

Newsletter of the Ohio Odonata Society

Ohio Dragon Flyer



Ohio Odonata Society Board

President – Kyle Bailey k47bailey@gmail.com

Vice President – Dave McShaffrey mcshaffd@marietta.edu

Past-President – MaLisa Spring spring.99@osu.edu

Member-at-Large – Chelsea Gottfried chelsea.gottfried@gmail.com

Treasurer – Sherree Cyra bluebell101sc@gmail.com

Data Manager – Jim Lemon jlem@woh.rr.com

Newsletter Editor – Jim Lundberg lundbergj@hotmail.com

In This Issue

Past President – MaLisa Spring.

ID Series. Sally Issaco and Jim Lemon

Subject Series Managers – Seeking Volunteers.

Photo Submissions – Your Best of 2022.

The 2022 Season to Date. Jim Lemon.

2022 Numbers To-Date – Species. Jim Lemon

2022 Numbers To-Date – Counties. Jim Lemon

Cover Photo: Autumn Meadowhawk *Sympetrum Vicinum* Greene County, Ohio, 9 November 2022, Sarah White Canon EOS R6, 600mm, *f*11, ISO 800, 1/1250

This female was hanging out in vegetation along the Siebenthaler Fen boardwalk. There were males sunning themselves on the boardwalk too. That was the last decent day in the field before winter weather hit!

Past President - MaLisa Spring

Hi everyone! For those who are not familiar with me, I ran the Ohio Dragonfly Survey from 2017-2020. That was a project funded through the Ohio Biodiversity Partnership where I was employed through The Ohio State University with funds coming from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. As I was running the survey and doing outreach events across the state, I became heavily involved with the Ohio Odonata Society (OOS). I became Member-at-Large of OOS in 2017, then Vice President in 2018, and President from 2019-2022. Typically, the terms are a year and then you move up to the next position the following year. With the pandemic and the pause in conferences and annual meetings, I remained in the President position even though my dragonfly job ended. However, now that annual meetings have resumed, the transition has continued and I am, now, officially the *Past President* of OOS!



Where we go from here: Since I am now Past President, my official duties mostly involve helping the board. So, I will not be the one organizing conferences or logistics for the society. There are still many cool things happening in the society. Jim Lemon and Jim Lundberg have been great at communicating regular updates and newsletters to keep everyone involved and hunting for dragons. We will eventually transition the Ohio State Dragonfly Survey website elsewhere. There is another conference planned for 2023 and 2024. Myself, Dave McShaffrey, and Jim McCormac are working on the long-promised Ohio Dragonfly book.

Where I go from here: Many people have asked what I am doing since I am no longer employed for dragonfly activities. Starting in 2020, I received another short-term grant through the same program to do a much-needed Ohio Bee Survey. That was also a 3-year grant, which is set to end June of 2023. After that, I will once again be on the job hunt, so I am not taking on any longer-term obligations until I know where I will land.

About the Ohio Bee Survey: Some people are curious about my recent work with the Ohio Bee Survey. Unlike dragonflies and damselflies, there has been no statewide effort to document bees in Ohio. Moreover, bees are more diverse and much harder to identify than our photogenic dragonflies. Imagine if every dragonfly you encountered was as annoying to identify as a Clubtail, then shrink them down to the size of a grain of rice. Thus, the bee survey involved specimen collection, as a majority of the species are not identifiable from a photo. We sent out collection kits to 87 counties in 2020 and got a great response rate. The last 2 years have been focused on processing those specimens and identifying them. Each individual specimen needs to be washed, dried, pinned, labelled, identified, and databased. So far, we have over 250 species of bees confirmed from the 2020 samples, though we expect another 100-200 species to occur in Ohio. So, this bee project is at least the start of documenting the common and abundant species for the state. Much more work is left to do to find floral specialist bees (those that only use a very limited group of plants), cuckoo bees (those that need the correct host bee), and sand nesting bees (since sand is much rarer in Ohio).

