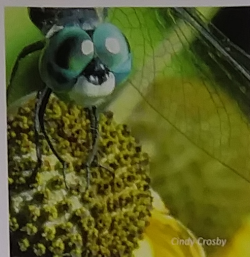


# Dragonflies and Damselflies of Nachusa Grasslands

Cindy Crosby, dragonfly steward coordinator and monitor



White-faced meadowhawk (*Sympetrum obtrusum*)



Blue dasher  
(*Pachydiplax longipennis*)



Springwater dancer (*Argia plana*)

## Why Do We Monitor?

- Because dragonflies and damselflies spend much of their lives in and around the water, the health of their populations tells us something about the health of our streams and ponds.
- Learning about changes in dragonfly populations and may offer insights on climate change.
- Discovering what dragonfly species are in our natural areas helps us manage more efficiently for dragonflies and other species.

## Classification

Order: Odonata ("toothy ones")

Dragonflies (suborder *Anisoptera*) (99 species in Illinois)

Damselflies (suborder *Zygoptera*) (48 species in Illinois)

At Nachusa Grasslands: Our monitors have ID'd about 25% of Illinois dragonfly species and about 40% of Illinois damselfly species. We continue to discover new species each season.

Worldwide—there are between 5,000-6,000 species of dragonflies and damselflies.



Eastern amberwing (*Perithemis tenera*)



Halloween pennant  
(*Celithemis eponina*)



Ebony jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*)



Prince baskettail (*Epithea princeps*)

## Our 2018 Team

- Bill Kruk, Big Jump (since 2016)
- Joyce Gibbons, Heinkle and Thelma Carpenter (since 2017)
- Mark Jordan, Tellabs (since 2017)
- Joan Heng, Sand Farm (since 2017)
- Joe Richardson, Hook Larson West (since 2017)
- Carol Soderholm, Spring Creek (since 2018)
- Cindy Crosby, dragonfly steward coordinator, six sites. (since 2013)

## Migration

Since 2003, we have documented five migratory dragonfly species at Nachusa:

- variegated meadowhawk (*Sympetrum corruptum*)
- common green darner (*Anax junius*)
- black saddlebags (*Tramea lacerata*)
- wandering glider (*Pantala flavescens*)
- spot-winged glider (*Pantala hymenaea*)

Migration swarms are generally spotted in mid August or early September. Much about dragonfly migration is still unknown to science. Our data helps scientists learn more about migration patterns and species, much as citizen science once helped us advance our understanding about monarch migration.

## How Does Monitoring Work?

- Monitoring takes place from April through October.
- Walking routes are repeated at each session, using the Pollard Base model.
- Monitors tabulate the number and type of species using a data sheet.
- Monitors attempt to walk their route six times during a season.
- Species are identified through photography vouchers.
- Results are contributed to Illinois Odes through Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, and are part of an ongoing regional data base.



Violet dancer (*Argia fumipennis violacea*)

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