

Flight Record: (5/1010/18) Peaks July-August.

Common

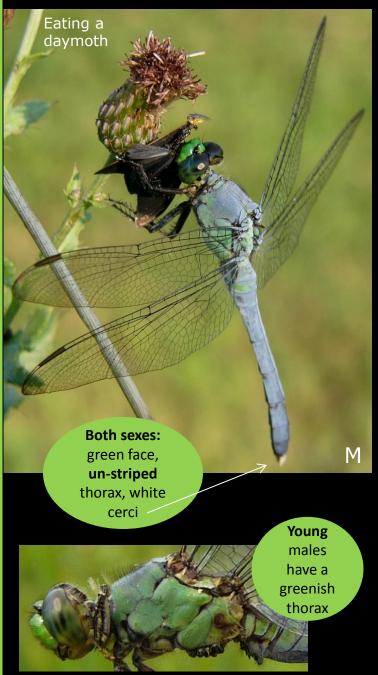
Habitat:
Most
aquatic
habitats,
favors
sunny
vegetated
shorelines
and nearby
meadows.

First
Glance:
Small.
Bright blue
(male),
green, black
& white
(female),
both have
white cerci.

Compare:

Blue Dasher, Blue Corporal, Dragonlet

Eastern Pondhawk (Erythemis simplicicollis) - 1.7", 38-44 mm









How confusing!
Juv males have the same markings as females.

Confusing juvenile males: In most members of the skimmer family, such as pondhawks, females and juv males have similar markings. In some skimmer species, e.g. Common Whitetails, you can still use wing markings to differentiate.

But in many skimmers, like the juvenile

male pondhawk, cerci are the best way

to tell juv males from females.

Notes from the field – Eastern Pondhawk: (also called Common Pondhawk)

In this species, the female clearly outshines the male. Half a dozen dragonflies have colors similar to the male pondhawk, but the bold black, white and emerald green pattern of the female is unique among east coast dragonflies. I've been hunting insects since I was a little kid, and chasing dragonflies in particular since '98, but the very common "green jacket" still catches my eye every time.

This species is a habitat generalist, found along the vegetated shorelines of ponds, lakes, rivers, sunny streams, marshes and even pathway puddles. The female especially is quite a wanderer, often found far from water – look for her in meadows, brushy fields and forest edges. Chasing its insect prey (including other dragonflies) May thru October, this impressive predator has one of the longest flight seasons of our dragonflies. Often catching and subduing insects heavier than itself, it certainly deserves the name of *hawk*.

One of my earliest memories of catching insects with my father has me pulling a brilliant green and black pondhawk out of my net – so bright and ferocious, I knew I must have caught a rare and valuable creature.





Lucky for us, it's not at all rare, because with all the insects it eats, pondhawks certainly are valuable.