

2017 Ohio Dragonfly Survey Species Range Maps

Maps created by Jim Lemon

Annotations, compilation, and illustrations by MaLisa Spring



Read this page first!

General Map info:

Maps are in a color gradient showing most recent (darker) and older records (lighter). New county records are denoted with a small white dot in the center of the county. Taxa are grouped by Family, but are otherwise alphabetical by common name.

Photography Notes:

Some species maps have notes on which parts of the body to photograph. These are not always feasible given the cooperation of the specimen, so do not be disheartened when you are unable to get all of the recommended angles for identification. Anything is better than nothing, and we will do our best to identify the specimens with what you have.

Some specimens really do not like to cooperate to get their photo taken. You can use a net to catch the dragonfly or damselfly and then photograph it in hand. The best way to safely secure them without damage is to hold them by the wings behind their back. Be conscious of the rules of wherever you are. If you are at a park, be sure to check in with management beforehand to get permission to use a net on their land.

Collection Notes:

Some species cannot be verified without looking at minute characters. I have included some photography tips that should help, but that list is not all inclusive and several groups are best identified in hand. Make sure that you have collection permission where you are sampling. We have several permits for various locations and sampling supplies if you choose to do so. Avoid collecting state endangered or threatened species unless you have the Scientific Collecting permit and have followed the proper protocols.

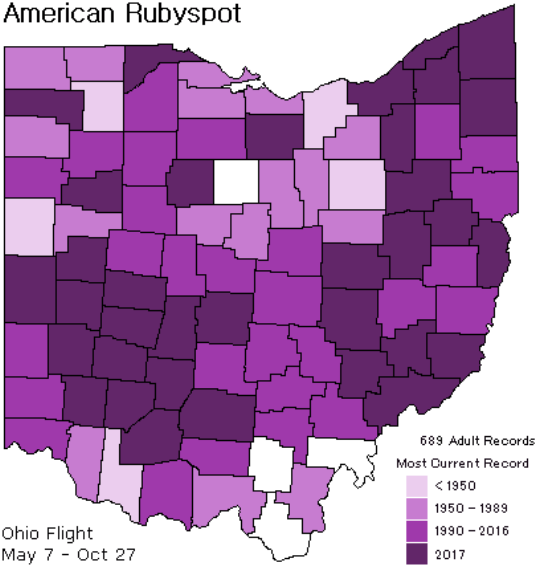
Reasons to collect specimens:

1. Archival of genetic information that can be analyzed for population changes, descriptions of new species or subspecies, and to preserve specimens for future generations.
2. Taxonomy is changing, and what we know as one species today, might actually be two or three species that are only distinguishable by some obscure character. By saving a voucher specimen, we can go back to the original and see all of the characters, compared to a subsection of characters from a photo.

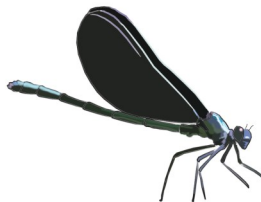
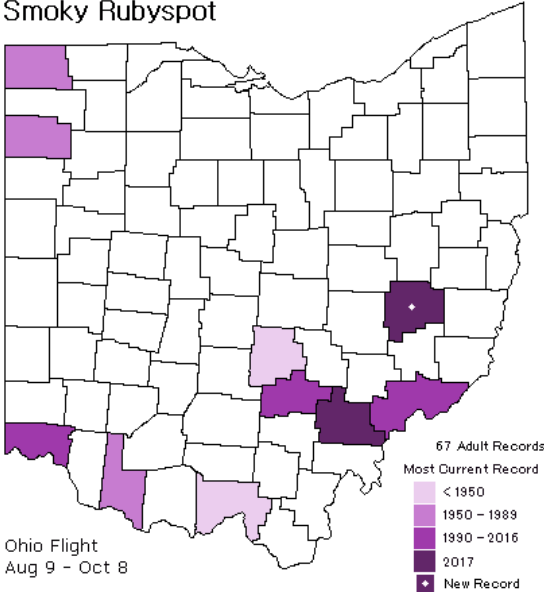
Alternatives to killing specimens for collection: Larval shells that are left behind after molting can be collected and identified. These are much more challenging for the layperson to identify, but we accept larval shells with proper date and location information. They can be stored in a dry container with a collection label and given to the State Coordinator (MaLisa Spring)

Broad Winged Damselflies (Calopterygidae)

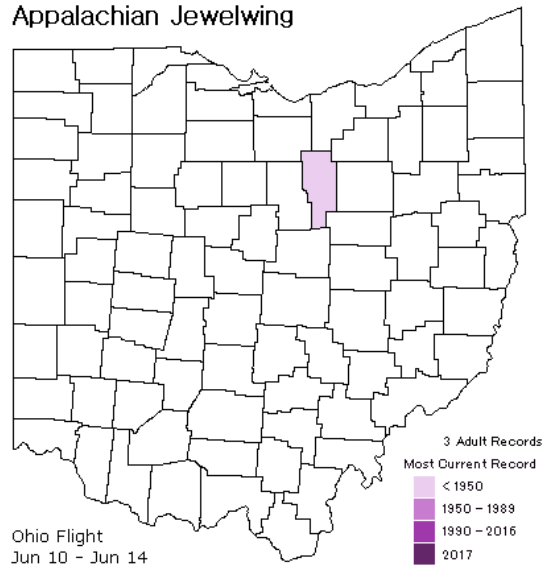
Hetaerina americana
American Rubyspot



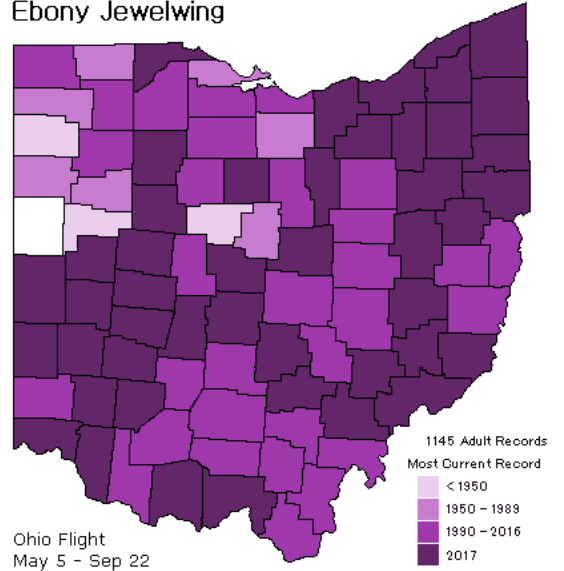
Hetaerina titia
Smoky Rubyspot



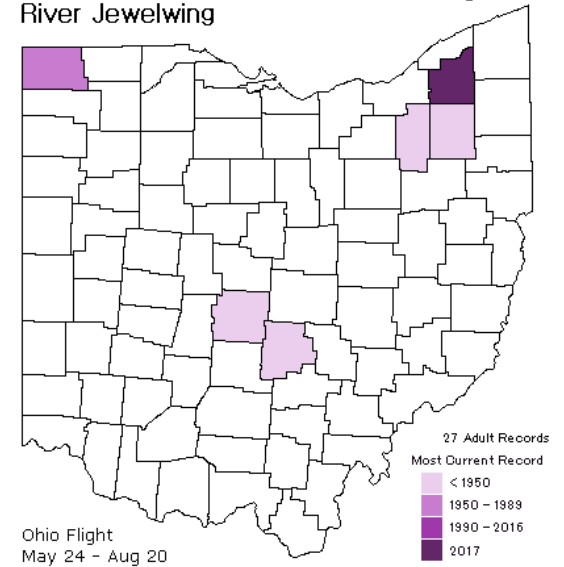
Calopteryx angustipennis
Appalachian Jewelwing



Calopteryx maculata
Ebony Jewelwing



Calopteryx aequabilis
River Jewelwing



STATE ENDANGERED

Spread Winged Damselflies (Lestidae)

Lestes eunus

Amber-winged Spreadwing

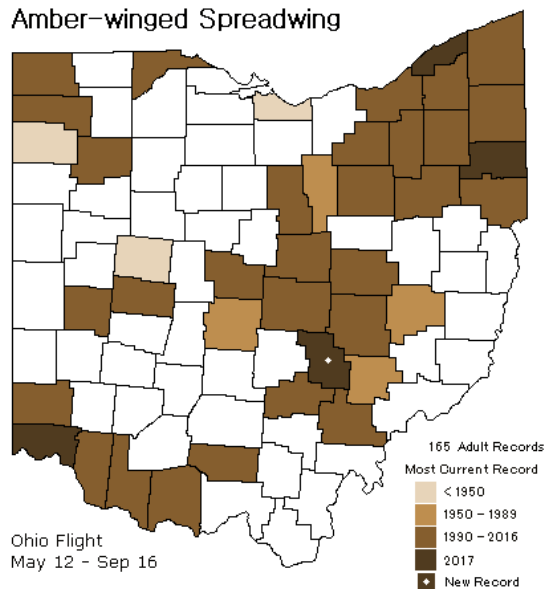


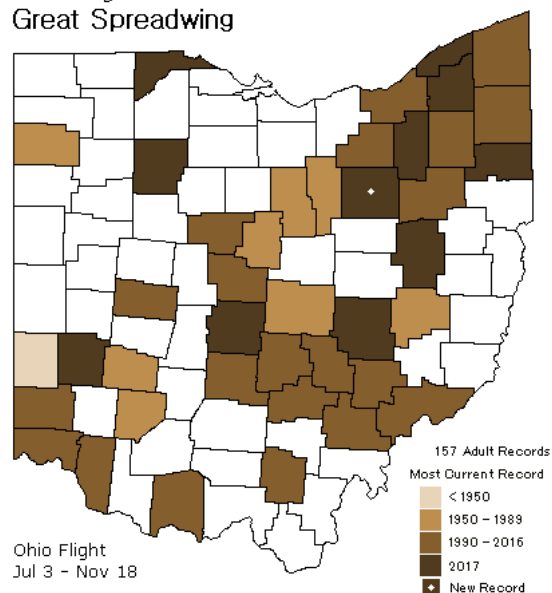
Photo ID for Spreadwings:

Try to get side, back, and terminal appendage shots to increase likelihood that we can ID to species.

Otherwise, collection is preferred

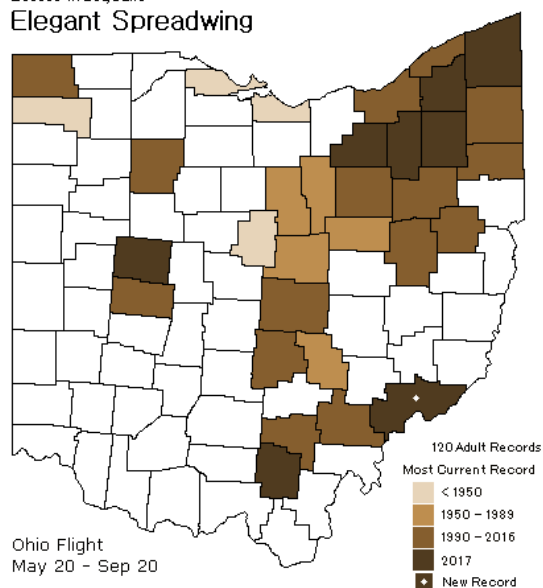
Archilestes grandis

Great Spreadwing



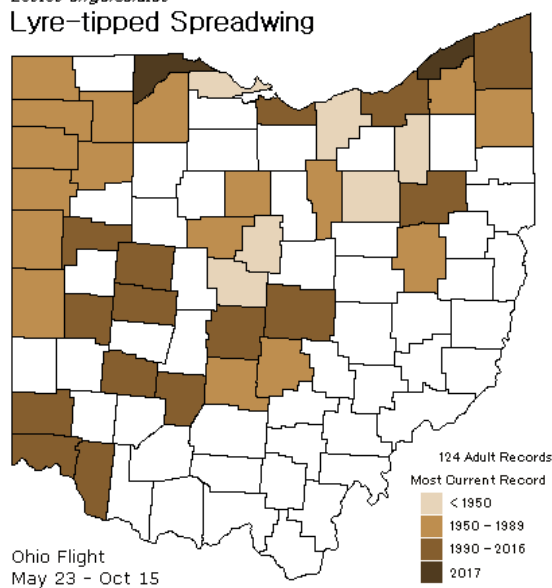
Lestes inaequalis

Elegant Spreadwing



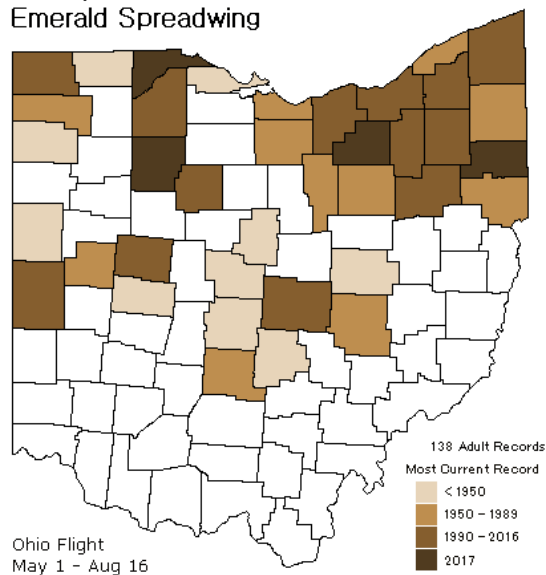
Lestes unguiculatus

Lyre-tipped Spreadwing



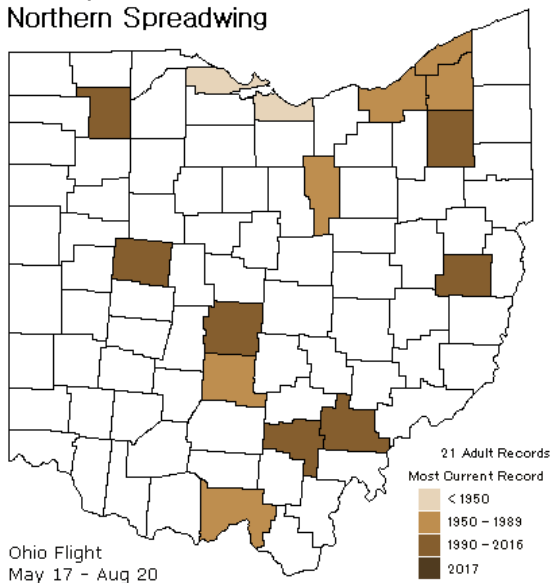
Lestes dyas

Emerald Spreadwing



Lestes disjunctus

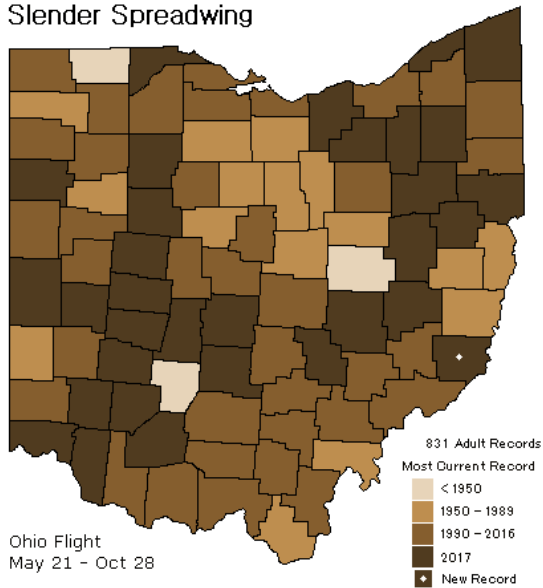
Northern Spreadwing



Spread Winged Damselflies (Lestidae)

Lestes rectangularis

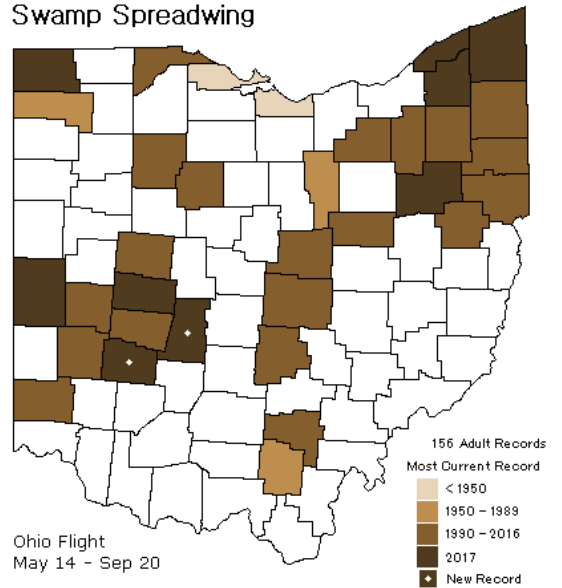
Slender Spreadwing



Slender Spreadwings have distinct light wing tips

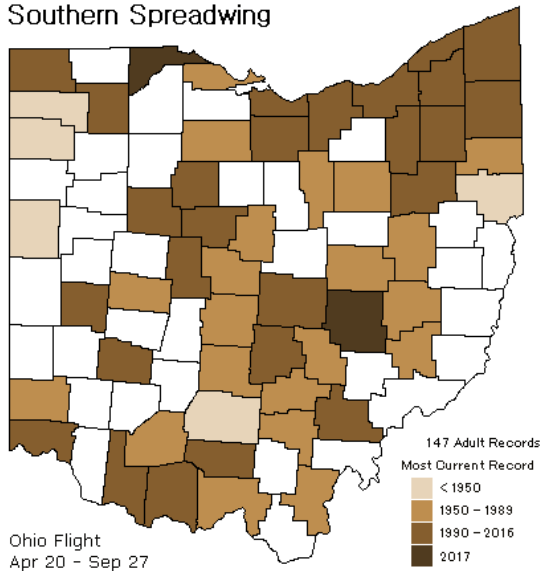
Lestes vigilax

Swamp Spreadwing



Lestes australis

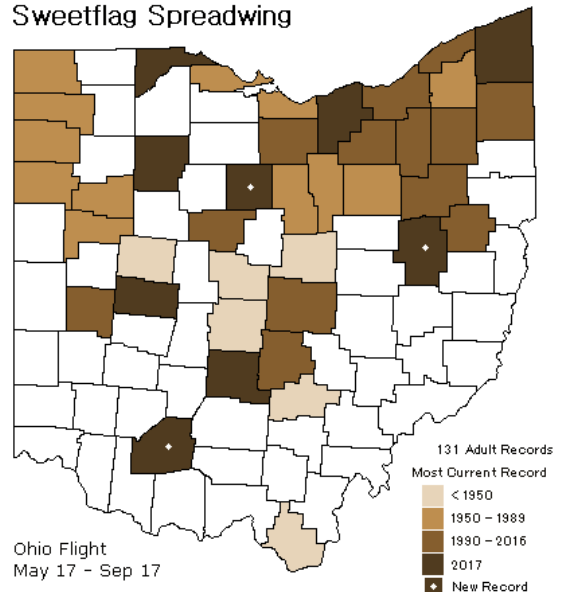
Southern Spreadwing



Female Sweetflag Spreadwings have a long ovipositor that extends past the tip of the abdomen

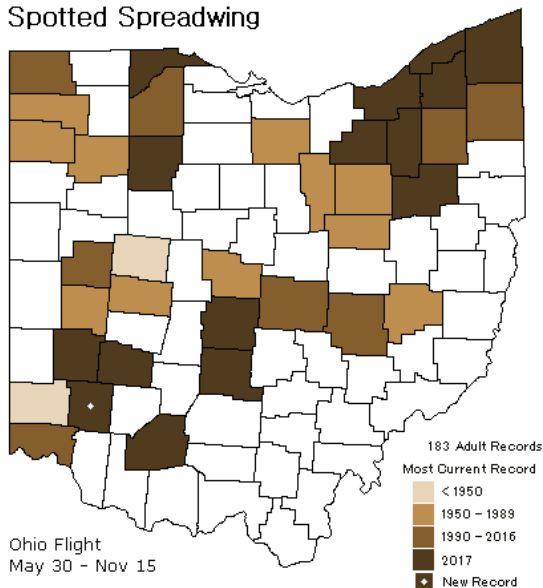
Lestes forcipatus

Sweetflag Spreadwing



Lestes congener

Spotted Spreadwing



Spotted Spreadwings have distinct spots on the underside of the thorax

Photo ID for Spreadwings:

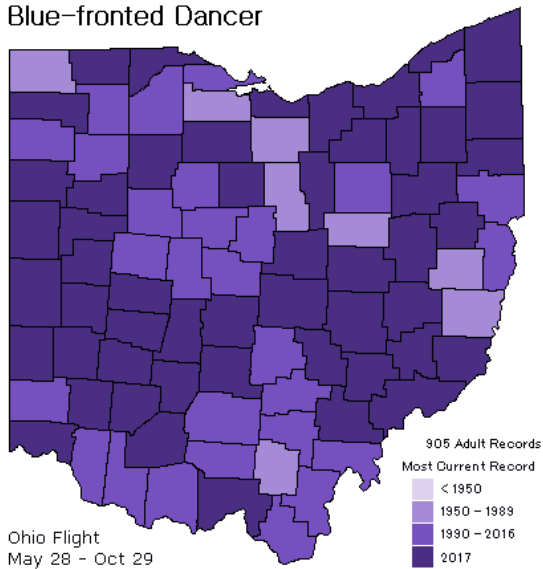
Try to get side, back, and terminal appendage shots to increase likelihood that we can ID to species.

