



Blue Dasher
Pachydiplax longipennis 3.8cm
Mature males have a powdery, pale-blue abdomen, white face, and brown-and-yellow-striped thorax. Females and immatures have a brown-and-yellow-striped abdomen. In both sexes, brown eyes change to blue-green with age. Flies June to September.

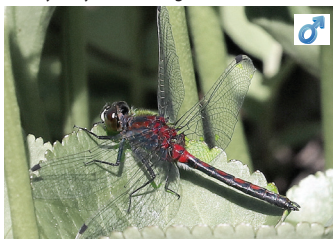


Western Pondhawk
Erythemis collocata 4.2cm
This pale green dragonfly has thin black lines between the abdominal segments and a dark black line along the top of the abdomen. Mature males become powdery blue. The face is green and the eyes are blue. Flies mid-May to early October.



Dot-tailed Whiteface
Leucorrhinia intacta 3.4cm

This small dragonfly is distinguished by the mostly black body, black legs, and white face. Mature males have a pair of yellow dots on the abdomen. Females and immatures may have more yellow dots. Flies early May to late August.



Hudsonian Whiteface
Leucorrhinia hudsonica 2.9cm

In males the thorax is red and black, the abdomen is black with elongated red spots on top, and the face is white. Females can be yellow or red. Flies late April to early September.



Crimson-ringed Whiteface
Leucorrhinia glacialis 3.6cm
Mature males are black with red on the thorax. The base of the abdomen is ringed with red. Immatures and females have yellow markings instead of red. Females have yellow spots on top of the abdomen. The face is white. Flies May to September.



White-faced Meadowhawk
Sympetrum obtrusum 3.3cm

Similar to the Cherry-faced Meadowhawk, but with a white face and dark wing veins. The abdomen is red with black saw-toothed stripes on the sides. Females have brown eyes and green face and body. The legs are black. Flies mid-June to mid-October.



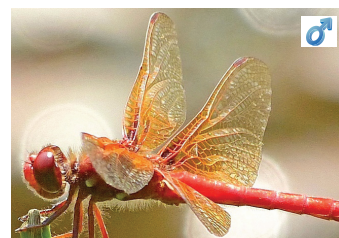
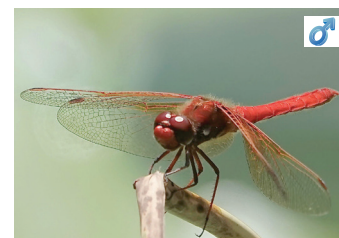
Striped Meadowhawk
Sympetrum pallipes 3.5cm

The thorax is brown with yellowish stripes. The face is yellowish. The abdomen is red with black saw-toothed stripes on the sides. Legs are brown or black. Immatures and some females are greenish yellow. Flies early June to early November.



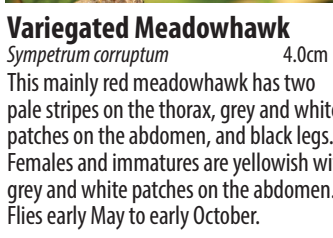
Saffron-winged Meadowhawk
Sympetrum costiferum 3.6cm

Mature males are red with a brown face. The abdomen has a narrow black line below. The wings have yellow veins and a yellow stripe along their front edges. Legs are brown to black. Immatures and some females are yellow. Flies June to November.



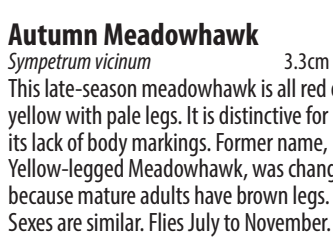
Cardinal Meadowhawk
Sympetrum illotum 3.8cm

The entire body is scarlet red. The thorax has two white spots low on each side. The wing bases are orange and the legs are red-brown. There is no black on the abdomen. Flies mid-May to late August.



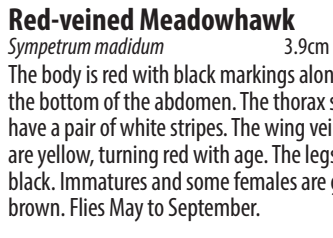
Variegated Meadowhawk
Sympetrum corruptum 4.0cm

This mainly red meadowhawk has two pale stripes on the thorax, grey and white patches on the abdomen, and black legs. Females and immatures are yellowish with grey and white patches on the abdomen. Flies early May to early October.



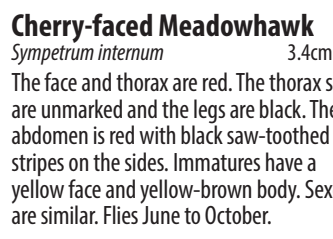
Autumn Meadowhawk
Sympetrum vicinum 3.3cm

This late-season meadowhawk is all red or yellow with pale legs. It is distinctive for its lack of body markings. Former name, Yellow-legged Meadowhawk, was changed because mature adults have brown legs. Sexes are similar. Flies July to November.



