Nehalennia integricollis Southern Sprite

n=114
C

Three periods to each month: 1-10 / 11-20 / 21-31

NC counties: 30 or 30%

Number of records added in 2023 = 6

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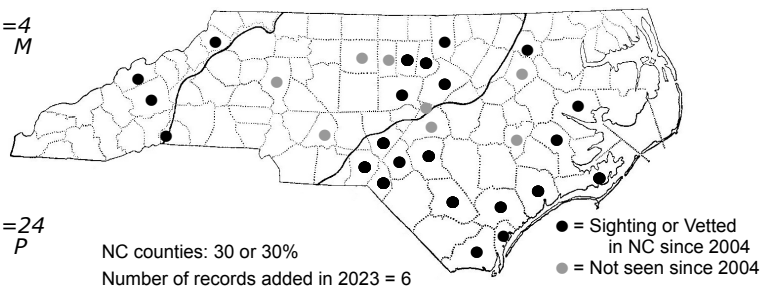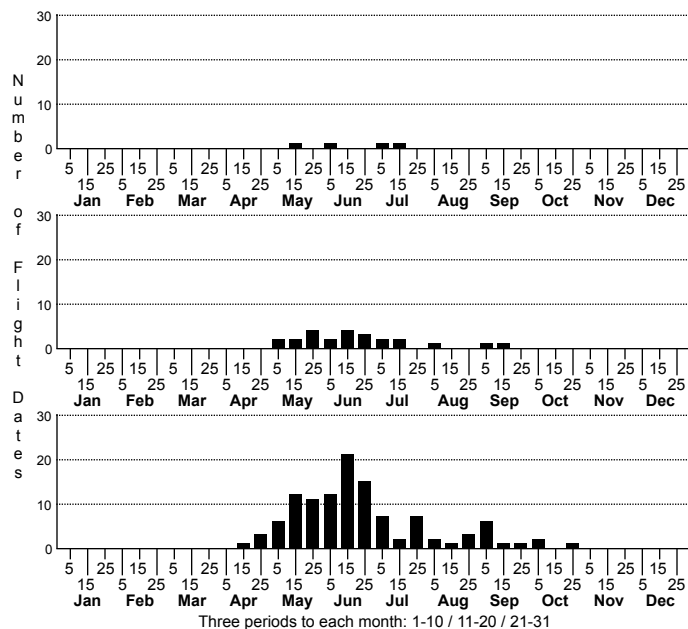● = Not seen since 2004

High counts of:
32 - Hoke - 2022-06-19
30 - Bladen - 2017-05-26
26 - Scotland - 2022-06-11

Earliest date: Bladen 2017-04-17
Latest date: Onslow 2020-10-26

Status		Rank	
NC	**US**	**NC**	**Global**
-	-	S3S4	G5
		[S4]	

DISTRIBUTION: Most of the central and southern portions of the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont. Formerly thought to be absent from the mountains, but two new (2021) records from this province (Watauga and Madison counties) plus an older one from 2011 (Buncombe County, iNaturalist photo) make it clear that it can be found sparingly in the mountains. Seemingly absent from the northeastern Coastal Plain; however, as it ranges far up the Coastal Plain of the eastern US, the species is likely not absent in the state's northern Tidewater area.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon (to locally fairly common) or easily overlooked in the southern half of the Coastal Plain, north to Craven and Moore counties. Rare to locally uncommon in the Piedmont portion of the range, and very rare to absent in the northern half of the Coastal Plain, where recorded only from Edgecombe and Halifax counties. Seemingly very rare to absent in the Tidewater region (north of Pamlico Sound). Very rare or overlooked in the mountains.

FLIGHT: In the Coastal Plain, it flies from mid-April to late October. The Piedmont flight appears to be from early May to mid-September. The few mountain records fall between mid-May and mid-July.

HABITAT: Ponds or lakes, but where there is dense grassy vegetation along the margins, where it can easily hide.

BEHAVIOR: Perches low in dense vegetation. Difficult to see until flushed.

COMMENTS: This species is so small that it is easily overlooked amid its dense grassy habitats. In fact, Paulson (2011) says that it "Can be very common in dense vegetation". "Very common" is certainly not appropriate for its abundance in NC, except perhaps very locally, as our highest single-day count is just 32 individuals. But it can be very easily overlooked (because of its size and dark coloration), and thus in all probability is present in possibly 80-90% of the state's counties. In reality, the State Rank of S3S4 is probably closer to S4 owing to its wide state range and "overlookability".