

***Libellula vibrans* Fabricius**

Great Blue Skimmer

13 May - 17 Oct

Common

56-63 mm (2.2-2.5 in.)

Large

MALE: Eyes: blue. Face: greenish white. Thorax/Abdomen: pruinose pale blue. Legs: black. Wings: black streak basal, spot at nodus, tip usually edged w/ smoky stain. Stigmas: black. Appendages: blackish.

FEMALE: Eyes: become blue (green). Thorax/Abdomen: brown, middorsal black stripe; S8 w/ flange. Wings: black tip extends to black stigma.

JUVENILE: Eyes: red-brown. Face: white. Thorax: front brown w/ white median stripe; sides pale gray. Abdomen: yellow w/ middorsal black stripe. Male begins turning blue on thorax.

Habitat: Forest dragonfly of shaded slow-moving or still waters; shrub-swamp, bottomlands. Unwary.

Reproduction: Male makes frequent slow patrols. Mate for 25 seconds on a perch. Female oviposits by throwing droplets of water containing eggs on the bank while Male guards. Male may patrol and can mate before fully pruinose.

Notes: Some migrate along Atlantic Ocean.

Similar Species: Field i.d. of Female *L. axilena*, *L. incesta* and *L. vibrans*: Juveniles are similar to *L. axilena* and *L. incesta*. Appears to replace *L. axilena* (Bar-winged S.) in permanent forested ponds (compared to temporary) and *L. incesta* (Slaty S.) in shaded (compared to open) ponds.

Locations: Brown's Bridge, Centennial, Coca Cola Drive, Daniels, David Force, Deep Run, Elkhorn, Farm Ponds, Font Hill, Gateway - JM, Gwynn Acres - BR, Hipsley Mill, Kindler - D/ P, Meadowbrook, Manor Woods, Marriottsville, MPEA - P4, Milk Plant, Mission - US1, Old Frederick, Savage Park, Schooley Mill, Stevens - W, Vantage Point - S, Vollmerhausen - IB, Wesley Lane, Woodstock.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)