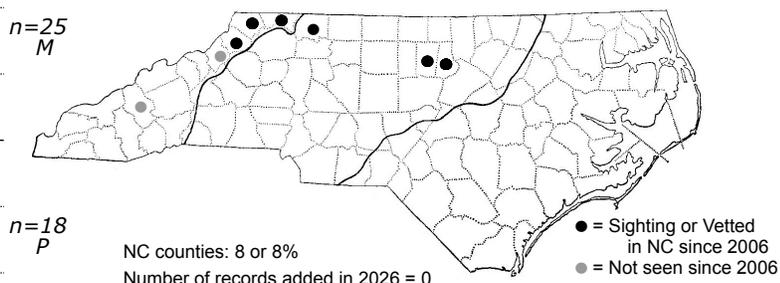
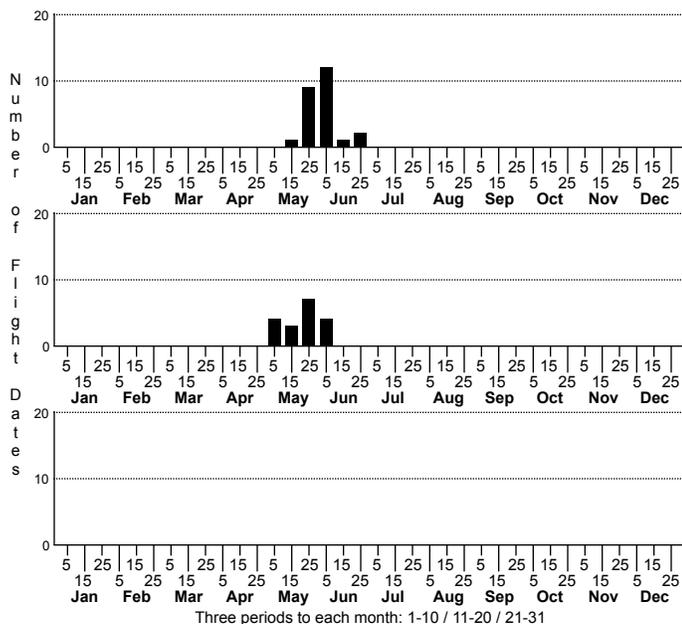


## *Gomphurus lineatifrons* Splendid Clubtail



High counts of:  
 10 - Orange - 1991-05-29  
 5 - Ashe - 2021-06-08  
 4 - Ashe - 2021-05-27

Earliest date: Orange 2002-05-07  
 Latest date: Ashe 2021-06-23

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
SR	-	S2	G4

Synonym: *Gomphus lineatifrons*

**DISTRIBUTION:** Primarily the northern Mountains, but there are a few other old Mountain records (and it occurs in the Mountains of northern GA). Also a handful of records for the northeastern Piedmont (Orange and Durham counties), plus one in the northwestern Piedmont (Surry County). Thus, it might occur in other parts of the northern Piedmont.

**ABUNDANCE:** Uncommon to locally fairly common along the New River (and major branches), as Ted Wilcox has a number of photographs from Ashe and Alleghany counties on his website, and there are a good handful of more recent records, into northern Watauga County. Presumed to be very rare in the remainder of the Mountains (if still present), and in the northern Piedmont. Certainly very rare if not absent in the intervening northern Piedmont.

**FLIGHT:** Late spring and early summer. In the Mountains from mid-May to late June; in the Piedmont, probably a week or two earlier, beginning in early May, and flying into June.

**HABITAT:** Breeds at clear rivers and creeks, with gravel bottoms.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males perch on rocks in the rivers or creeks, or on the ground or low vegetation nearby. As with most primarily montane clubtails, adults seem to remain close to running water and seldom move far from rivers.

**COMMENTS:** This is a large and colorful clubtail; males have a large club. Beginners might mistake it for the common Black-shouldered Spinyleg, though that species has a much smaller club. In the northeastern Piedmont, nearly all records are from the Eno River, and a record in 2018 came from the Yadkin River (for a new river basin record). There are quite a few recent records for the species, but these tend to come from the same few locales and rivers, with very few new locations reported in recent years. Thus, it should remain on the N.C. Natural Heritage Program's Rare List.