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## Tule Bluet

*Eallagma cernuolatum*

Tule Bluets are relatively small and fragile damselflies. They prefer shade and moist places near ponds, streams, and small bodies of water. Like most Bluets, and in contrast to the Dancers, the Tule Bluet prefers to perch on vegetation at the water's edge. Males and females are similarly colored with blue and black, although the female can be tan and black.

Body— 1 to 1.5 inches  
Wingspan— 1 to 1.5 inches  
Flight— March through October

## Exclamation Damselfly

*Zoniagrion exclamationis*

The Exclamation Damselfly is quite common and is very distinctly marked. The name "Exclamation Damselfly" is due to these markings, which look like exclamation points. These marks can be found on the top of the thorax. Both the male and female are black and blue. The males' exclamation marks are more clearly delineated than the females'.  
Body— 1 to 1.5 inches  
Wingspan— 1.5 to 2 inches  
Flight— April through August



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## Pacific Forktail

*Ischnura cervosa*

Pacific Forktails are California's most common damselfly and are usually the first damselfly of spring. Males are easily recognized by four pale blue spots in each corner of the black rectangular top of the thorax. Females are more variable in color, with a greenish/black form and a form that looks like the male. The most common female form has a pale blue/whitish thorax, black abdomen with blue at the tip and two orange spots on the back of its hood. Pacific Forktails will wander some distance from water to forage in fields.  
Body— .75 to 1.25 inches  
Wingspan— 1 to 1.5 inches  
Flight— February through November



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Livermore Area  
Recreation & Park District  
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# DAMSELFLIES

Like their cousins the Dragonflies, Damselflies have been around for more than 300 million years. However, there are some differences in the two groups. In general damselfly flight is weak and fluttery in contrast to the strong jet-fighter style of most of the dragonflies. Though damselflies can be found away from water year best chance of spotting these delicate creatures is to look along stream banks. We have up to 25 species in Alameda County.



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## California Spreadwing

*Archistes californica*

The California Spreadwing is one of the largest and most robust of the damselflies. Its coloration is fairly unremarkable. However, they are unique in that they do not fold their wings when perching as most other damselfly species do - hence the name "spreadwing." Individuals not engaged in breeding behavior may be found some distance from water in open woodland, chaparral and weedy areas. When alarmed they are prone to fly up and into vegetation.

Body— 1.5 to 2.5 inches  
Wingspan— 2 to 3 inches  
Flight— June through November



**American Rubyspot**  
*Heterina americana*

The American Rubyspot has unique coloration, there is no other damselfly that resembles it. The male has metallic reddish purple iridescence on the body and bright red color at the wing base. Females are not as colorful, looking very faded and bleached compared to the male.

Rubyspots prefer to stay near water, preferably flowing water, and will not wander far from it to forage. The female will completely submerge herself to lay eggs in aquatic vegetation.

Body— 1.5 to 2 inches  
Wingspan— 2.5 inches  
Flight— March through November



**Vivid Dancer**  
*Argia vivida*

Vivid Dancers are the most common bright blue damselflies to be seen in flying in our area. Males are vivid blue with black markings. The female is usually tan in color though she can be blue, blue and tan, or gray.

The distinguishing feature on both the male and female is a stripe on the side of their thorax which pinches off and sometimes disappears at midlength.

Dancers are very active damselflies, frequently flitting from place to place.

Body— 1.25 to 1.5 inches  
Wingspan— 1.5 to 2 inches  
Flight— March through November



**California Dancer**  
*Argia agrioides*

California Dancers are very similar to the Vivid Dancers. The distinguishing feature is the thorax stripe. The California Dancer thorax stripe is a sideways split "Y." Males are blue and black down most of the abdomen length. Females are usually tan and black although there is a form the can look like the male.

California Dancers and the similar Vivid Dancers both prefer to perch on rocks, bare ground, or wood, and not on vegetation.

Body— 1 to 1.5 inches  
Wingspan— 3.5 to 4.25 inches  
Flight— April through November