



PRIMARY ●

Size

30–38 mm,
1.2–1.5 in

Georgia Status

Common throughout the state.

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

Blue-tipped Dancer (*Argia tibialis*)

Identification A fairly small dancer. Adult males are unique, with purple face and upper thorax and all-black abdomen except for s9–10 blue. Females may be generally brown or blue, or very rarely green. They almost always have a thin black dorsal stripe and a thick black shoulder stripe with a fork near the wing bases, and inside the fork is a triangle of color the same color as the thorax. Rarely, a female will have a thinner dorsal stripe and a thinner, just slightly forked shoulder stripe as at middle right; this resembles Variable Dancer shoulder stripe but abdomen very different. Abdomen is all black, with very thin pale rings on each segment, but s8–9 also all black, only s10 is pale. Rarely s9 has some pale marks.

Similar species Male slightly resembles Variable Dancer but abdomen mostly black. Dusky Dancer male has darker upper thorax and only small blue areas on s8–9, not entire s9–10 blue. Female Dusky Dancer somewhat similar but has alternating pale and black stripes on s8–10 and a thinner broken shoulder stripe.

Habitat Widespread at rivers and streams, including slower ones, and also near some ponds and lakes. Often the most numerous dancer at any given site.

Behavior Similar to other dancers, perches in the open on anything available to perch on. Males often blend in on dark ground, and when flying over blackwater streams are almost invisible except for the blue on s9–10. More often found in shade than other river dancers.

Adult male





Typical blue
adult female



Blue adult female
with atypical
shoulder stripe



Typical brown
adult female