

# Goals

- understand main elements of odonate ecology
- distinguish genders, life stages, and behaviors
- recognize common species in the watershed
- learn key components for identification
- know monitoring protocol and reporting methods

## Meet the odonates

>5952 species in the world

462 spp. in North America

93 spp. in Oregon

40 spp. in Multnomah Co.







## Meet the odonates

5 species in N. America are annual long-distance migrants:

Common Green Darner
Variegated Meadowhawk
Black Saddlebags
Wandering Glider
Spot-winged Glider





## Meet the odonates

aquatic nymphs





terrestrial adults



large body

wider abdomen

eyes touch or nearly so

hindwings broader than forewings

perch with wings horizontal





large body

wider abdomen

eyes touch or nearly so

hindwings broader than forewings

perch with wings horizontal

small body

narrow abdomen

eyes separated

equal-sized, stalked wings

perch with wings folded

stout, jet-propelled dragonfly nymphs

slender, minnow-like damselfly nymphs



Damselfly nymph swimming

# nymphs use hinged, toothed, extendible "lower lip" (labium) to catch prey



# adults use basket-like legs to catch prey & bring it to mouth



nymphs molt through multiple stages (instars)

wing pads develop as nymphs grows





final instar nymphs stops feeding, leaves water, finds perch





larval skin splits & new adult (teneral) emerges

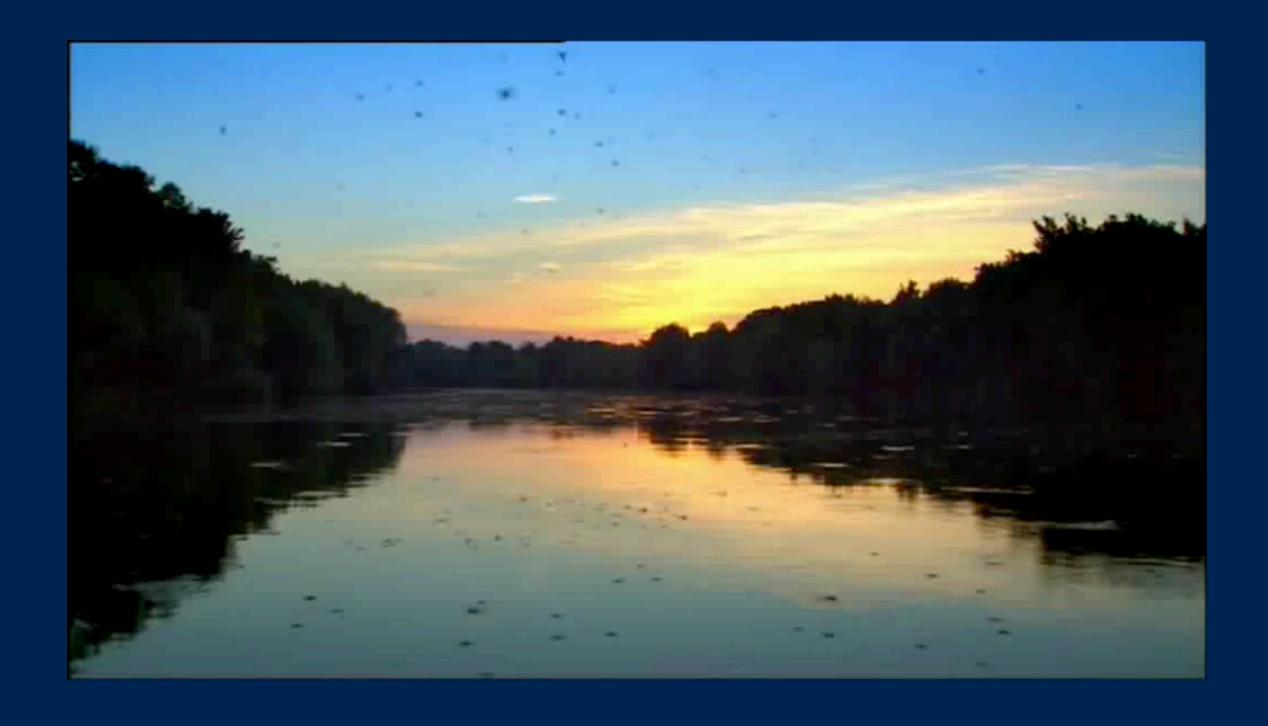
teneral has soft body, pale color, weak flight

days to develop to full color & sexual maturity





## dragonfly emergence



# Color development continues with age





# Males and females look very different





males patrol water to guard territory, find mates

females avoid water until ready to mate





mating lasts minutes to hours

females lay eggs soon after mating





eggs inserted in plants, sediment, mud, or on water

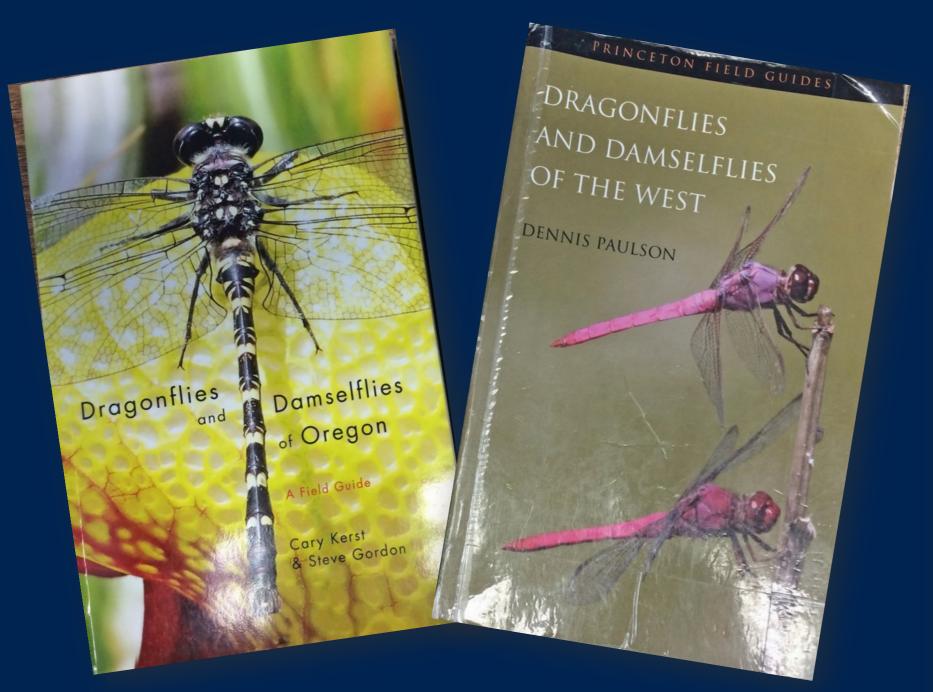
female may be guarded by male or oviposit alone

