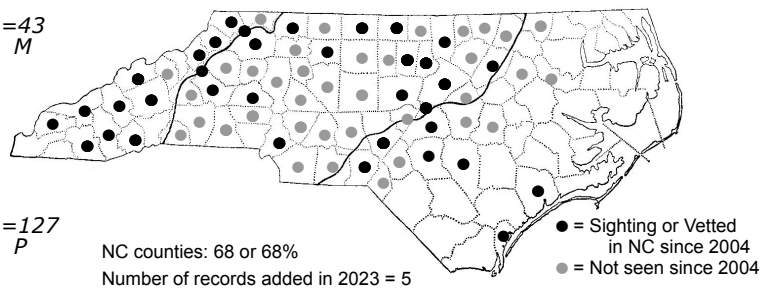
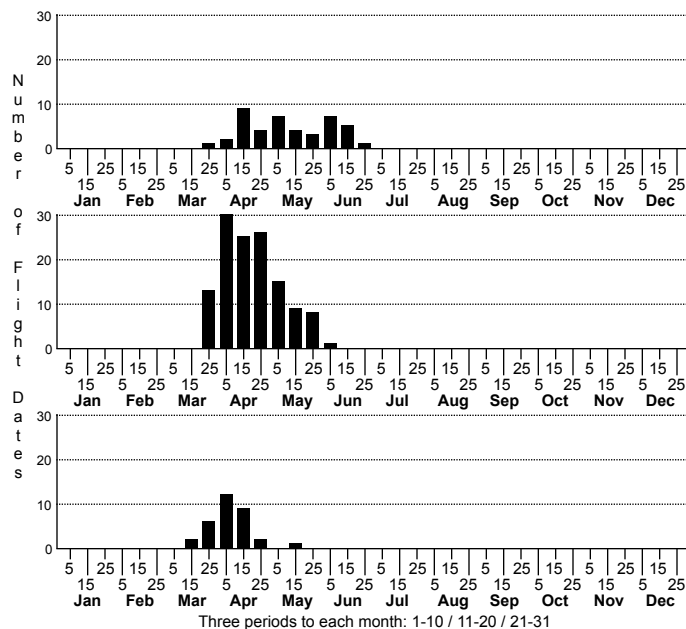


Cordulegaster maculata Twin-spotted Spiketail



Incomplete dates not graphed:

M=n+1

P=n+1

Earliest date: Onslow 2020-03-18

Latest date: Jackson 2018-06-26

High counts of:

6 - Caswell - 2007-03-31

5 - Durham - 2020-03-30

4 - Orange - 1966-04-23

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S4S5	G5
		[S4]	

DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the Piedmont, and essentially throughout the mountains and the western third/half of the Coastal Plain, being nearly absent from most counties east of Martin, Wayne, and Sampson (except for Onslow and New Hanover county records). The range is thus somewhat similar to that of the Brown Spiketail in NC, but that species has been found in many fewer counties and its abundance is centered in the mountains and foothills; the Brown also has not yet been found in coastal counties.

ABUNDANCE: Seemingly declining in numbers in recent years, especially across the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. Very uncommon to uncommon in the mountains and Piedmont (not truly rare), but quite rare in the central Coastal Plain and near the southern coast. Shockingly, if not disturbingly, there were only two reports for the entire state in 2017 and only two more in 2018, though thankfully there were five reports in 2019 and ten in 2020. A review of iNaturalist records in 2022 was partly responsible for the adding of a whopping 17 records, though some of those were pre-2022. Note that this widespread species simply does not occur in groups or swarms; normally, only one or two are seen on a trip, and the state's high daily count is just 6 individuals.

FLIGHT: Downstate, primarily from late March to late May, with the peak in April. The mountain flight occurs from late March to mid-June, though it is scarce before late April.

HABITAT: Creeks or small rivers, of many sizes and substrates, for breeding. These are typically in forested or semi-shaded areas and fairly pristine or clear waters.

BEHAVIOR: Males cruise along streams, but adults are more often seen well away from water along wooded roads or wide trails or wood margins. They perch conspicuously on twigs and other vegetation, in an oblique manner, typically only a foot or two above the ground, where easily studied.

COMMENTS: This is one of the larger and more spectacular of the spring-season (only) dragonflies. It can be confused with the Brown Spiketail, which is browner on the abdomen, has somewhat more equal-sized yellow spots on the abdomen, and is slightly smaller in length. In 2014, several observers found a colony close to the coast in New Hanover County and documented this noteworthy record with photos.

Sadly, with the seeming decline statewide of this species, the editors suggest the State Rank be moved from S4S5 to now S4.