Otherwise, collection is preferred

Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae) - Dancers

Argia apicalis

Blue-fronted Dancer

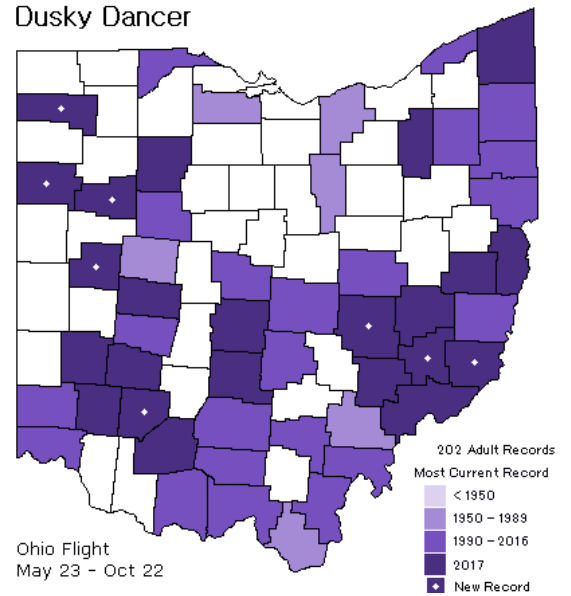


Dancer Photo ID:

Most male Dancers can be readily identified from a photo. Female Dancers are much more challenging to identify, even with a specimen

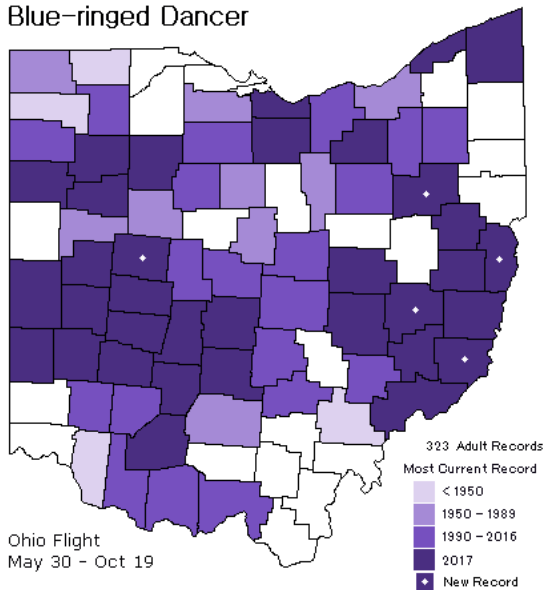
Argia translata

Dusky Dancer



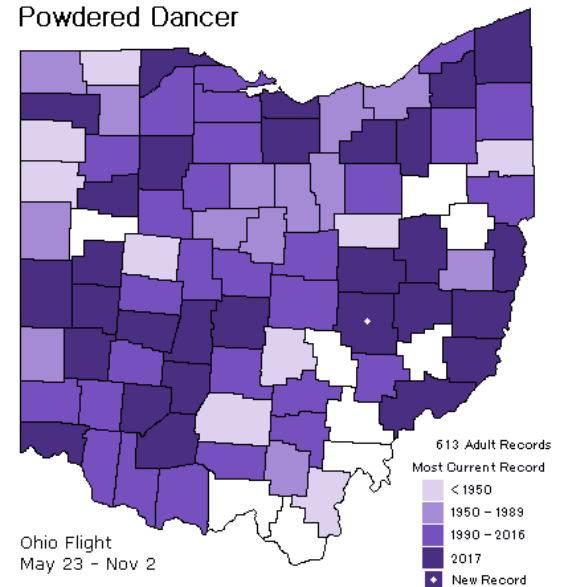
Argia sedula

Blue-ringed Dancer



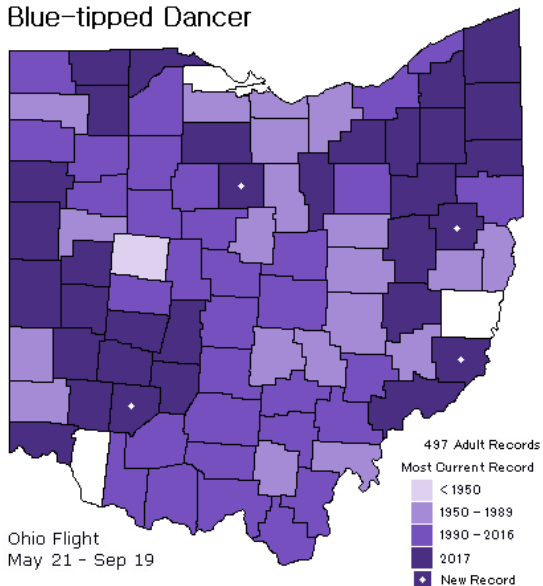
Argia moesta

Powdered Dancer



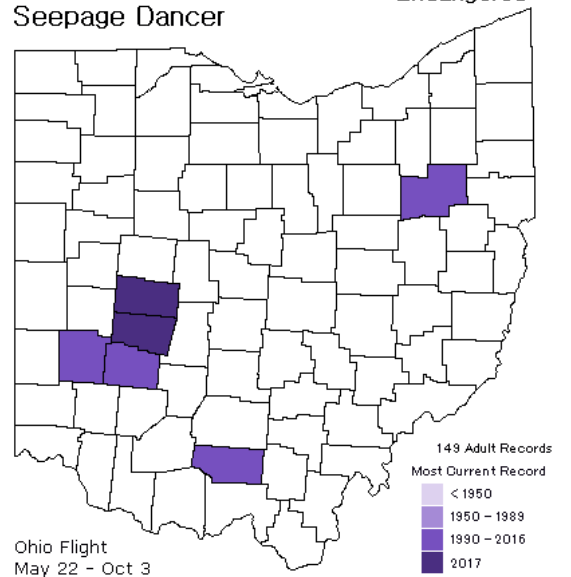
Argia tibialis

Blue-tipped Dancer



Argia bipunctulata

Seepage Dancer



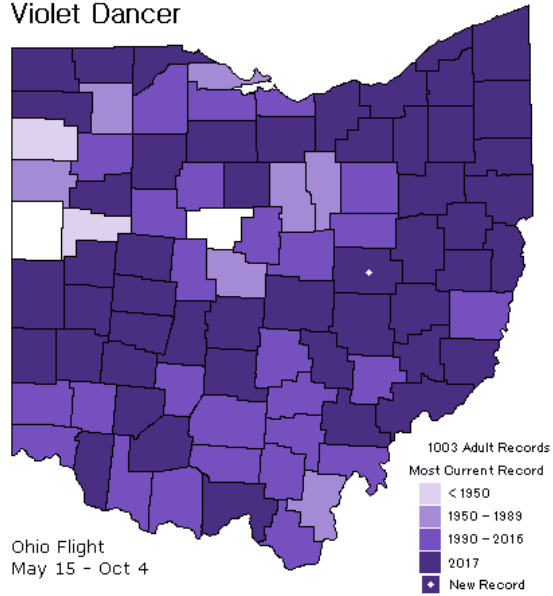
Endangered

STATE ENDANGERED

Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae) - Dancers

Argia fumipennis violacea

Violet Dancer



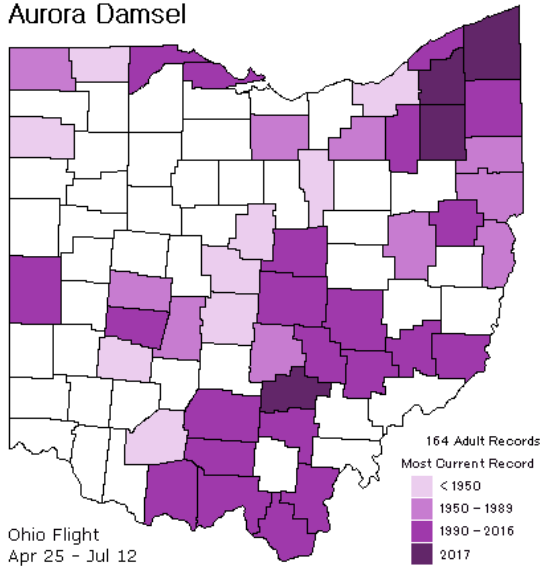
NOTES:

Distinct purple color in males help identify
Violet Dancers



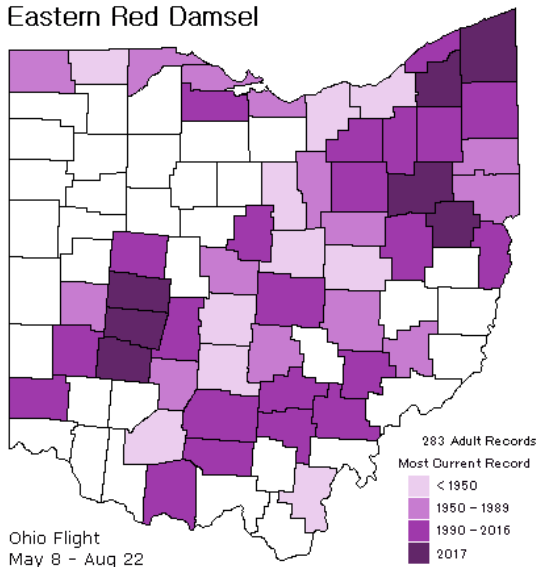
Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae)

Chromagrion conditum
Aurora Damsel



The Aurora Damsel male has a distinct bottle shape on the top of their thorax and no shoulder stripe. Both males and females have yellow on at least the lower half of their thorax.

Amphiagrion saucium
Eastern Red Damsel



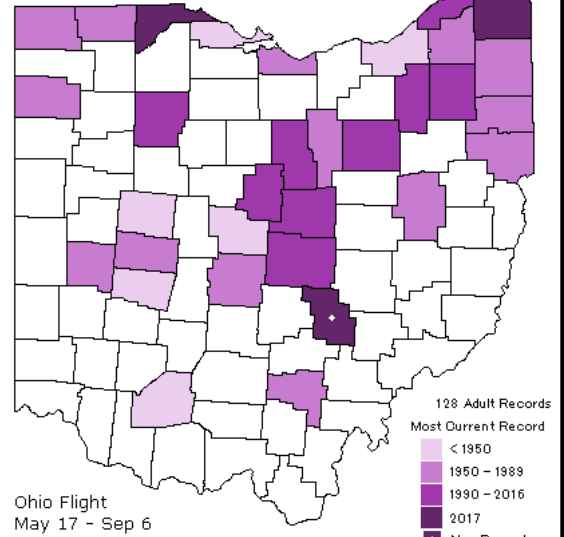
The Red Damsel is distinctly red. Watch out in southern Ohio for the Duckweed Firetail, which is unreported in Ohio, but has been found across the river in West Virginia. The Duckweed Firetail males have less black on their thorax compared to the Red Damsel.

Photo ID for Sprites:

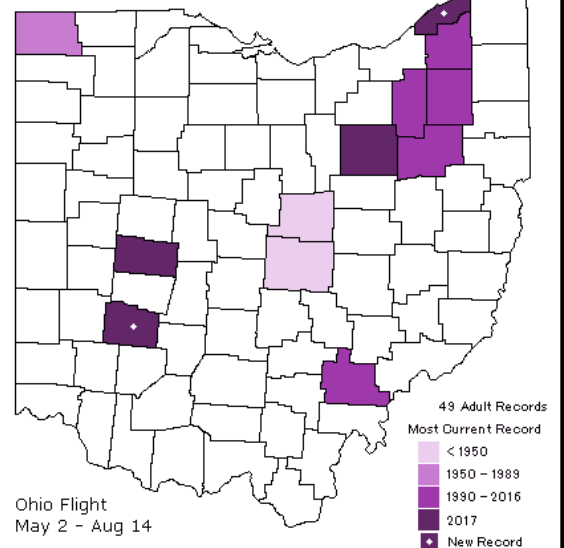
Sprites are really small, metallic green damselflies. Try to get a side profile shot and then a close up shot of the top of the "neck" (prothorax) in females or a side shot of the male terminal appendages.

If they will not cooperate for the above shots, you can try gently netting them and hold by the wings.

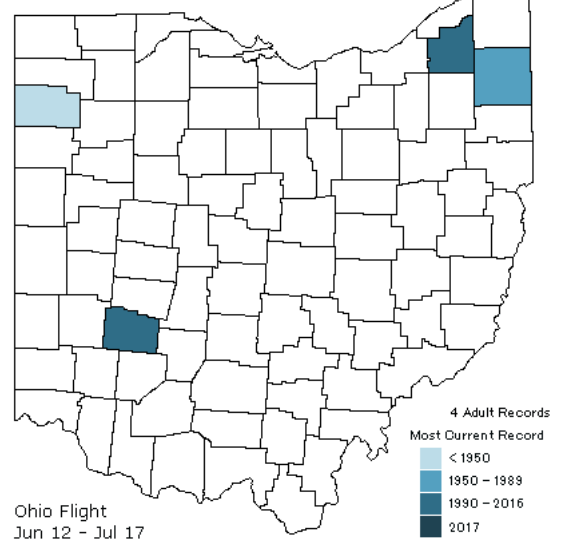
Nehalennia irene
Sedge Sprite



Nehalennia gracilis
Sphagnum Sprite

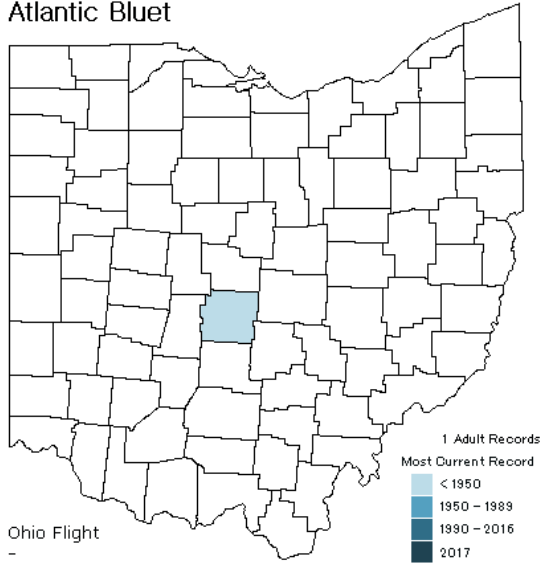


Coenagrion resolutum
Taiga Bluet



Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae) - Bluets

Enallagma doubledayi
Atlantic Bluet



Enallagma basidens
Double-striped Bluet

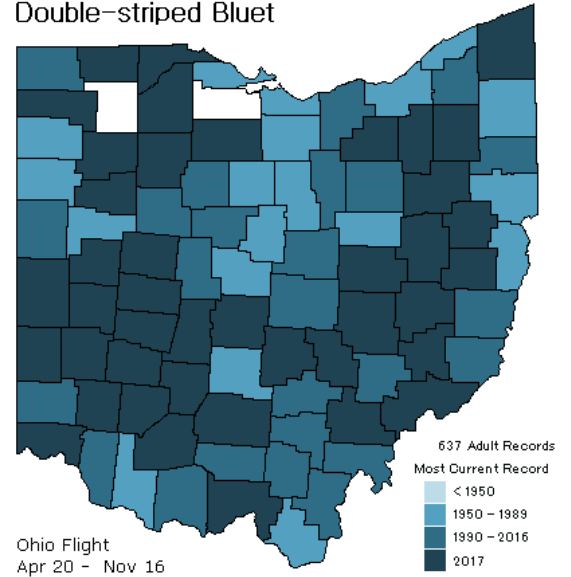
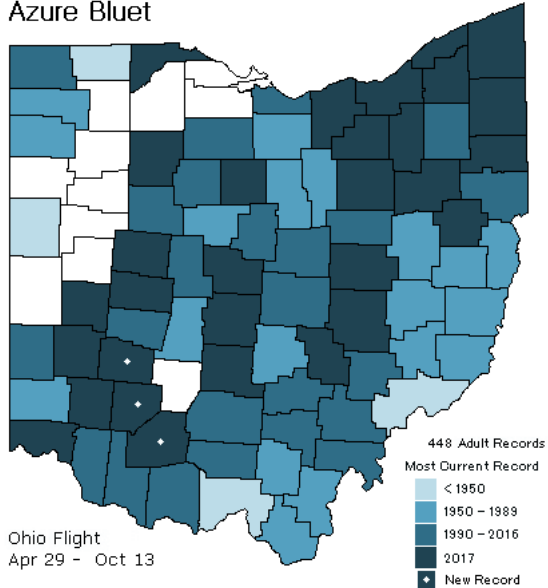


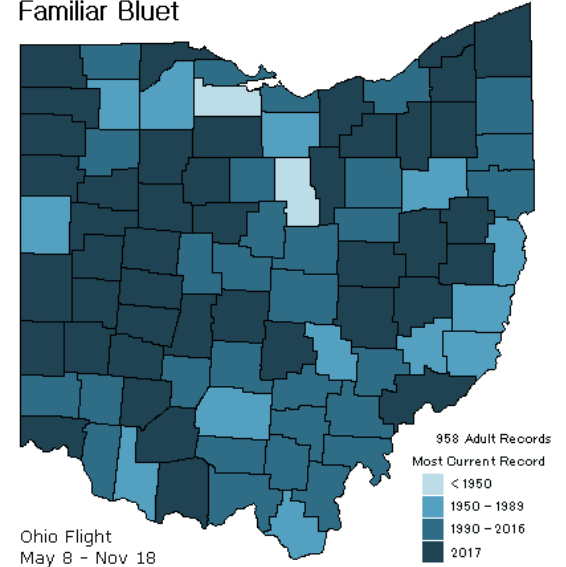
Photo ID for Bluets:
Try to get a shot of the side and a close up side shot of the terminal appendages. Angles showing the eyespots are also helpful. Most females are challenging to ID via photo.

Collection is preferred for any of the mostly blue species.

Enallagma aspersum
Azure Bluet

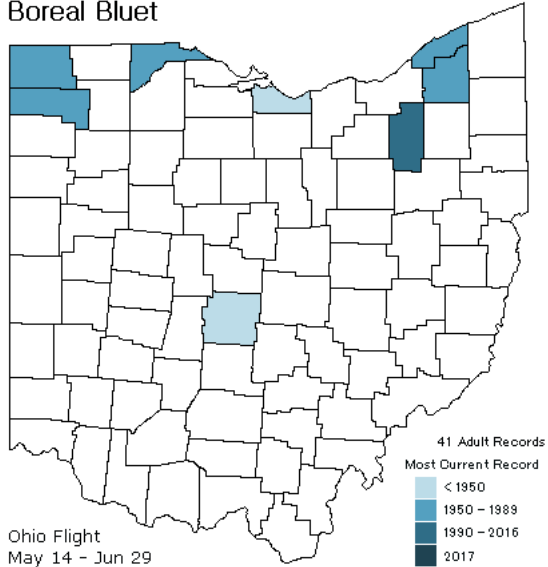


Enallagma civile
Familiar Bluet

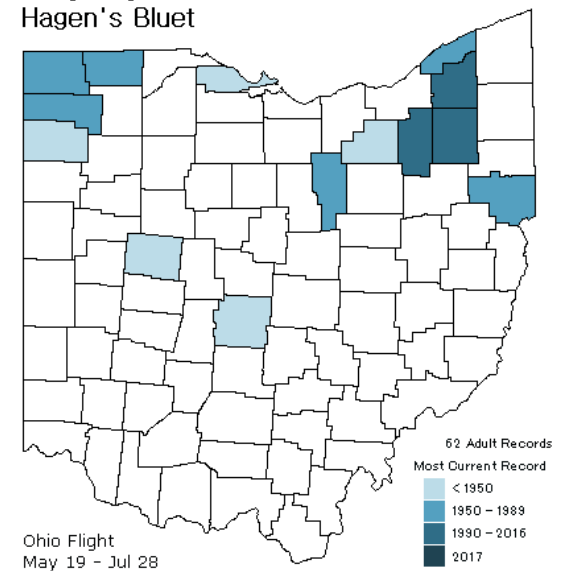


Enallagma boreale
Boreal Bluet

Threatened



Enallagma hageni
Hagen's Bluet

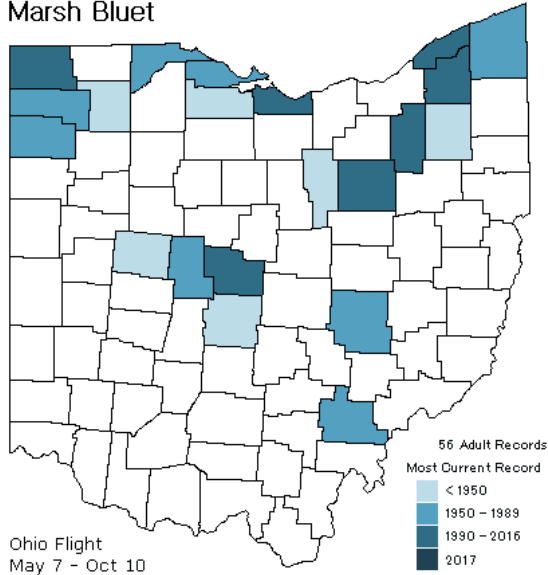


STATE THREATENED

Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae) - Bluets

Enallagma ebrium
Marsh Bluet

Threatened



STATE THREATENED

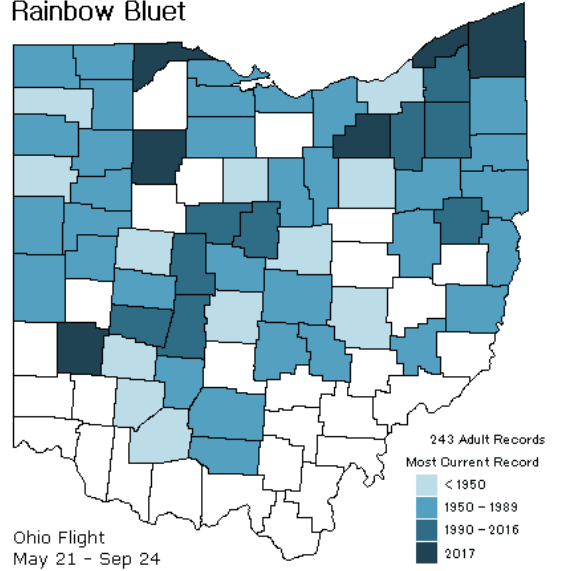
Photo ID for Bluets:

Try to get a shot of the side profile and a close up side shot of the terminal appendages. Angles showing the eye-spots are also helpful.

Most females are challenging to ID via photo.

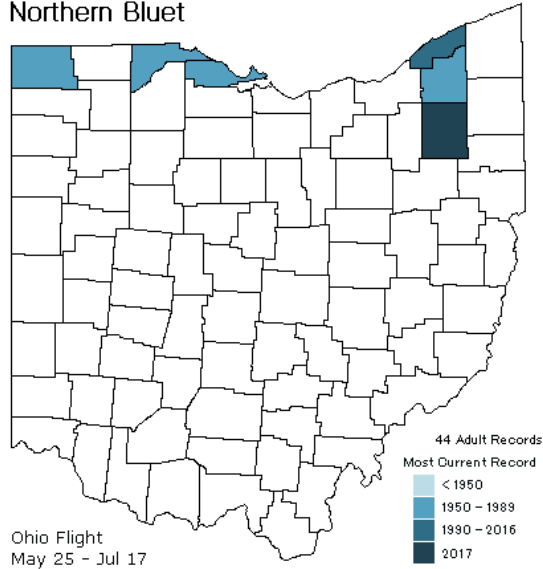
Collection is preferred for any of the mostly blue species.

