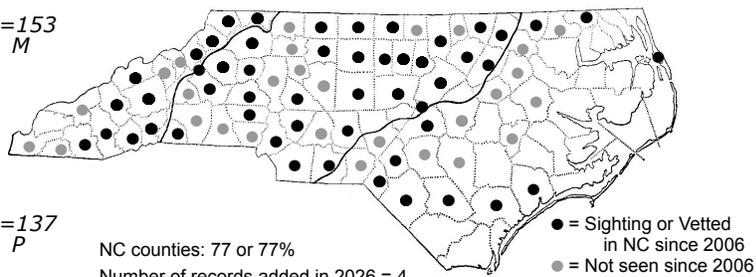
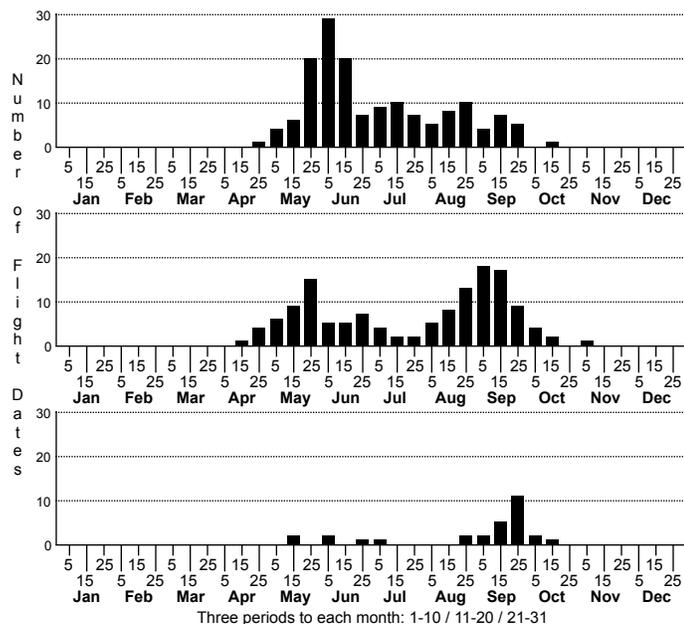


## *Libellula pulchella* Twelve-spotted Skimmer



NC counties: 77 or 77%  
Number of records added in 2026 = 4

Sight (iNat) in 2026: Montgomery

High counts of:  
14 - Henderson - 2011-09-04  
10 - Durham - 2020-09-04  
9 - Buncombe - 2012-05-27

Earliest date: Durham 2024-04-17  
Latest date: Durham 1980-11-09

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S4	G5

**DISTRIBUTION:** A partly migratory species. Mountains, Piedmont, and western half of the Coastal Plain; seemingly absent in the eastern 40-50% of the Coastal Plain, as there are no records east of Gates, Pitt, Lenoir, and Onslow counties -- other than an iNaturalist photo record in August 2023 from the Dare County Outer Banks. Resident only in the mountains and parts of the western Piedmont; rather seasonal (mostly spring and fall only) in the eastern half of the state.

**ABUNDANCE:** Uncommon to locally fairly common in the mountains. Very uncommon in the Piedmont as a whole, though a migrant through much of the province, and in the eastern portions can be rather rare and is not resident there. A rare migrant in the western half of the Coastal Plain, where seen mainly in fall migration; extremely rare migrant/stray in the eastern Coastal Plain.

**FLIGHT:** In the mountains, where it is a resident (though some records might refer to migrants), the flight is from late April to late September, rarely to mid-October. The Piedmont set of flight dates is from very late April to mid-October, with a stray record for early November. The fact that there is a clear dip in records in midsummer in the Piedmont flight chart is a strong indication that the species is mainly a migrant, seen mostly in spring/early summer and late summer/fall. In the Coastal Plain, where migratory, the dates range from mid-May to mid-October, with most being from late August into October.

**HABITAT:** Ponds, lakes, and marshes, typically in open situations; may oviposit in small, temporary pools.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males are very conspicuous as they patrol, often hovering, over their pools and ponds. Adults are similar to other skimmers in that they often forage well away from water in fields and wooded borders.

**COMMENTS:** Much is still to be learned about its biology in NC. This species is one of the few dragonflies that is partly migratory in the state. Individuals appear in the Coastal Plain and in much of the Piedmont at sites away from breeding waters, often where observers are quite familiar with the general area. Plus, they are seen mainly in spring or late summer/fall. The female looks quite similar to the female Common Whitetail and thus could be overlooked. However, adult males are very conspicuous and elicit much excitement when seen, because of their "snazzy" appearance and relative scarcity in NC.