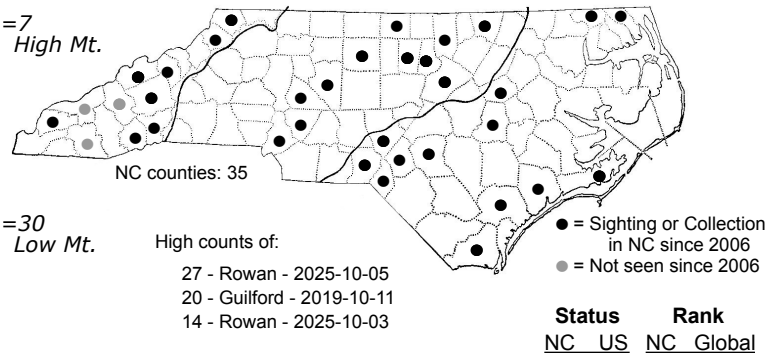
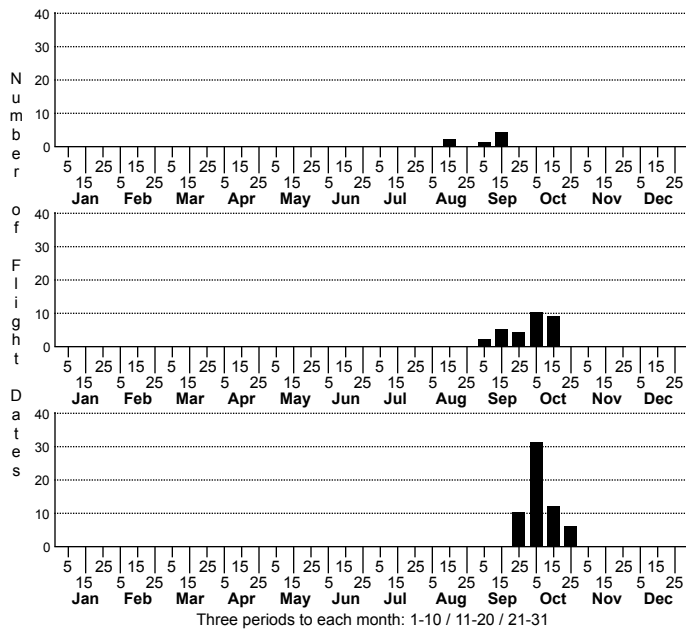


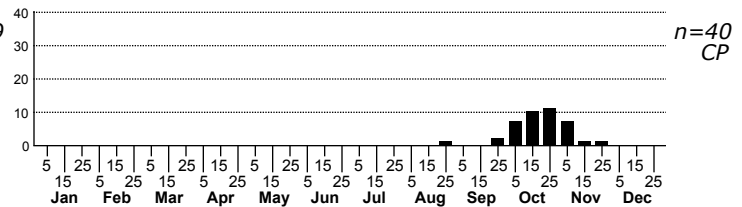
Agriphila vulgivagellus Vagabond Crambus



High counts of:

27 - Rowan - 2025-10-05
20 - Guilford - 2019-10-11
14 - Rowan - 2025-10-03

Status Rank
NC US NC Global



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Crambini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Miller (1938)

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the description by Fernald (1896). The palps are dull yellow with dark fuscous on the outside, and are heavily scaled at the tip. The head, thorax and ground color of the forewing vary from cream-colored to dull yellow. There are numerous dark brown, longitudinal streaks formed by lines of dark scales between the veins. The terminal line is represented by a row of seven black dots, and the fringe is brownish-bronze. The hindwing varies from light-brown to grayish-brown, and the fringe is long and slightly paler than the wing. *Agriphila ruricolellus* resembles *A. vulgivagellus*, but the latter is larger (20-39 mm versus 18-20 mm), darker overall, and lacks the median and subterminal lines that are present on *A. ruricolellus*. Specimens of *Agriphila vulgivagellus* vary in the amount of dark dusting on the wings and palps, with some occasionally found with only a sprinkling of dark scales on these structures.

DISTRIBUTION: *Agriphila vulgivagellus* is widely distributed across southern Canada and most of the U.S. where it has been found in every state except perhaps New Mexico and Nevada. In Canada, specimens have been documented from British Columbia eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through December in different areas of the range, with the southernmost populations flying for 4-5 months versus only 2-3 months for the northernmost populations. August through October are the peak months in most areas of the range. In North Carolina, the adults fly from mid-August to late-November, with a seasonal peak during September and October. Populations in North Carolina are univoltine, as is apparently the case for most populations throughout the range.

HABITAT: Most of our records are from residential neighborhoods, but also from a variety of more natural habitats. These include coastal dune and scrub communities, xeric communities in the Sandhills, wet meadows in the Blue Ridge, and alluvial sites along streams.

FOOD: The larvae appear to feed mostly on grasses, including pasture grasses and cultivated species such as corn, wheat and rye (Fernald, 1896; Robinson et al., 2010; Beadle and Leckie, 2012). Miller (1938) reported that larvae in Kansas accepted several native grasses when presented as food, including Yellow Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), a crabgrass (*Digitaria*), Buffalo Grass (*Bouteloua dactyloides*), and Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pretensis*); however, none survived past about three weeks. Additional information is needed on the native host plants that are used by this species.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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

COMMENTS: This species is widespread in North Carolina and often common in disturbed habitats. It appears to be secure within the state.
March 2026