



# Bulletin of the Oregon Entomological Society

## Flame Skimmer (*Libellula saturata*) Along the Oregon Coast *Ron Lyons*

The Flame Skimmer, *Libellula saturata*, is a distinctive, large red dragonfly common at ponds and along sluggish streams in California and the rest of the southwest. [You can view the full known distribution at OdonataCentral.org (Abbott 2007–2013) using the maps tab.] In Oregon, it is known from the Rogue, Umpqua and Willamette Valleys as well as various locations east of the Cascades (Kerst & Gordon 2011, Johnson & Valley 2012). When Johnson and Valley (2005) wrote their summary of the Odonata of Oregon, *L. saturata* had not been reported on the coast. Later that year, Dan Hull, a member of the Oregon Coast Photographers' Association, photographed a male at a small pond in Shore Acres State Park, by the ocean in Coos County. The image was shown at a club competition and recognized by the author, who got the record submitted to OdonataCentral.org.

Since then there have been 4 other sightings, that I know of, from the coast (Coos and Curry counties). All the sightings (see Table 1) have been of single individuals and 4 of the 5 have been late in the year. Three of these individuals were at or very close to water; the two found at Storm Ranch were in the same small clearing on a ridge along the Old Bog Trail, well away from any water (Muddy Lake and other wetlands are within a mile but are not visible from the clearing). The only location that is more than a mile from the ocean is the Oak Flat Campground near Agness. There, the male was guarding a small pool along the edge of the main channel of the Illinois River, but separated from it by a wide gravel bar. [Johnson and Valley (2012) mention 4 of these coastal records (Storm Ranch is in Coos not Curry County as indicated in the text). They also note several recent records outside the main distribution in other parts of the state.]

At the moment, *L. saturata* does not appear to be established along

Table 1. Sightings of Flame Skimmer, *Libellula saturata*, along the Oregon coast.

Coos: Shore Acres State Park, 18 September 2005 (D. Hull), male
Coos: New River ACEC (Storm Ranch Section), 29 August 2007 (R. Lyons), male
Curry: Arizona Beach State Park, 23 August 2010 (C. Kerst), female
Coos: New River ACEC (Storm Ranch Section), 11 July 2012 (R. Lyons), female (Fig. 1)
Curry: Oak Flat Campground on the Illinois River, 29 August 2012 (R. Lyons), male



Figure 1. Female *Libellula saturata* photographed 11 July 2012 along the Old Bog Trail in the Storm Ranch section of the New River ACEC. Photo by Ron Lyons.

the coast. However, the 5 sightings are not based on any systematic or extensive search. Clearly, there are viable pathways that allow individuals to reach the coast, at least sporadically. Since there is no reason to believe the species cannot establish itself there, it will be interesting to see when *L. saturata* becomes a regular member of the coast's odonate community.

### References

- Abbott, J.C. 2007–2013. OdonataCentral: An online resource for the distribution and identification of Odonata. The University of Texas at Austin. Available at <<http://www.odonatacentral.org>>. (Accessed: 18 June 2013).
- Johnson, J. and S. Valley. 2005. The Odonata of Oregon. Bulletin of American Odonatology 8(4): 100–122.
- Johnson, J. and S. Valley. 2012. Update of The Odonata of Oregon. Bulletin of American Odonatology 11(2): 39–47.
- Kerst, C. and S. Gordon. 2011. Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon: A Field Guide. Oregon State University Press (Corvallis, Oregon). 304 pages.

Feel free to distribute this newsletter to others.

Submit content to **Ron Lyons** (pondhawk@uci.net). To be included on the distribution list contact **Jim Johnson** (jt\_johnson@comcast.net).

## Bumble Bee Identification Resources (Hymenoptera: *Bombus* sp.)

Digital images of bumble bees of the Pacific Northwest are available from the Hannon Library Digital Collections at Southern Oregon University (SOU) courtesy of Peter Schroeder, Associate Professor in Biology and SOU's Insect Collection Manager. Multiple pinned specimens have been imaged for many of the species. There are 80 images representing 25 species. Clicking on one of the thumbnails opens a new page which makes dorsal and lateral views of the specimen available. The classification and collection information is also available. Visit <http://cdm15013.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/plb005collection> to access these images.



An older publication, *Bumble Bees of Western America* (Hymenoptera: Apoidea), by W.P. Stephen in 1957 is available as a PDF from the OSU Library. To find it in the Library's catalog, visit <http://oasis.oregonstate.edu/>. This publication is Technical Bulletin 40 from the Oregon State College Agricultural Experiment Station.

From the Xerces Society you can download pocket identification guides for some species of special interest (click on the publications/identification-guides tab on their website <http://xerces.org>). For information on pollination conservation visit the link under programs.

*Bumble Bees of the Western United States* is an informative publication (144 pages) by Jonathan Koch, James Strange, and Paul Williams, a product of the US Forest Service and the Pollinator Partnership with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The publication produced last year can be downloaded as a PDF from <http://pur1.fdlp.gov/GP0/gp029046>.

Bernd Heinrich's *Bumblebee Economics* (c 1979 by Harvard University Press) has a color plate in the back of the book which illustrates the species of North and Central America.

In addition for those interested in doing some citizen science, the following note is currently on the Xerces Society website:

### *Bumble Bee Watch* (Coming July 2013)

A collaborative effort to track and conserve North America's bumble bees by the Xerces Society, Wildlife Preservation Canada, the University of Ottawa, the Montreal Insectarium, the Natural History Museum of London, BeeSpotter, and numerous bumble bee experts. Through this project, you can upload photos, start a virtual bumble bee collection, have your identifications verified by experts, and interact with other citizen scientists. Watch for more information on the Xerces Society site, <http://xerces.org>.

## 2013 Northwest Lepidopterists' Workshop

The 2013 Northwest Lepidopterists' Workshop will be held this fall on the weekend of 19–20 October 2013. The event, hosted annually by Drs. David McCorkle and Paul Hammond, provides the opportunity for people of all levels who are interested in butterflies and moths to meet informally, show and exchange specimens, talk about their exploits and their discoveries, see friends and make new ones.



The groups of emphasis this year will be:

- ▶ Butterflies: Blues and Swallowtails
- ▶ Moths: general moths, especially Geometridae of the Macarias Group

Full details will appear in the Fall Bulletin.

### 2013 *Aeshna* Blitz

This year's annual gathering of those who are insane for Oregon's Odonata is scheduled for the weekend of 16 August in the Duck/Twin Lakes area of the eastern Willowa Mountains (north of Halfway, <http://goo.gl/Ii0Rj>). Be prepared for primitive camping far from civilization. All are welcome. Yes, even if you only look for the "lesser" insects.

Contact Jim Johnson at [jt\\_johnson@comcast.net](mailto:jt_johnson@comcast.net) or Steve Valley if you plan to attend.

### 2013 Pacific Slope Meeting

The Pacific Slope Division of the Lepidopterists' Society will meet 7–10 August 2013 at the Malheur Field Station, Princeton Oregon close to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Harney County. Visit [http://osac.science.oregonstate.edu/pacificslope\\_2013](http://osac.science.oregonstate.edu/pacificslope_2013) for current meeting information. The registration form can be found here, as well as a form for those who would like to make a presentation. The event is hosted by the Oregon State Arthropod Collection (OSAC), Oregon State University Department of Zoology.

For information on the Field Station visit <http://www.malheurfieldstation.com/>.