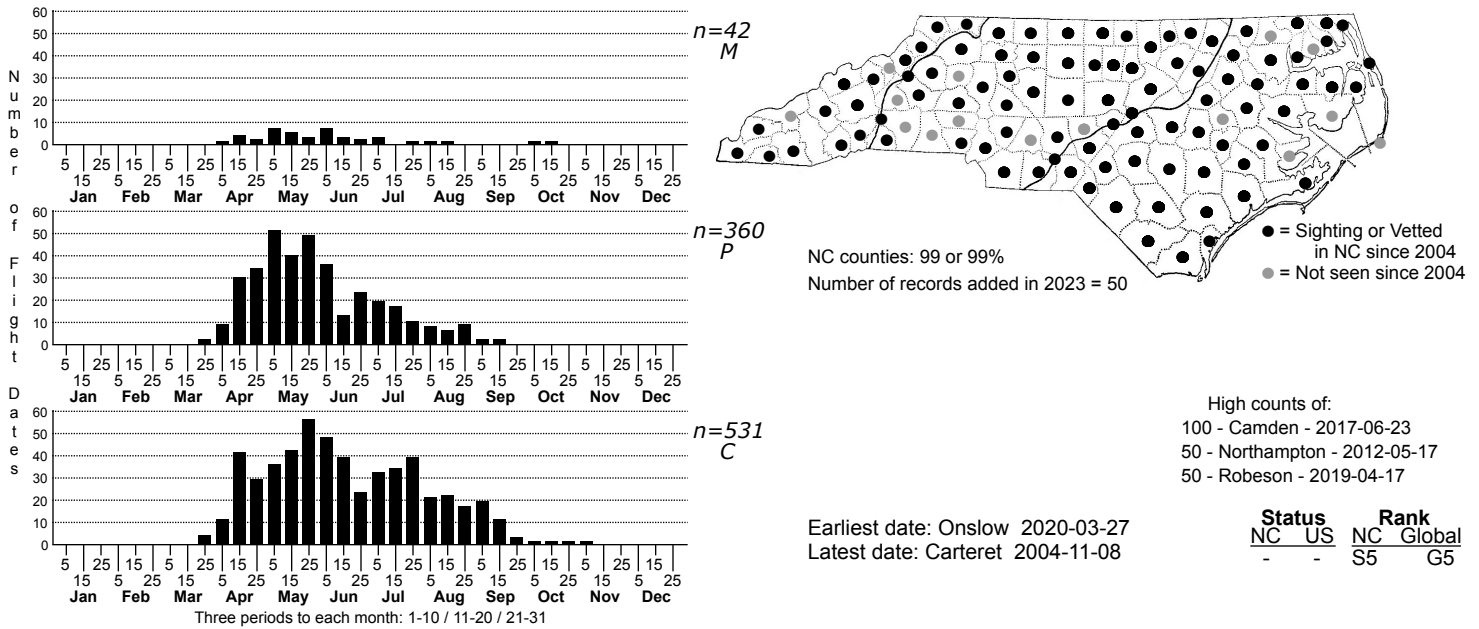


## *Epiaeschna heros* Swamp Darner



**DISTRIBUTION:** Statewide, and certainly occurs in all 100 counties of NC, though no record yet for one of them.

**ABUNDANCE:** Common to often very common in the Coastal Plain, and fairly common to common in the Piedmont; rare to uncommon in the mountains.

**FLIGHT:** The flight is from the end of March or early April into early November in the Coastal Plain. In the Piedmont the flight also begins around late March or early April, and likely ends around mid-October, but oddly we have no records after September! The mountain flight occurs from early or mid-April to mid-October.

**HABITAT:** Swamps, bottomlands, rivers, and large streams; not numerous around forested lakes or ponds.

**BEHAVIOR:** Often seen cruising along forested roads and other clearings near woodlands and swamps, such as along roads through bottomlands and swamps. Flight is often head-height to treetop level. Frequently perches, usually at head-height or above, hanging downward from a twig.

**COMMENTS:** If a large dragonfly is seen flying over a road through a forested wetland, it is most likely this species. Several can often be seen in the same general area, though it normally doesn't form swarms. It can often be the most commonly seen species on a summer or early fall day, especially in the Coastal Plain, if you are walking along a forest road or wide trail through a swamp or bottomland.