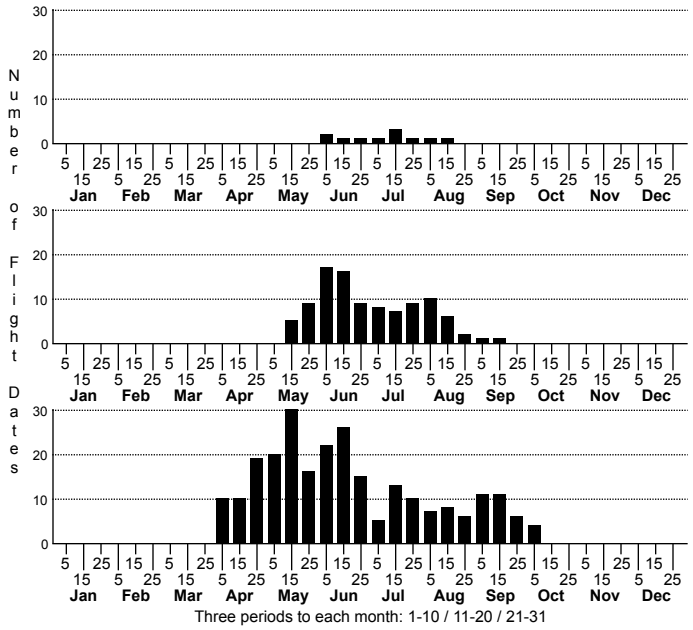
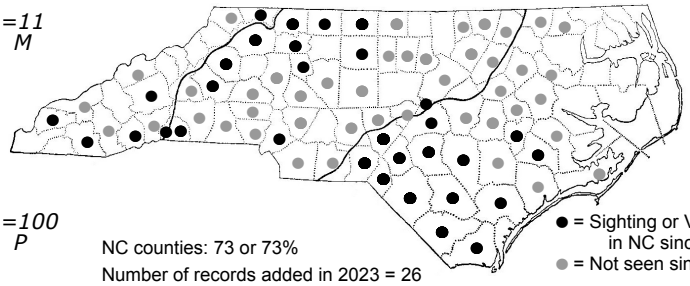
Calopteryx dimidiata Sparkling Jewelwing





● = Sighting or Vetted in NC since 2004
● = Not seen since 2004

NC counties: 73 or 73%
Number of records added in 2023 = 26

Sight (iNat) in 2023: Buncombe

High counts of:
450 - Columbus - 2017-05-17
450 - Robeson - 2017-05-17
350 - Bladen - 2016-05-27

Earliest date: Sampson 1990-04-01
Latest date: Moore; C 1982-10-05

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

DISTRIBUTION: Nearly statewide, but seemingly absent from the northeastern third of the Coastal Plain -- the "Pamlimarle Peninsula" and the counties north of Albemarle Sound. Of spotty occurrence in the mountains, but likely present in all counties there except perhaps ones lacking low elevations (e.g., Yancey, Mitchell, Avery, Watauga).

ABUNDANCE: Locally common (to occasionally abundant) in the southern Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills. Uncommon (with relatively few recent records) throughout the Piedmont and central/northern Coastal Plain, except for the northeastern third of the latter province, where rare to absent. Very rare in the mountains. Seems to be declining in numbers in the Piedmont and mountains, and probably also in most of the central and northern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT: Early April to early October in the Coastal Plain, but so far just from mid-May to mid-September in the Piedmont. Though there are at least nine counties with records for the mountains, we have flight data only from early June to mid-August.

HABITAT: Small to moderate streams as well as blackwater rivers, generally where fast-flowing and acidic, and not necessarily in forested areas (though favoring semi-shaded waters).

BEHAVIOR: The black wingtips of the males are very conspicuous and make the individuals much easier to spot in flight over their shaded creeks than would be if the wings were clear. However, this species is more often found in sunnier places -- wider creeks or rivers -- than is the more shade-loving Ebony Jewelwing.

COMMENTS: Range maps in Paulson (2011) and Beaton (2007) show all of NC within the range of the species. This may be generous and "broad-brush", as it appears to be truly absent in northeastern NC and maybe absent in some of the northern mountain counties. The species is surprisingly rare in the mountains, considering its relative numbers in the Piedmont. Also, despite the heavy amount of odonate field work in the northeastern Piedmont, where many biologists live, there are no recent records there!