

# Have you seen a...

## Mayfly

### What Does this Species Look Like?

**Size:** Just under 1-inch

**Color:** Yellow, green, white, or black depending on species

**General:** Transparent wings, three slim tails, short antennae

**Usually Found:** Flying over unpolluted streams, rivers, ponds, or lakes



### Did You Know?

- There are thousands of different mayfly species (*Mayfly sp.*) around the world, including the giant mayfly, the golden mayfly, and the burrowing mayfly.
- Adult mayflies live from a few hours to a few days and spend most of their lives mating. They live for a year as a nymph in water.
- Adult females lay eggs in water and often die on the water surface.
- Immature mayflies are an important food source for fish.
- Mayflies are indicators of good water quality.

### What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first appearance of an adult mayfly



### Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this insect is impacted by environmental changes.

### How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:  
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>  
or sent to [phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

### Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,  
[phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

**What is Phenology?** According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”

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