Spiketails - Five Easy Species Sally Isacco disacco@roadrunner.com | Jim Lemon jlem@woh.rr.com

Ohio has Spiketails! Five species, all distinctive. Spiketails are generally rare in Ohio, and one species is State-listed. How rare? In recent years they are only 3/10ths of one percent (0.3%) of the total research grade observations. So, few and far between. And recent numbers are down compared to historical (pre-iNaturalist) where the Cordulegaster genus was 1% of the records. As a point of reference, it's easy to report more Blue Dashers on a June day than what we tally for all Spiketails in a whole year. Spiketail flight season is short and they have specific habitat requirements. Like other large Odonata, they may undergo multi-year from egg to maturity.

All the Spiketails, other than Tiger, fly mainly in June. Tiger peaks July into August. They are all associated with woodland streams and headwaters. The saying is if a stream is too wide to step over, it's probably too big for Spiketails.

The good news is that when you do see one, they are distinct and easy to ID. They are big (2.5") and colorfully marked on the lateral thorax and abdomen. The yellow patterns are all distinct enough to preclude confusion. Eyes are mostly green, although there are some reports of bluish eyes. Females have long spiky ovipositors that provide the group with the common name. Males do not have the spike, with terminal appendages that are shorter and more abrupt than their female counterparts. We will consider species based on recent records – more common to less common.

Brown Spiketail *Cordulegaster bilineata*. Most similar to Delta-spotted. Brown has the most limited range, just 9 Ohio counties, primarily SW. Higher observation numbers reflect the good population and ease of access at Cedar Bog. They can also be found at other fen areas in the Champaign-Clark-Greene counties.



Brown Spiketail. Dorsal, Champaign Co, May 28, 2016, Jim Lemon. Note paired spots.



Brown Spiketail Female, Champaign Co, May 29, 2022, Jim Lemon.

Brown Spiketail. Female, Champaign Co, Jul 7, 2019, Jim Lemon.



Brown Spiketail Male, Champaign Co, May 31, 2018, Jim Lemon.

Arrowhead Spiketail *Cordulegaster obliqua*. 13 recent County Records – more than any other Spiketail. This may be a growing population with warming climate. Recorded in 43 counties – also more than any other Spiketail.



Arrowhead Spiketail. Male, Lake Co, May 28, 2008, Sally Isacco. Note characteristic arrowhead spots on dorsal abdomen.



Arrowhead Spiketail. Female, Ashtabula Co, Jun 7, 2020, Jim Lemon. Note long terminal appendage.



Arrowhead Spiketail. Male, Logan Co, Jun 4, 2022, Jim Lemon.

Delta-spotted Spiketail *Cordulegaster diastatops.*Similar to Brown, but range is NE Ohio. Most common site is Kingsville, but other Ashtabula County sites have populations.

Delta-spotted Spiketail. Pair, Ashtabula Co, Jun 7, 2020, Jim Lemon. Note triangular spots.

Delta-spotted Spiketail. Male, Ashtabula Co, Jun 1, 2021, Sally Isacco.





Tiger Spiketail *Cordulegaster erronea*. Mostly found in hill country in Eastern counties. Tigers patrol very small headwater seeps. Males have a slow regular flight. Females can be seen in their ovipositing bounce.

Tiger Spiketail. Female, Logan Co, Jun 13, 2020, Jim Lemon. Note long terminal appendage.

Tiger Spiketail. Male, Scioto Co, Aug 3, 2013, Deb Marsh. Note complete yellow rings on abdominal





Tiger Spiketail. Female, Logan Co, May 27, 2021, Jim Lemon.



Twin-spotted Spiketail *Cordulegaster maculata.*Declining observations, mostly East. Like Tiger, Twin-spotted prefer the smallest headwater areas. Usually in wooded ravines.

Twin-spotted Spiketail Male, Geauga Co, Jun 3, 2020, Linda Gilbert.



Twin-spotted Spiketail Male, Geauga Co, Jun 3, 2020, Linda Gilbert.



Twin-spotted Spiketail. Female, Geauga Co, May 23, 2011, Linda Gilbert. Note long terminal appendage, and smaller, smoother spots.



This concludes our year-long ID series. It's been fun. Let us know on questions or things we've missed.

