

# Significant Hamilton Study Area (HSA) Odonate Records from 2005

by Carl Rothfels

This article is an overview of the regionally significant records from the Hamilton Study Area, excluding the Halton portion (see Van Ryswyk & Rothfels 2006). Included are eight species new for the City of Hamilton (*Lestes disjunctus*, *Enallagma vesperum*, *Aeshna verticalis*, *Basiaeschna janata*, *Cordulegaster diastatops*, *Epitheca canis*, *Somatochlora tenebrosa*, *Ladona julia*), six species new for Wellington County (*Lestes eurinus*, *Lestes inaequalis*, *Anax longipes*, *Gomphaeschna furcillata*, *Cordulegaster diastatops*, *Tramea carolina*), two new for Brant County (*Enallagma geminatum*, *Celithemis eponina*), and one new for Niagara Region (*Boyeria vinosa*).

The most noteworthy records are *Anax longipes*, *Gomphaeschna furcillata*, and *Tramea carolina*. The *Anax*, a fresh male, is the fourth record for Canada, and the first that likely indicates a breeding population (Rothfels in press). The nearest recent records for *Gomphaeschna* are from Peterborough County (OOA 2005), and that species is provincially very rare (S2). Ontario *Tramea carolina* records are clumped around Windsor and Point Pelee, with recent sightings in Toronto (OOA 2005). Our 2005 Wellington County *Tramea carolina* records are particularly important since we succeeded in rearing this species from larvae, conclusively demonstrating the presence of a breeding population.

Halton is the only HSA region that has a published (or soon-to-be published) odonate list (Rothfels 2006), which makes determining species' significance in the rest of the HSA difficult. For this article, Colin Jones at the Natural Heritage Information Centre generously provided me with all the Brant, Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton, Niagara, Waterloo, and Wellington odonate records from the Ontario Odonate Database (OOD 2006), and I used these data to approximate regional rarity.

Unfortunately, the odonate fauna of all six regions is poorly known, so I've made educated guesses about which apparently rare species are likely to be genuinely rare, and which are likely to be merely under-reported. I have thus excluded certain common species from this list, even if there are few records of them from a given municipality.

We're only beginning to understand our local odonate diversity, as more and more people

become interested in these insects. These sightings, in conjunction with the 2005 records from Halton (Van Ryswyk & Rothfels 2006) and the results of the Hamilton Odonate Count (Rothfels 2005, etc.), show how rich an area the HSA is for odonates. I encourage everyone to get involved—there are lots of opportunities to participate in hikes and counts with more knowledgeable “ode-ers.” With another year's worth of data, we might be in a position to produce an atlas to the odonates of the HSA...

The Hamilton Study Area is a circle, with a diameter of 40 km, centred on Dundurn Castle (see [www.hamiltonnature.org/birds/Bird-Circle-40km.htm](http://www.hamiltonnature.org/birds/Bird-Circle-40km.htm)). Numbers following an observer indicate collection or photograph voucher numbers. Provincially significant species are noted with: “Prov. Extremely Rare” (S1, or typically few than five records); “Prov. Very Rare” (S2, or typically between six and 20 records); or “Prov. Rare to Uncommon” (S3, or typically between 21 and 100 records).

**Observers:** Richard Aaron (RA), Jerry Bloom (JB), Bob Botts (BB), Jerry Chapple (JC), Heather Ducharme (HD), Sachi Gibson (SYG), Dianne Green (DGr), Dean Gugler (DGu), Colin Jones (CDJ), Jennifer Kovecses (JK), Bill Lamond (BL), Gordon Lewer (GL), Julia Monkman (JM), Walter Muma (WM), Evan Notley (EN), Louise Notley (LN), Ryan Rivet (RR), Carl Rothfels (CJR), Brenda Van Ryswyk (BVR), Elaine Serena (ES), Paul Smith (PDS), Ken Tennesen (KJT), Ian Vaithilingam (IV), Alison Watt (AW), Tracy Welch (TW), Shari Wiseman (SW), Brian Wylie (BW), Dora Young (DY), Rick Young (RY).

**Odonate species observed in the HSA in 2005:** 85 (including Halton records)

**First odonates seen:** *Anax junius*, *Leucorrhinia intacta*, and *Libellula quadrimaculata*, on May 25, by BVR at the Fuciarelli Property.

**Last odonate seen:** *Sympetrum vicinum*, on November 11, by CJR and GL at Sherman Inlet.

## CALOPTERYGIDAE – the broad-winged damsel family

*Hetaerina americana* (American Rubyspot)

§ Fourth Hamilton record: One photographed from Mountsberg Conservation Area (BVR05104). Brenda suspects it flew in from another location (BVR pers. comm.).

