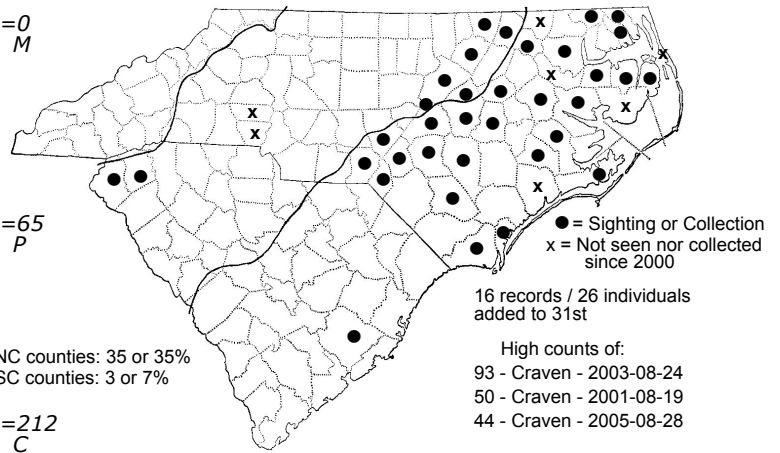
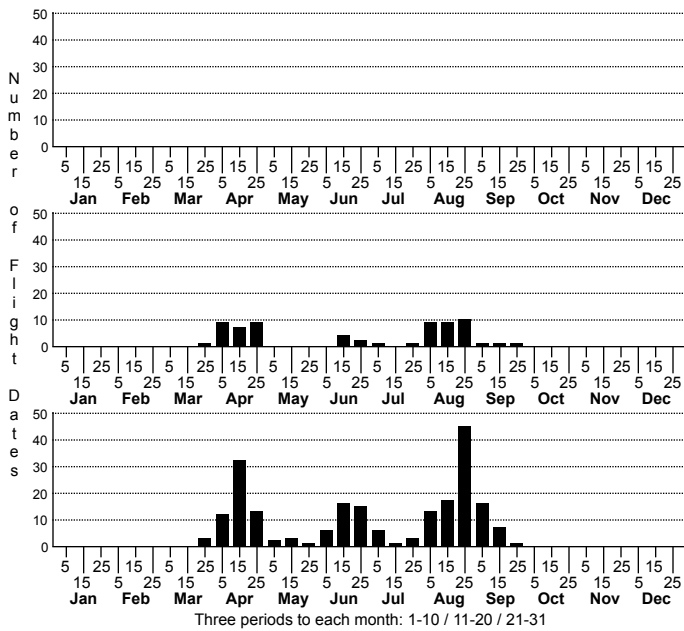


# Carolina Roadside-Skipper *Amblyscirtes carolina*



NC counties: 35 or 35%  
SC counties: 3 or 7%

New for 31st: Camden, Warren, Wilson

Earliest date: Gates 27 Mar 2012  
Latest date: Harnett; P 27 Sep 2003

**Status and Rank**  
State: W - S3S4  
Global: G3G4

**DISTRIBUTION:** Throughout the Coastal Plain, and along the extreme eastern and southern edge of the Piedmont, inland to southwestern Halifax, Franklin, Wake, and Lincoln counties.

**ABUNDANCE:** Uncommon and somewhat local in the Coastal Plain, though common in a few areas; very rare in the narrow Piedmont range. Seemingly quite scarce in the southern portion of the Coastal Plain (not even any records for Pender County), despite an abundance of habitat. Appears to have declined in numbers across the state in the past few years, probably owing to flooding events.

**FLIGHT PERIOD:** Three broods; very late March to mid-May, early or mid-June into early July, and late July to late September. The second brood seems small, whereas the third is certainly the largest.

**HABITAT:** This cane (*Arundinaria* spp.) feeder is, not surprisingly, always found near cane -- usually Switch Cane (*A. tecta*) -- stands in wet places. Habitats are edges and openings in swamps and bottomlands, borders of pocosins, and canals or ditches near cane. It is usually associated with cane in hardwoods, as opposed to pinewoods.

**FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS:** The foodplant is apparently only cane. The species nectars on moderate occasions, on a variety of species. As with most other roadside-skippers, they are more often seen on the ground or perched on leaves than at flowers.

**COMMENTS:** This is an uncommon species in its rather small range, which extends from the Great Dismal Swamp west to the Mississippi River. Surprisingly, the species is not found in FL or near the Gulf Coast, and records from SC are spotty and very rare (with only three counties known for it). The species is more numerous, and best known, in NC than in any other state. I found the species quite numerous at many sites in Johnston County in 2000, with a remarkable 35 observed on August 10. To top those totals, several of us tallied a stunning 113 individuals on a count in Croatan National Forest in 2003, with 93 in Craven County. The 113 individuals is, by far, the record one-day count for North America.