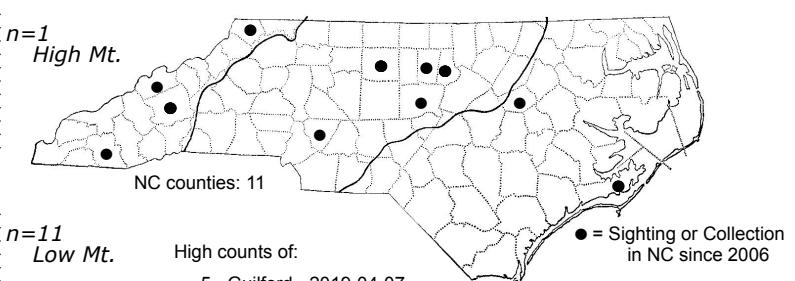
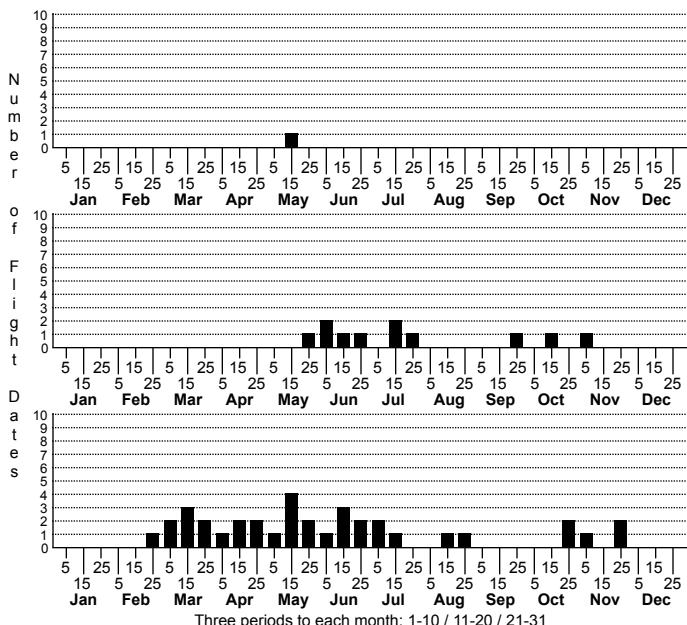


# *Monopis crocicapitella* Bird Nest Moth



Status Rank  
NC US NC Global

n=4  
CP

FAMILY: Tineidae SUBFAMILY: Tineinae TRIBE: [Tineini]  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Clemens, 1859

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Gerard, 1995

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on that of Clemens (1859) and Forbes (1923). The head, head tuft and face are saffron yellow to pale yellow. The labial palp is yellowish, but dark brown externally. The dark fuscous antenna is long and extends to near the beginning of the terminal fringe. The thorax is saffron yellow to yellowish above and dark fuscous on the sides. The ground color of the forewing is dark fuscous and has scattered yellow scales that are more prevalent and better organized along the costa. An irregular, somewhat sinuous, narrow yellow streak occurs on the inner margin to the wing tip. A semi-hyaline pale discal spot is present at about one-half the wing length or slightly beyond. The hindwing is pale brownish gray, and the legs are brown with yellow flecks and yellow tips near the joints. *Tinea mandarinella* is very similar, but has a sub-apical costal blotch and lacks the pale, semi-hyaline discal spot at one-half.

DISTRIBUTION: This species attacks stored grain, potatoes, and wool based products and has been transported to many areas of the world. It is most prevalent in temperate regions, including North America, Europe, Russia, Japan, southeastern Australia, and New Zealand. *Monopis crocicapitella* was originally described from eastern North America, and is presumed to be native. However, its original range is poorly resolved. It is widely distributed in North America where it is most common in the West Coast states and in the eastern US. As of 2020, we have records that range from the coast to the lower elevations in the mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been found during every month of the year outside of North Carolina, but are most frequently encountered from April through October. As of 2020, we have records that extend from March through November, with a burst of activity during the spring and a second bout of activity in the fall.

HABITAT: This species is a generalist detritivore that is not strongly dependent on plant hosts. Populations in the wild exploit natural materials such as mammal scat or debris in bird nests, but the larvae also commonly feed on human products.

FOOD: The larvae are detritivores and feed on a variety of organic matter. Populations in the wild feed on rich organic material such as owl pellets, bat guano, and mammal scat, as well as the fecal material, feathers and debris in bird nests. This species also exploits human products such as wool products, fur, and stored potatoes, flour, and grain (Gerard, 1995; Powell and Opler, 2009; Turbanova et al., 2019).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults occasionally appear at lights and the larvae are often found in wet carpeting and other wool products.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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

COMMENTS: