

# IDENTIFICATION CHART

Species (size)	Face	Head (top view) T-spot	Thoracic Stripes (side view)	Appendages ♂ (side view); Abdomen Notes	Distribution; habitat; behavior	Flight Period
<b>Blue-eyed Darner</b> <i>(Rhionaeschna multicolor)</i> Short 62-69 mm	No facial line; Bright blue eyes	Very thin, straight crossbar 	Bright blue; broad and straight 	Forked (2-pronged at tip) diagnostic; S10 blue spot on top; no spots under abdomen 	MTH, WIL, & DES; widespread, common throughout OR even in urban areas; up to 6,000 ft; ponds, lakes, & slow-moving waters	Mid-May to Mid-October
<b>California Darner</b> <i>(Rhionaeschna californica)</i> Very short 57-60 mm	Thin black line on face	Very thick; stem widens at base 	Narrow and pale blue 	Simple, leaf like; S10 blue spot on top; no spots under abdomen 	MTH, WIL, & DES; common in urban areas & found in Cascade range up to 7,300 ft. Ponds, lakes, slow moving streams across OR	Mid-April to early September
<b>Canada Darner</b> <i>(Aeshna canadensis)</i> Long 66-73mm	No facial line	Widens at base 	Front stripe deeply notched in middle; rear "shoe"-shaped 	Simple cerci; S10 spot on top; paired spots beneath abdomen 	MTH, WIL, & DES; Cascade mtn. species above 3,000 ft; lakes, bogs, streams, wet prairies; females oviposit in moss, sedges	Late June to early October
<b>Paddle-tailed Darner</b> <i>(Aeshna palmata)</i> Long 64-77 mm	Black facial line	Narrow stem & straight-edged crossbar 	Usually straight, extended 	Paddle-shaped, long spike; S10 blue spot on top; no spots under abdomen 	MTH, WIL, & DES; common; one of most abundant darners, even in urban areas; frequents ponds, lakes, & all still waters up to 7,300 ft	Late June to mid-November
<b>Sedge Darner</b> <i>(Aeshna juncea)</i> Medium 66-71 mm	Thick black facial line	Crossbar with blurred front edge 	Straight, broad, bordered in black 	Narrow, pointed; S10 spot on top; paired spots under abdomen 	MTH, WIL, & DES; not common; Cascades species in OR; frequents sedge-lined shores of mountain lakes & wetlands from 2,500-7,500 ft.	Mid-July to early October
<b>Shadow Darner</b> <i>(Aeshna umbrosa)</i> Long 65-73 mm	Black or brown facial line	Short stem & straight-edged crossbar 	Straight-sided; both with rear extension 	Paddle-shaped, long spike; S10 no spot; spots below abdomen 	MTH, WIL, & DES; common throughout OR up to 6,000 ft; mountains and urban areas; patrols shaded banks of streams, lakes, & ponds	Late May to mid-December
<b>Subarctic Darner</b> <i>(Aeshna subarctica)</i> Short 63-69 mm	Black facial line	Narrow, straight stem 	Both bent in middle; front stripe rearward extension 	Petal-shaped, hairy, tip pointed down; S10 spot on top; paired spots under abdomen 	MTH (3 localities); rare; fens & bogs w/sphagnum & other mosses; 3,000-3,500 ft; males fly waist height & hover; females oviposit in mosses, sedges usually at edge open water	Late June to early October
<b>Variable Darner</b> <i>(Aeshna interrupta)</i> Medium 66-71 mm	Black facial line	Stem & crossbar, angled, thick; wide at base 	Dashes; very thin or broken 	Simple, upturned lobe; S10 spot on top; no spots under abdomen 	MTH, WIL, & DES; common at still waters above 3,000 ft; rare in lowlands; most often encountered darners in the mountains	Late May to early October
<b>Zigzag Darner</b> <i>(Aeshna sitchensis)</i> Short 55-68 mm	Black facial line	Base convex upward; diagnostic 	Front thin, "zigzag"; rear "T-bone"-shaped; diagnostic 	Petal-shaped; S10 spot on top, no spots under abdomen 	MTH, WIL, & DES; rare, up to 3-5,000 ft; oviposit in algal beds, moss, mud, vegetation	Late August to late September

