



# THE BOGHAUNTER

Occasional News About the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Vermont

Volume 4 • Number 1

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Winter 2004-2005

## Citrine Forktail Confirmed In VT

### Three Counties In One Week

By Mike Blust

**I**t was late in the day on August 5. My brother and I were on our way home from a day exploring the “deep south” of Vermont (Windham County) for birds and odonates. Consulting our map, we looked for any sites along our route that might be good for a quick check. We stopped at an anonymous pond downstream from Hidden Lake near the town of Marlboro.

As I stepped into the grassy edge, something small and “different” practically flew into my net. It had too much orange to be a female *Ischnura verticalis* (Eastern Forktail), too much black to be an *Amphiagrion saucium* (Eastern Red Damselfly), and was too small to be anything other than a young, female *Ischnura hastata* (Citrine Forktail) – possibly the first for the state of Vermont.

I say “possibly” because *Ischnura hastata* has been on “the



Glenn Corbiere

*Ischnura hastata* (Citrine Forktail)

Vermont List” for some time, but had been recently removed owing to insufficient evidence. Though perpetuated in several reports, the original source of information was a general survey of aquatic insects in Vermont. Identification of nymphal *Ischnura* is a tricky business that involves key characters rife with the word “usually.” Without any adult specimens, I was unwilling to consider *I. hastata* as a valid record for Vermont,

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## Dragonfly Discovery Day This June

By Bryan Pfeiffer

**H**ere’s your chance to join the enlightened few who have discovered dragonflies.

Vermont’s first (perhaps annual) Dragonfly Discovery Day will be Saturday, June 25, at a location to be announced. We expect expert and novices alike to gather a grand celebration of the order Odonata.

During lectures indoors and explorations afield, beginners will learn to study and enjoy dragonflies and damselflies. We’ll cover everything from field guides to net technique.

We’ll start the day with bagels, beverages and basics on

dragonfly biology. But it won’t be long before beginners are out getting their feet wet, either swinging a net, photographing or simply watching dragonflies through binoculars.

For intermediate dragonflyers, we’ll offer tips on advancing to the next level, including getting started on larval identification.

Expect a full day of field work, with some time indoors behind stereoscopes. We’ll even include some tips of specimen preservation and curating.

Sunday, June 26, is the rain date. If you’d like to help, contact Bryan Pfeiffer at [bryan@wingsenvironmental.com](mailto:bryan@wingsenvironmental.com) or (802) 454-1874.

# *Ischnura hastata* Confirmed in Vermont

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and had removed it in the spring of 2004 while updating the state checklist.

But here it was in my net. I would not say this small pond at an elevation of almost 1,500 feet was where I would have expected this species. I searched for other individuals (especially a male) before I left the site, but never found any. Was this a fluke? Had this individual gotten "blown in" from points south?

Massachusetts reports *I. hastata* from late May to mid September. Maine reports only a few records – all during August. Nick Donnelly's dot map for *I. hastata* shows only a few records away from the coast in New England. There is a notable gap along the Appalachian mountains and then more records in the Midwest. Whatever the circumstances, *I. hastata* was now confirmed as having been found in Vermont. It was back on the state list.

Fast forward five days to August 10. Landing in my inbox (if not my net) was

an email from David Hoag – a sharp-eyed birder whose domain is the islands of Lake Champlain. Dave, who has begun expanding his gaze to include odonates, was sending some digital photos. One photo was of a small damselfly that he accidentally netted while aiming for a Meadowhawk species. The damsel was another young female *I. hastata* – from the opposite corner of the state, and one of the most northern of records for this species. Suddenly, Vermont had two new records for this dainty damselfly.

The very next day, after taking my wife to the Albany airport, I swung through Bennington County in Vermont's southeastern corner. My goal was to add a few species to this county's low odonate total. I had been to the Barber Pond area on June 8, and returned to see what later-season odes were flying. After poking around for a while, I once again hit paydirt. A bright male *I. hastata* put to shame the faded specimens I had seen in Florida last March. I went for the camera instead of the net. And I wound up with

nothing but memories of that individual. A few miles away, however, a young female once again crossed my path.

So *Ischnura hastata* is now firmly a member of the Vermont list of Odonata. It hails from three counties representing three corners of our state – the two southern counties (bordering Massachusetts) and the northwestern Champlain Valley. All four individuals seemed fresh in early August. Is *I. hastata* a recent arrival in Vermont? Is it a late summer species in the north? Has it just been overlooked because of its size and timing? Another species. More questions. More reasons to get out and look.

