

Elfin Skimmer (*Nannothemis bella*)

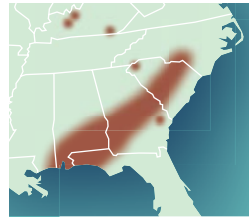
Identification A tiny skimmer. Males are entirely pale pruinose blue-gray. Eyes are pale gray with reddish vertical line, and face is white. Habitually cock short broad wings forward at rest. Abdomen is slender and slightly clubbed s7–9. Immature males are the same size and shape but are much darker overall, dark blue or almost black. Eyes and face same as adult. Females are very different, with black-and-white striped thorax, variable in exact pattern. Generally dorsum is mostly black, sometimes with white or yellow shoulder stripe, and usually with one or more lateral pale stripes or pale areas with black stripes between them. Eyes reddish gray. Wings are amber near the base. Abdomen black and not clubbed with white or yellow anterior dorsal markings on most segments, at least on s2–5, sometimes on s6–8 as well. s9 usually black, rarely with a thin white or yellow anterior ring, cerci pale.

Similar species Little Blue Dragonlet is similar to both adult and immature males but is larger with a dark face. Male Double-ringed Pennant

is similar to immature male, but larger with small basal black spots in wings. Female more likely to be confused with a wasp than an odonate.

Habitat Seepage bogs and marshes.

Behavior Normally found only right at the seep or bog, and typically stay well within vegetation. Difficult to find due to small size, but unwary once located. Maintains a tiny territory, with minimal flying. Mate procurement consists primarily of perching and waiting.



● PRIMARY

Size

18–20 mm,
0.7–0.8 in

Georgia Status

Rare and local.



Adult male (top),
Adult female (middle),
Immature male (bottom)

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC