CHECKLIST OF THE DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES OF VIRGINIA

January 2022 update

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Virginia is host to one of the most diverse Odonata (dragonfly and damselfly) faunas of any state or province in North America. The following checklist of 144 dragonflies and 55 damselflies includes all species that have been documented to occur in Virginia. The common names adopted by the Dragonfly Society of the Americas are followed except as noted parenthetically. Capitalized names are the scientific Family names. The abundance column (rare, uncommon or common) refers to the status of each species in Virginia. Many of the species listed as "rare" are more common in neighboring states but reach either their northern or southern range limit in Virginia. Species listed as historical have not been documented in the state in the past 40 years. Species first found in Virginia after 2000 are denoted by asterisks.

Dragonflies

Scientific Name	Common Name	VA Flight Dates	Habitat	Abundance
PETALURIDAE (Petaltails) Tachopteryx thoreyi	Gray Petaltail	Apr 12 – Aug 9	Seepage areas	Uncommon
AESHNIDAE (Darners)				
Aeshna canadensis	Canada Darner	Jun 12 – Oct 3	Montane ponds	Rare
Aeshna constricta	Lance-tipped Darner	Oct 2 – Oct 29 Jun 30 – Oct 29	Marshy ponds	Rare
Aeshna tuberculifera Aeshna umbrosa	Black-tipped Darner Shadow Darner	Jun 30 – Oct 29 Jun 8 – Dec 5	Montane ponds Ponds, streams	Rare to uncommon Common
Aeshna verticalis	Green-striped Darner	Aug 8 – Oct 21	Montane ponds	Rare
Anax junius	Common Green Darner	Feb 27 – Dec 30	Ponds	Common
Anax longipes	Comet Darner	Apr 30 – Sep 15	Fishless ponds	Uncommon
Basiaeschna janata	Springtime Darner	Mar 17 – Jun 28	Streams, rivers	Common
Boyeria grafiana	Ocellated Darner	Jun 8 – Sep 29	Rocky rivers	Uncommon
Boyeria vinosa	Fawn Darner	Jun 3 – Nov 7	Streams, rivers	Common
Coryphaeschna ingens	Regal Darner	Jun 11 – Jul 26	Marshy ponds/lakes	Rare
Epiaeschna heros Gomphaeschna antilope	Swamp Darner Taper-tailed Darner	Mar 30 – Oct 21 Apr 14 – Jun 30	Swamps, ponds Boggy ponds	Common Uncommon
Gomphaeschna furcillata	Harlequin Darner	Mar 19 – Jun 15	Boggy ponds	Uncommon to common
Nasiaeschna pentacantha	Cyrano Darner	Apr 26 – Sep 17	Slow streams, lakes	Uncommon to common
Rhionaeschna mutata	Spatterdock Darner	May 25 – Jul 1	Marshy ponds	Rare
Triacanthagyna trifida*	Phantom Darner	Nov 2	Forests	Rare
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GOMPHIDAE (Clubtails)	Two striped Ferenteil	lum OC Oct 40	Mondalo da los a /visca na	Ha a a see a see
Aphylla williamsoni	Two-striped Forceptail	Jun 26 – Oct 10	Muddy lakes/rivers, cypress ponds	Uncommon
Arigomphus furcifer	Lilypad Clubtail	Jun 5 – Jul 5	Montane lily ponds	Rare (historical)
Arigomphus pallidus*	Gray-green Clubtail	Jun 21 – Jul 11	Slow rivers, ponds	Rare
