



# THE BOGHAUNTER

Occasional News About the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Vermont

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Winter 2005 - 2006

## Seven New Vermont Ode Species

By Mike Blust

**E**ven before we left the car for the short walk to Lily Pond in Vernon, a large dragonfly, hovering above a roadside pool, caught my attention. Bryan Pfeiffer and I had *Rhionaeschna mutata* – the big, blue-eyed Spatterdock Darner – on our minds, although neither of us mentioned it. My 15-year-old daughter, Christine, grabbed a net as well, and the three of us piled out of the car.

It was June 21 – too early for most of our darner species to be flying, even in Vernon, where Lily Pond is nearly within spitting distance of Massachusetts. Only 10 days earlier, Bryan and I had seen our first Spatterdock Darners, but that was at the famed Ten Acre Pond in Pennsylvania. This species had never been recorded in Vermont. But it certainly beckoned us to Lily Pond.



© Bryan Pfeiffer

*Rhionaeschna mutata* (Spatterdock Darner)

Bryan swung his net. The beast misjudged his long arms and the result was that satisfying Aeshnid rattle in the netting. But once this large dragonfly was out of the net, we both sort of stared at it, momentarily confused because the ode in

hand was not what we had expected. As Bryan turned the critter in puzzlement, suddenly his eyes brightened. Cyrano! The projecting frons fit, that was for sure. The books flipped open to *Nasiaeschna*

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## The Case of the Missing Gray Petaltail

By Bryan Pfeiffer

**G**roton State Forest isn't exactly the place to find *Tachopteryx thoreyi* (Gray Petaltail), that ancient bug that makes a northern odonatists' knees knock.

A 25,000-acre patchwork of mixed and coniferous woods, ponds, brooks, marshes and bogs in eastern Vermont, Groton is the place for *Coenagrion resolutum* (Taiga Bluet), *Gomphus borealis*

(Beaverpond Clubtail), and *Leucorrhinia frigida* (Frosted Whiteface) – but not a southerner like *Tachopteryx*.

But as THE BOGHAUNTER went to press, I received in the mail from Kent McFarland a photocopy of the Spring 1974 edition of *Vermont Natural History*, which back then was the newsletter of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science.

This particular edition had some hot news. It featured what could only be

called a pioneering article entitled "Discovering Dragonflies in Vermont" by Patty O'Brien, who, along with photographer Paul Donahue roamed the state studying and photographing dragonflies during the summer of 1973.

Leaping from the pages of the article was an account from "a cleared area, with paths bordered by high bushes" in Groton

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# 2006 Northeast DSA Meeting in NH

By Pam Hunt

Here's your chance to journey to the center of New Hampshire's White Mountain Region to search for some of the area's northern specialties.

The next Northeast regional gathering of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas will be held in and around Twin Mountain, New Hampshire, from June 22-25, 2006.

Local highlights include *Calopteryx amata* (Superb Jewelwing), potentially both *Coenagrion* species (help find new locations for *C. interrogatum*, the Subarctic Bluet), Gomphids, Corduliids (perhaps including some early *Somatochlora*), and five species of *Leucorrhinia* (Whitefaces).

Twin Mountain is conveniently located to the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, Franconia Notch, Crawford Notch, and the



*Calopteryx amata* (Superb Jewelwing)

© Bryan Pfeiffer

Kancamagus Highway, all of which host various combinations of northern bogs, swift rocky streams, and mountain ponds.

Just to the south, and as an option for more distant Sunday excursions, is the Merrimack River Valley with a completely different set of Gomphids and two species of *Neurocordulia*.

Next year will also mark the first official attempt to evaluate the conservation status of the Odonata in New Hampshire, and hopefully a small scientific program will focus on Odonata conservation in the broader New England region.

Further details on the gathering are unavailable at this time, but affordable hotels and camping are readily available in the Twin Mountain area.

For more information feel free to contact Pam Hunt at [biodiva@fcgnetworks.net](mailto:biodiva@fcgnetworks.net) (26 Whitewater Drive, Penacook, NH 03303).

## Annual DSA Meeting in KY

By Carl Cook and Ellis Lauder milk

The Cave City-Mammoth Cave National Park area of Kentucky has been selected as the site for Dragonfly Society of the Americas' 2006 Annual Meeting, June 9-11, 2006.

