

***Plathemis [Libellula] lydia* Drury**

**Common Whitetail**

**17 Apr-21 Oct**

**Abundant**

**42-48 mm (1.7-1.9 in.)**

**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).

**Locations:** Alpha Ridge - P1/P3-4/TcP, APL - BP, Atholton, Avalon, Benson Branch, Big Branch, Brown's Bridge, Carmax, Cattail, Cedar Lane, Centennial - L/S/VP, Cent HS, Coca Cola Drive, Corridor, Daniels, David Force, Deep Run, Dorsey Hall, Dunteachin Farm, Elkhorn -FB/L, Coca Cola Drive - BEL/ES, Farm Ponds, Folly Qtr - MS, Font Hill, Fox Chase, Frederick Road, Fulton Schools, Gateway - AE/JM/LP/RF/SM, Guilford GV/P, Gwynn Acres - BR, Henryton, High Ridge, Hipsely Mill - P/R, Homespun, Howard Chapel, Hugg-Thomas #1/#2, Jackson Pond, Kindler - D/OCP, Kittamaqundi, Long Corner - P/PR, Lynn Buff, Manor Woods, Marriottsville, Mayfield Woods – P/GG, Meadowbrook, Meadowridge Bus Park, MPEA - MPR/P1/P2/P4, Milk Plant - LP/Schools, Mission - :US1, Murray Hill, Mount Pleasant, Nichols Cove, North Laurel, Old Frederick, PRSP, Pigtail, Plum Tree, River Hill HS, Rockburn, Savage Mill, Savage Park, Schooley Mill, Scott's Cove - BG, Sewell's Orchard, Stanford, Stevens - E/W, Trinity, UMDCF - S, Upper Triadelphia, Vantage Point - S, VFW Pond, Vollmerhausen, Warfield's Pond, Wesley Lane, Wilde Lake, West Friendship, Western Regional, Wincopin, Woodstock.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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