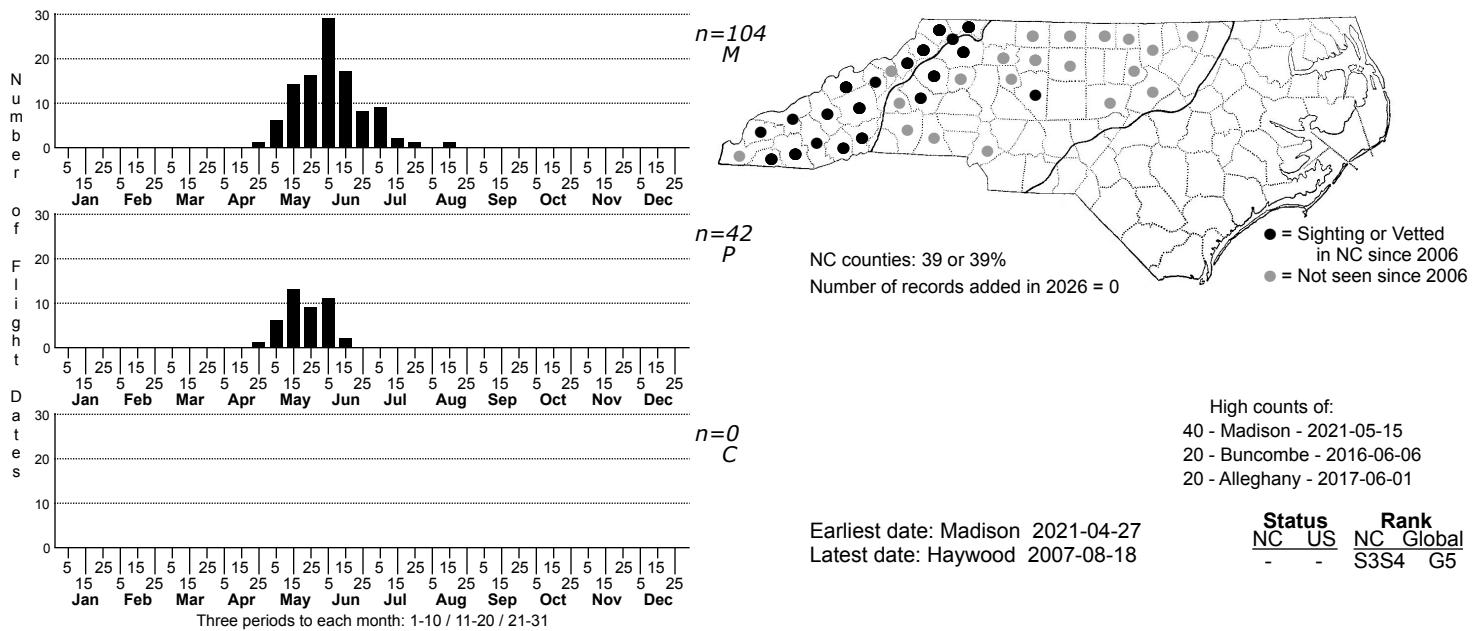


Chromagrion conditum Aurora Damsel



DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the mountains; scattered over the northern half of the Piedmont, but possibly absent in the extreme southeastern counties. Absent from the Coastal Plain.

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common in the mountains, at least locally. Rare over most of the Piedmont, but apparently uncommon in the foothills; clearly declining in the state away from the mountains, with hardly any recent records. Possibly absent in a few counties in the southeastern Piedmont. The highest counts are from the mountains and foothills.

FLIGHT: The mountain flight is from late April to mid-August, whereas the Piedmont flight is from late April to mid-June. However, there is no reason the flight in the Piedmont should be narrower than that in the mountains, and it likely flies throughout July and into August.

HABITAT: Still waters of pools/ponds -- such as beaver ponds, bogs, seeps, and slow streams. Not often found far from water.

BEHAVIOR: Males readily perch on leaves of shrubs or saplings along shores, rarely out on emergent vegetation in the water. The partially spread wings help in identification.

COMMENTS: There are relatively few recent records from the Piedmont, especially the southern half of the Piedmont. Does this indicate a recent decline, and if so, owing to global warming? There has been an increase in Piedmont observers since the time of Cuyler a few decades ago, and yet the species is not being reported from this large region. The species should be easily identified, at least with photographs, if the yellow lower thorax is visible.