Cave City is a small, leisurely, rural town in central Kentucky, the closest metropolitan area from Mammoth Cave National Park. Business activity there is largely related to catering for persons visiting that attraction. Consequently, motels are plentiful, including most major names, but even so advance registration is a good precaution during the summer.

Get information on Cave City's attractions, lodging and dining from the internet: <http://cavecity.com> and then clicking the desired category.

We expect to negotiate a special lodging discount with one of the local motels. At last year's Southeast

Meeting the participating motel was Quality Courts, which provided entirely satisfactory service.

By auto, Cave City is approximately 90 miles from either Louisville, Kentucky, or Nashville, Tennessee, via Interstate 65. These two cities are the best air terminals for anyone flying.

The preliminary meeting schedule includes a suggested arrival during the afternoon or evening of June 8; a business session morning of June 9; and presentation of papers during the afternoon of June 9. June 10 and 11 will be devoted to field activities. A post-meeting collecting foray will follow from June 12-15 for anyone desiring to participate.

Additional details on this meeting will appear in the next issue of The Boghaunter.

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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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

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# The 2005 Vermont Season Summary

By Bryan Pfeiffer

**L**cy waters at a fen in Shaftsbury produced the first native Vermont dragonfly of the season on April 29, when Mike Blust, while searching (unsuccessfully) for *Williamsonia lintneri* (Ringed Boghaunter), discovered an early, ambitious *Leucorrhinia hudsonica* (Hudsonian Whiteface). And with that the 2005 season was underway. Here are a few highlights:

## ANISOPTERA (DRAGONFLIES)

### Aeshnidae (Darners)

The big news from this family came from Lily Pond in Vernon, where *Rhionaeschna mutata* (Spatterdock Darner) and *Nasiaeschna pentacantha* (Cyrano Darner) were first state records and from Grand Isle, where David Hoag netted Vermont's first *Epiaeschna heros* (Swamp Darner) (see story on page 1). Mike Blust also had one, perhaps two *E. heros* patrolling his yard in Poultney on August 15. *Aeshna verticalis* (Green-striped Darner) has been surprisingly scarce in Vermont, but seemed to show up a bit more frequently this past year, with Mike finding the species on August 4 at Tinmouth Fen and two days later at Shaftsbury Bog. Bryan Pfeiffer found one on August 17 in Vernon and Kent McFarland landed another in Victory on August 25.

### Gomphidae (Clubtails)

While surveying for butterflies, Bryan Pfeiffer found *Ophiogomphus carolus* (Riffle Snaketail) flying in abundance (about 40 individuals) along the Mad River in Waitsfield on June 20. On June 25, at Mt. Philo State Park in Charlotte, *Dromogomphus spinosus* (Black-shouldered Spinylegs) joined the spring picnic of the Vermont Entomological Society. Blair Nikula and Sharon Riley's *Gomphus descriptus* (Harpoon Clubtail), caught from a small stream in Rygate on July 19, was a notable find for this apparently scarce clubtail in Vermont. And the next day, *Gomphus adelphus* (Mustached Clubtail) and *Ophiogomphus carolus* (Riffle Snaketail) were flying in good numbers on the Moose River in Victory. *Ophiogomphus aspersus* (Brook Snaketail) was at Houghton Brook in



*Stylurus spiniceps* (Arrow Clubtail)

© Bryan Pfeiffer

Danville on July 21. It was a good year for *Stylurus* in Vermont. *Stylurus spiniceps* (Arrow Clubtail) was emerging from the Connecticut River in Vernon on July 28, with skins still being found in the area for a month afterward. Fred Morrison literally picked up Vermont's first *Stylurus amnicola* (Riverine Clubtail) record when

he bagged a skin from the Connecticut just north of the Massachusetts line. On the same trip he got Vermont's first *Gomphus abbreviatus* (Spine-crowned Clubtail), showing it pays to look for exuviae. Finally, on August 14, Bryan Pfeiffer, while walking portions of the Second

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# Big Bugs at Northeast DSA Meeting

By Bryan Pfeiffer

**O**n the trail to a quarry pond in central Pennsylvania, a small group of odonatists bumped into Tom Young, who was running away from the pond toward his vehicle.

"We've got *longipes* at the pond," said Young, a New Hampshire resident, not breaking stride.

"So where are you going?" someone yelled.

"To get rid of this white T-shirt!" said Young as he vanished down the trail.

