

This checklist covers the known dragonflies and damselflies (odonates) for all the Patuxent Research Refuge. In identifying odonates, focus on the color and markings of the abdomen, thorax, wings, and head. At rest, how does the odonate hold its wings? Generally, dragonflies rest with their wings horizontal to their body and damselflies rest with their wings together or nearly so above their body. Also remember that the males and females are frequently different colors.

The seasonal occurrence and likelihood of seeing the adults in this checklist are very general. Some dragonflies are present in good numbers but are not likely to be encountered by a general naturalist. Other species are very conspicuous and even though they are few in numbers stand out and are noticed. Seasonal occurrences presented are also generalized because it is often only when males mature and return to the breeding grounds that they are usually noticed.

Please report any sighting of dragonflies or damselflies marked with an asterisk (*), or species not listed, to refuge staff.

Please do NOT harm or collect any species!

ADULT FLIGHT SEASON

(S) = usually noticed only in the spring or early summer

(F) = usually noticed only in the late summer or fall

If not marked, found from spring through fall.

LIKELIHOOD OF SEEING ADULTS

(A) = Abundant and conspicuous in appropriate habitat

(C) = Common in suitable habitat

(U) = Present, but could easily be missed in suitable habitat

(R) = Not likely to encounter

DRAGONFLIES

PETALTAILS

_____ Gray Petaltail (S)(R)*

DARNERS

_____ Common Green Darner (C)

_____ Swamp Darner (C)

_____ Spatterdock Darner (S)(R)*

_____ Shadow Darner (F)(U)

_____ Green-striped Darner (F)(R)*

_____ Comet Darner (U)

_____ Springtime Darner (S)(U)

_____ Fawn Darner (F)(U)

_____ Harlequin Darner (S)(U)

_____ Taper-tailed Darner (R)*

_____ Cyrano Darner (U)

CLUBTAILS

_____ Lancet Clubtail (S)(C)

_____ Ashy Clubtail (S)(C)

_____ Riverine Clubtail (S)(R)*

_____ Unicorn Clubtail (U)

_____ Black-shouldered Spinyleg (R)

_____ Sable Clubtail (S)(R)*

_____ Dragonhunter (U)

_____ Appalachian Snaketail (S)(R)*

_____ Common Sanddragon (U)

_____ Eastern Least Clubtail (S)(R)

_____ Laura's Clubtail (F)(U)

_____ Russet-tipped Clubtail (F)(R)

_____ Arrow Clubtail (F)(R)

SPIKETAILS

_____ Brown Spiketail (S)(U)

_____ Tiger Spiketail (R)*

_____ Arrowhead Spiketail (S)(R)*

_____ Twin-spotted Spiketail (S)(R)

CRUISERS

_____ Stream Cruiser (S)(U)

_____ Swift River Cruiser (U)

EMERALDS

_____ Common Baskettail (S)(C)

_____ Selys' Sundragon (S)(R)*

_____ Prince Baskettail (R)

_____ Robust Baskettail (S)(U)

_____ Slender Baskettail (S)(R)*

_____ Fine-lined Emerald (R)*

_____ Mocha Emerald (U)

_____ Treetop Emerald (R)*

_____ Clamp-tipped Emerald (U)

SKIMMERS

_____ Eastern Pondhawk (A)

_____ Blue Dasher (A)

_____ Eastern-amber Wing (A)

_____ Calico Pennant (C)

_____ Halloween Pennant (C)

_____ Banded Pennant (C)

_____ Double-ringed Pennant (C)

_____ Martha's Pennant (R)

_____ Faded Pennant (R)*

_____ Golden-winged Skimmer (R)

_____ Spangled Skimmer (C)

_____ Blue Corporal (S)(A)

_____ Yellow-sided Skimmer (R)

_____ Slaty Skimmer (C)

_____ Widow Skimmer (C)

_____ Needham's Skimmer (U)

_____ Common Whitetail (A)

_____ Twelve-spotted Skimmer (U)

_____ Painted Skimmer (U)

- ___ Bar-winged Skimmer (U)
- ___ Great Blue Skimmer (U)
- ___ Little Blue Dragonlet (R)
- ___ Elfin Skimmer (R)*
- ___ Wandering Glider (C)
- ___ Spot-winged Glider (C)
- ___ Blue-faced Meadowhawk (F)(C)
- ___ White-faced Meadowhawk (R)*
- ___ Ruby Meadowhawk (U)
- ___ Band-winged Meadowhawk (R)
- ___ Autumn Meadowhawk (F)(A)
- ___ Variegated Meadowhawk (R)*
- ___ Carolina Saddlebags (C)
- ___ Red Saddlebags (R)*
- ___ Black Saddlebags (C)

DAMSELFLIES

JEWELWINGS

- ___ Ebony Jewelwing (C)
- ___ American Rubyspot (U)

SPREADWINGS

- ___ Southern Spreadwing (C)
- ___ Slender Spreadwing (C)
- ___ Spotted Spreadwing (F)(U)
- ___ Amber-winged Spreadwing (U)
- ___ Sweetflag Spreadwing (U)
- ___ Elegant Spreadwing (U)
- ___ Swamp Spreadwing (U)
- ___ Great Spreadwing (F)(R)

POND DAMSELS

- ___ Eastern Red Damsel (R)
- ___ Blue-fronted Dancer (A)
- ___ Seepage Dancer (R)
- ___ Violet Dancer (C)
- ___ Powdered Dancer (R)*
- ___ Blue-ringed Dancer (F)(R)*
- ___ Blue-tipped Dancer (A)
- ___ Dusky Dancer (R)
- ___ Aurora Damsel (S)(R)
- ___ Azure Bluet (U)

- ___ Double-striped Bluet (R)
- ___ Familiar Bluet (A)
- ___ Attenuated Bluet (R)
- ___ Turquoise Bluet (R)
- ___ Stream Bluet (A)
- ___ Skimming Bluet (C)
- ___ Orange Bluet (U)
- ___ Slender Bluet (R)
- ___ Vesper Bluet (R)
- ___ Citrine Forktail (C)
- ___ Lilypad Forktail (U)
- ___ Fragile Forktail (A)
- ___ Furtive Forktail (R)*
- ___ Rambur's Forktail (R)
- ___ Eastern Forktail (C)
- ___ Sphagnum Sprite (R)
- ___ Sedge Sprite (R)
- ___ Southern Sprite (R)

Recommended Books:

Damselflies of the Northeast, Ed Lam
Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East,
 Dennis Paulson
*Dragonflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide
 to Dragonflies of North America*, Sidney W.
 Dunkle

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The cover picture is a male
 Common Whitetail.

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