

# Halloween Pennant



# Halloween Pennant (*Celithemis eponina*) – 1.6", 36-42 mm

## Flight

### Record:

(6/11-9/29)

Peaks  
late July-  
mid Sept.

*Fairly  
Common*

### Habitat:

Sunny,  
marshy  
ponds,  
pools and  
bays.

### First

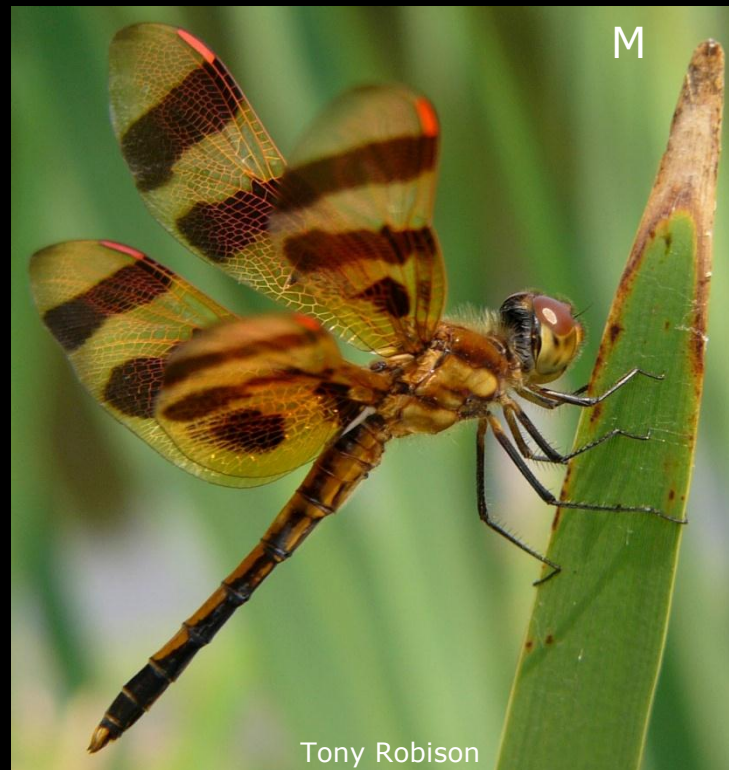
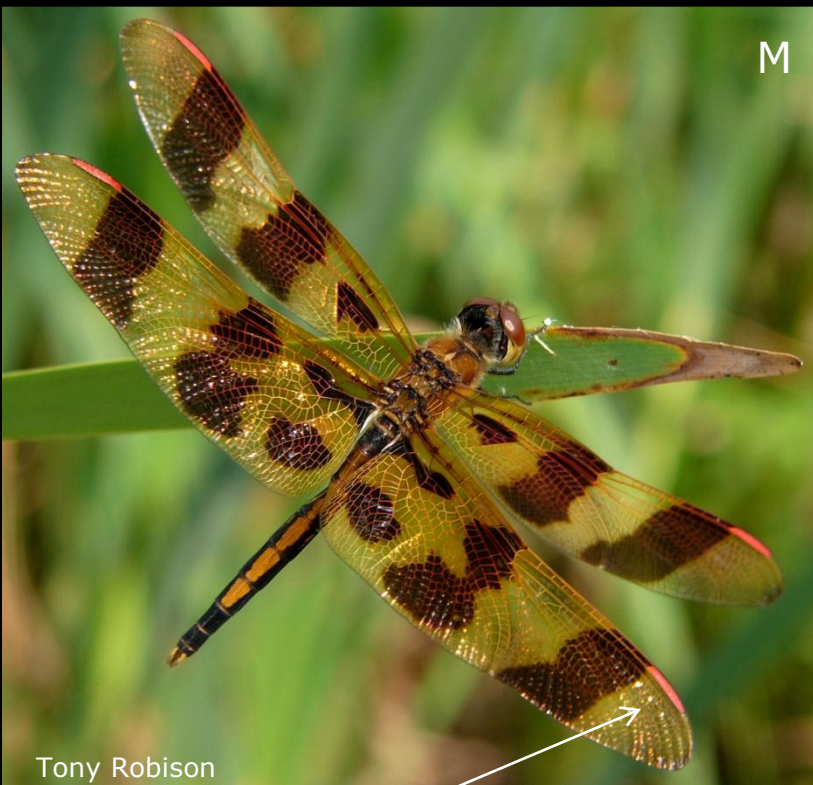
#### Glance:

Fully amber  
wings w/  
bold  
patterns  
throughout.

Dark body  
w/ orange  
to yellow  
marks.  
Perches on  
plant tips  
along shore  
& in  
meadows.

### Compare:

Calico  
Pennant



Males  
have **red**  
stigmas,  
females  
(& young  
males)  
have **yellow**



**Large**  
bands on  
**all 4**  
wings –  
Calico  
Pennants  
have  
*spots*, but  
*no bands*,  
on front  
wings

## Notes from the field – Halloween Pennant:

What a great name! And well chosen – the coloring, especially of the male does indeed match the shades of October’s spooky holiday. Although this species is gone by October 31, it is in fact a dragonfly of early fall, as well as late summer.

Its markings make it one of our most recognizable and easily identified dragonflies. Only the Calico Pennant looks at all similar, and a second glance can separate them. The females can be a little tricky, but just look at those front wings. The Calico’s has *spots*, the Halloween’s has *bands*.

Although Halloween Pennants can be seen fluttering, mating and battling along vegetated pond edges, most of my memories of this species involve late summer meadows of tall grass and goldenrod. In the distance I can see several orange and dark-banded dragonflies perched on the very tallest grass stems, their wings held at an upward tilt. Sun-worshippers and lovers of August heat, they always seemed to be watching over their wild fields, symbols of summer’s end, and insect collecting trips with my father.



Tony Robison