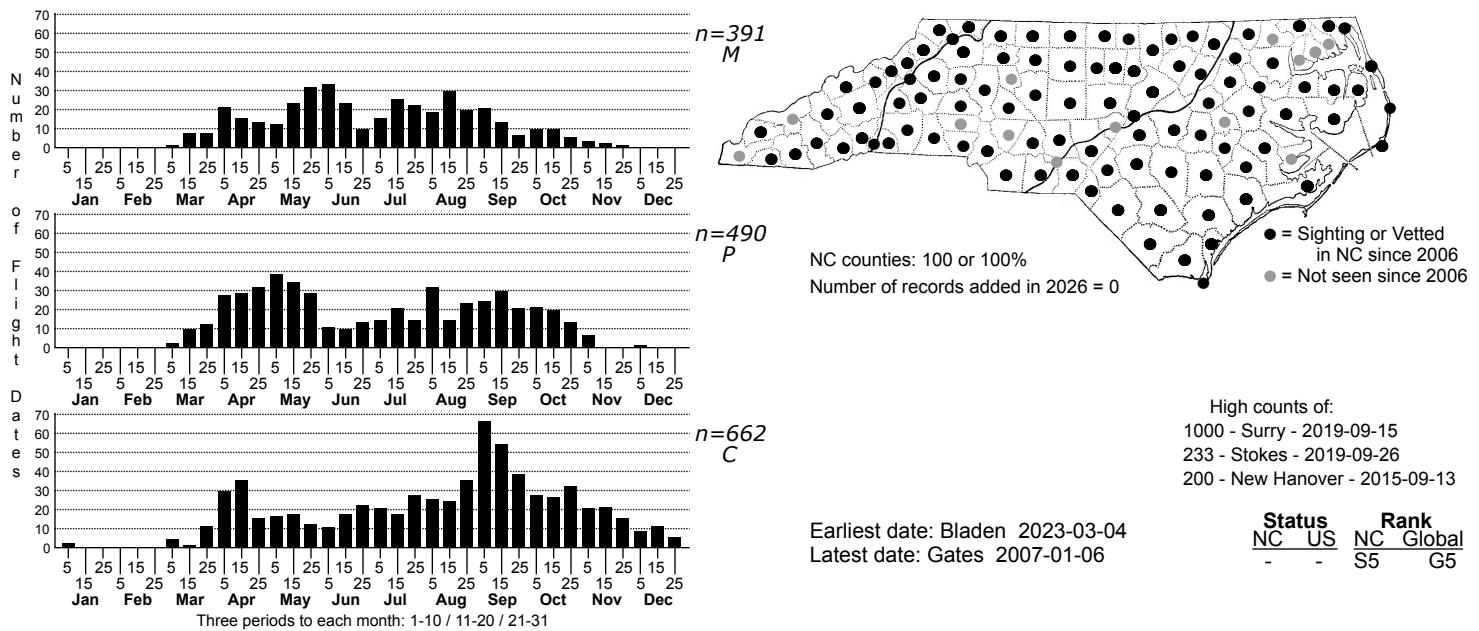


# *Anax junius* Common Green Darner



DISTRIBUTION: Statewide. Occurs in all 100 counties.

ABUNDANCE: Common statewide, with abundance levels somewhat equal across all three provinces. One of the more common dragonfly species in the mountains, with well over 350 records with flight data from that region of the state. Two new high counts were made in 2019, including an estimated 1000 in Surry County in September. The species is partially migratory, and these very high counts (200 or more individuals) relate to swarms seen moving southward in fall migration.

FLIGHT: Generally from mid-March to mid-November, and straggling at least in the Coastal Plain to the end of the year. It has the longest flight period of any dragonfly in the state, as it is the dragonfly species most likely to be seen in early winter -- being absent only for about two months in mid- and late winter.

HABITAT: Wide-ranging; found around lakes, ponds, marshes, and other mostly still waters. Forages over fields, ponds, lakes, and other open habitats, as well as along roads through woods.

BEHAVIOR: Typically seen flying at eye-level or higher, over a wide range of open habitats.

COMMENTS: The species is seldom seen in truly large numbers or swarms, except in the fall season. It can often be the first species of dragonfly one sees in spring, or the last in late fall. The species is usually easily identified in flight, even at a distance of 100 feet or more, through binoculars.