

Boyeria grafiana Ocellated Darner

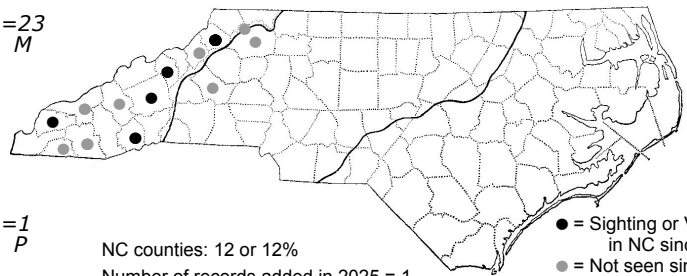
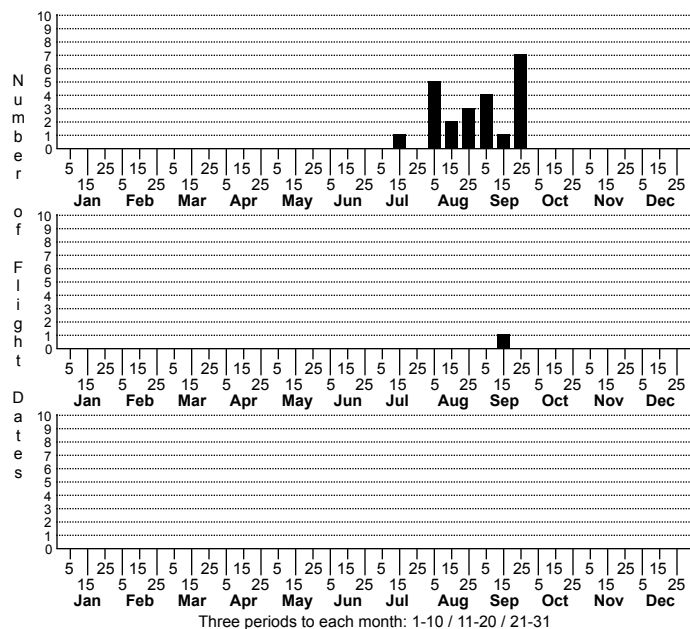


Photo (vetted) in 2025: Buncombe

High counts of:
5 - Swain - 1931-09-24
4 - Macon - 1956-09-23
4 - Watauga - 2017-09-21

Earliest date: Transylvania 2024-07-13
Latest date: Avery 1969-09-30

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
SR	-	S2?	G5

DISTRIBUTION: Mountains only, though perhaps into the Piedmont foothills; recorded from 11 counties. One documented by a photo from Graham County in 2019 was a new county record and the first recent report for the southern mountains. This is a northern species that ranges south only to the mountains of northern Georgia.

ABUNDANCE: Rare to locally very uncommon. As most of the records with data are older than 20 years ago, it might now be considered rare. Fortunately, there were three records documented by photographs in 2013, but all from a single county (Watauga). In recent years, there are generally only one or two records a year, though most have been from Watauga County.

FLIGHT: The flight occurs in late summer and early fall -- from early August to the end of September. In Georgia, it also flies in August and September (Beaton 2007). The April and June records on the flight charts are for nymphs only.

HABITAT: Mainly at fast, rocky streams in wooded habitats; however, recent records in Watauga County have also been at wet meadows and bogs.

BEHAVIOR: As with Fawn Darner, it forages by flying along creek banks, apparently fairly slowly. However, that species occurs mainly along slow moving waters, whereas the Ocellated occurs along rapidly moving waters.

COMMENTS: As there is relatively little odonate field work currently in the mountains, as compared with the other provinces, its range and status are not well known. Thus, the N.C. Natural Heritage Program keep records on it, and in November 2012 up-listed it from Watch List to the Rare List, as Significantly Rare. Photos in 2013 documented the first records for Watauga County. More photos were made in Yancey County in 2017, though there is a vague, old report from this county. As mentioned above, there was a welcome new record from Graham County in 2019.