

Species Status Assessment

Common Name: Dusky dancer

Date Updated: 2025-01-10

Scientific Name: *Argia translata*

Updated By: Erin L. White

Class: Insecta

Family: Coenagrionidae

Species Synopsis (*a short paragraph which describes species taxonomy, distribution, recent trends, and habitat in New York*):

This tropical dancer is the common ancestor to all the rest of the 100s of described dancers in the western Hemisphere. It resides primarily in flowing waters, but also turns up infrequently on lakes/reservoirs. It is known from Nevada east to Maine in the US and from Ontario, Canada (NatureServe 2025). It is on its extreme northeastern range margin in NYS, and hence is confined to the southern portion of the state. Its range in the state seems to have recently contracted towards the extreme southeastern part of the state. The species is currently vulnerable in NY (S3).

I. Status

a. Current legal protected Status

i. **Federal:** Not Listed **Candidate:** No

ii. **New York:** Unprotected, SGCN

b. Natural Heritage Program

i. **Global:** G5

ii. **New York:** S3 **Tracked by NYNHP?:** Yes

Other Ranks:

-NYS 2025 SGCN Status: Species of Greatest Conservation Need

-IUCN Red List: Least Concern

-Northeast Regional Rank (White et al.2015): R4 vulnerability and Shared responsibility

Status Discussion:

White *et al.* (2010) calculated a revised draft S-rank of S1 from S3. Based on information currently available on OdonataCentral and research grade iNaturalist records, the rank has changed back to an S3.

II. Abundance and Distribution Trends

Region	Present?	Abundance	Distribution	Time Frame	Listing status	SGCN?
North America	Yes	Unknown	Unknown			-
Northeastern US	Yes	Unknown	Stable	Post-2000	R4	No
New York	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Post-2000	S3	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Unknown	Unknown		S2	No

Region	Present?	Abundance	Distribution	Time Frame	Listing status	SGCN?
Massachusetts	Yes	Unknown	Unknown		S3	No
New Jersey	Yes	Unknown	Unknown		SNR	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	Unknown	Unknown		S4	No
Vermont	No					-
Ontario	Yes	Unknown	Unknown		S2	-
Quebec	No					-

Column options

Present?: Yes; No; Unknown; No data; (blank) or Choose an Item

Abundance and Distribution: Declining; Increasing; Stable; Unknown; Extirpated; N/A; (blank) or Choose an item

SGCN?: Yes; No; Unknown; (blank) or Choose an item

Monitoring in New York (*specify any monitoring activities or regular surveys that are conducted in New York*):

The New York State Dragonfly and Damselfly Survey (NYDDS) was conducted from 2005-2009 but there are no organized, regular monitoring or survey activities directed toward this species or to sites where it has been documented.

Trends Discussion (*insert map of North American/regional distribution and status*):

White *et al.*, (in prep) found declines in county-level distributions since 1970 and since 2000, throughout the entire Northeast. No new town records were found in New Hampshire during intensive surveys there (Hunt, 2012). In NYS, this species was known to occupy 9 counties along the southernmost reaches of the state historically, and is confirmed in 12 counties (and unconfirmed records from Saratoga County) mostly in central and southern NY (Abbott 2025, iNaturalist 2025, White et al. 2010).

