Russet-tipped Clubtail

Stylurus plagiatus

male: long, slender abdomen with creamy yellow markings; area above the "club" on segments 8 and 9 yellowish or brown (russet); legs two-toned; blue eyes; green-striped thorax; shows a russet color on top of entire length of club in non-Southwestern parts of its range; wings have yellow costa

behavior: perches in trees when not at the water; hangs vertically; patrols over riffles

habitat: deep, mud-bottomed streams; rivers and irrigation ditches in arid regions

female: like male; body long, no club; wings may become amber with age

ovipositing: solo; taps water at long intervals while flying rapidly over the water

regional distribution: southern CA, NV, AZ, NM



similar species:

White-belted Ringtail – bolder ringed pattern; white belt Serpent Ringtail – less clubbed Brimstone Clubtail – more ringed appearance



size: large, length 53 - 66 mm, wingspan 74 - 83 mm



regional flight period: April - November

Note: Russet-tipped Clubtails in other regions of the USA have clubs topped with russet color