## LESTIDAE – the spreadwing family

*Lestes congener* (Spotted Spreadwing)

§ Second “modern” Hamilton record: One male photographed at Mountsberg Conservation Area (BVR05115).

*Lestes disjunctus* (Northern Spreadwing)

§ New for Hamilton, two sites: A minimum of four individuals present, with both photographs and collections taken, at Mountsberg Conservation Area (BVR05105; 05118); several seen (three collected) from ~3.5 km nw of Freeton, in the wetland south of junction of Gore and Maddaugh Rds (CDJ, CJR, JM).

*Lestes eurinus* (Amber-winged Spreadwing) **Prov. Rare to Uncommon.**

§ New for Wellington: Twelve seen (one collected) at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit (CJR39, DGr, HD, IV, GL).

*Lestes inaequalis* (Elegant Spreadwing)

§ Third Haldimand-Norfolk record: We caught four of these spreadwings in

Oswego Creek, 5.5 km south of Caistorville (CJR, GL).

§ Second Hamilton record: Three females seen at Spencer Creek at Conc. 4 (GL, RA, LN, EN).

§ First “modern” Niagara record: Over 15 seen in 20-Mile Creek, 1.5km s. of Fulton (CJR59, GL).

§ New for Hamilton: One male collected from Little Lake, ne of Puslinch Lake (IV, CJR38).

*Lestes unguiculatus* (Lyre-tipped Spreadwing)

§ Fourth Wellington record: Two seen at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit (CJR45, GL, CDJ, JM).

#### COENAGRIONIDAE – the pond damsel family

*Amphagrion saucium* (Eastern Red Damsel) **Prov. Rare to Uncommon.**

§ Fifth Wellington record: One on Aberfoyle Creek at Conc. 2 (CJR, DGr, HD, IV).

*Argia apicalis* (Blue-tipped Dancer)

§ Seventh record (approx.) for Hamilton: One at 50-Point Conservation Area (CJR, GL). While this southern species will likely prove to be uncommon or common in Hamilton, it is near the edge of its range here (OOA 2005).

*Argia moesta* (Powdered Dancer)

§ Seventh record (approx.) for Hamilton: One at Sherman Inlet—the north end of Sherman St. at Hamilton Harbour (CJR, SW, RR, DGu). This record was particularly odd since it was in Hamilton’s industrial north end (away from any large rivers, the Powdered Dancer’s typical habitat). It’s one of our few records away from Spencer Creek.

*Chromagrion conditum* (Aurora Damsel)

§ Third Wellington record: Three seen at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve fen (CJR, DGr, HD, IV).

*Enallagma carunculatum* (Tule Bluet)

§ Third Brant record: 16 seen in a large gravel pit pond nw of Paris (CJR, SYG). One odd-looking individual was collected (CJR62).

§ Fifth(?) Hamilton record: Two netted and released at Mountsberg Conservation Area (BVR). The local status of this species is obscured by confusion with the Familiar Bluet (*E. civile*).

§ Fourth Waterloo record: One male netted on the Grand River, just downstream of Cambridge (CJR, SYG).

*Enallagma geminatum* (Skimming Bluet)

§ New for Brant: Two tenerals collected from a large gravel pit pond nw of Paris (CJR, SYG). Det’d: CDJ.

§ Fifth Haldimand-Norfolk record: At least one of these beautiful little bluets was in Oswego Creek, 5.5km south of Caistorville (CJR, GL).

*Enallagma hageni* (Hagen’s Bluet)

§ Second “modern” Waterloo record: Two tenerals seen (one netted) in Puslinch Bog, south side of Puslinch Lake (CJR, GL). There’s also one historic record.

*Enallagma signatum* (Orange Bluet)

§ Second Brant record: 10 seen in a large gravel pit pond nw of Paris (CJR, SYG).

*Enallagma vesperum* (Vesper Bluet)

§ New for Hamilton: Five photographed at Mountsberg Conservation Area (BVR). This evening-flying species is an exciting find.

*Nehalennia irene* (Sedge Sprite)

§ Fourth through seventh Hamilton records: Over 20 at the Mercer’s Glen Marsh, RBG (CJR, RR, TW); one female netted at Volunteer Marsh west of Cootes (CJR, JK); two from Concession 4 by Spencer Creek (JC); one from near Spencer Creek at Middletown Road (GL, RA, LN, EN).

#### AESHNIDAE – the darner family

*Aeshna tuberculifera* (Black-tipped Darner)

§ Third Wellington record: One male collected from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit, near Creiff (CJR04, GL).

