

SKI-TAILED EMERALD (*Somatochlora elongata*)

Pennsylvania Invertebrate Species of Concern
State Rank: S2 (imperiled) Global Rank: G5 (secure)

- Introduction -

The Ski-tailed Emerald dragonfly is in the family Corduliidae. This family is known as the Emeralds, so-called because many of them have emerald green jewel-like eyes as adults and some have a metallic iridescence on the body. Many of these species look similar and identification can be difficult. The Ski-tailed Emerald is a relatively large Emerald, with bright yellow lateral thoracic markings.

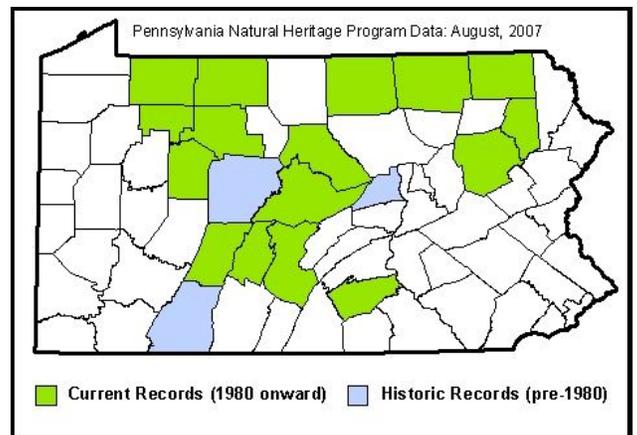
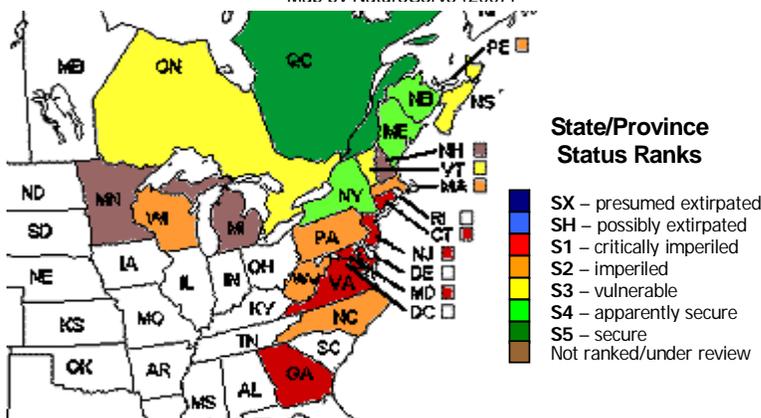


-Habitat/Behavior -

The Emeralds are active and persistent flyers and even eat their prey while in flight. When they do rest, they tend to perch either vertically or obliquely from vegetation. The Ski-tailed Emerald can be found in patrolling slow, shaded small streams and outlets of beaver ponds.

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2007)



- Current Status -

Emeralds are often difficult to find and generally aren't a very common family of dragonflies. Many of the species inhabit somewhat uncommon wetland habitats. The adults are fairly short-lived and fly for a short period of time, making them difficult to observe. The Ski-tailed Emerald is considered globally secure (G5) and statewide imperiled (S2). The most critical factors to protect this dragonfly species of concern are habitat preservation and water quality protection. Further studies of the dragonflies of Pennsylvania will help biologists to better understand the current status of these species of concern and the most important habitats for protection in the state.

References

- Dunkle, S.W. 2000. Dragonflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.
- 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).
- Nikula, B., J.L. Loose, M.R. Burne. 2003. A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Westborough, MA.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program