Odonates of the NYC area

DAMSELFIES

Broad-winged damselflies:

- Ebony Jewelwing – common and widespread.
- River Jewelwing – Hudson Valley only; uncommon (commoner northward).
- American Rubyspot – very local, Orange Co.

Spreadwings: (difficult group to identify)

- Common Spreadwing – widespread.
- Sweetflag Spreadwing – nearly identical to above; widespread.
- Spotted Spreadwing – widespread.
- Emerald Spreadwing – Hudson Valley only; uncommon to rare.
- Swamp Spreadwing – fairly common to widespread (not NYC).
- Slender Spreadwing – widespread and fairly common.

(also: Spotted and Amber-winged Spreadwings – widespread)

(true) Damselflies:

- Aurora Damsel – widespread, except NYC.
- “Blue” Bluets – ca 15 species found in our area; very complicated group.
- Orange Bluet – fairly common and widespread, flies late in day.
- Scarlet Bluet – eastern Long Island where status uncertain; also fairly common in southern N.J.
- Vesper Bluet – widespread; flies very late in day.
- Variable, or Violet Dancer – very common and widespread.
- Blue-Fronted Dancer – Hudson Valley (where status uncertain); also northern N.J.
- Powdered Dancer – Hudson Valley only, where common.
- Eastern Forktail – very common and very widespread.
- Rambur’s Forktail – mainly Long Island (status?).
- Lilypad Forktail – similar to above; Hudson Valley, where fairly common. Eastern Long Island (status?).
- Fragile Forktail – fairly common and widespread.
- Citrine Forktail – fairly common and widespread.
- Eastern Red Damsel - fairly common and widespread.
- Sedge Sprite – widespread (uncommon in NYC).
- Sphagnum Sprite – eastern Long Island (status?); also southern N.J.

DRAGONFLIES
Petaltails:

- Gray Petaltail – Hudson Valley, where rare.

Darners:

- Green Darner – very common and widespread.
- Comet Darner – quite local and uncommon in NYC area.
- Fawn Darner – Hudson Valley; fairly common late in season.

Aeshna “mosaic” Darners: extremely difficult to separate in the field

- Shadow Darner – common and widespread; only species likely on Long Island.
- Lance-tipped Darner – Hudson Valley.
- Canada Darner – fairly common in Hudson Valley (also: Green-striped Darner).
- Black-tipped Darner – Hudson Valley.
- Mottled Darner – mainly coastal plain, but recorded in Hudson Valley.

Other darners:

- Springtime Darner – common and widespread; early season.
- Cyrano Darner – Hudson Valley where uncommon to rare.
- Swamp Darner – more southern (very common in southern New Jersey); ranges north to NYC regularly. Very large.

Clubtails: a very difficult group, but only a few on coastal plain.

- Lancet Clubtail – very common and widespread, including Long Island
- Ashy Clubtail – very similar to above, but Hudson Valley only.
- Unicorn Clubtail – common and widespread; occurs on Long Island.
- Lilypad Clubtail – similar; Hudson Valley only.
- Black-shouldered Spinyleg – locally fairly common. Hudson Valley only. Large.
- Dragonhunter – as above. Very large.
- Rusty Snaketail – apparently uncommon in northern Hudson Valley (occurs Sussex Co., N.J.).
- Maine Snaketail – Hudson Valley; commoner than above – occurs at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co.
- Least Clubtail – Distinctive. Hudson Valley only.
- Southern Pygmy Clubtail – rare and local; occurs at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co.

Spiketails: 4 species found in region. Never very common; prefers small streams.
- Tiger Spiketail - occurs at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co.
- Twin-spotted Spiketail – Hudson Valley; apparently none on Long Island.
- Delta-spotted Spiketail – Hudson Valley.
- Arrowhead Spiketail – Hudson Valley; occurs Sterling Forest, Orange Co.

*Cruisers:* only one fairly common species here.

- Stream cruiser – widespread in Hudson Valley, where fairly common. (status on Long Island: probably rare).
- Illinois River Cruiser – Hudson Valley, where local and scarce.

*Emeralds and Basketails:* very difficult group, but not many species around here.

- Clamp-tailed Emerald – common in Hudson Valley; occurs Long Island but status unknown.
- Petite Emerald – smaller than above. Local in Hudson Valley.
- Uhler’s Sundragon – smaller; very local in Hudson Valley.
- Prince Baskettail – common and widespread in Hudson valley; very local on Long Island. Large.
- Common Baskettail – very common and widespread; early season.
- Beaverpond Baskettail – locally fairly common. Hudson Valley only; early season.

*Skimmers:* most easily seen ‘dragons’ in this family. Frequently perch, etc.

- Black Saddlebags – very common and widespread; usually in flight.
- Carolina Saddlebags – mainly eastern Long Island (where fairly common); also southern N.J. Very local in Hudson Valley. Occurs on Staten Island.
- Spot-winged Glider – very common and widespread; nearly always in flight (swarms).
- Wandering Glider – as above, typically in swarms. Sometimes both species together.
- Eastern Amberwing – very common and widespread; tolerant. Small and distinctive.
- Calico Pennant – common and widespread.
- Banded Pennant – rather uncommon; most likely in coastal plain.
- Martha’s Pennant – fairly common on eastern Long Island; mainly coastal plain.
- Halloween Pennant – common and widespread.
- Painted Skimmer – common and widespread; mainly early season.
- Needham’s Skimmer – the common “red” *Libellula* here. Mainly coastal, even saltmarshes, etc.
- Twelve-spotted Skimmer – common and widespread.
- Common Whitetail – very common and widespread; tolerant.
- Widow Skimmer – very common and widespread (less so in NYC parks).
- Four-spotted Skimmer – a northern species; fairly common to Northern Hudson Valley (not Long Island).
- Chalk-fronted Corporal – northern species; common to Northern Hudson Valley (not Long Island).
- Blue Corporal – very common on coastal plain (especially eastern Long Island); sporadic in Hudson Valley.
- White Corporal – common coastal plain; also occurs locally in Hudson Valley.
- Spangled Skimmer – fairly common and widespread; distinctive wings.
- Slaty Skimmer – very common and widespread.
- Blue Dasher – very common and widespread; tolerant.
- Eastern Pondhawk – common and widespread; ♀ distinctive.
- Seaside Dragonlet – coastal: very common in saltmarshes, straying to nearby areas.
- Elfin Skimmer – mainly in sphagnum bogs on Long Island (and southern N.J.); very local in inland fens.
- Cherry-faced Meadowhawk – common summer species (black legs; but face not ‘cherry’ red).
- Yellow-legged Meadowhawk – common and widespread; tends to fly later in season (into November).
- Saffron-winged Meadowhawk – seems to be very local and scarce in our area.
- Band-winged Meadowhawk – more likely than above; not tolerant, not found in NYC.
- Variegated Meadowhawk – a rare, irregular visitor from western US; few records.
- Blue-faced Meadowhawk – fairly common in Cape May, N.J. in late summer.
- Dot-tailed Whiteface – common and widespread. Only species regular on Long Island.
- Frosted Whiteface – uncommon in Hudson Valley; rare on Long Island. Fairly distinctive.
- Crimson-ringed Whiteface – a northern species, common further north. Unexpected in NYC area.
- Red-waisted Whiteface – a northern species, common further north. Unexpected in NYC area.

List compiled by Guy Tudor.