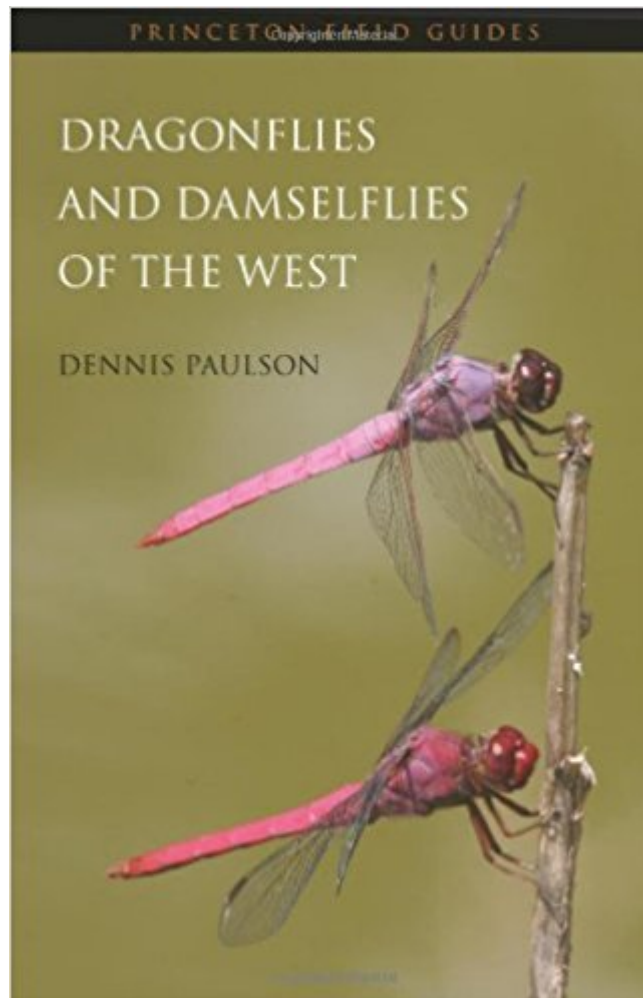




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Dragonflies And Damselflies Of The West (Princeton Field Guides)



Synopsis

Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West is the first fully illustrated field guide to all 348 species of dragonflies and damselflies in western North America. Dragonflies and damselflies are large, stunningly beautiful insects, as readily observable as birds and butterflies. This unique guide makes identifying them easy--its compact size and user-friendly design make it the only guide you need in the field. Every species is generously illustrated with full-color photographs and a distribution map, and structural features are illustrated where they aid in-hand identification. Detailed species accounts include information on size, distribution, flight season, similar species, habitat, and natural history. Dennis Paulson's introduction provides an essential primer on the biology, natural history, and conservation of these important and fascinating insects, along with helpful tips on how to observe and photograph them. Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West is the field guide naturalists, conservationists, and dragonfly enthusiasts have been waiting for. Covers all 348 western species in detail Features a wealth of color photographs Provides a color distribution map for every species Includes helpful identification tips Serves as an essential introduction to dragonflies and their natural history

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Honorable Mention for the 2009 National Outdoor Book Award in Nature Guidebooks"Who knew that there were 348 species of dragonflies and damselflies in the Western United States? That fact

alone should make nature lovers who enjoy traveling to wild places want to check out Dennis Paulson's new book, *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West*, published by Princeton University Press. . . . This guide includes information on flight seasons, habitat and natural history in the description of each insect as well as helpful tips on how to observe and photograph them."--Salt Lake Tribune

"Bird watching has been a common hobby for centuries, and butterfly watching has become popular in the last few decades. Odonate watching is the newest pastime. Here, Paulson offers a comprehensive guide to Odonata of western North America. . . . This well-written, informative guide is a 'must have' for any person, amateur or scholar, interested in these insects."--Choice

"[T]hese volumes are obviously authoritative, comprehensive and clearly designed with the needs of the naturalist in mind. The photographs are excellent and . . . the text makes up for the unavoidable shortcomings of a photo-guide by including full descriptions of each species. Altogether, these two volumes constitute a complete, highly informative and beautifully illustrated guide to the Odonata of North America."--Guy Padfield, UKbutterflies

"Extremely well organized, and very well written. This is a superb treatment. With its impressive number of large, clear images and thorough text, it will immediately become the must-have field guide for western odonate watchers and researchers."--Giff Beaton, author of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast*

"Dennis Paulson is recognized as one of the very best odonatologists in the world. This is a fine book, and will sell many thousands of copies. The text is well organized, and the color photos are gorgeous."--Sidney W. Dunkle, author of *Dragonflies through Binoculars*

As others have pointed out, there is no key or guide to help us get started. I photographed a dragonfly new to me and after an hour using this book had no idea where to start searching for the species. A guide at the beginning of the book listing all the families and their characteristics including a few photos of typical family members would make this book useful and educational. Most birding guides are set up like that. As it is the book is pretty useless except as a door stop or just for casual browsing.

