

# Species Status Assessment

**Common Name:** Seaside dragonlet

**Date Updated:** March 2025

**Scientific Name:** *Erythrodiplax berenice* **Minor Edits By:** NYSDEC Wildlife Section

**Class:** Insecta

**Family:** Libellulidae

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

This species is restricted to the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts. It is only known from less than a dozen coastal sites on Long Island. This forms the northeastern range boundary of this southerly species. This is one of the only odonates capable of breeding in brackish water (Dunkle 2000).

DEC is not aware of any additional data or new information on population trends or threats to this species since the last SWAP revision in 2015 to indicate a need for change in SGCN status.

## I. Status

### a. Current legal protected Status

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

ii. **New York:** Not listed

### b. Natural Heritage Program

i. **Global:** G5

ii. **New York:** S2 **Tracked by NYNHP?:** Yes

### Other Ranks:

-NYS 2025 SGCN Status: SGCN

-IUCN Red List: Least Concern

-Northeast Regional SGCN: Not listed

### Status Discussion:

This species was discovered at several locales in the state during NYDDS (White *et al.* 2010). At a few of the locales, dragonflies have been observed on several different occasions, at others they have been seen just once. This species ranges quite abundantly throughout the southern US and at multiple locations in NYS it appears to be rather abundant.

## II. Abundance and Distribution Trends

Region	Present?	Abundance	Distribution	Time Frame	Listing status	SGCN?
North America	Yes	Unknown	Unknown			Choose an item.

Region	Present?	Abundance	Distribution	Time Frame	Listing status	SGCN?
Northeastern US	Yes	Unknown	Stable	Pre-post 2000		-
New York	Yes	Unknown	Declining	Pre-post NYDDS		Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Unknown	Stable	1990s-2000s		-
Massachusetts	Yes	Unknown	Stable	2000s		-
New Jersey	Yes	Unknown	Stable	2000s		-
Pennsylvania	No data	Unknown	Unknown			Yes
Vermont	No	-	-			-
Ontario	No	-	-			-
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

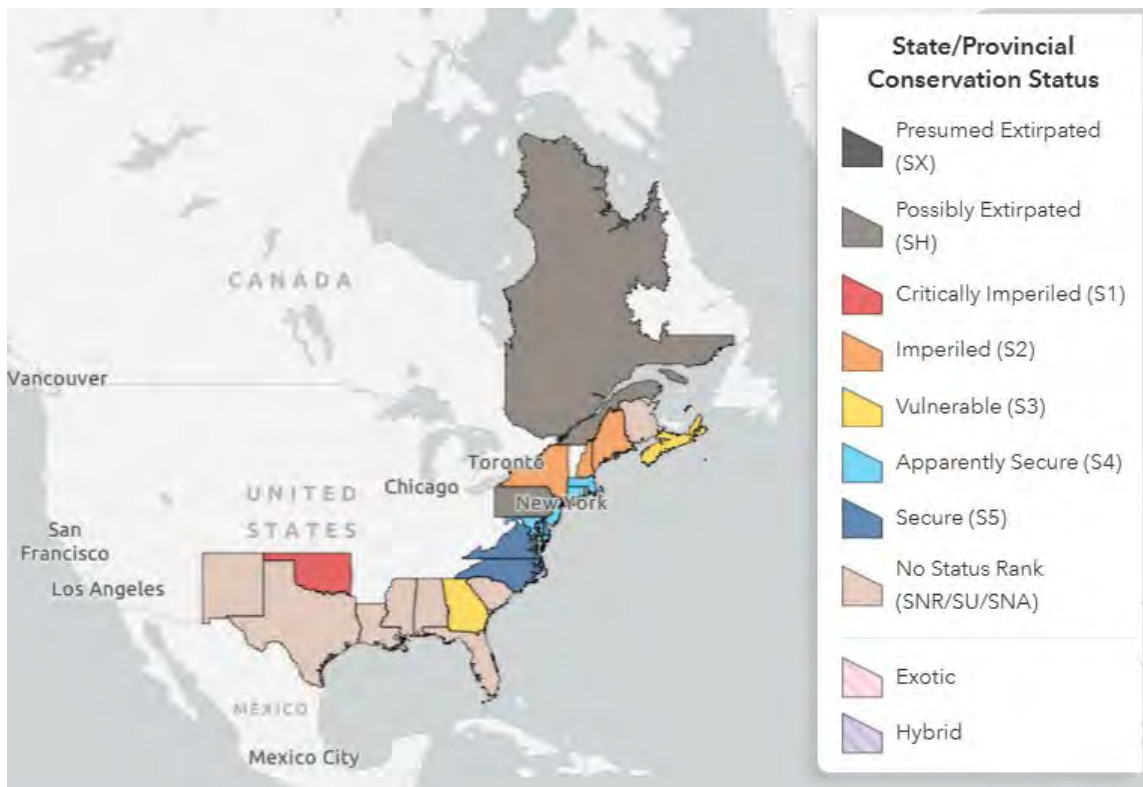
**SGCN?:** Yes; No; Unknown; (blank) or Choose an item