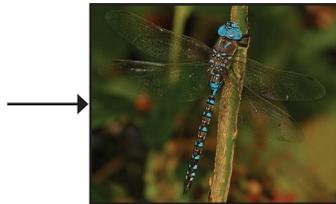
## Quick Guide to Dragonfly Families in Oregon

Body Part	Dragonfly Features to Aid in Identification
Head	eye color & shape; color & markings on face (T-spot, line)
Thorax	presence, shape, and color of stripes on top & sides
Abdomen	color; markings on top & underside; presence of "club" at tip; terminal appendages
Wings	color of wing bases, veins, and stigma; color & shape of wing spots, bands, or patches
Legs	color

Eyes touch along all or most of the inner edges

**Darners, Skimmers, Emeralds, Cruisers**

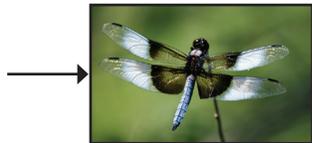
large; body green or blue; stripes on thorax; eyes touch; perch vertically



Darners: Aeshnidae

Habitat: streams, ponds, wet prairies

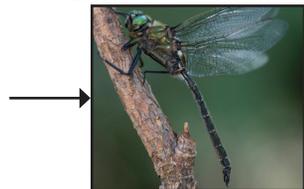
wide range of colors; wings often with color or pattern; may be pruinose



Skimmer: Libellulidae

Habitat: ponds

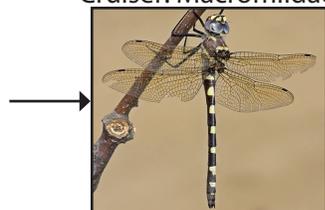
eyes green; thorax hairy, iridescent



Emerald: Corduliidae

Habitat: streams, lakes

large; iridescent blue thorax with one yellow stripe



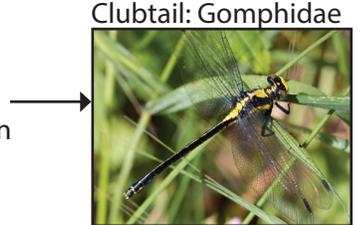
Cruiser: Macromiidae

Habitat: streams

Eyes separated or touching only at single point on head

**Clubtails, Spiketails, Petaltails**

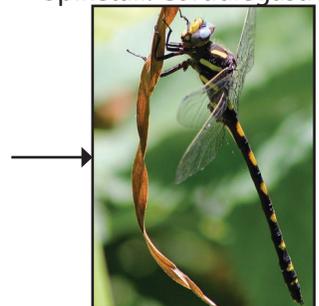
eyes separated; terminal segments of abdomen expanded; green & brown or black body



Clubtail: Gomphidae

Habitat: mostly streams

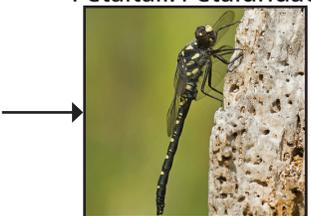
eyes touch at single point; large; brown or black & yellow body; two yellow stripes on thorax; lower tip of female abdomen has spike; perches at 45° angle



Spiketail: Cordulegastridae

Habitat: small streams

eyes separated; large; black body with yellow spots on thorax & abdomen



Petaltail: Petaluridae

Habitat: bogs, seeps

Photos: Blue-eyed damner, Dennis Paulson; widow skimmer, John Wright; ringed emerald, D. Sikes; western river cruiser, Jim Johnson; grappletail, Ken-ichi Ueda; Pacific spiketail, David Hoffman; black petaltail, Jim Johnson.