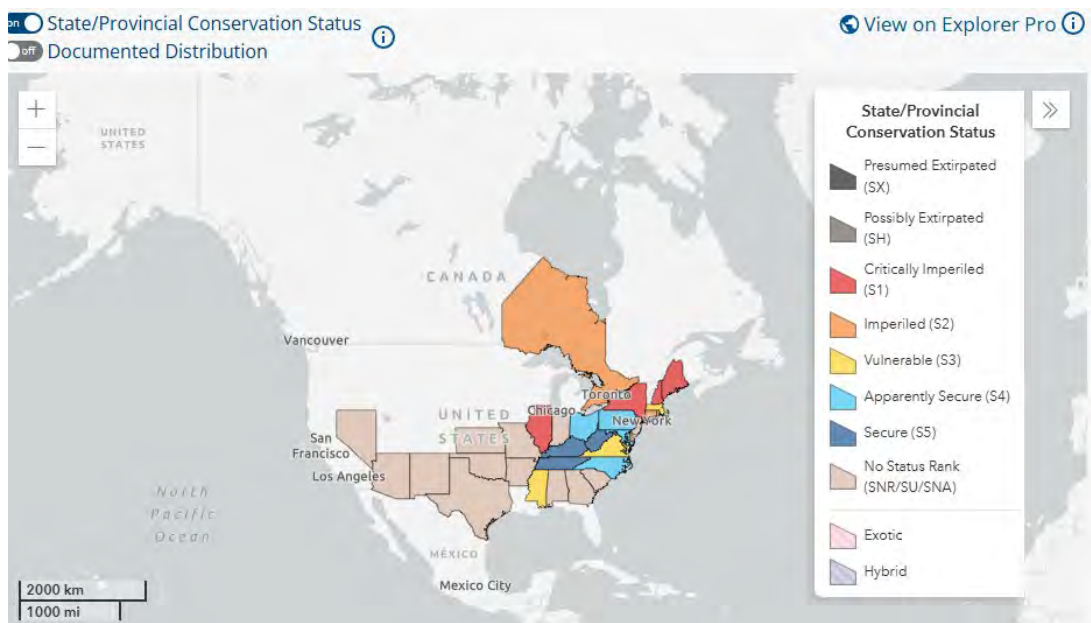


Figure 1. Conservation status of the Dusky Dancer in North America (NatureServe 2025).

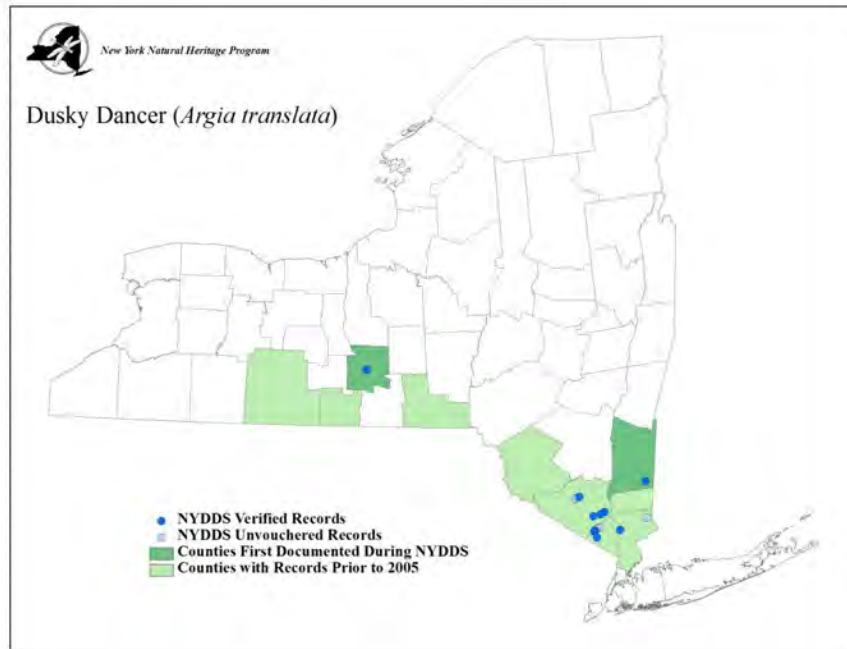


Figure 2. Occurrence record of the Dusky Dancer in New York during the NYDDS (White *et al.* 2010).

