



# WILLIAMSONIA



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Vol. 2 No. 4

Fall, 1998

A publication of the Michigan Odonata Survey

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## ANOTHER GOOD YEAR!

### Mark O'Brien

Collecting season is over -- but the work is just beginning! Now that fall is finally upon us, it seems like summer ran from May 1 to Sept. 30. The red color in the leaves matched the dashing males of *Sympetrum* that still held out as reminders of the glories of summer. Those last *Enallagma civile* added a dash of blue to the edge of ponds, flying in tandem as if it were the height of the season for them. What a season it has been! With several collectors in the northern lower peninsula, and a number of great collecting trips in the south, the MOS has really made some good progress this year. I think the key point to made from this season is to not get complacent about what's in your "backyard." Some of us have very interesting back yards - ask Carl Freeman in Arcadia (Benzie Co.), and he can point out *Nannothemis bella* and *Cordulegaster diastatops* in his "backyard." Likewise, I have collected more times in Washtenaw Co. than in previous years, and have added a number of species to the Washtenaw Co. list (elsewhere in this issue).

I spent a day with Carl in Manistee and Benzie Counties in late June, and thoroughly enjoyed collecting near his house and also on the Manistee River. Carl is a talented photographer, birder, and well-known wildlife artist, and this year he really got interested in the Odonata that occur in his area. Carl photographed a *Gomphaeschna furcillata* near the Betsie River, making it the second LP locality, and sent me photos of *Cordulegaster diastatops*. I just had to go up there and see what the habitats were like. We collected in Manistee National Forest along a slough near the Manistee River, and found *Enallagma antennatum*, *E. carunculatum*, *E. hageni*, *E. ebrium*, *Chromagrion conditum*, *Amphiagrion saucium*, *Calopteryx aequabilis*, and *Lestes rectangularis*.

In Benzie Co., we found *Nannothemis bella* at the boggy edge of a pond on Carl's property, and I also observed the habitat where he watched *C. diastatops*. A spring emerged from the base of a small hill and fed the stream that runs slowly

through his property. It was a real eye-opener for me to see the habitat of this seldom-collected *Cordulegaster*.

Carl continues to observe, photograph, and collect odonates, and I am sure he will come up with a bunch of new county records. I also hoping that he'll expand his art repertoire to include dragonflies!

The really big addition this year came from Stephen B. Ross in Mecosta Co. Stephen is writing a book about the natural history of Mecosta Co., and naturally, he started collecting Odonata this spring and took photos of the living specimens whenever possible. Stephen has probably added another 20 species to the list for his county through his efforts, and really extended the known range of *Ischnura kellicotti*. He also collected *Arigomphus cornutus* and *Stylurus notatus*, two good finds. Some of the photos from Carl's and Stephen's work appear on our MOS web site.

The monthly MOS field trips covered several different areas, and although participation was rather low, all that showed up had a good time. We also managed to fill in some blanks as we added species to various county lists. Next year, I think I would schedule fewer "official" field trips, and send out an email to those that would like to be notified of any collecting trips. We'll see how it works. The July 5 field trip to Hudson Mills Metropark gave the MOS quite a bit of exposure, and I hope that we will do another similar dragonfly "walk" next summer. I have agreed to give a presentation on Odonata for the Nichols Arboretum sometime next summer, so that may generate more local interest in the MOS.

The grant from the US Forest Service has enabled us to purchase additional equipment for field trips and money for travel and hourly funds. This kind of support is greatly appreciated not only by the MOS, but I am sure by UM administrators as well.

The accumulation of specimens from the season's field work is still being dealt with. All of the adult specimens are now in plastic envelopes, and about half of the specimens have been identified and added to the MOS database (currently at around

17,000 records). Ethan Bright is working on the larval specimens from this season, and has added a lot of records into the database from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory. Thanks to David Cuthrell and his assistants for the collecting that they did in the UP and various areas of the NLP. As I am writing this, I find that Sean Dunlap (from Notre Dame) has spent the past two seasons in the western Upper Peninsula, and has about 1100 records to add to the MOS database.

