



THE ECOLOGY AND IDENTIFICATION OF DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES



2025 EAGLE HILL
NATURAL HISTORY
SCIENCE SEMINARS
ON THE COAST OF
EASTERN MAINE

Instructor: Bryan Pfeiffer

When: July 6-12, 2025



Although dragonflies and damselflies live in and near water close to us, they can be difficult to study and learn in the field. This seminar will emphasize practical skills for locating, identifying, and enjoying members of the order Odonata. We'll observe odonates through binoculars, camera lenses, and by naked eye. More importantly, we'll learn and practice net technique to capture and identify dragonflies in the hand and then release them, which is the best way to learn these insects. We'll also cover the essentials of nymph identification and the responsible collection and preservation of dragonfly specimens (adults, nymphs, and exuviae).

This seminar is suitable for beginning and advancing students, and for collectors and observers alike. We'll be in Maine near the peak of dragonfly and damselfly diversity, including relatively high Gomphidae (clubtail) diversity, a family that can otherwise be somewhat difficult to learn. You will get wet and be happy in the company of these charismatic insects. Although it is fine to attend this seminar solely on dry land, as odonatologists like to say, "Good things come to those who wade."

[GENERAL INFO](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[APPLY](#)



about the instructor

Although he is a field entomologist, **Bryan Pfeiffer** (bryan@bryanpfeiffer.com) is more of a teacher at heart. Over the course of four decades, he has lectured and guided people in the discovery of birds and insects across North America. As a consulting field biologist, Bryan works for governments, timber companies, private landowners, and conservation groups. He's netted and photographed dragonflies and damselflies from tropical forests to above the Arctic Circle. Bryan is a member of the Vermont Endangered Species Committee, and is a graduate-level lecturer with University of Vermont's Field Naturalist Program. Because he would rather spend time in the field, Bryan has a relatively small list of publications in odonatology to his credit, and now spends much of his indoor time writing essays at Chasing Nature (www.chasingnature.substack.com).