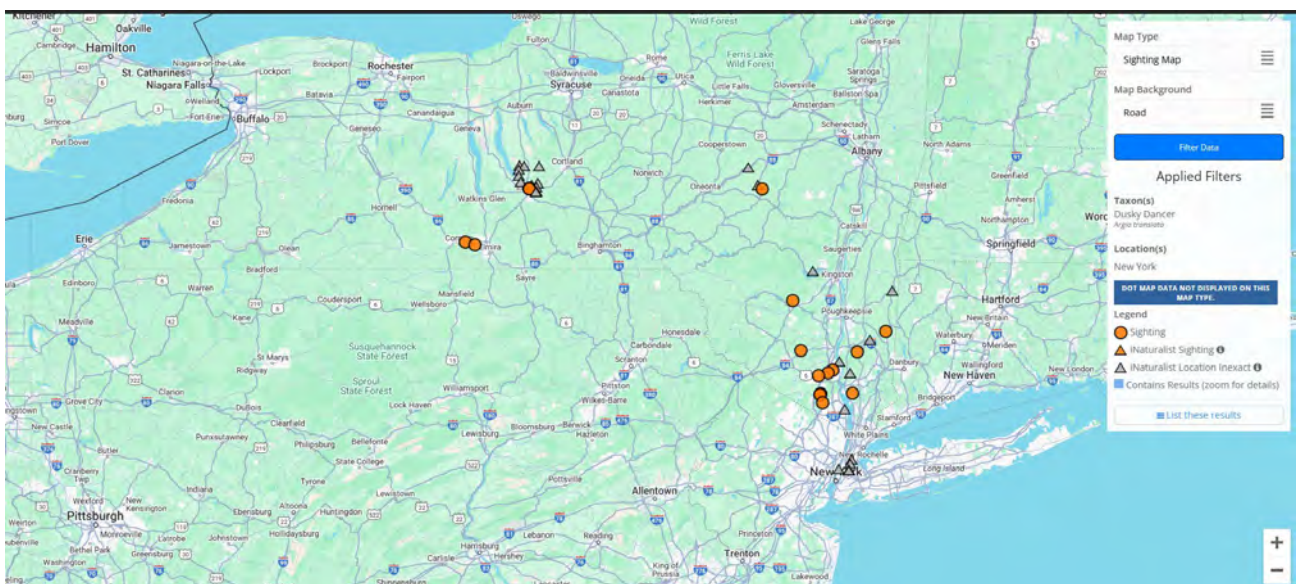


Figure 4. Distribution of the Dusky Dancer in NY (Abbott 2025).

III. New York Rarity (*provide map, numbers, and percent of state occupied*)

Years	# of Records	# of Counties	% of State
Pre-2005	at least 8	8	12.9
2005-2009	at least 10	5	8.1

2010-2023	<u>27-100</u>	<u>7-8</u>	<u>12.9</u>
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Table 1. Records of (species) in New York.

Details of historic and current occurrence:

Dusky Dancer is previously known from nine counties pre-2005 in NY (Donnelly, 2004, White et al. 2010) including Greene, Steuben, Chemung, Broome, Sullivan, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester.

Since 2005, there are confirmed records in 12 counties (and unconfirmed records from Saratoga County) mostly in central and southern NY (Abbott 2025, iNaturalist 2025, White et al. 2010): New York, Bronx, Ulster, Columbia, Tompkins, Schoharie, Onondaga, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, Rockland, and Dutchess. As there were 102 research grade records on iNaturalist, I assumed these were valid records if they were labeled research grade, as I did not look at photos. Any number of these may not be confirmed records, though I know several of the observers and many are likely valid, especially from previously known counties. As many exact locations are obscured to me on iNaturalist, I am unable to determine if multiple records from a county will be the same EO (or if these are breeding locations), so left a large range of possible EOs in # of records above.

New York’s Contribution to Species North American Range:

Percent of North American Range in NY	Classification of NY Range	Distance to core population, if not in NY
1-25%	Peripheral	Hundreds of miles

Column options

Percent of North American Range in NY: 100% (endemic); 76-99%; 51-75%; 26-50%; 1-25%; 0%; Choose an item

Classification of NY Range: Core; Peripheral; Disjunct; (blank) or Choose an item

IV. Primary Habitat or Community Type *(from NY crosswalk of NE Aquatic, Marine, or Terrestrial Habitat Classification Systems):*

1. Small River, Low Gradient
2. Small River, Low-Moderate Gradient
3. Medium River, Low Gradient
4. Medium River, Low-Moderate Gradient

Habitat or Community Type Trend in New York

Habitat Specialist?	Indicator Species?	Habitat/Community Trend	Time frame of Decline/Increase
No	No	Unknown	

Column options

Habitat Specialist and Indicator Species: Yes; No; Unknown; (blank) or Choose an item

Habitat/Community Trend: Declining; Stable; Increasing; Unknown; (blank) or Choose an item

Habitat Discussion:

This species appears to be somewhat of a habitat generalist. It is most often recorded on streams and small rivers in NYS, but can also be found on small lakes or reservoirs.

V. Species Demographic, and Life History:

Breeder in NY?	Non-breeder in NY?	Migratory Only?	Summer Resident?	Winter Resident?	Anadromous/Catadromous?
Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes	-

Column options

First 5 fields: Yes; No; Unknown; (blank) or Choose an item

Anadromous/Catadromous: Anadromous; Catadromous; (blank) or Choose an item

Species Demographics and Life History Discussion (include information about species life span, reproductive longevity, reproductive capacity, age to maturity, and ability to disperse and colonize):

The flight season of adults in NYS is June-early September, with a peak in late July-early August (White *et al.*, 2010).

