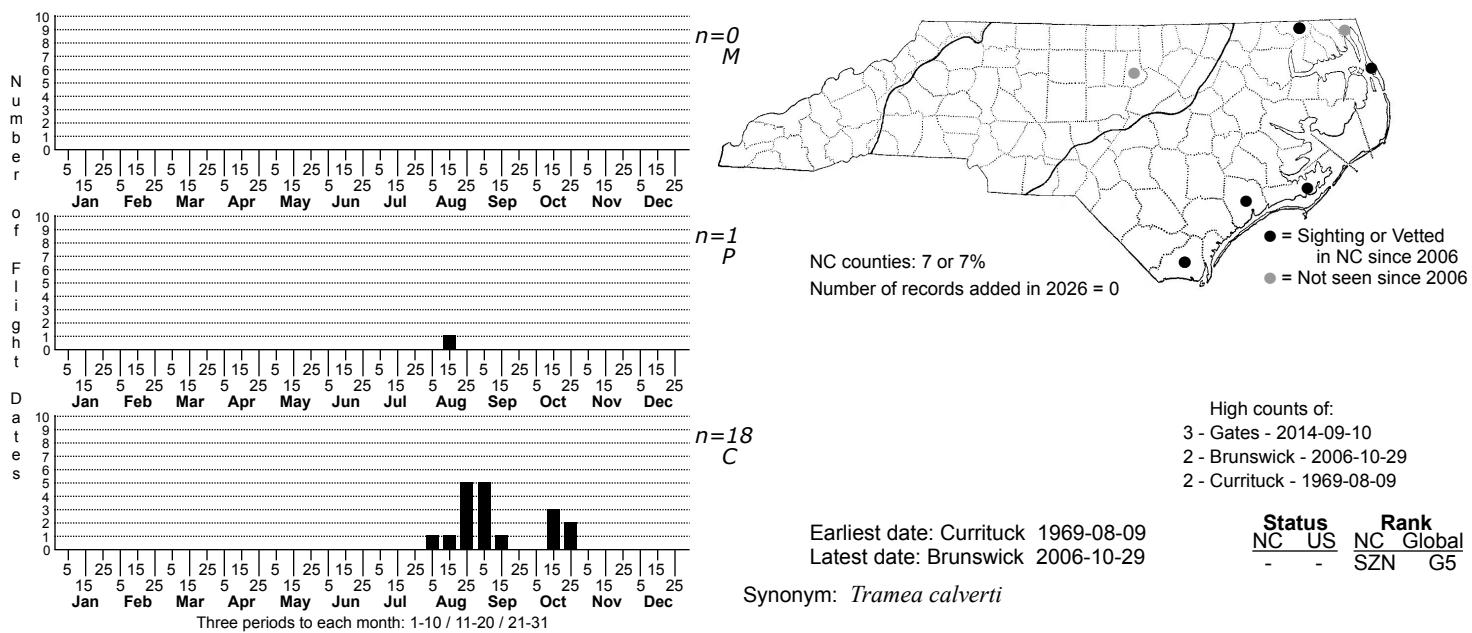


## *Tramea darwini* Striped Saddlebags



**DISTRIBUTION:** Breeds north only to the southern half of TX. However, it strays somewhat regularly to the East Coast of the United States. There are now records for seven NC counties -- Durham, Gates, Currituck, Dare, Carteret, Onslow, and Brunswick.

**ABUNDANCE:** Formerly a very rare stray to the coast and lower Coastal Plain of NC, but increasing in records in the past few years (due to more observers?); now a rare coastal stray/visitor. Accidental inland (Durham County).

**FLIGHT:** Only in late summer and fall. The NC records occur between 9 August and 29 October. Many of the flight dates are from Merchants Millpond State Park in Gates County in 2014.

**HABITAT:** In NC, the species can occur anywhere, primarily near the coast, as it is a stray.

**BEHAVIOR:** As with other saddlebags, adults spend most of the time in flight, perching infrequently. They often hover or glide, with seemingly little effort. Owing to the dark patch on the wings near the body, and its habit of flying at eye level or above, it could easily be overlooked as another saddlebags species or a Spot-winged Glider.

**COMMENTS:** This is a rare migrant/stray. Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen, and Ricky Davis saw one on 29 October 2006 at a golf course just north of Calabash (Brunswick County). Fortunately, it perched briefly, and Pippen and Davis got recognizable photos to document the record. Floyd and Signa Williams saw and netted two individuals (at least) over a two-day period in late August 2014 at Merchants Millpond State Park, obtaining several photos for confirmation. However, the observations did not stop there; they noted up to three at that site well into October! Conrad and Alyssa Wernett netted and photographed one, an adult male, at a man-made pond in Onslow County in 2018. John Petranka and Sally Gewalt photographed another adult male in nearby Carteret County, also in 2018. Brian Bockhahn photographed another in 2018, at Jockeys Ridge State Park on the Outer Banks of Dare County. Rob Van Epps photographed one on Ocean Isle Beach in Brunswick County in 2021. Duncan Cuyler is responsible for the other records, collecting one in Durham County and two in Currituck County.

**NOTE:** The scientific name was changed in early 2021 from *Tramea calverti* to *Tramea darwini*.