## OPHIOGOMPHUS ASPERSUS RECORDS IN MICHIGAN

Ken Tennessen<sup>1</sup> and Ethan Bright<sup>2</sup>

The only published records for *Ophiogomphus aspersus* Morse in Michigan are given by Kormondy (1958). In the Upper Peninsula, he listed it for Gogebic County, and in the southern Lower Peninsula, Oakland County.

We have examined the Gogebic Co. record (an adult female collected on 29 July 1957 by Paul Harwood). It is actually a female of *O. carolus* Needham; this specimen is deposited in the UMMZ. *O. carolus* has not previously been recorded in Gogebic Co. (see the Michigan Odonata Survey Collector's Handbook, 1997), so this is a new county record.

The Oakland Co. record for *O. aspersus* is based on an exuviae from Walnut Creek, identified and reported by Walker (1933). *Ophiogomphus* larvae and exuviae are difficult to identify, especially the group that includes *aspersus*, *carolus*, *colubrinus* Selys, and *rupinsulensis* (Walsh). We are in the process of trying to positively identify the exuviae, which is housed at Cornell University; if this exuviae is not *aspersus*, it would appear there is no basis to include this species on Michigan's list.

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- Walker, E. M. 1933. The nymphs of the Canadian species of *Ophiogomphus*. Odonata, Gomphidae. Canadian Entomologist 65:217-229.

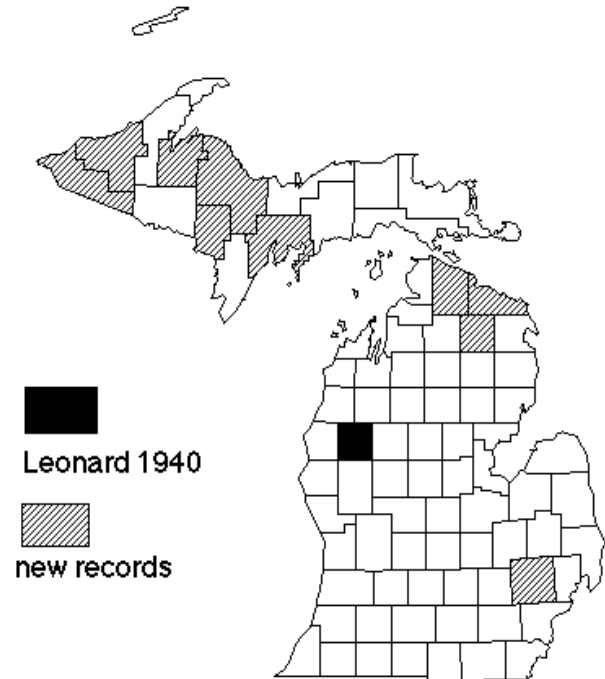
<sup>1</sup>1949 Hickory Avenue, Florence, AL 35630.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF STYLOGOMPHUS ALBISTYLUS IN MICHIGAN

Ethan Bright<sup>2</sup>

Until recently, *Stylogomphus albistylus* (Hagen) was known only from a record in Lake County in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula (Leonard 1940) (Figure 1, indicated by solid dark shading). Renewed interest in this species started when researchers with MOS began surveying the odonate fauna of Michigan in 1996, and also by reviewing unpublished information. Discovery of several large populations and adults and larvae in the Huron Mountains of Marquette Co. and further west in Baraga Co. in the Upper Peninsula (Yanoviak 1993, Kielb et al. 1996, Bright 1997) provided the first records for the UP. This, perhaps, was not surprising, for this species is widespread in northern Wisconsin (Hilsenhoff 1995). But what was surprising is that for over 40 years since Leonard's paper, virtually nothing had been documented about this species in Michigan.



Additional work within the last two years by the Michigan Odonata Survey and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, as well as collections of larvae by other biologists, have considerably helped to add more information on this species' distribution in the state (Figure 1, indicated by hatched shading). Interestingly, whereas most odonate species' ranges are indicated by adult records, most of the records of *S. albistylus* in Michigan are from larval records, perhaps indicative of the ease of collecting larvae as opposed to the difficulty involved with capturing the small and somewhat reclusive adult. One can now characterize this species' Michigan range as widespread in the UP and northern LP, and perhaps considerably more localized in undisturbed upper reaches of morainal streams in the southern LP.

