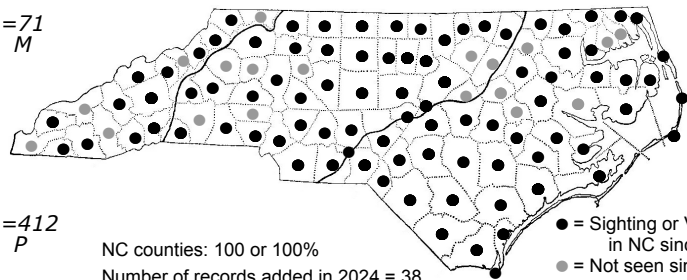
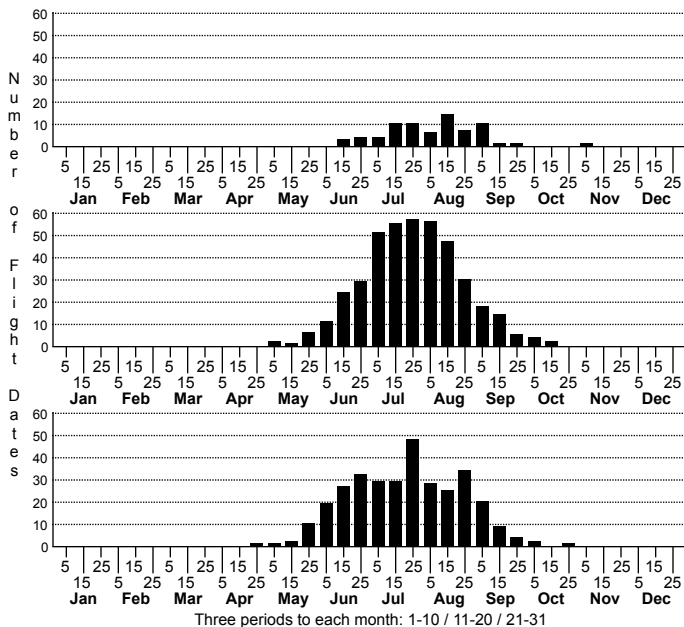


## *Celithemis eponina* Halloween Pennant



NC counties: 100 or 100%  
Number of records added in 2024 = 38

● = Sighting or Vetted in NC since 2004  
● = Not seen since 2004

High counts of:  
100 - Orange - 2009-08-16  
75 - Orange - 2012-07-09  
65 - Wake - 2014-07-19

Earliest date: Gates 2005-04-23  
Latest date: Madison 2019-11-01

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

**DISTRIBUTION:** Statewide. This is one of the very few species with records for all 100 counties.

**ABUNDANCE:** Common over the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, but only uncommon to fairly common in the mountains. Though it is not normally seen in swarms, we have several one-day counts of 50 or more individuals. The abundance across the state is relatively low until July or August, and it is often missed on late spring and early summer field trips.

**FLIGHT:** An extended flight season, covering most of the warmer months -- very late April or early May to mid-October downstate, and from mid-June (if not earlier) to late September in the mountains.

**HABITAT:** Breeds at ponds and lakes, and sometimes at marshes.

**BEHAVIOR:** This *Celithemis* pennant forages farther away from water than all others, and is actually not often seen at breeding waters. They are characteristically seen perching on the tips of blades of grasses or tall herbs in a field or powerline clearing, usually well removed from forested areas.

**COMMENTS:** In many respects, this is the most atypical of the *Celithemis* pennants. It often resembles a butterfly or moth in flight because the wings are heavily suffused with amber or ochre coloration so as to appear almost opaque. The many dark bands on the wings also might fool an observer into thinking the odonate is a butterfly or moth. It seems to "enjoy" flying in windy weather, with choppy wing beats. As with the Calico Pennant, this species should be easily seen and learned by beginners.