

***Sympetrum obtrusum* (Hagen)**

White-faced Meadowhawk

26 Sep – 4 Oct

Rare

30-36 mm (1.2-1.4 in.)

Medium

MALE: Face: greenish-white to shining white. Thorax: reddish-brown (no pattern). Abdomen: blood-red w/ basal black triangles. Legs: black.

Wings: bases golden-yellow. Stigmas: smoky-gray [red?]. Appendages: yellow; cerci have black tips.

FEMALE: Similar to Male but usually more yellow-orange, turning dull brown w/ age.

JUVENILE: Yellowish-red where male is red. Abdomen: lateral stripe black.

Habitat: Common in western MD, rare on Coastal Plain. Small (temporary) ponds; borrow pits and marshes w/ associated meadows; streams, tolerates acid water. Dried- up section of ponds. Forages from tips of low weeds.

Reproduction: Female oviposits by dropping eggs onto mud or into water among emergent reeds. Delayed egg development (diapause).

Notes: Old name: White-faced Meadowfly. Identification of male by genitalia.

Similar species: Hybridizes w/ *S. rubicundulum* (Ruby S.)

Locations: Fox Chase, Kindler – P, Rockburn.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)