*Stylogomphus* are the smallest of our gomphids. Adults are slender, dark brown with yellowish markings (particularly over the abdomen), and are often found flying over shallow rapids close to the water surface. Larvae are very distinctive from our other gomphids by its small size and spatulate-shaped third antennal segment with the inner margin straight. The two species of *Lanthus*, to which *S. albistylus* most closely resembles, are not found in Michigan, and *Hagenius brevistylus*, which also has spatulate antennae, is considerably larger, with a round, dorsoventrally-flattened abdomen, and has large tubercles on the head. Larvae apparently prefer rocky, clean streams often with considerable gradient. Based on the range of larval sizes from samples collected from localities in the UP and the northern LP, this species appears to require more than one year to complete its larval stage in this part of its range. Emergence in Michigan appears to occur in late June, although one specimen collected from Oakland County in April appeared mature and ready to emerge. Additional information on larval and adult habitat in Michigan can be found in other publications (Kielb et al. 1996, Bright 1997).

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## NEW ODONATA RECORDS FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Mark F. O'Brien<sup>3</sup>

The following list of species is based upon collections made by me and others in the past two seasons, primarily in the Northwest and Southeast sections of Washtenaw County. This list shows that even though an area may

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apparently be "well-documented," we cannot assume that all habitats have been visited, or that the list is complete.

#### LESTIDAE

***Lestes eurinus* Say.** This large, amber-winged *Lestes* was collected along the wooded margins of Embury Road and near a shallow pond. A teneral female was collected on 15 May 1998 on the W side of Embury Road. On May 24, Ethan Bright collected exuviae at the unnamed pond on the E side of Embury Rd., and teneral adults were also captured (Bright 1998). Adults were also collected on the E side of Embury Rd. on 27 May, and those specimens were more mature. The species is widespread in Michigan, but there are records from only 16 counties.

#### COENAGRIONIDAE

***Enallagma basidens* Calvert.** This diminutive *Enallagma* was previously recorded for Tuscola and Lenawee Counties (O'Brien 1998). I took six males and four females from a man-made pond in Pittsfield Twp. (Sec. 26), off Carpenter Road, south of US-12 on August 17, 1998. The population has evidently been there for some time, as I saw at least 50 individuals along the edge of the pond within an hour. On 30 Aug. 1997, I took a male and a female (in copula) at a small pond at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor Twp. The male is atypical in that the humeral stripes are fused - giving the appearance of a wide black stripe on the side of the thorax. However, the female has typical *basidens* markings and the male's genitalia are also typical for the species. I am certain that more populations will be found in similar ponds in the Southeast corner of Michigan.

#### CORDULIIDAE

***Epithea canis* MacLachlan.** This northern species is common in the UP and Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP) (Kormondy 1958, O'Brien, 1997), but this record is the southernmost for Michigan thus far. Three males and one teneral female were collected near Lake Genevieve in Park Lyndon South (Lyndon Twp.) on 5 May 1998. Three males were collected on May 9, at the edge of a wooded area off Embury Road, Section 14. Kormondy (1959) describes the habitat of *E. canis* as dystrophic bog lakes and streams, and the earliest date of collection in the NLP as May 30. It is possible that earlier collecting in similar habitats across the Southern Lower Peninsula will turn up additional populations.

***Somatochlora walshi* (Scudder).** Three males were captured on June 14, 1998 in Lyndon Twp., in the Embury Road area. In each case, the males were patrolling areas where a slow stream ran through a tamarack swamp/fen. Males typically flew 1 - 1.5 m above the ground, hovering in one spot for a few seconds and then flying off a few meters away to repeat the process. The habitat and behavior is very similar to that described by Walker and Corbet (1975) "...small slow streams of clear water in boggy or marshy places. It avoids ponds of any sort and is also absent from streams with an easily perceptible flow." The previous records for Michigan were no farther south than Clare Co. (approximately 44°N), and thus the Embury Rd. population is the southernmost record for the State.

