



A Checklist of Dragonflies & Damselflies

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◆ CHICO BASIN RANCH ◆

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Dragonflies and damselflies together comprise the insect order, Odonata, meaning “toothed ones”, a reference to their powerful jaws. But, it is their eyes that stand out, in some species almost 30,000 facets comprise a compound eye enabling dragonfly eyes to have the keenest vision in the insect world (80 percent of their brain is used to process visual information). Some dragonfly species have the largest of all insect eyes. Four ultra flexible wings can rotate on an axis, they can beat together or separately, or, when needed, specialized wings enable dragonflies to hover, fly upside-down, fly backwards, pivot 360 degrees, or fly 100 body lengths per second or about 30 miles per hour. As aquatic larvae they feed voraciously, molting 9 to 17 times before crawling out of the water and hatching into an adult where they live less than two months (only a week for many damselflies). Dragonflies and damselflies, living dinosaurs, evolved during the Carboniferous period, 300 million years ago, where fossil evidence shows they grew to a length of 2.5 feet.

Foraging Great White Sharks successfully secure prey 50 percent of the time. African lions are successful in pursuit of their prey 25 percent of the time, but dragonflies success rate is 95 percent.

There are 120 species of Odonata documented in Colorado as of March 15, 2015. The 54 species identified on Chico Basin Ranch makes it one of the best locations in Colorado to observe and photograph these brightly colored and fascinating insects. Any of the ponds or wetlands should be checked from mid-May to the end of October.

Common Name

Scientific Name

DAMSELFLIES

ZYGOPTERA

BROAD-WINGED DAMSELS

- American Rubyspot

Hetaerina americana

SPREADWINGS

- Great Spreadwing
- Spotted Spreadwing
- Sweetflag Spreadwing
- Lyre-tipped Spreadwing
- Southern Spreadwing

Archilestes grandis

Lestes congener

Lestes forcipatus

Lestes unguiculatus

Lestes australis

POND DAMSELS

- Western Red Damsel

Amphiagrion abbreviatum

DANCERS

- Blue-fronted Dancer
- Paiute Dancer
- Variable Dancer
- Aztec Dancer
- Springwater Dancer
- Vivid Dancer

Argia apicalis

Argia alberta

Argia fumipennis violacea

Argia nahuana

Argia plana

Argia vivida

BLUETS

- Double-striped Bluet
- Tule Bluet
- Familiar Bluet
- Arroyo Bluet

Enallagma basidens

Enallagma carunculatum

Enallagma civile

Enallagma praevarum

FORKTAILS

- Plains Forktail
- Western Forktail/Mexican
- Eastern Forktail

Ischnura damula

Ischnura perparva

Ischnura verticalis



Variable Dancer



American Rubyspot

Common Name

Scientific Name

DRAGONFLIES

ANISOPTERA

DARNERS

- Common Green Darner
- Variable Darner
- Paddle-tailed Darner
- Blue-eyed Darner

Anax junius
Aeshna interrupta
Aeshna palmata
Rhionaeschna multicolor

CLUBTAILS

- Sulphur-tipped Clubtail
- Pale Snaketail

Gomphus militaris
Ophiogomphus severus

BASKETTAILS

- Dot-winged Baskettail

Epitheca petechialis

SKIMMERS AND ALLIES

- Calico Pennant
- Halloween Pennant

Celithemis elisa
Celithemis eponina

PONDHAWKS

- Western Pondhawk
- Eastern Pondhawk

Erythemis collocata
Erythemis simplicicollis

KING SKIMMERS

- Bleached Skimmer
- Eight-spotted Skimmer
- Widow Skimmer
- Hoary Skimmer
- Twelve-spotted Skimmer
- Four-spotted Skimmer
- Flame Skimmer

Libellula composita
Libellula forensis
Libellula luctuosa
Libellula nodisticta
Libellula pulchella
Libellula quadrimaculata
Libellula saturata

OTHER SKIMMERS AND ALLIES

- Roseate Skimmer
- Blue Dasher
- Wandering Glider
- Spot-winged Glider
- Eastern Amberwing
- Common Whitetail
- Desert Whitetail

Orthemis ferruginea
Pachydiplax longipennis
Pantala flavescens
Pantala hymenaea
Perithemis tenera
Plathemis lydia
Plathemis subornata

MEADOWHAWKS

- Variegated Meadowhawk
- White-faced Meadowhawk
- Striped Meadowhawk
- Cherry-faced Meadowhawk
- Saffron-winged Meadowhawk
- Band-winged Meadowhawk
- Black Meadowhawk
- Autumn Meadowhawk

Sympetrum corruptum
Sympetrum obtrusum
Sympetrum pallipes
Sympetrum internum
Sympetrum costiferum
Sympetrum semicinctum
Sympetrum danae
Sympetrum vicinum

SADDLEBAGS

- Black Saddlebags
- Red Saddlebags

Tramea lacerata
Tramea onusta



Halloween Pennant



Blue-eyed Darner



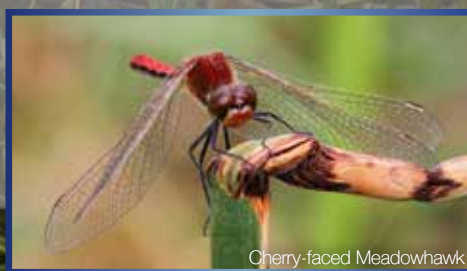
Twelve-spotted Skimmer



Flame Skimmer



Roseate Skimmer



Cherry-faced Meadowhawk