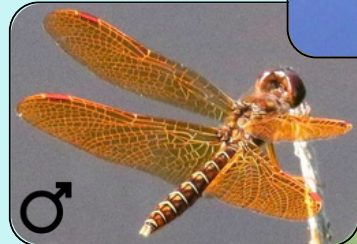
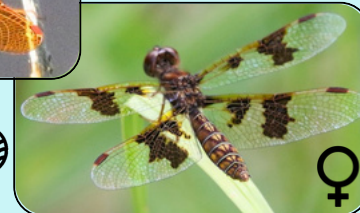


Most Common

Common Green Darner
Large, April-November
Flies rapid patrols over
meadows, lakes and ponds.



Eastern Amberwing
Very small, June-
September. Perches
on lily pads and
shoreline plants.



Autumn Meadowhawk
Small, July-November
Perches on vegetation near
ponds. Female has
downward-pointing spike at
end of abdomen.



Eastern Pondhawk
Medium, May-September
Perches on the ground near
lakes and streams. Note
white appendage at tip of
abdomen.



DRAGONFLIES OF THE NJSOC

By Bruce Taterka & Tanya Sulikowski, September 2026.
All photos and diagrams by Bruce Taterka except as noted.
Flight seasons, size, habitat and behavior are based on the
Field Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of New Jersey
by Barlow, Golden & Bangma, 2009.

Most Common



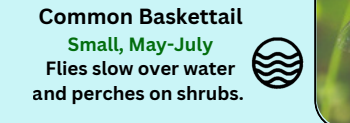
Blue Dasher
Small, May-October
Perches on lakeshore
vegetation.



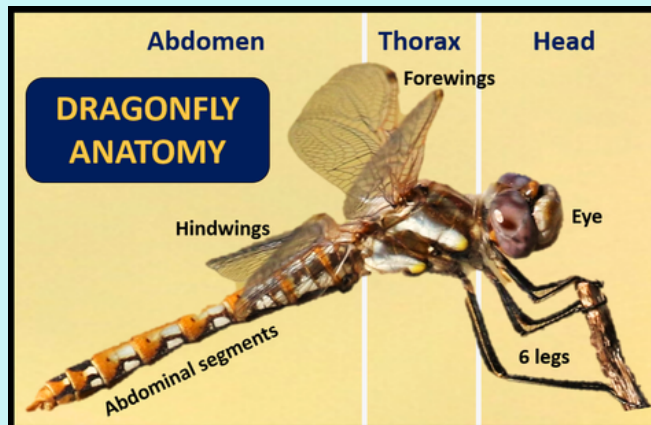
Calico Pennant
Small, June-September
Perches on the tips of
vegetation near lakes.



Chalk-fronted Corporal
Small, May-July. Perches on
rocks near water.



Common Baskettail
Small, May-July
Flies slow over water
and perches on shrubs.



Most Common

KING SKIMMERS

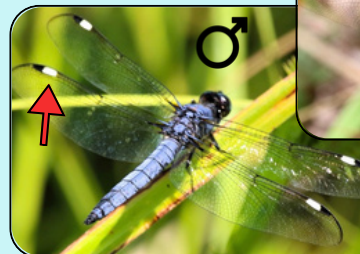
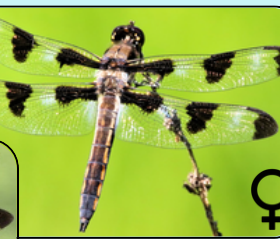
These 4 medium-sized species are commonly found
perched on the tips of lakeshore vegetation. Note that
male abdomen takes on a blue "pruinosity" with age.



Widow Skimmer
May-September



Twelve-spotted Skimmer
May-October



Spangled Skimmer
May-August



Slaty Skimmer
May-October

NJSOC Pocket Guide Dragonflies of the NJSOC

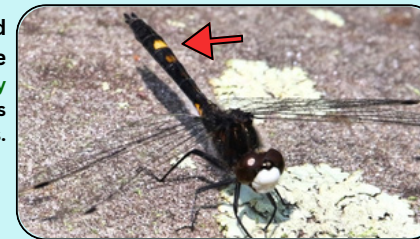
Second Edition, 2026



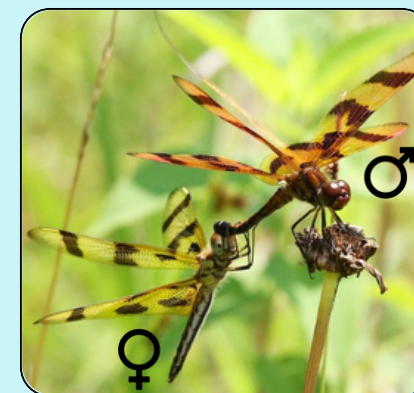
Over 120 species of dragonflies have been found in New
Jersey. This Guide shows 38 that have been identified at
and around the NJSOC.

