

Dragonflies and Damselflies of Mill Creek Nature Center

List compiled by John Deitsch, gwinnettbirder@gmail.com

Dragonflies and damselflies are members of the scientific order Odonata (meaning “toothed”). Dragonflies belong to the suborder Anisoptera (meaning “uneven-winged”), and damselflies belong to the suborder Zygoptera (meaning “even-winged”).

Mill Creek Nature Center and the Ivy Creek Greenway possess many distinct habitats like sandy streams, well vegetated wetlands, shaded swamps and sloughs, and storm-water retention ponds. This mixture of lentic (still water) and lotic (flowing water) habitat gives rise to an impressive diversity of odonates. To this date, 67 species of odonates have been observed at Mill Creek Nature Center and the Ivy Creek Greenway. The list divides into 32 lentic species, 21 lotic species, and 14 that inhabit both. Pond species can often be seen along the Little Ivy and Ivy Creek during the summer when the wetlands are dry, but they do not breed there. 46 of the 67 species are dragonflies and 21 are damselflies.

Dragonflies are generally larger and chunkier than damselflies and perch with their wings opened and have eyes that connect at top of the head (Clubtails are an exception). Damselflies are smaller with more slender abdomens; perch with their wings closed over their abdomen; and possess eyes that do not connect. There are a few exceptions to these rules, but they are a good place to start in differentiating dragons and damsels.

Some species have only seen here a few times. Those recorded less than 5 times are marked with an asterisk.

Zygoptera - Damselflies

Ebony Jewelwing
Sparkling Jewelwing
Swamp Spreadwing
Great Spreadwing*
Slender Spreadwing
Southern Spreadwing
Variable Dancer*
Powdered Dancer
Blue-fronted Dancer*
Blue-ringed Dancer
Blue-tipped Dancer
Familiar Bluet
Double-striped Bluet*
Azure Bluet
Slender Bluet
Turquoise Bluet*
Stream Bluet
Orange Bluet*
Citrine Forktail
Fragile Forktail
Furtive Forktail*

Anisoptera - Dragonflies

Gray Petaltail
Shadow Darner
Common Green Darner
Comet Darner
Fawn Darner
Springtime Darner*
Swamp Darner
Lancet Clubtail
Ashy Clubtail
Blackwater Clubtail
Dragonhunter
Common Sanddragon

Black-shouldered Spinyleg
Stream Cruiser
Royal River Cruiser*
Prince Baskettail
Common Baskettail
Clamp-tipped Emerald*
Mocha Emerald
Calico Pennant*
Halloween Pennant
Banded Pennant
Double-ringed Pennant*
Swift Setwing
Eastern Pondhawk
Little Blue Dragonlet
Blue Corporal
Spangled Skimmer
Golden-winged Skimmer
Yellow-sided Skimmer*
Slaty Skimmer
Bar-winged Skimmer*
Great Blue Skimmer
Widow Skimmer
Twelve-spotted Skimmer*
Common Whitetail
Painted Skimmer
Roseate Skimmer
Blue Dasher
Wandering Glider
Spot-winged Glider*
Eastern Amberwing
Blue-faced Meadowhawk
Autumn Meadowhawk*
Carolina Saddlebags
Black Saddlebags