Red-veined Meadowhawk
Sympetrum madidum 3.9cm

The body is red with black markings along the bottom of the abdomen. The thorax sides have a pair of white stripes. The wing veins are yellow, turning red with age. The legs are black. Immatures and some females are grey-brown. Flies May to September.



Cherry-faced Meadowhawk
Sympetrum internum 3.4cm

The face and thorax are red. The thorax sides are unmarked and the legs are black. The abdomen is red with black saw-toothed stripes on the sides. Immatures have a yellow face and yellow-brown body. Sexes are similar. Flies June to October.

Damselflies & Dragonflies in Delta

Older than dinosaurs, damselflies and dragonflies (Odonata - "toothed ones") are a worldwide group of over 5,000 insects. Like all insects, they have a head with two antennae, a thorax supporting six legs, and an abdomen. Four strong transparent wings give them dazzling aerial abilities, while their enormous multifaceted eyes provide excellent vision.

Damselflies are usually smaller, their eyes are separated, and they fold their wings when perched. Dragonflies have eyes that touch on the top of their heads, and they keep their wings open when perched. Both are dependent on freshwater wetlands as they spend a year or more as aquatic larvae called nymphs. After living for 1-2 months as adults, they return to water to mate and lay eggs. Adults are carnivorous, eating insects.

Use the iNaturalist app or inaturalist.org to identify species and record their locations.

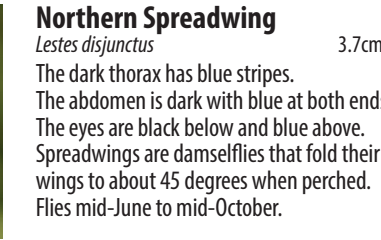
♂ = Male ♀ = Female imm = Immature

DAMSELFLIES



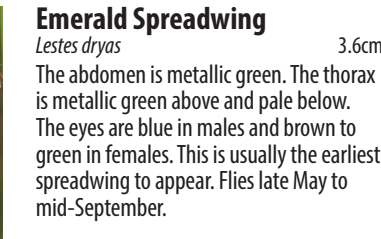
Spotted Spreadwing
Lestes congener 4.0cm

The top of the thorax is brown or black with narrow pale stripes; the underside is pale with dark spots. The abdomen is black with bronze underneath. Eyes are blue in males and brown in females. Flies June to November.



Northern Spreadwing
Lestes disjunctus 3.7cm

The dark thorax has blue stripes. The abdomen is dark with blue at both ends. The eyes are black below and blue above. Spreadwings are damselflies that fold their wings to about 45 degrees when perched. Flies mid-June to mid-October.



Emerald Spreadwing
Lestes dryas 3.6cm

The abdomen is metallic green. The thorax is metallic green above and pale below. The eyes are blue in males and brown to green in females. This is usually the earliest spreadwing to appear. Flies late May to mid-September.



Western Red Damsel
Amphiagrion abbreviatum 2.6cm
Males have a black thorax and red abdomen. Females are all orange or red. Like most damselflies, the wings are closed at rest. Adults fly close to the ground and perch frequently in low vegetation. Flies early May to late October.

Photos and text by members of the



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Delta



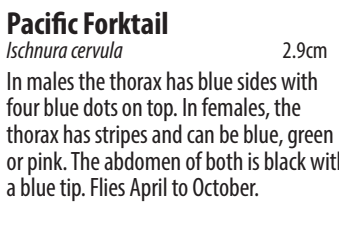
Tule Bluet
Enallagma carunculatum 3.2cm
Males are black and blue, with more black than blue on the middle abdominal segments. Females may be blue, brown or yellow. Mating damselfly and dragonfly pairs are often seen flying joined together. Flies mid-May to late October.



Northern Bluet/Boreal Bluet
Enallagma annexum/E. boreale 3.3cm
These two species are very similar except for their abdominal appendages. The males are black and blue, with more blue than black on the abdomen. Part of the abdomen of females is black on top and pale below. Flies May to October.



Pacific Forktail
Ischnura cervula 2.9cm
In males the thorax has blue sides with four blue dots on top. In females, the thorax has stripes and can be blue, green or pink. The abdomen of both is black with a blue tip. Flies April to October.



Swift Forktail
Ischnura erratica 3.2cm
Males are black and blue. The abdomen is mainly black with a blue tip. Females' thoraxes may be green or orange instead of blue. It is native to the Pacific Northwest and found from BC to California. Flies late April to late August.