Most Common

**Dot-tailed
Whiteface**
Small, May-July
Perches on lily pads
and lakeshores.



Common Whitetail
Small, May-September
Perches near water on
vegetation, logs and
rocks.



Halloween Pennant
Small, June-September
Perches on the tips of
plants near lakes.
Male and female in
photo are preparing to
mate. The male has
grasped the female by
the head with the tip of
his abdomen in
preparation for
transferring sperm.



Adult dragonflies are commonly found near water.
found near STREAMS found near PONDS & LAKES

Less Common



Rusty Snaketail
Small, May-August
Perches in meadows
near streams.



Banded Pennant
Small, June-September
Perches on shoreline
vegetation.



Wandering Glider
Medium, June-September
Flies high above ponds and
meadows.



Harlequin Darner
Medium, May-June
Perches and flies near
wetlands.



Allen Barlow



Fawn Darner
Large, May-October
Flies slowly over streams
inspecting shoreline.



Springtime Darner
Medium, April-June
Perches in meadows and
flies along shorelines.



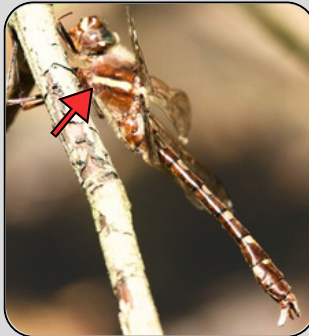
Shadow Darner
Large, August-October
Flies slowly along shoreline
of ponds and streams.



Less Common



Uhler's Sundragon
Small, April-July. Perches
on low vegetation in clearings
near forested streams.



Stream Cruiser
Medium, May-August
Flies fast over rivers
and streams.



Prince Baskettail
Medium, June-September
Flies high above ponds and
meadows.



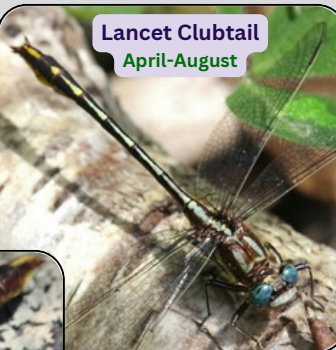
Frosted Whiteface
Small, May-July
Perches on
lakeside
vegetation.



Lancet, Ashy & Unicorn Clubtails



Medium. Perch on the ground
near water. Unicorn prefers
muddy spots. Each has L-
shaped stripes on front of
thorax. Unicorn stripes
connect at base. Ashy color is
dull; Unicorn is brighter than
Lancet. Unicorn eyes are green;
Lancet eyes are grey-blue;
Ashy eyes are grey.



Lancet Clubtail
April-August



Ashy Clubtail
May-July

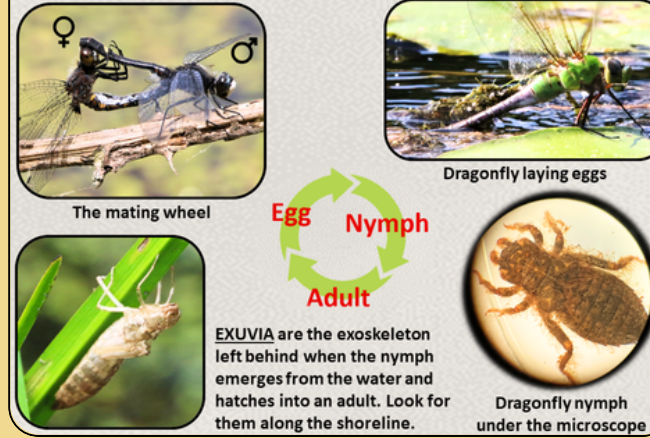


Unicorn Clubtail
June-July

Dragonfly Sizes



DRAGONFLY LIFE CYCLE



The dragonflies in this brochure have been identified on iNaturalist at and near the NJSOC. You can contribute your observations too!



Rarities



Twin-spotted Spiketail

Rob Curtis

Twin-Spotted and Delta-Spotted Spiketails

Medium, May-July
Perch on rocks in fast-moving streams. Yellow spots on abdomen are more widely spaced on Delta-spotted than Twin-spotted.



Delta-spotted Spiketail

Rarities



Eastern Least Clubtail
Small, June-August. Perches on rocks in fast-moving streams.



Racket-tailed Emerald
Small, May-August
Perches on vegetation
near wetlands and ponds.



Steven Lamonde

Riffle Snaketail
Medium, May-August
Perches on rocks and logs along fast-moving streams.



Dennis Vollmar



Maine Snaketail
Medium, May-July
Perches on rocks in fast-moving streams.

Allen Barlow



Grey Petaltail
Large, June-July
Perches on trees and logs in sunlit forest clearings.



ENDANGERED!

SPECIAL CONCERN!