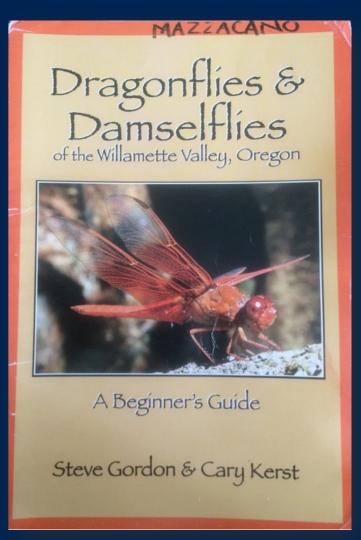






# Odonate Resources





## Odonate Resources

Dragonfly Society of the Americas

#### **Mission Statement**

The Dragonfly Society of the Americas advances the discovery, conservation and knowledge of Odonata through observation, collection, research, publication, and education.

2017 Dragonfly Society of the Americas Annual Meeting

9-11 June 2017

Staunton, VA

ISSN 1061-8503

# **ARGIA**

The News Journal of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas

Volume 29

15 March 2017

Number 1



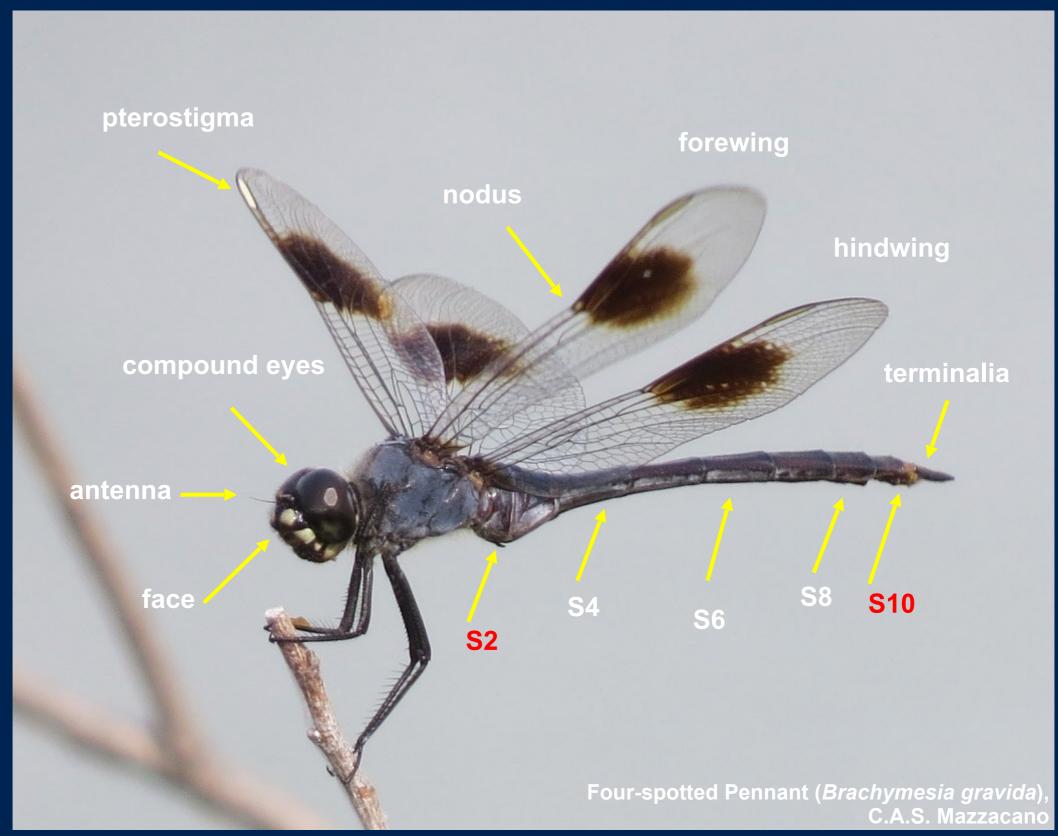
Published by the Dragonfly Society of the Americas http://www.DragonflySocietyAmericas.org/

