

Progomphus obscurus Common Sanddragon

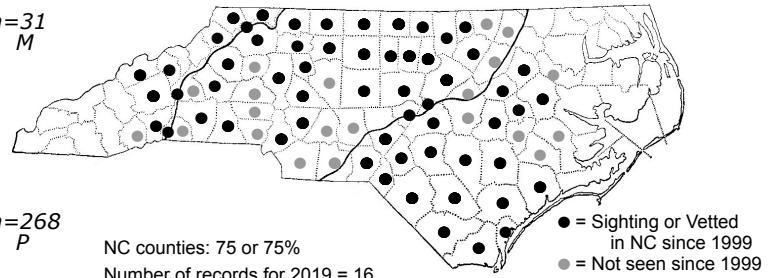
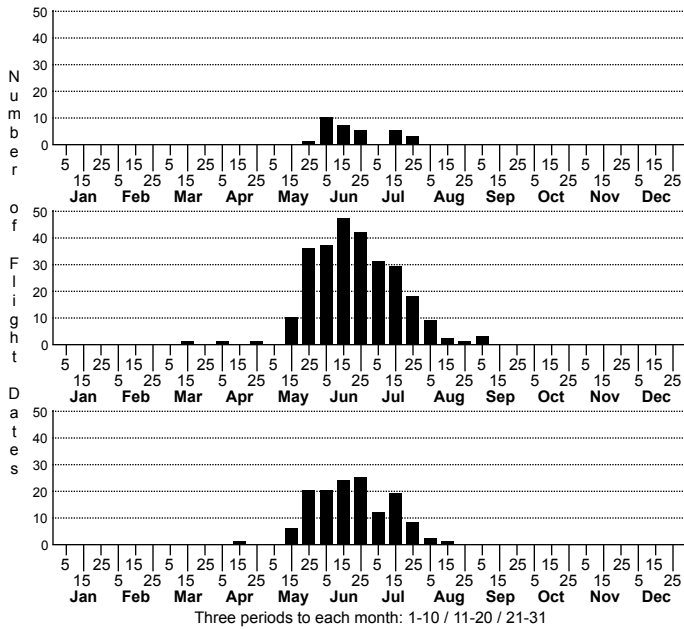


Photo (vetted) in 2019: Watauga

High counts of:
65 - Duplin - 2017-05-27
33 - Sampson - 2019-05-24
27 - Columbus - 2017-05-17

Earliest date: Surry 2012-03-16
Latest date: Wake 2007-09-09

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

DISTRIBUTION: Nearly statewide, but apparently absent from the extreme northeastern and eastern counties, and of spotty occurrence in the mountains (and perhaps absent in the middle and upper elevations). No records east of Halifax, Martin, and Craven counties in the Coastal Plain; and known from just seven counties in the mountains (and none from the southwestern corner of the mountains).

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common to occasionally common in the Piedmont and much of the Coastal Plain, but seemingly absent in the northeastern and eastern portions of the latter province. Rare in much of the mountains, and presumably scarce to absent over 3000-foot elevation. This species and the Black-shouldered Spinyleg are the most frequently seen clubtails across the state during the late spring and early summer months (whereas Ashy and Lancet clubtails are the most common clubtails in the spring season).

FLIGHT: Generally from mid-May to mid-August. However, there are scattered records as early as 16 March and as late as 9 September. The flight starts slightly later in the mountains than downstate.

HABITAT: Creeks or small rivers with sandy shores, sand bars, and other sandy areas nearby. These are often in rather open habitats, but may be in wooded areas.

BEHAVIOR: As the common name implies, this species is most often seen perching on damp sand or sandbars close to water. In hot weather, the males obelisk with the abdomen held angled up from the surface of the sand. They also perch on twigs near water and fly short distance over water.

COMMENTS: A dragonfly perching -- with the abdomen raised -- on sand next to a small stream will more than likely be a Common Sanddragon. Though seldom seen in large numbers in NC on a given day, it is quite widespread, with records from practically all Piedmont and Coastal Plain counties (except in the far east). The shape of the yellow markings on the dorsal side of the abdominal segments is quite unusual, almost like an inverted bell, with the wide, open end of the bell at the anterior portion of each segment.