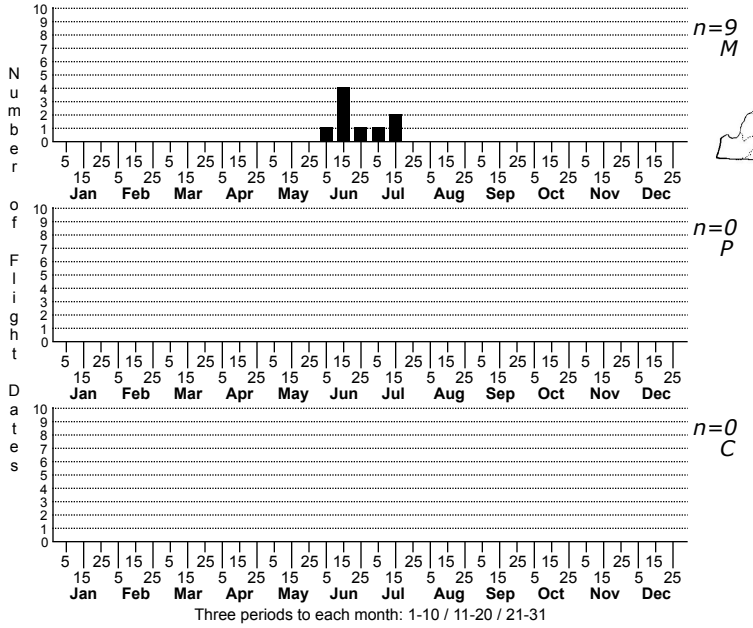
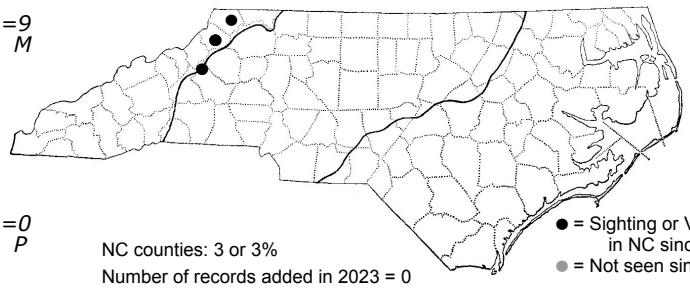
Cordulia shurtleffii American Emerald





NC counties: 3 or 3%
Number of records added in 2023 = 0

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

High counts of:
4 - Burke; M - 1993-07-06
3 - Burke; M - 2017-06-20
3 - Burke; M - 2017-06-21

Earliest date: Watauga 2021-06-10
Latest date: Watauga 2021-07-17

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
SR	-	S1	G5

DISTRIBUTION: This is a widespread Northern species, ranging from Alaska to Newfoundland, and south to California and Virginia. There are just a few NC records, most apparently from a single site in Burke County; but found in 2018 from a site in Watauga County and in 2020 from a site in Ashe County. These latter two records fill the large gap in range (formerly) from VA to Burke County.

ABUNDANCE: Undoubtedly very rare in NC. However, it is a common species within the majority of its range.

FLIGHT: The only NC records are from 10 June to 17 July. This seems quite late, as Paulson (2011) gives a flight season of May to July for New Jersey, and May to June for Ohio. Thus, one would expect the species to occur from May at least into mid-July in NC.

HABITAT: Still waters of lakes, ponds, or boggy areas, with marshy or damp areas surrounding the water. Favored ponds are shaded or partly shaded with much vegetation along the shoreline. All NC records appear to be from small ponds, at high elevations (mainly over 3500 feet).

BEHAVIOR: Males "dart and hover" along shores of its ponds and boggy areas. Adults forage away from ponds along wooded margins.

COMMENTS: Four individuals were collected by Duncan Cuyler in the Jonas Ridge (mountain) portion of Burke County, in 1993. Perhaps others were seen at the same time; thus, the "4" for the high count is a minimum total present that day. Perhaps surprisingly, Jim Petranka re-discovered the species in 2017, apparently at the same pond near Jonas Ridge. John Petranka visited the pond on the following day and was able to get additional photos, including a few in the hand, finding at least three individuals. In 2018, John Petranka and Sally Gewalt found and photographed the species at a small pond at Elk Knob State Park in northern Watauga County; additional records from this pond came in 2021. In 2020, John Petranka along with Jim Petranka photographed two at a small pond in northwestern Ashe County. Observers should search out small ponds at high elevations, especially over 4000 feet in elevation (though this combination does limit the number of places where it could occur in the state).