Enallagma antennatum
Rainbow Bluet



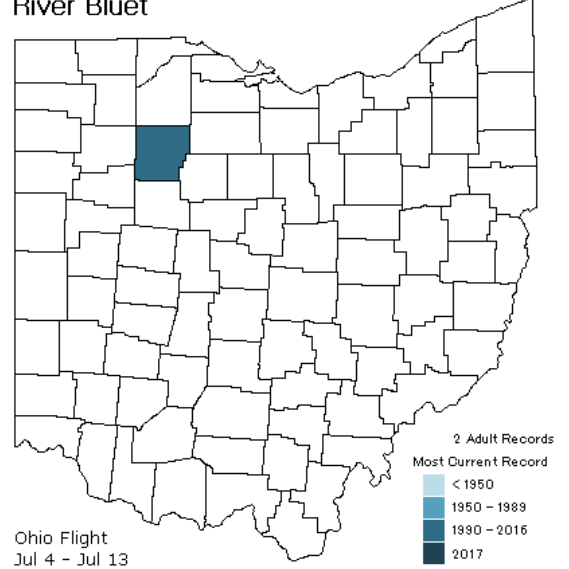
Enallagma annexum
Northern Bluet

Threatened

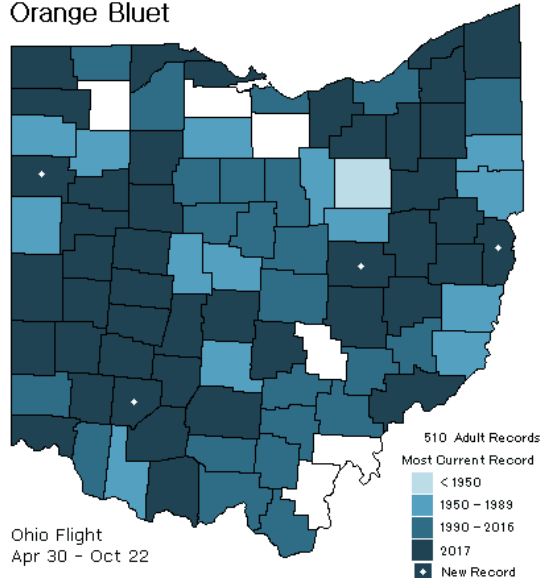


STATE THREATENED

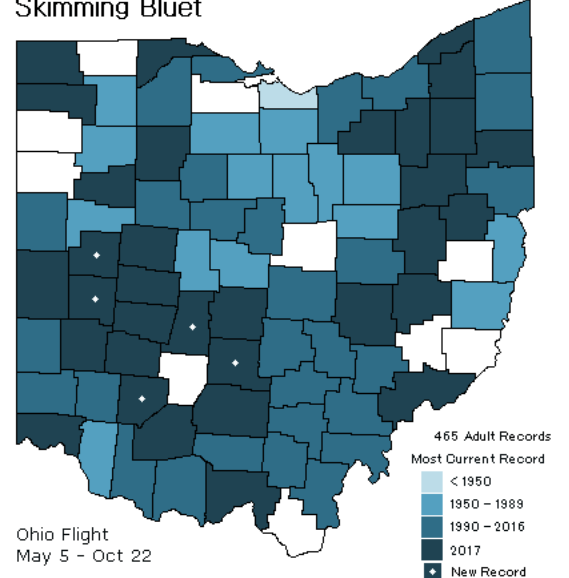
Enallagma anna
River Bluet



Enallagma signatum
Orange Bluet

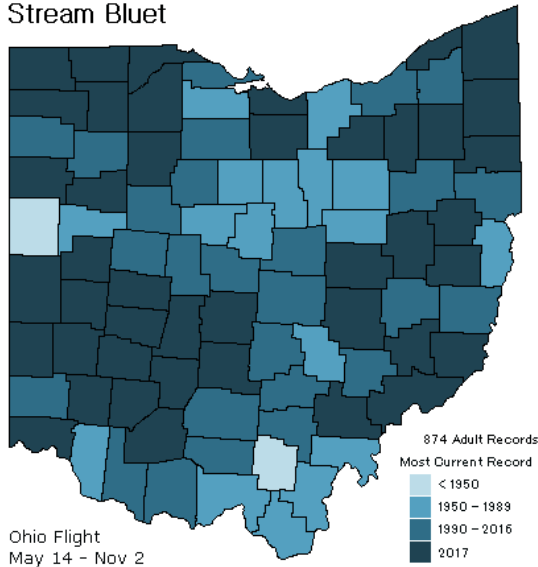


Enallagma geminatum
Skimming Bluet

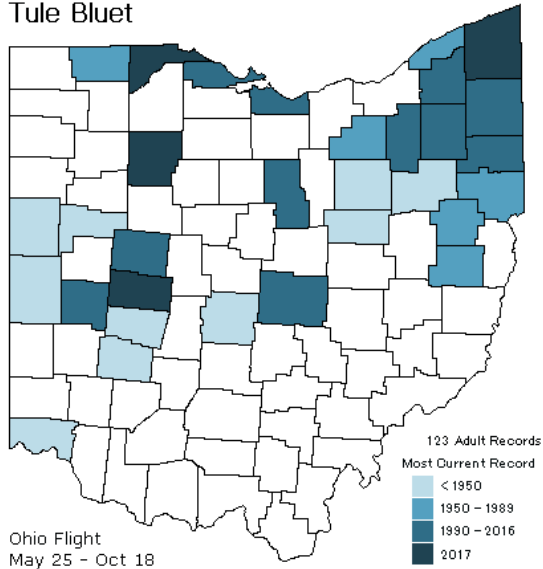


Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae) - Bluets

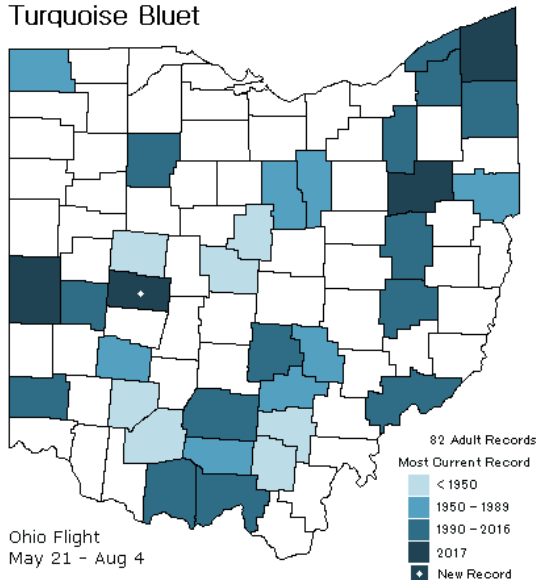
Enallagma exulans
Stream Bluet



Enallagma carunculatum
Tule Bluet

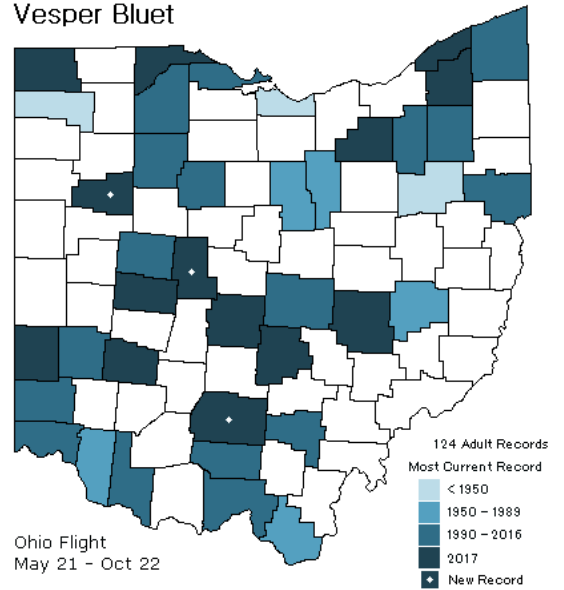


Enallagma divagans
Turquoise Bluet



Enallagma vesperum
Vesper Bluet

Vesper Bluets are dusk fliers. Watch for them as the sun sets.



Enallagma traviatum westfalli
Westfall's Slender Bluet

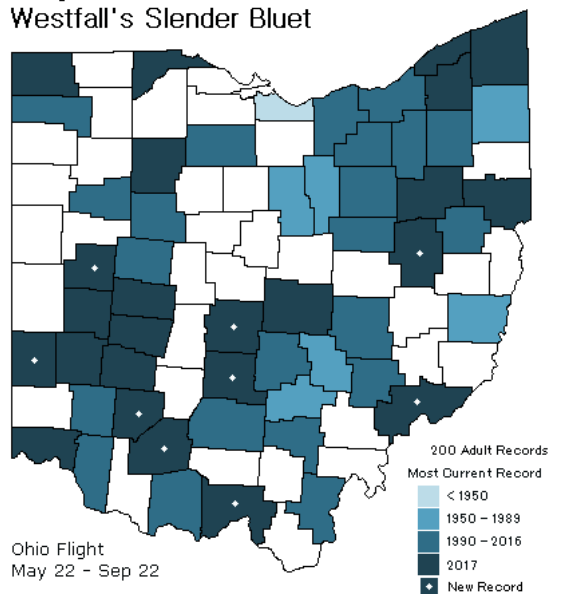
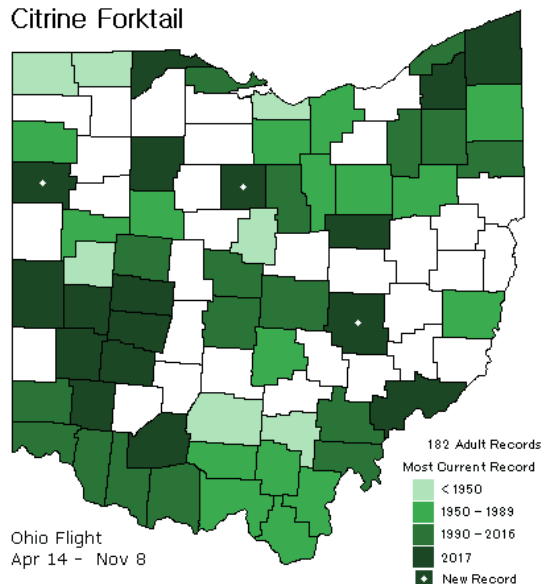


Photo ID for Bluets:
Try to get a shot of the side profile and a close up side shot of the terminal appendages. Angles showing the eye-spots are also helpful. Most females are challenging to ID via photo.

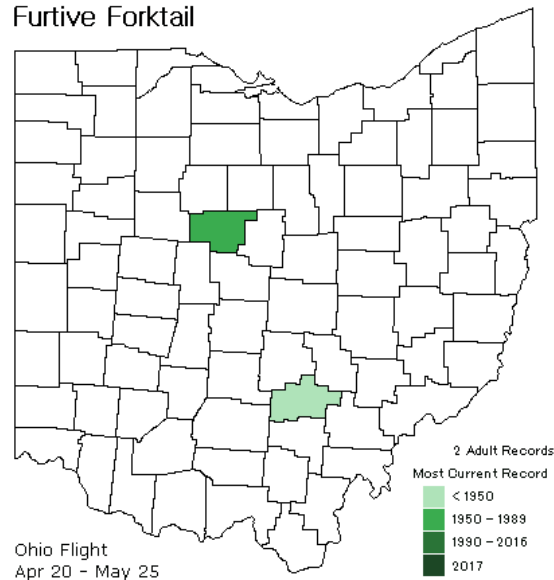
Collection is preferred for any of the mostly blue species.

Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae) - Forktails

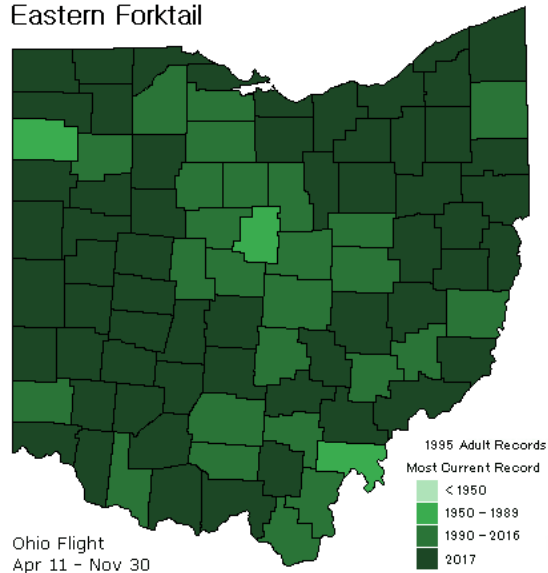
Ischnura hastata
Citrine Forktail



Ischnura prognata
Furtive Forktail



Ischnura verticalis
Eastern Forktail

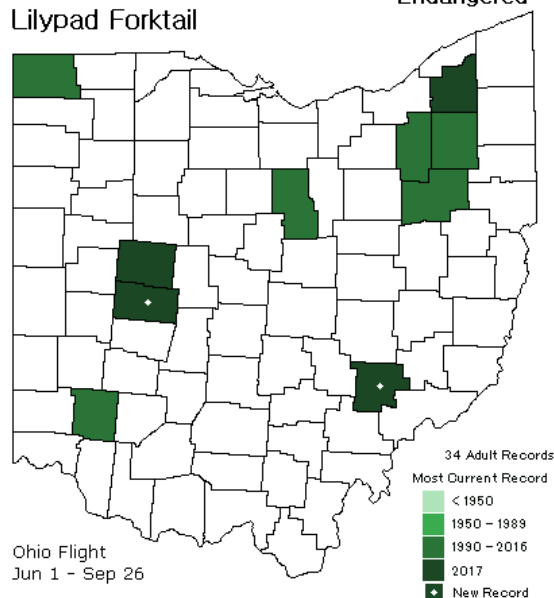


Eastern Forktails are one of our most common Forktails. The males have a connected thoracic stripe and segments S8 and S9 blue (shown below).



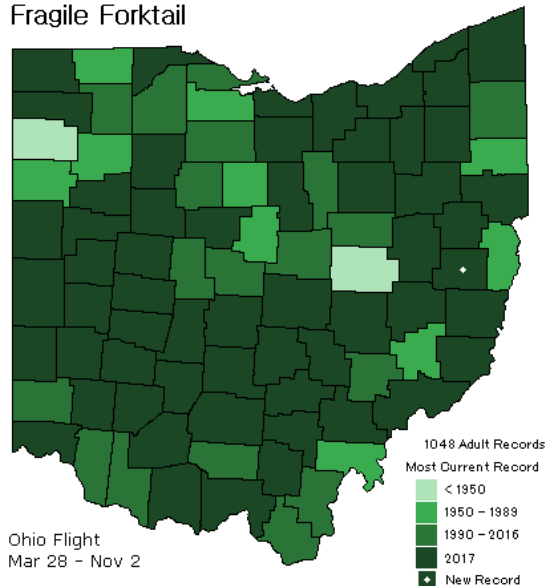
Ischnura kellicottii
Lilypad Forktail

Endangered



STATE ENDANGERED

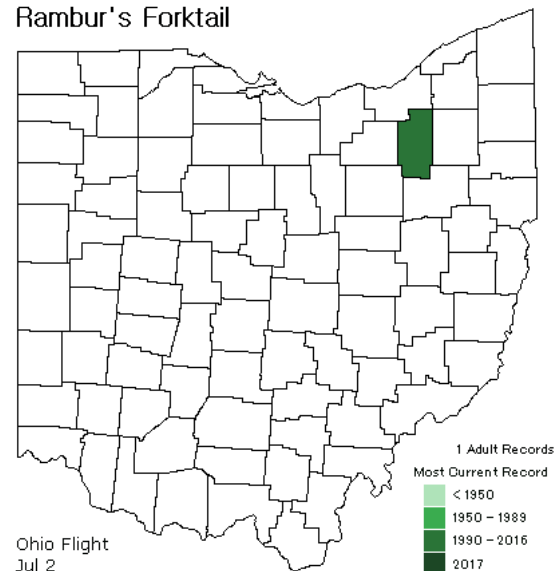
Ischnura posita
Fragile Forktail



Rambur's Forktail has only been found at garden centers so far. Males have segments S8 fully blue and S9 and S10 partly blue (shown below)

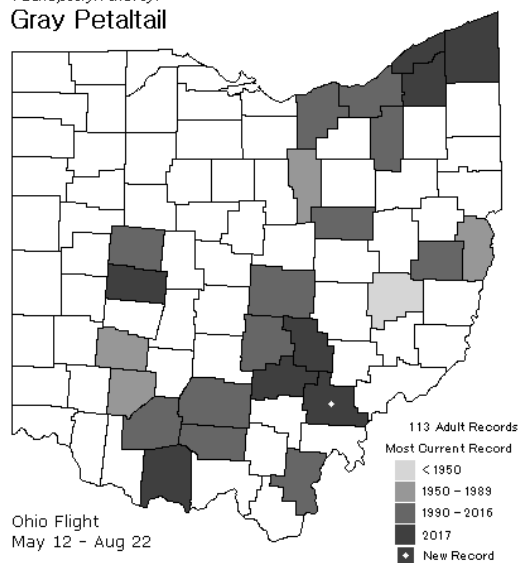


Ischnura ramburii
Rambur's Forktail



Petalails (Petaluridae)

Tachopteryx thoreyi
Gray Petaltail



Darners (Aeshnidae)

Aeshna tuberculifera
Black-tipped Darner

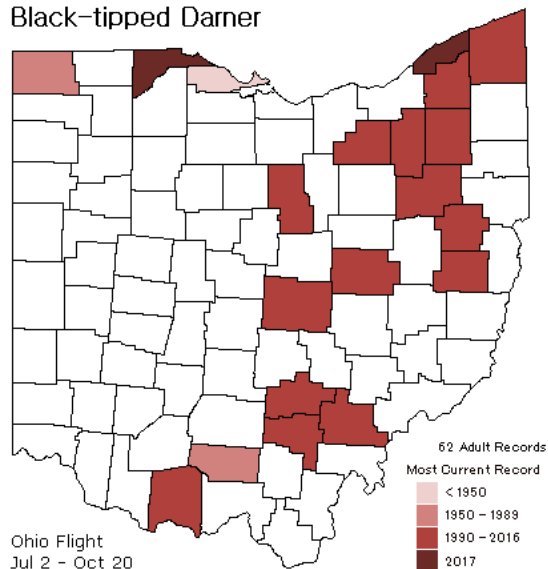
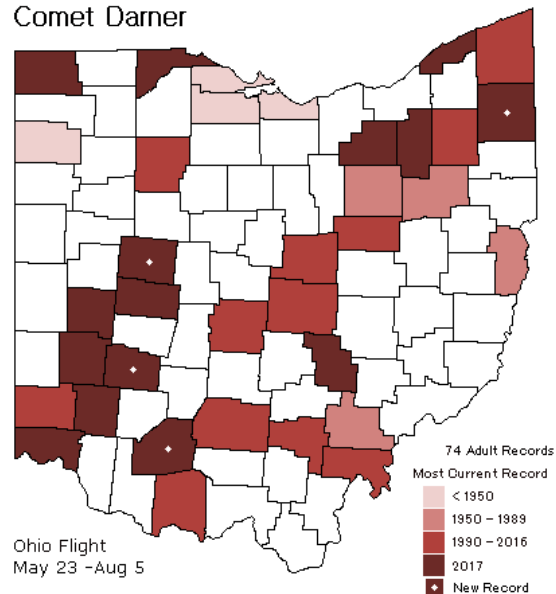


Photo ID for Darners:
Try to get shots of the side and back, with close ups of the top of the forehead and the side of the terminal appendages.

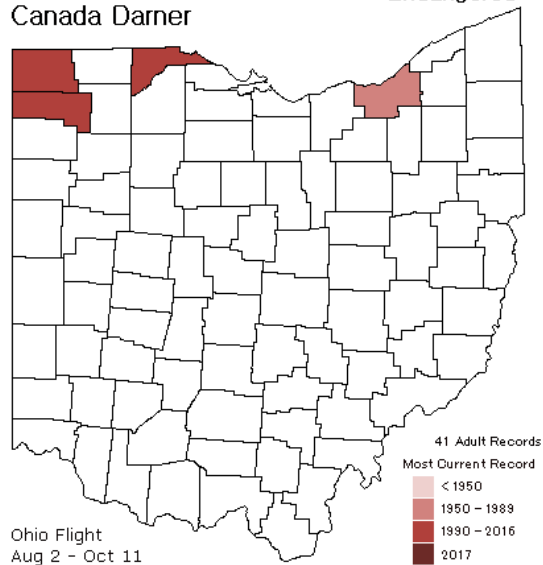
Try to net darners so you can then take photos of specimens in hand. Otherwise, these are really challenging to photograph

Anax longipes
Comet Darner



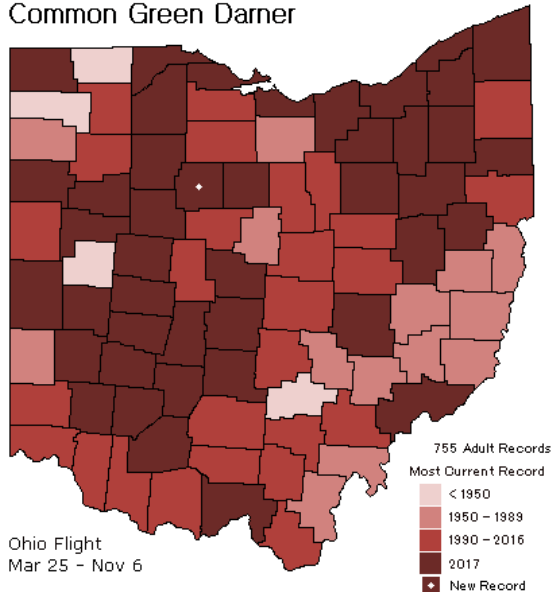
Aeshna canadensis
Canada Darner

Endangered



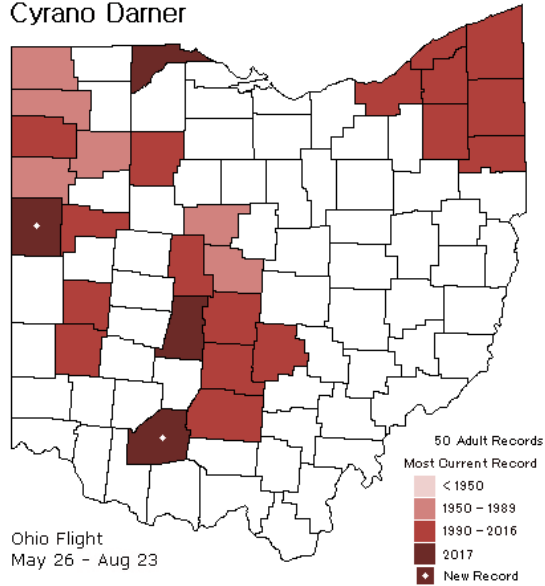
STATE ENDANGERED

Anax junius
Common Green Darner

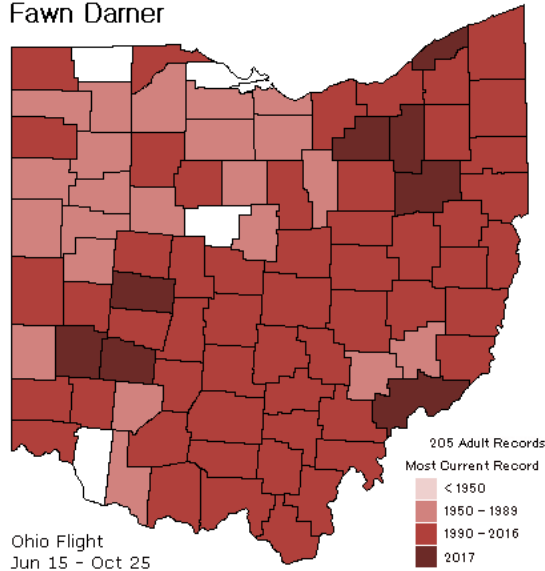


Darners (Aeshnidae)

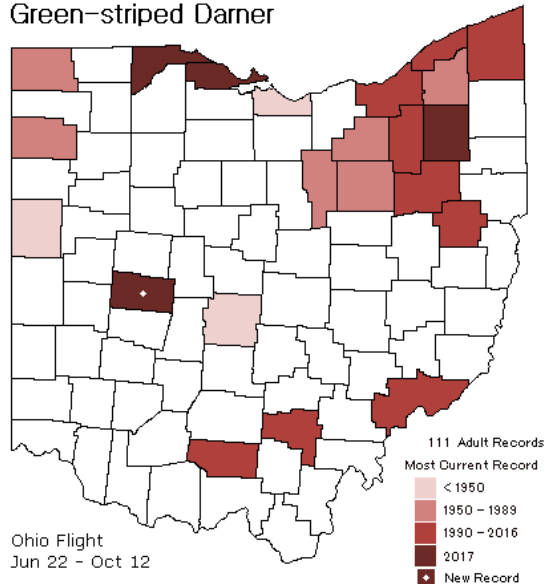
Nasiaeschna pentacantha
Cyano Darner



Boyeria vinosa
Fawn Darner

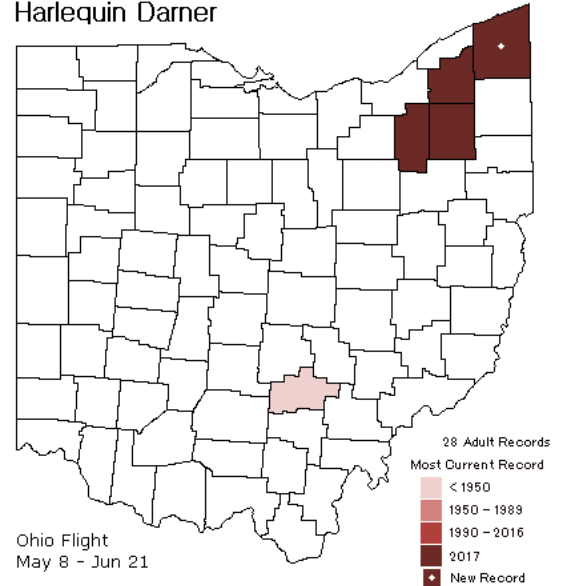


Aeshna verticalis
Green-striped Darner

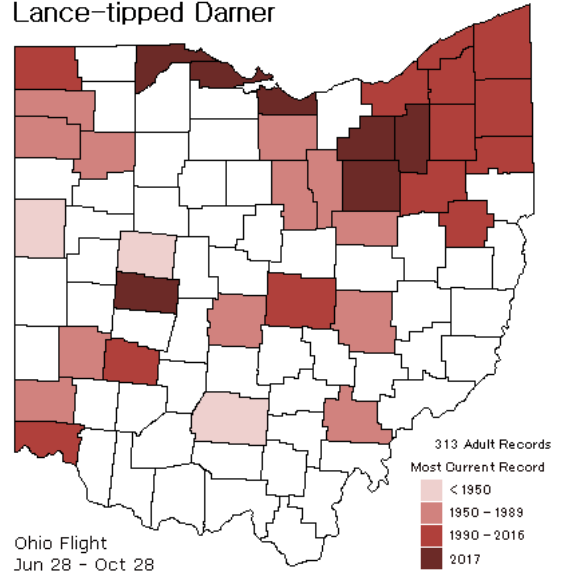


Gomphaeschna furcillata
Harlequin Darner

Threatened

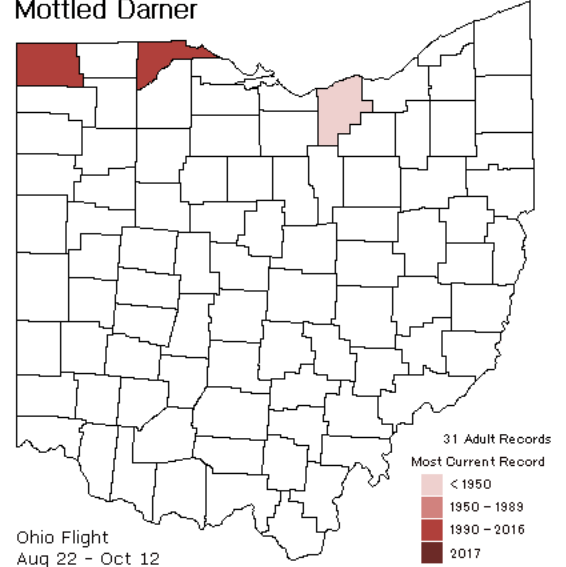


Aeshna constricta
Lance-tipped Darner



Aeshna clepsydra
Mottled Darner

Endangered



STATE THREATENED

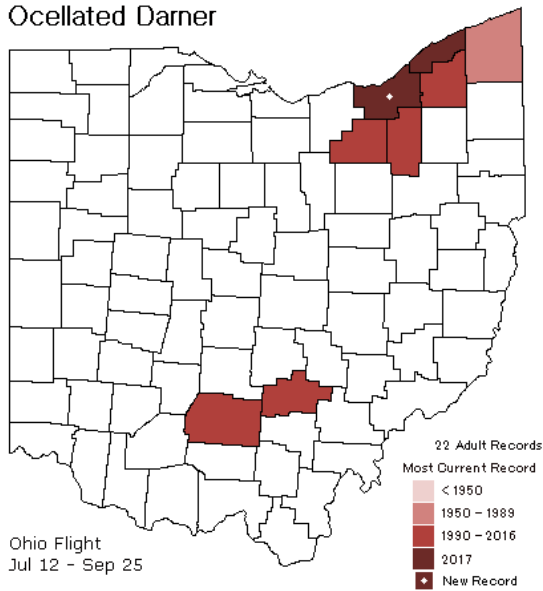
STATE ENDANGERED

Photo ID for Darners:
Try to get shots of the side and back, with close ups of the top of the forehead and the side of the terminal appendages.

