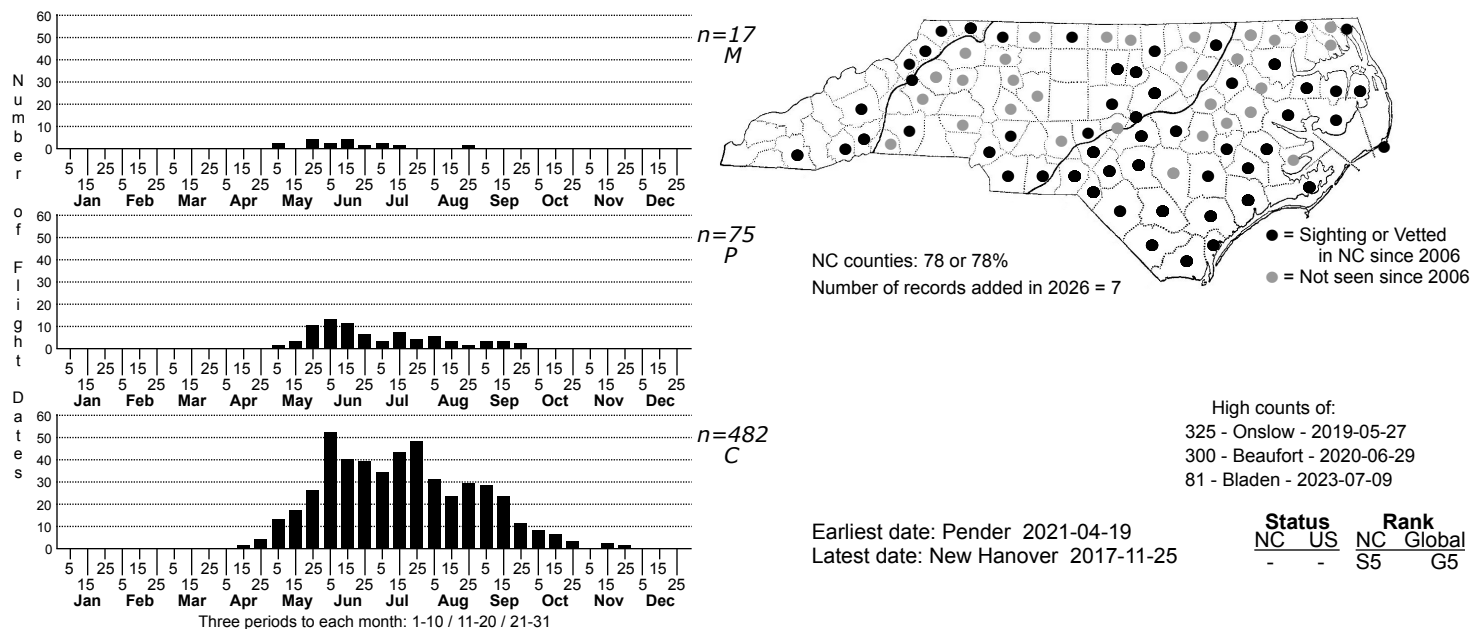


Libellula auripennis Golden-winged Skimmer



DISTRIBUTION: Nearly statewide, though seemingly absent in the higher elevations in the Mountains, and of spotty occurrence in the Mountains and the western two-thirds of the Piedmont.

ABUNDANCE: Common in the Coastal Plain; uncommon to locally fairly common along the eastern edge of the Piedmont, but mostly uncommon in the Piedmont. Rare in the lower Mountains.

FLIGHT: The flight is from late April into November in the Coastal Plain, and from early or mid-May to late September (and certainly into October) in the Piedmont. The Mountain records are too few to be certain of a flight period, though records extend from early May to late August.

HABITAT: Ponds, lakes, marshes, ditches -- typically in open/sunny places.

BEHAVIOR: Males perch conspicuously on places such as twigs around a pond or lake shore and make patrols over the water. They are quite wary at the water. Adults frequently forage in fields, powerline clearings, savannas, and other open or semi-open areas well away from water.

COMMENTS: Males are one of more beautiful dragonflies, with their scarlet-orange abdomen and wing veins. However, in the eastern parts of the Coastal Plain, care must be taken to differentiate adult males, and especially females and immatures, from the closely related Needham's Skimmer, which is limited to brackish waters, though both species can occur in the same areas (up to a few miles from tidal water).