This wouldn't be the first time a dragonfly dictated an odonatist's fashion statement. And it paid off for Young, who returned less brightly clad and promptly landed a male *Anax longipes* (Comet Darner) without even wetting his feet. Minutes later, young's friend Cliff Bernzweig, employing different technique, crouching chest-deep in the pond, got one too.

And so it went at the 2005 Northeast Regional gathering of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas, held in and around State College, Pennsylvania, from June 9-12, 2005.

Large dragonflies were among the many highlights, including *Tachopteryx*

*thoreyi* (Gray Petaltail), *Rhionaeschna mutata* (Spatterdock Darner), *Epiaeschna heros* (Swamp Darner), *Cordulegaster obliqua* (Arrow Spiketail), *Libellula vibrans* (Great Blue Skimmer) as well as some equally impressive yet smaller species, such as *Gomphus rogersi* (Sable Clubtail) and *Enallagma cyathigerum* (Northern Bluet).

State College is the home town of Clark Shiffer and the old stomping grounds of

Hal White, who organized the meeting (<http://www.udel.edu/chem/white/TAP.html>). It was also the home base for George and Alice Beatty, whose Odonata legacy remains in the collection at Penn State University's Frost Entomological Museum. (Contact Jill Crompt at

The meeting drew participants from 12 states and one province – as far as Iowa, North Carolina, Tennessee and Toronto – about 45 people in total. They reflected the new diversity and demographics of the DSA: luminaries such as White, Shiffer, Nick Donnelly, and Michael May; the usual hodgepodge of birders-turned-dragonflyers; and even Richard Aaron, from Toronto, who admitted during introductions that he was a mycologist who somehow turned to dragonflies (which drew a round of applause from the group).

Some carried nets, others only cameras. Yet all managed to get along during field exploits, although a cordial and healthy (and expected) discussion on collecting versus photographing ensued online after the meeting adjourned. The abundance of cameras generated some rich images of the event and its fauna – on display at the gathering's web site.

Heat, haze, and humidity greeted odonatists each morning, with temperatures reaching 90 degrees Fahrenheit in short order every day. Some dodged a few powerful thunderstorms. But none of it would keep this group from its appointed rounds. Not even the "Dragonfly

Therapeutic Massage & Day Spa" – an establishment directly across the street from the hotel. (See proof on the next page.)

One highlight was Ten Acre Pond in Scotia – a semi-permanent pond about four miles west of State College. With no natural inlets or outlets, the pond's water level rises and falls in response to weather

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*Anax longipes* (Comet Darner)

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jmc544@psu.edu for details and access.)

It was the Beattys, during a stop at a local frozen custard stand 40 years ago, who "discovered" a lanky, 15-year-old Hal White chasing moths at the lights and steered him away from Lepidoptera toward a more enlightened entomological path. Needless to say, the region is rich in odonatological history and diversity.



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cycles. Once or twice during its history, it has dried completely. And during periods of high water, local folks have even stocked the pond with fish. These varying events have conspired to produce a varied Odonata list from the pond – 85 species over the decades of its well-documented study.

The general sense from the local experts was that the ode fauna was a bit behind schedule for early June. Nevertheless, the blue-eyed beauty, *Rhionaeschna mutata*, was abundant at the pond during the meeting and a big hit with our group. *Lestes* species were only just beginning to fly. Southern DSA members were treated to the likes of *Gomphus borealis* (Beaverpond Clubtail), *Leucorrhinia frigida* (Frosted Whiteface), *L. hudsonica* (Hudsonian Whiteface) and *L. intacta* (Dot-tailed Whiteface) and an abundance of *Enallagma cyathigerum*. Meanwhile, satisfying the northerners, were *Libellula vibrans* and *Tramea carolina* (Carolina Saddlebags), among others.

Beyond Ten Acre Pond were other choice sites, from peatlands to powerline cuts. A delightful fen at a place called Beaver Dam produced the likes of *Amphiagrion saucium* (Eastern Red Damsel) and

*Nehalennia gracilis* (Sphagnum Sprite), yet also some pleasant surprises such as *Libellula auripennis* (Golden-winged Skimmer). It was also a *Cordulegaster* factory, with impressive numbers of *Cordulegaster maculata* (Twin-spotted Spiketail) and *Cordulegaster diastatops* (Delta-spotted Spiketail) flying along the fen channel. Not far away, at McAlevys Fort Shale Mound, other odonatists were enjoying *Cordulegaster obliqua* (Arrow Spiketail) to complete the trio, not to mention several cooperative *Tachopteryx thoreyi*. Elsewhere, at Black Moshannon State Park, for example, the impressive list of 46 species included six *Enallagma* species, eight Gomphid species, the three *Cordulegaster* species, three *Leucorrhinia* species, and two *Tramea* species.

