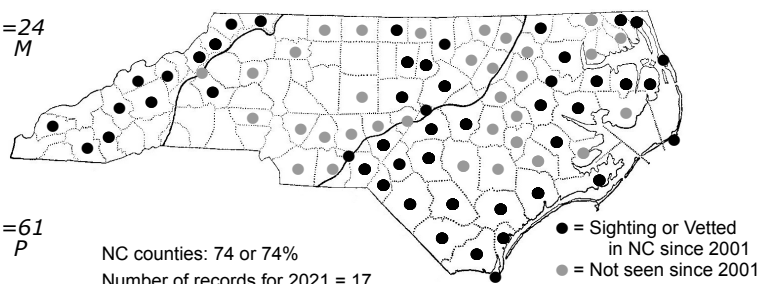
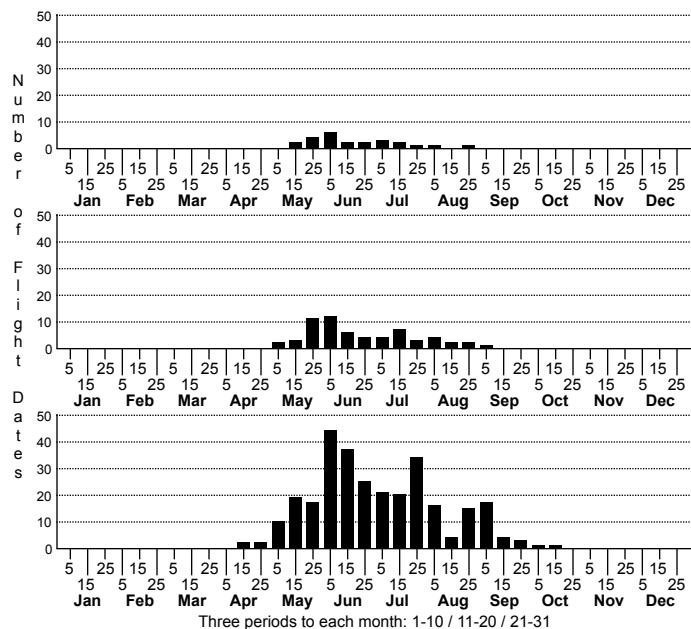


Libellula axilena Bar-winged Skimmer



Sight (not vetted) in 2021: Harnett; P
Photo (vetted) in 2021: Ashe, Madison

High counts of:
50 - Bladen - 2021-07-14
40 - Brunswick; BHI - 2010-08-28
25 - Craven - 2007-07-22

Earliest date: Onslow 2020-04-17
Latest date: Jones 1975-10-15

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the Coastal Plain and the eastern half of the Piedmont; spotty distribution in the western half of the Piedmont, though possibly could occur in all counties in the province. Present over most of the mountains, particularly the southern half of the province.

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common in the Coastal Plain, more so in the southern half of the province, where it can be common locally. Uncommon in the eastern half of the Piedmont, but rare west of Stokes, Cabarrus, and Union counties, including the mountains. For some odd reason, we have a number of new mountain records, but essentially none from the western Piedmont, suggesting that the species is more "numerous" in the mountains than in the western Piedmont. Even so, it is generally a rare species west of the eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT: Early May (and recently as early as mid-April) to early October in the Coastal Plain, and at least to early September in the Piedmont. The mountain flight extends at least from mid-May to late August.

HABITAT: Ponds, pools in swamps and powerline clearings, and other still waters close to forests.

BEHAVIOR: Males perch on twigs, often at least 6 feet off the ground, along a forested edge next to water, such as a swampy pool or temporary pond in a powerline, and make patrols back and forth over the water. Adults typically forage close to forests and edges, such as along jeep trails and powerlines through bottomlands and swamps.

COMMENTS: Though not one of our truly common skimmers, the Bar-winged is still a numerous dragonfly and not hard to find in some Coastal Plain locales. As indicated above, it usually does not forage far from forests, and one is not likely to see it in open fields.