



Magnuson
Nature Programs

Dragonfly Migration!



Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*)

Green darners are one of at least nine species of dragonflies now thought to migrate each year in North America. Highly recognizable, the green darner has a pale-green face with a darker green thorax, blue abdomen, and clear wings.

During August-October, these large dragonflies migrate up to 2800 kilometers (1740 miles) from eastern North America to southern Texas, and beyond. During this migration, swarms can reach over 1 million individuals. Using small radio transmitters, scientists have tracked these movements and discovered that common green darners can cover up to 140 kilometers (86 miles) per day!

Not all common green darners migrate. Some, in northern locations, will delay pupation and overwinter in the water as nymphs, emerging as adults the following spring.

Other dragonfly species that migrate include:

Tramea lacerata (Black Saddlebags),
Pantala flavescens (Wandering Glider)
Pantala hymenea (Spot-winged Glider) and
Sympetrum corruptum (Variegated Meadowhawk)