

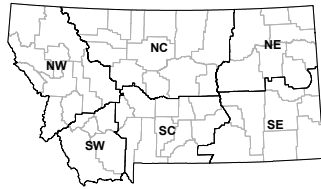
## About this Checklist

Dragonflies and Damselflies belong to the insect order **Odonata**, which is split into two suborders: **Anisoptera** – **Dragonflies** and **Zygoptera** – **Damselflies**. This checklist includes 53 species of Dragonflies and 29 species of Damselflies which are known to occur within the state of Montana. Each species is listed under its family name and genus. Common and scientific names are current with those set by the Checklist Committee of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas.

## Distribution

To the right of each common name, one or more of the following regions will be listed to show the approximate distribution of the species within the state.

S – statewide  
 NW – northwest  
 SW – southwest  
 NC – northcentral  
 SC – southcentral  
 NE – northeast  
 SE – southeast



## Abundance

To the far right of each common name, one of the following will be listed to show the relative abundance of the species within the state.

c – *common*  
 Present in large numbers, are widespread, and should be seen if you look in the right habitat.

u – *uncommon*  
 Present, but due to their low numbers, behavior, habitat, or distribution, they are not easily seen. However, an average observer should be able to find them by looking in the right place at the right time.

o – *occasional*  
 Present in low numbers, but are not expected to be seen without a special effort to find them. At least a few are seen each year within their specific habitats.

r – *rare*  
 Not expected to be seen every year. They occur in low numbers, may also be secretive or hard to identify, and may be unreported for several years.

## Seasonal Occurrence

While dragonfly and damselfly larvae are present within their aquatic habitats throughout the year, the adults emerge at specific times to mate and

deposit the eggs of further generations. This period of adult activity is called the Flight Season. Following each species is a phenogram [ M J J A S O N ], and highlighted in red are the months (May – Nov.) when one might expect to see that species during the year.

## Species Observed through Oct. 2009

### Damselflies (Zygoptera)

#### Broad-winged Damsels Calopterygidae

##### Jewelwings Calopteryx

- River Jewelwing** NW,SW u  
*Calopteryx aequabilis* M J J A S O N

##### Rubyspots Hetaerina

- American Rubyspot** NC,SC,NE,SE c  
*Hetaerina americana* M J J A S O N

##### Spreadwing Damsels Lestidae

##### Pond Spreadwings Lestes

- Spotted Spreadwing** S c  
*Lestes congener* M J J A S O N
- Northern Spreadwing** S c  
*Lestes disjunctus* M J J A S O N
- Sweetflag Spreadwing** SE o  
*Lestes forcipatus* M J J A S O N
- Lyre-tipped Spreadwing** S c  
*Lestes unguiculatus* M J J A S O N
- Emerald Spreadwing** S c  
*Lestes dryas* M J J A S O N

##### Pond Damsels Coenagrionidae

##### Eurasian Bluets Coenagrion

- Prairie Bluet** NC o  
*Coenagrion angulatum* M J J A S O N
- Subarctic Bluet** NW o  
*Coenagrion interrogatum* M J J A S O N
- Taiga Bluet** S c  
*Coenagrion resolutum* M J J A S O N

##### American Bluets Enallagma

- Arroyo Bluet** NE,SE u  
*Enallagma praevarum* M J J A S O N

- River Bluet** S c  
*Enallagma anna* M J J A S O N
- Familiar Bluet** NE,SE c  
*Enallagma civile* M J J A S O N
- Tule Bluet** S c  
*Enallagma carunculatum* M J J A S O N
- Alkali Bluet** S u  
*Enallagma clausum* M J J A S O N
- Northern Bluet** S c  
*Enallagma annexum* M J J A S O N
- Boreal Bluet** S c  
*Enallagma boreale* M J J A S O N
- Marsh Bluet** S c  
*Enallagma ebrium* M J J A S O N
- Hagen's Bluet** NE,SE c  
*Enallagma hageni* M J J A S O N
- Rainbow Bluet** NE,SE u  
*Enallagma antennatum* M J J A S O N