#### CORDULEGASTRIDAE

***Cordulegaster maculata* Selys.** One teneral female was taken on May 9, 1998 from Lyndon Twp., Section 14 at the edge of Embury Road. The dragonfly was clinging to vegetation approximately 10 m from a small stream that drains a swamp. The stream, concealed by overgrown skunk cabbage in a mucky area, was about 1 m wide and 10 cm deep, its substrate principally gravel and sand. Another teneral female was captured and released on May 15 near a small stream draining a swamp that runs into a large wetland on the W side of Embury Rd. Surprisingly, this relatively common species has not been previously recorded from Washtenaw Co.

#### MACROMIIDAE

***Macromia taeniolata* Rambur.** This large *Macromia* was recorded by Kormondy (1958) from St. Joseph and Ingham Counties. I captured two males on August 2, 1998 along the Huron River in Ann Arbor, approximately 1 km upstream from the Gallop Park Canoe Livery. I saw at least 8 more males flying in the same area about 3 - 20 m from shore. There were numerous willows along the banks and their roots extended out into the river. Males patrolled along the slower-moving waters where roots and floating debris were predominant. In 1997, I spotted several large *Macromia* along the same stretch of the Huron River, but was unable to capture a specimen. This is only the third County record for Michigan; it should be looked for in similar habitats along other larger rivers in the lower tiers of LP counties.

#### AESHNIDAE

***Aeshna tuberculifera* Walker.** I collected two males in Lyndon Twp., at Park Lyndon S., near Lk. Genevieve on August 23, 1997, and another male in Ann Arbor Twp., at Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Sept. 15, 1997. This species seems to be widespread in the state, but there are only 10 counties recorded in O'Brien, 1997. Walker (1958) states that *A. tuberculifera* prefers bog-margined ponds and lakes.

***Aeshna verticalis* Hagen.** One male was taken at Lake Genevieve, Park Lyndon S., Lyndon Twp. on August 23, 1997. Walker (1958) lists spring-ponds and marsh-bordered lakes as the typical habitat. According to him, this seems to be a species that is most common in August and September. This species is also widely distributed, though only known from 14 counties (O'Brien 1997).

#### GOMPHIDAE

***Arigomphus cornutus* Tough.** I took 2 exuviae from a man-made pond in Section 26 of Pittsfield Twp., on May 23, 1998. Ethan Bright determined these to be *A. cornutus*. This represents the southernmost record for this species in Michigan; all prior known records are from the Upper Peninsula. Muttkowski and Whedon (1915) described the emergence of *A. cornutus* from a shallow pond with algal mats and other floating debris in Minnesota. They found that the exuviae were supported by the thick mats of algae in the pond, and this is precisely the kind of situation where I found the exuviae in Pittsfield Twp..

#### LIBELLULIDAE

***Leucorrhinia proxima* Calvert.** A single male was taken on 9 May 1998 off Embury Road. Although somewhat

teneral, it is undoubtedly *L. proxima*. *Leucorrhinia proxima* is most common in the NLP and UP of Michigan, and the Embury Rd. specimen represents only the second record south of Mecosta Co.

#### DISCUSSION

In searching over 2500 records in the MOS database, I found that although Washtenaw Co. has in general, been sampled repeatedly over the years, most collections were made at a few sites - Third Sister Lake, Joslin Lake, "Ann Arbor," Pittsfield Pond and a few others. There are also four peaks in the collecting records - 1919, 1930s, 1950s, and the 1990s. However, it was not until 1996 that any collecting activity has been recorded from the Embury Road area.

The Embury Road area is providing us with some excellent records, and the Huron River seems to give up a surprise for us each year, too. As indicated by the records of *E. canis*, *S. walshi*, and *L. proxima*, the Embury Rd. sites show faunal similarities to northern Michigan. The Tamarack fens/bogs at Embury Rd. are nestled in the low-lying areas of NW Washtenaw Co., and deserve further study. If we can continue to study these areas of interest, we shall discover more new county records.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Mr. Harold Peplau for allowing me to collect on his property in Pittsfield Twp. I also thank Adrienne and Marjorie O'Brien for their assistance in the field, and Ethan Bright for identifying the *Arigomphus* exuviae. Mike Kielb's insistence that I visit Embury Road is most appreciated.