Arigomphus villosipes	Unicorn Clubtail	May 5 – Aug 12	Ponds	Common
Dromogomphus spinosus	Black-shouldered Spinyleg	May 8 - Oct 10	Rivers, lakes	Common
Erpetogomphus designatus	Eastern Ringtail	May 16 – Sep 24	Rivers	Uncommon to common
Gomphurus dilatatus*	Blackwater Clubtail	May 2 – Jul 23	Rivers	Uncommon
Gomphurus fraternus	Midland Clubtail	May 29 – Jul 12	Large rivers	Rare
Gomphurus hybridus*	Cocoa Clubtail	Apr 7 – May 30 May 1 – Jun 27	Rivers Rivers	Rare; recent immigrant Uncommon
Gomphurus lineatifrons Gomphurus septima	Splendid Clubtail Septima's Clubtail	May 1 – Juli 27 May 14 – May 26	Rivers	Rare
Gomphurus vastus	Cobra Clubtail	Apr 6 – Aug 1	Large rivers	Common
Gomphurus ventricosus	Skillet Clubtail	May 14 – Jun 2	Large rivers	Rare
Hagenius brevistylus	Dragonhunter	May 12 – Oct 17	Streams, rivers	Common
Hylogomphus abbreviatus	Spine-crowned Clubtail	Mar 28 – Jun 6	Rivers	Uncommon
Hylogomphus adelphus	Moustached Clubtail	May 30 – Jun 28	Rocky rivers	Rare
Hylogomphus apomyius	Banner Clubtail	Apr 11 – Apr 23	Rivers	Rare
Hylogomphus parvidens	Piedmont Clubtail	Apr 24 – Jun 10	Small rivers, streams	
Hylogomphus viridifrons	Green-faced Clubtail	Apr 16 – Jul 12	Rivers	Rare
Lanthus parvulus	Northern Pygmy Clubtail	Apr 16 – Jul 11	Small streams	Rare
Lanthus vernalis	Southern Pygmy Clubtail	Apr 10 – Jul 14	Small streams	Uncommon
Ophiogomphus aspersus Ophiogomphus carolus	Brook Snaketail Riffle Snaketail	Apr 30 – Jun 5 May 31 – Jun 27	Sandy streams/rivers Rocky rivers	Rare
Ophiogomphus edmundo*	Edmund's Snaketail	May 4 – May 19	Rocky rivers	Rare
Ophiogomphus howei	Pygmy Snaketail	Apr 30 – May 30	Large rivers	Rare
Ophiogomphus incurvatus	Allegheny Snaketail	May 24 – Jun 19	Small streams	Rare
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GOMPHIDAE (Clubtails, contin	ued)			
Ophiogomphus i. incurvatus	Appalachian Snaketail	Apr 17 – Jul 24	Small streams	Uncommon
Ophiogomphus mainensis	Maine Snaketail	Apr 20 – Jun 23	Small streams	Rare
Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis	Rusty Snaketail	May 11 – Aug 10	Large rivers	Uncommon
Ophiogomphus susbehcha	St. Croix Snaketail	Mar 28 – May 11	Large rivers	Rare
Phanogomphus borealis	Beaverpond Clubtail	Jun 7	Montane ponds	Rare (historical)
Phanogomphus descriptus	Harpoon Clubtail	May 10 – Jun 28	Streams	Rare
Phanogomphus exilis	Lancet Clubtail	Mar 29 – Aug 18	Ponds	Common
Phanogomphus lividus Phanogomphus quadricolor	Ashy Clubtail Rapids Clubtail	Mar 20 – Jul 24 Apr 18 – Jul 10	Streams, rivers Rivers	Common Uncommon
Progomphus obscurus	Common Sanddragon	May 15 – Sep 19	Sandy streams	Common
Stenogomphurus consanguis	Cherokee Clubtail	May 20 – Jun 20	Small streams	Rare
Stenogomphurus rogersi	Sable Clubtail	May 21 – Jul 24	Small streams	Rare to uncommon
Stylogomphus albistylus	Eastern Least Clubtail	May 16 – Sep 8	Rocky streams	Uncommon to common
