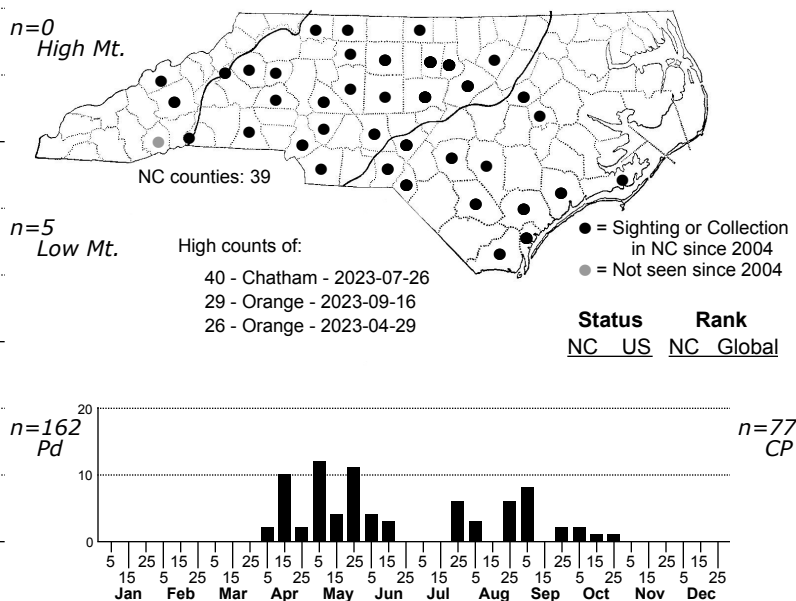
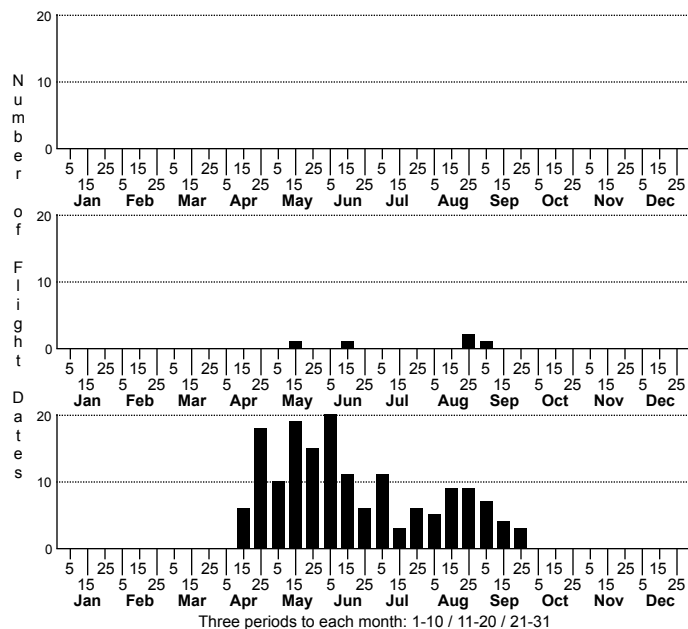


## *Loxostegopsis merrickalis* Merrick's Pyralid Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctive species with a clayish-yellow head and palps that strongly contrast with the grayish-brown to dark brown forewings. The forewing ground varies from grayish-brown to dark brown and has slightly darker antemedial and postmedial lines that are often obscured by the dark ground. A small, triangular, clay-colored patch is often present along the costa in the subapical area. The hindwing is uniformly brown and a shade lighter than the forewing ground. The fringe of both wings tends to be weakly two-toned, with the base darker than the outer portion.

DISTRIBUTION: *Loxostegopsis merrickalis* is found in Mexico, the eastern and central U.S., and adjoining areas of southern Canada (Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec). In the U.S., the range extends from southern Maine and other New England states southward to southern Florida, and westward to Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, eastern Nebraska and the eastern Dakotas. We have records from all three physiographic regions, although this species appears to be absent from much of the northern Coastal Plain and the northern and southern mountains in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from February through September in the southernmost states, and mostly from April through September farther north. As of 2023, our records are from early-April through late-October. Local populations in North Carolina appear to be bivoltine, with spring and summer generations.

HABITAT: Our records come from residential neighborhoods, mesic and dry forests, seeps, and xeric old fields.

FOOD: The larval host plants (if any) are unknown.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are occasionally seen resting in the open during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4

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

COMMENTS: *Loxostegopsis merrickalis* is widespread and common throughout the state and appears to be secure.