

*Cordulegaster erronea* Tiger Spiketail

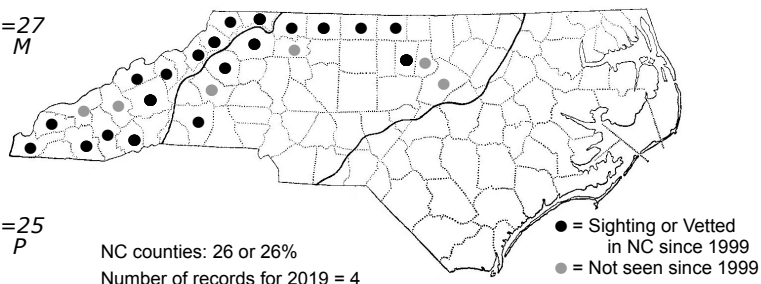
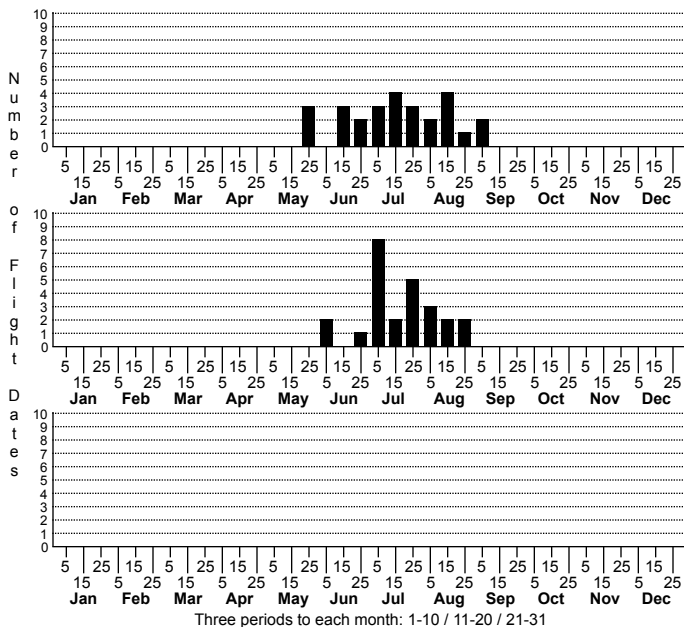


Photo (vetted) in 2019: Madison

High counts of:  
4 - Ashe - 2007-07-10  
3 - Orange - 1993-07-02  
3 - Yancey - 2017-07-14

Earliest date: Buncombe 2016-05-24  
Latest date: Graham 2014-09-02

Status	Rank
NC	US
-	-
S3S4	G4

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely scattered across the mountains, foothills, and the northern third of the Piedmont. Presence in the southeastern half of the Piedmont is uncertain, though there are no records between Rutherford and Wake counties.

**ABUNDANCE:** Uncommon in the Piedmont foothills, but rare in the true mountains and eastward in the Piedmont toward the Fall Line. Dunkle (2000) calls it "local" throughout its range, Paulson (2011) calls it "rather rare" over its range, and Beaton (2007) says "Uncommon to rare and local" in GA.

**FLIGHT:** The flights in the mountains and Piedmont are roughly similar -- late May into early September. However, it is most frequent in July and in the first half of August.

**HABITAT:** Small streams or seeps, without fish; in partial shade. Streams may be rocky, but may have a sandy substrate.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males cruise in the vicinity of the seeps, though they can be difficult to find when perched. The males are more active late in the day, and may fly and perch well away from seeps, often on a twig or stem just one to several feet off the ground, for easy viewing.

**COMMENTS:** For whatever reason, Duncan Cuyler had relatively few numbers of collected specimens and county records, as compared with the gratifyingly large number of recent records, especially those documented with photos. Photos have now been taken in ten counties, both in the mountains and in the far northern Piedmont. These data seem to indicate that the Tiger Spiketail may be increasing in numbers in recent decades, though it might simply be that the species is not a difficult one to photograph. Because of this increase in recent records, the NC Natural Heritage Program removed it from the Watch List in fall 2014.