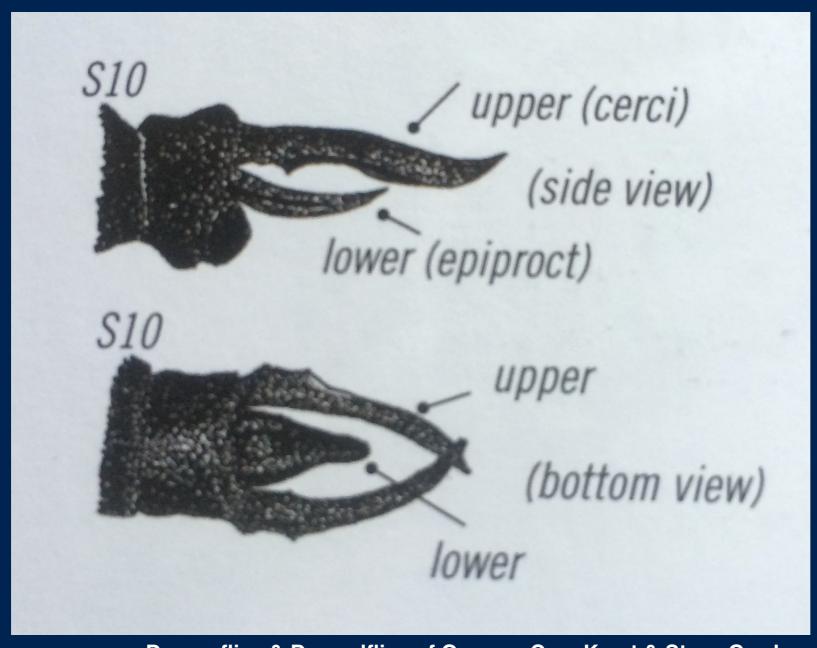
## Odonate Resources





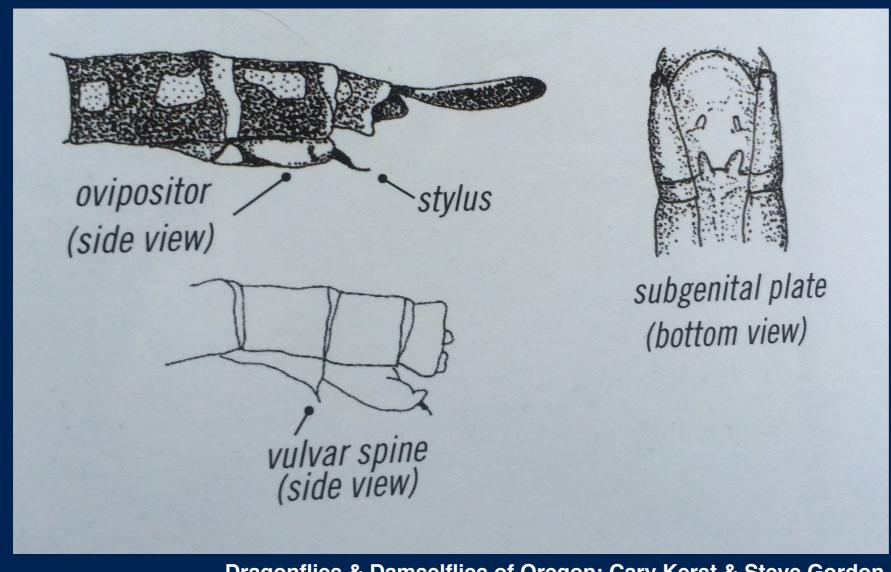






male terminal appendages

Dragonflies & Damselflies of Oregon; Cary Kerst & Steve Gordon



female terminal appendages

Dragonflies & Damselflies of Oregon; Cary Kerst & Steve Gordon

# Dragonflies: darners, skimmers, emeralds, cruisers, clubtails, spiketails, petaltails



Green (*Anax*), Mosaic (*Aeshna*), Neotropical (*Rhionaeschna*)

big; blue, green, brown

large eyes touch along long seam





Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*)

green thorax, no stripes

blue or brownish abdomen

black "bull's eye" on top of face

migratory





Mosaic Darners (Aeshna)

brown with blue/green markings

ID by shape and color of thoracic stripes; male cerci; abdominal spots







Paddle-tailed Darner (A. palmata)

thoracic stripes broad, greenish to blue, straight to slightly wavy

black line on face

blue spots on top of abdomen, including S10; no spots below abdomen

paddle-shaped cerci with spiked tip





Variable Darner (A. interrupta)

thoracic stripes blue, narrow, may be broken/interrupted



blue spots on top of abdomen, including S10; no spots below abdomen

black line on face

simple cerci



Shadow Darner (A. umbrosa)

thoracic stripes green, narrow, rearward extension at the top

small blue spots on top of abdomen but not on S10; blue spots below abdomen

no black line on face

paddle-shaped cerci with spike at lower end





Neotropical Darners (*Rhionaeschna*)

similar to *Aeshna* but eyes bluer, tubercule under S1

ID by shape of thoracic stripes; male cerci





Blue-eyed Darner (R. multicolor)

sky-blue face & eyes; no black facial line

broad, pale blue, straight thoracic stripes

blue spots on top of abdomen, inc. S10; no spots below abdomen

cerci forked at tips





California Darner (R. californica)

eyes blue above, brown below

black facial line

thoracic stripes narrow, pale blue, straight, black border; front stripe narrows at top

blue spots on top of abdomen, inc. S10; no spots below abdomen

simple cerci





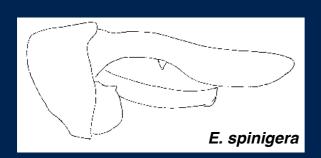
## Emeralds (Corduliidae)

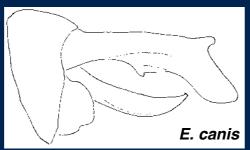
Spiny Baskettail (*Epitheca spinigera*)

very hairy thorax

dark body, dull yellowish markings

distinguish from *E. canis* by cerci, T-spot





Dragonflies & Damselflies of the West, D. Paulson





King Skimmers (*Libellula*), Meadowhawks (*Sympetrum*), others

large, sturdy, colorful, often with patterned wings

large eyes touch along seam

widespread, common







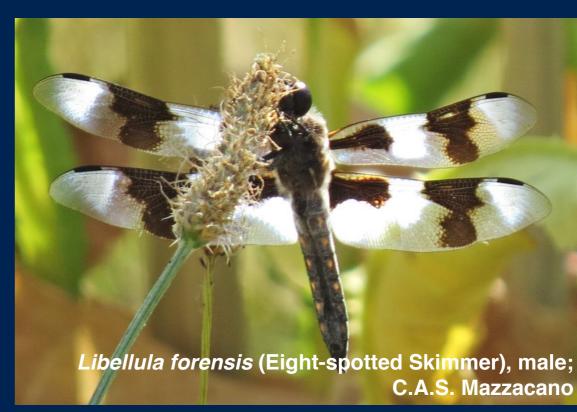
King Skimmers (Libellula)

patterned wings

males & older females develop pruinosity







King Skimmers (Libellula)

