



There are over 160 dragonfly and damselfly species found in Ohio. The Oak Openings is a premier location for finding many of these fascinating and beautiful insects. Dragonfly and damselfly larvae are completely aquatic; therefore, these animals are excellent indicators of water quality. The adults are often brilliantly colored, and they are fun to observe as they engage in acrobatic maneuvers while hunting. Their ability to fly in any direction, swiftly change direction, and fly at lightning speed (the fastest have been clocked at 60 miles per hour) makes them one of nature's most amazing flying machines. These insects are carnivorous and voracious predators. Their prey is hunted on the wing (in mid-air) and can range from small flies and mosquitoes to other dragonflies. One key feature for differentiating dragonflies and damselflies is the spacing of their eyes. While damselflies have eyes spaced widely apart, eyes on dragonflies touch or are only slightly separated. Also, when perching, dragonflies hold their wings straight out to the sides. Most damselflies, with the exception of the spreadwings, press their wings together over their backs.

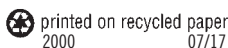
Photos by Rick Nirschl

Cover photo:

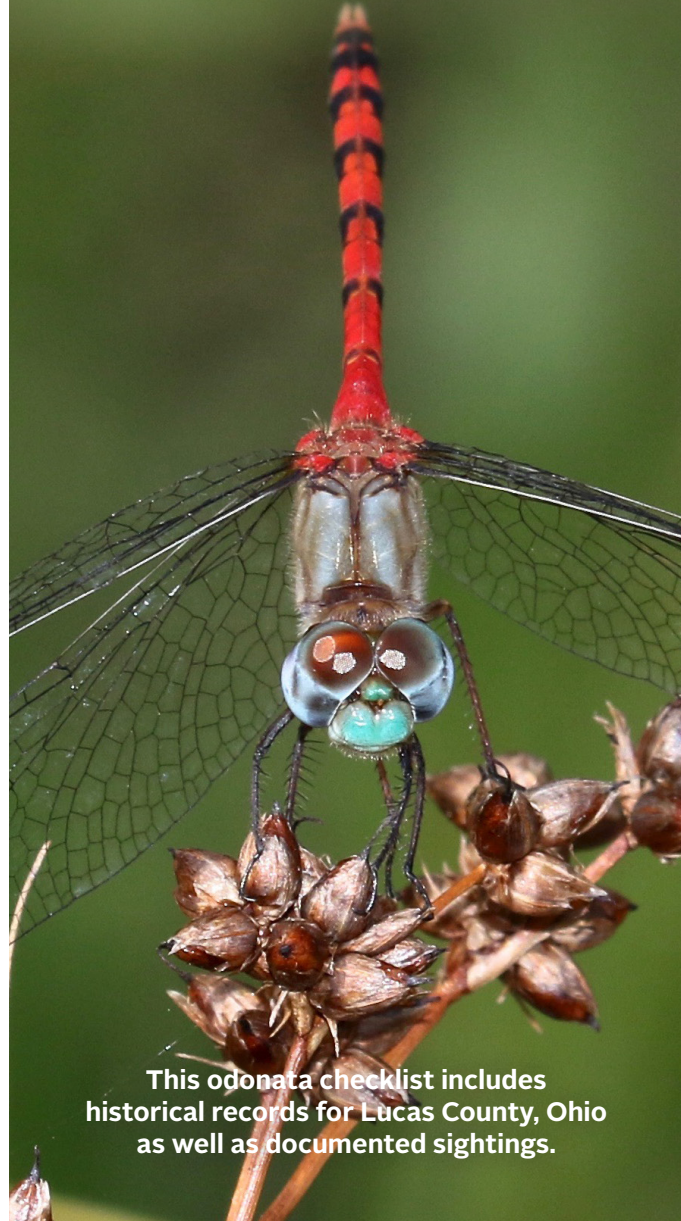
Blue-faced Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum ambiguum*)



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Dragonfly & Damselfly Checklist



This odonata checklist includes historical records for Lucas County, Ohio as well as documented sightings.



BROAD-WINGED DAMSELS – CALOPTERYGIDAE

- __ Ebony Jewelwing - *Calopteryx maculata*
- __ American Rubyspot - *Hetaerina americana*

SPREADWINGS – LESTIDAE

- __ Great Spreadwing – *Archilestes grandis*
- __ Southern Spreadwing - *Lestes australis*
- __ Spotted Spreadwing - *Lestes congener*
- __ Emerald Spreadwing - *Lestes dryas*
- __ Amber-winged Spreadwing - *Lestes eurinus*
- __ Sweetflag Spreadwing - *Lestes forcipatus*
- __ Slender Spreadwing - *Lestes rectangularis*
- __ Lyre-tipped Spreadwing - *Lestes unguiculatus*
- __ Swamp Spreadwing – *Lestes vigilax*

