

# flag-tailed spinyleg

## *Dromogomphus spoliatus*

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

**ILLINOIS STATUS**  
common, native

### 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.

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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female





### **Aquatic Habitats**

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none