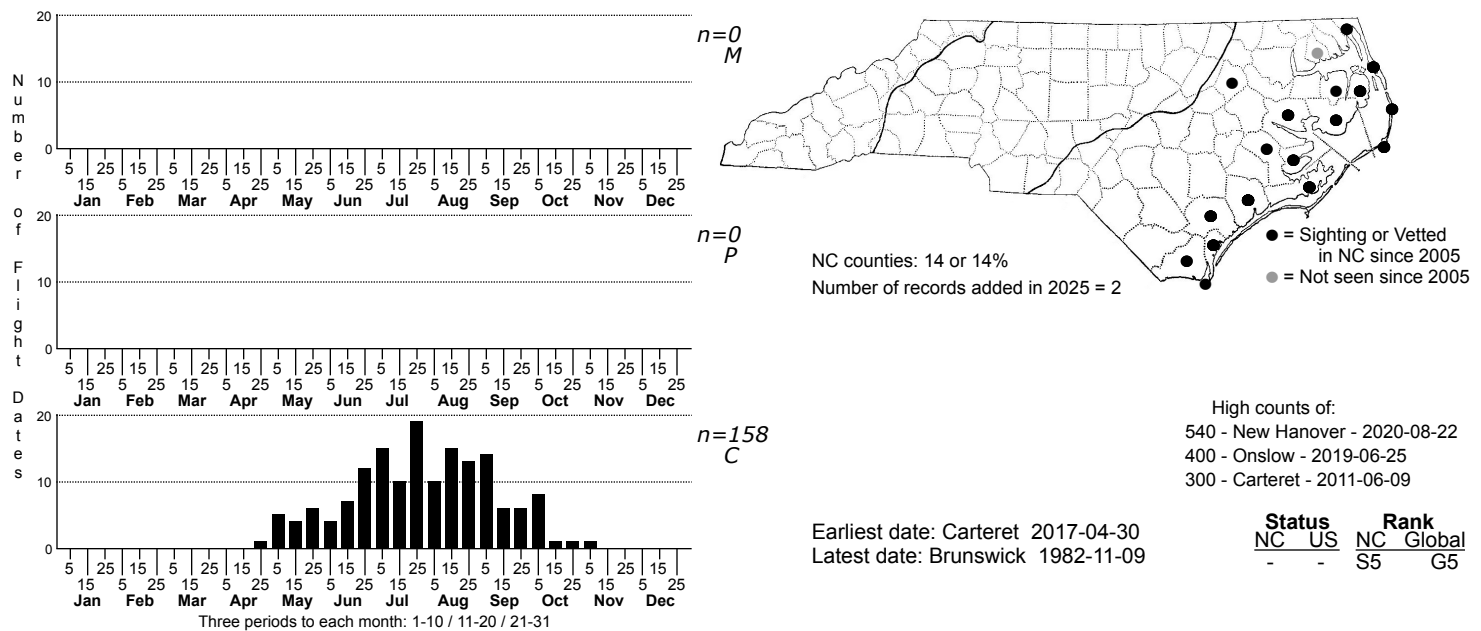


Erythrodiplax berenice Seaside Dragonlet



DISTRIBUTION: Strictly coastal, though found around the inner margins of Albemarle and Pamlico sounds and along other estuarine rivers.

ABUNDANCE: Common, to locally abundant, at least along the southern and central coastal areas, and around the mainland side of Pamlico Sound. Certainly less numerous around the margin of Albemarle Sound, as there are numerous counties along that "bay" without confirmed records. There are several counts of 300 or more individuals in a day, indicating that it can be abundant in certain places.

FLIGHT: A very long flight period, from the end of April to early November. Mainly beginning in mid-May, and often not becoming numerous until June.

HABITAT: Brackish to salt marshes and other wet grasslands close to the coast.

BEHAVIOR: Both sexes perch conspicuously on twigs or other low vegetation, usually near a marsh but at times hundreds of yards from marshes.

COMMENTS: This is one of only several "estuarine" dragonflies in NC, along with Four-spotted Pennant, Needham's Skimmer, and Marl Pennant. If it weren't for its habitat, males would be easily confused with Double-ringed Pennant; however, in reality only Slaty Skimmer is of possible confusion, though the skimmer is much larger. Females and immatures look vaguely like Blue Dashers and various pennants. This species is usually easily found in its restricted habitat, though it can be overlooked because of its small size.