

Mottled Darner (*Aeshna clepsydra*)

Pennsylvania Invertebrate Species of Concern

State Rank: S2S3 (imperiled to vulnerable) Global Rank: G4 (apparently secure)

Identification

The Mottled Darner (*Aeshna clepsydra*) is part of a group of Darners in the family Aeshnidae, distinguished by their long, slender abdomens that resemble darning needles. The Darners are flyers that often perch by hanging vertically and include our largest dragonfly species. The Mottled Darner is a relatively large Darner species that is easily recognizable in its group. It has pastel mottling on the thorax that varies from blue, to yellow and green. Both male and female are similar in appearance, but the female often has more greenish, pale markings.



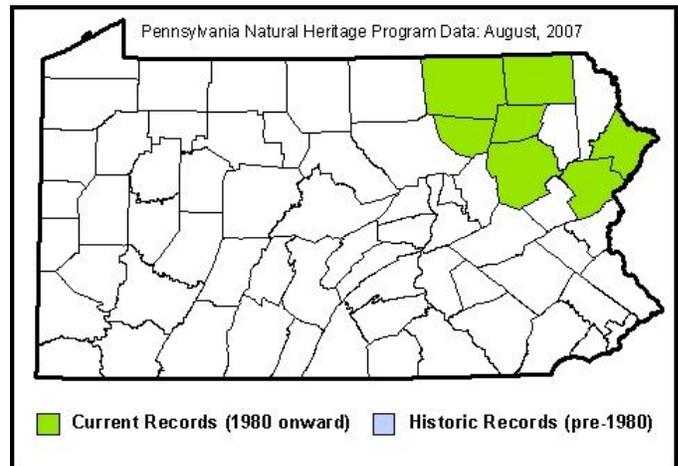
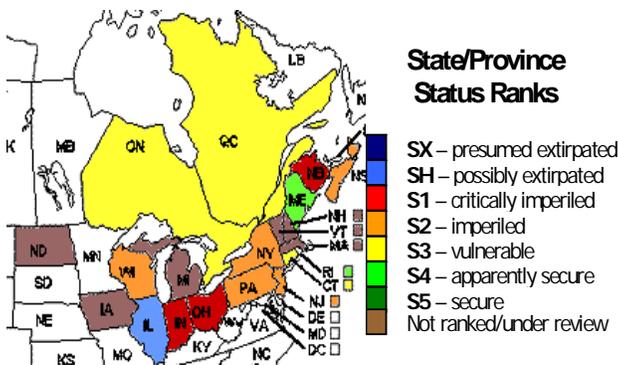
Mottled Darner Aug2002 Maine
Aeshna clepsydra
Dave Czaplak

Habitat/Behavior

This species can be found in marshes and bogs with open water, ponds, lakes and bays. They are often found in wetlands with water lilies and clear water. The adults of this species can be found hunting in open woods and clearings. They fly fast and high and are usually found perching on tree trunks. Males are often seen patrolling shorelines.

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2007)



Status

There are only 7 current locations where this species has been documented in Pennsylvania. Currently dragonflies are not considered for conservation status in PA. The Mottled Darner is considered globally apparently secure (G4) and statewide imperiled to vulnerable (S2S3). The most critical factors to protect these dragonfly species of concern are habitat preservation and water quality protection. This species is dependant on wetland habitats as well as upland habitats. Documenting the mottled Darners habitat requirements will help land managers to determine the most critical areas for protection of this species. Further studies of the Mottled Darner will help biologists to better understand its needs and conservation status.

References



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

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- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 6, 2007).