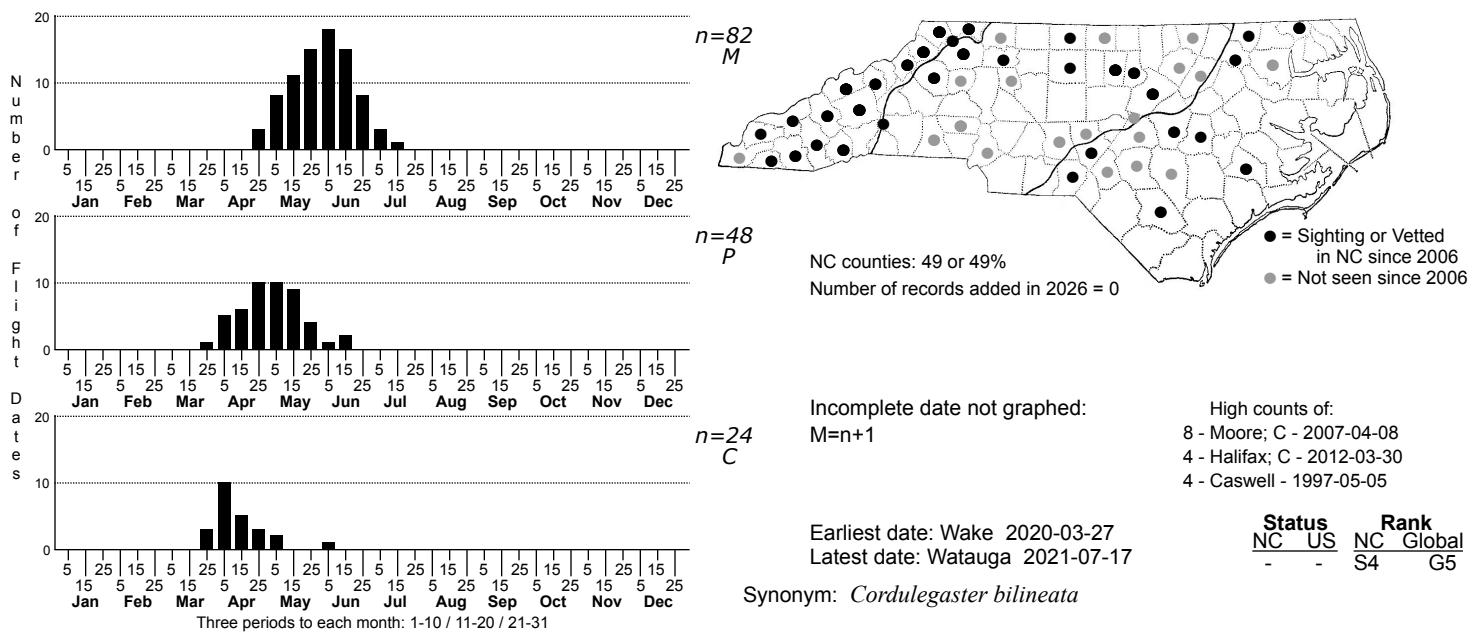


Zoraena bilineata Brown Spiketail



DISTRIBUTION: Present over most of the state, except absent close to the coast and in most of the lower Coastal Plain; a few recent photo records for the lower half of the Coastal Plain (Gates and Jones counties). Most widespread in the mountains, lacking records for just three counties there.

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common in the mountains (at least in the northern counties), but uncommon in the northern Piedmont and rather rare in the southern Piedmont. Rare to uncommon in the Coastal Plain portion of the range. Much more common in the mountains than downstate. Many recent records across the state, and possibly is increasing in the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont portions of the range.

FLIGHT: Late April to mid-July in the mountains, but strongly advanced (as expected) in the Piedmont, where it flies from late March or early April and extends at least to mid-June (if not later). The Coastal Plain flight occurs from late March only to early June, though April is the primary month.

HABITAT: Small streams or seeps, often with little flow; typically in wooded areas.

BEHAVIOR: Typically flies slowly over streams or seeps or in nearby clearings. Perches on low twigs, in an oblique manner typical of spiketails.

COMMENTS: This species can be confused with the somewhat similar, but slightly more widespread Twin-spotted Spiketail. Both can occur together along mountain and Piedmont wooded roadsides and clearings along woods and small creeks. Steve Hall and Harry LeGrand saw and photographed the species on several occasions in 2012 near the Roanoke River, adding first records for Halifax and Northampton counties. Surprising were photo records in 2017 by Hunter Phillips for Jones County and by Signa and Floyd Williams for Gates County. A photo record in 2019 added Wayne County, near the eastern edge of the range, to the species map.

The spiketails in North America had a change in genus name from *Cordulegaster* to *Zoraena* in fall 2024 (Paulson et al. 2024).