Twelve-spotted (*L. pulchella*) has 3 black spots on each wing

yellow stripe along side of female abdomen



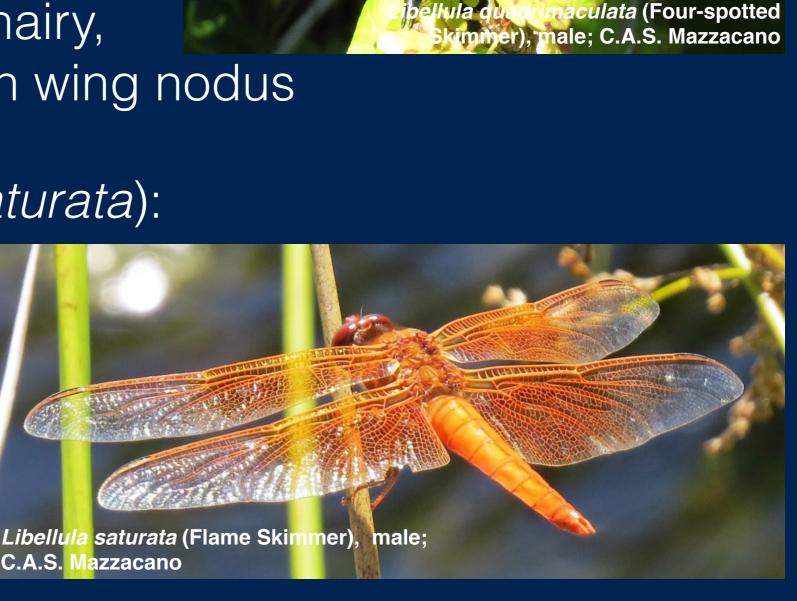


King Skimmers (Libellula)

Four-spotted Skimmer (*L. quadrimaculata*): hairy, dull; dark spot at each wing nodus

Flame Skimmer (*L. saturata*):

red-orange; wings with orange wash



King Skimmers (Libellula)

Widow Skimmer (*L. luctuosa*): broad black patch along basal portion of all wings

yellow stripe on female thorax splits along abdomen





# Common Whitetail (*Plathemis lydia*)





P. Iydia female has broken yellow dashes along abdomen; L. pulchella has unbroken line



Meadowhawks (Sympetrum)

small, reddish, perchers

ID by patterns on thorax & abdomen







#### Meadowhawks (Sympetrum)

Short 31-36 mm White-faced White face Plain Clear Black saw-Black toothed S. obtrusum pattern Short 80-39 mm Black saw-Black Red face Plain Red or amber Red-veined toothed veins on leading and eyes S. madidum pattern edge 87-45 mm Black, brown Golden veins on Black on Plain Red-brown Saffronstripes on uplower sides leading edge face and winged per sides eyes S. costiferum Medium 31-38 mm Brown Small, thin

abdomen

Clear

Plain

Red-brown

face and

eyes

Autumn

Short 31-37 mm

S. vicinum

**Dragonflies & Damselflies of Oregon; Cary Kerst & Steve Gordon** 



#### Meadowhawks (Sympetrum)







# Variegated Meadowhawk (*S. corruptum*) is migratory















male Blue Dashers have green eyes & white face

Black Saddlebags (*Tramea lacerata*), Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*), Spot-winged Glider (*P. hymenaea*) are migratory







#### Cruisers (Macromiidae)

Western River Cruiser (Macromia magnifica)

large; dark & yellow

long banded abdomen, side stripe on thorax

pearly gray eyes touch at seam on top of head



#### Clubtails (Gomphidae)

Olive Clubtail (Stylurus olivaceus)

eyes small, blue, separated

olive face & thorax

dark shoulder stripe

flared dark abdomen; pale green "arrows" pointed towards tip



# Damselflies: broad-winged, spreadwings, pond damsels







wings spread when perched

large; long leg spines

males pruinose

metallic above (Lestes)







ID *Lestes* based on appendages, pruinosity

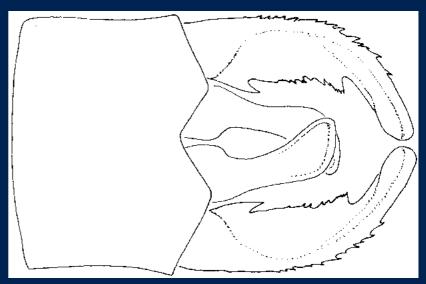
Emerald Spreadwing (*L. dryas*)

thorax metallic green above

stocky body

tips of medium-long paraprocts point inwards





Dragonflies & Damselflies of the West, Dennis Paulson

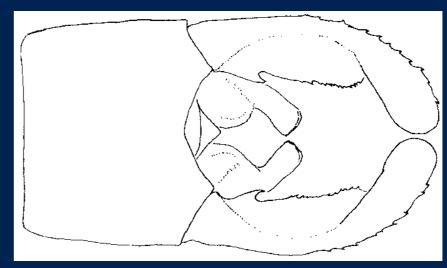
Spotted Spreadwing (*L. congener*)

thorax brown & white

small dark spots under thorax

short paraprocts





Dragonflies & Damselflies of the West, Dennis Paulson

Lyre-tipped Spreadwing (*L. unguiculatus*)

thorax with blue stripes, pruinose

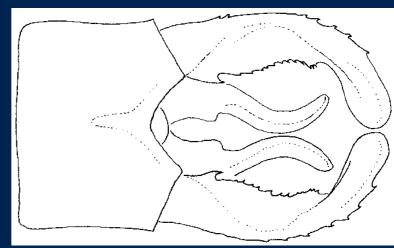
bi-colored stigmas

lyre-shaped paraprocts









Dragonflies & Damselflies of the West, Dennis Paulson

Dancers (Argia)

blue, lavender, black

bouncy flight

perch with wings above abdomen

long leg spines





Bluets (Enallagma)

blue & black

S10 black on top

perch with wings along abdomen

shorter leg spines





Bluets (Enallagma)

Tule Bluet (*E. carunculatum*): male abdomen more black than blue; tubercle at end of male cerci



Northern/Boreal Bluet (E. annexum/boreale):

male abdomen more blue than black



Forktails (Ischnura)

thorax green or blue

male abdomen black with blue tip

S10 has forked projection



Pacific Forktail (*I. cervula*):

4 blue dots on top of male thorax

female thorax pink/blue when young, becomes dull/dusky with age





Western Forktail (*I. perparva*):

small; short wings

male thorax green-striped

young females orange, pruinose when mature





Red Damsels (Amphiagrion)

small; short abdomen

males red with black; females orange





Broad-winged Damsels (Calopterygidae)

River Jewelwing (Calopteryx aequabilis)

broad, colored wings

wings not stalked, may lack stigma

metallic body





### DRAGONFLY & DAMSELFLY MONITORING

**Protocol for Community-based Surveys** 



Common Green Darner pair (Anax junius) laying eggs. Photo by Celeste Searles Mazzacano.

