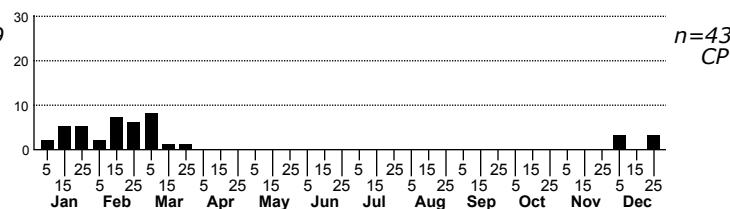
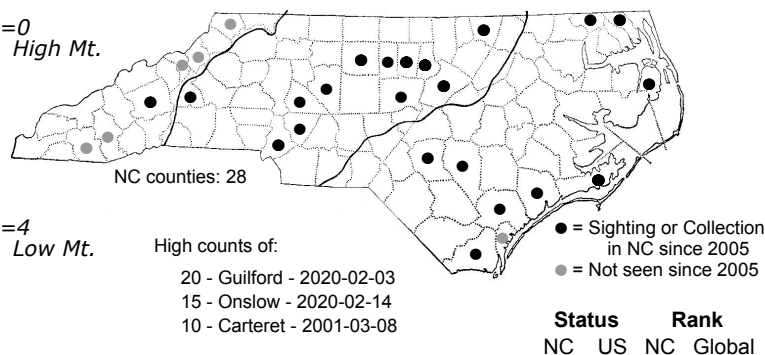
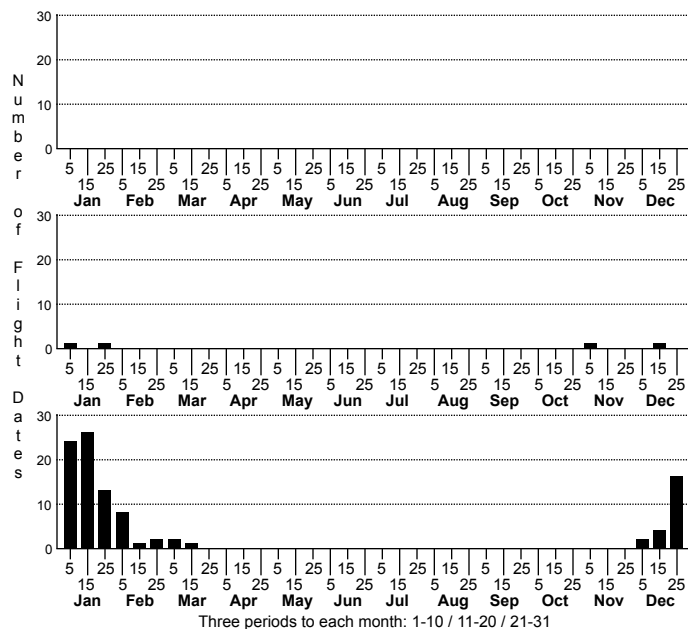


## *Alsophila pometaria* Fall Cankerworm Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Alsophilinae TRIBE:  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS:

DISTRIBUTION: Possibly statewide, with the exception of the high mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Among the most common species in the winter, with nearly all of our records coming between December and February. Probably under-reported due to the lack of winter sampling.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae are broadly polyphagous on woody trees and shrubs. Wagner (2005) specifically lists apple (*Malus*), basswood (*Tilia*), blueberry (*Vaccinium*), cherry (*Prunus*), elm (*Ulmus*), maple (*Acer*), and oak (*Quercus*). Heppner (2007) adds ash (*Fraxinus*), beech (*Fagus*), birch (*Betula*), chestnut (*Castanea*), hackberry (*Celtis*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya*), walnut (*Juglans*), and willow (*Salix*). In North Carolina, we have recorded larvae feeding on Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), and Box-elder (*Acer negundo*), but the species probably uses many other hosts in our state.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: The early flight dates probably mean that the species is undersampled in our state.