Western Forktail
Ischnura perparva 2.6cm
In males the thorax has green stripes, and the abdomen is black with green sides. Eyes are green. Immature females are orange but eventually become covered by a powdery white coating (pruinose). Flies early May to early October.



DRAGONFLIES



Canada Darner
Aeshna canadensis 6.8cm
The face is pale green and the thoracic stripes are blue to green with a small yellow spot between them. There are blue spots on the abdomen. Females have the same markings but may be all blue, green or yellow. Flies mid-June to late October.



Zigzag Darner
Aeshna sitchensis 5.9cm
Zigzag-shaped thoracic stripes are yellow to blue. The face is yellow to green. The large blue abdominal spots may be yellow-green in females. It can be abundant in peatland conditions. Flies late June to early October.



Paddle-tailed Darner
Aeshna palmata 7.2cm
The face is greenish yellow. Male thoracic stripes are yellow below and green to blue above, and abdominal spots are blue. The last abdominal segment has a blue spot. In females, stripes and spots can be blue or yellow. Flies May to November.



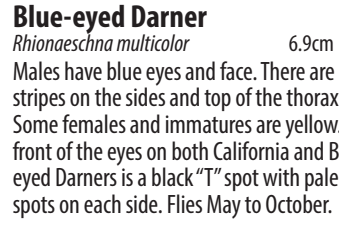
Shadow Darner
Aeshna umbrosa 7.0cm
The body is brown with thin, straight, greenish thoracic stripes. In males the abdomen has blue spots on top and large, pale blue spots below. The last segment does not have a spot on top. In females the pale spots are usually green or yellow. Males have blue eyes and females have brown eyes. It likes shady habitats. Flies mid-June to mid-November.



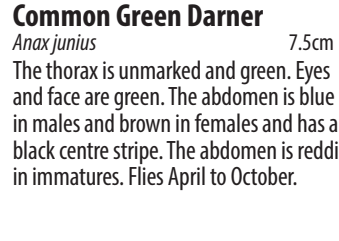
California Darner
Rhionaeschna californica 6.0cm
Males have blue eyes and a pale face. There are blue stripes on the sides of the thorax but not on the top. Some females and immatures are yellow. This is usually the first dragonfly to appear in the spring. Flies mid-April to mid-August.



Blue-eyed Darner
Rhionaeschna multicolor 6.9cm
Males have blue eyes and face. There are blue stripes on the sides and top of the thorax. Some females and immatures are yellow. In front of the eyes on both California and Blue-eyed Darners is a black "T" spot with pale spots on each side. Flies May to October.



Common Green Darner
Anax junius 7.5cm
The thorax is unmarked and green. Eyes and face are green. The abdomen is blue in males and brown in females and has a black centre stripe. The abdomen is reddish in immatures. Flies April to October.



American Emerald
Cordulia shurtleffii 4.5cm
The thorax is brown with metallic green stripes and the abdomen is shiny black. The face is dark with brilliant green eyes. Colours are the same in both sexes. This species forages along forested openings. Flies early May to early September.



Pacific Spiketail
Cordulegaster dorsalis 7.5cm
The thorax is brown with yellow stripes and the abdomen is black with yellow spots. The eyes are pale blue above and darker below. Females are the same colour but have a long ovipositor for laying eggs. Flies mid-May to early September.



Common Whitetail
Plathemis lydia 4.5cm
Males have a wide dark band on each wing and clear wingtips. Females have dark wingtips and a narrower dark band on each wing. Females and immatures have white and yellow abdominal spots. Mature males have a powdery white abdomen. Flies May to September.



Eight-spotted Skimmer
Libellula forensis 4.8cm
Each wing has two large, dark patches, and the tips are clear. Males have white patches between the dark ones. The thorax and abdomen have yellow spots on the side, but in males they become powdery white with age (pruinose). Flies May to October.



Four-spotted Skimmer
Libellula quadrimaculata 4.3cm
Thorax and abdomen are brown with yellow spots on the sides and a black end. Each wing has a small dark spot at the midpoint of the front edge, in addition to one seen near the wingtips of most dragonflies. Sexes are similar. Flies April to October.



Chalk-fronted Corporal
Ladona julia 4.2cm
Although mostly brown, mature adults have white at the front of the thorax and the base of the abdomen with a black stripe down the centre of the abdomen. There are dark markings at the base of the wings. Flies late May to early September.



Beaverpond Baskettail
Epitheca canis 4.5cm
The face is orange-yellow and the thorax is brown and yellow. The abdomen is dark with yellow spots on the sides. Males' eyes are green or blue; females' are red. Flies May to late August.