*Aeshna umbrosa* (Shadow Darner)

§ Third through sixth Hamilton records: One female at the south end of Glenron Rd., Flamborough (JB); one photographed at Mountsberg Conservation Area (BVR); one female in the Dundas Valley CA, west end of Lions Club Rd (CJR, TW); one male in Stoney Creek, w. side of 50 Road and the South Service Road (CJR). We also found a Shadow Darner near the north shore of Cootes Paradise, where they have been found before.

*Aeshna verticalis* (Green-striped Darner) **Prov. Very Rare.**

§ New for Hamilton: One male collected from ~3.5 km nw of Freulton, in the wetland south of the junction of Gore and Maddaugh Rds. (CJR, CDJ, JM).

*Anax longipes* (Comet Darner)

§ New for Wellington: One male netted and photographed in the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit (CJR69, DGr, HD, IV). This is the fourth record of this magnificent species for Canada, and the first that likely indicates a breeding population (Rothfels in press).

*Basiaeschna janata* (Springtime Darner)

§ New for Hamilton: Four seen on 12-Mile Creek at Hwy 6, ~100m s. of 8th Conc. W. (CJR).

§ First “modern” record for Niagara: Two larvae collected from Twenty Mile Creek, ca. 1.5km S of Fulton (CDJ, JM, CJR). Det’d by KJT.

*Boyeria vinosa* (Fawn Darner)

§ New for Niagara: One seen on Fifteen Mile Creek at King St (CJR, JM, CDJ).

*Gomphaeschna furcillata* (Harlequin Darner) **Prov. Very Rare.**

§ New for Wellington: One female netted and photographed from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry (CJR75, BW, SG, JK). The discovery of this rare dragonfly was one of the highlights of the 2005 season.

#### GOMPHIDAE – the clubtail family

*Argomphus furcifer* (Lilypad Clubtail) **Prov. Rare to Uncommon**

§ First confirmed “modern” record for Hamilton: Six seen at the west end of Concession 5 (dead end) in Flamborough (JC). This species was found near Carroll’s Bay by Walker (sometime in the 1950s, most likely). The only other Hamilton record is a “probable” one from the Donald Farm complex, in Flamborough.

§ Second Wellington record: One male collected from near the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserver quarry (CJR07, DGr, HD, IV).

*Argomphus villosipes* (Unicorn Clubtail) **Prov. Extremely to Very Rare**

§ We continued to expand our knowledge of this, one of the HSA’s most significant odonate species (Rothfels 2004). Hamilton records from the 8<sup>th</sup> Concession in Flamborough (BVR, AW) and from the 6<sup>th</sup> Concession (GL, RA, LN, EN) bracket the known location along Safari Road (expanding the boundaries of the “Beverly Swamp” population). Also, a record from the north shore of Cootes Paradise (CJR, RR), is the first from the main body of Cootes (otherwise, it has been found in West Pond and Hopkin’s Channel).

§ Second “modern” Niagara record: One photographed at St John’s Conservation Area (RY, DY).

§ New for Wellington: One male collected from the railway fen at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve (CJR06, DGr, HD, IV).

*Gomphus fraternus* (Midland Clubtail) **Prov. Rare to Uncommon.**

§ First “modern” record for Hamilton: One female netted and photographed on Stelco Canada property, north Hamilton (CJR77, TW, PDS).

*Gomphus graslinellus* (Pronghorn Clubtail) **Prov. Very Rare.**

§ First vouchered Hamilton record: Jerry photographed this rare clubtail at the south end of Glenron St., Flamborough. At least two individuals were present, over the course of four different days (JB). There's one earlier (2002) sight record of Pronghorn Clubtail, from the vicinity of Westover.

*Gomphus lividus* (Ashy Clubtail)

§ First "modern" Wellington record: one female netted (twice, a month apart), at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit (CJR, GL, DGr, HD, IV). We later collected larvae from the gravel pit and from Fletcher Creek at the fen (CDJ, JM, CJR). The other Wellington record of this species is from 1908, at "Guelph."

*Gomphus spicatus* (Dusky Clubtail)

§ Second Wellington record: Four larvae collected from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit (CDJ, JM, CJR). Det'd by KJT.

**CORDULEGASTERIDAE**—the spiketail family

*Cordulegaster diastatops* (Delta-spotted Spiketail) **Prov. Rare to Uncommon.**

§ New for Hamilton, two locations: One male patrolling Fletcher Creek at Lennon Rd (photographed), south of Gore Rd (CJR72); and one on 10<sup>th</sup> Concession, north of Valens CA (BL).

