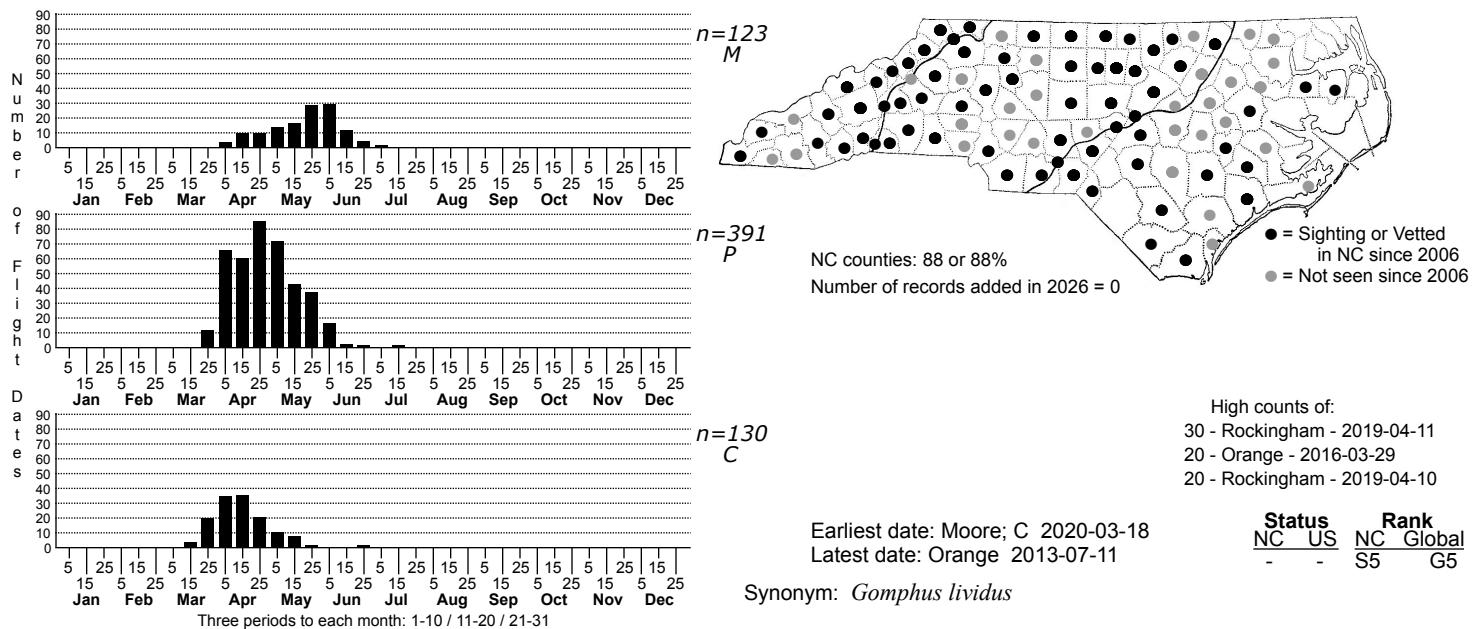


## *Phanogomphus lividus* Ashy Clubtail



**DISTRIBUTION:** Nearly statewide; throughout the mountains, Piedmont, and nearly all of the Coastal Plain, but seemingly absent in the extreme eastern counties (no records east of Hertford, Tyrrell, and Craven counties).

**ABUNDANCE:** Common, except infrequent in the central and eastern Coastal Plain, and very rare to absent in the far eastern counties. Abundance equals that of the Lancet Clubtail in the Piedmont, exceeds the Lancet in the mountains, but is less numerous than that species in the Coastal Plain.

**FLIGHT:** Spring to very early summer season only, but a fairly wide spread of dates (for a clubtail). Generally from late March to late June, but mostly done downstate by late May (Coastal Plain) or mid-June (Piedmont).

**HABITAT:** Typically breeds at small creeks or rivers, less so at lakes and ponds.

**BEHAVIOR:** Behavior seems identical to the nearly equally numerous Lancet Clubtail. Adults commonly perch on dirt roads, trails, and other bare ground or fallen leaves, often far from water. Adults are unwary and easily studied through binoculars.

**COMMENTS:** Along with the Lancet, these are the most often seen clubtails in NC, typically found on most spring-season field trips to woodlands and fields with appropriate dirt roads or bare ground for perching. Ashy averages slightly longer and huskier in the abdomen than Lancet, the thorax is slightly duller in Ashy, and Ashy's darker colors are dark brown rather than blackish.