Subject Series Managers – Seeking Volunteers

Newsletter content is a reflection of Ohio Odonata Society members and their Ode-related pursuits. The Newsletter will undergo changes for 2023 in the form of standardizing the layout and introducing new subject series managed by volunteers. Subject series suggestions include:

Conservation Corner

Backyard habitat improvement. Wetland restoration projects. Regional habitat loss. Regional habitat protection measures. Environmental change affecting Odes. Etc. Photos may accompany articles in this series. Series managers will determine the scope, direction, frequency and termination of the series.

Survey Guidelines and Reports

Maintaining data collection accuracy. Property permissions. Frequency. Times of day. Expectations versus results. Survey reports of any size – backyard, park, county or statewide. Series managers should have some background in this discipline (Ohio Biological Survey members and etc.). Series managers will determine the scope, direction, frequency and termination of the series.

Ask the Expert

Any question Ode. Responses may be one-line answers or full-page explanations. The knowledge base among our society members covers a wide spectrum. Volunteer experts, please contact the editor with your area(s) of expertise/interest. In the absence of volunteer experts, questions shall be published in one month's newsletter, and all answers submitted by the membership will be published in the following month's newsletter. Monthly recurrent series.

Field Trip

Providing more detail than can be found on iNaturalist, field trip reports connect us with Society members from across the state. Whether covering a new destination or a favorite site, by an individual or group, articles will provide elements of human-interest. Photos will accompany most articles in this series. Series managers will be the point of contact for submissions. In the absence of submissions, the managers will review iNaturalist observations and Odonata Ohio posts for interesting outings from which to solicit submissions. Monthly recurrent series through the flight season.

Observation of the Month

Observation of the Month is not, necessarily, a stunning image suitable for the Newsletter cover but is significant in other ways – early or late flight date, county record, uncommon species, difficult ID, interesting behavior and etc. Observation of the Month is, probably, best managed by the group of individuals most involved with iNaturalist observation ID. Monthly recurrent series through the flight season.

There are no long-term commitments for the managing volunteers – it is understood that life happens. The subject series manager can be a single individual or a group. Article submissions require a week minimum before end-of-month publishing. This allows time for edit, layout, obtaining observation permissions and return for review.

Please respond by 21 December to volunteer as a subject series manager. Jim Lundberg lundbergi@hotmail.com

Photo Submissions – Your Best of 2022

The Ohio 2022 flight season is surely finished. Please submit your favorite Ohio Ode photos of 2022 to be published in the January 2023 newsletter. Include date and observer. If the specific location is not protected, include that as well. Field notes and camera setting information are not required but appreciated. The digital images may be of any size, but uncropped is preferred. If a single image is submitted, it will likely share space on a page with a submission from another member. If you submit multiple images, expect an entire dedicated page. A note will be included that you retain full copyright over your images. Submission deadline is 21 December.

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

So far on this year, we have over 34,600 research grade (RG) observation submitted to iNaturalist, now the most reported season for OOS data.

This represents 136 species, nearly 1,200 contributors. The top reported species for the year: Eastern Pondhawk, Blue Dasher, Eastern Forktail, Fragile Forktail, and Common Whitetail. Interesting that after a whole season both Pondhawk and Dasher have the same record count – 2,436.

Autumn Meadowhawk leads species numbers for November with 180 observations. The next species (Familiar Bluet, Shadow Darner) were in the teens.

Lucas County had the most November observations. Lucas and Stark are neck-and-neck for the year with over 2,700 observations for Stark, over 2,800 for Lucas.

We have two new late flight records: American Rubyspot by user quddy on Nov 5 and Orange Bluet by monicap273 on Nov 4.

New County Records are at 121. This is comparable to the two previous years: 110 for 2021; 105 for 2020. Great Blue Skimmer and Painted Skimmer both have 7. Comet Darner is right behind with 6. Columbiana Co had the most new species with 6.

There will be more details in the January issue.