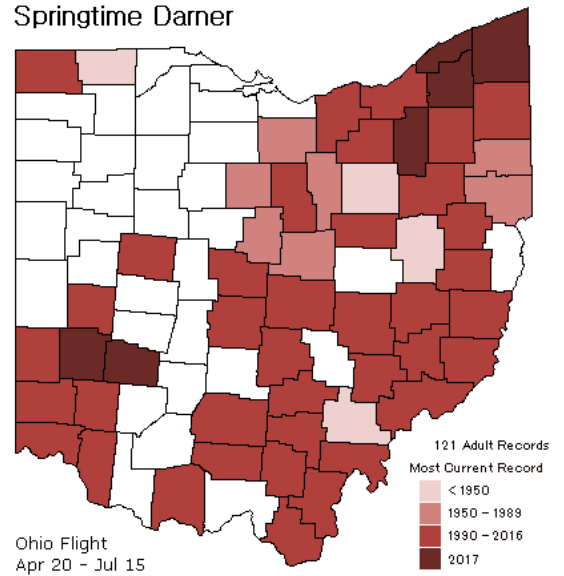
Try to net darners so you can then take photos of specimens in hand. Otherwise, these are really challenging to photograph

Darners (Aeshnidae)

Boyeria grahiana
Ocellated Darner



Basiaeschna janata
Springtime Darner



Aeshna umbrosa
Shadow Darner

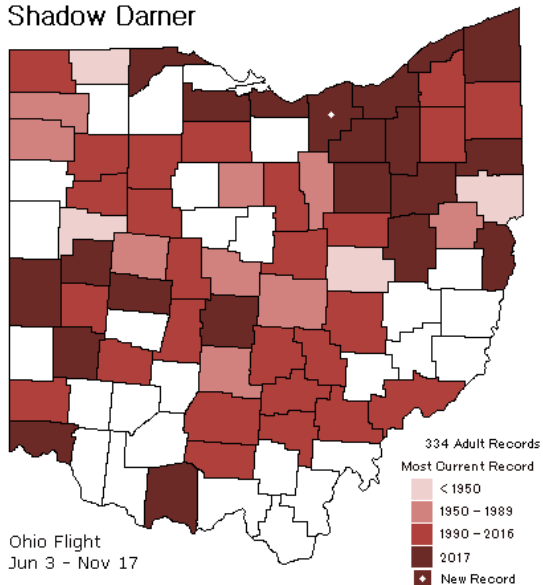
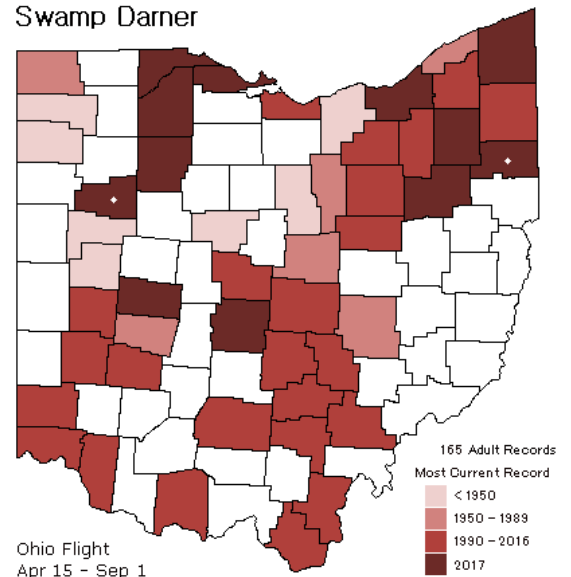


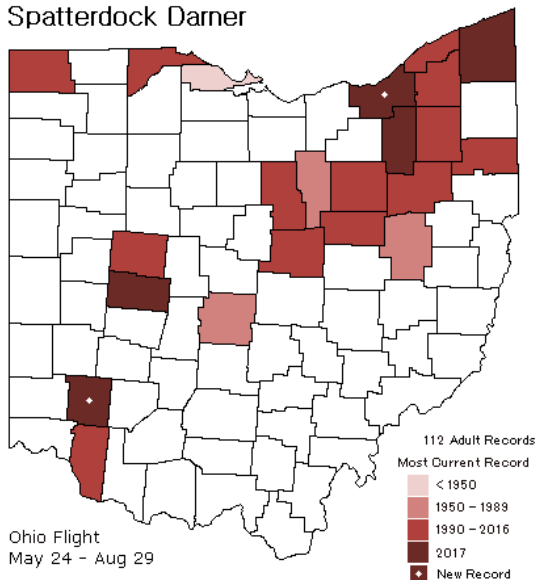
Photo ID for Darners:
Try to get shots of the side and back, with close ups of the top of the forehead and the side of the terminal appendages.

Try to net darners so you can then take photos of specimens in hand. Otherwise, these are really challenging to photograph

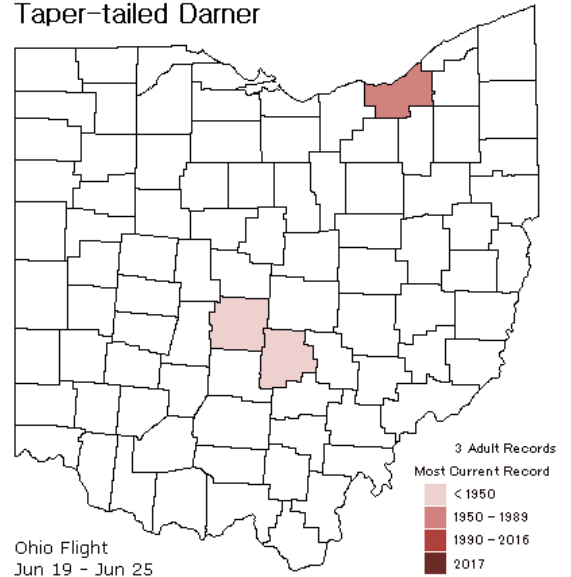
Epiaeschna heros
Swamp Darner



Rhionaeschna mutata
Spatterdock Darner



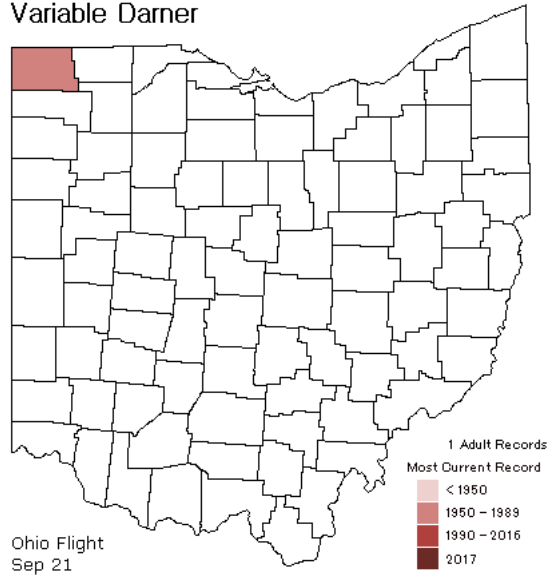
Gomphaeschna antilope
Taper-tailed Darner



Darners (Aeshnidae)

Aeshna interrupta

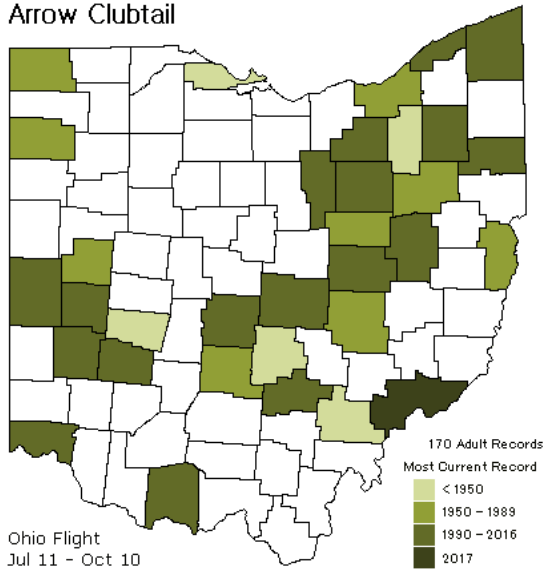
Variable Darner



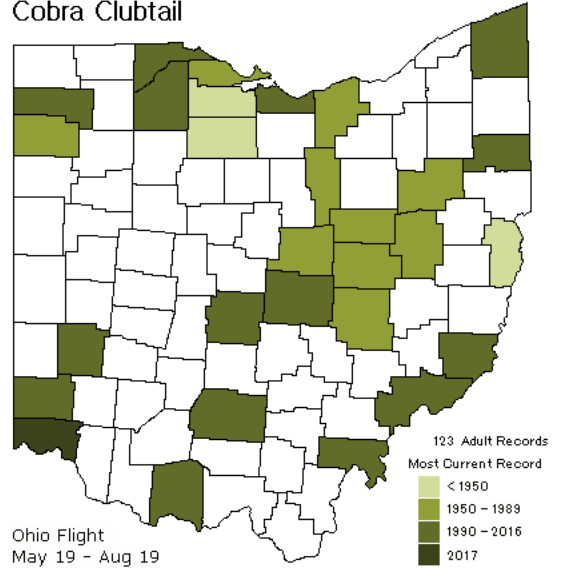
NOTES:

Clubtails (Gomphidae)

Stylurus spiniceps
Arrow Clubtail



Gomphurus vastus
Cobra Clubtail



Phanogomphus lividus
Ashy Clubtail

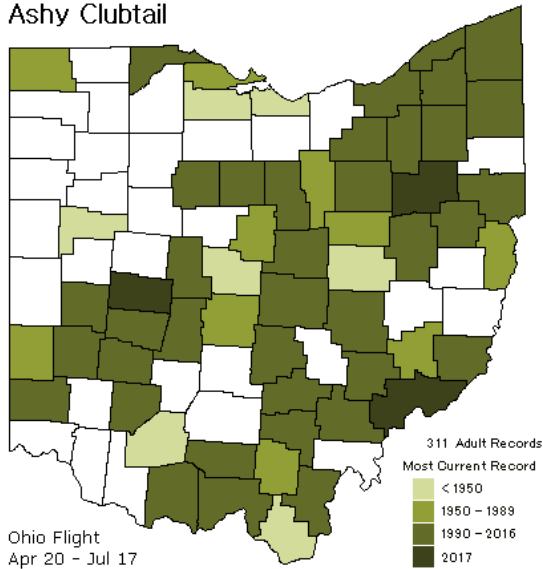
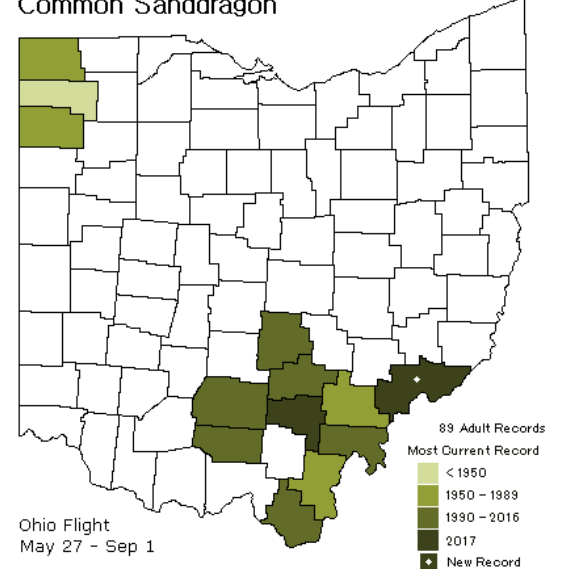


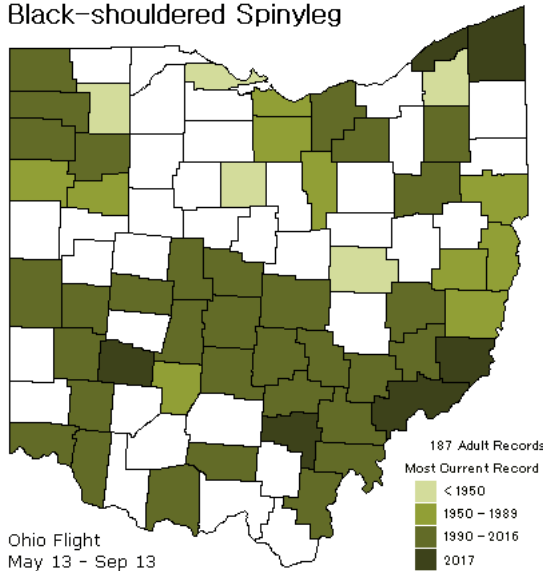
Photo ID for Clubtails:
This group is especially tricky. Try to get as many angles as possible. If you are lucky, they will sit and let you get a few shots.

Collection of specimens is recommended for the highest likelihood of getting a species ID vetted.

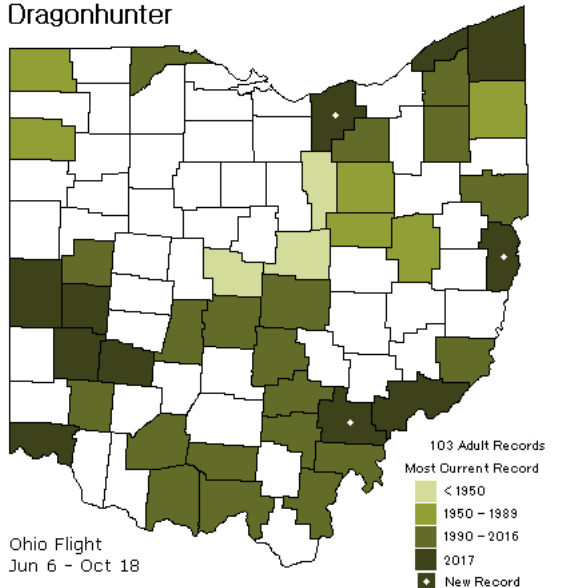
Progomphus obscurus
Common Sanddragon



Dromogomphus spinosus
Black-shouldered Spinyleg



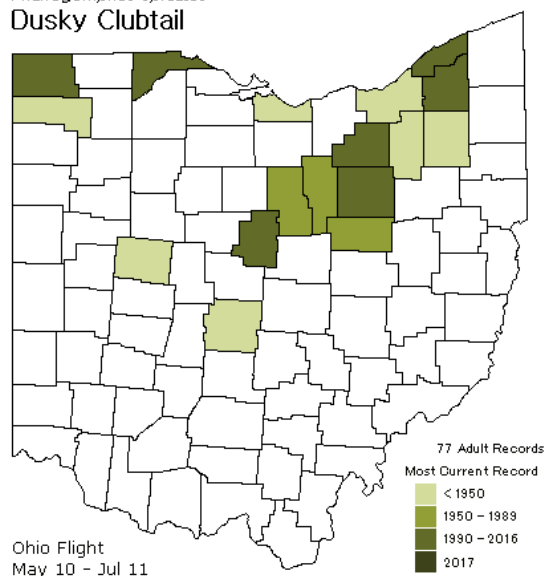
Hagenius brevistylus
Dragonhunter



Clubtails (Gomphidae)

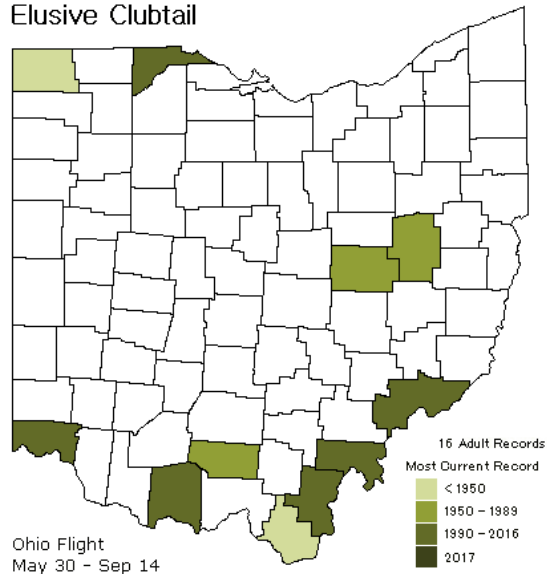
Phanogomphus spicatus

Dusky Clubtail



Stylurus notatus

Elusive Clubtail



Stylogomphus albistylus

Eastern Least Clubtail

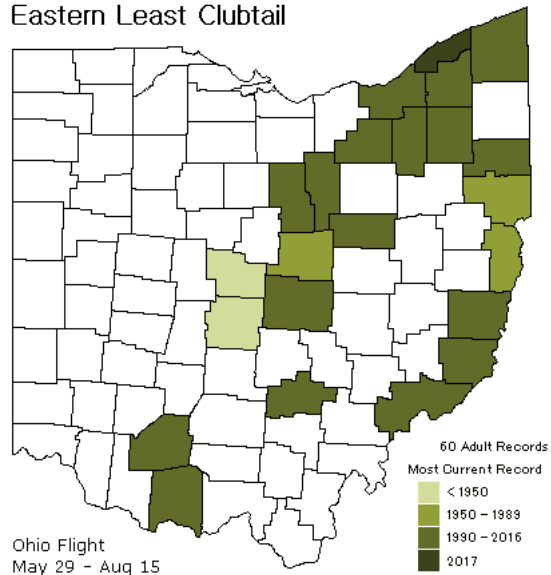


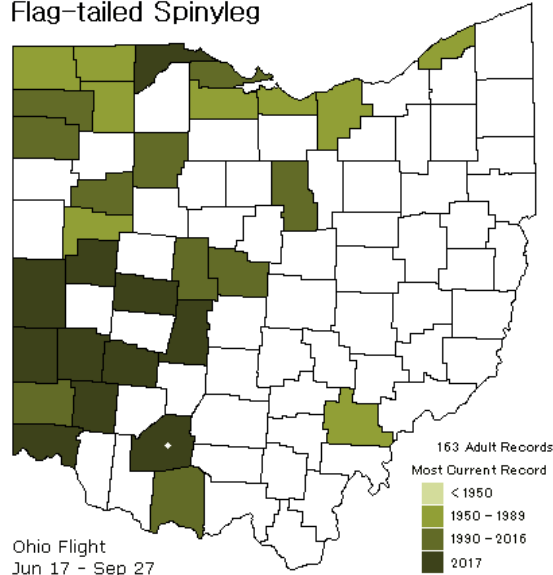
Photo ID for Clubtails:

This group is especially tricky. Try to get as many angles as possible. If you are lucky, they will sit and let you get a few shots.

Collection of specimens is recommended for the highest likelihood of getting a species ID vetted.

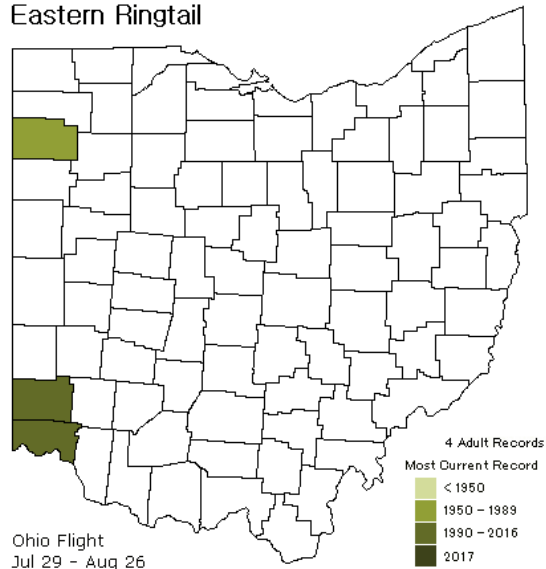
Dromogomphus spoliatus

Flag-tailed Spinyleg



Erpetogomphus designatus

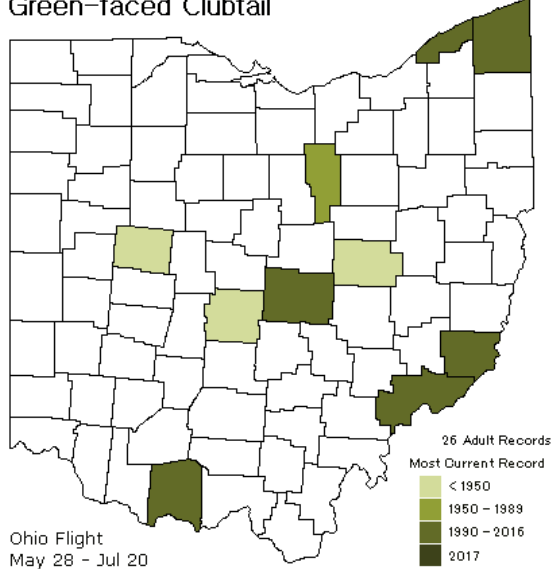
Eastern Ringtail



Hylagomphus viridifrons

Green-faced Clubtail

Threatened

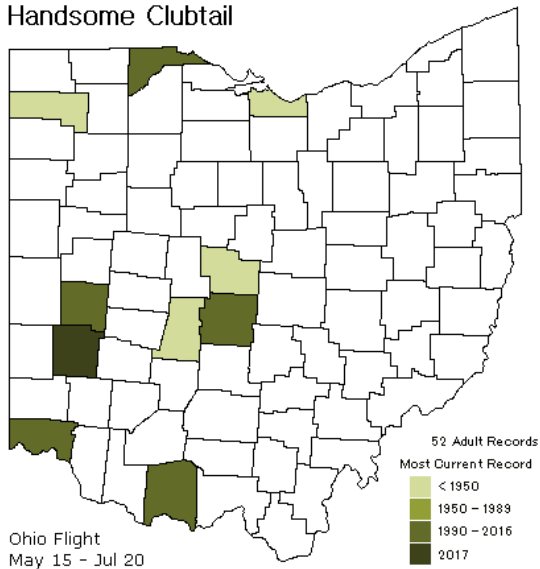


STATE THREATENED

Clubtails (Gomphidae)

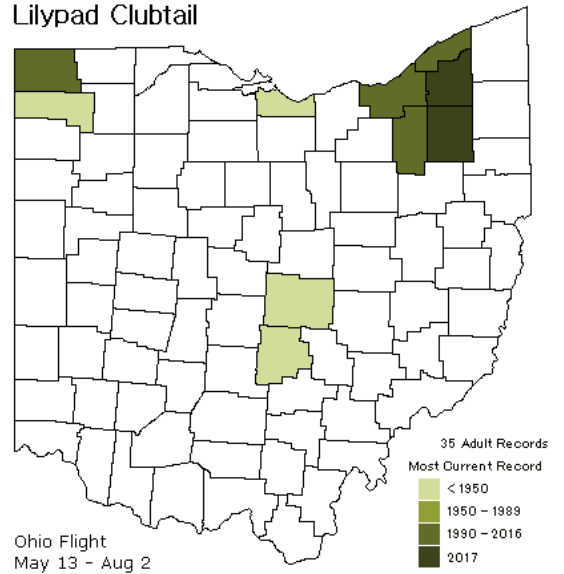
Gomphurus crassus

Handsome Clubtail



Argomorphus furcifer

Lilypad Clubtail



Phanogomphus exilis

Lancet Clubtail

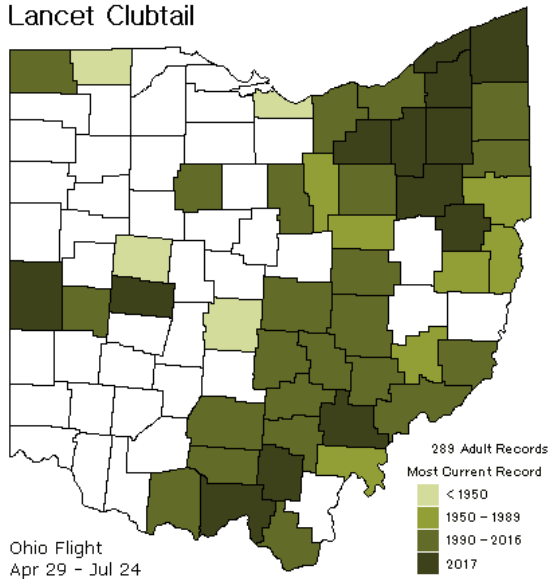


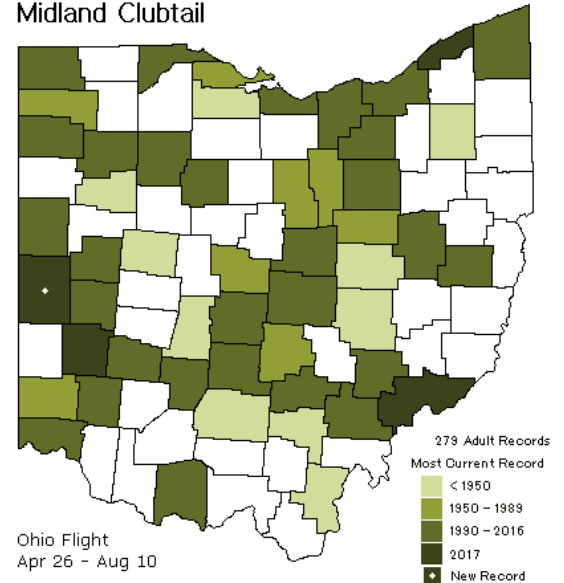
Photo ID for Clubtails:

This group is especially tricky. Try to get as many angles as possible. If you are lucky, they will sit and let you get a few shots.