Stylogomphus sigmastylus	Interior Least Clubtail	Jun 15	Small streams	Rare
Stylurus amnicola	Riverine Clubtail	Jun 14 – Aug 8	Large rivers	Rare
Stylurus laurae	Laura's Clubtail	Jun 20 – Sep 26	Streams, rivers	Rare to uncommon
Stylurus notatus	Elusive Clubtail	Aug 3	Large rivers	Rare (historical)
Stylurus plagiatus	Russet-tipped Clubtail	Jun 15 – Nov 6	Streams, rivers	Uncommon to common
Stylurus scudderi	Zebra Clubtail	Jul 11 – Oct 2 Jun 13 – Oct 19	Small rivers	Rare
Stylurus spiniceps	Arrow Clubtail	Jun 13 – Oct 19	Rivers	Uncommon to common
CORDULEGASTRIDAE (Spiketa	ails)			
Cordulegaster bilineata	Brown Spiketail	Mar 28 – Aug 8	Small streams	Uncommon to common
Cordulegaster diastatops	Delta-spotted Spiketail	May 23 – Jun 4	Small streams	Rare
Cordulegaster erronea	Tiger Spiketail	May 28 – Aug 26	Small streams	Uncommon
Cordulegaster maculata	Twin-spotted Spiketail	Mar 16 – Jul 10	Small streams	Common
Cordulegaster obliqua	Arrowhead Spiketail	May 11 – Jul 17	Small streams	Uncommon
MACROMIIDAE (Cruisers)				
Didymops transversa	Stream Cruiser	Mar 26 – Sep 11	Rivers, streams	Common
Macromia alleghaniensis	Allegheny River Cruiser	Jun 4 – Aug 27	Rivers	Uncommon
Macromia illinoiensis	Swift River Cruiser	May 8 – Oct 10	Rivers, streams	Common
Macromia margarita	Mountain River Cruiser	May 25 – Jun 15	Small rivers	Rare
Macromia taeniolata	Royal River Cruiser	May 15 – Oct 10	Rivers	Uncommon
CORDULIIDAE (Emeralds)				
Cordulia shurtleffii	American Emerald	Apr 29 – Aug 20	Montane ponds	Rare to uncommon
Epitheca canis	Beaverpond Baskettail	May 21 – Jun 27	Montane ponds	Rare
Epitheca costalis	Slender Baskettail	Apr 19 – Jun 2	Sandy ponds/lakes	Uncommon
Epitheca cynosura	Common Baskettail	Mar 19 – Jul 22	Ponds	Common
Epitheca princeps	Prince Baskettail	Apr 30 – Nov 9	Ponds, rivers, lakes	Common
Epitheca semiaquea	Mantled Baskettail	Apr 3 – May 20	Boggy ponds	Rare
Epitheca spinosa	Robust Baskettail	Mar 18 – May 1	Boggy ponds, swamps	Uncommon
Helocordulia selysii	Selys' Sundragon	Mar 17 - May 23	Small streams	Uncommon
Helocordulia uhleri	Uhler's Sundragon	Mar 29 – Jun 27	Streams	Common
Neurocordulia obsoleta	Umber Shadowdragon	May 8 – Aug 10	Streams, rivers	Uncommon to common
Neurocordulia virginiensis	Cinnamon Shadowdragon	Apr 28 – Jun 25	Rivers	Rare to uncommon
Neurocordulia yamaskanensis	Stygian Shadowdragon	May 7 – Jun 28	Large rivers	Rare to uncommon
Somatochlora elongata	Ski-tipped Emerald	Jun 10 – Sep 12	Montane ponds	Rare
Somatochlora filosa	Fine-lined Emerald	Jul 10 – Oct 15	slow boggy streams Boggy streams,	Rare to uncommon
Somatochlora georgiana	Coppery Emerald	Jun 14 – Jul 22	swamps, marshes Warm streams	Rare
Somatochlora linearis	Mocha Emerald	Jun 18 – Oct 10	Swamps, small	Uncommon
Somatochlora provocans	Treetop Emerald	Jun 22 – Sep 22	streams Small streams,	Rare