#### Timing

once every 10-14 days during flight season

plan schedule with team



#### When should you survey?

Time range	10:00 am - 4:00 pm			9:30 am - 4:30 pm	
Temperature	< 59°F (15°C)	59-65°F (15-18°C)	65-75°F (18-24°C)	>75°F (24°C)	>88°F (31°C)
Cloud cover >60%	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Cloud cover <60%	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Windy (small tree branches swaying)	No	No	No	No	No
Rain	No	No	No	No	No

What do you need?

water, snacks, hat, sunscreen

footwear that can get wet/muddy

data sheet or field notebook

binoculars and/or hand lens

aerial net

camera



Safety considerations

don't work alone

look before you step (nutria holes, deep mud, downed logs, trash, wasp nests, etc.)

stay hydrated





Created by Icon Fai from Noun Project

Walk slow transect looking over water and in vegetation

perched, flying, mating, emerging, ovipositing adults



stop and do visual scan at intervals

try to avoid double-counting

record abundance & behaviors on data sheet

designated team member will enter all records into iNaturalist project



#### JCWC Dragonfly and Damselfly Community-based Monitoring Project Data Sheet

DATE	SITE NAME	START TIME	_ END TIME
OBSERVER NAME(S)			
WEATHER: Temperate	ure °C / °F Wind (calm, light,	moderate, strong) % cloud	d cover
NOTES			

<u>Species List</u>: Record the species observed; circle 'M' and/or 'F' to indicate whether males or females were seen. Record abundance category and all ID methods and reproductive stages observed using the appropriate letter codes.

#### Identification method (record all that apply)

V (visual)

C (captured)

P (photograph)

#### Abundance category

N (none, 0)

U (uncommon, 1-4)

F (frequent, 5-20) C (common, 21-100)

A (abundant, >100)

#### Reproductive stage (record all that apply)

W (wheel)

TP (tandem pair)

O (ovipositing)

TA (teneral adult)

Species Name	ID Method	Abundance	Reproductive stages
M F			
M F	 		
M F			
M F	 		
M F	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
M F			
M F	,		
M F			
M F	 		
M F	L		
M F			

#### Basic information:

date, site, start and end time, observers

weather conditions

relevant notes

# DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_ SITE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ START TIME \_\_\_\_\_ END TIME \_\_\_\_\_ OBSERVER NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ WEATHER: Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ °C / °F Wind (calm, light, moderate, strong) % cloud cover \_\_\_\_\_ NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Species List: Record the species observed; circle 'M' and/or 'F' to indicate whether males or females were seen. Record abundance category and all ID methods and reproductive stages observed using the

# (record all that apply) V (visual) C (captured)

P (photograph)

appropriate letter codes.

#### Abundance category

N (none, 0) U (uncommon, 1-4) F (frequent, 5-20) C (common, 21-100) A (abundant, >100)

#### Reproductive stage (record all that apply)

W (wheel)
TP (tandem pair)
O (ovipositing)

TA (teneral adult)

Species Name		-	ID Method	Abundance	Reproductive stages
	M	F			
	М	F			
	M	F			
	M	F			
	M	F			
	M	F			
	M	F			
	M	F			
	M	F			
	M I	F			
	M	F			

# record each species seen

indicate if males (M) and/or females (F) were present in each species seen

#### JCWC Dragonfly and Damselfly Community-based Monitoring Project Data Sheet

DATE	SITE NAME	START TIME _	END TIME
OBSERVER NAME(S)			
WEATHER: Temperate	ure °C / °F Wind (calm, light, mo	oderate, strong) 9	% cloud cover
NOTES			

<u>Species List</u>: Record the species observed; circle 'M' and/or 'F' to indicate whether males or females were seen. Record abundance category and all ID methods and reproductive stages observed using the appropriate letter codes.

V (visual)
C (captured)
P (photograph)

#### Abundance category

N (none, 0) U (uncommon, 1-4) F (frequent, 5-20) C (common, 21-100) A (abundant, >100)

#### Reproductive stage (record all that apply)

W (wheel) TP (tandem pair)

O (ovipositing)

TA (teneral adult)

Species Name		ID Method	Abundance	Reproductive stages
М	F			
М	F			
М	F			
М	F			
М	F			
М	F			
М	F			
М	F			
М	F			
М	F			
М	F			

### ID method:

V (visual) = sight record only

C (captured) = netted and observed in-hand

P (photo) = took photo; preferred for confirmation!

#### JCWC Dragonfly and Damselfly Community-based Monitoring Project Data Sheet

DATE	SITE NAME	START TIME	END TIME
OBSERVER NAME(S)			
WEATHER: Temperate	ure °C / °F Wind (calm, light, mod	erate, strong) % cloud	cover
NOTES			

<u>Species List</u>: Record the species observed; circle 'M' and/or 'F' to indicate whether males or females were seen. Record abundance category and all ID methods and reproductive stages observed using the appropriate letter codes.

#### Identification method (record all that apply)

V (visual)

C (captured) P (photograph)

#### Abundance category

N (none, 0)

U (uncommon, 1-4)

F (frequent, 5-20)

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A (abundant, >100)

#### Reproductive stage (record all that apply)

W (wheel)

TP (tandem pair)

O (ovipositing)

TA (teneral adult)

Species Name			ID Method	Abundance	Reproductive stages
	М	F			1
	М	F			1
	М	F			 
	М	F			
	М	F			 
	М	F			
	М	F			
	М	F			
	М	F			1 1 1
	М	F		L	
	М	F			 

Abundance (ranges):

N (none)

U (uncommon) = 1-4 individuals seen

F (frequent) = 5-20

C (common) = 21-100

A (abundant) = >100

#### JCWC Dragonfly and Damselfly Community-based Monitoring Project Data Sheet

DATE	SITE NAME	START TIME	END TIME
OBSERVER NAME(S)			
WEATHER: Temperate	ure °C / °F Wind (calm, light, mode	erate, strong) % cloud	cover
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Species List: Record the species observed; circle 'M' and/or 'F' to indicate whether males or females were seen. Record abundance category and all ID methods and reproductive stages observed using the appropriate letter codes.