##### Forktails Ischnura

- Pacific Forktail** NW,SW,NC,SC c  
*Ischnura cervula* M J J A S O N
- Western Forktail** S c  
*Ischnura perparva* M J J A S O N
- Eastern Forktail** NC, NE, SE u  
*Ischnura verticalis* M J J A S O N

##### Red Damsels Amphiagrion

- Western Red Damsel** S c  
*Amphiagrion abbreviatum* M J J A S O N

##### Sprites Nehalennia

- Sedge Sprite** NW,SE u  
*Nehalennia irene* M J J A S O N

##### Dancers Argia

- Paiute Dancer** SW u  
*Argia alberta* M J J A S O N
- Variable Dancer** NE,SE o  
*Argia fumipennis* M J J A S O N
- Vivid Dancer** NW,SW,SC,SE u  
*Argia vivida* M J J A S O N

- Emma's Dancer** NW,SW,SC o  
*Argia emma* M J J A S O N

## Dragonflies (Anisoptera)

### Darners Aeshnidae

#### Mosaic Darners Aeshna

- Black-tipped Darner** NW u  
*Aeshna tuberculifera* M J J A S O N
- Sedge Darner** NW,SW u  
*Aeshna juncea* M J J A S O N
- Subarctic Darner** NW,SW r  
*Aeshna subarctica* M J J A S O N
- Canada Darner** NW u  
*Aeshna canadensis* M J J A S O N
- Lake Darner** NW,SW u  
*Aeshna eremita* M J J A S O N
- Variable Darner** S c  
*Aeshna interrupta* M J J A S O N
- Zigzag Darner** NW,SW u  
*Aeshna sitchensis* M J J A S O N
- Lance-tipped Darner** S u  
*Aeshna constricta* M J J A S O N
- Paddle-tailed Darner** S c  
*Aeshna palmata* M J J A S O N
- Shadow Darner** S c  
*Aeshna umbrosa* M J J A S O N

#### Neotropical Darners Rhionaeschna

- California Darner** NW,SW,SC,SE c  
*Rhionaeschna californica* M J J A S O N
- Blue-eyed Darner** NW,SW,NC,SC,SE u  
*Rhionaeschna multicolor* M J J A S O N

#### Green Darners Anax

- Common Green Darner** S c  
*Anax junius* M J J A S O N

### Clubtails Gomphidae

#### Pond Clubtails Arigomphus

- Horned Clubtail** SE u  
*Arigomphus cornutus* M J J A S O N

# CHECKLIST OF MONTANA DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES

## Common Clubtails *Gomphus*

- Pronghorn Clubtail** NW,NC,NE,SE u  
*Gomphus graslinellus* M J J A S O N
- Plains Clubtail** NE,SE u  
*Gomphus externus* M J J A S O N

## Hanging Clubtails *Stylurus*

- Brimstone Clubtail** SE r  
*Stylurus intricatus* M J J A S O N

## Ringtails *Erpetogomphus*

- Eastern Ringtail** NC r  
*Erpetogomphus designatus* M J J A S O N

## Snaketails *Ophiogomphus*

- Pale Snaketail** NW,SW,NC,SC,SE c  
*Ophiogomphus severus* M J J A S O N
- Sinuous Snaketail** NW,SW u  
*Ophiogomphus occidentis* M J J A S O N

## Spiketails *Cordulegastridae*

## Spiketails *Cordulegaster*

- Pacific Spiketail** NW u  
*Cordulegaster dorsalis* M J J A S O N

## Cruisers *Macromiidae*

## River Cruisers *Macromia*

- Swift River Cruiser** SE r  
*Macromia illinoensis* M J J A S O N

## Emeralds *Corduliidae*

## Common Emeralds *Cordulia*

- American Emerald** NW,SW,SC c  
*Cordulia shurtleffii* M J J A S O N

## Striped Emeralds *Somatochlora*

- Ringed Emerald** NW,SW u  
*Somatochlora albicincta* M J J A S O N
- Hudsonian Emerald** NW,SW o  
*Somatochlora hudsonica* M J J A S O N
- Whitehouse's Emerald** SW r  
*Somatochlora whitehousei* M J J A S O N

