

Hunters on the Wing

Walk along a marsh or pond and you will likely see dragonflies and damselflies, also known as odonates, darting out to catch a fly or patrolling their territory. With their complex eyes, they are able to detect the slightest movement. Because of this, these predators are terrific hunters that consume huge numbers of insects that we consider pests.

Dragonflies and damselflies spend the majority of their lives—months or even years—living underwater in their egg and larval (nymph) stages, eating aquatic insects such as mosquito larvae as well as other creatures such as tadpoles. With their final metamorphosis, they climb from the water to a stick or rock and emerge as the aerial adults with which we are familiar. As adults, most odonates live for 4 to 6 weeks, and while a few species migrate south in the winter, most die at the end of the season. Meanwhile their eggs and larvae live on in ponds and streams. Their future is tied to the health and abundance of our watery habitats. By keeping streams and waterways free of pollutants and by minimizing the use of herbicides, fertilizers and pesticides that find their way into our waters, we can help protect the breeding and hunting grounds of these amazing creatures. However, this is only part of the solution. Wetlands themselves need to be protected. At present, the majority of the wetlands in Loudoun County have not been delineated, and the buffers and other land management practices required for wetlands protection are not in place. All of us need to play a role in saving dragonflies, damselflies and other wetland animals by protecting their habitats in our own yards and by encouraging our local government to do the same for the county.

Join us for our dragonfly and damselfly walks throughout the summer months. See our website for schedule.

www.loudounwildlife.org

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

People and Wildlife Thrive Together

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy inspires, motivates and engages people to protect, preserve and restore wildlife habitat in Loudoun County, Virginia. We offer educational programs and field trips, citizen-science opportunities, habitat restoration projects, and conservation advocacy.

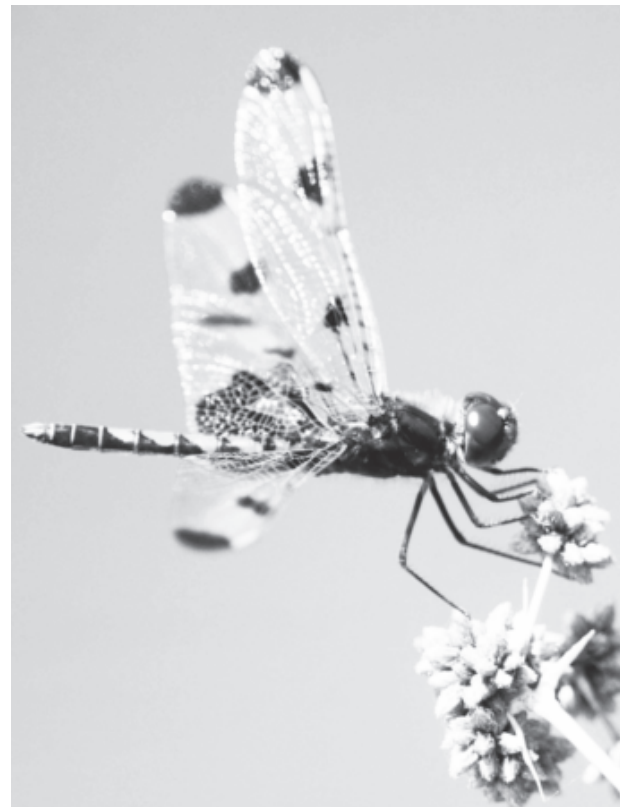
Membership with benefits available for a donation of \$25 or more.