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# CHECKLIST OF ODONATA FOR WASHTENAW CO., MICHIGAN November, 1998

## ZYGOPTERA

### Calopterygidae

*Calopteryx aequabilis* Say - River Jewelwing  
*Calopteryx maculata* (Beauvois) - Ebony Jewelwing  
*Hetaerina americana* (Fabr.) - American Rubyspot

### Lestidae

*Lestes congener* Hagen - Spotted Spreadwing  
*Lestes disjunctus disjunctus* Selys - Common Spreadwing  
*Lestes dryas* Kirby - Emerald Spreadwing  
*Lestes eurinus* Say - Amber-winged Spreadwing  
*Lestes forcipatus* Rambur - Sweetflag Spreadwing  
*Lestes inaequalis* Walsh - Elegant Spreadwing  
*Lestes rectangularis* Say - Slender Spreadwing  
*Lestes unguiculatus* Hagen - Lyre-tipped Spreadwing  
*Lestes vigilax* Hagen - Swamp Spreadwing

### Coenagrionidae

*Amphiagrion saucium* (Burmeister) - Eastern Red Damsel  
*Argia apicalis* (Say) - Blue-fronted Dancer  
*Argia fumipennis violacea* (Hagen) - Variable Dancer  
*Argia moesta* (Hagen) - Powdered Dancer  
*Argia sedula* (Hagen) - Blue-ringed Dancer  
*Argia tibialis* (Rambur) - Blue-tipped Dancer  
*Chromagrion conditum* (Hagen) - Aurora Damsel  
*Coenagrion resolutum* (Hagen) - Taiga Bluet  
*Enallagma antennatum* (Say) - Rainbow Bluet  
*Enallagma basidens* Calvert - Double-striped Bluet  
*Enallagma boreale* Selys - Boreal Blue  
*Enallagma carunculatum* Morse - Tule Bluet  
*Enallagma civile* (Hagen) - Familiar Bluet  
*Enallagma cyathigerum* (Charp.) - Northern Bluet  
*Enallagma divagans* Selys - Turquoise Bluet  
*Enallagma ebrium* (Hagen) - Marsh Bluet  
*Enallagma exsulans* (Hagen) - Stream Bluet  
*Enallagma geminatum* Kellicott - Skimming Bluet  
*Enallagma hageni* (Walsh) - Hagen's Bluet  
*Enallagma signatum* (Hagen) - Orange Bluet  
*Enallagma traviatum* (Selys) - Slender Bluet  
*Enallagma vesperum* Calvert - Vesper Bluet  
*Ischnura posita* (Hagen) - Fragile Forktail  
*Ischnura verticalis* (Say) - Eastern Forktail  
*Nehalennia irene* (Hagen) - Sedge Sprite

## ANISOPTERA

### Cordulegastridae

*Cordulegaster bilineata* Carle - Brown Spiketail  
*Cordulegaster diastatops* (Selys) - Delta-spotted Spiketail  
*Cordulegaster maculata* Selys - Twin-spotted Spiketail

### Aeshnidae

*Aeshna canadensis* Walker - Canada Darner  
*Aeshna clepsydra* Say - Mottled Darner  
*Aeshna constricta* Say - Lance-tipped Darner  
*Aeshna mutata* Hagen - Spatterdock Darner  
*Aeshna tuberculifera* Walker - Black-tipped Darner  
*Aeshna umbrosa* Walker - Shadow Darner  
*Aeshna verticalis* Hagen - Green-striped Darner  
*Anax junius* (Drury) - Common Green Darner

*Basiaeschna janata* (Say) - Springtime Darner  
*Boyeria vinosa* (Say) - Fawn Darner  
*Epiaeschna heros* (Fabr.) - Swamp Darner