- Mountain Emerald** NW,SW c  
*Somatochlora semicircularis* M J J A S O N
- Ocellated Emerald** NW,SW u  
*Somatochlora minor* M J J A S O N
- Brush-tipped Emerald** NW o  
*Somatochlora walshii* M J J A S O N
- Plains Emerald** SE r  
*Somatochlora ensigera* M J J A S O N

## Baskettails *Epitheca*

- Spiny Baskettail** NW c  
*Epitheca spinigera* M J J A S O N

## Skimmers *Libellulidae*

## Whitetails *Plathemis*

- Common Whitetail** NW,SW,SC,SE c  
*Plathemis lydia* M J J A S O N

## Corporals *Ladona*

- Chalk-fronted Corporal** NW c  
*Ladona julia* M J J A S O N

## King Skimmers *Libellula*

- Four-spotted Skimmer** S c  
*Libellula quadrimaculata* M J J A S O N
- Flame Skimmer** NW,SW,NC,SC u  
*Libellula saturata* M J J A S O N
- Eight-spotted Skimmer** NW,SW,SC,SE c  
*Libellula forensis* M J J A S O N
- Twelve-spotted Skimmer** S c  
*Libellula pulchella* M J J A S O N

## Whitefaces *Leucorrhinia*

- Belted Whiteface** NW,SW,SC c  
*Leucorrhinia proxima* M J J A S O N
- Dot-tailed Whiteface** NW,SW,SC,SE c  
*Leucorrhinia intacta* M J J A S O N
- Hudsonian Whiteface** NW,SW,SC u  
*Leucorrhinia hudsonica* M J J A S O N
- Crimson-ringed Whiteface** NW u  
*Leucorrhinia glacialis* M J J A S O N
- Boreal Whiteface** SW u  
*Leucorrhinia borealis* M J J A S O N

## Pondhawks *Erythemis*

- Western Pondhawk** SW o  
*Erythemis collocata* M J J A S O N

## Meadowhawks *Sympetrum*

- Variiegated Meadowhawk** S c  
*Sympetrum corruptum* M J J A S O N
- Red-veined Meadowhawk** S u  
*Sympetrum madidum* M J J A S O N
- White-faced Meadowhawk** S c  
*Sympetrum obtusum* M J J A S O N
- Striped Meadowhawk** S c  
*Sympetrum pallipes* M J J A S O N
- Cherry-faced Meadowhawk** S c  
*Sympetrum internum* M J J A S O N
- Saffron-winged Meadowhawk** S c  
*Sympetrum costiferum* M J J A S O N
- Band-winged Meadowhawk** S c  
*Sympetrum semicinctum* M J J A S O N
- Black Meadowhawk** NW,SW,NC,SC c  
*Sympetrum danae* M J J A S O N
- Autumn Meadowhawk** NW, SW u  
*Sympetrum vicinum* M J J A S O N

## Rainpool Gliders *Pantala*

- Wandering Glider** SE r  
*Pantala flavescens* M J J A S O N

### More Information:

This checklist was developed by Nathan S. Kohler and Coburn Currier and contains information obtained from their own observations as well as information from the databases of The Montana Natural Heritage Program at: <http://www.mtnhp.org/tracker> and OdonataCentral (University of Texas at Austin) at: <http://www.odonatacentral.org>

Additional distribution data were gathered from dot maps published by T.W. Donnelly: Distribution of North American Odonata Parts I-III, Bulletin of American Odonatology, Vol. 7, No. 4 & Vol. 8, No. 1-3, 2004.

Recommended guide books for this region: *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West* by Dennis Paulson, *Dragonflies through Binoculars* by Sidney W. Dunkle, and *Damselflies of Alberta* by John Acorn.

A taxonomic photo collection of Montana's Dragonflies and Damselflies can be viewed at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gyr/collections/>



Flame Skimmer

Photo by Nate Kohler



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