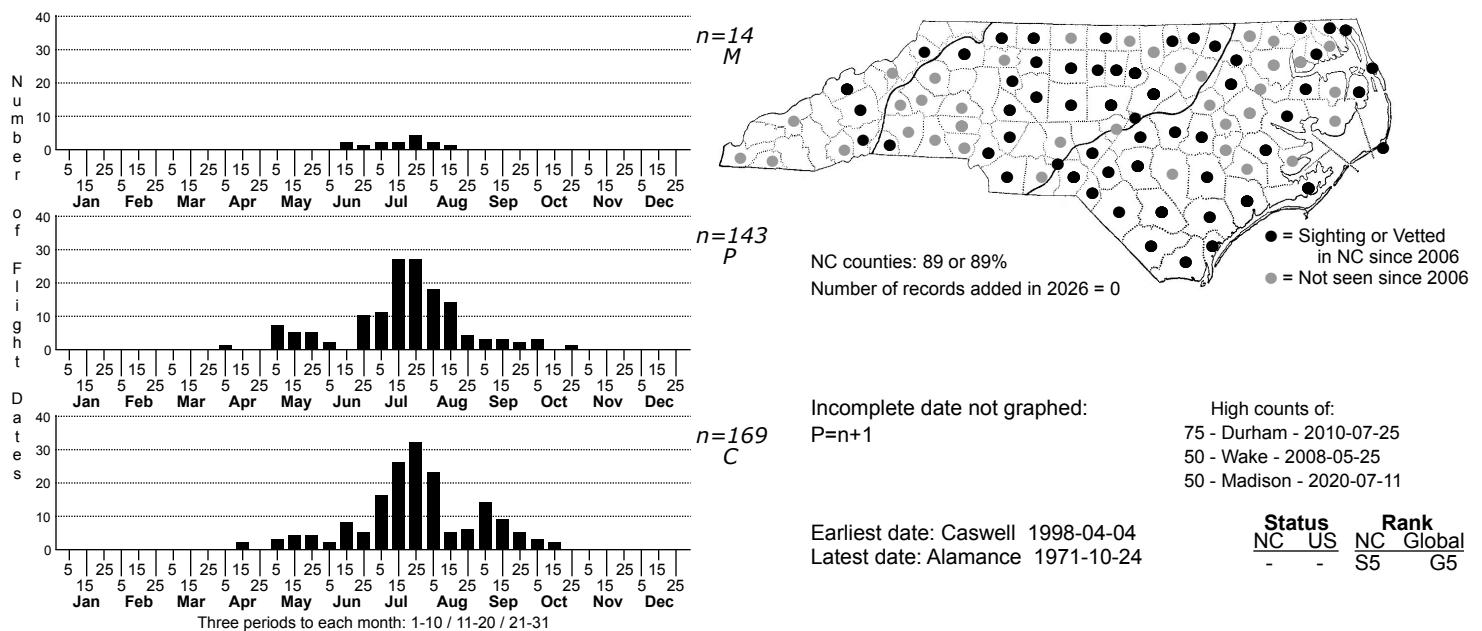


Pantala hymenaea Spot-winged Glider



DISTRIBUTION: Occurs over all of the Coastal Plain and Piedmont (though lacking records for a few counties in the Piedmont). It is of sporadic occurrence in the mountains, where it has been found so far in just half of the counties.

ABUNDANCE: As with the Wandering Glider, this is a migratory species, constantly on the move, with abundance difficult to assess. Usually much less numerous than Wandering Glider, though it can occur in swarms, more so than does the Wandering. Generally uncommon in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, though it may be fairly common at times, especially in the Coastal Plain, even though two of our three highest one-day counts are in the lower Piedmont. Very rare to rare in the mountains.

FLIGHT: Early or mid-April to late October downstate, though the bulk of the records are from late June to mid-September. The few mountain records are from mid-June to mid-August, but the flight there is certainly longer than just two months.

HABITAT: Similar to Wandering Glider, it uses small, temporary puddles, pools, and shallow ponds for breeding.

BEHAVIOR: Males may be seen patrolling near puddles, and females may be seen ovipositing at such wet places, though Spot-winged Gliders seldom seem to enter cities to attempt ovipositing on shiny car hoods and rainwater pools in streets. Adults forage widely over all types of habitats, especially open areas along and near the coast.

COMMENTS: This species is not familiar to casual observers, despite records from 89 of the 100 counties, because adults infrequently perch, and identification must often be made in flight. Having a net handy to catch such non-perching dragonflies helps! Adults do have a small dark patch at the base of the hind wing, as the common name indicates; sometimes an observer can see this spot in the field, though the overall color of the adult Spot-winged is a bit buffier/brown than the amber-colored Wandering Glider.