

***Libellula pulchella* Drury**

**Twelve-spotted Skimmer**

**9 May - 17 Oct**

**Common**

**42-57 mm (1.7-2.5 in.)**

**Medium**

**MALE:** Head: brown. Thorax: brown w/ 2 lateral yellow stripes (which fade w/ age). Abdomen: gray-blue pruinosity. Wings: alternating black and milky-white spots (10 white, 12 black); bands are not entirely across wing; tips dark. Appendages: brownish, becoming black.

**FEMALE:** Abdomen: brown w/ lateral yellow (or white) stripes. Wings: 3 dark spots on each.

**JUVENILE:** Brown.

**Habitat:** Temporary or new sediment ponds. Often returns to same perch. Wary.

**Reproduction:** Male is territorial and patrols over water. Female oviposits alone (unusual for *Libellula*) w/ long swoops to water surface. Exuviae in long grass on bank.

**Notes:** Old name: Twelve-spot, Ten-spot. Migratory along Atlantic Coast.

**Similar Species:** Female looks like female *P. lydia* (Common Whitetail) but abdomen is slimmer, has stripes (not spots) and tapers all the way to the tip.

**Locations:** Alpha Ridge - M/P3-4/TcP, APL - BP, Atholton, Benson Branch, Big Branch, Brown's Bridge, Carmax, Cattail, Centennial - L/S/VP, Coca Cola Drive, Corridor, Daniels, David Force, Deep Run, Dorsey Hall, Elkhorn - FB/L, Coca Cola Drive - ES, Farm Ponds, Folly Qtr - MS, Font Hill, Fox Chase, Fulton Schools, Gateway - AE/RF/SM, Guilford - GV, Gwynn Acres - BR, High Ridge, Hipsely Mill, Hollofield, Hugg-Thomas #1/#2, Kindler - D, Kittamaqundi, Long Corner - P, Manor Woods, Marriottsville, Mayfield Woods - GG/P, Meadowbrook, MPEA - P1/P2/P4/SL, Milk Plant - UP/Schools, Mission - US1, Murray Hill, Old Frederick, Pigtail, Plum Tree, River Hill HS, Rockburn, Schooley Mill, Sewell's Orchard, Stevens E/W, Trinity, UMDCF - S, Upper Triadelphia, Vantage Point - S, VFW Pond, Warfield's Pond, Wesley Lane, Western Regional, Woodstock.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)