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#### Reproductive stage (record all that apply)

W (wheel)

TP (tandem pair)

O (ovipositing)

TA (teneral adult)

Species Name	ID Method	Abundance	Reproductive stages
M F			
M F	 	 	 
M F	 		
M F	 		
M F	; ; ;	, , ,	
M F			
M F	,	,	
M F			
M F	 	 	
M F	L	L	
M F	; ; ;		 

## Reproductive stages:

W (wheel) = mating

TP (tandem pair) = male still holding female

O (ovipositing) = laying eggs

TA (teneral adult) = newly-emerged

## Record data on iNaturalist project site

« Projects



Dragonfly Surveys in Johnson Creek Watershed

Terms & Rules | Leave this project

Add observations to this project

#### **Event Stats**

Totals 205

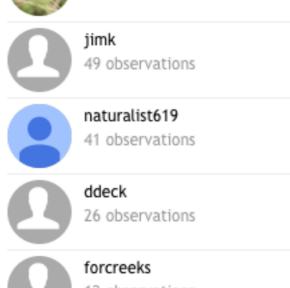
Observations »

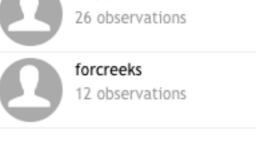
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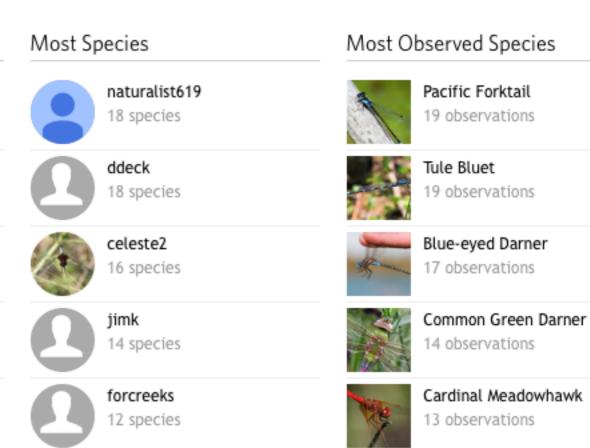
Species »

People »

