

Phanogomphus quadricolor Rapids Clubtail

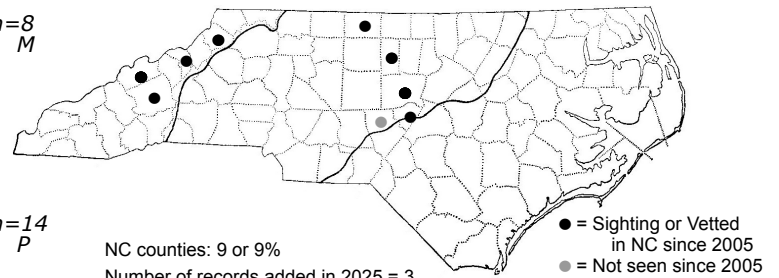
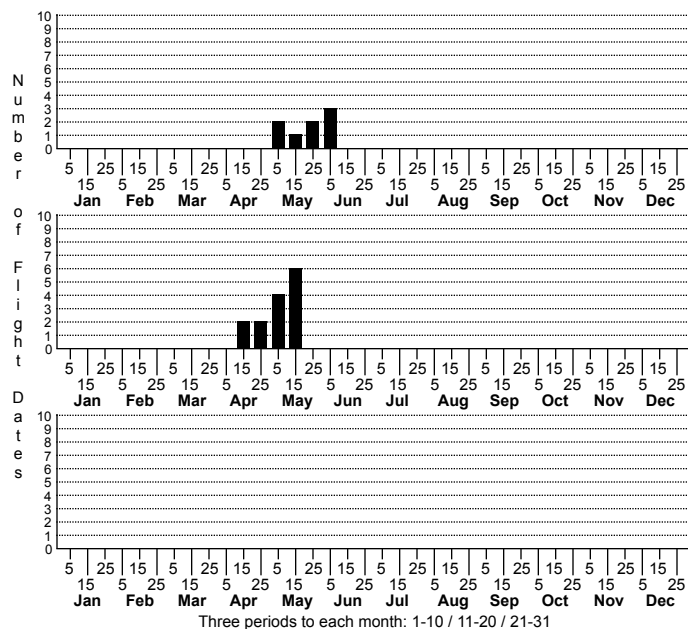


Photo (vetted) in 2025: Lee

High counts of:
4 - Madison - 2025-05-21
2 - Chatham - 1989-05-03
2 - Alamance - 2017-05-19

Earliest date: Lee 2025-04-13
Latest date: Watauga 2022-06-06

Status	Rank
NC US	NC Global
SR -	S1S2 G3G4

Synonym: *Gomphus quadricolor*

DISTRIBUTION: Primarily north and west of NC, ranging south to northern VA, eastern TN, and northern GA and AL. In NC, widely scattered in the mountains and Piedmont, known from just nine counties, with Watauga County added in 2022 and Lee in 2025. A photo record from Rockingham County in 2019 slightly closed the large gap in records between the mountains and the lower Piedmont, but still hardly any records for the central and western Piedmont as yet.

ABUNDANCE: Seemingly very rare in the mountains (with just six records so far), and also very rare (and local) in the eastern Piedmont. Status in the central and western Piedmont is obviously uncertain, though it may well occur in a few places in this large region in addition to Rockingham County.

FLIGHT: A relatively short spring season flight. The flight dates from the eastern NC Piedmont are from 26 April to 19 May, and the NC mountain records are from 6 May to 6 June. The single GA record (in the mountains) is for 16 May. Thus, the flight in NC occurs from at least late April to early June. Dunkle (2000) says "early May to mid-July" throughout the range; and Paulson (2011) lists "May-Jun" for KY.

HABITAT: Mainly at larger rivers with rocks and rapids.

BEHAVIOR: Males perch on rocks or vegetation near the rivers, but also on vegetation away from rivers.

COMMENTS: This is another rare clubtail in the state. Its distribution is oddly disjunct, as the main part of the range is north and west of the state, south to VA and TN; only one record is known from GA. This is one of many clubtails that can be difficult to identify; multiple photos or specimens are almost certainly necessary for proper documentation. Thankfully, Richard Stickney found a new location of the species, in the Haw River near Swepsonville (Alamance County), in May 2017, and documented this finding with several photographs. John Petranka added several additional photos from that site four days later; and Tim Deering and Jerrell Daigle documented the species from the Deep River in Chatham County in 2018. Both the Deep and Haw rivers are in the same (Cape Fear) drainage. However, Mike Turner photographed one in Rockingham County in 2019 near the Dan River, in the Dan/Roanoke drainage. Max Ramey photographed the species in Watauga County in June 2022.