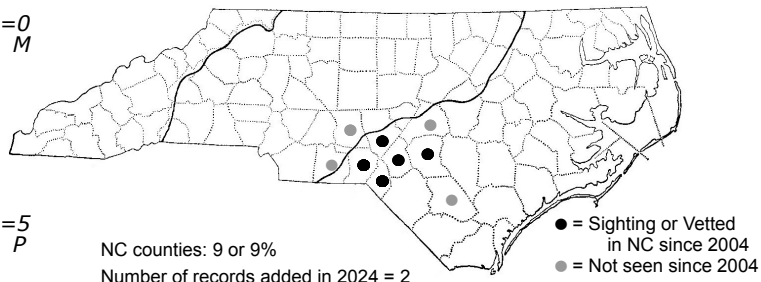
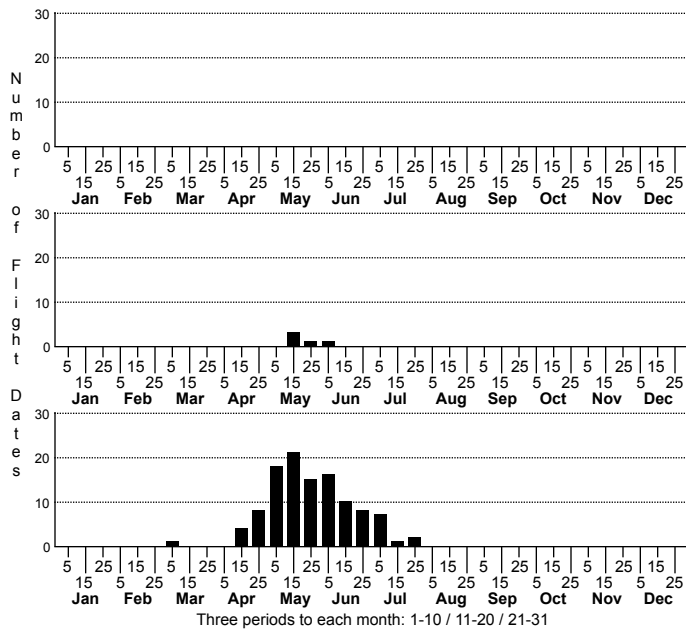


Nannothemis bella Elfin Skimmer



High counts of:
 300 - Scotland - 2017-05-08
 275 - Scotland - 2018-05-11
 150 - Scotland - 2017-05-07

Earliest date: Scotland 2018-03-10
 Latest date: Richmond; C 2019-07-28

Status	Rank	
	NC	US
W	-	S3S4 G4G5

DISTRIBUTION: In NC, it is restricted to the Sandhills region, plus the adjacent western Coastal Plain (Bladen County) and the southeastern edge of the Piedmont. Although one might assume the northern edge of the range lies in NC, the whole range covers the Atlantic seaboard from southeastern Canada south to FL and LA, and west to MN. Clearly, the species has a highly disjunct overall range; it almost certainly is not found in most or nearly all other Coastal Plain counties to the VA line.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon to locally common in the Sandhills, but as it is one of the world's smallest dragonflies, it is very easily overlooked. Very rare to rare east of the Sandhills and in the adjacent southeastern edge of the Piedmont. Nonetheless, there are a few one-day counts of at least 150 individuals.

FLIGHT: A rather narrow flight period; mid-April to late July. A 2018 record from March 10 is extremely early. The few records for the adjacent Piedmont fall between mid-May and early June, certainly too narrow to represent the flight period there.

HABITAT: Highly restricted to boggy spots, with much sphagnum, often at seepages. These can be around the margins of beaver ponds or man-made ponds, damp places in powerline clearings, and natural fire-maintained seepage slopes.

BEHAVIOR: Adults perch and fly very close to the ground/water, often no more than 4-5 inches off the ground, amid grasses, sedges, and rushes. They seldom arise above the height of the herbaceous vegetation.

COMMENTS: To see the species, one must go to boggy places around a pond margin or a wet powerline clearing in the Sandhills, and expect to get one's feet damp. They can be confused with Little Blue Dragonlet, which shares its habitat but is slightly larger and has a less obvious club. Be careful where you step, as you might have them underfoot!