## Most Observations celeste2 53 observations



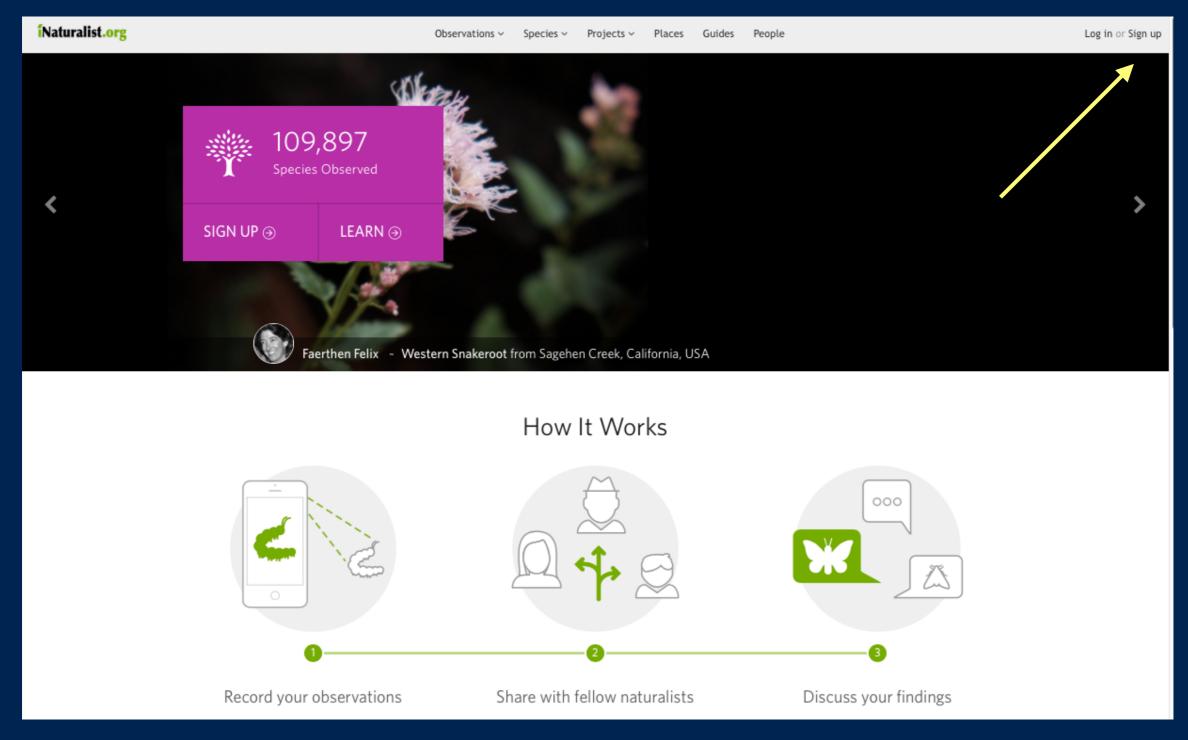




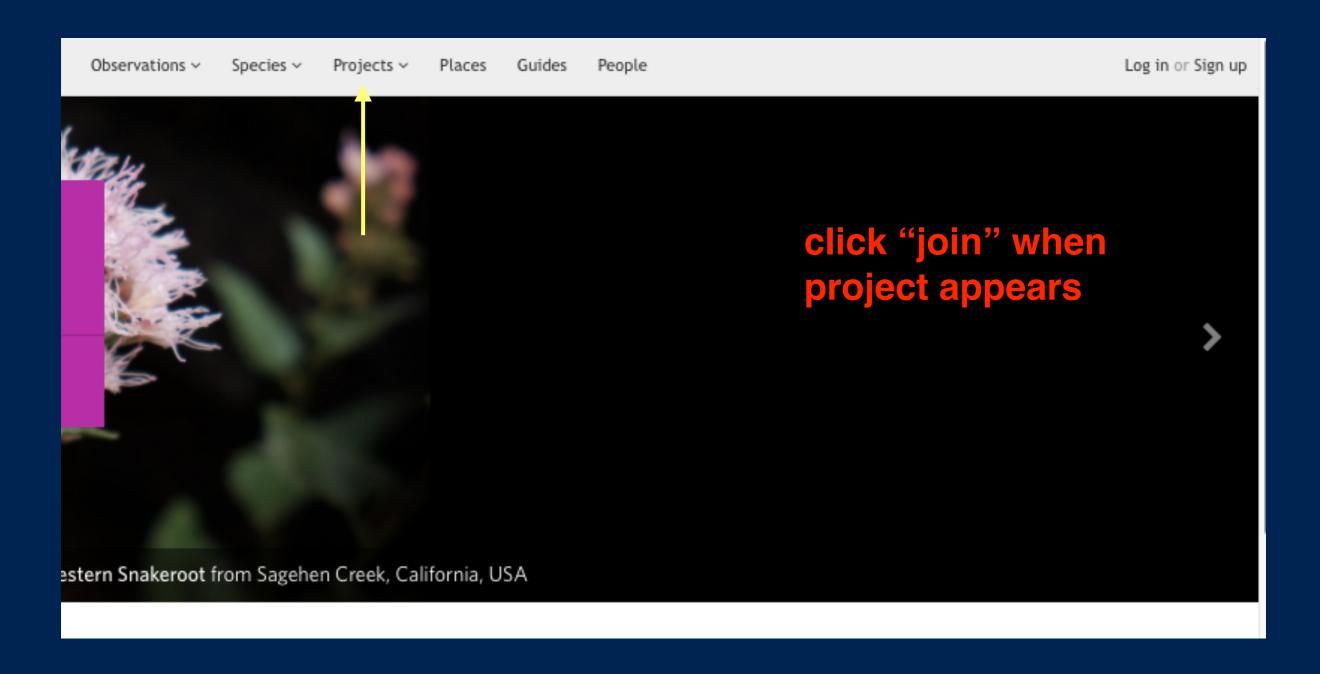
http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/dragonfly-surveys-in-johnson-creek-watershed

