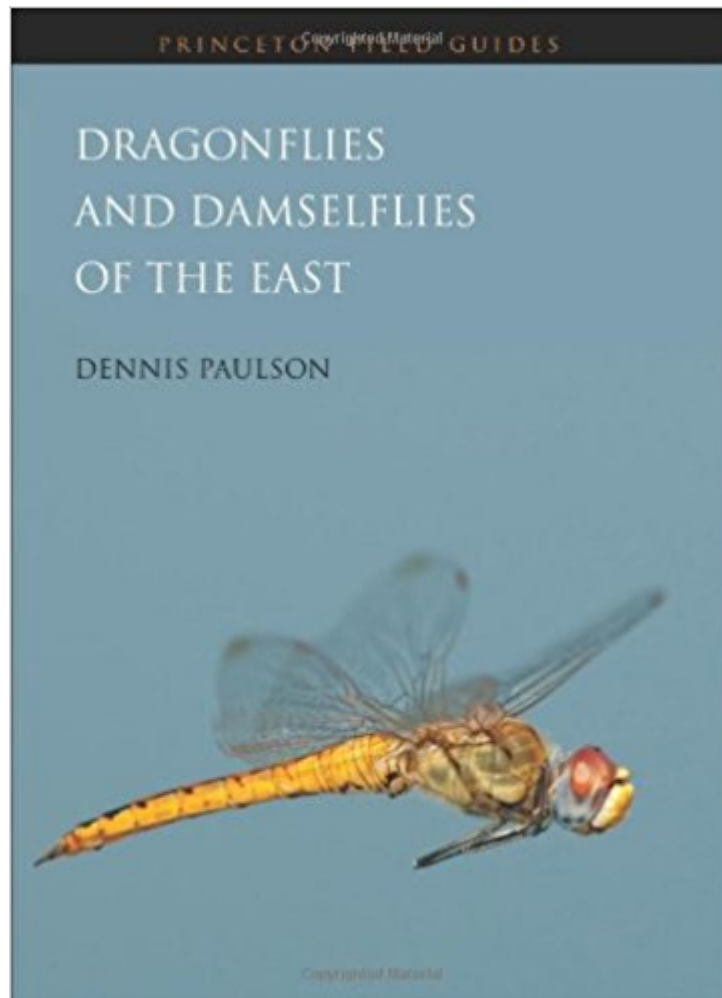




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Dragonflies And Damselflies Of The East (Princeton Field Guides)



Synopsis

This is the first fully illustrated guide to all 336 dragonfly and damselfly species of eastern North America--from the rivers of Manitoba to the Florida cypress swamps--and the companion volume to Dennis Paulson's acclaimed field guide to the dragonflies and damselflies of the West. Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East features hundreds of color photos that depict all the species found in the region, detailed line drawings to aid in-hand identification, and a color distribution map for every species--and the book's compact size and user-friendly design make it the only guide you need in the field. Species accounts describe key identification features, distribution, flight season, similar species, habitat, and natural history. Paulson's authoritative introduction offers a primer on dragonfly biology and identification, and also includes tips on how to study and photograph these stunningly beautiful insects. Illustrates all 336 eastern species Features hundreds of full-color photos Includes detailed species accounts, line drawings to aid identification, and a color distribution map for every species Offers helpful tips for the dragonfly enthusiast

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I truly believe that if there is such a thing as the 'must-have' book, Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East is IT. . . . It contains all 336 species of Odonata that have been found in eastern North America. Not just dragons or just damsels, [but] all Odonata. That means ONE book for everything. It has excellent full-color photographs that are large enough to see many of coloration and patterns that are important. . . . The species accounts are well-done with reference to similar species when

appropriate. The natural history summaries for genera are very good, and valuable information for any ode enthusiast."--Mark O'Brien, Michigan Odonotes blog

"This is a beautiful book, a joy to hold and to look at. Although it is a paperback, it is printed on sturdy glossy paper that will hold up well in the field. . . . [I] recommend it as an essential field guide to the dragonflies."--Devorah Bennu, GrrlScientist blog

"This is an excellent landmark field guide that belongs in every naturalist's collection."--Donna Schulman, 10,000 Birds

"[A] terrific volume that will be very popular among odonate enthusiasts in the East."--Choice

