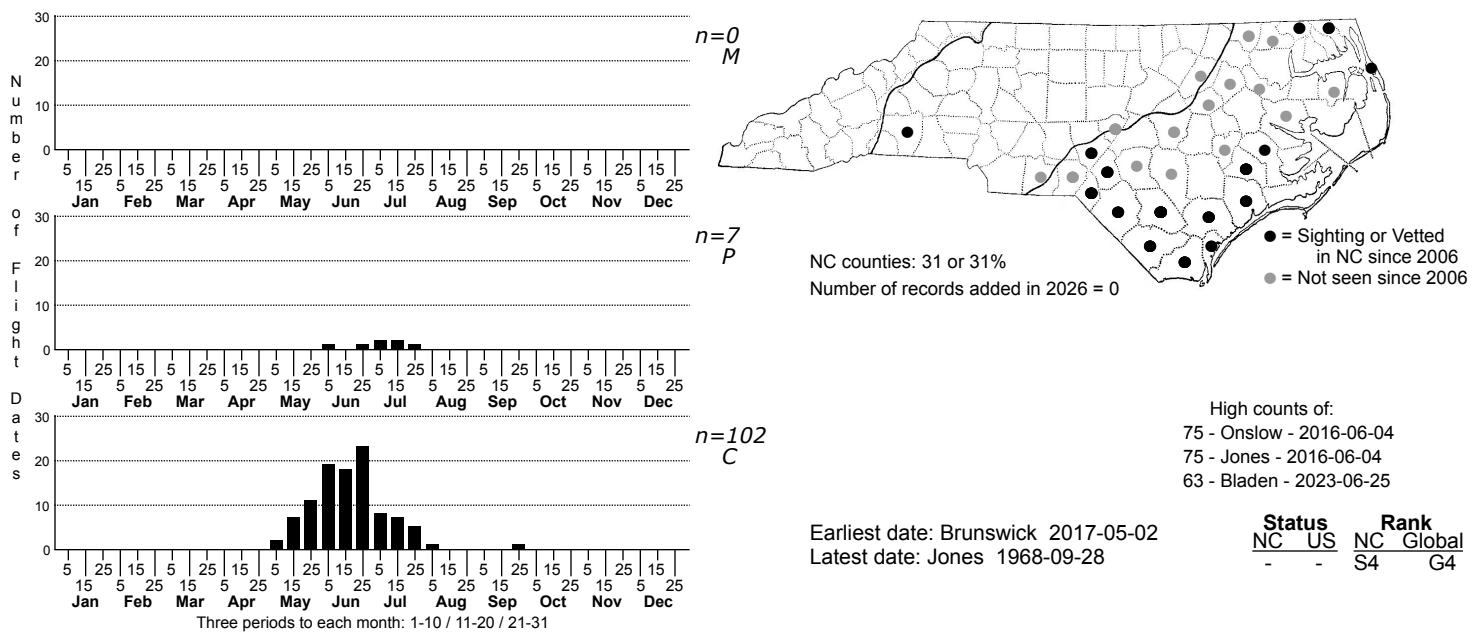


Enallagma pallidum Pale Bluet



DISTRIBUTION: Essentially limited to the Coastal Plain, where it likely occurs in all counties (though there are records for only 60% of them). Also occurs sparingly in the extreme southeastern Piedmont, near the Sandhills region (a collection from Anson County). A sight report for Rutherford County, in the far-western Piedmont, is open to question; there are no known Piedmont, much less upper Piedmont, records for SC or GA (on the OdonataCentral map); and recent reports, including photos, from Orange County have been removed from the map and database, owing to likely misidentified Slender Bluets.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon to locally fairly common in the southern Coastal Plain -- Sandhills area east to Craven and Onslow counties, but generally rare elsewhere in the Coastal Plain. Very rare in the narrow portion of the range in the southeastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT: The flight occurs between early May and early August, with a collection record from late September being quite late. Essentially a late spring and early summer flying damselfly.

HABITAT: Most often at lakes and ponds, especially where there are shrubby or swampy areas around the waters. Also at swampy edges of blackwater creeks and rivers. Thus, even though males may perch on snags out in a pond, lake, or creek, these sites tend to be closer to shrubby margins than along or near grasses or sedges along a shoreline.

BEHAVIOR: Behavior of males is somewhat similar to that of some other bluets, such as Orange and Burgundy -- perching very close to the water on snags or other vegetation. These all perch horizontally, ready to fly out low over a lake, pond, or slow-moving creek. However, this species tends to stay closer to shade and shrubby margins when at rest than those other species.

COMMENTS: In the past several years, there have been quite a few photographs to document the species, especially in the southern Coastal Plain. However, recent observations/photos from the northern two-thirds of this province have been lacking, due perhaps mainly to poor surveys of damselflies in this part of the state. A photograph in 2022 from Dare County finally was a first for that large coastal county. Note that separation of this species from Slender Bluet is very tricky, though that species does not range into the eastern Coastal Plain; however, both occur in the upper Coastal Plain (including the Sandhills). Both perch low over open water and behave in similar manners.