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**

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

Tony Robison

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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-worshipers 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.