*Mike Blust, a regular contributor to The Boghaunter, has a doctorate in entomology, did his masters work on the life history of Stylogomphus albistylus, and teaches biology at Green Mountain College in Poultney. He runs the Odonata of Vermont Web Site <<http://campus.greenmtn.edu/dept/NS/Dragonfly>> and still manages to spend many hours in the field.*

## Please Join the VES

**B**oghaunter readers are invited to join Vermont's premier organization dedicated to the study, enjoyment and conservation of insects – the Vermont Entomological Society.

VES is a group of scientists, naturalists, and novices who share a devotion to insects and their allies. And the good news is that membership in the VES – for a mere \$10 annually – will buy more insect devotion than ever. You'll be joining a community of friendly and knowledgeable insect lovers.

VES will soon be sponsoring a new web site that will fast become Vermont's on-line authority for all your entomological needs.

The redesigned and enhanced VES quarterly newsletter is a must-read for those of us who care about Vermont insects. Subscription is included in your membership fee.

This year the VES will be organizing

field trips to all corners of Vermont.

In recent years, VES has brought some of the nation's leading entomologists to Vermont for workshops or other investigations, including Robert Michael Pyle (butterflies), James Lloyd (fireflies), and Paul-Michael Brunelle (dragonflies).

The Society is looking forward to even more high-flying projects in coming years. It plans to establish an e-mail discussion group for members to share information about insects in Vermont. And it might even produce a simple field guide to Vermont's bumblebee species.

In short, the Vermont Entomological Society is poised for growth and great projects. If you'd like to know more, please contact Scott Griggs at [vtleps@aol.com](mailto:vtleps@aol.com) or Bryan Pfeiffer at [Bryan@WingsEnvironmental.com](mailto:Bryan@WingsEnvironmental.com). (After all, it's only ten bucks.)

**THE BOGHAUNTER** is an occasional newsletter about the dragonflies and damselflies of Vermont. It is available for no charge, although contributions to help offset postage and printing are welcome.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** to **THE BOGHAUNTER** can take two forms: financial and editorial. The newsletter appears two or three times per year. Even a donation of \$5 to \$10 would help offset printing and postage expenses, which are borne entirely by the editor. Your articles, photos, and ideas are welcome as well. The next issue should appear in June.

**THE BOGHAUNTER is on the web in color at:**  
[www.wingsenvironmental.com/boghaunter](http://www.wingsenvironmental.com/boghaunter).

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Editor ..... Bryan Pfeiffer

**THE BOGHAUNTER** expresses gratitude to Paul-Michael Brunelle and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for inspiration and use of the *Williamsonia fletcheri* image on the front-page banner, and to Glenn Corbiere for the use of his fine *Ischnura hastata* image.

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# Vermont 2004 Season Summary

By Bryan Pfeiffer

The top of a ski slope isn't where I typically look for dragonflies. But during my backpacking trip this fall from Canada to Massachusetts, along the spine of Vermont's Green Mountains, dragonflies weren't exactly abundant. So when an *Aeshna* species landed near the double chair lift, I dumped my backpack and stalked the subject.

As I approached close enough to eyeball the thoracic pattern, something didn't add up. *Aeshna constricta* (Lance-tipped Darner)? Nope, the cerci weren't right. Only after I had the bug in hand did it dawn on me that this was *Aeshna subarctica* (Subarctic Darner). It was Vermont's second record (on 27Sep) for this northern species.

That's the way the season went this year in Vermont. Slowly, deliberately, step by step (even on hiking trips), a few, proud folks are cracking the code of Odonata diversity and distribution in this under-surveyed state.

We're proud of our progress. But only when I sat down to write this summary, did it dawn on me how few of us there are (about three) regularly wetting our feet for odes in this state (which is not to discount the contributions of growing numbers of casual odonatists). Consequently, this report will include only a few highlights from this season past.

## Aeshnidae (Darners)

Vermont's first ode of the season, *Anax junius* (Common Green Darner), made its characteristic April arrival on a uncharacteristically warm day (70°F) on 30Apr in West Haven (Rutland County), a hotbed of ode diversity in the state's south-central section. Other Aeshnids, besides the aforementioned *A. subarctica*, didn't make much news this year, with the exception of *A. clepsydra* (Mottled Darner), infrequently encountered in the state, flying in good numbers at the aptly named Lily Pond in extreme southeastern Vermont (Bennington County) on 17Aug.

