

# Banded Pennant



# Banded Pennant (*Celithemis fasciata*) – 1.3", 30-38 mm

## Flight

## Record:

(6/02-8/24)

Seen most  
late June-  
July.

*Fairly  
Common*

## Habitat:

Small,  
marshy  
ponds

## First Glance:

Small, dark  
body.

Checked/  
spotted  
wings. Flies,  
w/ lots of  
hovering,  
low over  
open water,  
often  
several  
yards from  
shore.  
Perches on  
vegetation  
near shore.

## Compare:

None



Female has  
**broken stripe**  
down top of  
abdomen - brighter  
when young



### Notes from the field – Banded Pennant:

This small skimmer never seems to appear in large numbers, at least not in Northern Va. – ponds lucky enough to have a Banded Pennant usually have just a few at any one time. I once saw five at a single pond and was surprised – most often it's one or two, flying and hovering out over the middle of the wetland. They're one of our few dragonflies that hover several yards away from shore over deeper water. Their wing markings appear as barely visible, small, checkered spots when they fly, but careful observation can still pick out those patterned wings.

Look for this species in mid-summer at small, shallow ponds with vegetated borders and nearby fields. Males often perch on grass stems away from the water's edge, waiting for females to approach their pond. The first Banded Pennant I ever saw is the male in the upper right photo. I kept trying to get a photo of him perched proudly on the tallest grass, but it was a windy day and the stem was tossed back and forth, giving me about a dozen very blurry photos. After a good deal of "wait...almost....just stop moving for two seconds!", and a few other choice words, I finally got this photo. Soon after, he took off and hunted high over the meadow, as this species often does – behaving more like a tiny glider or darner, than a typical skimmer.

