**Libellula pulchella**  Drury

**Twelve-spotted Skimmer**

**Common**

**42-57 mm (1.7-2.5 in.)**

**Medium**

**MALE:** Head: brown. Thorax: brown w/ 2 lateral yellow stripes (which fade w/ age). Abdomen: gray-blue pruinosity. Wings: alternating black and milky-white spots (10 white, 12 black); bands are not entirely across wing; tips dark. Appendages: brownish, becoming black.

**FEMALE:** Abdomen: brown w/ lateral yellow (or white) stripes. Wings: 3 dark spots on each.

**JUVENILE:** Brown.

**Habitat:** Temporary or new sediment ponds. Often returns to same perch. Wary.

**Reproduction:** Male is territorial and patrols over water. Female oviposits alone (unusual for Libellula) w/ long swoops to water surface. Exuviae in long grass on bank.

**Notes:** Old name: Twelve-spot, Ten-spot. Migratory along Atlantic Coast.

**Similar Species:** Female looks like female *P. lydia* (Common Whitetail) but abdomen is slimmer, has stripes (not spots) and tapers all the way to the tip.


**Phenograms** (pages 2 – 6).

**Locations** (in Howard County)

**Identification features and odonate anatomy**