Collection of specimens is recommended for the highest likelihood of getting a species ID vetted.

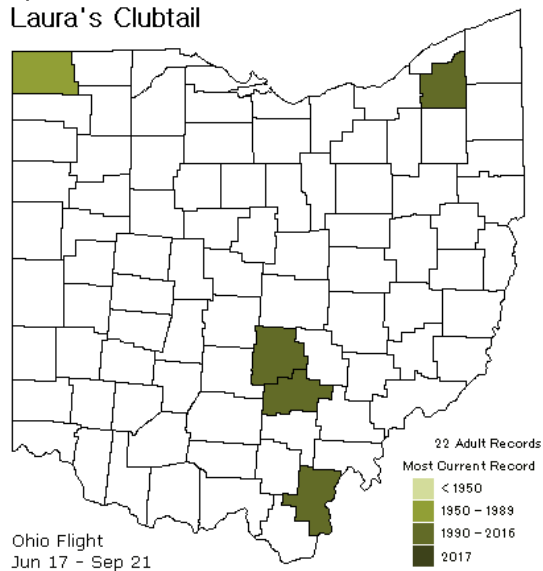
Gomphurus fraternus

Midland Clubtail



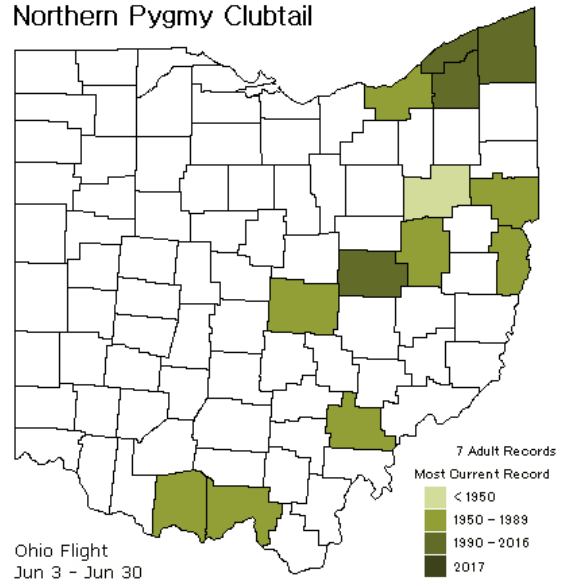
Stylurus laurae

Laura's Clubtail



Lanthus parvulus

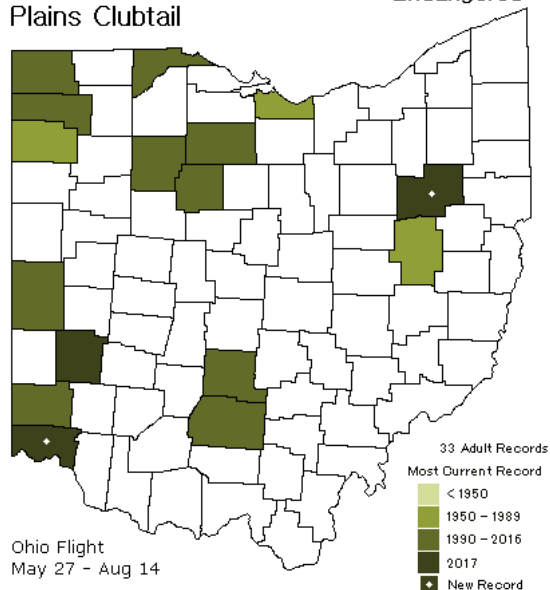
Northern Pygmy Clubtail



Clubtails (Gomphidae)

Gomphurus externus
Plains Clubtail

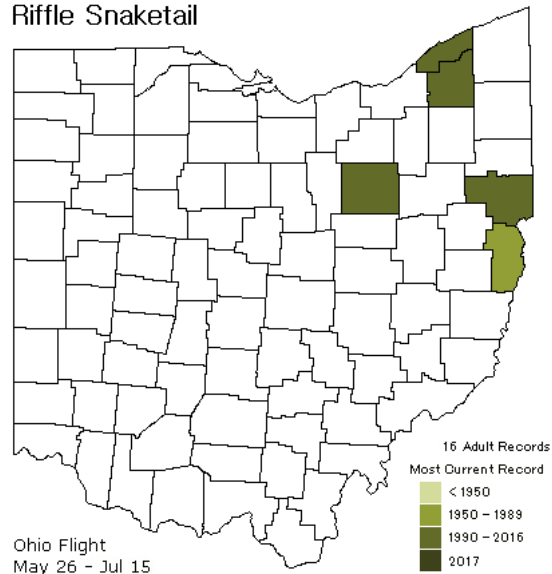
Endangered



STATE ENDANGERED

Ophiogomphus carolus
Riffle Snaketail

Threatened



STATE THREATENED

Phanogomphus graslinellus
Pronghorn Clubtail

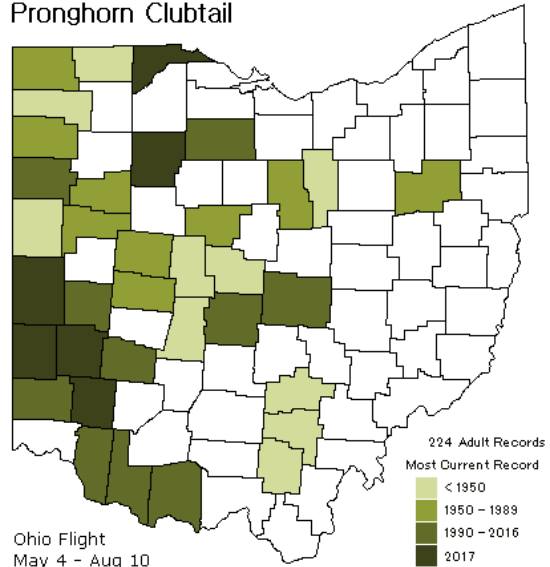
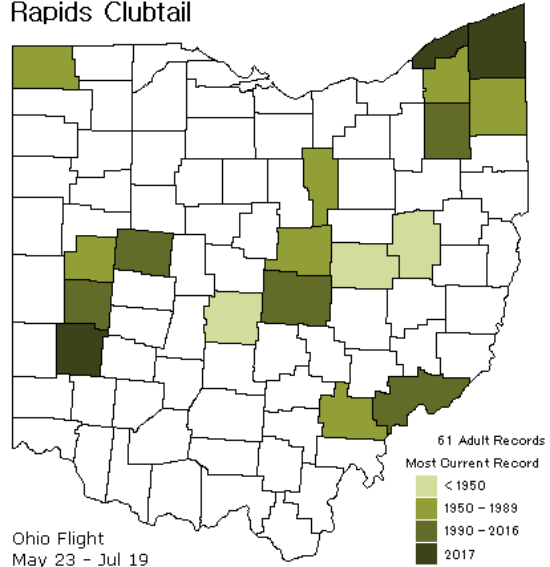


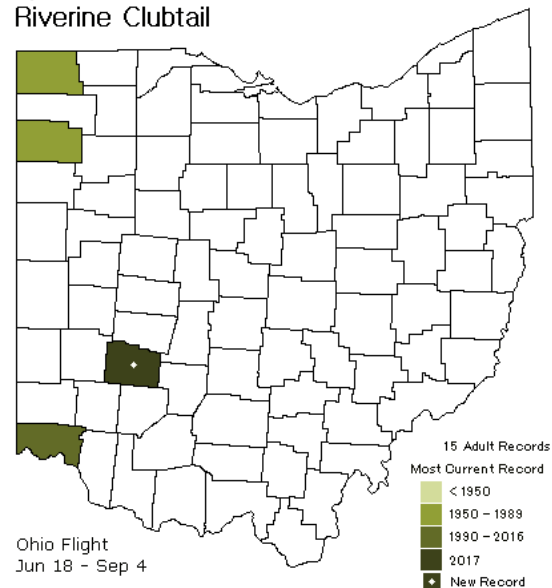
Photo ID for Clubtails:
This group is especially tricky. Try to get as many angles as possible. If you are lucky, they will sit and let you get a few shots.

Collection of specimens is recommended for the highest likelihood of getting a species ID vetted.

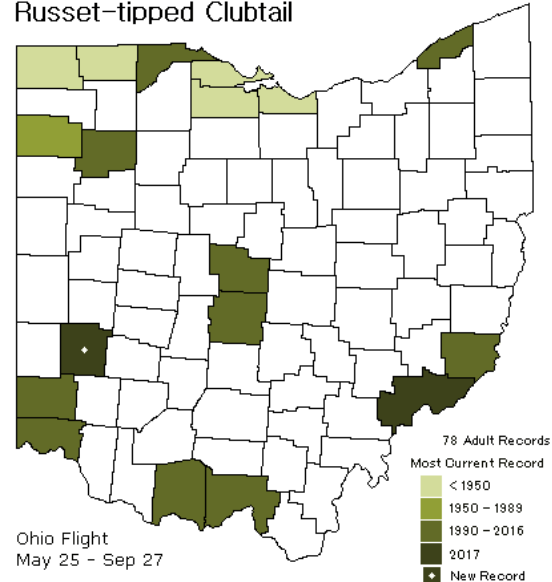
Phanogomphus quadricolor
Rapids Clubtail



Stylurus arnica
Riverine Clubtail



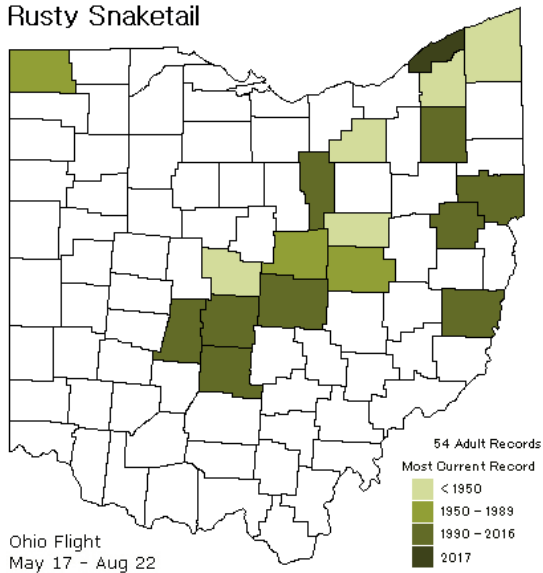
Stylurus plagiatus
Russet-tipped Clubtail



Clubtails (Gomphidae)

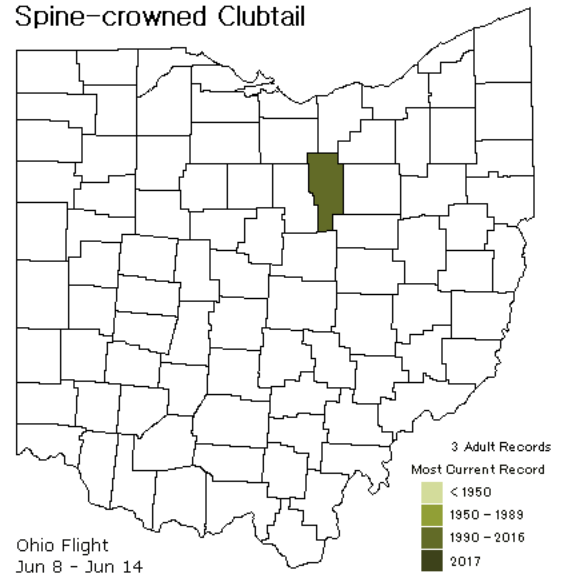
Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis

Rusty Snaketail



Hylogomphus abbreviatus

Spine-crowned Clubtail



Gomphurus ventricosus

Skillet Clubtail

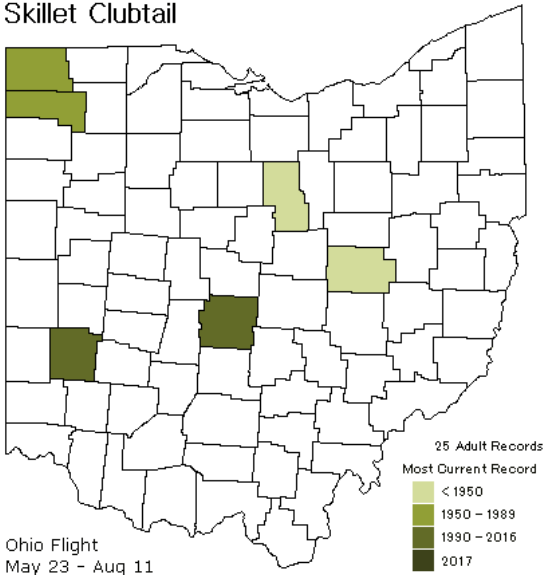


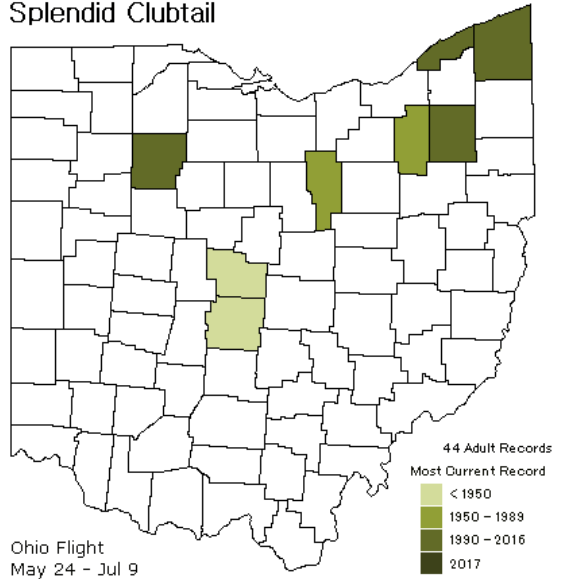
Photo ID for Clubtails:

This group is especially tricky. Try to get as many angles as possible. If you are lucky, they will sit and let you get a few shots.

Collection of specimens is recommended for the highest likelihood of getting a species ID vetted.

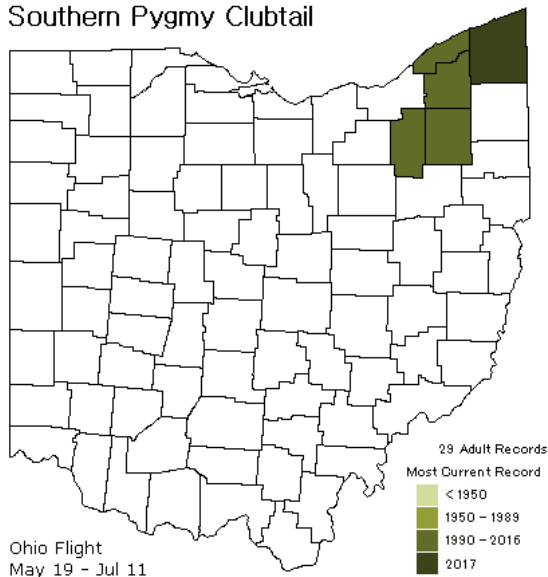
Gomphurus lineatitrons

Splendid Clubtail



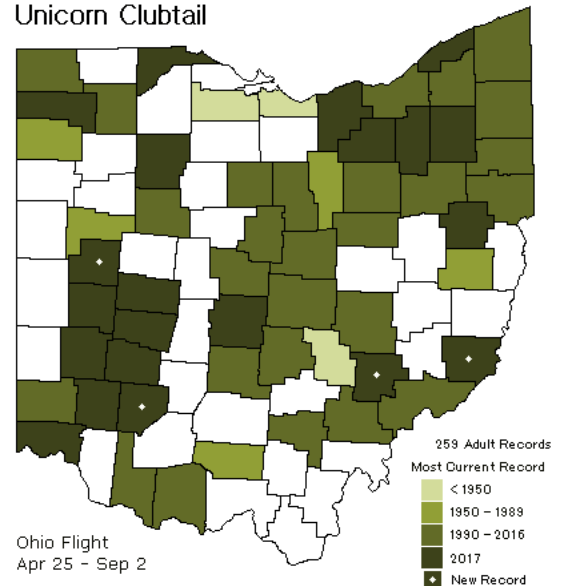
Lanthus vernalis

Southern Pygmy Clubtail



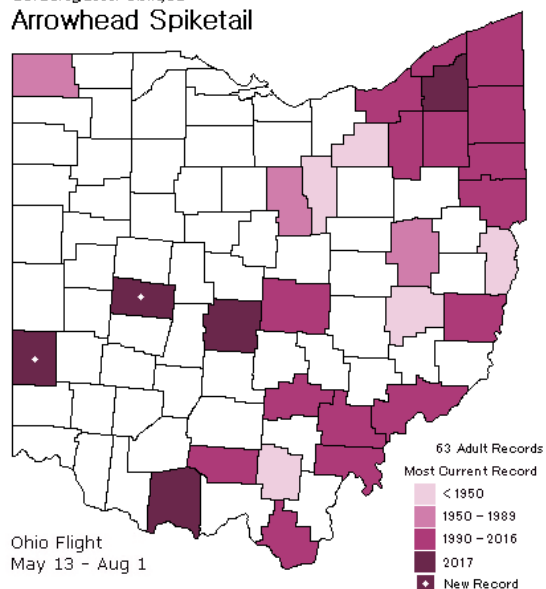
Argomorphus villosipes

Unicorn Clubtail

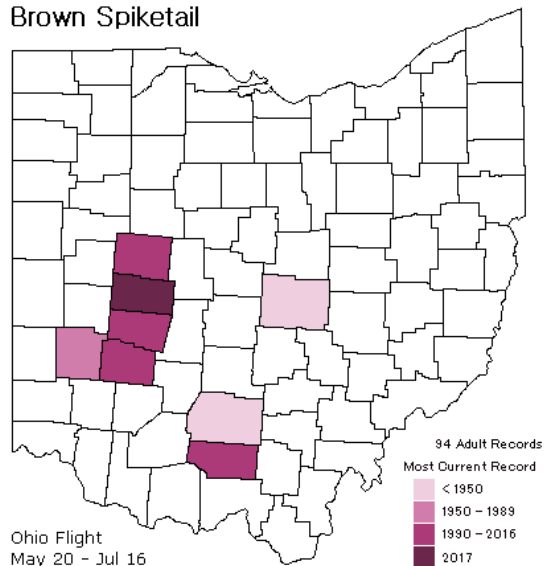


Spiketails (Cordulegastridae)

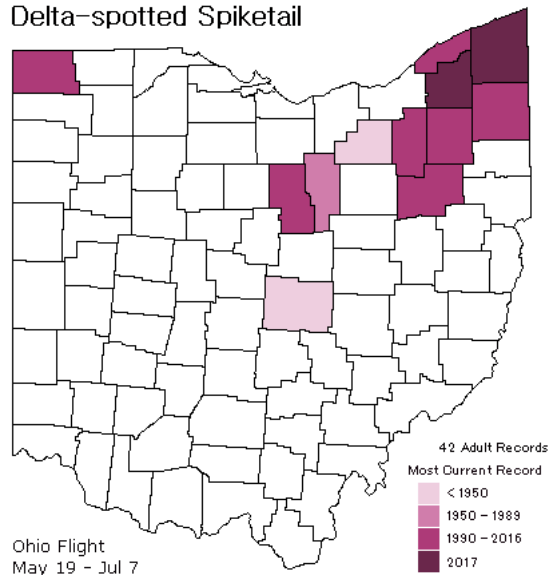
Cordulegaster obliqua
Arrowhead Spiketail



Cordulegaster bilineata
Brown Spiketail



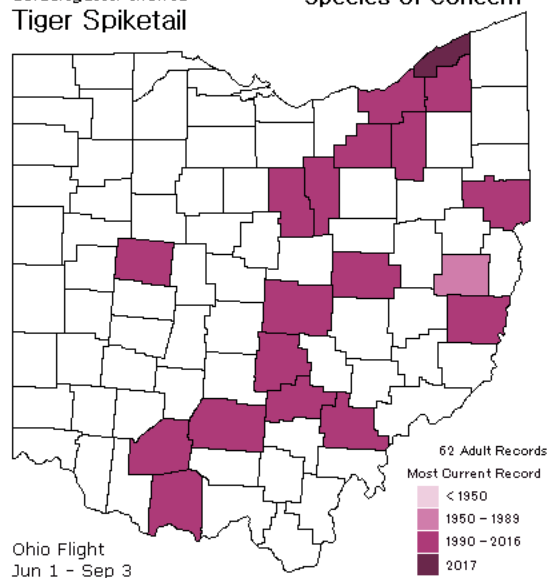
Cordulegaster diastatops
Delta-spotted Spiketail



Cordulegaster erronea
Tiger Spiketail

SPECIES OF CONCERN

The Tiger Spiketail develops in headwater streams less than 1 foot wide, which is part of why they are listed as a species of concern.



