

Celithemis ornata Ornate Pennant

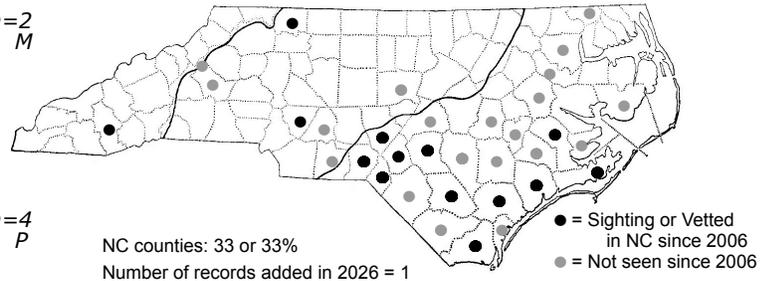
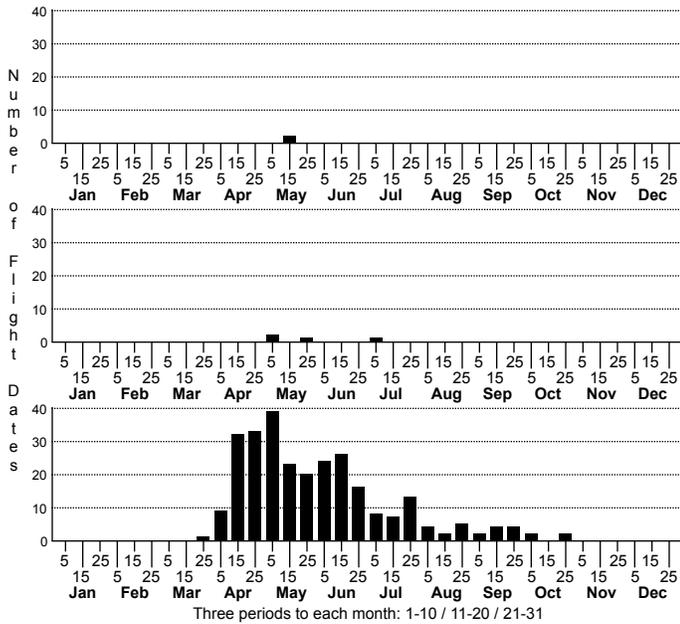


Photo (vetted) in 2026: Surry

High counts of:
100 - Scotland - 2021-05-06
80 - Carteret - 2019-05-07
75 - Scotland - 2020-06-08

Earliest date: Onslow 2020-03-27
Latest date: Bladen 1981-10-28

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

Other Name: Faded Pennant

DISTRIBUTION: Primarily limited to the Coastal Plain, barely ranging into the extreme southeastern Piedmont, with odd outliers in the mountains in northwestern Burke County and in Jackson County (with a 2019 photo). However, it is mainly found in the southern half of the Coastal Plain (including the Sandhills), being of spotty occurrence north of Harnett, Wayne, and Hyde counties. Apparently absent in the extreme northeastern Coastal Plain.

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common to common in the Sandhills; fairly common (to perhaps common) farther east in the southern half of the Coastal Plain. Rare in the northern half of the Coastal Plain, and very rare in the Piedmont and the mountains. Apparently absent from most of the northwestern half of the state.

FLIGHT: A very long flight period, though less common after June. Occurs from early April to late October. Its flight is earlier in spring than most of the other *Celithemis* pennants. The two mountain records are both in mid-May, where the flight probably lasts for several months.

HABITAT: Ponds and smaller lakes, as with other pennants. These waters should contain marshy or emergent vegetation along the margins.

BEHAVIOR: Males are often seen around the margins of ponds, perching on twigs and making short patrols. Adults forage short distances from water, usually in sunny areas, such as fields, but not nearly as much as do Halloween Pennants.

COMMENTS: This species can be confused with Amanda's Pennant, and both may occur at the same ponds. However, Amanda's has a broader amber or reddish patch on the hind wing and typically forages much farther from water than does the Ornate Pennant; its flight averages later in the season. As with so many other pennants, the best strategy to see an Ornate Pennant is to walk around a margin of a pond, such as in the Sandhills or lower Coastal Plain. Beaton (2007) calls the species "Uncommon" in GA, but it is quite numerous in NC, mirroring Dunkle (2000), who says "common" across the range of the species -- TX to NJ.