A complete list from various sites, as an Adobe Acrobat Reader file (PDF), is available at the meeting's web site at: [www.udel.edu/chem/white/TAP.html](http://www.udel.edu/chem/white/TAP.html)

The Northeast odonatists did spend a few hours indoors. Hal White offered an entertaining evening slide presentations about the Beattys and their super-collecting exploits in Mexico and elsewhere. Not incidentally, Hal organizes one heck of a regional DSA meeting; his hard work, before and after the gathering, made this a memorable event.

Our group discussed revising and reinvigorating the "migration project" – with Mike May expressing interest in reestablishing the web site, but also recognizing that someone else will have to step forward to oversee data collection and management. Our evening concluded with a private screening of Randy Emmitt's ode and lep screen saver program, which, of course, turned into a group quiz. Clark Shiffer blew us all away. So quick on the call was Clark that if the game show Jeopardy ever had an "Odonata special" Clark would emerge as our Ken Jennings, the all-time champ.

One other highlight after a long, hot field day was a picnic barbecue – hot dogs, burgers, potato salad, cake, abundant conversation, some specimen identification and swapping, and one serious cloudburst. But after the rain stopped, and Larry Roche of Ohio showed up during dessert with a male *Enallagma divagans* (Turquoise Bluet), an intrepid few pick up their nets, donned their wet boots and went out on a post-picnic trip to the pond.

Bryan Pfeiffer, editor and publisher of THE BOGHAUNTER, is a consulting biologist specializing in birds, butterflies and dragonflies.



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# Seven New VT Ode Species

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*pentacantha* (Cyrano Darner). Not what we were expecting, but Lily Pond had nonetheless given us what we came for – a new dragonfly species for the state.

Last summer we each had explored Lily Pond – described by a trusted botanist to be “the closest thing to a coastal plain pond in Vermont.” We didn’t get there until late in the season last year, but were convinced it “had huge potential.” Each of us had opportunities to make the trip solo this spring. But not wanting to usurp the other’s shot at some fun, we waited for a day when we could meet and work together. And once we got there, the fun had only just begun.

As we were enjoying the *Nasiaeschna*, Christine, meanwhile, was not far away and called us over to something flying just out of reach above her. Still mentally trying to fathom our good fortune, I did not stop to think about what this might be. A quick flip of the net and the result was once again that wonderful rattle of wings. As I pulled out the catch, we were suddenly looking into the blue eyes of a female *Rhionaeschna mutata* (Spatterdock Darner) – not as blue as those on the male, but impressive nonetheless. Within about 25 feet of the car, and within only about five minutes of arriving, this spot had given us two state records. And we hadn’t even checked the pond yet!

We continued working the area. Bryan and I waded into Lily Pond while Christine kept to the dryer areas. Occasionally she would catch a bluet (*Enallagma* sp.) and ask me to check it. Each and every one was *Enallagma ebrium* (Marsh Bluet). Christine expressed her frustration with the lack of bluet diversity. So I advised her to look for something that was a just bit different than the others (wishful thinking,

to be sure, but I didn’t tell her that). After a while, she came over with a bluet she literally “picked-up” off the ground. “How about this one?” she asked.

I fully expected another *Enallagma ebrium*. But this one didn’t look right. I



*Epiaeschna heros* (Swamp Darner)

© Bryan Pfeiffer

have been fooled once too often by Marsh Bluets with variable markings. But the cerci weren’t those of *E. ebrium*. Instead, Christine had hand-caught Vermont’s first *Enallagma laterale* (New England Bluet), largely a coastal plain species. As I was double-checking, Bryan’s voice came through the thick brush. “Hey, Mike,” he said, “I’ve got something good!”

Without knowing for sure what Bryan was holding, I responded: “I think Christine beat you to it!” Sure enough, Bryan had another New England Bluet. As we looked around, less than 10 percent of the bluets in the area were *E. laterale*. Three people – three state records. What a day!

The only gap that day was *Epiaeschna heros*, the massive Swamp Darner. We had expected to find it at Lily Pond – perhaps more so than the three new species we did find that day. It had to be in Vermont. But where?

