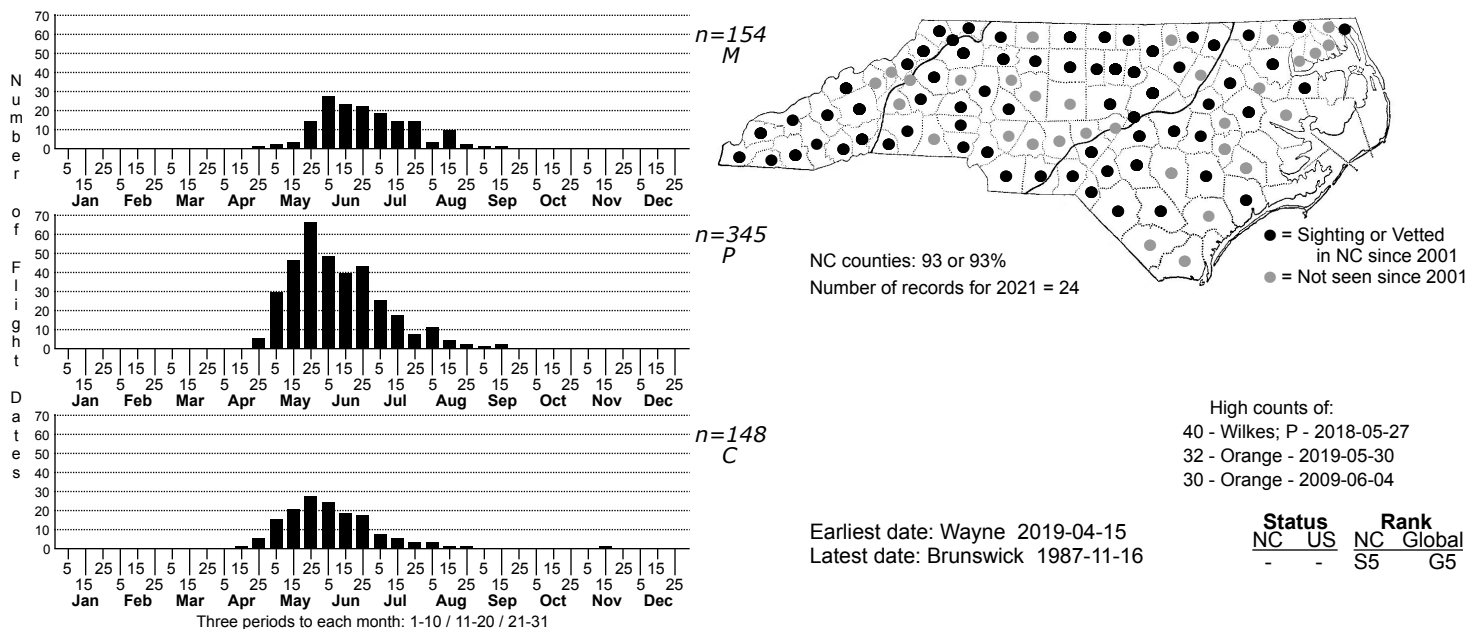


## *Libellula cyanea* Spangled Skimmer



**DISTRIBUTION:** Statewide, but of spotty distribution in the extreme eastern Coastal Plain, at least on the Outer Banks and around the mainland portions of Pamlico Sound. Even so, it might be found in all NC counties.

**ABUNDANCE:** Common in the mountains; fairly common to common in the Piedmont and most of the Coastal Plain. Seemingly scarce (if not locally absent) on the Outer Banks and the eastern Pamlico Peninsula. For some odd reason, the species was not nearly as numerous in 2020 as in previous years, though this might have been related to a reduced amount of field work in that COVID-19 year in its habitats.

**FLIGHT:** A slightly shorter flight period than for many other skimmers -- late April to mid-September. In the Coastal Plain, the latest records are only to late August, except for an odd mid-November record.

**HABITAT:** Ponds, small lakes, marshes, and other open waters with abundant floating or emergent vegetation.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males perch close to water and make short patrols. However, adults are typically seen well away from water, such as in powerline clearings, wide jeep roads, fields, and woodland edges. They perch on twigs, often fairly low and can be conspicuous or unwary when perching.

**COMMENTS:** This is our only dragonfly with black-and-white stigmas, rendering both males and females easy to identify, even though their body colorations can cause some confusion with other skimmers. The species seldom occurs in large numbers or swarms, as do some skimmers (such as Great Blue Skimmer, Common Whitetail, or Blue Corporal), but a handful are typically seen in the appropriate habitat and time of year.