"[T]hese volumes are obviously authoritative, comprehensive and clearly designed with the needs of the naturalist in mind. The photographs are excellent and . . . the text makes up for the unavoidable shortcomings of a photo-guide by including full descriptions of each species. Altogether, these two volumes constitute a complete, highly informative and beautifully illustrated guide to the Odonata of North America."--Guy Padfield, UKbutterflies

"Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East is by far the most complete treatment of its kind. It is chock-full of interesting and useful information, and the illustrations are excellent. Paulson is one of the top experts in this field and his book reflects that extensive knowledge on every page."--Giff Beaton, author of Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast

"Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East is superbly organized, concisely written, and beautifully illustrated. It combines the strengths of a field guide with the invaluable technical information of a manual. As such, the reader will have a strong tool in his or her possession. There really is no other book like it."--Allen E. Barlow, senior author of Field Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of New Jersey

I took this book with me to Everglades National Park and spent a day identifying dragonflies using binoculars. The illustrations, descriptions, life history sections, and other parts of the species accounts are well written, very helpful and interesting. The introductory sections on morphology, ecology, etc. are well illustrated and engaging. I particularly liked a section where the author discusses holes in our knowledge about the biology of dragonflies. He encourages novices and professionals alike to help fill in these holes by reporting their observations. My biggest complaint is that the book lacks dichotomous keys to species. As the author emphasizes, sexing dragonflies is important for their identification. He certainly explains how to sex dragonflies, but the information about this is scattered. A section with an obvious heading "Sexing Dragonflies" should have been added to the introductions.

This is a nice field guide, and as for a comprehensive guide to BOTH dragons and damsels in the eastern region of North America, I believe it is the only one of such kind...that alone worthies it 3 stars! The information is good but a tad laborious and high brow, especially when compared to Beaton's Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast. However, this hardly warrants a markdown in reviewing the book. The pictures are where this book is wanting. They are quite small and often do not show the primary field marks that are described in the text. When one peruses the astounding number of wonderful photos available for most species for free on the internet, it makes you wonder why this book couldn't have come up with some better photos. Also, for beginners, this book often requires one to turn page by page looking for a match to what one has seen or photographed...and this can take a long time. Not all species are easily ID'd as to group (skimmer, clubtail, etc.). However, this is a problem shared by all books of its kind I think...can't someone come up with a more intuitive way to organize dragons and damsels in a field guide?

Big book, though it helped me get a better handle on the groupings of these magnificent life forms. the book is good after a few hours of taking pictures of everything that moves, I can get a chance to more critically understand what I saw, both from an informational perspective, and a visual/photographic perspective. The book is a must but it is also, a lot of book. I am now looking for a book with a little less rigor, I don't need every dragonfly or damselfly this side o the Missisip/ besides, I'm never happy with just one of anything and for the price and subject matter coverage and depth, it's a necessity for amateur rookie or beginning specialist. I caveat beginning specialist cause there is no end to the joy of the subject matter. As entemologist like to say or perhaps just the taxonomist, there's always another bug. I'm a lumpner not a splitter.

Dennis Paulson's Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East (Princeton Field Guides) is an excellent field guide in print form, with the content deserving 5 stars for its comprehensive and detailed coverage of the subject. Precisely because it is so comprehensive in content, it is necessarily large and heavy, making it cumbersome as a field guide. The Kindle Edition overcomes these size and weight issues, but appears to be sadly lacking in electronic field guide features. I find it very difficult to search and especially difficult to compare similar species in the Kindle Edition on my Android device. However, I am not very adept with Kindle and perhaps will soon improve the application to overcome my limitations. It would be particularly useful if there were smart search feature which used the species index and would quickly and easily record sightings with geotag, date, time, quantity, sex and optional notes/photos, etc. into a database. It would be especially convenient if the

voice recognition dictionary were context sensitive, e.g. saying "Aeshna" gets it searching for "ice now" or "asiana" etc. so you have to type in Aeshna and even the text dictionary doesn't refer to the content, so there is no context sensitive predictive or corrective text feature. Another disappointing limitation of the Kindle Edition is that I can't zoom in on the photos. WYSIWYG?! Despite these limitations, which may be more mine than the book's, it is a great leap forward in Odonate field guides. It is now a constant field companion of mine.

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