Argia bipunctulata Seepage Dancer

NC counties: 47 or 47%

Number of records added in 2026 = 2

● = Sighting or Vetted in NC since 2006
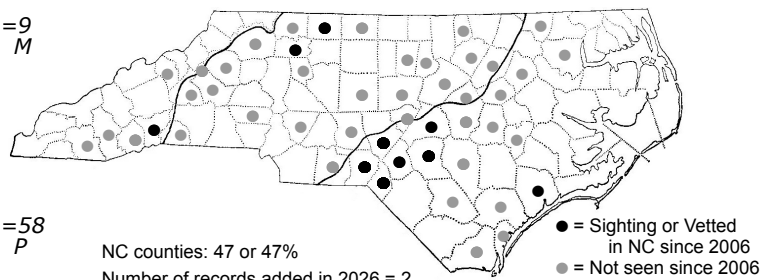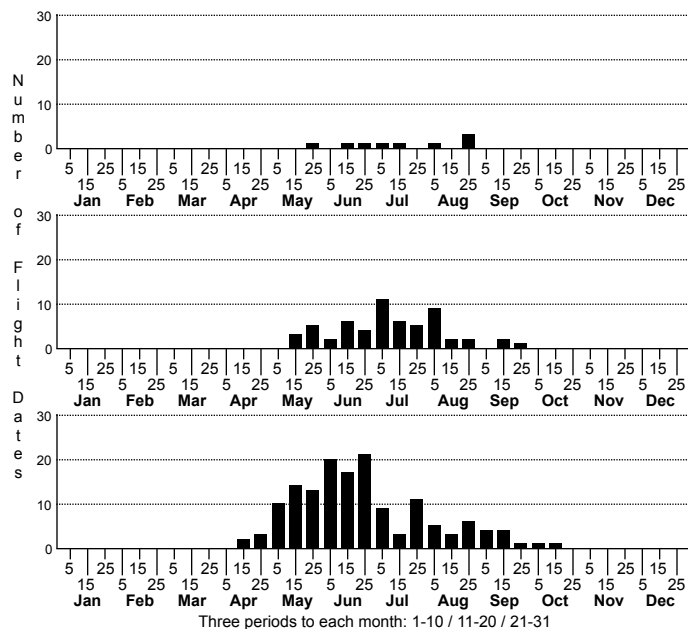● = Not seen since 2006

High counts of:
105 - Scotland - 2020-06-08
100 - Scotland - 2007-06-16
40 - Moore; C - 2014-06-04

Earliest date: Scotland 2020-04-17
Latest date: Scotland 1996-10-16

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S3S4	G4

Three periods to each month: 1-10 / 11-20 / 21-31

DISTRIBUTION: Scattered throughout the Piedmont and western two-thirds of the Coastal Plain; of spotty occurrence in the mountains and eastern Coastal Plain, and apparently absent in the Tidewater zone.

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common to locally common in the Sandhills region. Elsewhere, rare to uncommon (and perhaps local) across the Piedmont and the western 50-60% of the Coastal Plain (excluding the Sandhills). Rare in the mountains and central Coastal Plain, and apparently absent in nearly all counties that border the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds. There have been relatively few recent records from the Piedmont, and it seems likely to have declined there, where it is now essentially rare.

FLIGHT: Mid-April to mid-October in the Coastal Plain, and mid-May (if not earlier) to late September in the Piedmont. The few mountain records fall between late May and late August.

HABITAT: As the name implies, found around seeps or boggy places, where there are abundant sedges. Most NC records are from the margins of ponds, typically with boggy margins.

BEHAVIOR: This species looks and behaves like a bluet (genus Enallagma) and not a typical dancer (genus Argia). Males perch somewhat inconspicuously on grasses or other vegetation, very close to shore, but often in sunny places. They seldom perch on the ground like other dancers, another feature that makes a Seepage Dancer more like a bluet!

COMMENTS: This dancer can be easily overlooked because it often perches low in dense herbaceous vegetation around pond margins and seepage areas. Two one-day tallies of 100 in Scotland County are by far the most seen in a single day; the next highest tally is 40 individuals. Paulson (2011) indicates that, because its seepage habitat is somewhat limited, populations tend to be localized and not widespread over a large region. Despite it having been reported from over 45 counties in the state, one must travel to the Sandhills to have a reasonable chance of finding this species.