**Plathemis lydia** Drury

**Common Whitetail**

| Abundant | 42-48 mm (1.7-1.9 in.) | 17 Apr-21 Oct | Medium |

**MALE:** Face/Thorax: brown w/ lateral spots/lower stripe. Abdomen: pruinose-white. Wings: wide dark mid-wing bands entirely across each; wingtips clear; white abdominal spot basal of HW. Chunky, maturation in about 2 weeks.

**FEMALE:** Abdomen: wide, brown w/ lateral yellow (or white) spots. Wings: 3 black spots (do not completely cross wings); wing tips black. Maturation in about 3 weeks.

**JUVENILE:** Abdomen: like female or brown w/ zigzag interrupted lateral stripe. Wings: banded like male (if male).

**Habitat:** Anywhere. Shallow sunny seepages; trickles w/ soft mud bottoms, sediment ponds; rivers. Does well in water w/ high organic content. Perches conspicuously on ground, logs, weed stems.

**Reproduction:** Male is strongly territorial (30-90’ near shore); may exhibit mock oviposition when female enters territory. Mating lasts only a few minutes. Female strokes water while male guards. Larvae tolerate poorly oxygenated water or organically polluted water.

**Similar Species:** Female is similar to female *L. pulchella* (Twelve-spotted S.) but is parallel-sided to S8, then rapidly tapers and has spots (not stripes).


[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

**Identification features and odonate anatomy**