

This checklist covers the known dragonflies and damselflies (odonates) for all of 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 found 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)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (U)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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  
 White Tail.

Published by the Friends of Patuxent

# **CHECKLIST OF THE DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES OF THE PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE**

**(Prince Georges and Anne Arundel  
 Counties, Maryland)  
 (December, 2019)**

