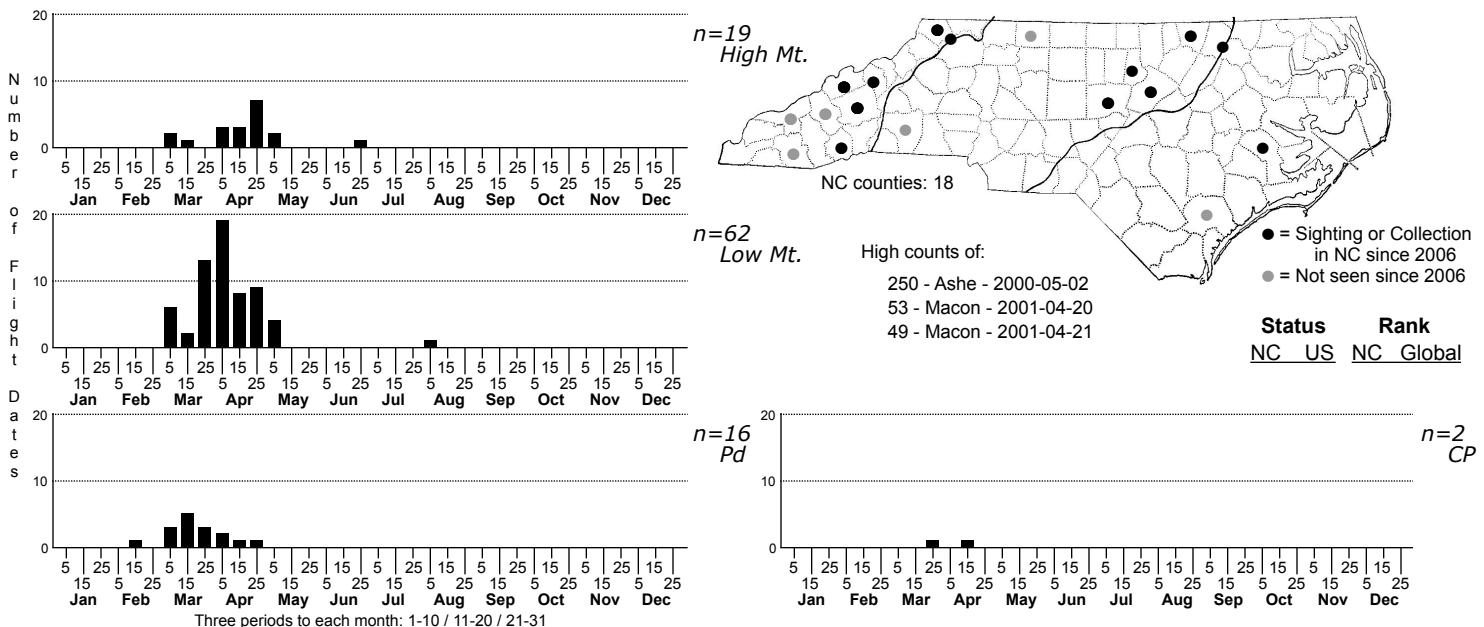


Orthosia rubescens Ruby Quaker



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Orthosiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 22 species (two others provisional) that occur in this genus north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 210); five have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hampson, 1905; Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The ground color of the forewings is luteous, variably overlain by reddish-brown, ranging from predominantly reddish to completely suffused with gray (Forbes, 1954). Usually heavily marked with reddish flecks and a reddish band is usually present between the orbicular and reniform. Both the orbicular and reniform are large; the orbicular is usually filled with the luteous ground color and the reniform usually has a black spot in the lower portion. The antemedian and postmedian lines can be obscure, complete or incomplete, sometimes represented by a series of dark dots on the veins. The subterminal is often obscure and never as cleanly marked as in revicta (Forbes, 1954). In revicta, alurina, and hibisci, all of which can have some reddish shading, the underlying ground color is grayish without of the luteous that is characteristic of rubescens.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Forests and woodlands (Wagner et al., 2011)

FOOD: Larvae feed on many species of shrubs and trees, including conifers; also feed on forbs to some extent. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list maple (*Acer*), birch (*Betula*), chestnut (*Castanea*), beech (*Fagus*), holly (*Ilex*), American Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), cherry (*Prunus*), oak (*Quercus*), currant (*Ribes*), elderberry (*Sambucus*), greenbrier (*Smilax*), hemlock (*Tsuga*), blueberry (*Vaccinium*), and *Viburnum*.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: