

Vetting Algorithm

User submitted records are automatically assigned to the status of either **Pending** or **Not Vetted** when initially submitted according to the criteria assigned below.

Pending records are assigned to an expert vetter who examines the records and changes the status to either Accepted or Declined based on the evidence in the record.

Not Vetted records are typically accepted without vetting, but vettors can change the status of any record to Pending and then vet it.

Note the assignments are based on the actual user submitted records in the database. Thus, records of common species submitted from an area with no records will initially be treated as rare by the algorithm and will be assigned to **Pending** to be vetted. As records of this species accumulate in that area, they will no longer be vetted.

CRITERIA:

Records assigned to **Pending** include:

- Any record marked by user to request vetting

- Records with photos in any of the following categories:

 - Unknown Dragonfly or Damselfly

 - Low or Medium ID confidence box checked

 - Outside of the flight season

 - All Rare species

 - Uncommon species observed by non-certified observers

 - All species submitted by non-certified observers for the first time

Records assigned to **Not Vetted** include:

- All records submitted at higher taxonomic levels (e.g., *Lestes* sp.)

- Specimen Records without photos

- Photo records of Common species within the known Flight Season

- All Observed Only records

 - Observed Only records by non-certified Observers are assigned an Outlier flag if they are outside the known range and flight season

DEFINITIONS:

Certified Records are used to determine flight season and rarity. They include all Accepted records and Observed Only records of Certified Observers with High ID confidence.

Geographical Unit is an area with a radius of 18 miles around the observation. This is an area of about 1000 square miles and very close to the average size of a US county.

Outside the Flight Season means no records in the Geographical Unit with 10 days.

Rare Species are those with 5 or fewer records in the Geographical Unit in the previous 5 years.

Uncommon Species are those with 6-20 records in the Geographical Unit in the previous 5 years.

Common Species are those with more than 20 records in the Geographical Unit in the previous 5 years.

Outlier Records are those by non-certified observers with no other records within 50 miles or within 15 days of the observation. The assumption is these records are likely in error.

Certified Observers are those that have both (i) submitted photo records of 20 different species that were vetted Accepted as submitted and (ii) submitted records on 20 different dates.