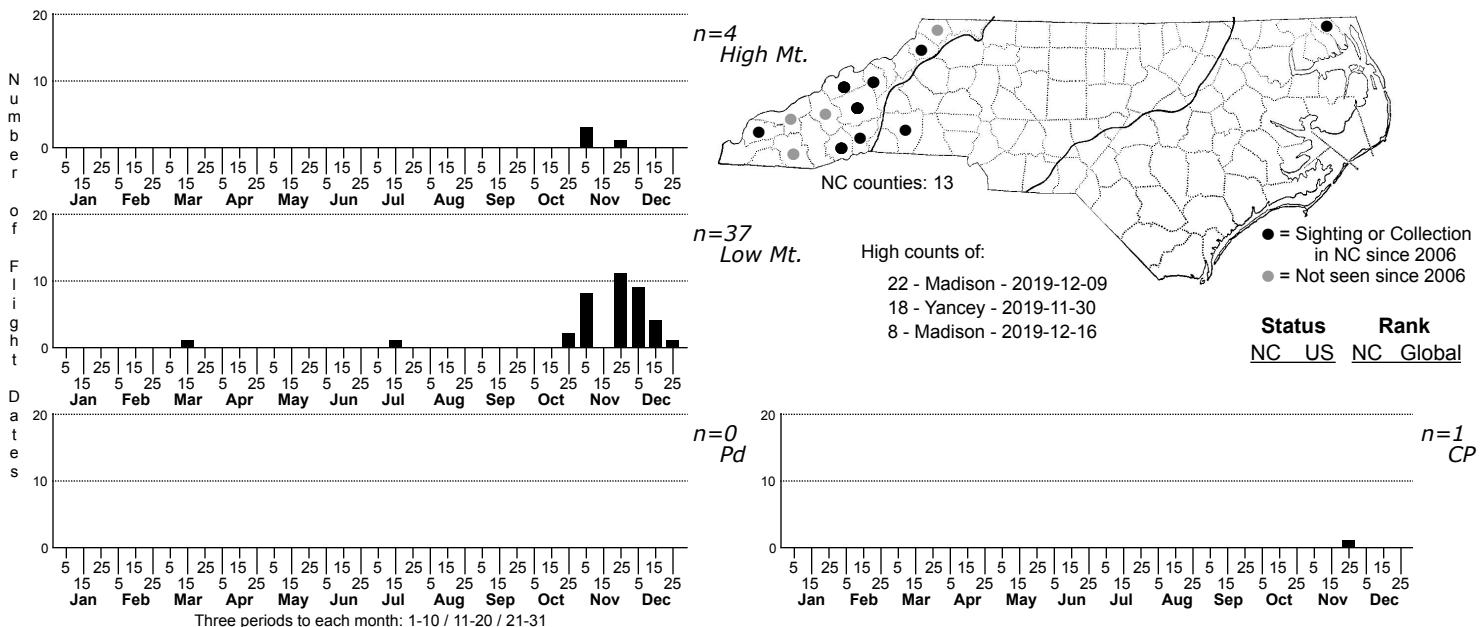


# *Erannis tiliaria* Linden Looper Moth



**FAMILY:** Geometridae    **SUBFAMILY:** Ennominae    **TRIBE:** Bistonini

**TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:** This genus, comprising some 9-12 species depending upon how various subspecies are treated, is limited to the northern parts of America, Europe, Turkey and Japan, with most species concentrated in Russia. One species occurs in North America, including North Carolina.

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

**ONLINE PHOTOS:**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:** Forbes (1948)

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:** Forbes (1948); Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner (2005)

**ID COMMENTS:** The male is a large brown, almost translucent species unlike anything else in our fauna. The female is virtually wingless, black and white.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Most of our records are from the central and southern mountains at lower to mid-elevations. As of 2021, we have only two records from above 4000', along with one from the Coastal Plain.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** The moth is on the wing during warmer nights in November, long after most observers have stopped photographing and collecting, particularly in the Mountains.

**HABITAT:** The majority of our records come from the Mountains at relatively low elevations, with habitats consisting primarily of hardwood forests growing on slopes and ridges. One record also comes from around 6,000' at a site with stands of northern hardwoods. We also have one sight record from the Outer Coastal Plain from a low-lying site.

**FOOD:** Polyphagous, feeding on a wide range of woody shrubs and trees. Wagner (2005) specifically lists maple (*Acer*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), birch (*Betula*), American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), hickory (*Carya*), hazel (*Corylus*), ash (*Fraxinus*), apple (*Malus*), poplar (*Populus*), cherry (*Prunus*), oak (*Quercus*), rose (*Rosa*), willow (*Salix*), American Basswood (*Tilia americana*), elm (*Ulmus*), and blueberry (*Vaccinium*). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded on Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) and Black Willow (*Salix nigra*).

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** Males come to light readily but we have no records of them coming to bait. The wingless females should be looked for on the trunks of trees.

**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:** We have relatively few records for this species, possibly due to its late flight period. It does not appear to be a strong habitat specialist, however, and apparently uses a wide range of host plants. While that would seem to make it fairly secure within the state, more needs to be learned about its distribution and use of particular host plants and habitats before its conservation status can be accurately assessed.