

Sympetrum ambiguum Blue-faced Meadowhawk

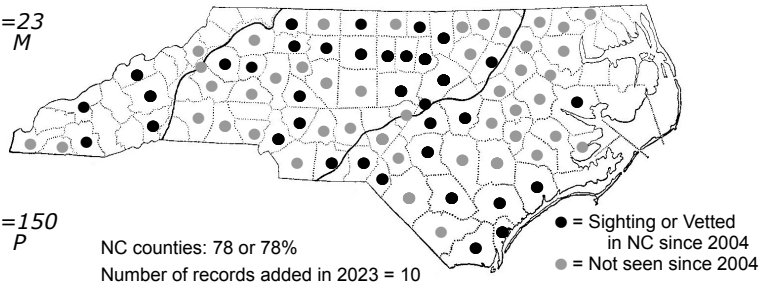
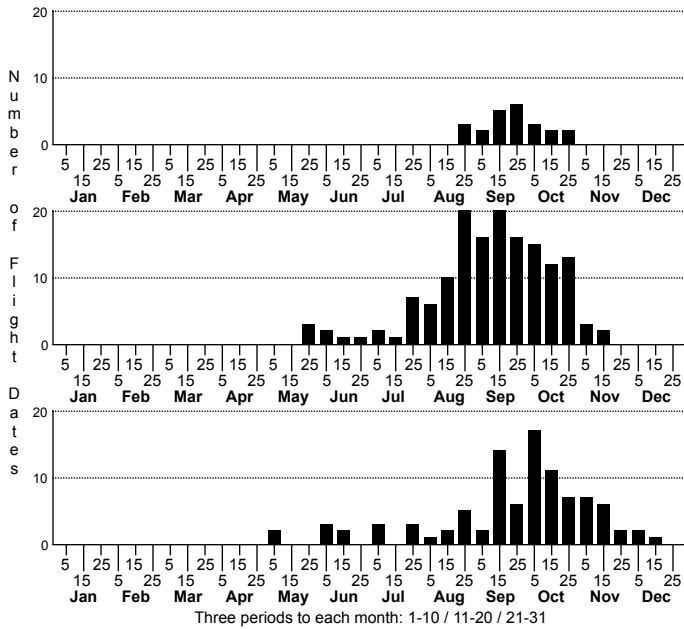


Photo (vetted) in 2024: Alexander

High counts of:
50 - Wake - 2008-09-21
28 - Wake - 2014-10-09
21 - Wake - 2014-10-01

Earliest date: Bladen 2024-05-06
Latest date: New Hanover 2021-12-16

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the Piedmont and the western 3/4th of the Coastal Plain. Apparently absent in far eastern counties (no records east of Gates, Beaufort, and Pamlico counties). Scattered in the mountains, but presumably rare to absent at middle and higher elevations.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon to locally fairly common, but easily overlooked, in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. Rare in the mountains, as well as in the eastern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT: Downstate, occurs from very late May to late November (and sparingly to mid-December in the Coastal Plain), though mainly is present from late July to late October. In the mountains, the meager dates fall between late August and late October. One of the relatively few dragonflies whose peak numbers are in the fall season (e.g., September and early October).

HABITAT: Small, semi-shaded or shaded pools in floodplains, swamps, or marshes.

BEHAVIOR: Although they may perch on or near the ground, adults often perch on twigs or leaves fairly high off the ground, typically 5 feet or higher, and thus are not as readily seen as most other pennants/gliders/skimmers, especially when these perches are along a forest edge. Also, their feeding bouts do not take them often to the margins of pools and ponds.

COMMENTS: Males are quite colorful, with their reddish abdomen (with black spots), blue eyes, and blue-green face. But, their habit of perching somewhat high, often in shade or partial shade in moist woods and borders, combined with a fairly small size (under 1.5 inches), makes them hard to become familiar with (despite records for over 75% of the NC counties).