Somatochlora tenebrosa	Clamp-tipped Emerald	Jun 8 – Oct 15	boggy seeps Ponds, small	Common
Somatochlora williamsoni	Williamson's Emerald	Jul 25	streams Boggy ponds	Rare (historical)

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LIBELLULIDAE (Skimmers)				
Brachymesia gravida	Four-spotted Pennant	Jun 12 – Sep 21	Brackish marshes	Locally common
Celithemis amanda*	Amanda's Pennant	Jun 14 – Jul 20	Ponds	Rare
Celithemis bertha*	Red-veined Pennant	Jul 15 – Sep 11	Ponds	Rare
Celithemis elisa	Calico Pennant	Apr 26 – Oct 27	Ponds	Common
Celithemis eponina	Halloween Pennant	Apr 29 – Oct 24	Ponds, marshes	Common
Celithemis fasciata	Banded Pennant	May 14 – Oct 24	Ponds	Uncommon to common
Celithemis martha	Martha's Pennant	May 30 - Sep 27	Boggy ponds	Rare
Celithemis ornata	Ornate Pennant	May 9 – Jun 18	Ponds	Rare
Celithemis verna	Double-ringed Pennant	May 4 – Aug 18	Ponds	Uncommon
Dythemis velox	Swift Setwing	Jun 13 – Nov 5	Sluggish streams and rivers, ponds, lakes	Uncommon
Erythemis simplicicollis	Eastern Pondhawk	Mar 15 – Nov 6	Ponds, marshes	Common
Erythemis vesiculosa*	Great Pondhawk	Sep 15	Ponds	Rare vagrant
Erythrodiplax berenice	Seaside Dragonlet	Apr 21 – Oct 8	Salt marshes	Locally abundant
Erythrodiplax minuscula	Little Blue Dragonlet	May 15 – Oct 24	Ponds	Uncommon
Ladona deplanata	Blue Corporal	Mar 9 – Jul 9	Ponds, marshes	Common
Ladona depianata Ladona exusta	White Corporal		Ponds	
Ladona julia	Chalk-fronted Corporal	May 20 Jun 2 – Aug 8	Montane ponds	Rare (historical) Rare to uncommon
Leucorrhinia frigida	Frosted Whiteface	Jun 14 – Jun 18		Rare
	Hudsonian Whiteface		Boggy ponds	Rare
Leucorrhinia hudsonica		May 21 – Jun 27	Boggy ponds	
Leucorrhinia intacta	Dot-tailed Whiteface	Apr 29 – Jul 25	Boggy ponds	Uncommon
Leucorrhinia proxima	Belted Whiteface	Jun 28	Boggy ponds	Rare
Libellula auripennis	Golden-winged Skimmer	May 9 – Sep 17	Ponds	Uncommon
Libellula axilena	Bar-winged Skimmer	May 8 – Sep 28	Ponds	Uncommon to common
Libellula cyanea	Spangled Skimmer	Apr 23 – Sep 3	Ponds, marshes	Common
Libellula flavida	Yellow-sided Skimmer	May 15 – Sep 21	Seepage areas	Locally uncommon
Libellula incesta	Slaty Skimmer	May 11 – Oct 16	Ponds, marshes	Common
Libellula luctuosa	Widow Skimmer	May 10 – Oct 24	Ponds	Common
Libellula needhami	Needham's Skimmer	May 14 – Nov 16	Brackish marshes	Locally abundant
Libellula pulchella	Twelve-spotted Skimmer	Apr 29 – Oct 14	Ponds	Common
Libellula semifasciata	Painted Skimmer	Mar 30 – Sep 20	Ponds, marshes	Common
Libellula vibrans	Great Blue Skimmer	Apr 29 – Nov 6	Swamps, ponds	Common
Macrodiplax balteata*	Marl Pennant	Jul 13 – Aug 25	Salt ponds/marshes	Rare
Miathyria marcella	Hyacinth Glider	Jun 8	Ponds, marshy lakes	Rare migrant
Nannothemis bella	Elfin Skimmer	May 11 – Jul 28	Boggy ponds	Rare
Orthemis ferruginea	Roseate Skimmer	Jun 3 – Oct 15	Ponds	Rare (migrant?)