## Gomphidae (Clubtails)

With the possible exception of *Somatochlora*, Gomphids may be the least-understood odonate taxon in Vermont. *Ophiogomphus* (Snaketails) will be getting some attention in the future. Notable was a teneral *Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis* (Rusty Snaketail) flying in Windsor County on 4Jun. At a single site, the outlet to Marshfield Pond in Washington County, the following seven Gomphids were flying on 1Jul: *Arigomphus furcifer* (Lilypond Clubtail), *Gomphus borealis*



*Hagenius brevistylus* (Dragonhunter)

(Beaverpond Clubtail), *Gomphus exilis* (Lancet Clubtail), *Gomphus spicatus* (Dusky Clubtail), *Gomphus adelphus* (Moustached Clubtail), *Hagenius brevistylus* (Dragonhunter), *Stylogomphus albistylus* (Least Clubtail).

## Cordulegastridae and Macromiidae (Spiketails and Cruisers)

No big news here. Still undiscovered in Vermont (but most certainly somewhere) is *Cordulegaster obliqua* (Arrowhead Clubtail), designated by odonatist Mike Blust (The Boghaunter, Vol. 3, No. 2) as the next likely new dragonfly discovery in the state. And for those who like a challenge, *Macromia illinoensis* (Illinois River Cruiser) was flying in high numbers along the Connecticut River below Vernon Dam (Bennington County) on 17Aug. (To be fair, the Connecticut River itself is technically in the state of New Hampshire, but a few of those *M. illinoensis* were indeed flying along the Vermont shoreline.)

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# Vermont 2004 Season Summary

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## Corduliidae (Emeralds)

The search for *Williamsonia lintneri* (Ringed Boghaunter) continues in Vermont, so far without success. But in the process, *Williamsonia fletcheri* (Ebony Boghaunter), was flying in limited numbers (two females) at its only known site in Vermont (in

Washington County) on 9May and in greater numbers (25 individuals) on 17May. This count included newly discovered *W. fletcheri* flying at a fen nearby, which may or may not have breeding individuals.

*Somatochlora*, of course, demands further investigation in Vermont.

*Somatochlora kennedyi* (Kennedy's Emerald) and *S. minor* (Ocellated Emerald) turned up in Vermont's northeastern corner (Essex County) on 26Jun.

## Libellulidae (Skimmers)

Libellulids were more or less predictable in Vermont this year. *Libellula semifasciata* (Painted Skimmer) was an exception, with records coming from Washington County on 19Jun and Windsor County on 21Jun. Based purely on anecdotal and gut-level evidence, *Sympetrum costiferum* (Saffron-winged Meadowhawk) seemed more abundant than in recent years past. The unpredictable and uncommon *Sympetrum danae* (Black Meadowhawk) was vouchered in Grand Isle (Grand Isle County) on 11Sep. And the enchanting *Pantala flavescens* (Wandering Glider) was eclosing (and flying as mature adults) from a flooded ditch in Bradford (Orange County) on 25Aug.

## Calopterigidae (Jewelwings)

*Hetaerina americana* (American Rubyspot) got some new attention in Vermont this fall, with a population being discovered at various sites along the West River in Dummerston (Windham County) 6Sep. They were also flying along Lewis Creek in Ferrisburgh (Chittenden County) on 31Aug. Few or no other locations are known in the state for this delightful damselfly.

## Lestidae (Spreadwings)

The season's first-noticed *Lestes eurinus* (Amber-winged Spreadwing) were flying as teneral at a bog in Lamoille

County on 27May, which may be an early date for the species owing to an unusually warm spring. In Caledonia County, six *Lestes* species were flying on 14Aug: *Lestes congener* (Spotted Spreadwing), *Lestes disjunctus* (Common Spreadwing), *Lestes dryas* (Emerald Spreadwing), *Lestes forcipatus* (Sweetflag Spreadwing), and *Lestes rectangularis* (Slender Spreadwing) and *Lestes vigilax* (Swamp Spreadwing).