2022 Numbers To-Date — Species Jim Lemon <u>jlem@woh.rr.com</u>

88 Counties	# Observations			to Nov 10 as of # Co Records	New Yearly High	New Sp High
Adams	104	34	22	" co necoras	recorrectly riight	rece springir
Allen	71	24	6	1		
Ashland	248	36	13		*	~
Ashtabula	2347	67	19		*	
Athens	109	32	20			
Auglaize	66	23	2	3		
Belmont	388	27	2	2	*	*
Brown	74	32	6			
Butler	602	41	48	1		
Carroll	106	27	6	1		
Champaign	1272	68	40	1		*
Clark	846	58	25	3	*	*
Clermont	380	50	43	2		
Clinton	109	30	12	_		
Columbiana	159	46	11	6	~	*
Coshocton	1404	57	13	3	*	*
Crawford	106	33	6	3		
Cuyahoga	738	52	96		*	
Darke	214	46	7	1		
Defiance	56	21	6	-		
Delaware	267	36	42			
Erie	256	30	23		*	
Fairfield	134	31	21		1	
Fayette	165	30	5	2	•	
Franklin	2315	61	113	1		*
Fulton	214	30	6	-	*	
Gallia	139	25	7			
Geauga	539	69	39	1		
Greene	736	62	61	_	1	
Guernsey	126	23	3		_	
Hamilton	689	56	67	1	*	
Hancock	381	59	19	3		
Hardin	83	31	3	1		
Harrison	270	38	5	3	*	
Henry	314	34	6	1	*	*
Highland	71	27	12	1		
ingiliallu	/ 1	21	12			

Hocking	118	35	24			
Holmes	203	29	8	1	*	*
Huron	334	28	5	3	*	~
Jackson	119	31	8			
Jefferson	229	34	7	2	*	*
Knox	154	22	16			
Lake	593	68	44	1		
Lawrence	228	37	4	2	*	~
Licking	197	34	25	1		
Logan	399	46	16	2	*	
Lorain	745	49	37	1		
Lucas	2846	76	71	1	*	
Madison	237	33	15	2		
Mahoning	104	42	10	1		
Marion	322	29	8	3	*	
Medina	214	44	31	2		
Meigs	378	31	1	3	*	
Mercer	91	22	3	2		
Miami	473	54	21		*	*
Monroe	180	28	2	2	*	
Montgomery	1202	78	50	3		*
Morgan	144	32	7		2	
Morrow	482	31	15	1	*	*
Muskingum	200	34	9			
Noble	372	27	7		*	*
Ottawa	167	31	50	5		~
Paulding	59	21	2			
Perry	93	21	1	1		
Pickaway	119	34	16	3		
Pike	267	40	9	3	*	
Portage	459	76	50	3		*
Preble	227	36	12	3		
Putnam	125	23	1			
Richland	137	30	15	1		
Ross	113	33	13			
Sandusky	248	40	11	3	~	*
Scioto	114	32	9	2		
Seneca	283	30	7	3	*	
Shelby	136	32	14	5		
Stark	2734	76	43	4	*	*
Summit	950	72	108			*

Trumbull	140	39	10	1		
Tuscarawas	191	29	6	1	*	
Union	319	27	10		*	
Van Wert	51	21	1			
Vinton	130	30	7			
Warren	231	45	32	2		
Washington	99	26	3			
Wayne	219	30	26	1	*	~
Williams	138	36	4	1		
Wood	155	32	27	2		
Wyandot	80	29	12			

2022 Numbers To-Date — Counties Jim Lemon <u>ilem@woh.rr.com</u>

2022 iNat data – Mar 6 to Nov 10 as of Nov 29, 8AM							
136 Species	# Observations	# Counties	# Users	# Co Records	New Yearly High		
Amber-winged Spreadwing	60	15	19	1			
American Rubyspot	578	38	74		*		
Arrow Clubtail	20	7	9				
Arrowhead Spiketail	19	10	14	1			
Ashy Clubtail	91	18	27		*		
Aurora Damsel	44	15	22	1			
Autumn Meadowhawk	1324	72	152		*		
Azure Bluet	305	53	73	1			
Band-winged Meadowhawk	124	16	36	2			
Banded Pennant	111	20	24	2			
Beaverpond Baskettail	2	1	1				
Black Saddlebags	525	72	98		*		
Black-shouldered Spinyleg	58	22	21	1			
Black-tipped Darner	7	3	5				
Blue Corporal	26	10	18	1			
Blue Dasher	2436	88	276				
Blue-faced Meadowhawk	206	22	45	2			
Blue-fronted Dancer	944	80	117				
Blue-ringed Dancer	341	42	45				
Blue-tipped Dancer	675	71	88	1	*		
Brown Spiketail	15	4	5				