§ New for Wellington, two stations: A pair photographed at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry (CJR70); one male collected at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve fen (CJR09, DGr, HD, IV). We later collected four larvae from Fletcher Creek in the fen (CJR, CDJ, JM).

**CORDULIIDAE**—the emerald family

*Epitheca canis* (Beaverpond Baskettail)

§ New for Hamilton, three locations: One male photographed from Mountsberg Conservation Area (BVR05009); two males netted at the Carlisle Conservation Area (CJR, BW, SYG, JK); and two males netted (again) on 12-Mile Creek at Hwy 6, ~100m south of 8<sup>th</sup> Concession West (CJR).

§ Second Wellington record: One male collected from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry (SG, CJR11, BW, JK).

*Epitheca cynosura* (Common Baskettail)

§ Seventh through ninth Hamilton records: One female collected from Fletcher Creek at Lennon Rd in north Flamborough (CJR12); 12 from a tributary of Fairchild Creek at Ainsle and Lynden (GL, RA, LN, EN); and one from the south end of Glenron Rd (JB).

§ First "modern" Niagara record: One larva collected from Twenty Mile Creek, ca. 1.5km S of Fulton (CDJ, JM, CJR).

§ Second Wellington record: One male netted at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve fen (CJR, DGr, HD, IV).

*Epitheca princeps* (Prince Baskettail)

§ Third Hamilton record: One from the south end of Glenron Rd, Flamborough (JB).

*Somatochlora tenebrosa* (Clamp-tipped Emerald) **Prov. Very Rare.**

§ First confirmed Hamilton record: One male at the south end of Glenron Rd., Flamborough (JB). There's one old (1950s?) record from E.M. Walker listed as "Hamilton?"

**LIBELLULIDAE**—the skimmer family

*Celithemis elisa* (Calico Pennant)

§ Second Brant record: 10 seen in large gravel pit pond nw of Paris (CJR, SYG).

*Celithemis eponina* (Halloween Pennant) **Prov. Rare to Uncommon.**

§ New for Brant: One seen in large gravel pit pond nw of Paris (CJR, SYG).

*Erythemis simplicicollis* (Eastern Pondhawk)

§ Second and third Wellington records: One in the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve fen (CJR, DGr, HD, IV); five from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry (CJR, DGr, HD, IV). This species must be overlooked in Wellington—I expect it is common there.

*Ladona julia* (Chalk-fronted Corporal)

§ New for Hamilton, two locations: One female photographed at Mountsberg Conservation Area (BVR05008); one seen at the south end of Glenron Rd, Flamborough (JB).

§ Third Wellington record, two stations: Up to two seen in the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit and/or fen (CJR, GL, DGr, HD, IV); 10 seen at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry, on two separate occasions (CJR, BW, SG, JK, DGr, HD, IV). One larva also collected from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry (CDJ, CJR, JM).

*Leucorrhinia proxima* (Red-waisted Whiteface)

§ Second Hamilton record: Two seen, one collected, from Valens Conservation Area (BW, ES, BB).

*Libellula quadrimaculata* (Four-spotted Skimmer)

§ Fifth Ham. Record: One seen at the Fuciarelli Property, Flamborough (BVR).

§ Fourth Waterloo record: One in Puslinch Bog (CJR, GL).

*Libellula semifasciata* (Painted Skimmer) **Prov. Very Rare.**

§ Second Hamilton record: At least one (but seen twice) on Stelco Canada property, north Hamilton (CJR, TW, PS).

*Pantala flavescens* (Wandering Glider)

§ Second Hamilton record: Four sightings (of one or two individuals) from the Cootes Paradise area (CJR, RR, TW).

§ Second Wellington record: Two at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry (CJR, DGr, HD, IV).

*Pantala hymenaea* (Spot-winged Glider)

§ Third and fourth Hamilton records: One at Sherman Inlet, north Hamilton (CJR, SW, RR, DGU); and two sightings from the Cootes Paradise area, one of which involved an individual that looked teneral (CJR, TW).

*Perithemis tenera* (Eastern Amberwing) **Prov. Rare to Uncommon.**

§ Third and fourth records for Brant: Four in the large gravel pit pond nw of Paris (CJR, SYG); five in the Grand River at Paris (CJR, SYG).

§ Sixth through eighth Hamilton records: Four at Sherman Inlet in north Hamilton (CJR, SW, RR, DGU); nine at the west end of Concession 5 (dead-end), Flamborough (JC); one from 50-Point Conservation Area (CJR, GL).

§ Second Wellington record: One female from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit (GL).

