellow spots S3-7.



November Odes – end of the line Jim Lemon jlem@woh.rr.com

Short days now, good-bye daylight savings. Just a few Odes still around when there is sunshine. Look for Autumn Meadowhawks, Familiar Bluets, and Great Spreadwings. We had 260 observations last year (2021) and 144 the year before (2020). Most of the other years in the survey data are in the single digits.

Here's the set of species for the end of the season. Observations beyond the late date listed will constitute new late flight dates.

Species	Late	Observation Count All Data	Recent Years
Wandering Glider	1-Nov	849	675
Powdered Dancer	2-Nov	2653	2049
Stream Bluet	2-Nov	2611	1804
Lilypad Forktail	2-Nov	425	401
Saffron-winged Meadowhawk	2-Nov	20	1
American Rubyspot	3-Nov	2408	1790
Blue-faced Meadowhawk	4-Nov	855	703
Tule Bluet	8-Nov	390	253
Fragile Forktail	10-Nov	6498	5610
Variegated Meadowhawk	10-Nov	86	47
Azure Bluet	11-Nov	1461	1043
Citrine Forktail	11-Nov	650	499
Common Green Darner	12-Nov	2760	2002
Spotted Spreadwing	15-Nov	540	378
Double-striped Bluet	16-Nov	2882	2306
Shadow Darner	17-Nov	764	415
Familiar Bluet	18-Nov	3218	2377
Great Spreadwing	20-Nov	587	414
Autumn Meadowhawk	27-Nov	4057	3099
Eastern Forktail	30-Nov	8467	6690

2022 Numbers To-Date – Species Jim Lemon jlem@woh.rr.com

136 Species	# Observations	# Counties	# Users	# Co Records	New Yearly High
Amber-winged Spreadwing	60	15	19	1	
American Rubyspot	558	37	72		*
Arrow Clubtail	20	7	9		
Arrowhead Spiketail	19	10	14	1	
Ashy Clubtail	91	18	27		*
Aurora Damsel	44	15	22	1	
Autumn Meadowhawk	1069	71	137		
Azure Bluet	304	53	73		
Band-winged Meadowhawk	118	16	36	2	
Banded Pennant	111	20	24	2	
Beaverpond Baskettail	2	1	1		
Black Saddlebags	519	72	98		*
Black-shouldered Spinyleg	58	22	21	1	
Black-tipped Darner	7	3	5		
Blue Corporal	26	10	18	1	
Blue Dasher	2419	88	275		
Blue-faced Meadowhawk	205	22	45	1	
Blue-fronted Dancer	938	80	117		
Blue-ringed Dancer	341	42	45		
Blue-tipped Dancer	665	71	88	1	*
Brown Spiketail	15	4	5		
Calico Pennant	361	51	69		
Carolina Saddlebags	195	39	61	2	
Cherry-faced Meadowhawk	1	1	1	3	
Citrine Forktail	160	33	34		
Clamp-tipped Emerald	9	8	8		
Cobra Clubtail	59	4	22		
Comet Darner	97	31	35	5	*
Common Baskettail	32	17	21	1	
Common Green Darner	499	68	116		
Common Sanddragon	17	4	4		~
Common Whitetail	1712	88	289		*
Cyrano Darner	43	21	21	3	*
Delta-spotted Spiketail	8	2	3		

Dot-tailed Whiteface	208	32	37	3	*
Double-ringed Pennant	6	1	1		
Double-striped Bluet	668	71	72		
Dragonhunter	71	19	30	1	
Dusky Clubtail	22	4	7		*
Dusky Dancer	260	44	40		*
Eastern Amberwing	1555	88	168		*
Eastern Forktail	2235	88	168		
Eastern Least Clubtail	47	7	12		*
Eastern Pondhawk	2425	88	256		*
Eastern Red Damsel	189	20	44	1	*
Eastern Ringtail	21	4	7		
Ebony Jewelwing	1100	77	288	1	*
Elegant Spreadwing	57	19	22		
Elfin Skimmer	80	1	18		*
Elusive Clubtail	12	1	4		*
Familiar Bluet	825	77	103		*
Fawn Darner	42	20	25		
Flag-tailed Spinyleg	92	21	19		
Fragile Forktail	1879	88	172		*
Furtive Forktail	1	1	1	1	
Gilded River Cruiser	7	4	4		
Golden-winged Skimmer	6	3	4	2	
Gray Petaltail	60	14	29	2	*
Great Blue Skimmer	168	32	43	7	*
Great Spreadwing	110	25	43	1	
Green-faced Clubtail	13	1	4		*
Green-striped Darner	9	6	8		
Halloween Pennant	471	70	114		
Handsome Clubtail	17	6	7	1	
Harlequin Darner	24	3	8		*
Jade Clubtail	26	4	11	2	*
Lance-tipped Darner	4	4	4	1	*
Lancet Clubtail	224	37	34		
Laura's Clubtail	2	2	2		
Lilypad Clubtail	1	1	1		
Lilypad Forktail	102	8	22		
Little Blue Dragonlet	1	1	1	1	