Calico Pennant	370	52	70		
Carolina Saddlebags	198	39	61	2	
Cherry-faced Meadowhawk	1	1	1		
Citrine Forktail	161	33	34	3	
Clamp-tipped Emerald	9	8	8		
Cobra Clubtail	59	4	22		
Comet Darner	99	32	36	6	*
Common Baskettail	32	17	21	1	
Common Green Darner	505	69	116		
Common Sanddragon	17	4	4		~
Common Whitetail	1725	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	671	71	72		
Dragonhunter	71	19	30	1	
Dusky Clubtail	26	4	7		*
Dusky Dancer	261	44	40		*
Eastern Amberwing	1559	88	169		*
Eastern Forktail	2246	88	168		
Eastern Least Clubtail	47	7	12		*
Eastern Pondhawk	2436	88	256		*
Eastern Red Damsel	190	20	44	1	*
Eastern Ringtail	21	4	7		
Ebony Jewelwing	1105	77	288	1	*
Elegant Spreadwing	57	19	22		
Elfin Skimmer	80	1	18		*
Elusive Clubtail	12	1	4		*
Familiar Bluet	848	77	104		*
Fawn Darner	42	20	25		
Flag-tailed Spinyleg	92	21	19	1	
Fragile Forktail	1898	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	472	70	115		
Handsome Clubtail	17	6	7	1	
Harlequin Darner	24	3	8		*
Jade Clubtail	26	4	11	2	*
Lance-tipped Darner	4	4	4		
Lancet Clubtail	224	37	34	1	*
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	1	
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	73	17	29		*
Northern Spreadwing	1	1	1	1	
Ocellated Darner	12	4	6	1	*
Orange Bluet	579	72	68	1	*
Painted Skimmer	285	42	75	7	*
Paiute Dancer	65	4	17		
Plains Clubtail	34	1	6		
Powdered Dancer	718	56	89		*
Prince Baskettail	377	76	62		
Pronghorn Clubtail	18	5	10		
Racket-tailed Emerald	10	3	6		
Rainbow Bluet	22	6	10		
Rapids Clubtail	15	7	10	1	
Red Saddlebags	20	7	10	2	*
Riffle Snaketail	3	1	3		
River Bluet	9	1	7		*
River Jewelwing	1	1	1		
Royal River Cruiser	50	28	24	3	
Ruby Meadowhawk	19	8	9	1	
Russet-tipped Clubtail	53	3	11	1	*
Rusty Snaketail	23	4	9		*
Sedge Sprite	70	11	20	1	*
Seepage Dancer	193	5	34		*
Shadow Darner	142	33	61	1	*
Skimming Bluet	465	63	63	1	*
Slaty Skimmer	766	67	106	5	*

Slender Baskettail	1	1	1	1	
Slender Spreadwing	552	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		
Spotted Spreadwing	97	22	28	2	*
Springtime Darner	24	14	17		
Stream Bluet	592	64	74		*
Stream Cruiser	18	5	7	1	*
Swamp Darner	69	29	48	4	
Swamp Spreadwing	58	21	21	3	
Sweetflag Spreadwing	46	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	102	15	18	1	
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	500	63	121		
Twin-spotted Spiketail	3	3	3	1	
Uhler's Sundragon	6	1	1		~
Unicorn Clubtail	293	51	65	1	*
Vesper Bluet	106	23	22	4	*
Violet Dancer	1097	77	106		*
Wandering Glider	202	45	69	3	
Westfall's Slender Bluet	318	48	58	4	*
White-faced Meadowhawk	23	7	12	1	
Widow Skimmer	1579	88	227		
Yellow-sided Skimmer	30	1	3		*

Key					
* New high					
~ Matched previous high					