

Common Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Chicago Region

Volunteer Stewardship Network – Chicago Wilderness

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**AESHNIDAE - Darners**

Large bodied, with brilliant blue and green colors, unmarked wings. Strong non-stop flyers, eat on the wing like swallows. ⇒



**23 Aeshna canadensis** ♂  
 Canada Darter: genus generally brown striped with blue on thorax; the many species makes ID difficult. 62-73mm

**24 Anax junius** ♂  
 Common Green Darter: recently emerged male; mature male is bright blue; CBS “eye” on head. 68-80mm

**MACROMIIDAE - Cruisers**

Large, black and yellow markings, green eyes, long legs, low rapid flight. ↓



**25 Macromia illinoensis** ♀  
 Swift River Cruiser: newly emerged. 65-75mm

**26 Epithea cynosura** ♂  
 Common Baskettail: early flight season; brown with yellow markings; wings clear except for dark patch at base. 38-44mm

**27 Epithea princeps** ♂  
 Prince Baskettail: largest emerald; often misidentified as Libellula pulchella but rarely lands. ©Thomas Murray 59-63mm



**28 Dorocordulia libera** ♂  
 Racket-tailed Emerald: small dark dragonfly with brilliant green eyes; abdomen spoon-shaped. 39-43mm

**29 Somatochlora hineana** ♂  
 Hine's Emerald: the many Striped Emeralds makes species ID difficult; this one is federally endangered. 58-63mm

**CORDULIIDAE - Emeralds**

Slender brown dragonflies often with metallic green or bronze sheen. Some species have bright green eyes ←↑ which can be seen in flight.

**GOMPHIDAE - Clubtails**

Usually perch horizontally. Recognized by widely spaced eyes. Abdomen often inflated at tip. Many very similar species in the family. ↓



**30 Dromogomphus spinosus** ♀  
 Black-shouldered Spinyleg: long spines mixed with shorter ones on long hind leg. ©Vincent J Hickey 55-65mm

**31 Arigomphus submedianus** ♂  
 Jade Clubtail: moderately wide reddish-brown abdomen tip; male claspers yellow; green eyes. 51-55mm

**32 Stylurus plagiatus** ♂  
 Russet-tipped Clubtail: reddish-brown club; blue eyes; long slender body. ©Thomas Murray 55-63mm