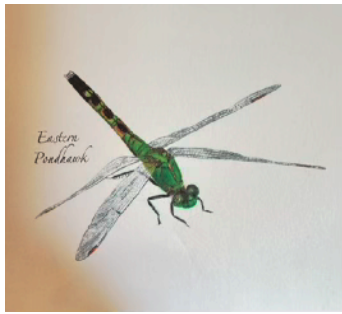
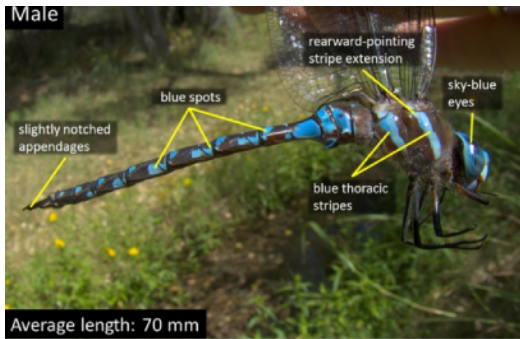


Gillespie Creek Journal



Eastern Pondhawk

Dragonflies are welcome visitors to all of us. Here in the Gillespie Creek neighborhood months of May and June often we have a period of a few weeks where our air is floating with thousands of dragonflies. For me they sit on my shoulders or on my book. I welcome having one sitting on my fish pole. They bring me good luck. We celebrate "Dragonfly Days!"



Arroyo Darner, Male, Empire Cienega National Conservation

A Male Arroyo Darner From Southern Arizona

Dragonflies, like the Common Green Darner are fierce serial hunters. Literature corroborated of a picture of large dragonflies successfully hunting a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Dragonflies don't bite. They do eat millions of mosquitoes larva. Dragonflies develop through incomplete metamorphosis beginning with an egg; then, nymph and finally adult. This species spends the majority of its life developed underwater as a nymph before emerging into a fully winged aerial predator.

When hatching the wingless nymph emerges voracious underwater predator that feeds on mosquito, larvae tadpoles, worms, and even small fish..

Dragonflies can squirt water out of their abdomen. They can extend their lower jaw (the labium) that sheets out to capture prey instantly. As a dragonfly grows it shedding its hard exoskeleton several times. They can live up to five years!



A Male Cardinal Meadowhawk Southwestern AZ

Dragonflies have up to 30,000 eyes. Technically each has five actual eyes (two massive compound eyes and three smaller eyes). Dragonflies can see in color, ultraviolet light and polarized light, making them exceptional hunters.

Engaging

By Barry Mc Donald

*As the years have passed
I've come to think differently
And feel differently
And my outlook is open
And my days are engaging*

Tekkan

Visit gillespiecreek.com for Newsletters and more