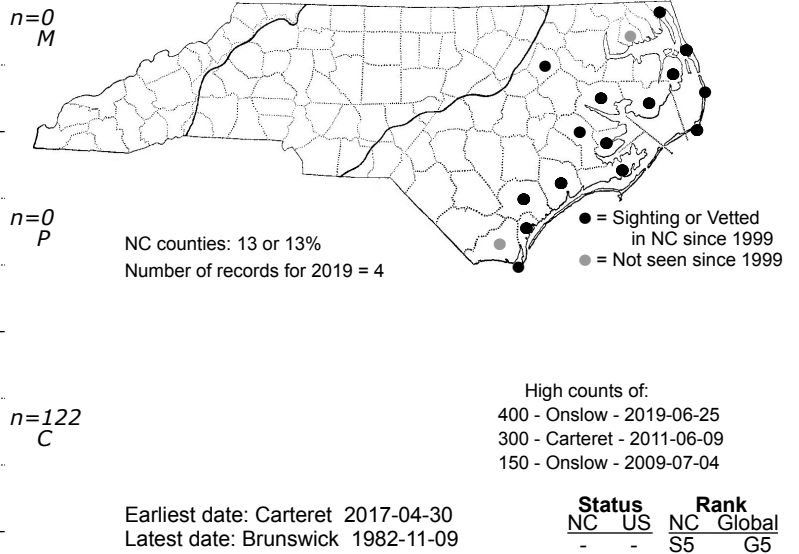
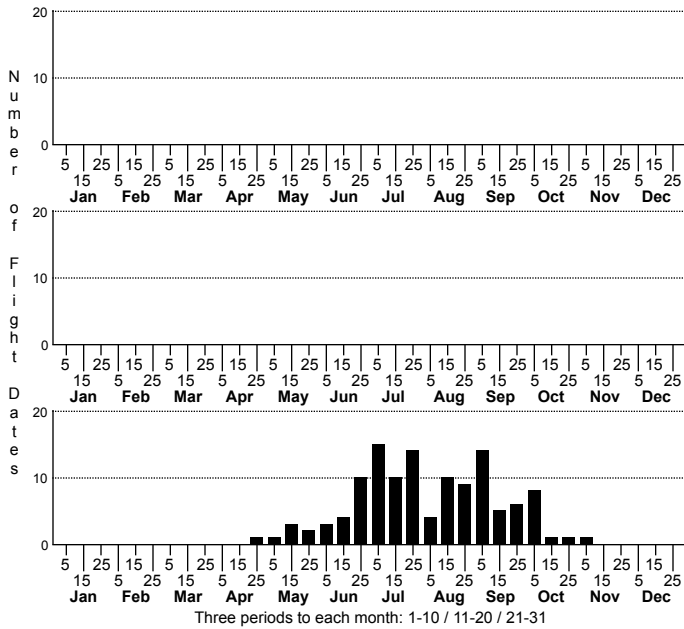


Erythrodiplax berenice Seaside Dragonlet



DISTRIBUTION: Strictly coastal, though found around the inner margins of Albemarle and Pamlico sounds and along other estuarine rivers.

ABUNDANCE: Common, at least along the southern and central coastal areas, and around the mainland side of Pamlico Sound. Certainly less numerous around the margin of Albemarle Sound, as there are numerous counties along that "bay" without confirmed records. There are several counts of 150 or more individuals in a day, indicating that it can be locally abundant.

FLIGHT: Mostly late June to early October. However, there are a few records starting from the end of April, and as late as early November.

HABITAT: Brackish to salt marshes and other wet grasslands close to the coast.

BEHAVIOR: Both sexes perch conspicuously on twigs or other low vegetation, usually near a marsh but at times hundreds of yards from marshes.

COMMENTS: This is one of only several "estuarine" dragonflies in NC, along with Four-spotted Pennant, Needham's Skimmer, and Marl Pennant. If it weren't for its habitat, males would be easily confused with Double-ringed Pennant; however, in reality only Slaty Skimmer is of possible confusion, though the skimmer is much larger. Females and immatures look vaguely like Blue Dashers and various pennants. This species is usually easily found in its restricted habitat, though it can be overlooked because of its small size.