### Gomphidae

*Arigomphus cornutus* Tough - Horned Clubtail  
*Arigomphus furcifer* (Hagen) - Lilypad Clubtail  
*Arigomphus villosipes* Selys - Unicorn Clubtail  
*Dromogomphus spinosus* Selys - Black-shouldered Spinyleg  
*Gomphus exilis* Selys - Lancet Clubtail  
*Gomphus fraternus* (Say) - Midland Clubtail  
*Gomphus graslinellus* Walsh - Pronghorn Clubtail  
*Gomphus lineatifrons* Calvert - Splendid Clubtail  
*Gomphus lividus* Selys - Ashy Clubtail  
*Gomphus ventricosus* Walsh - Skillet Clubtail  
*Hagenius brevistylus* Selys - Dragonhunter  
*Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis* (Walsh) - Rusty Snaketail  
*Progomphus obscurus* (Rambur) - Common Sanddragon  
*Stylurus laurae* Williamson - Laura's Clubtail  
*Stylurus spiniceps* (Walsh) - Arrow Clubtail

### Macromiidae

*Didymops transversa* (Say) - Stream Cruiser  
*Macromia illinoensis* Walsh - Illinois River Cruiser  
*Macromia taeniolata* Rambur - Royal River Cruiser

### Corduliidae

*Cordulia shurtleffi* Scudder - American Emerald  
*Dorocordulia libera* (Selys) - Racket-tailed Emerald  
*Epithea canis* MacL. - Beaverpond Baskettail  
*Epithea cynosura* (Say) - Common Baskettail  
*Epithea princeps* (Hagen) - Prince Baskettail  
*Epithea spinigera* Selys - Spiny Baskettail  
*Somatochlora walshi* (Scudder) - Brush-tipped Emerald  
*Somatochlora williamsoni* Walker - Williamson's Emerald

### Libellulidae

*Celithemis elisa* (Hagen) - Calico Pennant  
*Celithemis eponina* (Drury) - Halloween Pennant  
*Celithemis monomelaena* Williamson - Banded Pennant  
*Erythemis simplicicollis* (Say) - Eastern Pondhawk  
*Leucorrhinia intacta* (Hagen) - Dot-tailed Whiteface  
*Leucorrhinia proxima* Calvert - Red-waisted Whiteface  
*Libellula cyanea* Fabr. - Spangled Skimmer  
*Libellula incesta* Hagen - Slaty Skimmer  
*Libellula julia* (Uhler) - Chalk-fronted Corporal  
*Libellula luctuosa* Burmeister - Widow Skimmer  
*Libellula lydia* (Drury) - Common Whitetail  
*Libellula pulchella* Drury - Twelve-spotted Skimmer  
*Libellula quadrimaculata* Linn. - Four-spotted Skimmer  
*Libellula semifasciata* Burm. - Painted Skimmer  
*Nannothemis bella* (Uhler) - Elfin Skimmer  
*Pachydiplax longipennis* (Burmeister) - Blue Dasher  
*Pantala flavescens* (Fabr.) - Wandering Glider  
*Pantala hymenaea* (Say) - Spot-winged Glider  
*Perithemis tenera* (Say) - Eastern Amberwing  
*Sympetrum ambiguum* (Rambur) - Blue-faced Meadowhawk  
*Sympetrum corruptum* (Hagen) - Variegated Meadowhawk  
*Sympetrum obtrusum* (Hagen) - White-faced Meadowhawk  
*Sympetrum rubicundulum* (Say) - Ruby Meadowhawk  
*Sympetrum semicinctum* (Say) - Band-winged Meadowhawk  
*Sympetrum vicinum* (Hagen) - Yellow-legged Meadowhawk  
*Tramea carolina* (Linn.) - Carolina Saddlebags  
*Tramea lacerata* Hagen - Black Saddlebags

## EDITORIAL EXUVIAE

### New Field Guide Available

In the latest issue of the Ohio Dragon-Flier (Vol. 8 #3, Oct. 1998) I found out there is a **new field guide available**. "A Color Guide to Common Dragonflies of Wisconsin" by Karl and Dorothy Legler and Dave Westover (1998) is a 7" x 8 1/2" field guide with glossy color photos of 76 of Wisconsin's 110 species of dragonflies. The book contains information of identification, breeding habitat, behavior, range maps and flight period. To obtain a copy for \$19.95 (includes postage), contact the authors at karlndot@bankpds.com or phone at (608) 643-4926. You can send a check or money order to: Karl Legler, 429 Franklin Street, Sauk City, WI 53583-1228.