*Argia apicalis* (Blue-fronted Dancer)

Bryan Pfeiffer

## Coenagrionidae (Pond Damsels)

A male *Coenagrion resolutum* (Taiga Bluet) was a crowd pleaser to the folks gathered at a bog in Marshfield (Washington County) during the northeast gathering of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas on 25Jun. Another crowd pleaser, *Enallagma antennatum* (Rainbow Bluet) was located at its only known site in Vermont, described as the state's most eutrophic pond, in Rutland County on 19Jun and 28Jun. The biggest news from Vermont this year was that Mike Blust located incontrovertible evidence of *Ischnura hastata* (Citrine Forktail) in Vermont, from the state's two southern counties, Windham County on 5Aug and Bennington County on 11Aug. A novice odonatist, Dave Hoag, added a northern record for *I. hastata* on 10Aug, from Grand Isle County in Vermont's Champlain Valley. It's consistent with findings in Vermont, certainly with butterflies and likely with odonates, that the ranges of certain southern species extend northward into the milder lowlands along Lake Champlain.

*Bryan Pfeiffer is a consulting naturalist, writer, photographer, and editor and publisher of The Boghaunter. His new web site is at <www.wingsenvironmental.com>.*

# Calendar of Events

## Northeast Regional DSA Meeting

**June 9-12 / State College, PA**

Vermont was proud to host last year's regional gathering of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas. A day's drive south of here offers New Englanders a new look on dragonfly diversity. The meeting includes a visit to Ten Acre Pond, of one of the richest odonate habitats in North America. Eighty-five species are known from this single locality. Among the more than 50 species to expect in the second week of June are *Aeshna mutata* (Spadderdock Darner) and *Anax longipes* (Comet Darner). For details consult <[www.udel.edu/chem/white/TAP.html](http://www.udel.edu/chem/white/TAP.html)>.

## Dragonfly Discovery Day

**June 25 / Central Vermont / 9 am - 5 pm**

Here's your chance to discover the clues to Clubtails, the skills of Skimmers and the joys of Jewelwings. Vermont's first Dragonfly Discovery Day will be your introduction to the study and appreciation of these great insects. Details for this day in the classroom and in the field are still begin developed. We'll announce a location soon. But save the date or contact Bryan Pfeiffer ([bryan@wingsenvironmental.com](mailto:bryan@wingsenvironmental.com)) if you'd like to help with organization.

## Dragonflies at Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge

**June 25 / Longmeadow, MA / 8 am**

Join Lynn Harper for this day-long adventure into the heart of the southern Connecticut River valley in Massachusetts. Bring your lunch, your net, your sense of adventure, and prepare to get wet. Meet 8 am at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, MA. Or contact Lynn at (978) 249-9436 or [HarperLynn@msn.com](mailto:HarperLynn@msn.com)

## Dragonfly Society of the Americas Annual Meeting

**July 8-12 / Arnprior, Ontario, Canada**

Rub elbows and swing nets with dragonflyers from across the country. It's not often that the DSA's annual meeting is so close to Vermont. The drive to Arnprior is about 5 or 6 hours from Montpelier. At least a few Vermonters will attend. For details contact Paul Catling at [catlingp@agr.gc.ca](mailto:catlingp@agr.gc.ca) or check out <[www.afn.org/~iori/oinevent.html](http://www.afn.org/~iori/oinevent.html)>.

## Mystery Odonate trip to Southern Vermont

**July 23 / Southern Vermont / 8 am**

Join Lynn Harper, Dave Small and Vermont's Mike Blust for a search for new county records, new state records, or any odes at all, for that matter, in southern Vermont. Bring your lunch, your net, your sense of adventure, and prepare to get wet. Meet 8 am at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, MA. Or contact Lynn at (978) 249-9436 or [HarperLynn@msn.com](mailto:HarperLynn@msn.com) for an alternate meeting location near our first stop.



Bryan Pfeiffer

The egg "basket" of an *Epitheca* (Baskettail) species.

## North Branch Nature Center Bug-Fest

**July 31 / Montpelier / All Day**

Celebrate dragonflies (as well as the lesser insect orders) during this day-long insect festival at one of Vermont's premier nature centers. From its food to field trips, the Bug-Fest is fast becoming a premier summertime event for entomologists, casual bugwatchers and families (kids encouraged). More details will appear in the next issue of *The Boghaunter*.

## Odes of the Ashuelot River in Southern New Hampshire

**September 10 / Southern New Hampshire / 8 am**

Look for late-season odes with Lynn Harper and Earle Baldwin on this day-long excursion to our neighboring watershed. Bring your lunch, your net, your sense of adventure, and prepare to get wet. Meet 8 am at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, MA. For additional information contact Lynn at (978) 249-9436 or [HarperLynn@msn.com](mailto:HarperLynn@msn.com).

