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Dragonfly Migration

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In this enlightened, scientific age there is little excuse for epidemics to occur and it would seem the responsibility of people educated in the sciences to insure that such catastrophies do not occur by educating the youth and administering to the adults. Such an event illustrates that science does have humanistic applications.

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DRAGONFLY MIGRATION

Migration of birds in the spring and fall is a well known phenomenon. However, migration of insects is not as well known except for a few spectatular examples such as that of the Monarch butterfly. Actually, quite a number of insects migrate and one easily observed migrant is the large Green Darner dragonfly (*Anax junius*). This dragonfly is easy to recognize due to its large size (length over 3 inches and wingspan of 4 to 4½ inches) and its bright coloration (thorax green and abdomen of blue and black). It is the first dragonfly to appear in Iowa in the spring, usually in mid to late April. Under certain weather conditions it could appear much earlier, as exemplified by a recent paper in the *Canadian Entomologist* (T. Butler, *et al.*, 1975) where *Anax junius* was captured on April 4, 1974, in Ontario, Canada. There is a need for more information about the arrival of *Anax junius* in Iowa in the spring.

I would like to enlist the aid of teachers and students in the gathering data for a study of the migration of *Anax junius*. If you or one of your students should observe and be lucky enough to capture one or more specimens of this dragonfly this spring, I would appreciate its being sent to me.

After capturing, place the insect in alcohol to kill and preserve. Note as near as possible the location (town or direction and distance from nearest town and the county), date, collector's name, and weather data (temperature, wind direction, and any other observations). Transfer the insect to an appropriately sized envelope on which is written the collection data in pencil or permanent ink which will not run or fade in alcohol. Moisten the envelope and place between two layers of cotton dampened with alcohol (several envelopes may be placed together) and put in a plastic bag which can be sealed (zip-lock bags work well). Put the bag in a small cardboard box and mail to Steve Hummel, Department of Biology, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

Literature Cited

Butler, T., J. E. Peterson, and P. S. Corbet. 1975. An exceptionally early and informative arrival of adult *Anax junius* in Ontario (Odonata: Aeshnidae). *Can. Ent.* 107:1253-1254.