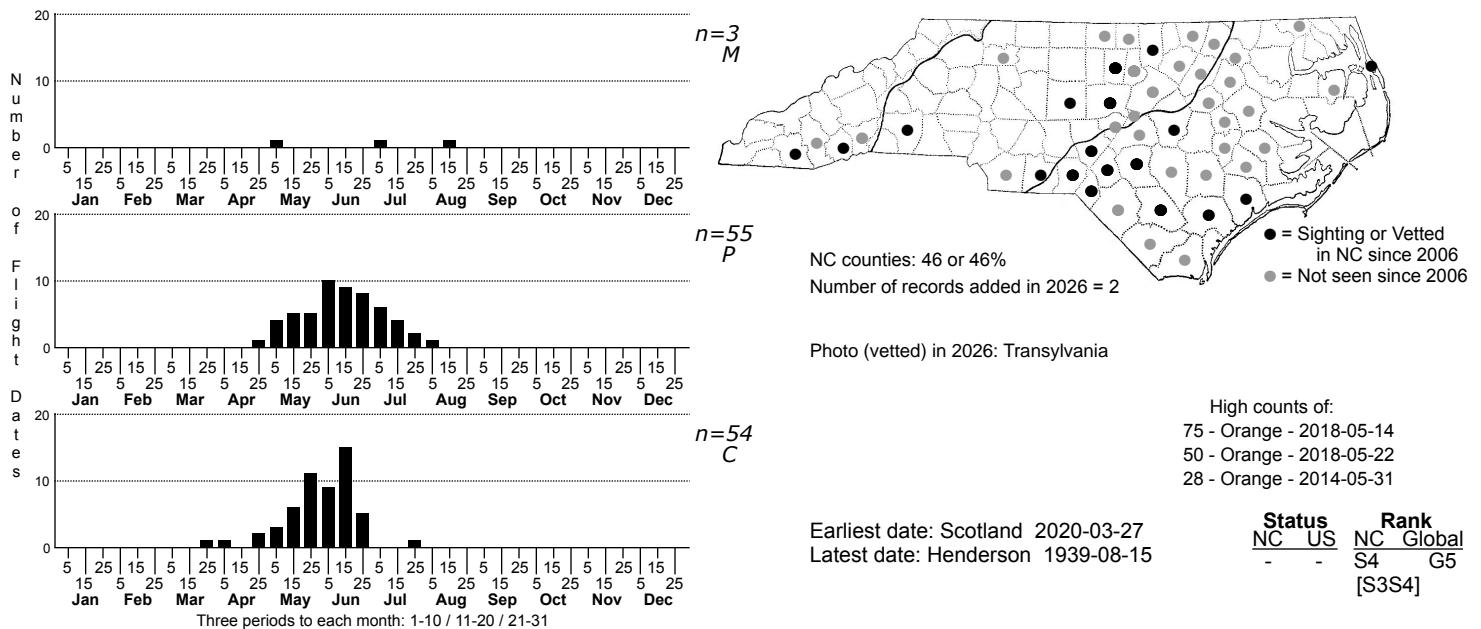


## *Celithemis verna* Double-ringed Pennant



**DISTRIBUTION:** Primarily the western half of the Coastal Plain and the eastern Piedmont. A few records for the southern mountains and western Piedmont, but primarily from Caswell, Chatham, and Union counties eastward. However, in the Coastal Plain it is of spotty occurrence in the eastern counties and is likely absent in a few counties near the coast.

**ABUNDANCE:** Generally uncommon (and often local) in the inner half of the Coastal Plain and lower Piedmont, being most numerous in the Sandhills. Rare in the southeastern Coastal Plain, but very rare in most of the northern parts of the Coastal Plain, especially scarce in the northeastern counties. Very rare in the central and western Piedmont and southern mountains. Apparently absent in most of the mountain region and western part of the Piedmont.

**FLIGHT:** Flight period is shorter and earlier than for other pennants (except Ornate) -- mainly from late April or early May to late July, rarely to early August. There are a few records as early as 27 March, but not normally seen until around the first of May.

**HABITAT:** As with other pennants, it breeds at ponds and small lakes with much vegetation along the shore.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males are usually seen along the shore of a pond, making short patrols over the water or perching on twigs. Adults may forage short distances from water.

**COMMENTS:** This and the Red-veined are our only two "scarce" *Celithemis* pennants, and one may have to walk around several ponds or much lake shore (in the heart of the range) to find this species. Not helping is the fact that immatures and females are not overly easy to identify, and adult males look like small versions of Slaty Skimmers. By far our largest single-day counts have been at small ponds at Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area in the eastern Piedmont; these ponds, however, are in sunny fields and not within the natural area. Oddly, this site in Orange County is not far from the western (inner) edge of the range in the state, and the species is seldom seen elsewhere in the Triangle area (Wake, Durham, and Orange counties) despite dozens of similar-looking ponds in this region.