## How to use iNaturalist

go to www.inaturalist.org & register as a new user



# click on "Projects" dropdown & type "dragonfly surveys in Johnson Creek" into search box



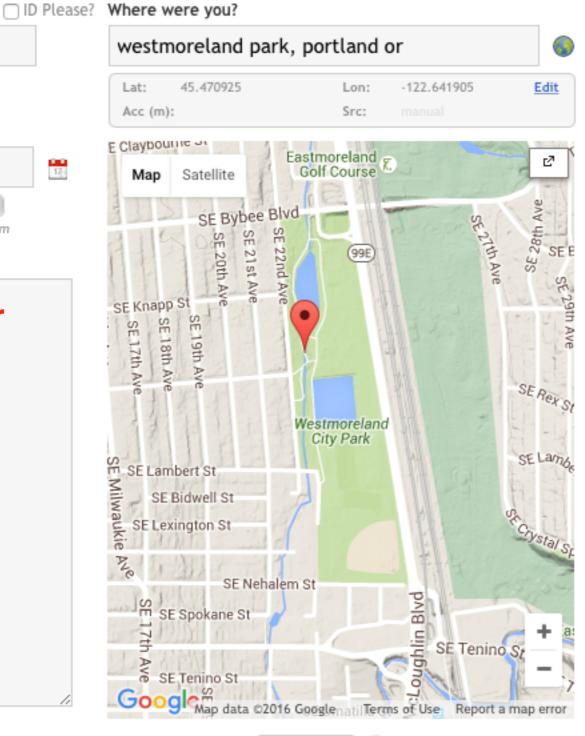
#### Join and Add an observation to

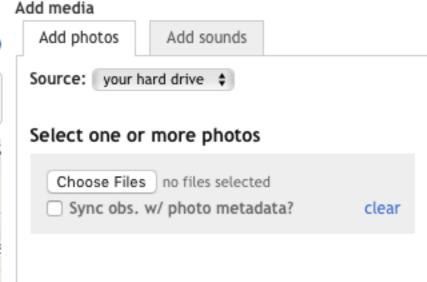


Change geoprivacy

#### Dragonfly Surveys in J...

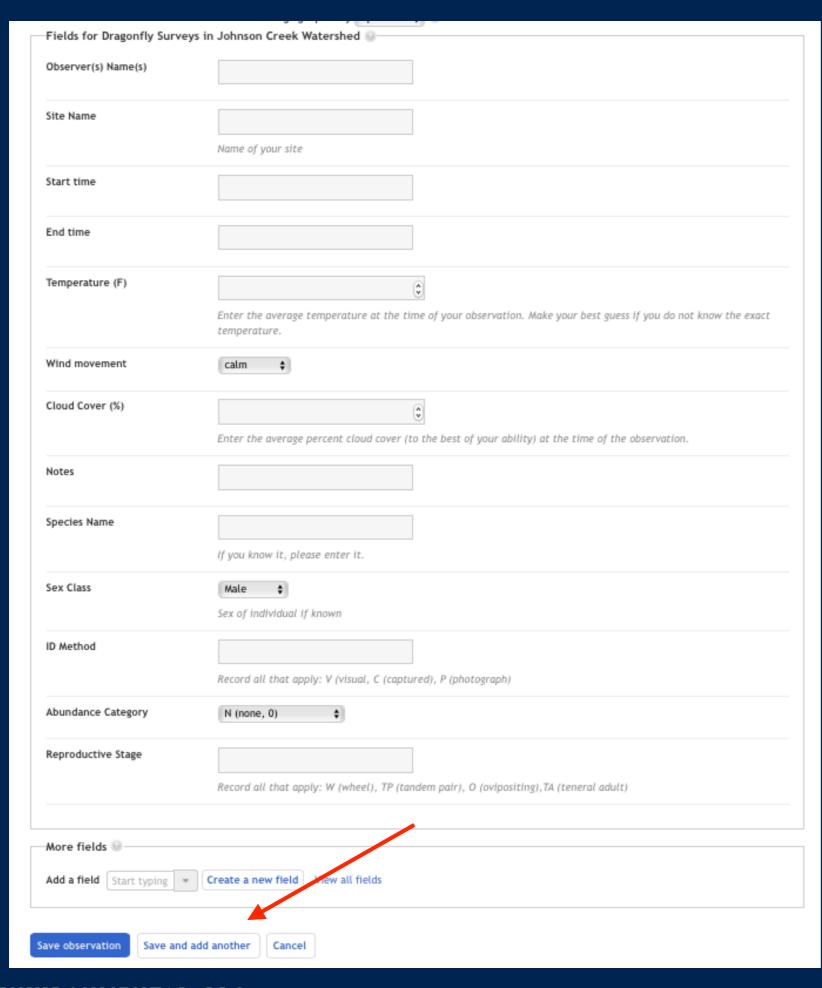






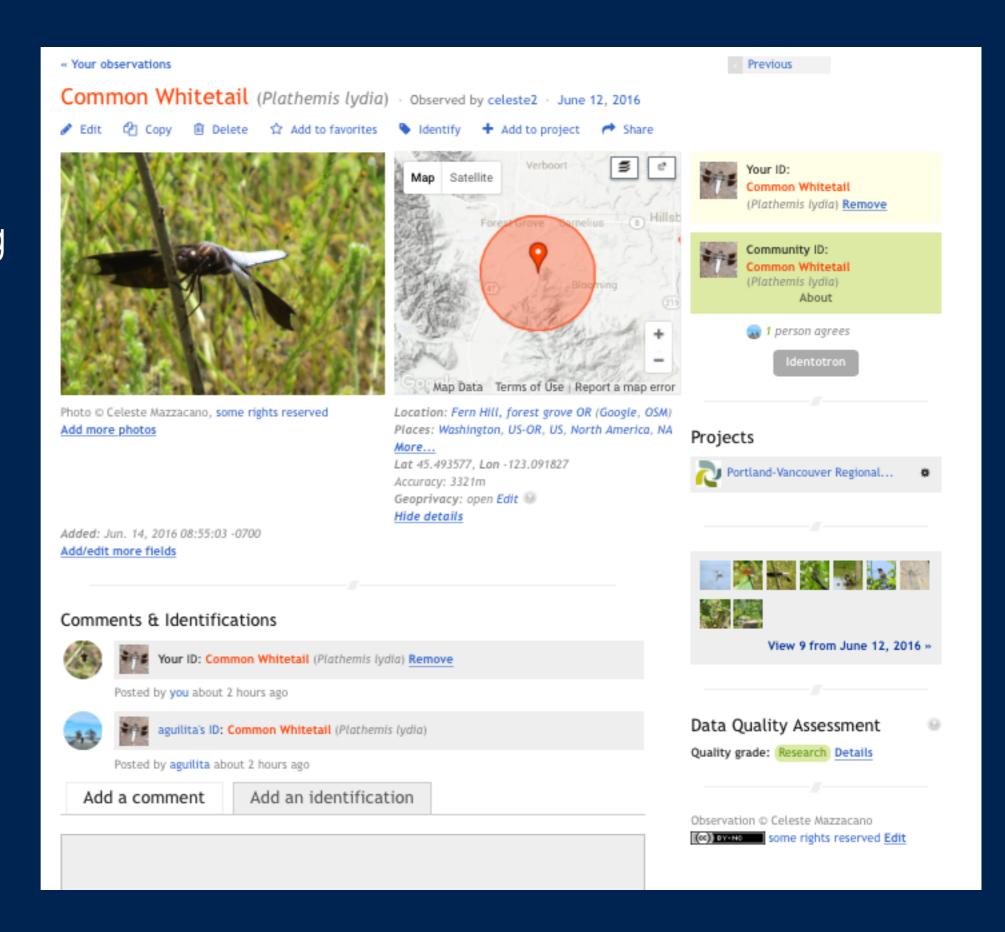
enter location, select "search", and map will zoom to location —> can also move point manually

select photo files to upload



additional data fields identical to project data sheet

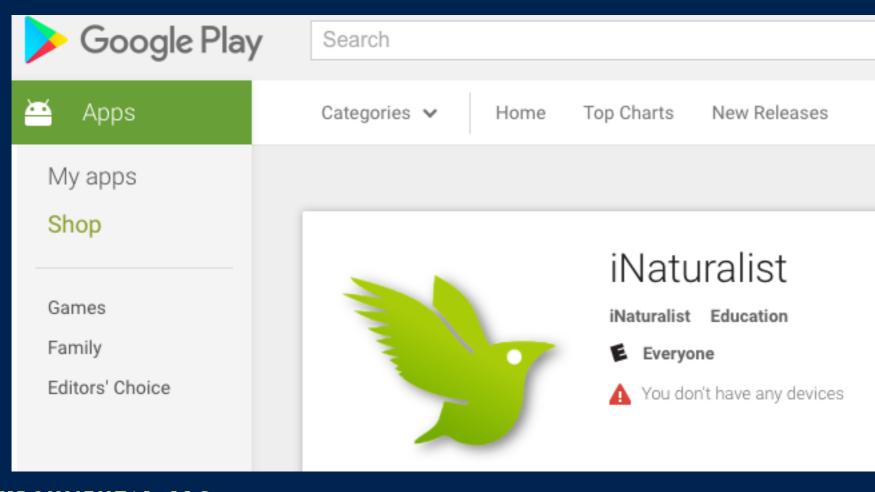
can enter multiple different species observations for same location & date using "save and add another" button Not sure about ID? iNaturalist crowd-sourcing lets other users confirm or correct

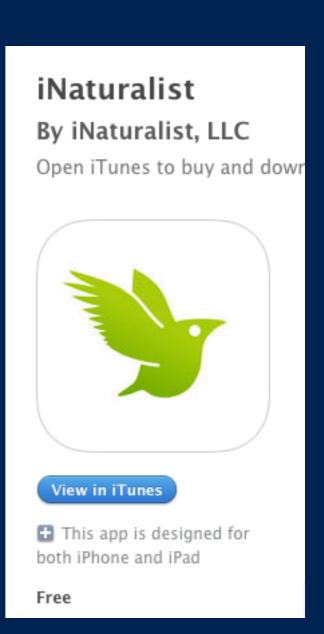


can download free iNaturalist app for iOS or Android

log in to app & add JCWC Dragonfly Survey Project

can upload photos and report observations in the field









# Questions?

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