

ZBBi
H58
Main
Room

THE DRAGON AND DAMSEL-FLIES (ODONATA).
OF NANTUCKET, MASS.

By R. HEBER HOWE, JR.

The Odonate fauna of Nantucket is not large as judged by seven weeks' collecting, from June 25 to August 7, and by the collecting of others throughout the season. The dry moors and lack of woodland undoubtedly being the cause of the few species found. The summer of 1917, however, like the spring preceding, was particularly unfavorable for these insects. Wet, cold and sunless weather prevented the development of imagoes. I visited practically all the ponds and marshes of the island, and collected continually, missing hardly a day during my stay. A mounted collection of all species taken was made and placed on exhibition in the rooms of the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association, together with maps showing interesting distributional ranges of several species. In my own collection will be found also a complete collection of species captured. A few specimens of former collecting by Miss Marianna Hussey and Dr. P. P. Calvert were found preserved at the rooms of the Association, and the Curator, Miss Albertson, had forwarded me in September, 1916, several specimens for determination which had been collected by herself and Miss Why. Dr. J. A. Cushman collected a few specimens in 1910, which are now in the collections of the Boston Society of Natural History. Other specimens have been forwarded to me by the same collectors since I left Nantucket.

Zygoptera = Damsel-flies
Family: Coenagrionidae
Sub-family: Lestinae
Genus: Lestes

1. *L. unguiculatus* (Hagen).

Abundant about all the ponds visited, June 29 to July 31.
It was found by Dr. J. A. Cushman, July 4-10.

2. *L. disjunctus* (Selys).

Common at Squam, Shimmo, Peat, Hummock, and Reed ponds. July 23 to 28.

3. *L. vigilax* (Hagen).

Common at Maxcy and Almanack ponds, July 26 to August 22.

Subfamily: Coenagrioninae
Genus: Enallagma

4. *E. cyathigerum* (Chap.).

Several specimens were taken at both Twin and Weeweeder ponds, June 29 to July 13. This holarctic species, not found on the other islands of this region, and only twice recorded before from Massachusetts, was one of the interesting finds of the summer's collecting.

5. *E. civile* (Hagen).

Abundant, particularly about the littoral ponds, July 1 to July 31. It was also collected by Dr. Calvert. Found on Tuckernuck Island, July 21, 1910, by Dr. G. M. Allen.

6. *E. aspersum* (Hagen).

Uncommon at Pest House pond, July 24 to August 5. Only males were observed.

7. *E. durum* (Hagen).

One specimen taken July 23, 1910, by Dr. J. A. Cushman.
Genus: *Nehalennia*

8. *N. irene* (Hagen).

Uncommon, pond at Shimmo and at Little Squam pond, July 7 to 16.

Genus: *Ischnura*

9. *I. verticalis* (Say).

Abundant about all the ponds, June 27 to August 22. This species was collected by Miss Albertson in 1916. It was found on Tuckernuck Island, July 4-20, 1910, by Dr. G. M. Allen.

10. *I. posita* (Hagen).

Common at pond near Shimmo, Tom Nevers, Little Squam, Reed, Hummock, and Pest House ponds, July 5 to 26.

Anisoptera = Dragon-flies

Family: Aeshnidae

Subfamily: Aeshninae

Genus: *Anax*

11. *A. junius* (Drury).

Common near Polpis, at Little and Big Squam, Pest House, Capaum, Sachacha ponds. At Brant point, and in the town. July 5 to August 7.

Genus: *Aeshna*

12. *A. clepsydra* (Say).

A male specimen collected by Miss Hussey prior to 1913 was in the collection. Two others were taken, one on North Water Street and one at Maxcy pond, July 26 to August 1.

Genus: *Epiaeschna*

13. *E. heros* (Fab).
One seen on the wing, July 16, at Little Squam pond.
Family: Libellulidae
Subfamily: Libellulinae
Genus: Libellula
14. *L. auripennis* (Burm).
One specimen collected by Miss Hussey prior to 1913 was in the collection. One male was seen at Almanack pond on August 7.
15. *L. pulchella* (Drury).
Seen flying over the moors, at Little and Big Squam, Hummock, Maxcy, Peat Ponds (in Quaise) and at pond near Miriam Coffee House, July 29 to August 7.
Genus: Erythrodiplax
16. *E. berenice* (Drury).
Common, salt marshes of harbor, and at Cotue, June 27 to August 14.
Genus: Erythemis
17. *E. simplicicollis* (Say).
Not uncommon, Taupaushaw, Mill brook, Almanack, North Bottom ponds, and at the pond near the Miriam Coffin House, July 26 to August 18.
Genus: Sympetrum
18. *S. rubicundulum* (Say).
Abundant about all ponds and ditches, June 26 to August 7.
19. *S. costiferum* (Hagen).
Common at Almanack and ponds at eastern end of island, August 7 to August 22.
Genus: Leucorrhinia
20. *L. intacta* (Hagen).
Uncommon at Reed pond, at pond near Poverty point, and near salt marshes. June 29 to August 7.
Genus: Tramea
21. *T. abdominalis* (Ramb).
Recorded by Hagen as taken August 30 (see Calvert's N. E. Odonata, 1905, p. 37), a sub-Carolinian species evidently a straggler, perhaps due to the influence of the Gulf Stream.
Thoreau Museum of Natural History,
Concord, Massachusetts.