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

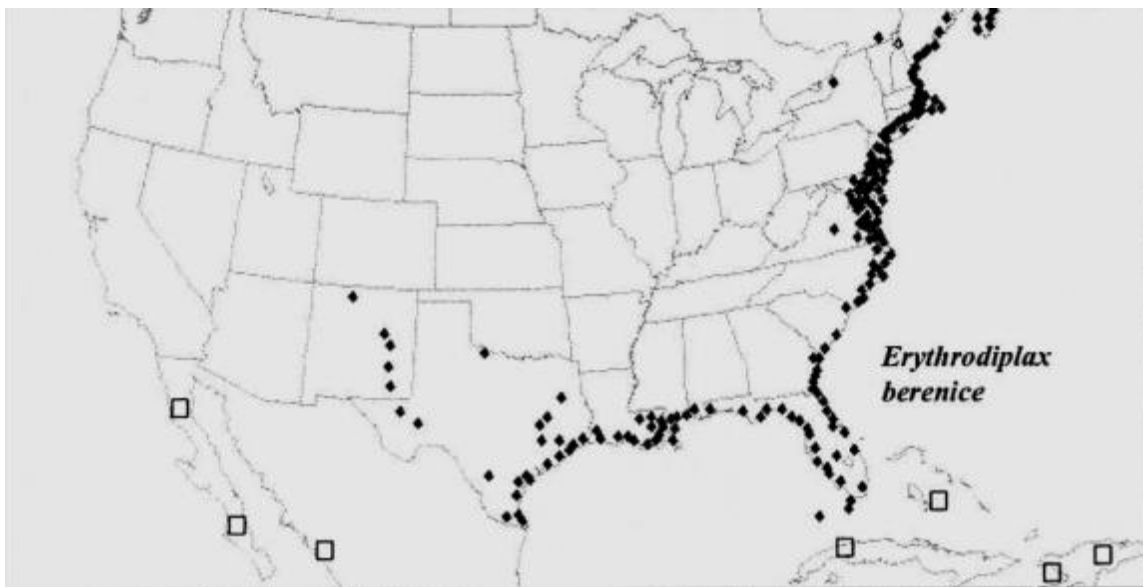
The New York State Dragonfly and Damselfly Survey (NYSDDS) was conducted from 2005-2009 but there are no organized, regular monitoring or survey activities directed toward this species or to sites where it has been documented.

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

This species seems to be holding its own along its coastal habitats in the northeast. Declines in New York seem to be primarily due to the loss of range near Lake Ontario which was likely a transient individual and not a breeding population.

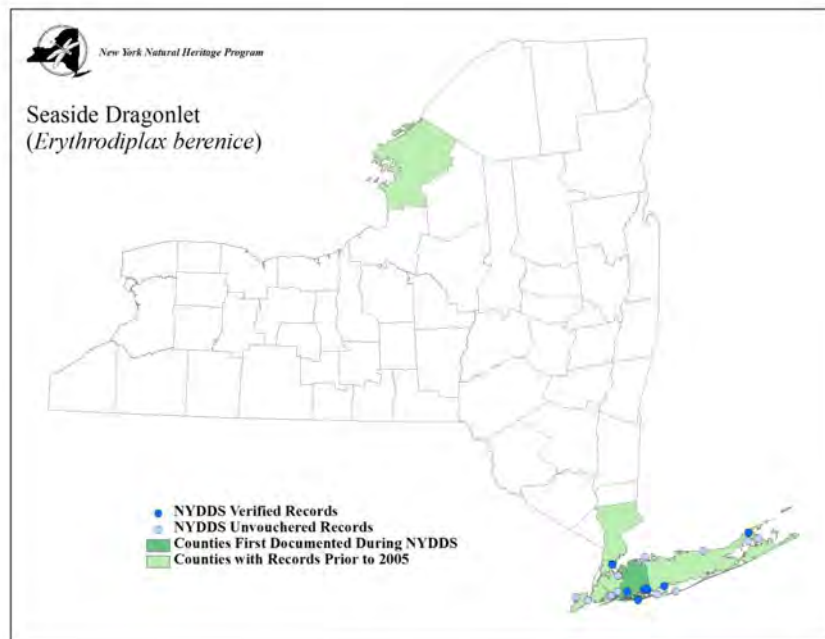


**Figure 1.** Conservation status of *Erythrodiplax berenice* in North America (NatureServe 2025).



**Figure 2.** Distribution of the Seaside dragonlet in the United States (Donnelly 2004).

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



**Figure 3.** Occurrence records of the Seaside dragonlet in New York (White *et al.* 2010).

**Details of historic and current occurrence:**

Besides Long Island and Westchester County, this species was historically know from near Lake Ontario—probably a vagrant.

