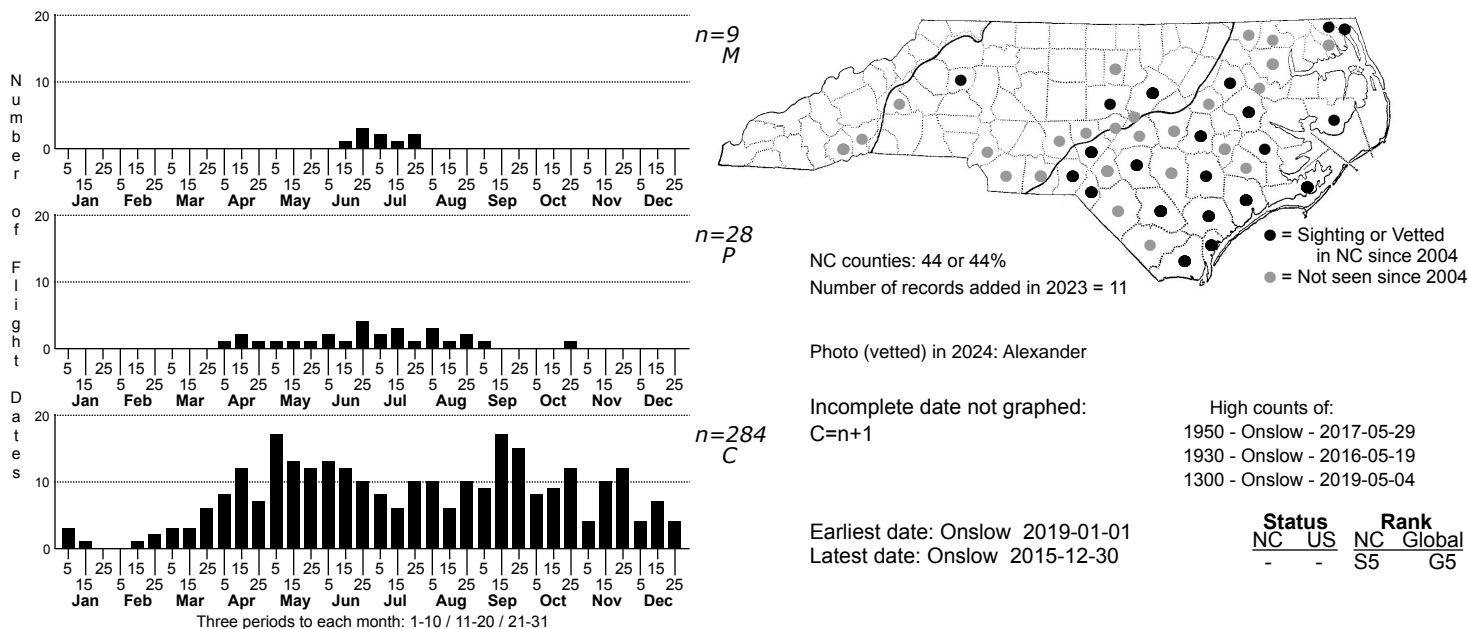


## *Enallagma doubledayi* Atlantic Bluet



**DISTRIBUTION:** Generally throughout the Coastal Plain, and in the southeastern third of the Piedmont; also sparingly in the southern mountains. Seemingly absent over most of the northwestern half of the state, including most of the Piedmont and most of the central and northern mountains. This is basically an Atlantic slope species, not found west of the Appalachians and rarely within them.

**ABUNDANCE:** Often overlooked because of identification difficulties, especially with Familiar and Big bluets. Fairly common to locally abundant in the southern half of the Coastal Plain, but rare to uncommon in the northwestern part of the Coastal Plain. Rare to locally uncommon in the extreme eastern Coastal Plain and in the southeastern Piedmont, and very rare west to McDowell, Henderson, and Transylvania counties. However, a 2019 count of 22, made from a kayak along the border of Camden and Currituck counties, suggests that it might be locally numerous in parts of the northern Coastal Plain.

**FLIGHT:** A very wide flight period, extending to early winter. In the Coastal Plain, records occur from mid-February to mid-January. The relatively few Piedmont records fall between early April and late October, whereas mountain records occur only from mid-June to late July (so far).

**HABITAT:** A variety of ponds and lakes, rarely slow-moving creeks/rivers, at least where emergent vegetation is present. Mainly a pond species.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males perch low on vegetation over water; females are more often found in shoreline vegetation or on the ground on nearby roads or trails. Males are often easily seen if present at all at a pond/lake (though compare carefully with Familiar Bluet!).

**COMMENTS:** Beaton (2007) notes that the species in GA is likely under-reported, and certainly the same can be said for NC. Though there are specimen records for about 35-38% of the counties, until a few years ago there were no posted photos on the website, suggesting that recent biologists had trouble distinguishing the species from other bluets by sight or even by photographs. Thankfully, we now have about 20 photos on the website. Much more data are desired to flesh out the range in the state, such as in the southern Piedmont and in the far-eastern Coastal Plain. Interestingly, Paulson (2011) calls it common, and the now 275 records with dates for the Coastal Plain suggest that it is locally abundant, at least in the southeastern portion of the province. Most of these recent records have come from field work done by Mark Shields, especially at several limesink ponds.