

Nasiaeschna pentacantha Cyrano Darner

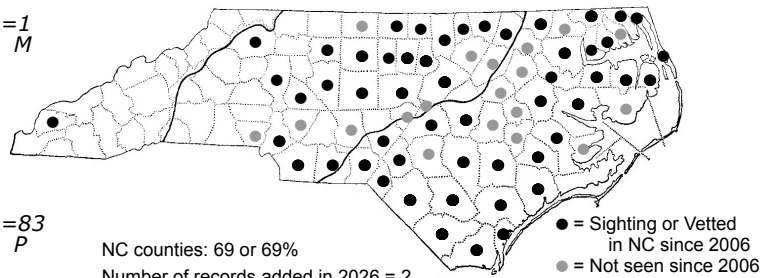
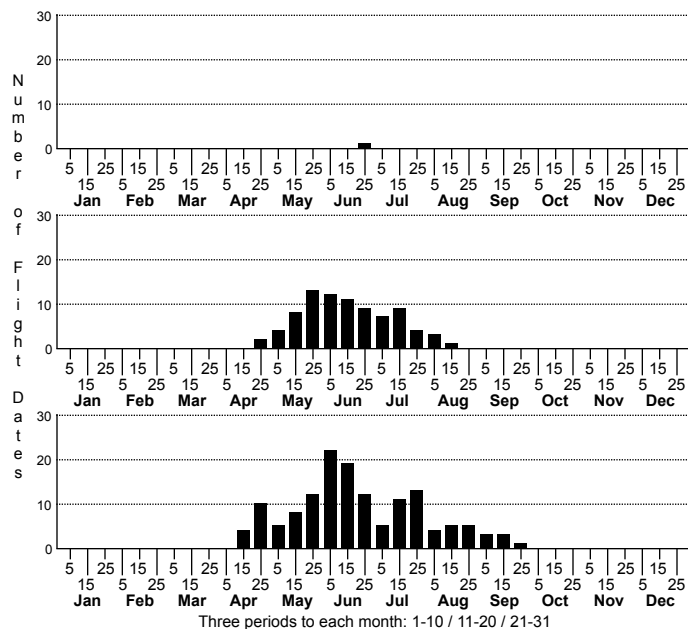


Photo (vetted) in 2026: Graham

High counts of:
14 - Currituck - 2019-06-24
14 - Camden - 2019-06-24
10 - Bertie - 2008-06-14

Earliest date: Beaufort 2012-04-11
Latest date: Duplin 2017-09-24

Status	Rank
NC	US
-	-
S4S5	G5

DISTRIBUTION: Essentially the eastern two-thirds of the state, but there is now a photo record for the Mountains, in Graham County in 2025. Throughout the Coastal Plain, and the eastern 60% of the Piedmont, west to Rockingham, Forsyth, Iredell, and Gaston counties; range extended nearly to the base of the Blue Ridge Escarpment with a sight record from Wilkes County in 2019.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon to fairly common (but never in swarms) in the Coastal Plain, generally uncommon in the eastern Piedmont, but rare in the central/western Piedmont. Can be fairly numerous in the lower Coastal Plain, where there was a one-day count of 14 individuals in 2019, made from a kayak along the Camden-Currituck county line.

FLIGHT: Mainly in late spring and summer. In the Coastal Plain, the flight occurs from mid-April to mid-September, rarely to late September. The Piedmont flight occurs from late April to mid-August. The peak tends to occur in the latter half of June, and into July.

HABITAT: Mostly standing water in forested areas, such as swampy pools or openings in swamps; forested ponds; canals. They favor blackwater, as opposed to brownwater, bodies of water.

BEHAVIOR: Males have a distinctive flight behavior. They fly monotonous routes back and forth, often about 3-4 feet off the water, over canals and pools/ponds. Adults are only infrequently seen away from such pools and ponds; normally, one must look for the species over water.

COMMENTS: It can be frustrating to find one perched. However, the species can be identified in flight, through binoculars, and the "nose" can be seen under such circumstances. As the species is quite territorial, normally an observer will only see a single Cyrano Darner at a given body of water, and thus it is difficult to see more than a few of them in a given day.