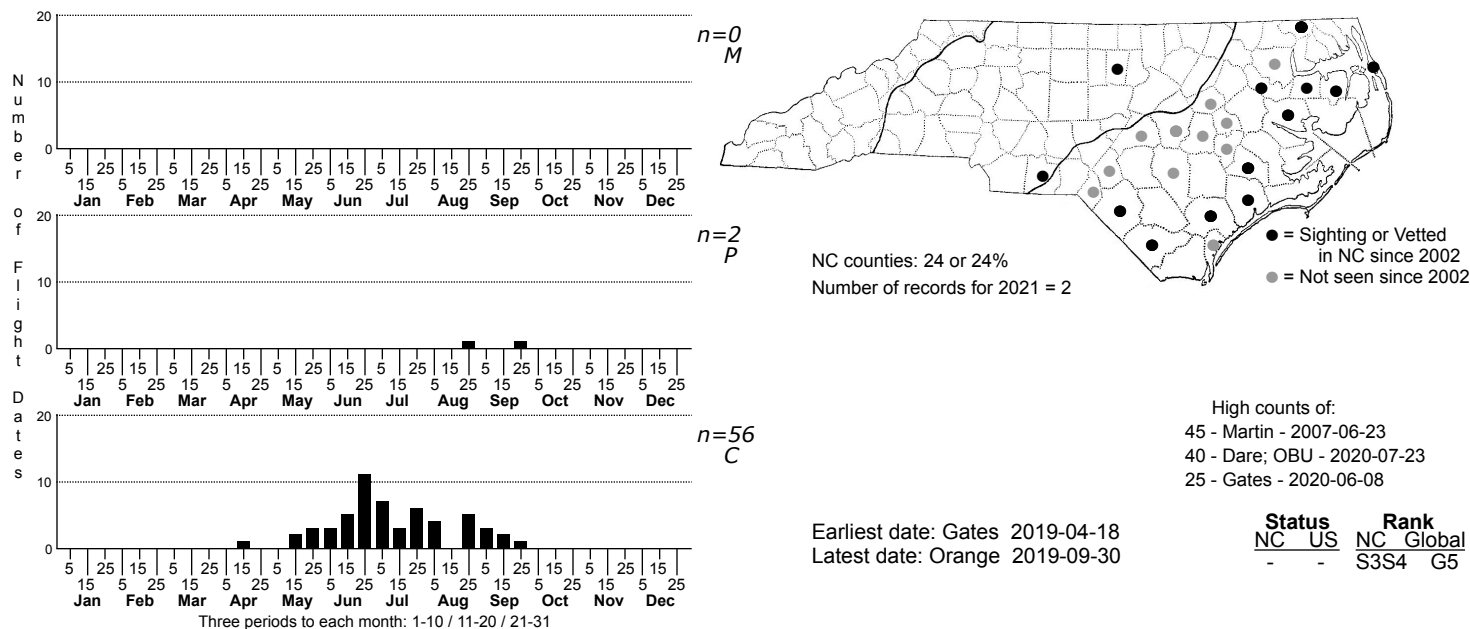


Telebasis byersi Duckweed Firetail



DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the Coastal Plain, but essentially absent from the adjacent Piedmont, though there are recent records for the eastern portion (Orange and Anson counties). Absent from the mountains. Possibly absent in some coastal counties in the northeastern Coastal Plain.

ABUNDANCE: Seemingly local. Uncommon and local over much of the Coastal Plain, but can be fairly common in a few places, as witnessed by a one-day count of 45; there are a few other counts of 20 or more. Very rare in the Piedmont portion of the range.

FLIGHT: The records fall between mid-May to late September, though there is a recent (2019) sight record for mid-April at a location (Merchants Millpond State Park) with numerous records.

HABITAT: As the name implies, found mostly at ponds or swampy pools where there are dense stands of duckweeds.

BEHAVIOR: Commonly perches on duckweed or other floating vegetation.

COMMENTS: The male is so bright red that, where present, it should be obvious. The scarcity of recent records from the inner half of the Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills, is surprising if not disturbing. There has been much effort in sampling Sandhills lakes and ponds in recent years, and this striking species is not being reported there -- yet has been found at a few sites farther west in the eastern Piedmont.