

# swift setwing

## *Dythemis velox*

### FEATURES

The swift setwing is the only species of this genus of dragonfly in Illinois. It is about two inches long and is easily recognized when perched by its black tipped wings that are held forward towards the face. The thorax has a complex black pattern on top of a bluish cream color. The abdomen is yellow at its base and is mostly black with small yellow spots along the back. The dark wing tips and abdominal color distinguish it from a blue dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*).

### BEHAVIORS

The swift setwing is found in Illinois along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Males spend most of their time perched on shrubs near the water and are sometimes seen patrolling and defending a territory. Females are usually a bit more conspicuous, and when they are not hunting, hide in trees nearby. Flight period in Illinois is unknown but can likely be seen later in the summer and early fall.

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Arthropoda  
Class: Insecta  
Order: Odonata  
Family: Libellulidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

rare, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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## **Aquatic Habitats**

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

## **Woodland Habitats**

none

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

edge