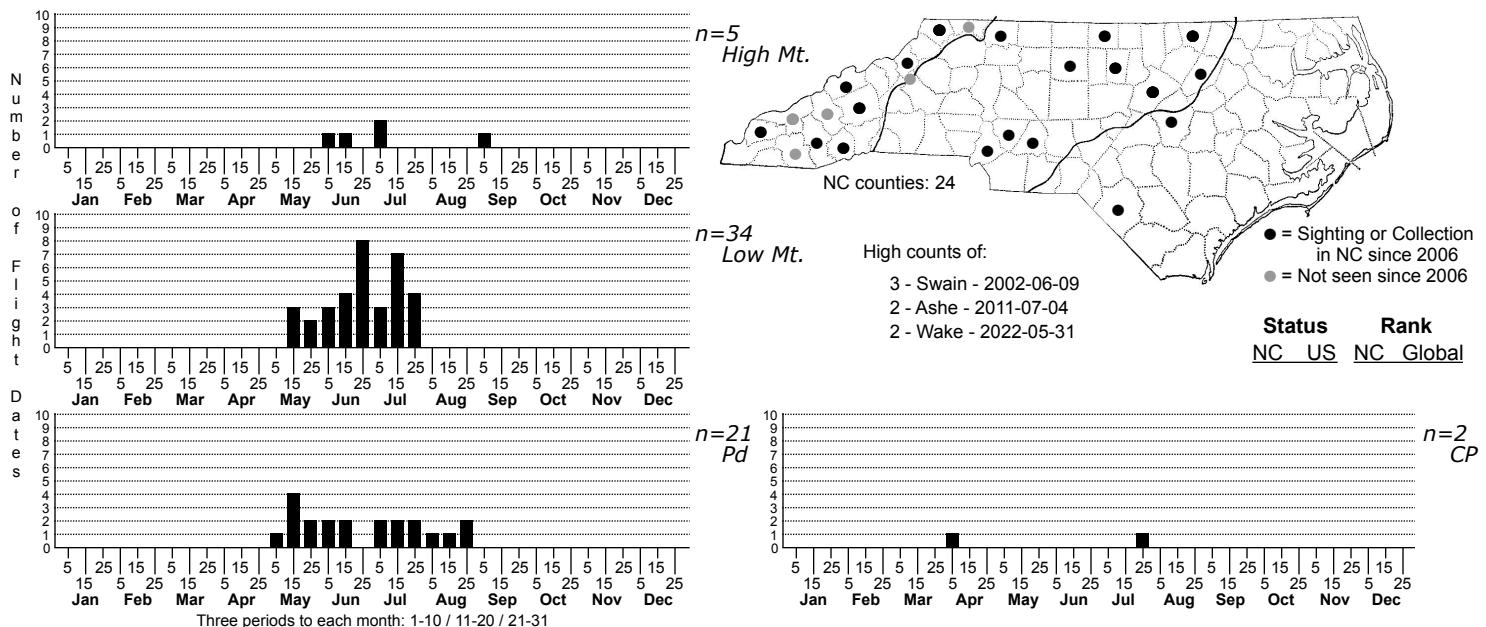


Ceratomia amyntor Elm Sphinx



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Sphinginae TRIBE: Sphingini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Six species of this genus occur in the US with a few more in the Neotropics. The genus appears to be an assemblage of several unrecognized genera and our three species eventually will probably all be placed in separate genera. *C. amyntor* is the largest 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: Large, brown and with a white reniform spot and dark streaks, this is the most distinct and least common species in this genus. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Most of our records come from the Mountains, but there are at least a few records as far east as Wake County.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Possibly just one generation in the Mountains; not enough data from the rest of the state to determine a pattern.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from rich cove forests or basic mesic forests, habitats favored by elms and basswoods. Should be looked for along rich riparian habitats in the Piedmont and along brownwater river floodplains in the Coastal Plain.

FOOD: Elms (*Ulmus* spp.) appear to be the favored foodplant but there are records from basswood (*Tilia*) and birch (*Betula*) as well (Covell, 1984; Wagner, 2005). Look for larvae on the undersides of leaves on plants growing along forest edges. In North Carolina, we have feeding records for American Elm (*U. americana*) and River Birch (*Betula nigra*). Accurate identification of larval foodplants based on field searches are needed.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Most individuals we have seen responded to mercury vapor or large ultraviolet spotlights. Searching for larvae is tedious, particularly with larger trees, but may be productive (see Wagner, 2005 for advice with finding this species).

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: Like many sphingids, records are few, probably because adults rarely come to smaller lights. Dutch elm disease has probably affected its distribution somewhat, but otherwise habitat and host plants do not appear to be restrictive.