

Where to find Dragonflies and Damselflies

Dragons and damsels are usually associated with water, but many species will be found foraging for insects a considerable distance from water.

Look for dragons and damsels near each of the Nature Center's two ponds for species that are foraging and/or reproducing. All species must lay their eggs in or near water, so the ponds are always a good place to start your search from late May-August.

Other areas where dragons and damsels are commonly encountered include the Nature Center's fields and meadows. The powerline corridor often hosts species that like forest edges and clearings. In these areas, dragons and damsels are almost always exclusively foraging on other insects.

How to observe Dragonflies and Damselflies

Binoculars, cameras, and insect nets are common tools used to closely observe dragons and damsels. Binoculars allow viewers to see species up close as they bask in the sun, hover in place, or slowly drift back and forth through the air patrolling for insect prey.

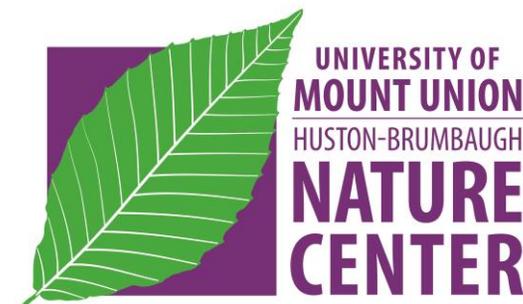
Cameras with zoom lenses allow viewers to capture images of resting dragons and damsels. They come in so many different colors and patterns and make great photography subjects when sitting still on a perch. Beginning dragon and damsel observers can use pictures to later identify the specimens being observed.

Insect nets are invaluable tools for observers interested in studying dragons and damsels up close. A captured specimen can be handled carefully and inspected to determine the species. Close-up photos can be taken as well to help differentiate similar-looking species from one another.

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center



Dragonfly & Damselfly Checklist



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Dragonflies

Darners (*Aeshnidae*)

- Shadow Darner
- Common Green Darner
- Swamp Darner

Clubtails (*Gomphidae*)

- Unicorn Clubtail
- Lancet Clubtail
- Ashy Clubtail

Emeralds (*Corduliidae*)

- Common Baskettail
- Prince Baskettail

Skimmers (*Libellulidae*)

- Calico Pennent
- Halloween Pennent
- Eastern Pondhawk
- Dot-tailed Whiteface
- Spangled Skimmer
- Widow Skimmer
- Twelve-spotted Skimmer
- Blue Dasher
- Eastern Amberwing

- Common Whitetail
- Ruby Meadowhawk
- Black Saddlebags

Damselflies

Broad-winged Family (*Calopterygidae*)

- Ebony Jewelwing

Spreadwings (*Lestidae*)

- Slender Spreadwing

Pond Damsel Family (*Coenagrionidae*)

- Violet (Variable) Dancer
- Turquoise Bluet
- Stream Bluet
- Skimming Bluet
- Fragile Forktail
- Eastern Forktail