Cordulegaster maculata
Twin-spotted Spiketail

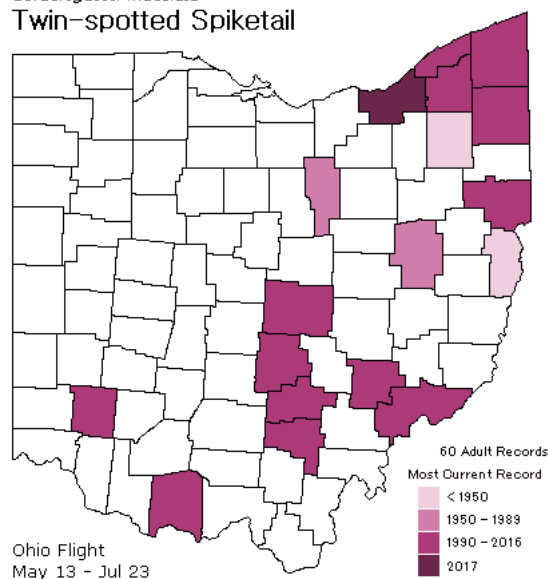
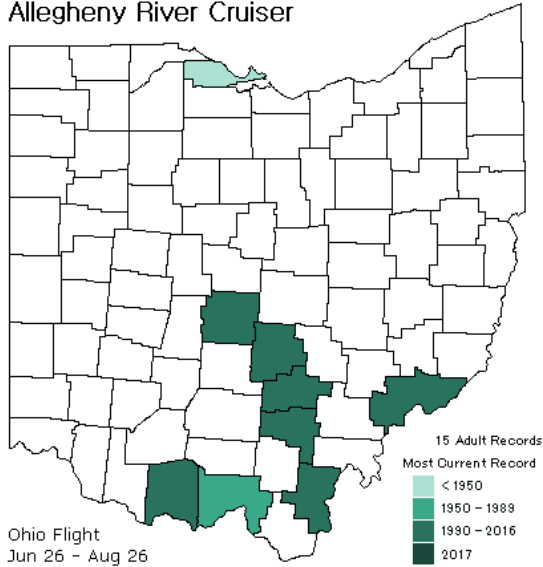


Photo ID for Spiketails:

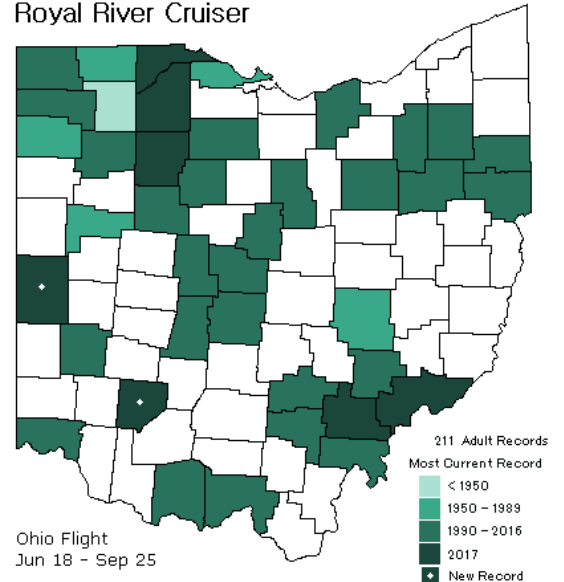
Try to get a back and side shot of these species. There are not that many records across the state, so voucher specimens for archival in the museum would be much appreciated.

Cruisers (Macromiidae)

Macromia alleghaniensis
Allegheny River Cruiser



Macromia taeniolata
Royal River Cruiser



Macromia illinoensis georgina
Georgia river cruiser

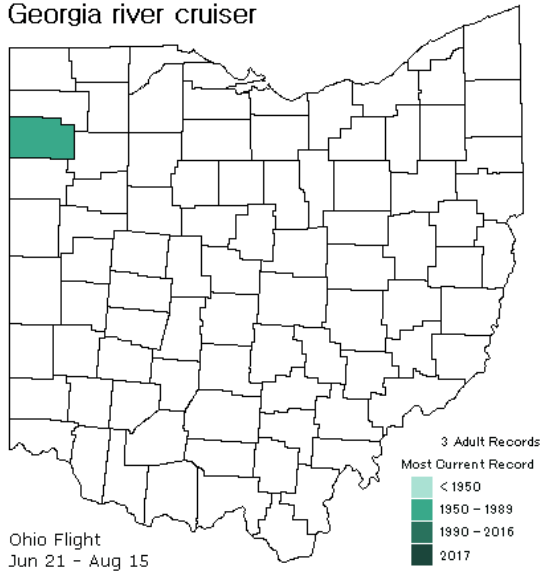
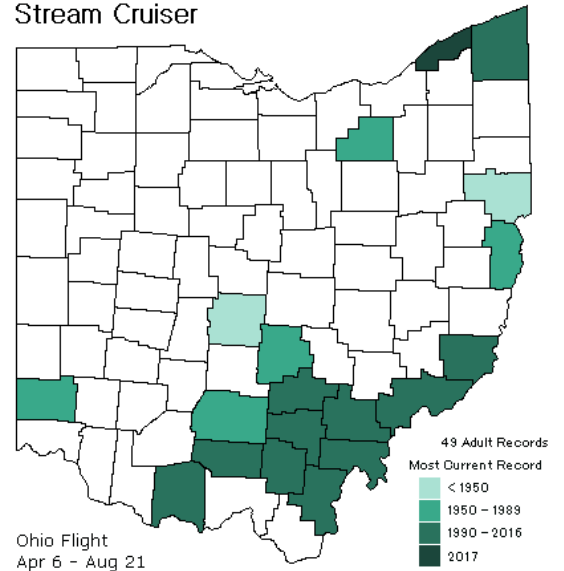


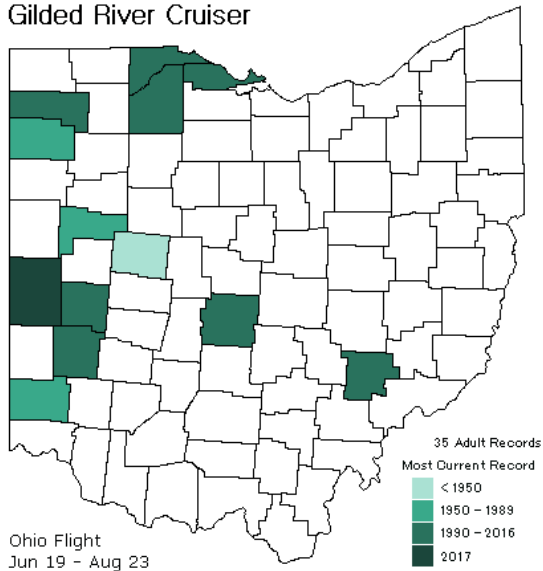
Photo ID for Cruisers:
Try to get shots of the side and back, assuming you can find them resting. Taxonomy potentially murky with several “hybrids” reported regularly.

Cruisers fly long lengths down river channels, so they are hard to see, harder to catch, and even harder to photograph on the wing. Try to catch them if you can swing fast enough.

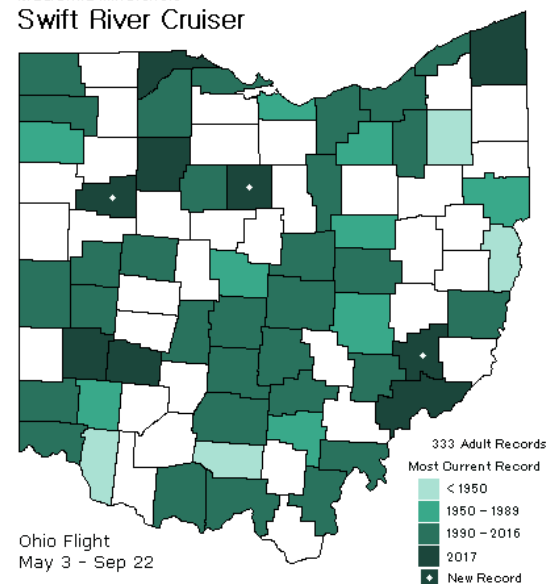
Didymops transversa
Stream Cruiser



Macromia pacifica
Gilded River Cruiser



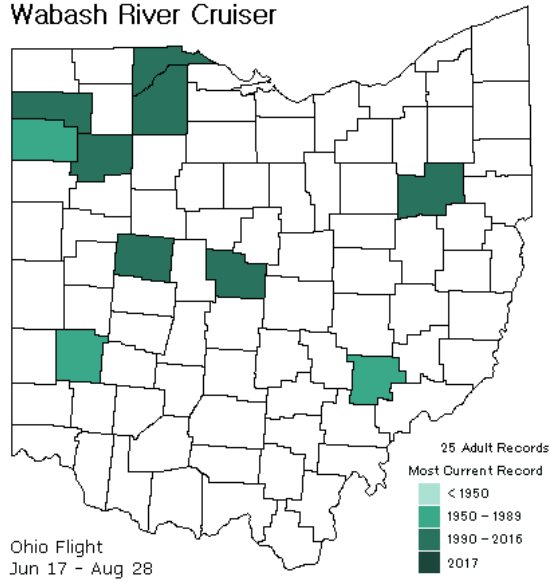
Macromia illinoensis
Swift River Cruiser



Cruisers (Macromiidae)

Macromia wabashensis

Wabash River Cruiser



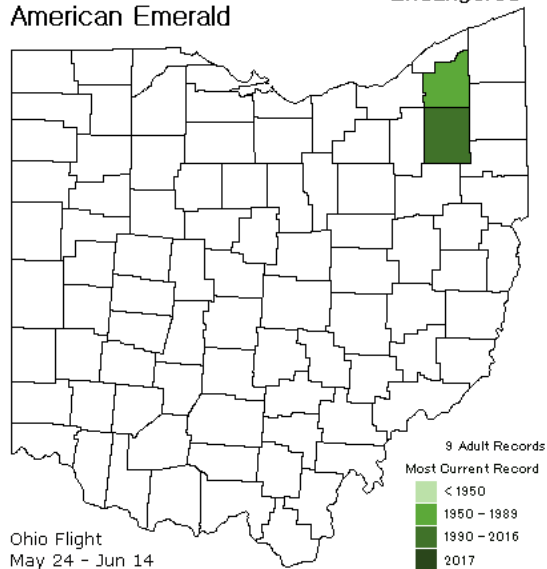
Note that this is no longer considered a species, but the map is included anyway.

NOTES:

Emeralds (Corduliidae)

Cordulia shurtleiffi
American Emerald

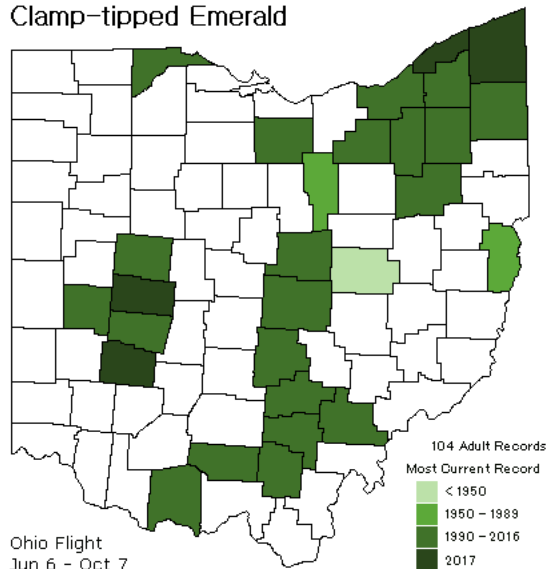
Endangered



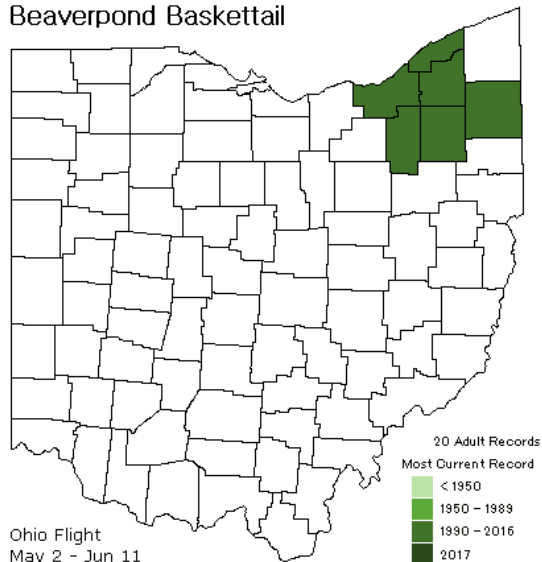
STATE ENDANGERED



Somatochlora tenebrosa
Clamp-tipped Emerald



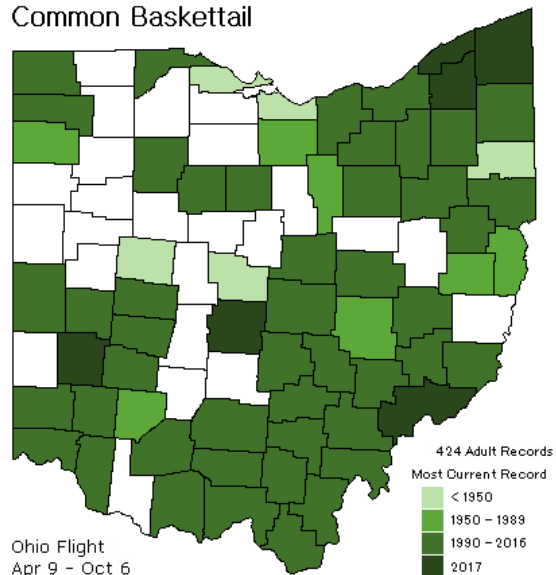
Epitheca canis
Beaverpond Baskettail



There are several State Threatened and Endangered species of Emeralds. Be very careful collecting specimens to make sure you avoid collecting the Hine's Emerald.

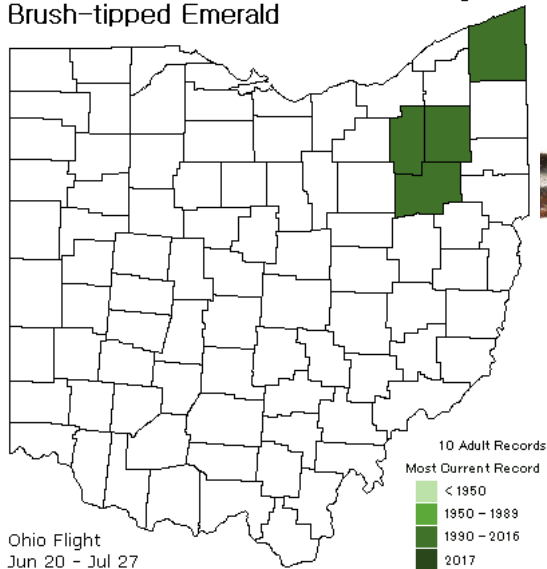
Photo ID is best with a back and side shot. Having a close up side shot of terminal appendages is also helpful.

Epitheca cynosura
Common Baskettail



Somatochlora walshii
Brush-tipped Emerald

Endangered

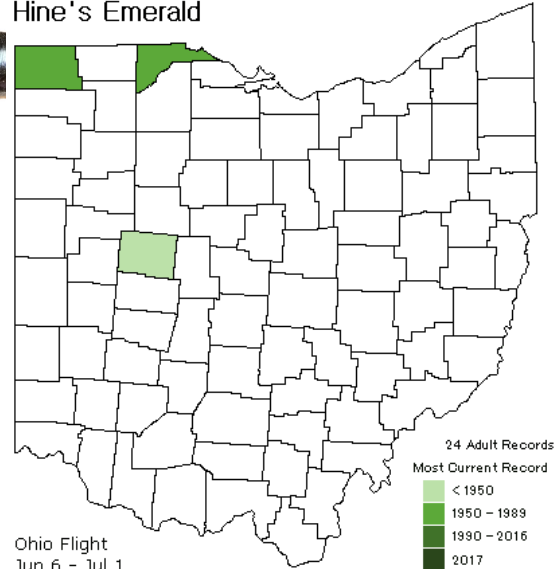


STATE ENDANGERED



Somatochlora hineana
Hine's Emerald

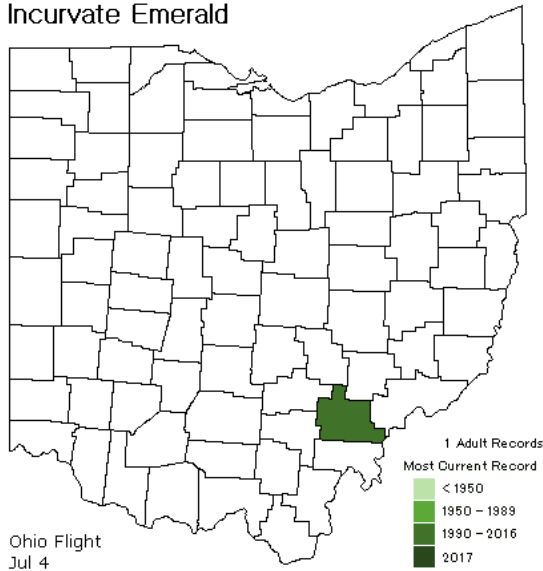
Endangered



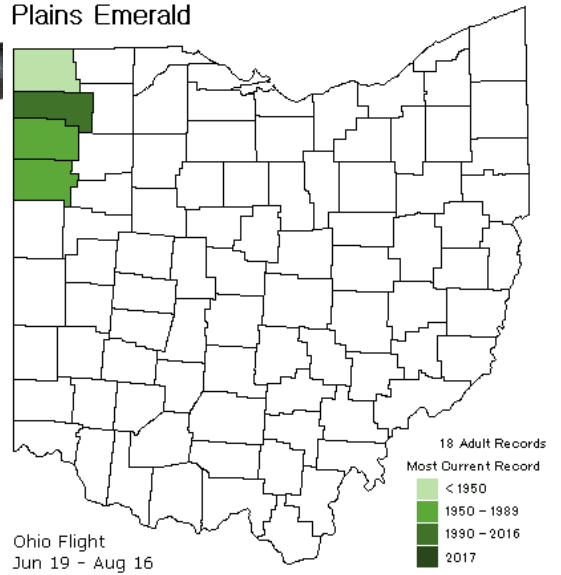
FEDERALLY ENDANGERED

Emeralds (Corduliidae)

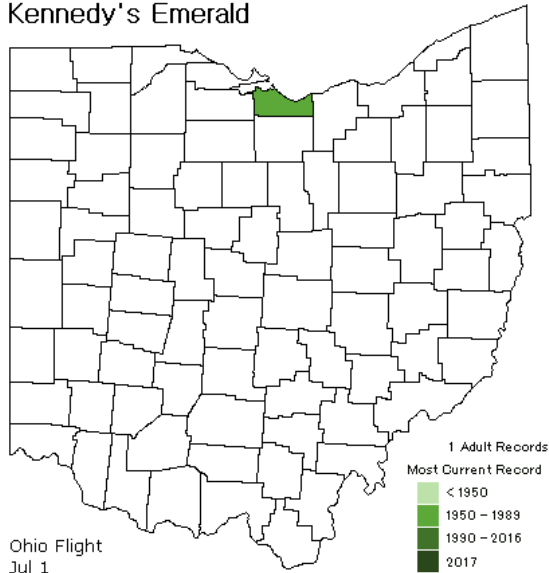
Somatochlora incurvata
Incurvate Emerald



Somatochlora ensigera
Plains Emerald



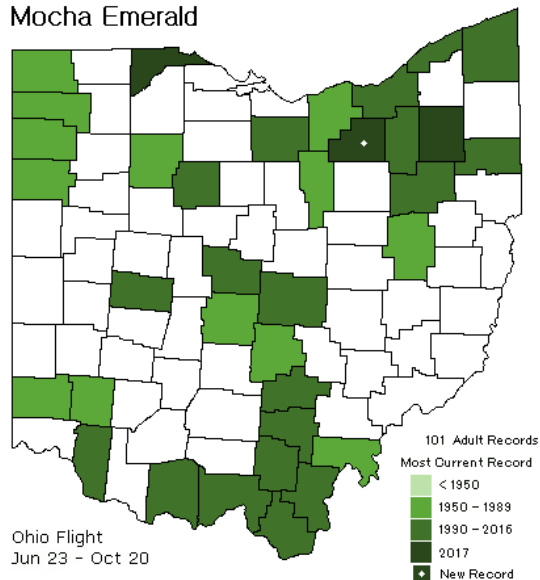
Somatochlora kennedyi
Kennedy's Emerald



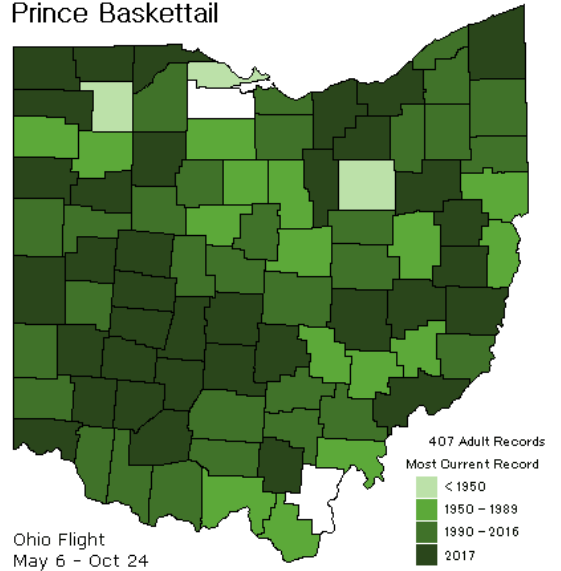
There are several State Threatened and Endangered species of Emeralds. Be very careful collecting specimens to make sure you avoid collecting the Hine's Emerald.

Photo ID is best with a back and side shot. Having a close up side shot of terminal appendages is also helpful.

Somatochlora linearis
Mocha Emerald

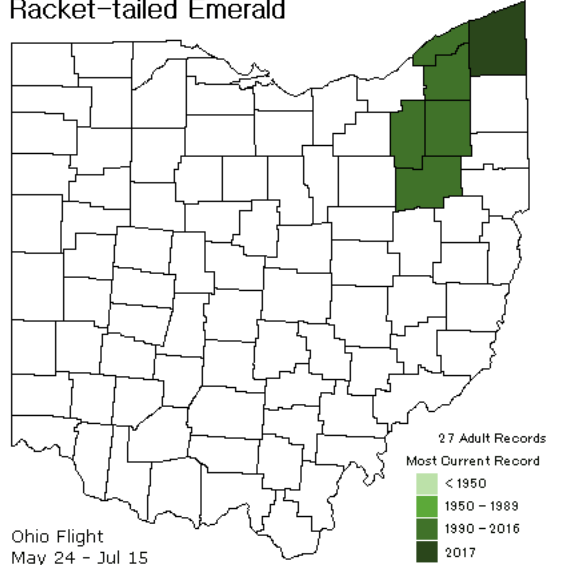


Epithecus princeps
Prince Baskettail



Dorocordulia libera
Racket-tailed Emerald

Endangered

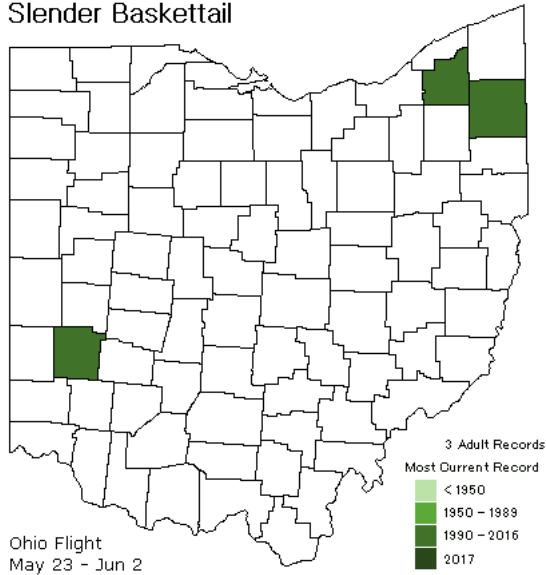


STATE ENDANGERED

Emeralds (Corduliidae)

Epitheca costalis

Slender Baskettail

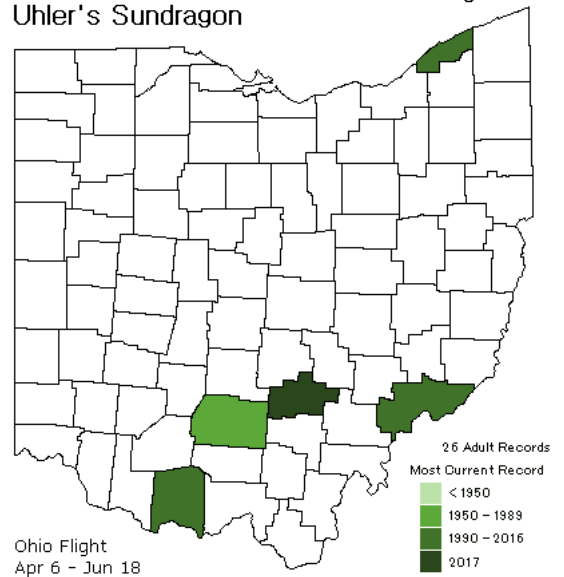


Helocordulia uhleri

Uhler's Sundragon

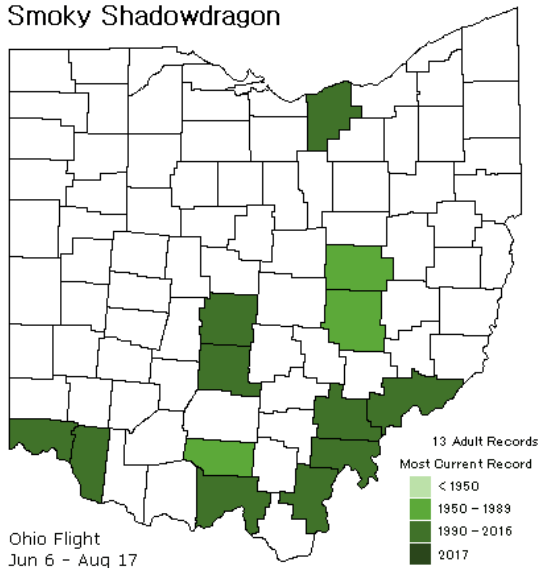
Endangered

STATE ENDANGERED



Neurocordulia molesta

Smoky Shadowdragon

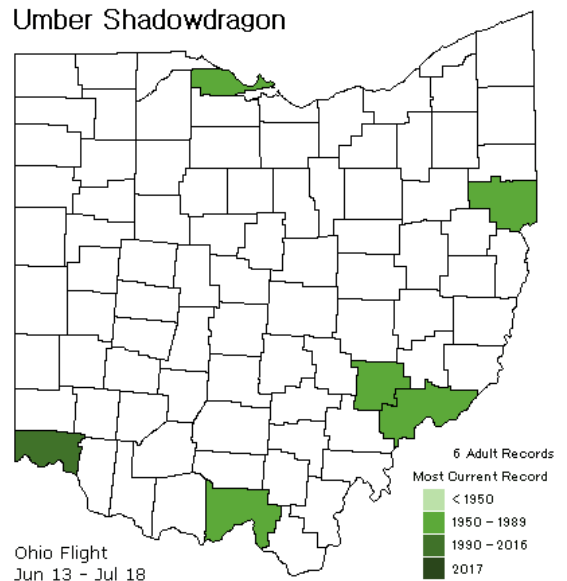


There are several State Threatened and Endangered species of Emeralds. Be very careful collecting specimens to make sure you avoid collecting the Hine's Emerald.