The next day, an email arrived from the other corner of the state – Grand Isle in Lake Champlain. Dave Hoag, a new

convert to Odonata, and a meticulous observer, has conveyed a simple statement: “2 new county records, one new state record.” His accompanying photos confirmed his find: *Epiaeschna heros* may have eluded us at Lily Pond, but it couldn’t run – er, I mean fly and hide, for long. In approximately 24 hours, four new state dragonfly records. I don’t think we’ll ever see that many state records fall in so short a period of time again.

Two more state records fell later this summer as Fred Morrison, who lives in Massachusetts and studies dragonfly exuvia along the Connecticut River, ventured upstream into Vermont. Fred found skins of the big-river species of *Gomphus abbreviatus* (Spine-crowned Clubtail) and *Stylurus amnicola*

(Riverine Clubtail) within a few miles of Lily pond, at the very corner of Vermont.

“Go to the corner!” is usually a phrase issued in punishment. But this past summer, the corners of Vermont – Vernon and Grand Isle – offered us great rewards.

But the banner year didn’t end there. While starting a survey of odonate nymphs in the Poultney River (Rutland County) with a undergraduate research assistant, I picked up a single *Enallagma* nymph among the more common *Calopteryx* (Jewelwing) and *Argia moesta* (Powdered Dancer). It turned out to be Vermont’s first *Enallagma divagans* (Turquoise Bluet). This is not exactly when, where or how I anticipated adding this species to the Vermont list.

*Mike Blust is a professor of biology at Green Mountain College. He is compiling data for a publication on the distribution of Odonata in Vermont.*



# The Case of the Missing Petaltail

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State Forest” (which happens to be my own stomping grounds).

Patty and Paul were encountering the expected – *Cordulegaster diastatops* (Delta-spotted Spiketail) and *Libellula julia* (Chalk-fronted Corporal), for example. Then it got interesting. Patty writes:

“But the best discovery again came late in the day. It was then that we netted what we have tentatively identified as *Tachopteryx thoreyi*, a large dragonfly of the family Petaluridae, not previously recorded in the state! The only other member of this family in North America is of western origin.”

Patty was right. To the best of our knowledge, this would have been the first official encounter with *Tachopteryx* in Vermont — and a significant northern record for the ancient species. (Frank Carle found it in the Southern Green Mountains on July 15, 1995.)

After a bit of Googling and posts to some Odonata listserves (desperately seeking Paul or Patty), a welcome email from Paul Donahue landed in my inbox. Paul wrote: “I netted it on 27 June 1973 in Groton State Forest. I did not collect it, but did take an up-close, in-hand photograph.” He went on to write that his slide went to Paul Miliotis.

So onward I emailed to Paul, who himself spent some time collecting in



*Tachopteryx thoreyi* (Gray Petaltail)

© Bryan Pfeiffer

Vermont. Indeed, Mike Blust, my colleague in odonate discovery in Vermont, and I had been meaning to contact Paul as part of our data-gathering for a publication on the odonate fauna of the state.

Paul promptly responded. The good news is that he remembers the slide. The bad news is Paul was in the process of

moving from Alabama to Texas, and it may take a bit of effort to locate it.

“For some reason my memory recalls that this was not a very definitive slide, and that I had doubts about whether it was *Tachopteryx*,” he wrote in his email. “Since you have the location, I think the best idea would be to try to investigate the locality and see if *Tachopteryx* is there.”

To be sure, the site is already on my agenda for the coming field season. Paul Donahue recalls that the site was fairly accessible from Vermont Route 232, also called the Groton Forest Road, the paved highway that runs north-south through the state forest. It was likely one of the roads going east from Route 232 — either the road around the north end of Lake Groton or the road toward Ricker Pond.

Paul recalls “a boggy area along the south side of the road, and woods along the north side.

“The *Tachopteryx* was netted right along the road,” he said.

So there’s the lead. We cannot be certain it’ll produce a *Tachopteryx thoreyi*, but you can bet it’s worth investigating.

*Bryan Pfeiffer, editor and publisher of THE BOGHAUNTER, is a consulting biologist specializing in birds, butterflies and dragonflies.*

# New Respect For Odonates

By Bryan Pfeiffer

Odonata is getting some new attention and respect in the development of Vermont wildlife policy. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has included a fresh look at insects, including dragonflies, and their relatives in a plan drafted for the study and conservation of all wildlife species across the state.

