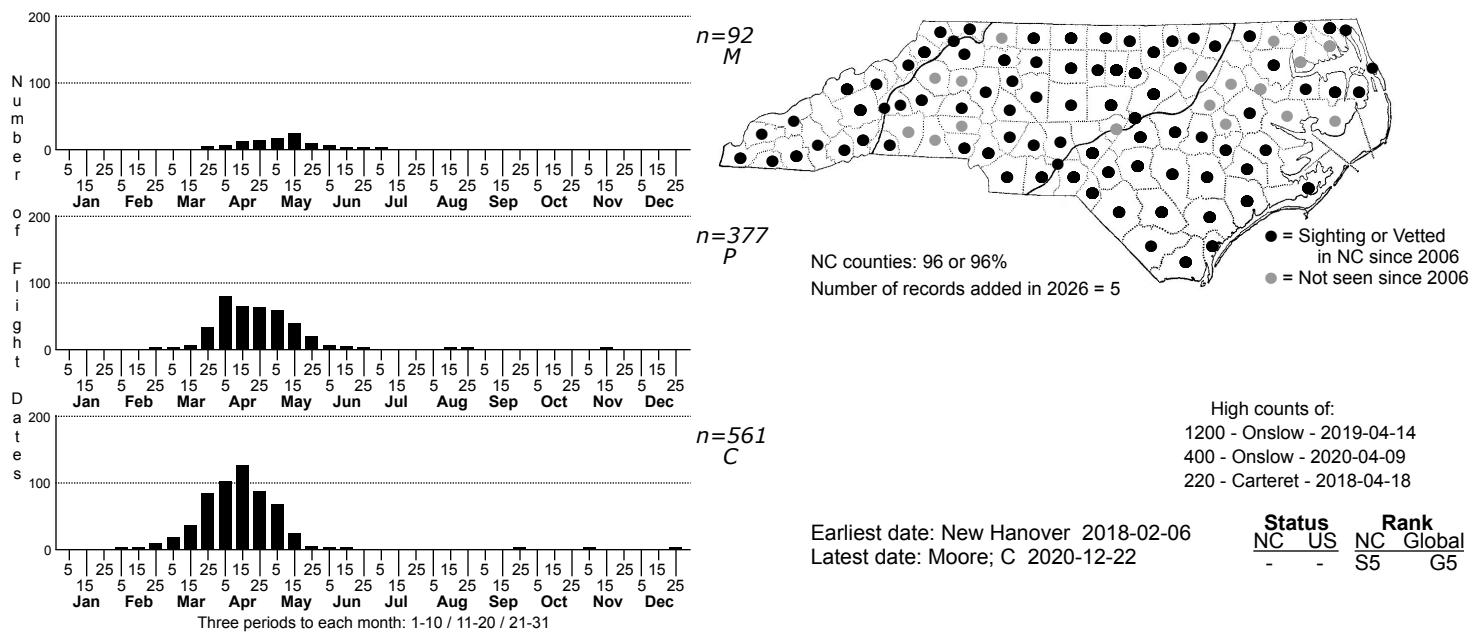


Ladona deplanata Blue Corporal



DISTRIBUTION: Statewide, but of somewhat spotty occurrence in the mountains, where found mainly at the lower elevations.

ABUNDANCE: Common to locally abundant in the southern Coastal Plain, and common to very common in the rest of the Coastal Plain and in the eastern and central Piedmont. Fairly common in the western Piedmont, but formerly rare to mostly now uncommon in the mountains, where it seems to be increasing (eight "new" county records were added in the past few years).

FLIGHT: Essentially the spring season only. In the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, the flight occurs from late February (rarely earlier) to mid-May, but sparingly to mid-June. There are several odd records for late summer and fall; two (August and November) are specimens (correctly labeled?) and one (September) is a sight report (correctly identified?). However, Richard Stickney photographed an adult on 3 November (2020), posted to this website, and saw another at the same site on the amazing date of 22 December (2020)! The mountain flight occurs from late March to early June, very rarely to early July.

HABITAT: Ponds, lakes, and other slow-moving waters. Most numerous at somewhat infertile waters such as Carolina bay pools and lakes.

BEHAVIOR: Only the Common Whitetail, among numerous species in NC, behaves like a Blue Corporal. Both sexes forage primarily by perching on the ground, and by making flights in open woods, powerline clearings, and other semi-open areas (typically somewhat close to woods).

COMMENTS: This skimmer can be the most often seen dragonfly, along with the Common Baskettail, on a spring-season outing. Dozens can be seen in a day, mostly immatures and females, which can be easily identified by the white or cream "corporal" stripe on each shoulder. These shoulder stripes become blue and less conspicuous in the adult male. Because Blue Corporals usually perch on the ground on dirt roads, wide trails, and in powerline clearings, an observer quickly learns this species, often flushing them while looking for less common odonates or for butterflies.