This book sounds like one that would be useful to anyone interested in Odonata in Michigan, since Wisconsin is just on the other side of the lake. It sounds like a good holiday gift for that special person, too!

I just received this book before finishing this issue, and I am impressed with the quality of the color photos and organization of the information for the species it covers. I encourage all MOS participants to purchase a copy. It will aid greatly in identifying dragonflies in Michigan.

### New Publications of Interest

Chadde, S. W. 1998. A Great Lakes Wetland Flora, a complete, illustrated guide to the aquatic and wetland plants of the Upper Midwest. 585 pp. Pocket Flora Press. (ca. \$45).

Eastman, John. 1995. The book of swamp and bog. Trees, shrubs, and wildflowers of eastern freshwater wetlands. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA. 237 pp. (This is a fun book for those wishing to know more about the plant life in the habitats that we tend to spend a lot of time in.)

O'Brien, M.F. 1998. *Enallagma basidens* (Odonata: Coenagrionidae) expands its range into Michigan. Great Lakes Entomol. 30(4). 181-183.

Steffens, W.P. 1998. New distribution records of *Somatochlora hineana* (Odonata: Corduliidae). Great Lakes Entomologist 31(1):25-26.

Tiner, Ralph W. 1998. In search of swampland, a wetland source book and field guide. Rutgers University Press, NJ. xi+ 264 pp. (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED READING).

### Soon to be Released...

In the latest issue of *Argia* (Vol. 10, Oct. 1998), Bill Mauffray relates that he will soon start taking advance orders for Westfall & May's updated "Manual of the Dragonflies of North America" (estimated price of \$70.00) and Sid Dunkle's "Dragonflies through Binoculars" (ca.

\$20.00). Both books are expected to be published in 1999. For more information, surf over to: <http://www.afn.org/~iori/> and see what the IORI has to offer.

### Buy The Walker Volumes!

The Toronto Entomologist's Assoc. announced that they have additional copies of the 3-volume Odonata of Canada and Alaska by E.M. Walker. These are hardcover reproductions of the originals on acid-free paper, and are extremely useful volumes. Send your order and a check or money order for \$145 US (includes shipping & handling) to: Toronto Entomologist's Assoc., c/o Alan Hanks, 34 Seaton Drive, Aurora, Ontario Canada L4G 2K1.

### NEWS FROM THE DSA

The 1999 annual meeting of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas will be held July 8-11 in the Adirondacks of New York State. The meeting will take place at Paul Smiths College, less than 30 minutes away from Saranac Lake on the Lower St. Regis Lake. Accommodations for participants will be provided in a college dorm at Paul Smiths, with 2 to a room (\$22/night), and breakfast and dinner will be provided( about \$15/day). There are of course, a number of nearby motels available, but I am sure that with most people staying at the dorm, that would be the place to be for socializing.

I grew up in the foothills of the Adirondacks, about 40 minutes away from Saranac Lake, and I look forward to going back there to collect and learn more about Odonates. The usual format at DSA meetings is evening talks and presentations and day-time collecting trips. I encourage any MOS members wanting to learn more and to experience the beauty of the Adirondacks to attend next year's meeting. DSA meetings are not only for the "experts" -- they are just as rewarding for the neophytes as well.

I'll post more information about the DSA meeting in the winter issue of Williamsonia.

Also scheduled is the 1999 International Congress of Odonatology, for the 11-17 of July at Colgate College in Hamilton, NY. At the moment, I don't have much more information to share. As soon as I know more, I will put it in Williamsonia and post it via email. However, to view more about the World Congress of Odonatology, visit: <http://departments.colgate.edu/biology /Dragonfly.htm> or contact:

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## Williamson's Legacy Lives On...