It's called the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) – and it is indeed comprehensive. From birds to butterflies, bears to beetles, the CWCS will be a blueprint for the conservation of all wildlife in Vermont. Odonates figure prominently in the section on invertebrates.

But this plan, unlike many others, may not gather dust on the shelf of some state office. The strategies outlined in the CWCS will guide the spending of hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal funds each year on wildlife conservation in the state.

"This is an historic effort," said Jon Kart, coordinator of the strategy for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. "Never before has Vermont taken such a comprehensive look at its wildlife. From birds to fish to mammals to amphibians, invertebrates and reptiles – they're all in there."

While vertebrates are well-known in Vermont, invertebrates comprise a vast conservation challenge. The plan recognizes the broad lack of knowledge of invertebrate distribution and abundance, and the daunting task of assessing the conservation needs of Vermont's invertebrates. The number of invertebrate species that occur within the state is not known; however, estimates for insects have ranged 15,000 to 20,000 different species. Many of our invertebrates have not yet been scientifically described, let alone had their life history documented in the state.

As a result, the Invertebrate Team helping to draft the plan focused on invert taxa that are relatively well known in the state. The goal for all wildlife is to identify Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) – defined as wildlife with declining populations; wildlife threatened or potentially threatened; and,

wildlife so little known in the state that experts cannot yet ascertain its status.

It was the team's decision that identification of SGCN would focus on species and species groups for which adequate information was now available. The following invertebrate groups were reviewed while compiling the list:



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*Enallagma antenatum* (Rainbow Bluet)

- ◆ Dragonflies and Damselflies (Odonata)
- ◆ Butterflies and Moths (Lepidoptera)
- ◆ Mayflies (Ephemeroptera)
- ◆ Stoneflies (Plecoptera)
- ◆ Tiger Beetles (Carabidae, in part)
- ◆ Freshwater Mussels and Snails (Mollusca, in part)
- ◆ Invertebrates currently considered to be rare within VT

The Invertebrate Team recognized that the conservation status of some members of the dragonfly list may in fact be secure, yet it wanted additional information on the species. Some species may be at the edge of their range in Vermont. In any event, here the odonate list:

<i>Hetaerina americana</i>	(American Rubyspot)
<i>Lestes disjunctus australis</i>	(Southern Spreadwing)
<i>Argia apicalis</i>	(Blue-fronted Dancer)
<i>Coenagrion interrogatum</i>	(Subarctic Bluet)
<i>Enallagma antennatum</i>	(Rainbow Bluet)
<i>Enallagma laterale</i>	(New England Bluet)
<i>Enallagma traviatum</i>	(Slender Bluet)
<i>Enallagma vernale</i>	(Vernal Bluet)

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# The Vermont Season Summary

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Branch of the White River in Royalton, picked up a lone *Stylurus scudderi* (Zebra Clubtail) skin.

## Cordulegastridae (Spiketails)

The news here is what we didn't find: *Cordulegaster obliqua* (Arrowhead Spiketail). We know it's here in Vermont, we looked for it, but, as best as we can tell, there are still no records for this striking dragonfly in the state.

## Macromiidae and Corduliidae (Cruisers and Emeralds)

The Connecticut River continues to be a stronghold for *Macromia illinoensis* (Eastern River Cruiser), although the river is technically in New Hampshire. A skin was collected from about five feet high on a riverside snag in Vernon on July 24. *Somatochlora* is getting some new attention in Vermont. A July 20 trip to Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area for the genus netted the expected – *S. walshii* (Brush-tipped Emerald), *Somatochlora williamsoni* (Williamson's

Emerald), *Somatochlora minor* (Ocellated Emerald) and *S. forcipata*, which was flying at Victory Basin on June 26 as well. *S. tenebrosa* (Clamp-tipped Emerald) was flying in good numbers during July and August in Windham County. Only females were netted, however. Exuviae of *Neurocordulia yamaskanensis* (Stygian Shadowdragon) were still clinging to bridge abutments along the Connecticut River in Brattleboro on August 18.

## Libellulidae (Skimmers)

Not much news in this family this year. As expected, but relatively new to our knowledge of odonates in Vermont, *Libellula cyanea* (Spangled Skimmer) was found flying in low numbers in Windham County this season. A *Pantala flavescens* (Wandering Glider) was cruising the KMart parking lot in South Burlington on August 4 and another was patrolling a clover field (with lots of migrating Monarchs) in Shelburne on September 1.

