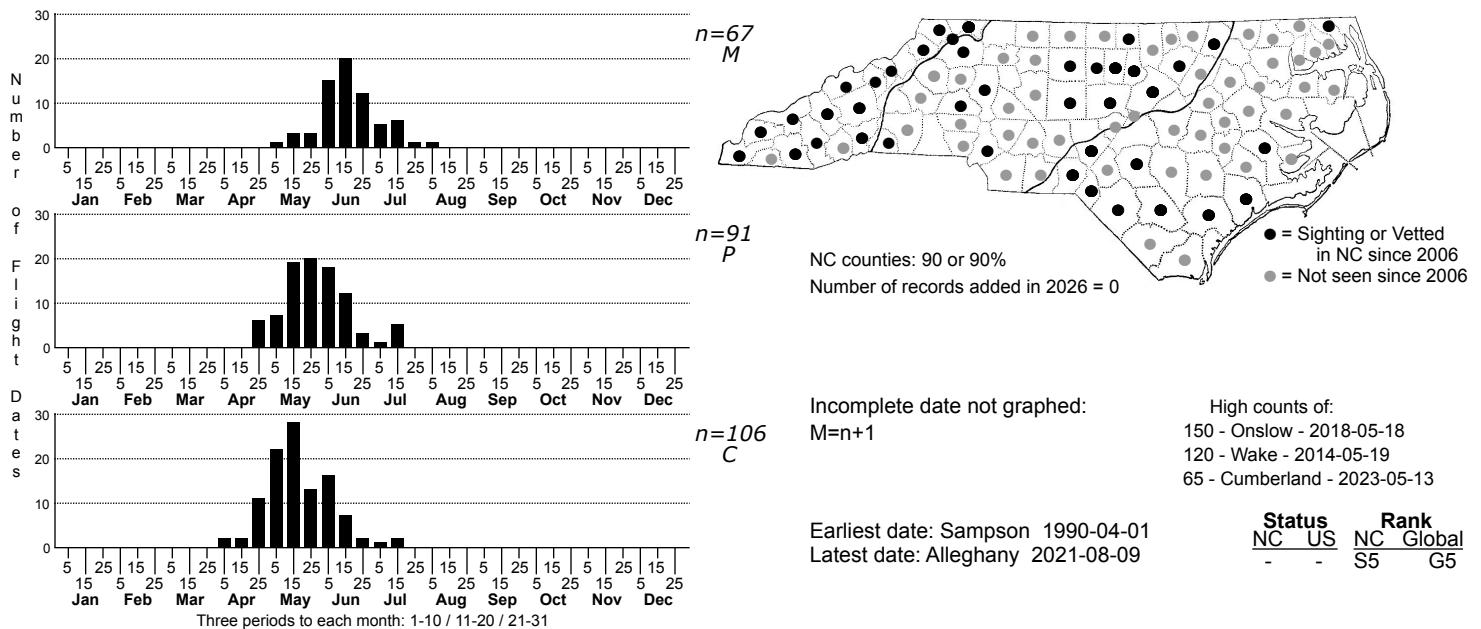


Enallagma divagans Turquoise Bluet



DISTRIBUTION: Nearly statewide. Possibly absent in one to several counties along the Outer Banks. Nonetheless, the assumption should be made that it occurs in all counties, though possibly absent in one or two far eastern ones.

ABUNDANCE: Despite its very wide range in the state, as with the Double-striped Bluet it is generally just uncommon to locally fairly common across the state, though certainly rare in the extreme eastern counties and in the higher elevations. A one-day count of 120 was made in the eastern Piedmont in 2014, tripling the previous single one-day count of 40; a count of 150 was made in a southern coastal county in 2018. Thus, as with many other bluets, the species is quite local -- quite numerous at some montane ponds, a handful of Coastal Plain creeks, and at various sites (pond margins and creeks) in the Piedmont.

FLIGHT: This is another bluet that ends its flight by mid-summer, as opposed to flying well into the fall season. In the Coastal Plain, it occurs from early April only to mid-July. The Piedmont flight is from late April to mid-July, and the mountain flight is slightly later -- early May to early August. Nonetheless, the flights are mostly over by mid-July across the state.

HABITAT: Varied. More often at heavily shaded, slow-moving streams, but it also is found along shaded pond and lake margins. Interestingly, most montane records are from ponds, whereas farther eastward, there is a tendency to be a creekside species (at least in the Coastal Plain).

BEHAVIOR: This species is found more often in semi-shaded places with plenty of shrubs along the edge of a lake, pond, or slow-moving creek; it seldom can be found in full sun, and never out in the open at a lake or pond -- but tucked along shores.

COMMENTS: This bluet has an odd array of habitats, much more so than nearly all others. Most other bluets occur around pond margins, often in sunny places, where males may perch on grass blades or twigs out into the water, or at least fly within the grasses and sedges along the shore. The Turquoise Bluet usually shuns full sun, and likes partial shade close to bushes along the water's edge, where they often perch; these sites can be along shaded rivers or creeks, or shaded ponds. Reports of the species seen well out from shore, at lakes and ponds, probably relate to the rather similar Slender Bluet (which favors sunnier places).