

A Checklist of the Dragonflies and Damselflies of The Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

Bon Appetite
by Kate Bucco

DRAGONFLIES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Months Observed
1) Eastern amberwing	(<i>Perithemis tenera</i>)	6, 7, 8, 9
2) Common green darner	(<i>Anax junius</i>)	5, 6, 8, 9, 10
3) Shadow darner	(<i>Aeshna umbrosa</i>)	6
4) Swamp darner	(<i>Epiaschna heroes</i>)	6
5) *Blue dasher	(<i>Pachydiplax longipennis</i>)	6, 8
6) Black-mantled glider	(<i>Tramea lacerata hagen</i>)	6, 8
7) *Violet-masked glider	(<i>Tramea carolina</i>)	6
8) *Yellow-legged meadowfly (<i>Sympetrum vicinum</i>)		10
9) Eastern pondhawk	(<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>)	5, 6
10) Black-faced skimmer	(<i>Libellula cyanea</i>)	6
11) *Great blue skimmer	(<i>Libellula vibrans</i>)	6
12) *Golden-winged skimmer (<i>Libellula auripennis</i>)		6
13) Slaty skimmer	(<i>Libellula incesta hagen</i>)	5, 6, 8
14) *Ten-spotted skimmer	(<i>Libellula pulchella</i>)	5, 6, 9
15) Common whitetail	(<i>Plathemis lydia</i>)	6, 8, 9
16) *Widow dragonfly	(<i>Libellula luctuosa</i>)	8

DAMSELFLIES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Months Observed
1) Stream bluet	(<i>Enallagma exsulans</i>)	6
2) Violet dancer	(<i>Argia fumipennis violacea</i>)	6
3) Common forktail	(<i>Ischnura verticalis</i>)	6
4) Fragile forktail	(<i>Ischnura posita posita</i>)	6
5) Lilypad forktail	(<i>Ischnura kellicotti williamsoni</i>)	6
6) Slender spreadwing	(<i>Lestes rectangularis</i>)	6

* records by D. Roddy
all other records by R. L. Orr

Those long tails of the dragonflies and damselflies do not have stingers. Rather than be threatened by them, we should wish them a good appetite. These winged predators gobble up hundreds of mosquitos and other biting insects each summer, catching their prey with their legs in midflight. The female lays her eggs in the water or on aquatic plants. The eggs hatch into predatory crawling nymphs which also help humans by gobbling up the larvae of mosquitos and other small insects before they can develop into bugs that bite us.

After one to four years depending on the species, the nymph crawls out of its watery home and molts into the beautiful dragonflies and damselflies we see skimming the surface of the water each summer.

Legend has it that if a dragonfly lands on you you'll be lucky that day and that dragonflies get their brightly colored bodies from flying through a rainbow. In any case, it is certainly lucky to have them around and they are a welcome visitor to our park.

