flag-tailed spinyleg

Dromogomphus spoliatus

FEATURES

Flag-tailed spinyleg is known for its brightly marked yellow-orange clubtail. Males have blue or turquoise eyes and a yellow-to-tan face. The thorax is dull yellow with black diagonal striping. The abdomen is mostly yellow to white with large brown blotches, presenting the appearance of two black and white alternating rings on each segment. The seventh to ninth segments are yellow-orange with brown markings. Female shows the same coloration as males, but with less pronounced clubtail.

BEHAVIORS

Males perch elevated at the waterside, or low on rocks, their abdomen raised up towards the sun during midday, or hanging down when perched in shrubs. They fly out and frequently hover over the water. They like slow rivers or large muddy ponds. They are found in nearly all of Illinois, excluding the upper tenth of the state sharing a border with Wisconsin. They range south into Louisiana, Texas, northern Alabama, and the northwest corner of Georgia.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta Order: Odonata Family: Gomphidae

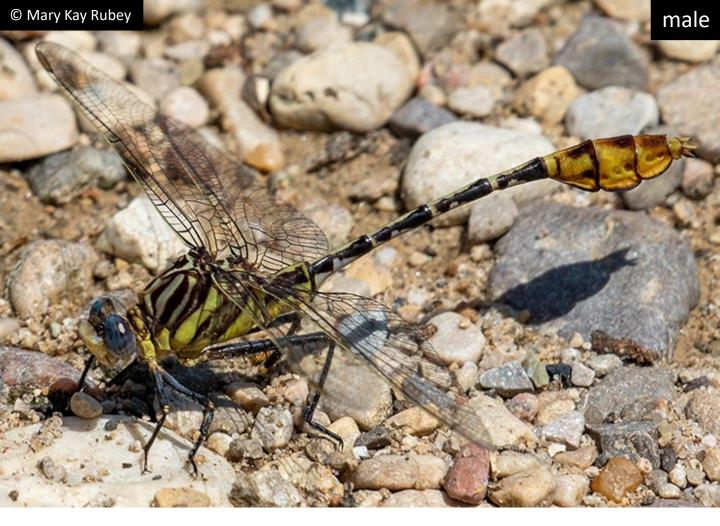
ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE







Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none