Nick Donnelly wrote a very nice synopsis of E.B. Williamson's career in the October 1998 issue of ARGIA, the news journal of the DSA. As the provider of the core of our Odonata collection at the UMMZ, Mr. Williamson's contributions to the field of Odonatology are without equal. He unfortunately died at the age of 56, and I can't help but wonder how much more he would have accomplished had he lived to the average curator's age. Williamson's careful studies and keen observations made him one of the most beloved of American odonatologists. As a result of his interests, we have a wonderful Odonata reprint library (all of which is now databased) and one of the best collections of odonates in the Western Hemisphere.

## October MOS Meeting

Twelve people attended the October 18 MOS meeting held at the UMMZ in Ann Arbor. Although attendance was sparser than anticipated, the attendees had a good time exchanging information and getting acquainted. Mark O'Brien presented his results on the season's work in Washtenaw County, which was followed by Ethan Bright's summary of interesting larval records in Michigan and the status of the Odonata Larva web key. Erik Pilgrim from Wright State University in Dayton, OH presented an overview of his work on the RAPD DNA analysis of *Cordulegaster diastatops* and *C. bilineata*. He had some excellent slides of the habitats and interesting stories of his search for those elusive beasts.

At our break and after, we had some great discussions about odonata habitats and species identification. Paul Pratt from Windsor, Ont brought over an interesting *Enallagma* that he thought was *E. anna* Williamson-- a western species. That prompted Paul and Mark to look at it carefully and also examine some enigmatic specimens from Cass Co., MI that were collected on the June 21 MOS trip. As a result, look for an upcoming paper on *Enallagma anna* as a new record for the Great Lakes region!

Some ideas were tossed around for future meetings and attendees agreed that a spring identification workshop would be a good idea. Also, the idea that individuals offer to survey distinct sites of interest at regular intervals was considered. That idea is being developed. Ethan also showed off the larval web key and people had an opportunity to play with the key on the computers in the insect range.

Thanks to all the people that showed up for the meeting.

## Odonate Captured and Eaten by Plover

Josephine M Clark<sup>4</sup>

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In October, unexpectedly finding myself at the northern tip of the beach of a dragonfly infested barrier island off the coast of Dunedin, Florida, I watched with delight as a winter plumage *Charadrius melodus* captured an adult *Anax* sp. Chased by its contemporaries, dragon wings and abdomen protruding akimbo out the front of its beak, the orange-legged plover took three swift pauses to eat the body before I chased the birds off to rescue both HWs and one FW for identification.

I also rescued the remains of an *Anax* sp. (*A. junis* if the only species with a face target mark) and the body and wings of a *Triacanthagyna trifida* from the parking lot of the condos. The translucent green of the thorax and first and second *Anax* abdominal segment gave me a lovely opportunity to surmise the usefulness of camouflage. The terrific numbers of dragons in the protected areas of the island had me wondering if the timing of the Odonata emergence (or migration) came before, or in response to, the insects stirred into flight by the activity of bird migration.

Brief walks gave me the opportunity to watch *Anax* in flight (the translucent green was as clear as a neon sign) and enjoy reds, blues and green on other active adult *Anisoptera*, flying in patterns too rapid to allow identification.

## Notes on *Perithemis*

Josephine M. Clark

According to B. E. Montgomery, (1937 Oviposition of *Perithemis* [Odonata, Libellulidae] Ent. News 48(3) 61-63.) *Perithemis tenera* (common eastern amberwing) is sometimes held by the head by the male as she oviposits, but often also not held when female makes "...many successive dips made at very nearly the same spot." (Needham 1901) "...dips from a height of three or four inches."

My observations, made at Lake Tonawanda, Green Lake Twp, T26N, R 12W, sec 15 (I think) on 12 Sept. 1998 showed many females ovipositing singly, as above, near cattail (*Typha*) bases with males nearby, guarding the female. At one time three to five were ovipositing in the same small, apparently choice, spot (w/in an area 5"x3", surrounded by thick yellow water lily (*Nuphar*) roots).