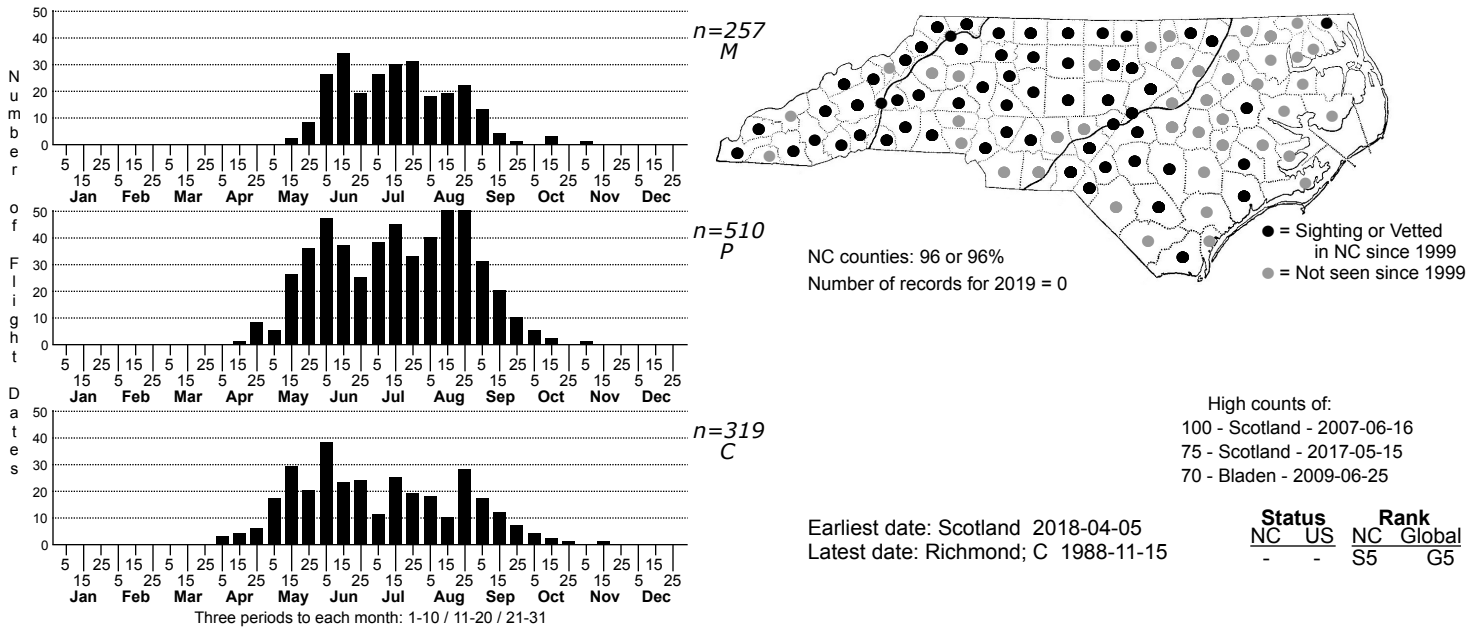


## *Argia fumipennis* Variable Dancer



**DISTRIBUTION:** Essentially statewide, with the exception being the northeastern Coastal Plain, where it appears to be legitimately absent from several counties. Two subspecies are represented in North Carolina: *Argia fumipennis fumipennis* in the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain, and *A. f. violacea* in the western Piedmont and mountains.

**ABUNDANCE:** Common to locally abundant across the state (except rare to absent in the extreme northeast); can often be the most numerous damselfly at a site. Most numerous in the Sandhills, where our largest one-day totals have been made.

**FLIGHT:** The flight occurs nearly throughout the odonate flight season, as the Coastal Plain records fall from early April to mid-November. The Piedmont flight occurs between late April and early November, while the mountain flight starts slightly later -- mid-May to early November.

**HABITAT:** Extremely widespread in habitats. Around small streams, ditches, pond margins, and other slow waters; usually where there are grasses and sedges. May often feed well away from water.

**COMMENTS:** As the name implies, this species has highly variable color patterns, though there is generally some lavender coloration on the thorax. It is another of our more familiar damselflies in the state, being common to very common in each of the three provinces and recorded from every county except for five in the northeastern corner of the state. There are two subspecies in the state -- the dark-winged nominate one (*Argia fumipennis fumipennis*) is found over most of the Coastal Plain, whereas the clear-winged one (*A. fumipennis violacea*) occurs over the remainder of the state.