Pachydiplax longipennis	Blue Dasher	Apr 10 – Nov 7	Ponds, marshes	Common
Pantala flavescens	Wandering Glider	May 2 – Nov 21	Ponds	Common
Pantala hymenaea	Spot-winged Glider	May 8 – Oct 20	Ponds	Common
Perithemis tenera	Eastern Amberwing	May 9 – Nov 3	Ponds, marshes	Common
Plathemis lydia	Common Whitetail	Mar 27 – Nov 2	Ponds, marshes	Common
Sympetrum ambiguum	Blue-faced Meadowhawk	May 22 – Nov 20	Swamps, ponds	Uncommon
Sympetrum corruptum	Variegated Meadowhawk	Aug 1	Ponds	Rare migrant (historical)
Sympetrum internum	Cherry-faced Meadowhawk	Sep 20 – Sep 24	Ponds	Rare
Sympetrum obtrusum	White-faced Meadowhawk	Jul 10 – Oct 27	Montane ponds	Rare
Sympetrum rubicundulum	Ruby Meadowhawk	May 27 – Oct 27	Montane ponds	Common
Sympetrum semicinctum	Band-winged Meadowhawk	Jun 6 – Oct 29	Marshes	Locally common
Sympetrum vicinum	Autumn Meadowhawk	May 28 – Jan 3	Ponds	Common
Tramea calverti*	Striped Saddlebags	Aug 3 – Aug 27	Ponds, marshes	Rare migrant
Tramea carolina	Carolina Saddlebags	Apr 7 – Oct 13	Ponds, marshes	Common
Tramea lacerata	Black Saddlebags	Apr 12 – Oct 30	Ponds, marshes	Common
Tramea onusta	Red Saddlebags	May 20 - Oct 11	Ponds	Rare to uncommon migrant
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Damselflies

Calopteryx aequabilis	River Jewelwing	Jul 5	Cold rivers	Rare (historical)
Calopteryx amata	Superb Jewelwing	Jun 5 – Aug 19	Cold rivers/streams	Rare
Calopteryx angustipennis	Appalachian Jewelwing	Apr 26 – Jul 14	Rivers, streams	Rare to uncommon
Calopteryx dimidiata	Sparkling Jewelwing	May 7 – Aug 28	Sandy streams	Uncommon
Calopteryx maculata	Ebony Jewelwing	Apr 27 – Oct 6	Streams, rivers	Common
Hetaerina americana	American Rubyspot	May 4 – Nov 25	Rivers	Common
Hetaerina titia	Smoky Rubyspot	Jun 26 – Nov 28	Rivers	Uncommon

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LESTIDAE (Spread-winged Dar	nsels)			
Archilestes grandis	Great Spreadwing	Jun 25 – Nov 11	Streams, ponds	Uncommon
Lestes australis	Southern Spreadwing	Mar 28 - Nov 10	Ponds	Common
Lestes congener	Spotted Spreadwing	Jun 10 – Nov 20	Ponds	Uncommon
Lestes disjunctus	Northern Spreadwing	May 21 – Oct 3	Montane ponds	Rare to uncommon
Lestes eurinus	Amber-winged Spreadwing	May 11 – Aug 25	Montane ponds	Uncommon
Lestes forcipatus	Sweetflag Spreadwing	May 25 - Oct 21	Ponds	Uncommon
Lestes inaequalis	Elegant Spreadwing	May 12 – Sep 13	Ponds	Uncommon to common
Lestes rectangularis	Slender Spreadwing	May 7 – Nov 29	Ponds	Common
Lestes vidua	Carolina Spreadwing	Sep 21	Ponds	Rare (historical)
Lestes vigilax	Swamp Spreadwing	May 17 – Nov 25	Ponds	Uncommon to common
COENAGRIONIDAE (Narrow-w	inged Damsels)			
Amphiagrion saucium	Eastern Red Damsel	Apr 11 – Sep 1	Seepage areas	Locally uncommon
