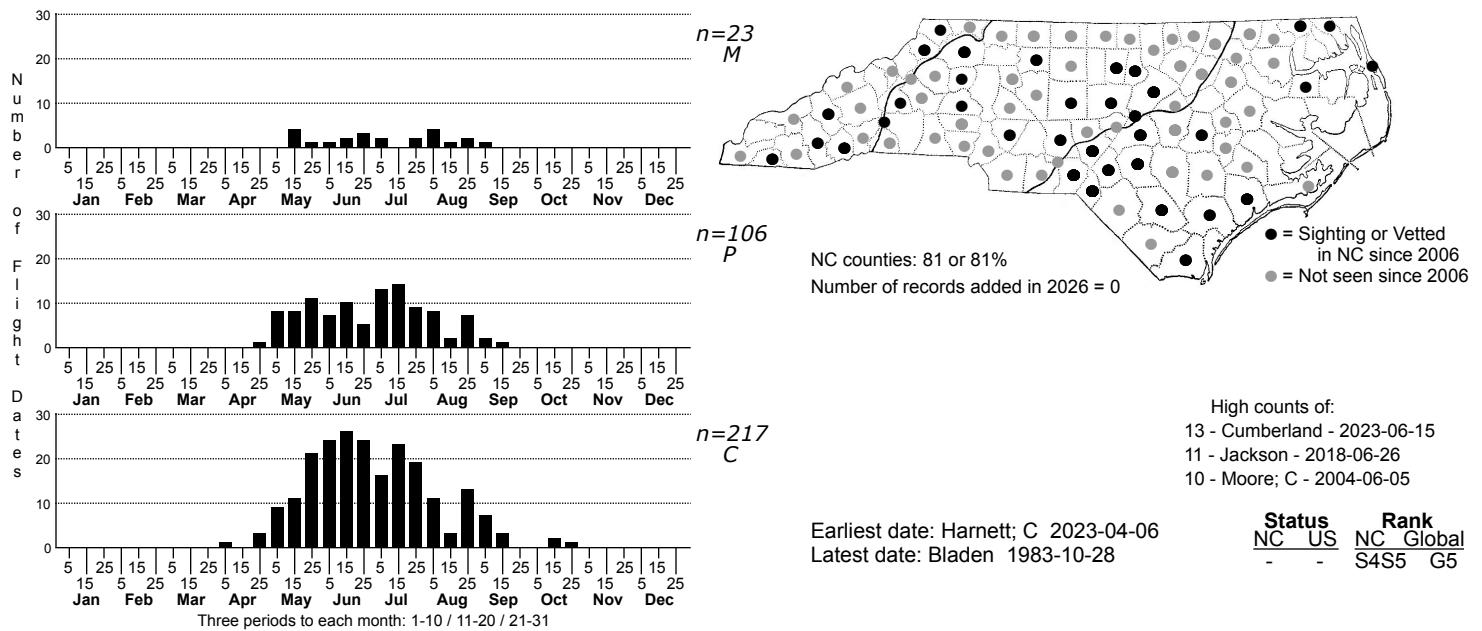


Libellula flava Yellow-sided Skimmer



DISTRIBUTION: Almost statewide, but nearly absent from the extreme eastern and northeastern Coastal Plain, where there are but three records (Camden, Dare, and Washington counties) east of Gates, Bertie, and Carteret counties. Of spotty occurrence in the mountains and western half of the Piedmont, though likely present in all counties in those provinces.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon to locally fairly common in the Sandhills; generally uncommon and local elsewhere over the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and lower mountains. Rare in the eastern portions of the Coastal Plain and presumably the middle elevations of the mountains.

FLIGHT: Downstate, from late April to mid-September. Flies at least from mid-May to early September in the mountains.

HABITAT: More specialized than with other skimmers, being restricted more to seepages, small streams, and boggy spots, often with sphagnum, such as pools in powerline clearings.

BEHAVIOR: Males perch fairly low on vegetation and make short patrols over their pools and other small patches of water, typically in partly sunny areas.

COMMENTS: This is one of our least numerous skimmers, though it is a dragonfly that most active observers see a few times within the year, assuming they look in the right places. Adult males have some similarity of appearance to Eastern Pondhawk and Great Blue Skimmer, though the Yellow-sided has amber leading edges to the wings. They do not stray too far from boggy places with sphagnum or other partly-open mucky soils. It is somewhat local in occurrence, as such boggy wetlands are not widespread across a given county.