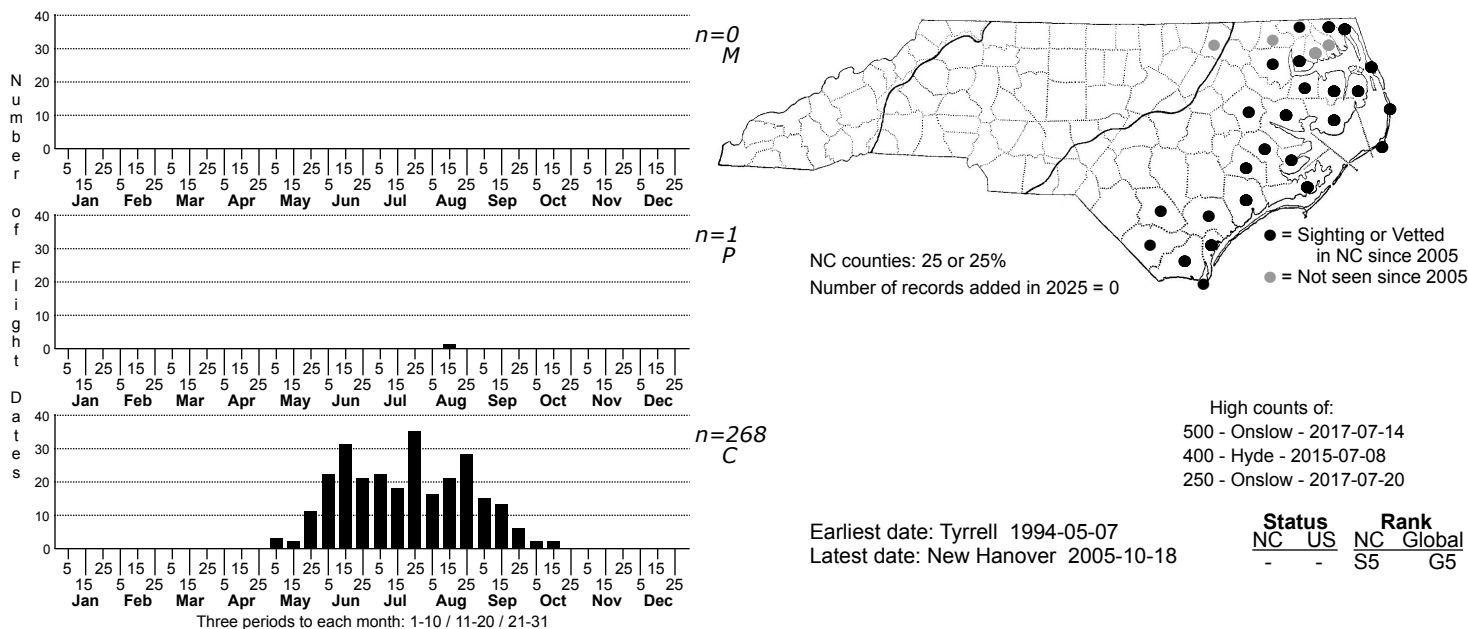


Libellula needhami Needham's Skimmer



DISTRIBUTION: Essentially coastal, though it does occur on the mainland side of Pamlico Sound and up estuarine rivers as far as tidal waters are present. A collection record for Halifax County is perhaps open to question, as this seems much too far inland. However, a documented and apparently resident population was discovered by Amy Padgett in "far inland" Bladen County in 2022, especially as she observed a female ovipositing in August of that year.

ABUNDANCE: Common and widespread; present all around Albemarle Sound (unlike the Seaside Dragonlet), as well as around Pamlico Sound. Very rare away from a county that touches tidal water.

FLIGHT: Early May to mid-October; however, most records fall from late May to late September.

HABITAT: Brackish waters of marshes, tidal ponds, and other bodies of water in coastal areas (including some freshwater pools and ponds). The Bladen County habitat is a wetland clearcut that is in early succession stage.

BEHAVIOR: Males patrol over tidal waters, including salt marshes. Adults do move away from tidal marshes and pools to forage in fields and other uplands, where they might come into competition with the closely related Golden-winged Skimmer.

COMMENTS: Males of this species are quite striking, even slightly more intense orange or scarlet than in the Golden-winged Skimmer, but identification needs to be made by study of the thorax, not by coloration. Also, Golden-winged is not typically found in tidal regions. An observer usually does not have to work hard to find this species, as it is much more conspicuous around tidal water than either the Four-spotted Pennant or the Seaside Dragonlet.