POND DAMSELS – COENAGRIONIDAE

- __ Eastern Red Damselfly - *Amphiagrion saucium*
- __ Blue-fronted Dancer - *Argia apicalis*
- __ Violet (Variable) Dancer – *Argia fumipennis violacea*
- __ Powdered Dancer - *Argia moesta*
- __ Blue-tipped Dancer - *Argia tibialis*
- __ Dusky Dancer – *Argia translata*
- __ Aurora Damselfly - *Chromagrion conditum*
- __ Northern Bluet – *Enallagma annexum*
- __ Rainbow Bluet - *Enallagma antennatum*
- __ Azure Bluet - *Enallagma aspersum*
- __ Double-striped Bluet - *Enallagma basidens*
- __ Boreal Bluet - *Enallagma boreale*
- __ Tule Bluet - *Enallagma carunculatum*
- __ Familiar Bluet - *Enallagma civile*
- __ Marsh Bluet - *Enallagma ebrium*
- __ Stream Bluet - *Enallagma exulans*
- __ Skimming Bluet - *Enallagma geminatum*
- __ Orange Bluet - *Enallagma signatum*
- __ Slender Bluet – *Enallagma traviatum*
- __ Vesper Bluet - *Enallagma vesperum*
- __ Citrine Forktail - *Ischnura hastata*
- __ Fragile Forktail - *Ischnura posita*
- __ Eastern Forktail - *Ischnura verticalis*
- __ Sedge Sprite – *Nehalennia irene*

DARNERS – AESHNIDAE

- __ Canada Darner - *Aeshna canadensis*
- __ Mottled Darner - *Aeshna clepsydra*
- __ Lance-tipped Darner - *Aeshna constricta*
- __ Black-tipped Darner - *Aeshna tuberculifera*
- __ Shadow Darner - *Aeshna umbrosa*
- __ Green-striped Darner – *Aeshna verticalis*
- __ Common Green Darner - *Anax junius*
- __ Comet Darner - *Anax longipes*
- __ Fawn Darner - *Boyeria vinosa*
- __ Swamp Darner – *Epiaeschna heros*
- __ Cyrano Darner – *Nasiaeschna pentacantha*
- __ Spatterdock Darner - *Rhionaeschna mutata*

CLUBTAILS – GOMPHIDAE

- __ Unicorn Clubtail - *Argomphus villosipes*
- __ Flag-tailed Spinyleg - *Dromogomphus spoliatus*
- __ Plains Clubtail – *Gomphus externus*

- __ Midland Clubtail - *Gomphus fraternus*
- __ Cobra Clubtail – *Gomphus vastus*
- __ Dragonhunter - *Hagenius brevistylus*
- __ Lancet Clubtail - *Phanogomphus exilis*
- __ Pronghorn Clubtail - *Phanogomphus graslinellus*
- __ Ashy Clubtail - *Phanogomphus lividus*
- __ Dusky Clubtail - *Phanogomphus spicatus*
- __ Elusive Clubtail - *Stylurus notatus*
- __ Russet-tipped Clubtail - *Stylurus plagiatus*

CRUISERS - MACROMIIDAE

- __ Swift River Cruiser - *Macromia i. illinoensis*
- __ Gilded River Cruiser - *Macromia pacifica*
- __ Wabash River Cruiser - *Macromia wabashensis*
- __ Royal River Cruiser - *Macromia taeniolata*

EMERALDS - CORDULIIDAE

- __ Slender Baskettail - *Epithea costalis*
- __ Common Baskettail - *Epithea cynosura*
- __ Prince Baskettail - *Epithea princeps*
- __ Hine's Emerald - *Somatochlora hineana*
- __ Mocha Emerald - *Somatochlora linearis*
- __ Clamp-tailed Emerald - *Somatochlora tenebrosa*

SKIMMERS – LIBELLULIDAE

- __ Calico Pennant - *Celithemis elisa*
- __ Halloween Pennant - *Celithemis eponina*
- __ Banded Pennant – *Celithemis fasciata*
- __ Eastern Pondhawk - *Erythemis simplicicollis*
- __ Chalk-fronted Corporal – *Ladona julia*
- __ Frosted Whiteface – *Leucorrhinia frigida*
- __ Dot-tailed Whiteface - *Leucorrhinia intacta*
- __ Golden-winged Skimmer – *Libellula auripennis*
- __ Spangled Skimmer - *Libellula cyanea*
- __ Slaty Skimmer – *Libellula incesta*
- __ Widow Skimmer - *Libellula luctuosa*
- __ Twelve-spotted Skimmer - *Libellula pulchella*
- __ Four-spotted Skimmer - *Libellula quadrimaculata*
- __ Painted Skimmer - *Libellula semifasciata*
- __ Great Blue Skimmer - *Libellula vibrans*
- __ Blue Dasher- *Pachydiplax longipennis*
- __ Wandering Glider - *Pantala flavescens*
- __ Spot-winged Glider - *Pantala hymenaea*
- __ Eastern Amberwing - *Perithemis tenera*
- __ Common Whitetail - *Plathemis lydia*
- __ Blue-faced Meadowhawk - *Sympetrum ambiguum*
- __ Variegated Meadowhawk - *Sympetrum corruptum*
- __ Saffron-winged Meadowhawk – *Sympetrum costiferum*
- __ Cherry-faced Meadowhawk - *Sympetrum internum*
- __ White-faced Meadowhawk - *Sympetrum obtrusum*
- __ Ruby Meadowhawk - *Sympetrum rubicundulum*
- __ Band-winged Meadowhawk – *Sympetrum semicinctum*
- __ Autumn Meadowhawk - *Sympetrum vicinum*
- __ Striped Saddlebags – *Tramea calverti*
- __ Carolina Saddlebags - *Tramea carolina*
- __ Black Saddlebags - *Tramea lacerata*
- __ Red Saddlebags – *Tramea onusta*