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Dragonflies & Damselflies of Loudoun County

Checklist



Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

www.loudounwildlife.org

Checklist of Dragonflies & Damselflies of Loudoun County

Notes:

DRAGONFLIES

	Spring	Summer	Fall
DARNERS	M A M	J J A	S O N
___ Shadow Darner			•
___ Common Green Darner	• •	• • • •	• •
___ Comet Darner		• •	
___ Springtime Darner	• •		
___ Fawn Darner			• •
___ Swamp Darner		• • •	
___ Taper-tailed Darner		•	
CLUBTAILS	M A M	J J A	S O N
___ Unicorn Clubtail		•	
___ Black-shouldered Spinyleg		• • •	•
___ Eastern Ringtail		• • •	
___ Lancet Clubtail		•	
___ Ashy Clubtail	•		
___ Spine-crowned Clubtail	•		
___ Cobra Clubtail	•	• •	
___ Dragonhunter		• • • •	•
___ St. Croix Snaketail	•		
___ Common Sanddragon		• •	
___ Russet-tipped Clubtail		• • •	•
___ Elusive Clubtail			
___ Arrow Clubtail			•
SPIKETAILS	M A M	J J A	S O N
___ Brown Spiketail		•	
___ Arrowhead Spiketail		•	
CRUISERS	M A M	J J A	S O N
___ Stream Cruiser	• •		
___ Swift River Cruiser		• • •	
EMERALDS	M A M	J J A	S O N
___ American Emerald		•	
___ Common Baskettail	• •	•	
___ Prince Baskettail		• • •	
___ Umber Shadowdragon		•	
___ Mocha Emerald		• •	
SKIMMERS	M A M	J J A	S O N
___ Calico Pennant		• • • •	•
___ Halloween Pennant		• • •	
___ Banded Pennant		•	
___ Common Pondhawk	•	• • • •	• •
___ Spangled Skimmer		• • • •	
___ Blue Corporal	•		
___ Bar-winged Skimmer		•	
___ Slaty Skimmer		• • •	
___ Widow Skimmer		• • •	•

SKIMMERS, continued

	Spring	Summer	Fall
___ Common Whitetail	• •	• • • •	• •
___ Needham's Skimmer		• •	
___ Twelve-spotted Skimmer	•	• • • •	•
___ Painted Skimmer	•	• •	
___ Great Blue Skimmer		• • • •	•
___ Blue Dasher		• • • •	•
___ Wandering Glider		• • • •	•
___ Spot-winged Glider	•	• • • •	
___ Eastern Amberwing		• • • •	• •
___ Blue-faced Meadowhawk			
___ Ruby Meadowhawk		•	
___ Band-winged Meadowhawk		• •	
___ Autumn Meadowhawk		• • • •	• • •
___ Carolina Saddlebags		• •	
___ Black Saddlebags	•	• • • •	•
___ Red Saddlebags		•	

DAMSELFLIES

	Spring	Summer	Fall
BROAD-WINGED DAMSELS	M A M	J J A	S O N
___ Ebony Jewelwing	•	• •	
___ American Rubyspot	•	• • • •	• •
SPREADWINGS	M A M	J J A	S O N
___ Slender Spreadwing		• •	
___ Swamp Spreadwing		•	
___ Southern Spreadwing		•	
POND DAMSELS	M A M	J J A	S O N
___ Eastern Red Damsel		•	
___ Blue-fronted Dancer	•	• • • •	• •
___ Variable Dancer		• • • •	•
___ Powdered Dancer	•	• • • •	• •
___ Blue-ringed Dancer		• •	•
___ Blue-tipped Dancer		• •	
___ Dusky Dancer		•	•
___ Azure Bluet		•	• •
___ Double-striped Bluet		• • • •	•
___ Familiar Bluet		• • • •	• •
___ Stream Bluet	•	• • • •	
___ Skimming Bluet	•	• •	
___ Orange Bluet	•	• •	
___ Slender Bluet		• •	
___ Citrine Forktail	•	• • • •	•
___ Fragile Forktail	• •	• • • •	•
___ Eastern Forktail	• •	• • • •	•
___ Sphagnum Sprite		•	
___ Sedge Sprite		•	

Note: This checklist is in its third edition. We plan to update it as more data on species and flight periods is gathered. Help document more of our local species. Please send sightings and photographs to info@loudounwildlife.org.