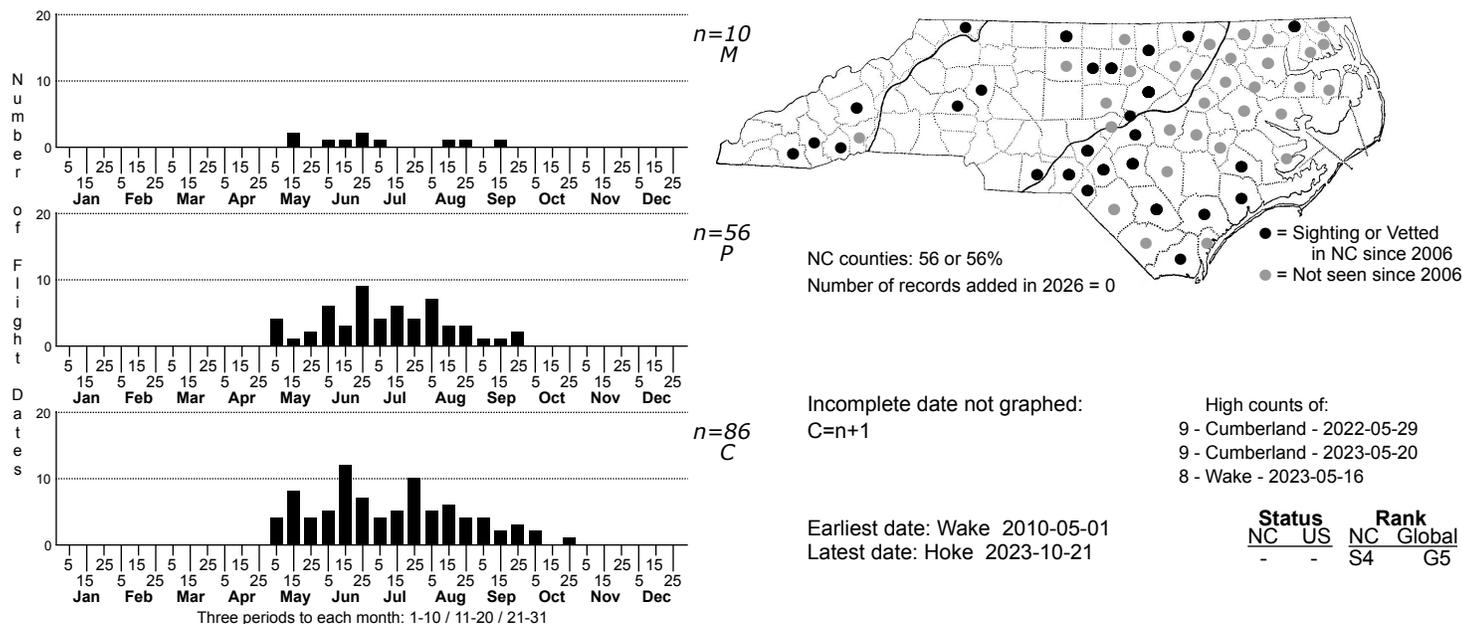


## *Lestes inaequalis* Elegant Spreadingwing



**DISTRIBUTION:** Throughout the Coastal Plain -- except perhaps absent along parts of the immediate coast -- westward to the central Piedmont; thus, the eastern half of the state, plus scattered in the western Piedmont (two recent county records) and mountains (six county records). Interestingly, Paulson's (2011) range map shows the entire state within the range, as the species is present throughout the eastern half of the country. A recent (2018) sight record, of five individuals, from Alleghany County is the only record for the northwestern quarter of the state.

**ABUNDANCE:** Uncommon over the eastern Piedmont and most of the Coastal Plain, and likely is rare in many areas close to the coast (where there are no records for most counties that border the coast). Rare in the southern mountains, but absent to very rare over the northern mountains and the western Piedmont.

**FLIGHT:** The flight period in both the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont is from early May to late September or early October. The relatively few mountain records fall between mid-May and mid-September.

**HABITAT:** Ponds and lakes with emergent vegetation, including marshes. It also occurs along slow-moving streams, as long as marshy vegetation is present.

**BEHAVIOR:** Despite its large size, the species is rather inconspicuous amid often fairly dense vegetation along and near a pond or lake shore. It can often be inactive until afternoon and remain in somewhat shaded places.

**COMMENTS:** The scarcity of recent records in the northern Coastal Plain is puzzling. Perhaps it is being overlooked, but there are also few biologists currently working in this half of the Coastal Plain, especially on damselflies.