Editor's Note: *The Boghaunter* will have a more complete calendar of events in the spring issue. To get yours listed send a description, written in a format like those listed here, and email it to [Bryan@WingsEnvironmental.com](mailto:Bryan@WingsEnvironmental.com).

# Operation Rubyspot Comes to VT

By Bryan Pfeiffer

**T**hree rivers and 50 *Hetaerina americana* (American Rubyspot). Those were the results of informal survey work for this elegant damselfly in Vermont last fall. The best news is my discovery (perhaps not the first) of Rubyspots on the West River in Dummerston (Windham County) in September.

As if *Hetaerina* weren't itself an inspirational insect, my efforts were inspired by Operation Rubyspot – the regional survey project launched by Dave Small <[www.rubyspot.net](http://www.rubyspot.net)>. Between 6 August and 6 October of last year, hundreds of *Hetaerina* adults were reported from five New England states (where was Connecticut?). The high point came during a kayak exploration of the famed Millers River in Massachusetts on 25 August, when rubyspotters Shelley Hight, Viney Zozak, and Dave Small counted 354 individuals. Here in Vermont, *Hetaerina* flies later. So here is a summary of what we found last year:



Bryan Pfeiffer

*Hetaerina americana* (American Rubyspot)

## Winooski River

On 26 August, I spent the day on my bicycle (with net) looking for *Hetaerina* along an 11-mile stretch of Winooski River from my hometown of Plainfield to Montpelier. I stopped at nine locations, where I either walked about 100 meters of river or scrutinized through the binos as much of the river as possible. I also noted general river flow and the quality of the riparian zone at each stop. My grand total: zero Rubyspots.

Although the Winooski River, one of Vermont's largest, should have potential for Rubyspots, my overall assessment of this river's odonate diversity is this: It basically stinks for odes. A Millers it ain't. I do hope (and expect) to be proven wrong. I did bump into quite a few *Boyeria vinosa* (Fawn Darner), an *Aeshna eremita* (Lake Darner), a couple of likely *Stylurus sp.*, and one possible (and late) *Ophiogomphus sp.* (if only my spotting scope would fit on the bicycle). In any event, it was a nice ride. And I may have been a bit early for Rubyspots.

## Lewis Creek

This had been Vermont's most reliable Rubyspot spot. So on 31 August, Sharon Riley and I went looking. We counted 32 *Hetaerina* (24 males and eight females) along two short stretches of Lewis Creek in Ferrisburgh. (We probably missed a few females.)

This site, discovered by Don Miller, is among the few known locations for *Hetaerina* in Vermont. Torrential rains had left Lewis Creek raging, so we couldn't walk the creek itself. (But we did break out the spotting scope to count a few.)

I should also point out that this creek was treated two years ago with a chemical to kill sea lamprey. So it was nice to see these elegant odonates in flight. (Mudpuppies may not have fared as well.)

## West River

On 6 September, Operation Rubyspot went south. At three points along a 1.2-mile stretch of the West River in Dummerston (Windham County), I counted 12 male, five female and one additional (sex undetermined) *Hetaerina americana*. This may be a newly discovered site for Rubyspots in Vermont. Plus, it's a river with easy access and some delightful walking (and swimming holes). I intend to spend more time there next season.

## The Rubyspot Challenge

I can think of fewer better ways to spend a September day than to walk a river for Rubyspots. Accordingly, I suggest we find more rivers with Rubyspots this year. Let's add new sites each year. I'll bet that anglers know and find these insects. Let's work with them. Let's also formalize our survey techniques so that results are consistent and comparable from year to year.

Vermont continues to dump chemicals into rivers to control sea lamprey. Riparian zones are threatened. And commercial and residential, development, with its resulting stormwater runoff and other abuses, continues to harm Vermont rivers. Perhaps *Hetaerina americana* can be an elegant messenger for monitoring the health of Vermont rivers. Let's get to work.

# The Vermont Ode Data Project

## Dragonfly Data Offers Strength In Numbers

By Bryan Pfeiffer

**B**irdwatchers have been doing it for years — pooling their observations into computer databases in order to study bird diversity, distribution and decline. It's high time odonatists did the same.