Lyre-tipped Spreadwing	5	2	4		
Macromia Hybrid	8	5	6	2	
Midland Clubtail	84	17	22	2	
Mocha Emerald	9	7	5	1	
Northern Bluet	3	2	3		
Northern Emerald Spreadwing	72	17	29		*
Northern Spreadwing	1	1	1	1	
Ocellated Darner	12	4	6		*
Orange Bluet	577	72	68	1	*
Painted Skimmer	282	42	75	7	*
Paiute Dancer	65	4	17		
Plains Clubtail	34	1	6		
Powdered Dancer	717	56	89		*
Prince Baskettail	373	76	62		
Pronghorn Clubtail	16	5	10		
Racket-tailed Emerald	10	3	6		
Rainbow Bluet	22	6	10		
Rapids Clubtail	15	7	10	1	
Red Saddlebags	20	7	10	1	*
Riffle Snaketail	3	1	3		
River Bluet	9	1	7		*
River Jewelwing	1	1	1		
Royal River Cruiser	50	28	24	2	
Ruby Meadowhawk	19	8	9	1	
Russet-tipped Clubtail	53	3	11		*
Rusty Snaketail	23	4	9		*
Sedge Sprite	69	11	20	1	*
Seepage Dancer	193	5	34		*
Shadow Darner	115	31	59	1	
Skimming Bluet	465	63	63	1	*
Slaty Skimmer	765	67	106	5	*
Slender Baskettail	1	1	1	1	
Slender Spreadwing	550	67	86		
Smoky Rubyspot	57	3	4		
Southern Pygmy Clubtail	5	3	4	1	
Southern Spreadwing	5	3	4	1	
Spangled Skimmer	164	41	44	5	

Spatterdock Darner	16	7	12		
Sphagnum Sprite	70	8	21		*
Splendid Clubtail	11	2	7		
Spot-winged Glider	54	19	22	2	
Spotted Spreadwing	88	22	27		*
Springtime Darner	24	14	17		
Stream Bluet	585	64	73		*
Stream Cruiser	18	5	7	1	*
Swamp Darner	69	29	48	4	
Swamp Spreadwing	58	21	21	3	
Sweetflag Spreadwing	45	18	23	1	
Swift River Cruiser	49	20	19		
Swift Setwing	52	7	10	2	*
Tiger Spiketail	6	5	5		
Tule Bluet	48	10	11		
Turquoise Bluet	97	15	18	1	
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	494	63	121		
Twin-spotted Spiketail	3	3	3	1	
Uhler's Sundragon	6	1	1		~
Unicorn Clubtail	288	51	65		*
Vesper Bluet	106	23	22	3	*
Violet Dancer	1091	77	105		*
Wandering Glider	202	45	69	3	
Westfall's Slender Bluet	318	48	58	4	*
White-faced Meadowhawk	23	7	12	1	
Widow Skimmer	1572	88	226		
Yellow-sided Skimmer	30	1	3		*

Key
* New high
~ Matched previous high

2022 To-Date Numbers – County Jim Lemon jlem@woh.rr.com

88 Counties	# Observations	# Sp	# Users	# Co Records	New Yearly High	New Sp High
Adams	104	34	22			
Allen	71	24	6	1		
Ashland	248	36	13		*	~
Ashtabula	2282	67	19			
Athens	109	32	20			
Auglaize	66	23	2	3		
Belmont	376	27	2	2	*	*
Brown	74	32	6			
Butler	567	41	48	1		
Carroll	106	27	6	1		
Champaign	1267	68	40	1		*
Clark	836	58	23	3	*	*
Clermont	374	50	43	2		
Clinton	109	30	12			
Columbiana	157	46	10	6		*
Coshocton	1383	57	13	2	*	*
Crawford	105	32	6	3		
Cuyahoga	734	52	96			
Darke	214	46	7	1		
Defiance	56	21	6			
Delaware	267	36	42			
Erie	255	30	23		*	
Fairfield	129	29	20			
Fayette	162	28	5	2		
Franklin	2305	61	113	1		*
Fulton	214	30	6		*	
Gallia	139	25	7			
Geauga	536	69	39	1		
Greene	719	62	61			
Guernsey	126	23	3			
Hamilton	684	56	67	1	*	
Hancock	381	59	19	2		

Hardin	83	31	3	1		
Harrison	270	38	5	3	*	
Henry	312	34	6	1	*	*
Highland	71	27	12			
Hocking	118	35	24			
Holmes	198	29	8	1	*	*
Huron	326	28	5	3	*	~
Jackson	116	31	8			
Jefferson	229	34	7	3	*	*
Knox	154	22	16			
Lake	591	68	43	1		
Lawrence	228	37	4	2	*	~
Licking	197	34	25	1		
Logan	397	46	16	2	*	
Lorain	738	49	37	1		
Lucas	2690	76	70	1	*	
Madison	237	33	15	2		
Mahoning	101	42	10	1		
Marion	322	29	8	2	*	
Medina	211	44	31	2		
Meigs	378	31	1	3	*	
Mercer	91	22	3	1		
Miami	471	53	21		*	*
Monroe	180	28	2	2	*	
Montgomery	1193	78	50	3		*
Morgan	144	32	7			
Morrow	482	31	15	1	*	*
Muskingum	200	34	9			
Noble	369	27	7		*	*
Ottawa	165	31	50	5		~
Paulding	59	21	2			
Perry	93	21	1	1		
Pickaway	119	34	16	3		
Pike	267	40	9	3	*	
Portage	454	76	50	1		*
Preble	227	36	12	3		
Putnam	125	23	1			
Richland	137	30	15	1		

Ross	112	32	12			
Sandusky	235	40	11	3		*
Scioto	114	32	9	1		
Seneca	281	30	7	3	*	
Shelby	134	32	14	5		
Stark	2657	76	42	4	*	*
Summit	942	72	107			*
Trumbull	140	39	10	1		
Tuscarawas	190	29	6	1	*	
Union	319	27	10		*	
Van Wert	51	21	1			
Vinton	129	30	6			
Warren	231	45	32	1		
Washington	99	26	3			
Wayne	218	30	26	1	*	~
Williams	138	36	4	1		
Wood	149	32	27	2		
Wyandot	80	29	12			

Key
* New high
~ Matched previous high