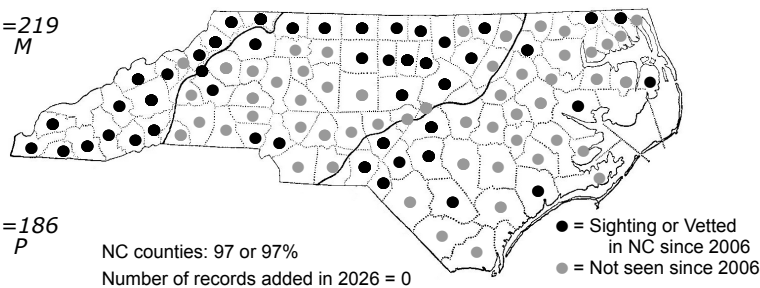
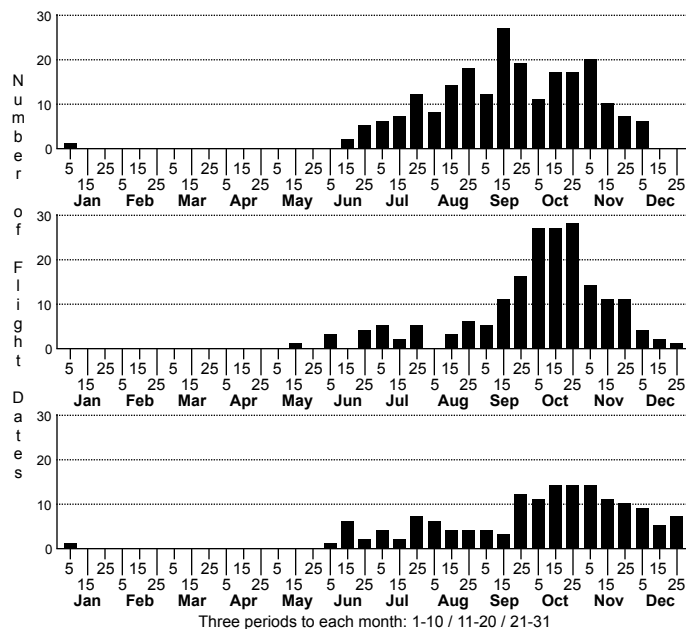


## *Sympetrum vicinum* Autumn Meadowhawk



High counts of:  
35 - Macon - 2024-09-24  
30 - Watauga - 2015-09-18  
30 - Alleghany - 2017-09-27

Earliest date: Caldwell 1999-05-17  
Latest date: Harnett; C 2020-01-01

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

Other Name: Yellow-legged Meadowhawk

**DISTRIBUTION:** Statewide, with records for all but three counties. Probably scarce on the Outer Banks and the eastern "Pamlico" Peninsula -- no record yet for Hyde County, and just one for Dare County.

**ABUNDANCE:** Fairly common and widespread in the mountains and Piedmont; uncommon to (at least formerly) fairly common in the Coastal Plain, but oddly there are few recent records for most of the Coastal Plain. Most numerous in the mountains, where our three largest daily counts have been made. Clearly the most numerous of the meadowhawks in NC. Even so, it does not occur in large numbers, though we now have several daily counts of 25 or more.

**FLIGHT:** Flies from early or mid-June into December, and there are even records for 25-26 December and in early January! The mountain flight starts somewhat later, in mid- to late June. It is probably the most frequently seen dragonfly species in November and December, and the bulk of its flight takes place in fall -- September into November.

**HABITAT:** Still waters of ponds, marshes, and slow creeks, typically in wooded or semi-shaded places.

**BEHAVIOR:** Adults are frequently seen in fields, powerline clearings, and woodland borders in the fall, often perching on the tips of grasses or forbs or twigs. However, it is a fairly small species and can easily be overlooked.

**COMMENTS:** This species was formerly called the Yellow-legged Meadowhawk, until the common name was changed in 2004. Both common names -- Yellow-legged and Autumn -- are suitable, though other meadowhawks fly in the autumn. Of all of the numerous dragonflies in NC, this is probably the one that observers don't see their first individual until September or even October. Females and immatures are a dull amber/yellow, matching the color of dead grasses, rendering them hard to spot, particularly as they average only 1.0 - 1.4 inches in length.