Basics: 2009, 535 pages, softcover, 850+ color photos of all 348 species in western US and Canada, range maps This is an exceptional book for any dragonfly enthusiast with a focus on identification. This is the most complete and best quality of any related book available. As noted in the title, the "West" refers to all species found in (a) Alaska, (b) Canadian provinces of Manitoba and

Nunavut and all provinces west, and (c) N/S Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and all other states west. This region encompasses 348 species, all of which are shown in this book. All photographs are in color and of very good quality and size. All but 4 or 5 of the species are shown with at least 2 photos. Many species have 3 or 4 photographs. The photos show differences between male and female, adult and immature, and variations due to pruinoses and heteromorphs. These photographs will be very helpful with the identification of most odonata you encounter - except for those frustratingly similar species. This is where the detailed text will be very informative and useful. The text, ranging from 1/2 to a full page for each species, consists of 6 distinct sections. The bulk of the material is found in Description, Identification, and Natural History. A single, yet potent, sentence is given to each of the other three sections of Habitat, Flight Season, and Distribution. The identification section does a good job of comparing similar species, giving pointers of how to differentiate between the finer points. The description of each can often be very detailed, which might be a bit too detailed for the novice or a person with a passing interest to know what to call that dragonfly flitting around the garden. To truly identify down to the species level, the book often describes the individual with terms of lateral thoracic stripes, postocular spots, abdomen black above S2-7, and other necessary "scientific" descriptors. Expanding on this detail are wonderful drawings of the abdominal tips and appendages, which are sometimes the only means for identification. The book has other brief sections on research, collecting, naming, anatomical labels (to help with terms in the identification section), and natural history. Lastly, a distribution map is supplied for each individual. Where relevant, the maps zoom in to the restricted ranges for many of the species. The boundaries for the states and provinces are shown, which help with better detail. This is, by far, the best odonate book available for the US. I certainly hope an eastern companion will follow in the near future. I've listed several related books below...

- 1) *Common Dragonflies of the Southwest* by Biggs
- 2) *Dragonflies and Damselflies (Odonata) of Texas, Volume I* by Abbott
- 3) *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Texas and the South-Central United States* by Abbott
- 4) *Dragonflies and Damselflies of California* by Manolis
- 5) *Dragonflies & Damselflies of the Border Southwest* by Behrstock
- 6) *Dragonflies of Alaska* by Hudson
- 7) *Dragonflies through Binoculars* by Dunkle
- 8) *Dragonflies And Damselflies of Georgia And the Southeast* by Beaton (written by Sogleglad at Avian Review or Avian Books, May 2009)

If you have an interest in identifying the dragonflies in your area, this guide will really be helpful. Many good photos and illustrations are provided, and good descriptions in the text.

I do a lot of Odonata photography and until Dennis Paulson's books were published, accurate field guides were hard to come by and restricted to regional coverage. The dividing line between the 'East' and 'West' coverage is the Mississippi River, so a substantial overlap does occur. This turns out to be helpful as the later Eastern edition has updates to classification, while the earlier Western edition has some extensive tables that help with some IDs. Even for species covered in both, the pictures are different, and these help with species with different color morphs. So well worth getting both.

Very good guide book, the content is very informative, beautiful photos; users can use it very comfortably during the field. I like the book very much, and expect to use it during my vacation in the west of America.

Great volume which covers the topic well and was still reasonably easy to use.

Found this book very helpful. Detailed descriptions and illustrations. Good solid binding and fine printing.

I have struggled for a long time to find a comprehensive dragonfly guide. Most are fairly skinny, only cover a small area (a state or two) and the images are either drawings or frankly they're not very good. And then I found this book (and its sister guide for the east). Great images. Comprehensive identification write-ups. Great maps. Everything I could ever want in a guide but were afraid to ask. And all of this at a great price. Granted I shoot a lot of images of dragonflies and I get a lot of requests for identification help, but I don't think a week goes by where I don't use this thing at least 2 or 3 times. This one is a winner. Don't hesitate.

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