

Book Reviews

ZOOLOGY

Ontario Odonata. Volume 3 (including observations for the year 2001)

Edited and compiled by Paul M. Catling, Colin D. Jones and Paul Pratt. 2002. The Toronto Entomologists' Association, Toronto, Canada.

The third volume (208 pages) on Odonata (the order that includes dragonflies and damselflies) of Ontario is now available. About 25 papers are included, treating new Ontario records, notes on Odonata species rarely captured, changes in distribution patterns, annotated lists of Odonata from a region, characterization of species commonly confused, book reviews, an up-to-date checklist of 166 species (80% of the Canadian fauna!) and changes in abundance for many species since Walker's work in the 1940s, and a checklist of species.

The lists of Ontario records are most impressive, comprising about 62% of Volume 3, and summarizing in a database format the information about species, locality, number of males, females and immatures for each record. Though the bulk of the records are for 2001, additional records not previously published cover the years 1996 to 1998. The total number for these four years is an impressive 6059 records. Including similar lists in volumes 1 and 2, 15370 records are now databased for 1996 to 2001. Specimens in collections previously added to about 13000 Ontario specimens. This is an exceptional contribution to the natural history of Ontario, providing a solid base to show the distribution of each species, and for the conservation of Ontario Odonata. Hopefully in time, this information could lead to books on Odonata of Ontario. About 1800 databased specimens of Odonata of Ontario are deposited as voucher in the Canadian National Collection, which has been massively upgraded in the past two years (Figure 1).



FIGURE 1. Portion of the Odonata collection at the Canadian National Collection of insects. Unmounted specimens are filed in glassine envelopes.

Among the many articles, the one by Paul Catling on the characterization of males and females of *Lestes disjunctus* and *L. forcipatus* was most welcome. Both species have often been confused by many students.

The editors intend to produce this type of document for another two years. By then it is hoped that about 25000 records will have been entered. These records will become the base for future work on Odonata of Ontario as well as a time capsule at the very end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century. We must congratulate the 31 contributors listed with their address and e-mail coordinates on page 105. Such a massive effort could not be done singly.

To purchase copies of the 2000, 2001 and 2002 documents, contact Alan J. Hanks, 34 Seaton Drive, Aurora, Ontario, Canada L4G 2K1; Phone: (905) 727-6993, e-mail: A.Hanks@aci.on.ca

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Mammals of Ontario

By Tamara Eder. 2002. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, Alberta. 215 pages. \$24.95.

Surprisingly, this is the first field guide to the mammals of Ontario published since Cross and Dymond's (1929) descriptive handbook. Although Dobbyn (1994) recently wrote a technical atlas of mammal distributions, the need for an identification book was probably lessened by the authoritative work of Peterson (1966) for the mammals of eastern Canada. Expectations were

therefore high for the first guide written about Ontario mammals.

The book is beautifully presented with nice colour figures, good layout design, and relatively compact size. It begins with a colour-coded and page-referenced table of contents, which is also reproduced on the back cover. This is followed by an expanded quick reference guide to the 78 species of mammals, grouped by taxonomic order, found in Ontario. Eight species are excluded because they are essentially considered non-