

Odes on High (and Low)

Dragonflies at High-Elevation Ponds in New Hampshire and Lowlands in Vermont

One of the highlights for many attendees of the 2017 Northeast DSA meeting will be the chance for some of the high-elevation specialties of northern New England. New Hampshire's White Mountains are something of a regional hotbed for some of these species, although they're not always easy to get to. While most species require a hike of variable length or difficulty, New Hampshire does offer several sites accessible by road. Note that the two high species of *Somatochlora* (Striped Emeralds) often fly out over the water, and considerable patience is required to actually capture them. The four species listed in the tables below are Lake Darner (*Aeshna eremita* [abbreviated as "Aesere"]), Sedge Darner (*A. juncea* [Aesjun]), Ringed Emerald (*Somatochlora albicincta* [Somalb]), and Lake Emerald (*S. cingulata* [Somcin]). Note also that the only New Hampshire record of *A. sitchensis* (Zigzag Darner) is from Hermit Lake, where it was collected by Scudder in the 1860s. We have yet to relocate this species in the state.



Meanwhile, in Vermont, one high-elevation site for *Somatochlora albicincta* (Ringed Emerald) is the summit of Mt. Mansfield, which won't be an option for us during the meeting. But Vermont lowlands in the northeast corner of the state, known as the Nulhegan Basin, with granite bedrock and lots of peatlands, offers fine *Somatochlora* diversity. Known by Vermonters as the "Northeast Kingdom," the basin is close to our headquarters in Lancaster. We suspect the *Somatochlora* diversity here isn't quite as good as that of New Hampshire, but the sites are easy to reach; you'll sometimes see *Somatochlora* and other northerners even before you get out of your vehicle.

Also, if interest warrants, Bryan will lead a small group into private conservation land that we've yet to fully explore for *Somatochlora*, *Ophiogomphus* (Snaketails) and other prized species. The site has one of the most beautiful ponds in Vermont.



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New Hampshire Site Information

Pond	Elevation (ft)	Access	Aesere	Aesjun	Somalb	Somcin
Franconia Notch Access						
Beaver Pond, Kinsman Notch	1850	Road	X	X		X
Lonesome Lake	2730	Moderate hike	X	X	X	X
Bog Pond, Lincoln	2320	Long hike		X		
Profile Lake	1930	Road	X	X	X	X
Eagle Lake	4150	Steep hike	X			X
Russell Pond (Tripoli Road)	1680	Road				X
Crawford Notch Access						
Ethan Pond	2850	Long hike	X		X	X
Saco Lake	1900	Road	X			X
Nancy and Norcross Ponds	3100	Long hike	X	X	X	X
Pinkham Notch Access						
Lakes of the Clouds (Mt. Washington)	5040	Moderate hike			X	X
Hermit Lake (Tuckerman's Ravine)	3866	Long hike	X	X	X	X
Carter Notch ponds	3290	Long hike	X		X	X
Lost Pond	2090	Short hike	X			X
Base of Mt. Washington Auto Road	1550	Road				X
Other Access						
Greeley Ponds, Kancamagus Highway	2100	Moderate hike	X		X	X
Lily Pond, Kancamagus Highway	2080	Road	X			X
Black Mountain Pond, Sandwich	2225	Moderate hike	X			X
Zealand Pond	2460	Moderate hike	X			X
Pond of Safety, Randolph	2230	Road (and boat)				X
Star Lake (Mt. Madison)	4900	Long hike			X	
Little Bog Pond, Odell	2040	Road (barely)	X			X

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Vermont Site Information

Pond	Elevation (ft)	Access	Aesere	Aesjun	Somalb	Somcin
Caledonia County	1176					
Doloff Pond	1453	Road	X			X
Ricker Pond	1051	Road	X			
Cow Hill Beaver Ponds	1731	Road				X
Lower Symes Pond	805	Road	X			
Essex County						
Spectacle Pond	1176	Road	X			
Lewis Pond	1829	Road	X		X	X
Tuttle Pond	1000	Short hike	X			
Dennis Pond	1019	Short hike	X			
Wheeler Pond	1028	Road	X			
Mud Pond Bog	1044	Short hike				X
Averys Gore (Unknown pond)	2319	Short hike				X

Vermont Note: There are other sites that have not been surveyed, at least at this time of year, so the potential exists for finding new sites if you are adventurous. Many new county records and a couple of state records are possible.