

Odonate species are found both along the Hudson River and inland habitats. Some move far from water to bask and forage in meadows. Identification can be somewhat daunting as there are so many species, but there are good recent field guides that allow people to identify many species in the field or from photos.



Eastern pondhawk in Kearny Marsh



Familiar bluet



Slender spreading on *Phragmites* in Meadowlands



Northern leopard frog

Odonates are important prey for various organisms, such as fish, birds, bats, and others.



Wood ducks

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Ebony jewelwing in Columbia County

Ebony jewelwings are the only odonates in our region with entirely black wings.

Hudsonia

Spring Funds Appeal

2021



Halloween pennant at Thompson Pond

Spotlight on Odonates

Odonates (damselflies and dragonflies) are large, fast-flying, predatory insects and many are brilliantly colored. Some have complex social behavior (e.g., territoriality). There are more than 190 species of dragonflies and damselflies that have been documented in New York. Pictured here are just a few of the species that Hudsonia has encountered in the field.



Meadowhawk in Westchester County



Spreading damselfly in Westchester County



1. Halloween pennant dragonflies in Milan

2. Dragonfly larva in the Upper Penhorn Marsh

3. Dragonfly exuvia (shed larval exoskeleton), Westchester County



4. Teneral (freshly metamorphosed) dragonfly, Binnewater Lakes

5. Common whitetail in Dover

6. Forktail damselfly in mating wheel, Kearny Marsh

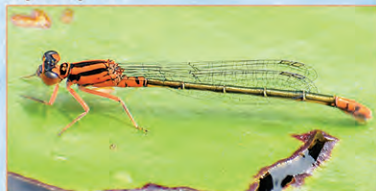
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Dragonflies and damselflies are useful for assessing water quality in streams, ponds, and wetlands. The larvae of many species are sensitive to water pollution and changes to water levels and flow. Both larvae and adults are carnivorous and rely on a variety of insects and other aquatic organisms for food.



Stream in Columbia County, one of many kinds of odonate habitats

Habitat loss and degradation are some of the main threats to odonate populations. This lovely lilypond forktail damselfly is one such species at risk and is considered Vulnerable (S3) by the New York Natural Heritage Program.



Lilypond forktail damselfly, Silver Lake

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