Pantala flavescens (Fabricius)

Wandering Glider

8 May - 6 Nov

Common 44-51 mm (1.7-2.0 in.)

Medium

MALE: Eyes: chestnut. Face: reddish-orange. Thorax gray-brown w/ tawny hairs. Abdomen: tapers to tip; mostly golden yellow w/ middorsal black arrowhead spots larger on S8-10. Legs: blackish. Wings: tips amber/brown; HWs wide/clear. Stigmas: red-brown; short, FW stigma longer than HW. Appendages: brown.

FEMALE: Similar to male, lighter in color, face yellow. Abdomen: black dorsal stripe more prominent than in male.

JUVENILE: Face: yellow.

Habitat: Widespread migrant, usually seen hawking in open areas summer and fall; also still water. Infrequently perches vertically. Unwary when perched, otherwise difficult to capture.

Reproduction: Shallow, sunny permanent pools for breeding—especially those w/ bare shores. Male patrols 30-150' territory at 6' relentlessly. Mate in flight up to 5 minutes. Female oviposits alone or in tandem, tapping water. May attempt to oviposit on parked cars. First eggs laid by migrants from south; one generation/year. Larvae needs >43 days to develop. Larva may travel 7.6 m distance/12.5 m height to emerge.

Notes: Migratory. Old name: Globetrotter. Aerial; found worldwide.

Locations: Alpha Ridge - P3-4, Brown's Bridge, Centennial - L, Deep Run, Coca Cola Drive - ES, Font Hill, Fox Chase, Gateway - AE/JM/RF/SM, Guilfors - Park, Kittamaqundi, Manor Woods, Marriottsville, Mayfield Woods - P/GG, Meadowbrook, Meadowridge Bus Park, MPEA - MPR/P4, Milk Plant - LP/Schools, Mission - US1, Mount Pleasant, Murray Hill, Rockburn, Savage Mill, Savage Park, Schooley Mill, Scott's Cove - BG, Stevens - E/W, Timbers (Troy), UMDCF, Wesley Lane, Western Regional, Woodstock.

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