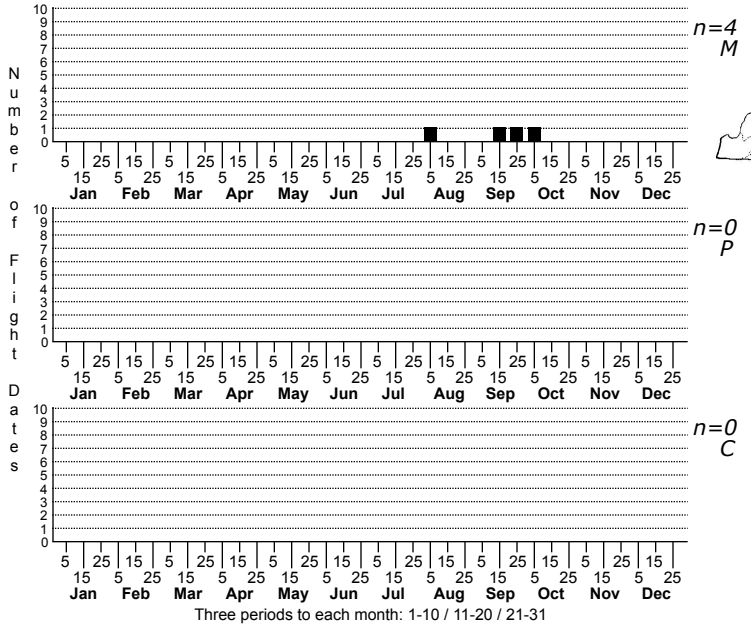
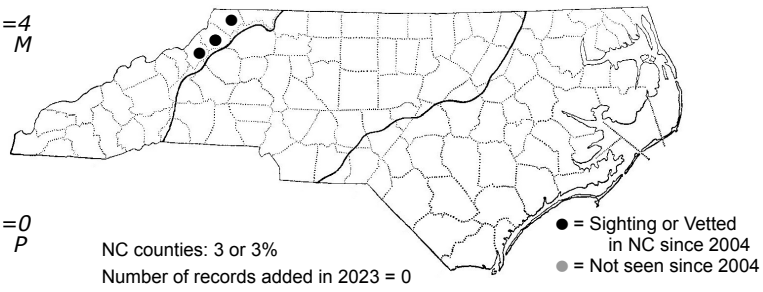
# ***Sympetrum obtrusum*** White-faced Meadowhawk




NC counties: 3 or 3%
Number of records added in 2023 = 0

High counts of:
2 - Watauga - 2011-08-08
1 - Ashe - 2005-09-18
1 - Ashe - 2005-10-02

Earliest date: Watauga 2011-08-08
Latest date: Ashe 2005-10-02

| Status | | Rank | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NC | US | NC | Global |
| SR | - | S1 | G5 |

DISTRIBUTION: One of many far Northern meadowhawks, this species' southern end of the range barely reaches NC, where limited to the extreme northern mountains. Records only for Ashe, Watauga, and Avery counties.

ABUNDANCE: Presumed very rare to rare in the very limited portion of the range, though it has been found in recent years in each of the three counties within the known range.

FLIGHT: Mid-summer to fall only, with the NC records from 8 August to 2 October.

HABITAT: Still or slow-moving water of lakes, ponds, slow sections of streams, marshes, and bogs.

BEHAVIOR: Adults forage in nearby fields or clearings near water, perching on the tips of grasses and forbs.

COMMENTS: Males have intense red abdomens and a white face, rendering them very striking. However, Ruby Meadowhawk males are also bright red, though their face is not white. Ted Wilcox has provided several excellent photos from Ashe County, which provided a new county record; Curtis Smalling photographed one in 2011 from Watauga County; and Ed Corey added an Avery County record in 2008. Duncan Cuyler's database has a record just for Watauga County. NOTE: White-faced, Cherry-faced, and Ruby meadowhawks are very difficult to identify reliably from a single typical aspect photo. Whenever possible, clear closeup photographs of the male hamules or female subgenital plate should be provided.