

Enallagma vesperum Vesper Bluet

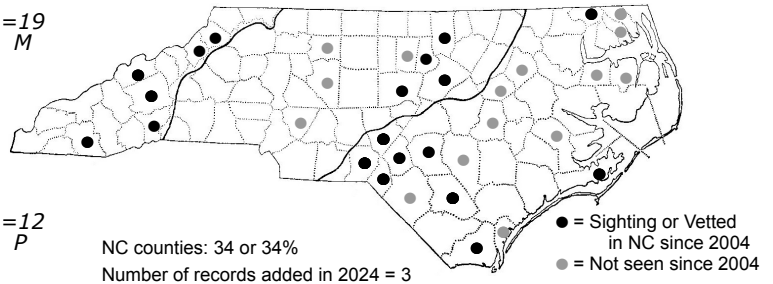
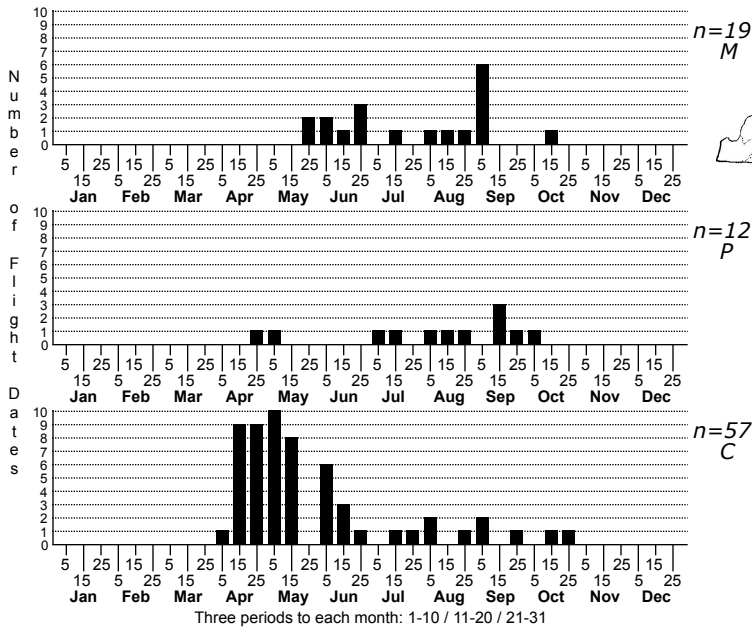


Photo (vetted) in 2024: Durham

High counts of:
50 - Madison - 2022-06-21
25 - Gates - 2020-05-03
25 - Madison - 2021-08-04

Earliest date: Carteret 2022-04-08
Latest date: Hoke 2023-10-21

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S3S4	G5

DISTRIBUTION: Widely scattered over the entire state, though no records yet for the upper third of the Piedmont. In theory, could occur in all 100 counties, but so far recorded only from one-third (33) of them.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon but rather widespread in the Sandhills region, and not local there. However, outside of this region it is rare to locally uncommon over the rest of the state, being quite rare in most of the Piedmont (with just 11 records there). The peak one-day count is a remarkable 50 individuals, but most other counts are under ten individuals. The many counties in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont where it has yet to be recorded attests to the difficulty of finding the species in the state.

FLIGHT: In the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, it occurs from mid-April to mid-October. In the mountains, the records fall from late May to mid-October. More data are needed to fill in gaps in the flight charts, though it appears that the starting and ending dates of the flight periods are rather well established.

HABITAT: Lakes or ponds, typically where forests are nearby, for perching (typically in shade). Waters with lily pads are often used.

BEHAVIOR: As the name implies, the species flies mainly in late afternoon into twilight. And, when seen before late afternoon, the individuals are usually perched in dark, shaded places.

COMMENTS: The unusual daily flight timing is perhaps responsible for the scarcity of records for this otherwise geographically widespread species, which ranges from the Gulf Coast north to southern Canada. Males have a bright yellow thorax and are not likely to be overlooked, especially in combination with the highly contrasting light blue end of the abdomen.