This species was discovered at several locales in the state during NYDDS (White *et al.* 2010). At a few of the locales, dragonflies have been observed on several different occasions, at others they have been seen just once. This species ranges quite abundantly throughout the southern US and at multiple locations in NYS it appears to be rather abundant.

**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
-	-	

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):

- a. Coastal Plain Pond

## Habitat or Community Type Trend in New York

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

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 is one of the few species that can inhabit brackish water marshes. It appears to be a habitat generalist as populations have been observed in rivers, streams, ponds, marshes.

## 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*):

Primary flight season in New York is late June to early August.

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

Little published information is available citing specific cases of negative impacts to pond odonates, but any activities which degrade the sensitive hydrology of these habitats would threaten populations of these species. Examples include peat mining, ditching, filling, eutrophication and changes in dissolved oxygen content, direct effects of pesticides (e.g. for mosquito control or from agricultural runoff), and increases in the sediment load of the wetland (such as might result should logging occur down to the wetland edge). Natural succession could also threaten some sites as shallow pools fill in with vegetation over time (Novak 2006).

<b>Threat Level 1</b>	<b>Threat Level 2</b>	<b>Threat Level 3</b>	<b>Spatial Extent</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Immediacy</b>	<b>Trend</b>	<b>Certainty</b>
1. Residential and Commercial	1.1 Housing & Urban Areas	(habitat loss)	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
7. Natural System Modifications	7.2 Dams & Water Management/Use	(alteration of natural hydrology)	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
9. Pollution	9.1 Domestic & Urban Wastewater	9.1.1 Domestic wastewater (poor water quality)	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
9. Pollution	9.3 Agricultural & Forestry Effluents	9.3.3 Herbicides & pesticides (runoff)	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

**Table 1.** Threats to *Erythrodiplax Berenice*.

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

Yes:  X

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 forested streams should be considered when managing for this species (New York Natural Heritage Program 2011).

Given the apparent range expansion suggested by the increasing 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.

Action Category	Action	Description
B.3 Outreach	B.3.1.4.0 Public outreach and information	Awareness & Communications
C.7 Legislative and Regulatory Framework or Tools	C.7.1.3.0 Create, amend, or influence regulation	
C.7 Legislative and Regulatory Framework or Tools	C.7.2.1.0 Create or amend policies	
C.9 Education and Training	C.9.2.0.0 Training and individual skill development	Training

**Table 2.** Recommended conservation actions for *Erythrodiplax Berenice*.

The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (NYSDEC 2005) includes recommendations for the following actions for odonates of 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 concrete action. Four of the species are currently listed as Special Concern, but it is possible a change in their listing status may be warranted following additional surveys.

**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). Maintain existing populations and, if needed and possible, establish or restore additional populations, to ensure the long-term persistence of these species in New York State.

## VII. References

Corser, D, Jeffrey. 2013. *Erythrodiplax berenice* Status Assessment for the 2015 New York State Wildlife Action Plan. NYSDEC. Albany, New York.

NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer. Page last published 2/28/25.  
[https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT\\_GLOBAL.2.116578/Erythrodiplax\\_berenice](https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.116578/Erythrodiplax_berenice). Accessed March 24, 2025.

Dunkle, S.W. 2000. Dragonflies Through Binoculars. A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America. Oxford University Press: New York, New York.

NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. <<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>>. Accessed 23 October 2013.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2006). *New York State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy*. Albany, NY: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

White, Erin L., Jeffrey D. Corser, and Matthew D. Schlesinger. 2010. The New York dragonfly and damselfly survey 2005-2009: Distribution and status of the odonates of New York. New York Natural Heritage Program, Albany, New York.

White, E.L., J.D. Corser, P.D. Hunt, P. DeMaynadier, and M.D. Schlesinger (in prep). A conservation assessment of Odonata for the northeastern United States. *Freshwater Science*.

<b>Originally prepared by</b>	Jeffrey D. Corser
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