Argia apicalis	Blue-fronted Dancer	Apr 30 – Nov 6	Rivers, ponds	Common
Argia bipunctulata	Seepage Dancer	Jun 5 – Oct 4	Seepage areas	Locally uncommon
Argia fumipennis violacea	Violet (Variable) Dancer	Mar 29 – Nov 14	Streams	Common
Argia moesta	Powdered Dancer	Apr 28 – Oct 19	Rocky rivers	Common
Argia sedula	Blue-ringed Dancer	May 17 – Oct 24	Streams, rivers	Common
Argia tibialis	Blue-tipped Dancer	May 3 – Oct 19	Streams, rivers	Common
Argia translata	Dusky Dancer	May 25 - Nov 18	Rivers	Uncommon to common
Chromagrion conditum	Aurora Damsel	Apr 10 – Aug 20	Boggy ponds/streams	Uncommon to common
Enallagma annexum	Northern Bluet	Jun 6 – Jul 4	Montane ponds	Rare
Enallagma aspersum	Azure Bluet	Apr 20 – Oct 19	Ponds	Common
Enallagma basidens	Double-striped Bluet	Apr 12 – Oct 22	Ponds, streams	Common
Enallagma carunculatum	Tule Bluet	Jun 14	Ponds, streams	Rare (historical)
Enallagma civile	Familiar Bluet	Mar 24 – Dec 27	Ponds, lakes	Common
Enallagma daeckii	Attenuated Bluet	May 11 – Aug 12	Marshy ponds	Uncommon
Enallagma divagans	Turquoise Bluet	Apr 27 – Aug 28	Streams, ponds	Common
Enallagma doubledayi	Atlantic Bluet	Apr 15 – Oct 15	Ponds	Uncommon
Enallagma dubium	Burgundy Bluet	May 7 – Sep 27	Swampy ponds	Rare to uncommon
Enallagma durum	Big Bluet	Apr 17 – Nov 10	Brackish marshes	Locally common
Enallagma ebrium	Marsh Bluet	Aug 11	Montane ponds	Rare
Enallagma exsulans	Stream Bluet	May 6 – Oct 19	Rivers	Common
Enallagma geminatum	Skimming Bluet	Apr 21 – Oct 23	Ponds	Common
Enallagma hageni	Hagen's Bluet	May 21 – Sep 12	Montane ponds	Rare to uncommon
Enallagma pallidum	Pale Bluet	May 26 – Aug 2	Swampy lakes	Rare
Enallagma signatum	Orange Bluet	Apr 14 – Nov 7	Ponds, lakes	Common
Enallagma traviatum	Slender Bluet	May 7 – Sep 12	Ponds, lakes	Common
Enallagma vesperum	Vesper Bluet	Apr 25 – Oct 16	Ponds, lakes	Common
Enallagma weewa	Blackwater Bluet	May 18 – Sep 24	Sandy rivers	Rare to uncommon
Ischnura hastata	Citrine Forktail	Mar 23 – Dec 13	Ponds, seeps, brackish marshes	Common
Ischnura kellicotti	Lilypad Forktail	Apr 19 – Oct 5	Lily ponds	Uncommon to common
Ischnura posita	Fragile Forktail	Mar 9 – Nov 25	Ponds, marshes	Common
Ischnura prognata	Furtive Forktail	Apr 16 – Oct 4	Swamps, seeps	Uncommon
Ischnura ramburii	Rambur's Forktail	Apr 9 – Nov 27	Brackish marshes, sandy ponds	Locally common
Ischnura verticalis	Eastern Forktail	Mar 24 – Nov 8	Ponds	Common
Nehalennia gracilis	Sphagnum Sprite	May 9 – Jun 26	Boggy ponds	Rare
Nehalennia integricollis	Southern Sprite	May 15 – Sep 14	Boggy ponds	Rare to uncommon
Nehalennia irene	Sedge Sprite	May 21 – Aug 8	Boggy ponds	Rare
Telebasis byersi	Duckweed Firetail	Jun 6 – Aug 30	Swamps and ponds	Uncommon
-		Ŭ	with duckweed	

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