## Zygoptera (Damselflies)

Lumping Calopterigidae (Jewelwings), Lestidae (Spreadwings) and

Coenagrionidae (Pond Damsels) together, the big news included Christine Blust's discovery of *Enallagma laterale* (New England Bluet) at Lily Pond on June 21 and her dad Mike's surprise discovery, along with his undergraduate research assistant, of Vermont's first *Enallagma divagans* (Turquoise Bluet), a larva from the Poultney River late in the season. Also of note was Bryan Pfeiffer's discovery of a large population of *Enallagma traviatum* (Slender Bluet) at Retreat Meadows in Brattleboro on July 28. Vermont's only other known site for the species is Rutland County. Mike Blust found a healthy population of *Argia apicalis* (Blue-fronted Dancer) along the lower Poultney on July 20, farther downstream from where the species was originally discovered in 2002. And, finally, *Ischnura kellicotti* (Lilypad Forktail) was at Lake St. Catherine in on July 15. Unlike last year's firsts for Vermont, there were no *I. hastata* (Citrine Forktail) reports this year.

# New Respect For Odonates

(Continued from page 8)

<i>Ischnura hastata</i>	(Citrine Forktail)
<i>Ischnura kellicotti</i>	(Lilypad Forktail)
<i>Tachopteryx thoreyi</i>	(Gray Petaltail)
<i>Aeshna clepsydra</i>	(Mottled Darner)
<i>Aeshna mutata</i>	(Spatterdock Darner)
<i>Aeshna sitchensis</i>	(Zigzag Darner)
<i>Aeshna subarctica</i>	(Subarctic Darner)
<i>Aeshna verticalis</i>	(Green-striped Darner)
<i>Anax longipes</i>	(Comet Darner)
<i>Epiaeschna heros</i>	(Swamp Darner)
<i>Gomphaeschna furcillata</i>	(Harlequin Darner)
<i>Nasiaeschna pentacantha</i>	(Cyrano Darner)
<i>Gomphus abbreviatus</i>	(Spine-crowned Clubtail)
<i>Gomphus quadricolor</i>	(Rapids Clubtail)
<i>Gomphus vastus</i>	(Cobra Clubtail)
<i>Gomphus ventricosus</i>	(Skillet Clubtail)
<i>Ophiogomphus aspersus</i>	(Brook Snaketail)
<i>Ophiogomphus carolus</i>	(Riffle Snaketail)
<i>Ophiogomphus mainensis</i>	(Maine Snaketail)
<i>Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis</i>	(Rusty Snaketail)
<i>Stylurus amnicola</i>	(Riverine Clubtail)
<i>Stylurus scudderi</i>	(Zebra Clubtail)

<i>Dorocordulia lepida</i>	(Petite Emerald)
<i>Neurocordulia yamaskanensis</i>	(Stygian Shadowdragon)
<i>Somatochlora albicincta</i>	(Ringed Emerald)
<i>Somatochlora cingulata</i>	(Lake Emerald)
<i>Somatochlora elongata</i>	(Ski-tailed Emerald)
<i>Somatochlora forcipata</i>	(Forcipate Emerald)
<i>Somatochlora franklini</i>	(Delicate Emerald)
<i>Somatochlora kennedyi</i>	(Kennedy's Emerald)
<i>Williamsonia fletcheri</i>	(Ebony Boghaunter)
<i>Libellula exusta</i>	(White Corporal)
<i>Libellula semifasciata</i>	(Painted Skimmer)
<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	(Black Meadowhawk)

One way to implement the policies in the wildlife conservation strategy is through the State Wildlife Grants program (SWG). SWG provides federal dollars to every state and territory to support conservation aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered.

To learn more about the plan visit its home page at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com/SWG\\_home.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/SWG_home.cfm). Or contact Jon Kart at (802) 241-3652 or [jon.kart@state.vt.us](mailto:jon.kart@state.vt.us).

# Photo Gallery



© Glenn Corbiere

*Ophiogomphus carolus* (Riffle Snaketail)



© Bryan Pfeiffer

*Hagenius brevistylus* (Dragonhunter)



# Photo Gallery



© Mike Blust

*Libellula quadrimaculata* (Four-spotted Skimmer)



© Bryan Pfeiffer

*Erythemis simplicicollis* (Common Pondhawk)

**THE BOGHAUNTER**  
113 Bartlett Road  
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*Ceithemys eponina* (Halloween Pennant)



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