*Sympetrum costiferum* (Saffron-winged Meadowhawk)

§ Second Wellington record: Several seen at both the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry and gravel pit (CDJ, CJR, JM).

*Sympetrum internum* (Cherry-faced Meadowhawk)

§ Fourth through sixth Hamilton records(?): Four from the area of Spencer Creek and Middletown Road (GL, RA, LN, EN); three from Spencer Creek at Concession 4 (GL, RA, LN, EN); two males collected from ~3.5 km nw of Freulton, in the wetland south of junction of Gore and Maddaugh Rds. (CJR, CDJ, JM). This is a species whose status needs clarification—it is likely common, but easily confused with the Ruby Meadowhawk (*S. rubicundulum*).

*Sympetrum semicinctum* (Band-winged Meadowhawk)

§ Sixth Hamilton record: One from the Haysland Loam Pits (CJR, WM).

*Sympetrum vicinum* (Autumn Meadowhawk)  
§ Fourth through sixth Hamilton records: 15 teneral from the Haysland Loam Pits (CJR, WM); one from the Berry Tract (CJR et al.); one from Sherman Inlet, north Hamilton (CJR, GL).  
§ Third Wellington record: Over 15 teneral from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit (CJR, GL).

*Tramea carolina* (Carolina Saddlebags)  
§ New for Wellington, two stations: Four seen (one collected) at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit (CJR29, DGr, HD, IV); two seen (one collected) at the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry (CJR28, DGr, HD, IV). We also reared this species from larvae taken from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve gravel pit, so we know it was breeding on site (CJR, GL; Rothfels in press).

*Tramea lacerata* (Black Saddlebags)  
§ Second “modern” Wellington record: One from the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve quarry (CJR, DGr, HD, IV). This species must be much more common in Wellington than the records would suggest.

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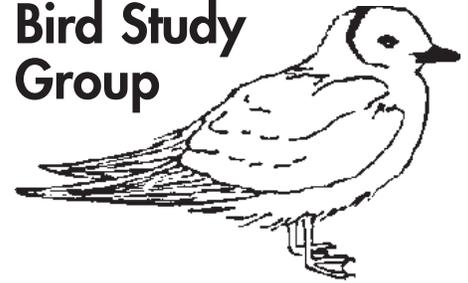
## The Birds of Pelee and Four-Letter Banding Codes

by Michael Rowlands

Word must be getting around that the Bird Study Group has entertaining meetings, if the attendance of 110 people at the March 20<sup>th</sup> gathering can be taken as a reliable indicator. Extra chairs were definitely needed to hold the many people who had come to see local photographer Barry Cheriére’s DVD of the birds of Point Pelee. In her introduction of our guest speaker, Cheryl Edgecombe said Barry is known as “The Shoe” amongst his birding friends because he seems to have horseshoes up his derrière when it comes to getting great shots of avian rarities! As proof, she showed us a picture of a rare Kirtland’s Warbler on the ground only inches from Barry’s foot. She also mentioned that Barry contributed drawings and slides to *A Field Guide to the Migrating Raptors of Hawk Cliff* and photos to the forthcoming *Birds of Hamilton*. When Barry took the floor, he told us that his work is also featured in the 2006 “Peregrine Falcon & Nestlings” coin and stamp set produced by the Royal Canadian Mint and Canada Post. Barry’s photo of peregrines at the Lift Bridge taken last March is used in the pamphlet that accompanies this limited edition gift set.

Barry explained to us that he had wanted to do a presentation on Pelee for a long time. He first visited Point Pelee in the summer of 1975. He has been going ever since “waiting for a fallout day.” To make his presentation, he selected 314 of his pictures, scanning most of them from his older 35-mm slides (he now works with digital images). He

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then used a computer program called Studio to link his photos using interesting titles and transitions to tell his story of birding at Point Pelee. To cap it off, he added a soundtrack of appropriate instrumental music and natural sounds, as well as a novelty song called “I Like Birds” that played when we saw pictures of some of his fellow birders, many of whom were in the audience.

Barry’s resultant 31-minute DVD was simply spectacular as a naturalist’s overview of Pelee. Starting with aerial shots taken from a plane flown by a friend, we saw the big picture and then were treated to scenes on the ground in all the different parts of Point Pelee in both spring and fall. Not only did we see the beautiful birds but also gorgeous butterflies and other natural wonders, such as a solar eclipse seen from nearby Rondeau Park and the comical “natural carwash” of giant waves crashing over brave locals parked on the Leamington Pier.

We saw hundreds of Barry’s best pictures of songbirds, ducks, geese, and shorebirds, but he also told us of many rarities that he had glimpsed but was