

Francesca Joella

Eagles That Fly Sporadically

“If you are old and you wish to be young again, if only for a moment, try and identify a dragonfly” (“Top 15 Simon Barnes”). It is no wonder that dragonflies “are a fan favorite in the insect world” (Hodny). With their sporadic flying, colorful wings, and benefits to the ecosystem, it is difficult to not feel benevolence toward them. There are nearly 500 species of dragonflies in the United States (Rudic); an estimated 47 of these reside in Delaware (“Dragonflies”). Six of these dragonflies have the possibility of becoming Delaware’s official state dragonfly, and while each endears the hearts of Delawareans in the summer, the only dragonfly that is truly a “bugsonification” of Delaware’s leadership is the Tiger Spiketail. Tiger Spiketails and Delaware both serve as leaders in the United States.

The Tiger Spiketail and Delaware are gauges for the United States. Since the environment cannot speak its problems, it is up to people to observe certain species to notice issues in the environment. Because the degradation of “water quality, alteration of streamflows, and upland habitat loss are primary threats to tiger spiketail[s],” the Tiger Spiketail species is an indicator for the quality of the environment. If any of these threats increase, the number of Tiger Spiketails would decrease and be an indicator for a problem in the environment (“Tiger Spiketail”). The threats to these dragonflies are akin to the current problems in nature all over the United States; therefore, Tiger Spiketails are leaders in the United States for being a gauge of these problems. Similarly, Delaware is also a leader for being the first state in the country: “Delaware was the first to ratify the U.S. Constitution and thus became known as the ‘First State’” (“Delaware”). Delaware is a symbol of freedom for the United States since it was the first

to ratify America's dream. The state is a representation of achieving the goal of freedom, which solidifies its position as a leader like Tiger Spiketails.

Tiger Spiketails and Delaware are leaders and indicators for the country. Tiger Spiketails gauge the state of the environment, and Delaware provides a reminder that freedom comes true. Though dragonflies and states may not have much in common, the Tiger Spiketail deserves to represent Delaware since these dragonflies are leaders for the health of the environment and Delaware is the captain for the dream of freedom. Together, Tiger Spiketails and Delaware are an unstoppable duo as two leaders for the United States.

Works Cited

- “Delaware State Facts - What State Has More Chickens than Humans?” Delaware Historical Society, 29 Aug. 2024,
dehistory.org/learn/delaware-facts/#:~:text=Delaware%20declared%20its%20independence%20from,as%20the%20%E2%80%9CFirst%20State.%E2%80%9D.
- “Dragonflies and Damselflies of Delaware (47 Found).” Insect, Bugs and Spider Identification - North America,
www.insectidentification.org/insects-by-type-and-region.php?thisState=Delaware&thisType=Dragonfly+or+Damselfly.
- Hodny, Janie. “The Mystical Dragonfly.” Green Bay Botanical Garden, 29 Mar. 2023,
www.gbbg.org/the-mystical-dragonfly/#:~:text=Dragonflies%20are%20a%20fan%20favorite,and%20environments%20around%20the%20world.
- Rudic, Dennis Liu and Tamara. “The Beauty and Diversity of Dragonflies.” ArcGIS StoryMaps, Esri, 21 Feb. 2023, storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4c1b5d8db11245fd934e720123b8de56.
- “Tiger Spiketail.” Mass.Gov, www.mass.gov/info-details/tiger-spiketail.
- “Top 15 Simon Barnes Quotes (2025 Update).” Quotefancy,
quotefancy.com/simon-barnes-quotes.