Photo ID is best with a back and side shot. Having a close up side shot of terminal appendages is also helpful.

Neurocordulia obsoleta

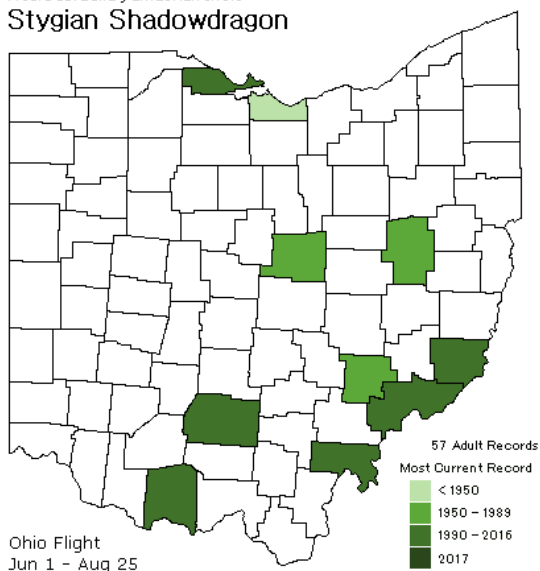
Umber Shadowdragon



Both Sundragons and Shadowdragons are known to fly at dusk and right after dusk. These are hard to find because of their flight habit, when we aren't typically looking for dragonflies.

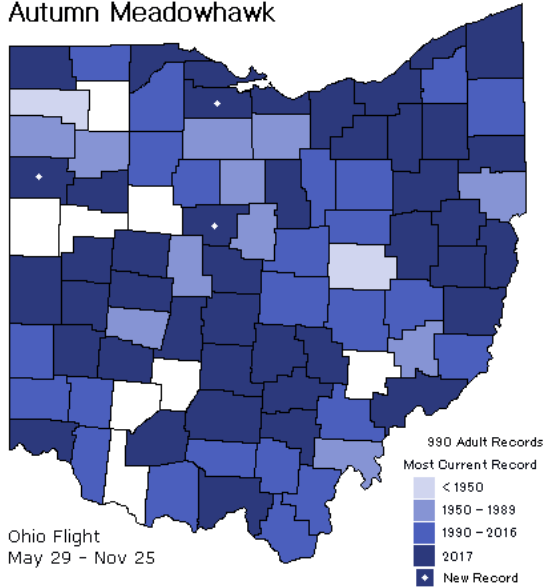
Neurocordulia yamaskanensis

Stygian Shadowdragon



Skimmers (Libellulidae)

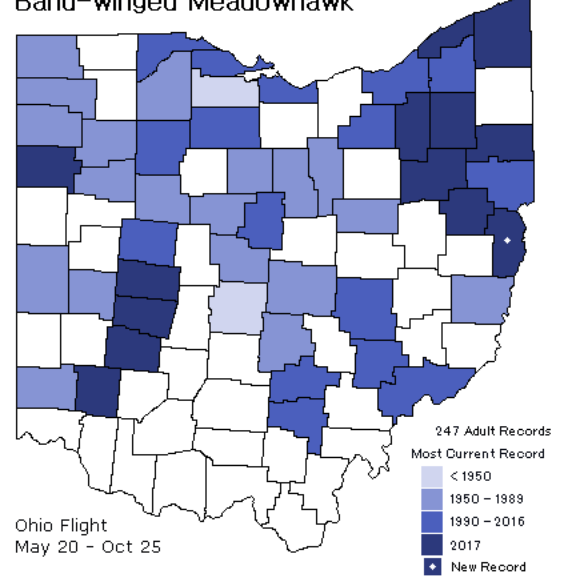
Sympetrum vicinum
Autumn Meadowhawk



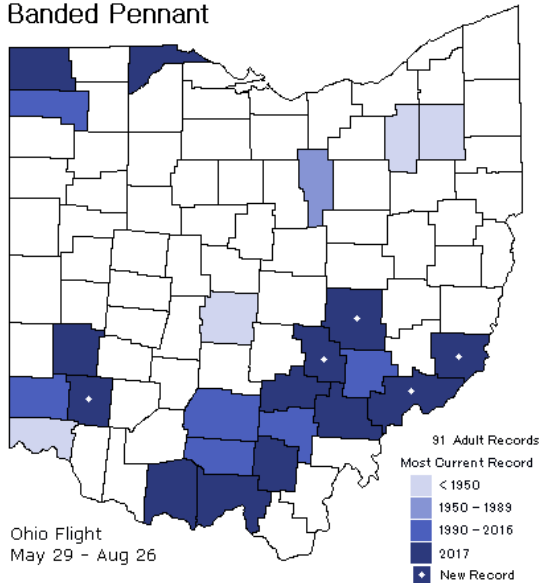
Autumn meadowhawks are one of our latest season dragonflies and have light colored legs.

Band winged meadowhawks have a darkened base of their wing.

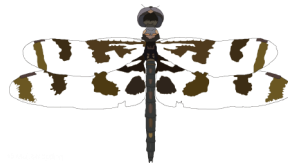
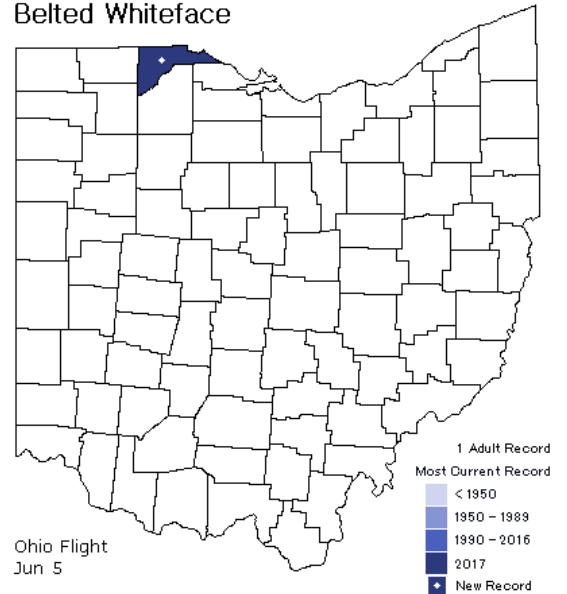
Sympetrum semicinctum
Band-winged Meadowhawk



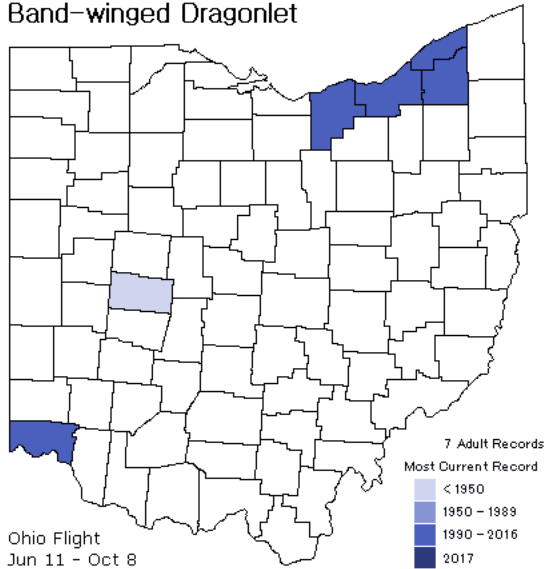
Celithemis fasciata
Banded Pennant



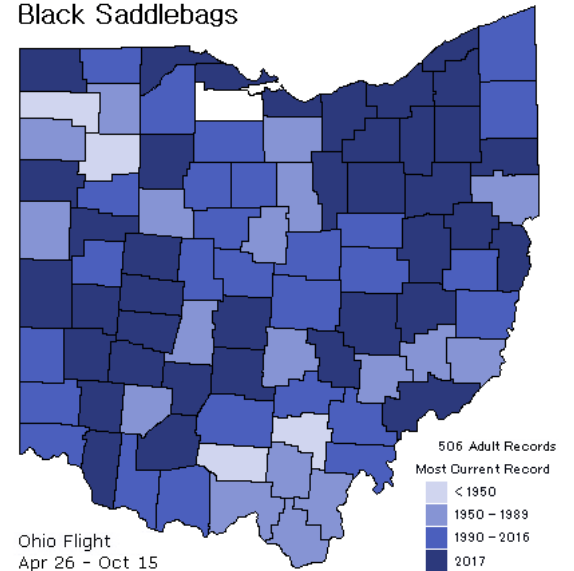
Leucorrhinia proxima
Belted Whiteface



Erythrodiplox umbrata
Band-winged Dragonlet



Tramea lacerata
Black Saddlebags

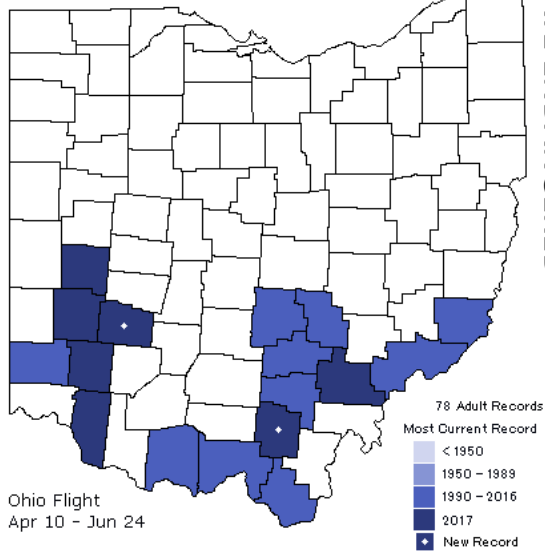


Skimmers (Libellulidae)

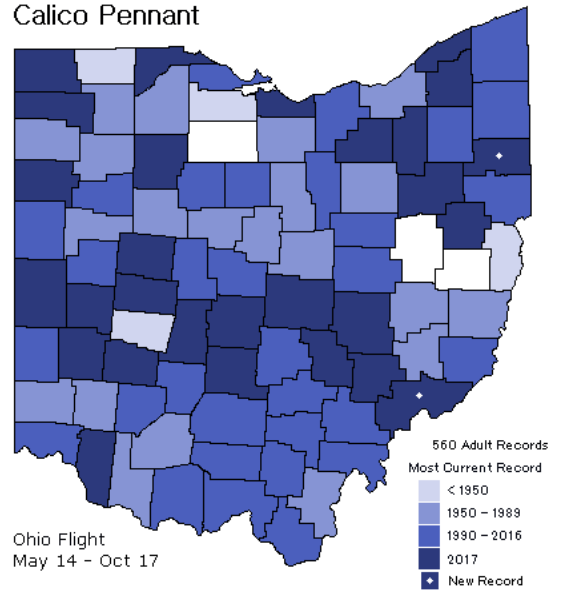
Ladona deplanata
Blue Corporal

Endangered

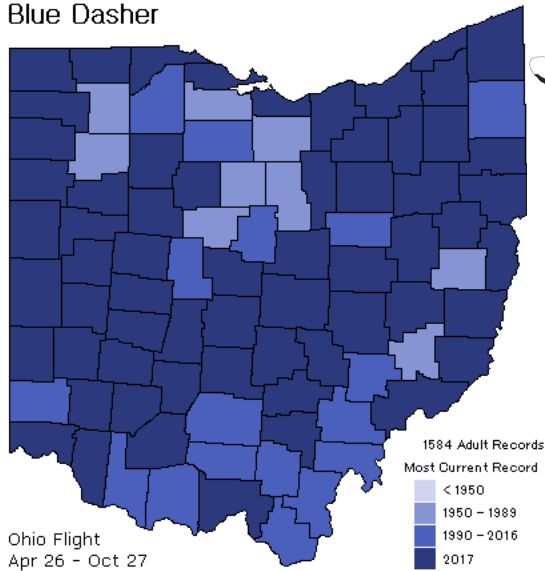
STATE ENDANGERED



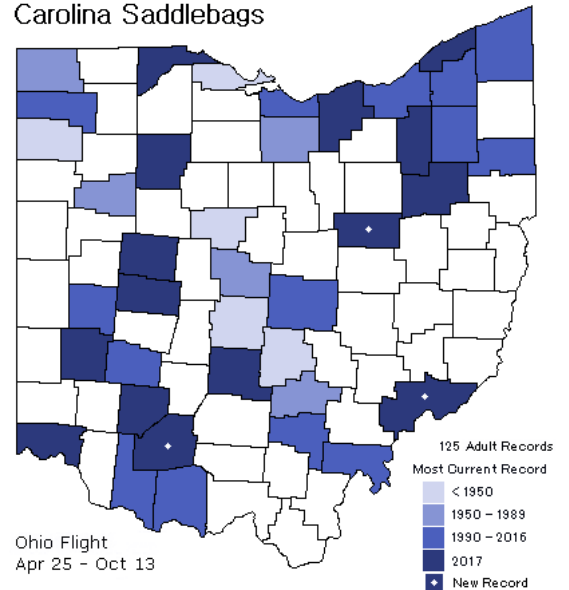
Celithemis elisa
Calico Pennant



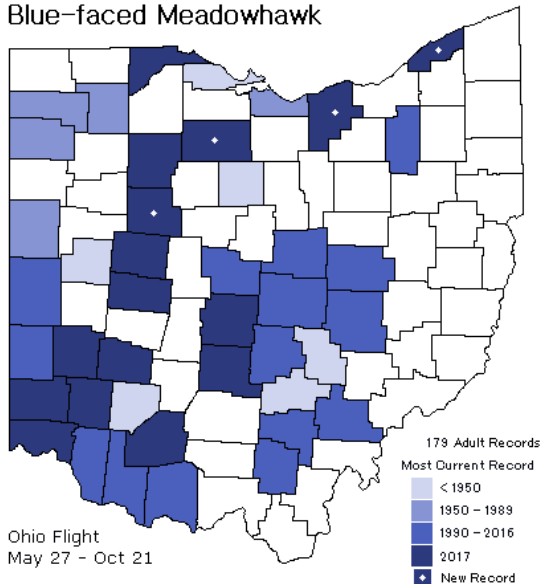
Pachydiplax longipennis
Blue Dasher



Tramea carolina
Carolina Saddlebags



Sympetrum ambiguum
Blue-faced Meadowhawk

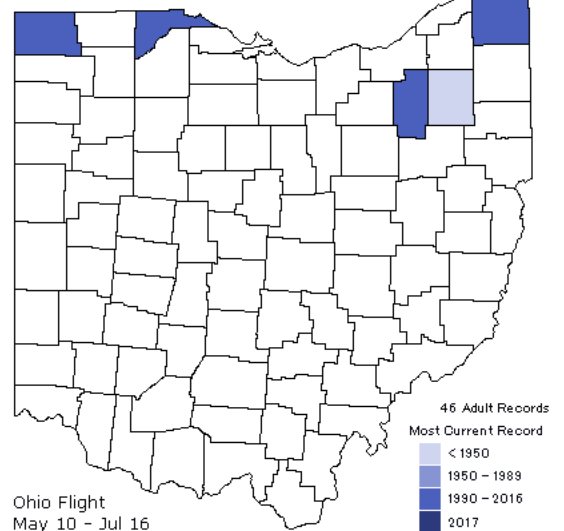


Blue faced meadowhawks normally have blue faces (males) and black rings around the abdomen.

Ladona julia
Chalk-fronted Corporal

Endangered

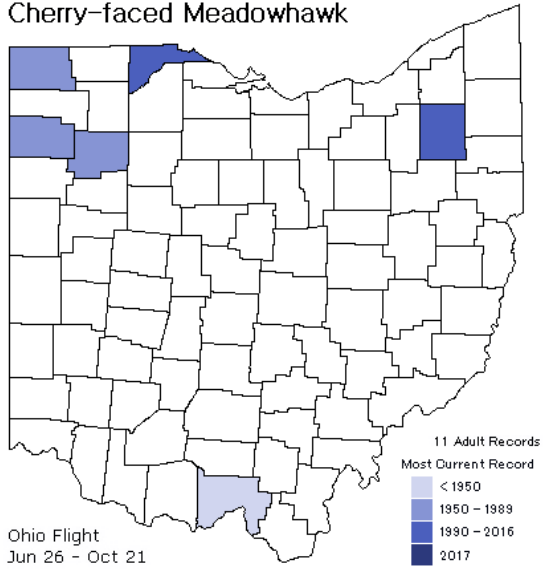
STATE ENDANGERED



Skimmers (Libellulidae)

Sympetrum internum

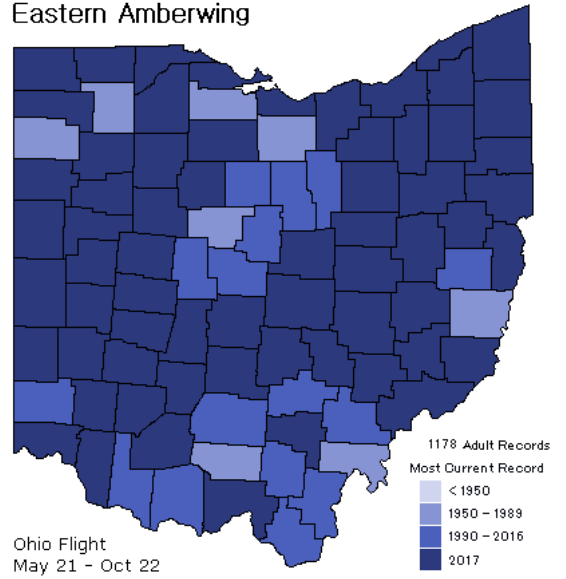
Cherry-faced Meadowhawk



Meadowhawk identification via photo is contentious. Try to get them in hand and get a close up photo of the hamules and terminal appendages (underside)

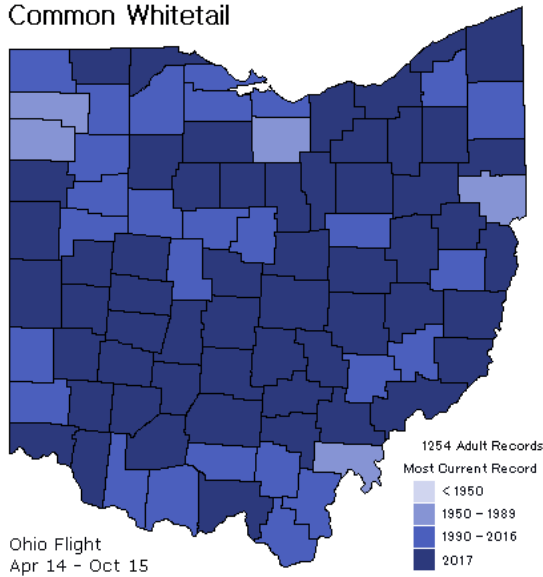
Perithemis tenera

Eastern Amberwing



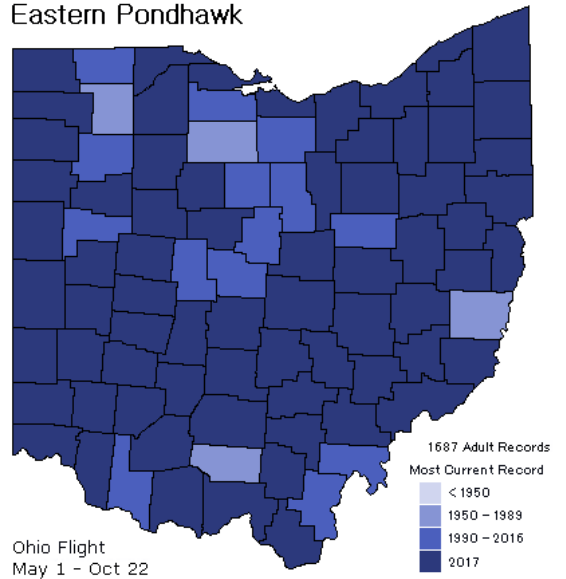
Plathemis lydia

Common Whitetail



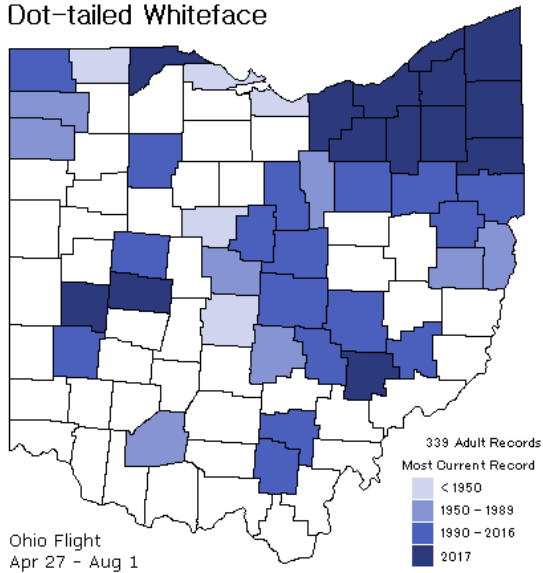
Erythemis simplicicollis

Eastern Pondhawk



Leucorrhinia intacta

Dot-tailed Whiteface

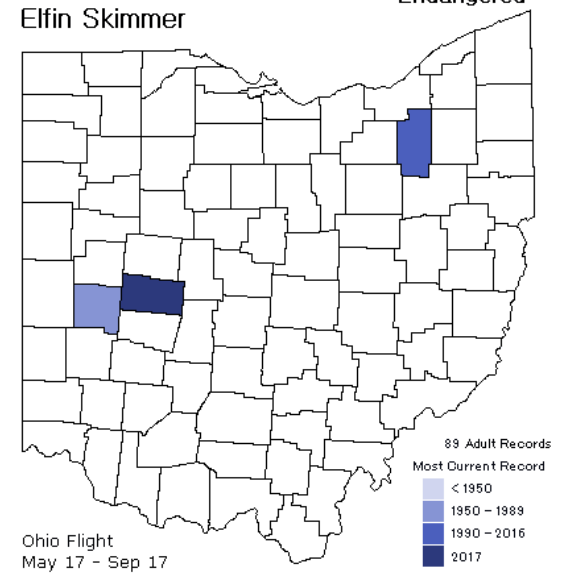


Nannothemis bella

Elfin Skimmer

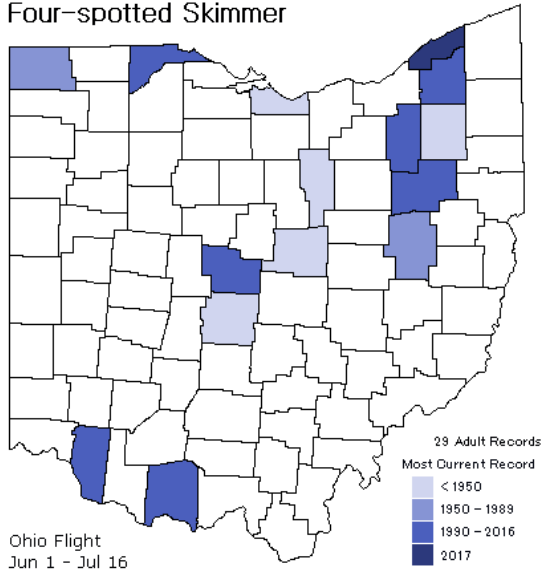
Endangered

STATE ENDANGERED

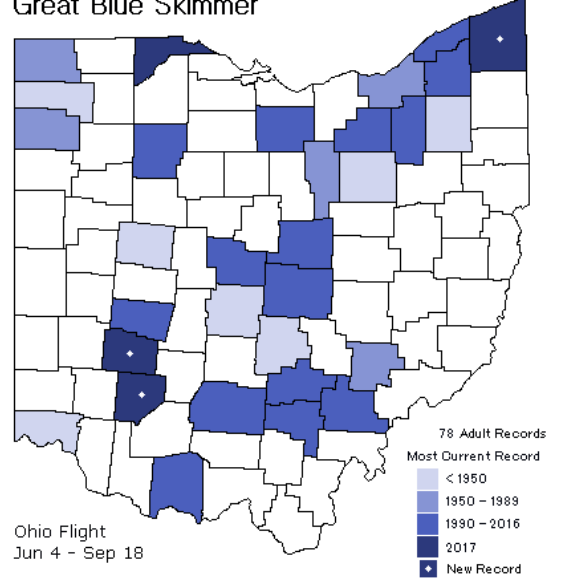


Skimmers (Libellulidae)

Libellula quadrimaculata
Four-spotted Skimmer

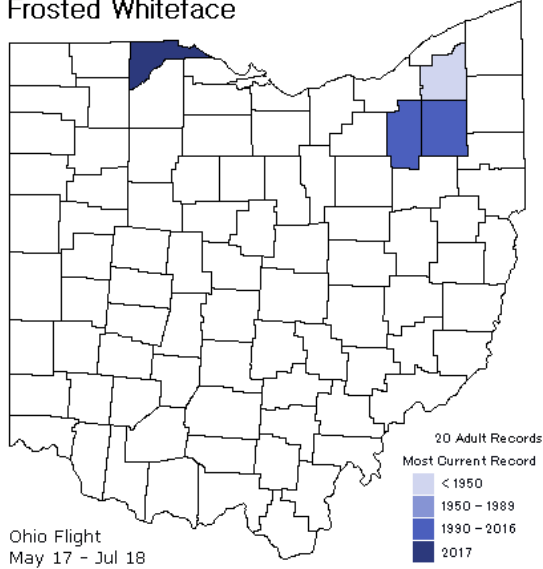


Libellula vibrans
Great Blue Skimmer



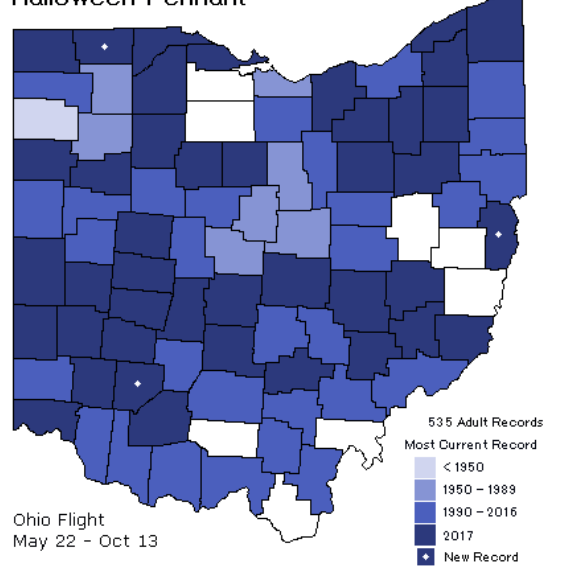
Leucorrhinia frigida
Frosted Whiteface

Endangered

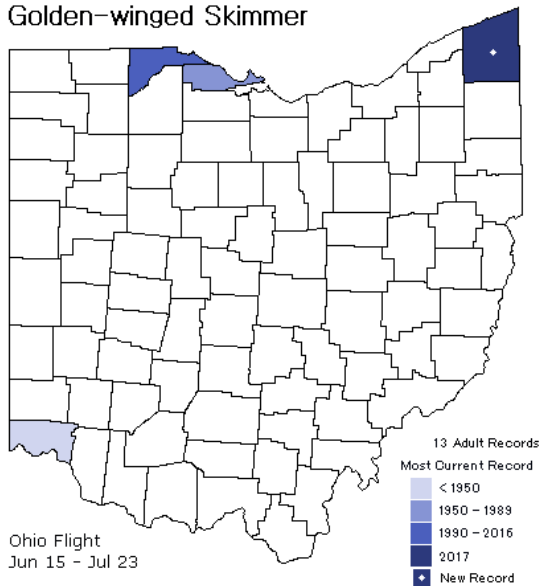


STATE ENDANGERED

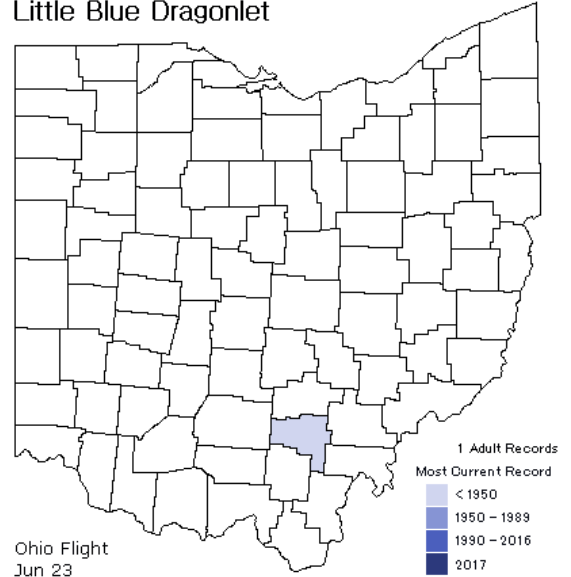
Celithemis eponina
Halloween Pennant



Libellula auripennis
Golden-winged Skimmer

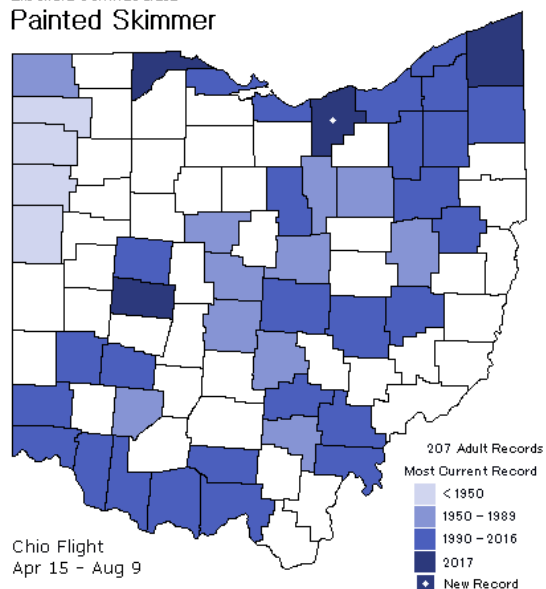


Erythrodiplos minuscule
Little Blue Dragonlet

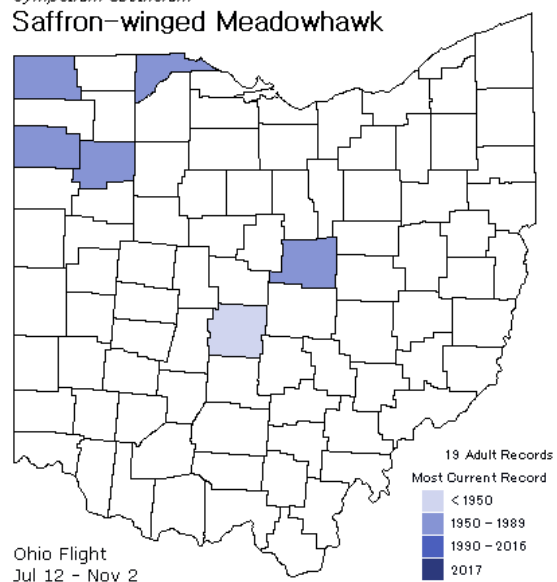


Skimmers (Libellulidae)

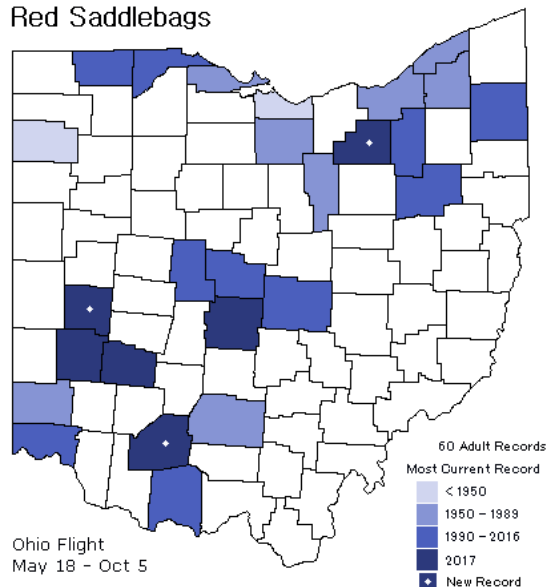
Libellula semifasciata
Painted Skimmer



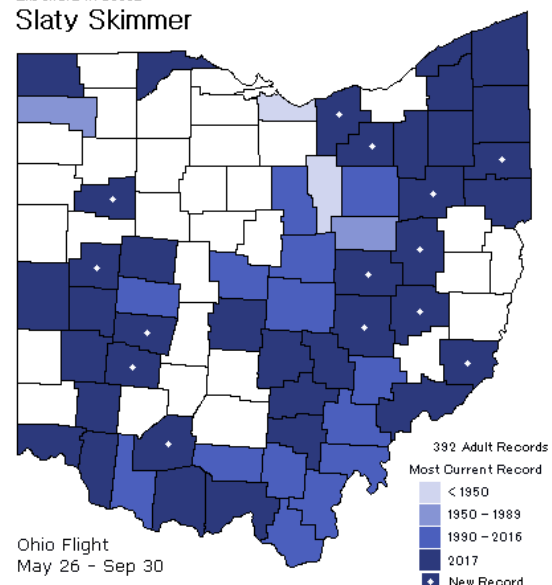
Sympetrum costiferum
Saffron-winged Meadowhawk



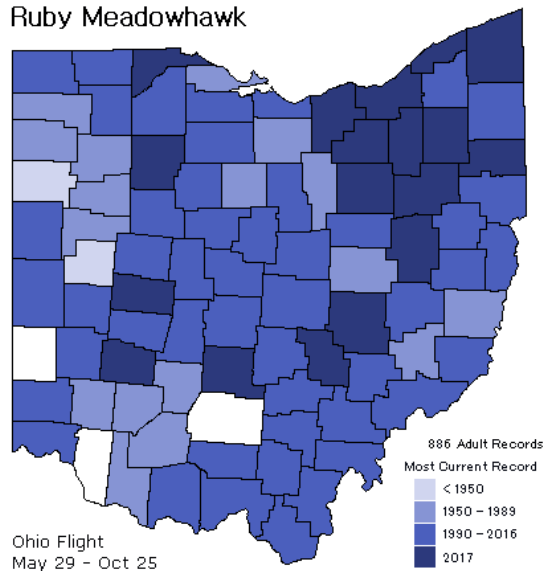
Tramea onusta
Red Saddlebags



Libellula incesta
Slaty Skimmer

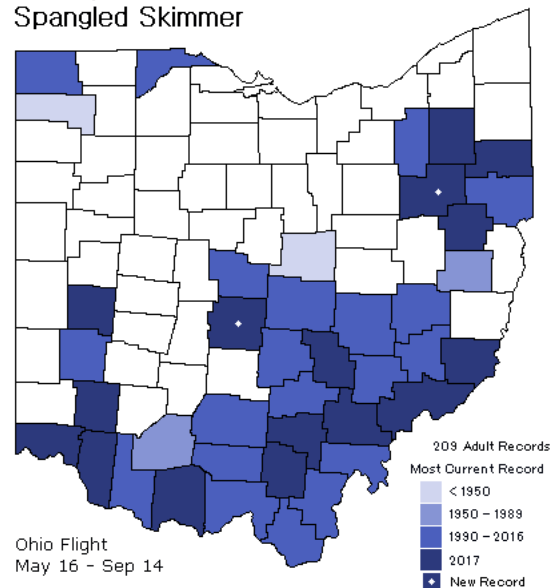


Sympetrum rubicundulum
Ruby Meadowhawk



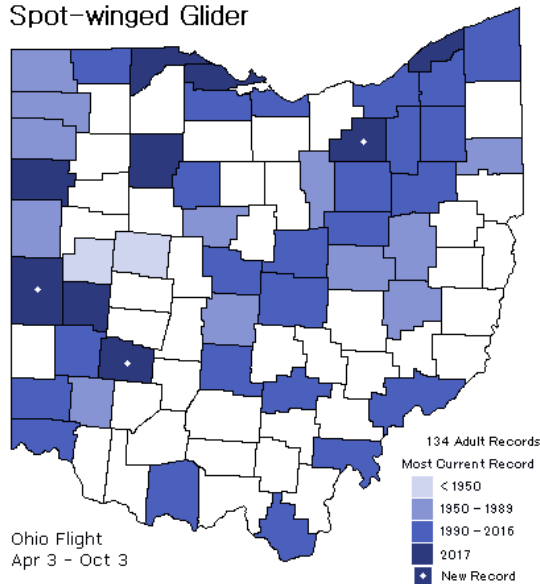
Meadowhawk identification via photo is contentious. Try to get them in hand and get a close up photo of the hamules and terminal appendages (underside)

Libellula cyanea
Spangled Skimmer

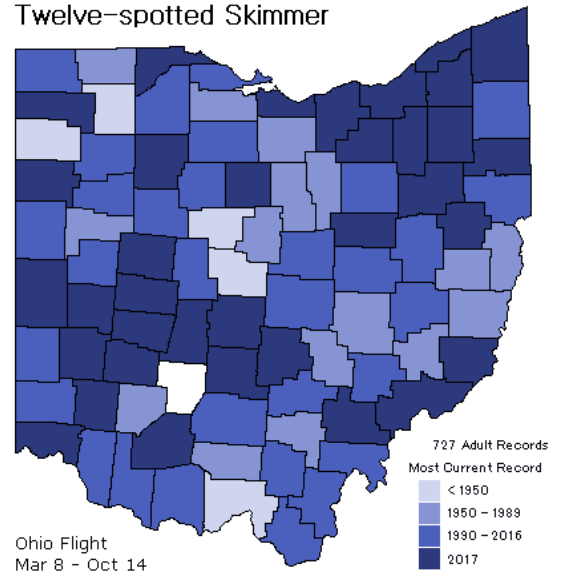


Skimmers (Libellulidae)

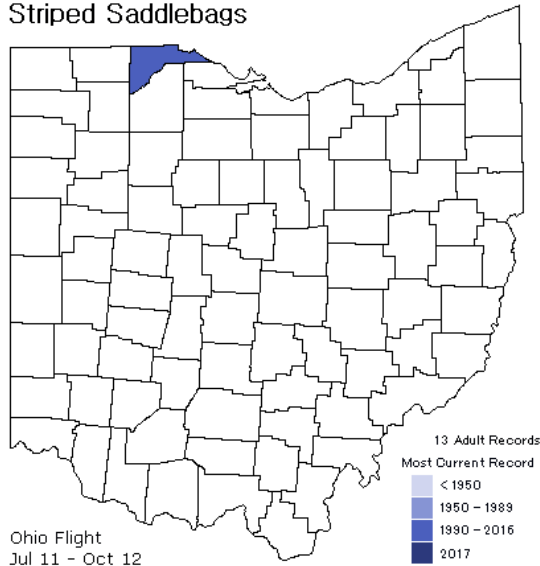
Pantala hymenaea
Spot-winged Glider



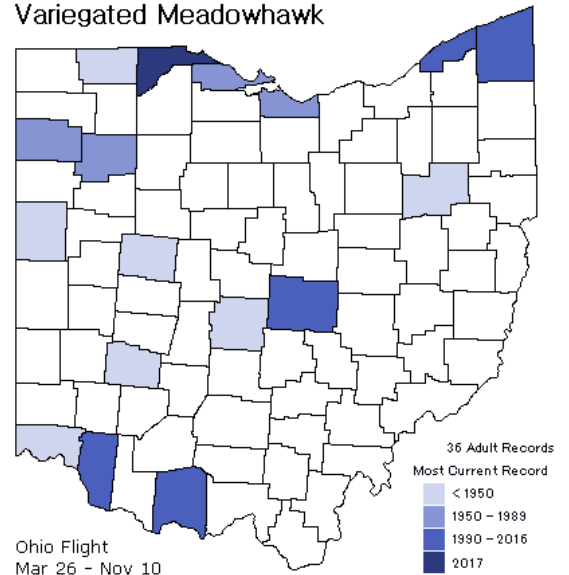
Libellula pulchella
Twelve-spotted Skimmer



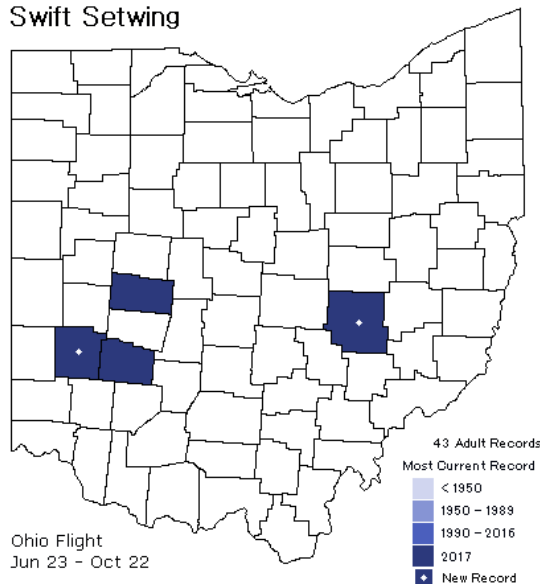
Tramea calverti
Striped Saddlebags



Sympetrum corruptum
Variegated Meadowhawk

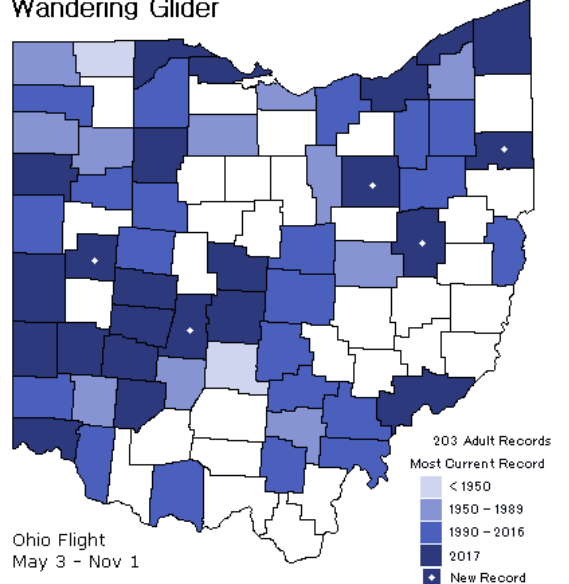


Dythemis velox
Swift Setwing



Swift Setwings are new to the state, but we expect them in many more counties. They hold their wings forward when resting, similar to Blue Dashers, but have black wing tips and an otherwise dark body.

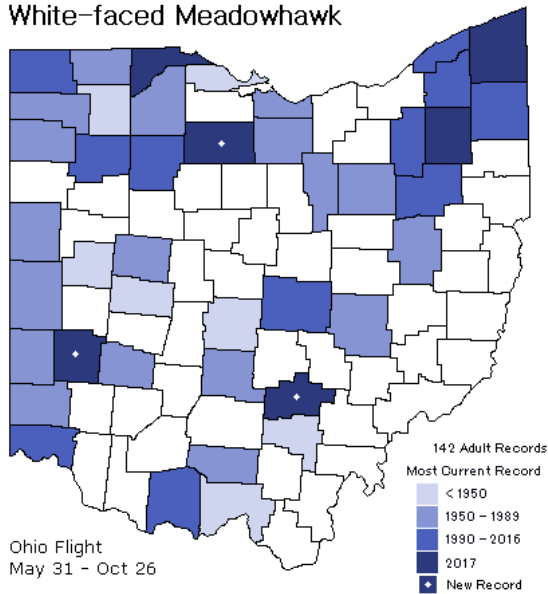
Pantala flavescens
Wandering Glider



Skimmers (Libellulidae)

Sympetrum obtrusum

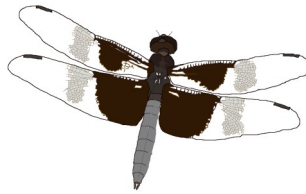
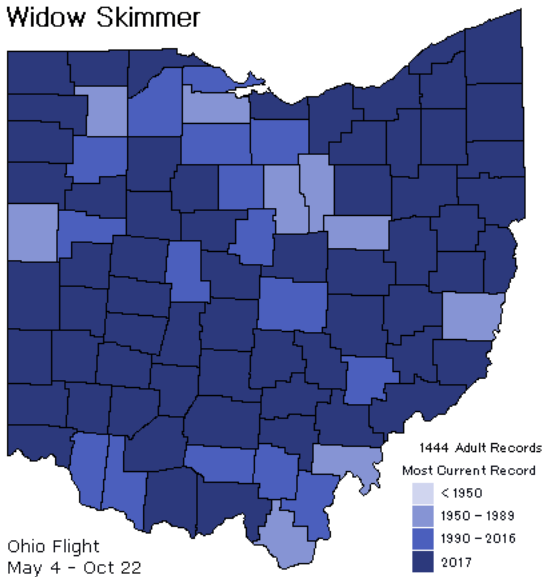
White-faced Meadowhawk



Meadowhawk identification via photo is contentious. Try to get them in hand and get a close up photo of the hamules and terminal appendages (underside)

Libellula luctuosa

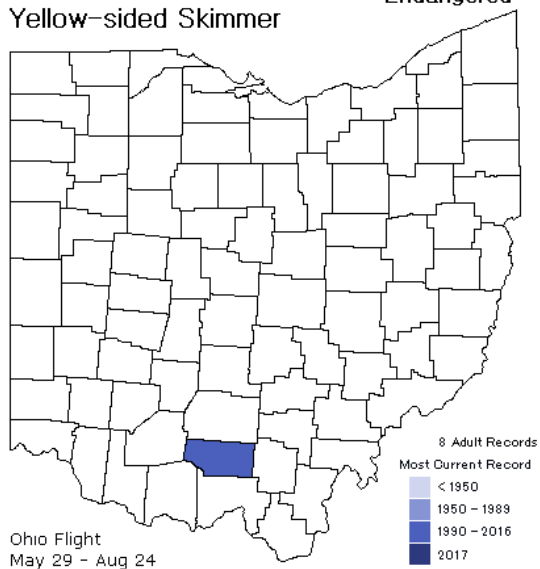
Widow Skimmer



Libellula flavida

Yellow-sided Skimmer

Endangered



STATE ENDANGERED