VI. Threats (from NY 2015 SWAP or newly described):

There is little published information available citing specific cases of negative impacts to the various species of river dwelling odonates, but any activities which degrade the sensitive hydrology of these habitats would threaten populations. The most severe negative impacts are from changes in the natural hydrology such as the building of dams, increases in the sediment load of the river (as which may result from logging down to the river edge), changes in dissolved oxygen content, direct effects of pesticides, and chemical contamination by runoff of agricultural or other discharge (NYS DEC 2006, White *et al.* 2010). In New York, this species has been recorded from at least a few streams or rivers with siltier bottoms, and presumably lower water quality, so this species may be less sensitive to some of the above stated threats than some other riverine species.

SCOPE: Spatial proportion of the distribution that is expected to be affected in the next 10 years (**narrow**= 1-10%; **restricted**=11-30%; **widespread**=31-70%; **pervasive**= 71-100%).

SEVERITY: The degree of population reduction in the next 10 years that can be reasonably expected from the threat given the current circumstances and trends (**low**=degrade/reduce population by 1-10%; **medium**=d/r population by 11-30%; **high**=d/r population by 30-70%; **very high**=d/r population by 71-100%).

IRREVERSIBILITY: The degree to which the effects can be reduced and the species restored (**low**=easily reversed, at a low cost, and/or within 0-5 years; **medium**=can be reversed with a reasonable commitment of resources and/or within 6-20 years; **high**=can technically be reversed, but not practicably affordable and/or it would take 21-100 years; **very high**=cannot be reversed and species not likely to be restore and/or it would take >100 years).

Threats to NY Populations

Threat Category	Threat	Scope	Severity	Irreversibility
1. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use (changes in hydrology)	N	L	H
2. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	N	L	V
3. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (runoff, siltation)	R	M	M
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	R	L	V
5. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (stream channelization in response to severe weather events)	R	M	V
6. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water (poor water quality)	R	L	M

Are there regulatory mechanisms that protect the species or its habitat in New York?

Yes: _____

No: _____

Unknown: _____

If yes, describe mechanism and whether adequate to protect species/habitat:

Article 15 of Environmental Conservation Law provides protection of rivers, streams, lakes and ponds through the Protection of Waters permit program. This is not adequate to protect the habitat/species.

Describe knowledge of management/conservation actions that are needed for recovery/conservation, or to eliminate, minimize, or compensate for the identified threats:

Any measures to reduce water contamination or hydrological alteration such as agricultural run-off, upland development, and damming that would affect flow of small rivers should be considered when managing for this species.

Given the apparent range retraction suggested by the decreasing number of recent records, monitoring of some subset of sites in the face of climate change may shed light on whether this is a threat to the species or a possible factor involved in the range change.

The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (NYSDEC 2005) includes recommendations for the following actions for odonates of bogs, fens and ponds.

Habitat monitoring:

_____ Support and encourage habitat monitoring efforts that would complete the baseline assessment of habitat quality and threats.

Habitat research:

_____ Support and encourage research projects that will help define preferred habitat in order to guide future monitoring, restoration and habitat protection efforts.

New regulation:

_____ Recommendations for official state endangered, threatened, and special concern listing are an anticipated result of the statewide inventory. It is expected that at least a few species will be recommended for listing and officially adding these species to the list would constitute a specific action.

Population monitoring:

_____ Conduct surveys to obtain repeatable, relative abundance estimates for these species at known sites and newly discovered sites where access permission to conduct surveys is obtained (as indicated in the State Wildlife Grant Odonate Inventory Project).

Other action:

_____ Most of these species are known from fewer than 10 locations in the state, but new populations undoubtedly remain to be discovered. A currently approved, but not yet begun State Wildlife Grant Statewide Odonate Inventory Project will utilize volunteers, Natural Heritage Program and other staff to conduct surveys for these species at potential sites throughout the state.

Conservation Actions	
Action Category	Action
1. Land/Water Protection	Resource and habitat protection
2. Land/Water Protection	Site/area protection
3. Land/water management	Site/area management
4. Land/water management	Habitat & natural process restoration
5. Land/water management	Invasives/problematic species control
3. Education and Awareness	Awareness & Communications
3. Education and Awareness	Training
4. Law and Policy	Policies and Regulations

Table 3. Recommended conservation actions for (species)

VII. References

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Originally prepared by	Jeffrey D. Corser
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