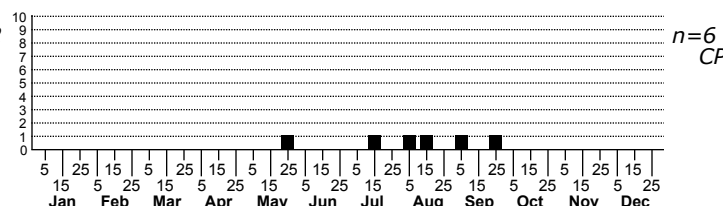
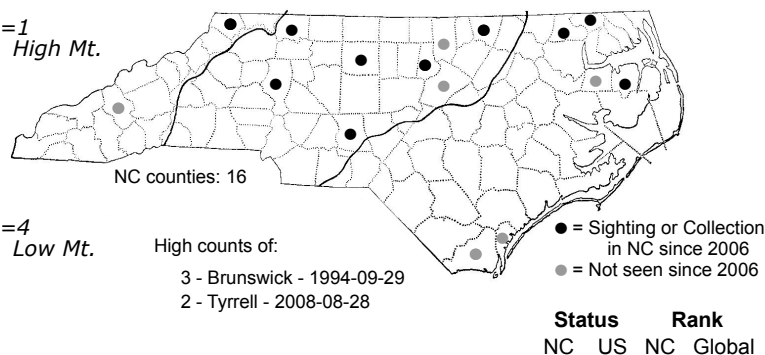
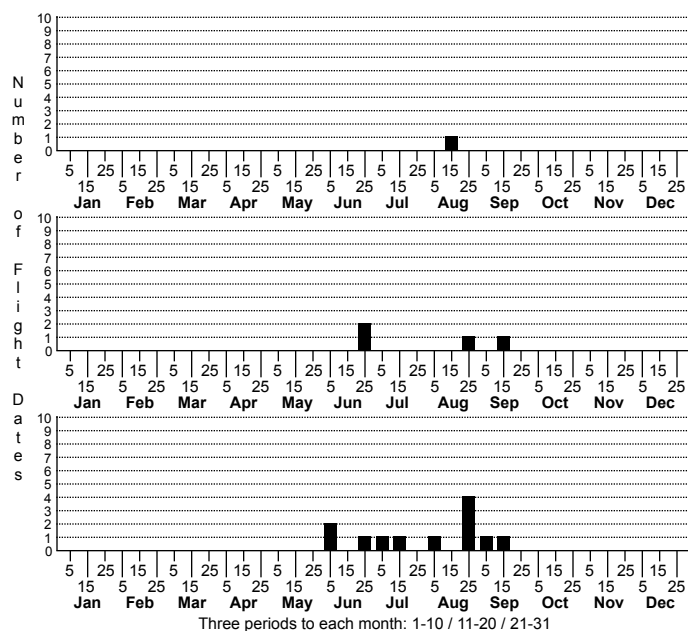


# *Manduca quinquemaculatus* Five-spotted Hawk Moth



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Sphinginae TRIBE: Sphingini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: A large Neotropical genus (63 species) of which 4 occur in North Carolina. This is our second most common of 4 species.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Hodges (1971); Tuttle (2007)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner (2005); Tuttle (2007)

ID COMMENTS: A large, grayish-brown sphinx moth; sexes similar. Less common than *M. sexta* with which it is frequently confused. It is grayer with a crisp, distinct pattern whereas the pattern in *M. sexta* is browner and smudged. Note the parallel median lines with gray filling in the hindwing. These lines are largely fused into a single broad line in *M. sexta*.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide

FLIGHT COMMENT: One principal brood exists over much of the East (Wagner, 2005)

HABITAT: Found throughout the state in open agricultural lands.

FOOD: Like *Manduca sexta*, this species prefers Solanaceous hosts, with caterpillars frequently found on tobacco, tomato, and potato plants (Forbes, 1948; Wagner, 2005). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded on garden tomatoes.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults visit flowers at night, especially those with long corollas. They readily come to strong lights, such as mercury-vapor, but only in small numbers to 15 watt UV lights. They do not come to baits.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S5]

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

COMMENTS: Rarely taken in numbers yet one's tomato plants indicate they are not uncommon. Like many sphingids found in urban settings, they are not attracted to weak lighting and are able to co-exist in our cities. Of no conservation concern in North Carolina