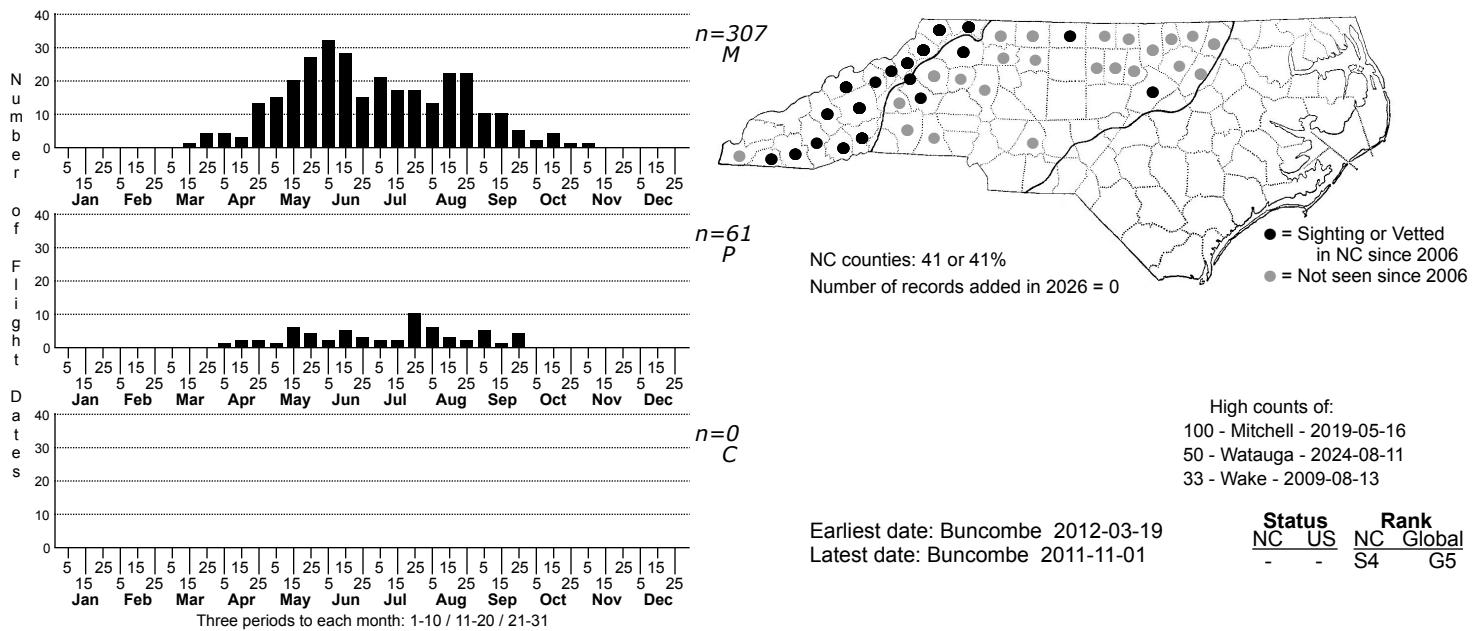


Ischnura verticalis Eastern Forktail



DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the mountains and the northern half of the Piedmont, including most of the foothills counties. Ranges southeast to Halifax, Nash, and Wake counties. The only record for the southeastern Piedmont is for Stanly County. Interestingly, it is reported in many Coastal Plain counties in SC, though Paulson (2011) states "occurrence in coastal South Carolina is in question", as there are no Coastal Plain records for NC or for GA.

ABUNDANCE: Common to very common over most or all of the mountains. Uncommon to fairly common in the extreme upper Piedmont (foothills), but rare to locally uncommon eastward in the Piedmont portion of the range, with disturbingly few recent records, all seemingly just sight reports and thus open to question. (There are no uploaded photos to this website eastward of Wilkes and Burke counties.) Whether it is truly absent in the southeastern Piedmont is uncertain.

FLIGHT: In the mountains, it occurs from mid-March to early November. The Piedmont flight is from early April to late September, but it likely occurs in late March and well into October or early November (as it does so in the cooler mountains).

HABITAT: Lakes, ponds, and slower streams, where there is vegetation along the margins.

BEHAVIOR: Males behave like most other forktails, moving slowly low along the margins of ponds and lakes. As with those -- Citrine, Fragile, and Rambur's -- they might be difficult to spot if they were not common to abundant at these water bodies!

COMMENTS: This is one of the relatively few damselflies that is clearly more common in the mountains than downstate. In fact, we lack records for just two of the 17 counties wholly within the mountain province. The scarcity of recent records from the Piedmont suggests a decline there, but it is too early to be truly concerned, as there are five recent records from Wake County (though all at a single site), at the eastern edge of the range. There seem to be few people looking for damselflies, especially around lake and pond margins, in most of the Piedmont; most biologists in this province look for odonates along rivers and creeks.