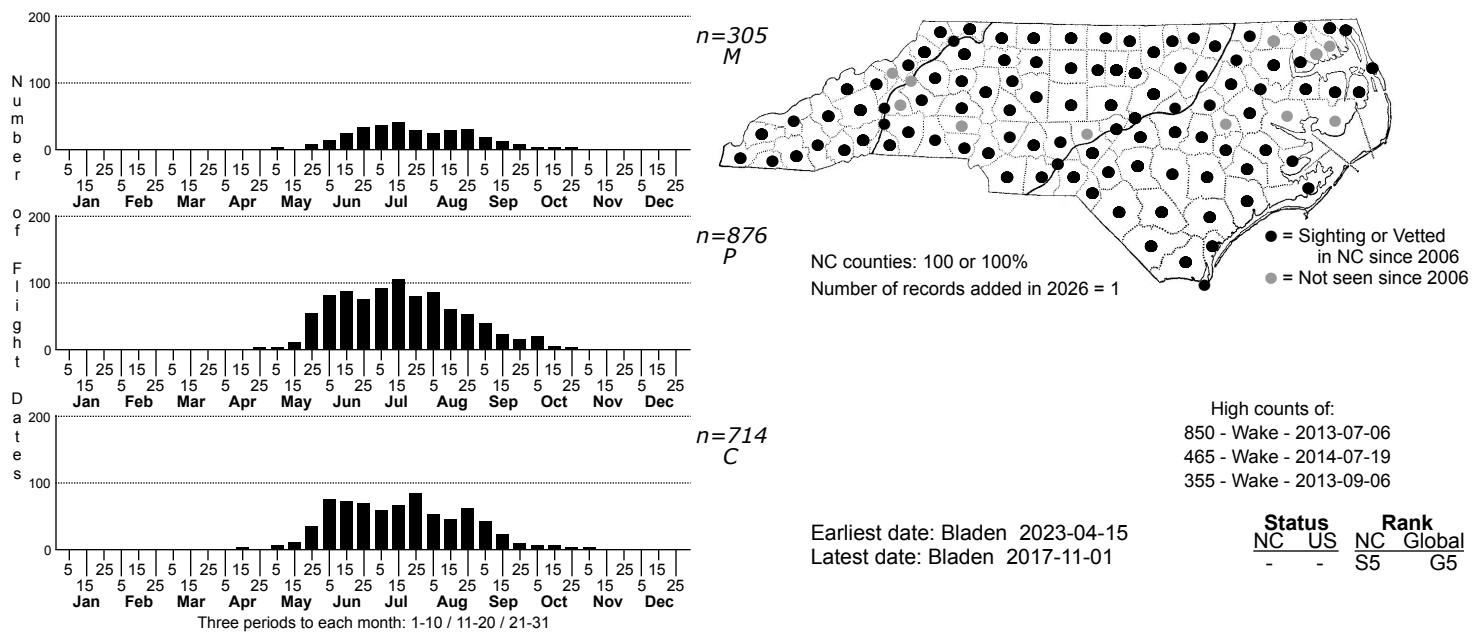


Libellula incesta Slaty Skimmer



DISTRIBUTION: Statewide, occurring in all 100 counties.

ABUNDANCE: Very common to abundant, though usually not in large swarms (such as with Eastern Pondhawk, Blue Dasher, or Common Baskettail). Abundance seems similar all across the state, though it might be slightly less numerous in the mountains.

FLIGHT: Flies from early May to late October downstate, and to mid-October in the mountains.

HABITAT: Widespread around still waters of ponds, lakes, marshes, pools and puddles, and slow portions of rivers or creeks -- typically in wooded or partly wooded situations.

BEHAVIOR: Males are very conspicuous for a dragonfly, as they perch on bare twigs or other vegetation around a pond or lake margin and make constant forays, often chasing anything that flies nearby. Adults forage some distance from water, but not in large numbers in fields or other treeless areas.

COMMENTS: It is difficult to visit a pond or lake margin in the summer without seeing a Slaty Skimmer. Usually a walk around the shoreline will produce a number of them, even though Blue Dashers typically will be the most abundant dragonfly at such a pond or lake. Because Slaty Skimmers are very pugnacious and active fliers, if the species is around, you should quickly know it! It is definitely one of the state's most abundant dragonfly species.