Imagine being able to predict the emergence dates of *Enallagma antennatum* (Rainbow Bluet) based on your latitude within its range. How about checking whether global warming is expanding the range of *Libellula incesta* (Slaty Skimmer)? (We hope not.) Or can we ever predict the nomadic tendencies of *Sympetrum corruptum* (Variegated Meadowhawk)?

Large collections of dragonfly data — even only date and location for various species — can speak loudly about the status and fate of these insects. Nick Donnelly's dot-map project did indeed gather data from far and wide, with impressive and invaluable results.

Yet many of us collect more than date and location information for the odes we see. We note habitat, water temperature, cloud cover, or even behavior. The only problem is that an odonatist in Oregon can't readily pool such information with a colleague in Ohio. Vermont and Virginia speak different data dialects.

We in Vermont don't profess to be trailblazers in data gathering. But a good first step will be for all of us here to merge our Vermont data into one "official" source for the state. Hence the Vermont Ode Data Project (although we're open to other names).

On a spring-like day in January, a thaw so severe we practically expected to see *Anax junius* (Common Green Darner) in the air, Mike Blust and I met at the Rutland Free Library. Our intent was to merge our own databases into a kind of unified electronic (and potent) source of dragonfly knowledge — thousands of individual records that together begin to form a blueprint for ode diversity and distribution across the state.

Needless to say, it wasn't easy. Databases are segregationists. They don't integrate without a struggle. So our first step was to agree on exactly what information we'd extract and share from our separate databases and, in the future, what we'll note (at the very least) for each dragonfly we voucher or observe.

We want other Vermonters to collect the same information. Only when we all record the same things, can we pool our data and begin to draw some conclusions.

What follows is a near-final list of the information Mike and I will gather for each dragonfly we encounter in Vermont from this day forward. We encourage others to do the same. It may seem like an unusually long list, but it actually amounts to a scaled back version of the information Mike and I have been collecting in the past for our databases.

### Location Information

*This is the data you need to note only once per visit.*

**Site Name** : Where were you? If it's an officially named location (Moose Bog, for example) use that. If you're at some unnamed beaver pond, give it a name of your choosing. Use the same name when you return to the site for future surveying.

**Town** : Use the official Vermont town — and not a village name. For example, the village of Island Pond is in the town of Brighton. (Use Brighton.)

**County** : Only 14 of them.

**State** : We'll also take your out-of-state data.

**Latitude and Longitude** : If you've got a GPS unit, please use it. Otherwise, give us your estimate off a map. Please use decimal degrees such as 42.12345 x 72.54321) and, when setting your GPS, use a map datum of NAD83.

**Elevation** : In meters, please.

**Habitat** : In the next issue of The Boghaunter, we'll give you a list to choose from (e.g. bog, fen, marsh, pond, brook, etc.).

**Surroundings** : What's around you? Woods, open field, mountains?

**Date** : Use the following format 4Jul2005.

**Time** : Include the time you started at the

site and the time you finished.

**Temperature** : If you can, try to get a temperature in the shade.

**Wind Speed** : still, light, moderate, or heavy.

**Cloud Cover** : Either clear, a cover of 25%, 50%, or 75%, or overcast.

**Comments** : Any observations you might add.

### Dragonfly Data

*Once you've recorded the location and conditions here is the data to collect on each dragonfly you locate during your visit.*

**Species Name** : We'll be offering a standardized list.

**Voucher Number** : If you collected a specimen or took a photograph, we'll need the voucher identification number you use for your own record-keeping.

**Count** : If you've collected voucher specimens, tell us the number of males, females, and/or larvae in your voucher. And we'd also like to know if the specimens were adults or teneral (or both).

**Abundance** : We'll be looking for some basic abundance information from the site — simply an overall count for a given species or, better yet, an estimate of how many males, females, teneral you encountered. We'd also like to know how you made the identification — either visually, with binoculars, or net-and-release.

**Comments** : Any additional observations, such as behavior, copulation, ovipositioning would be welcome for any dragonfly data you submit.

While Mike and I have found that it's actually quite easy to collect this information, we know that some of you may be reluctant. But consider this: Shouldn't those of us who collect, observe, and enjoy dragonflies at least use our findings to advance our collective knowledge of these great insects and to give them something in return? I submit that this is our duty. At the very least, please consider sending us date, species, and location data this year. Every bit of data will help. Thanks.

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*Ophlogomphus mainensis* (Maine Snaketail)



Bryan Pfeiffer