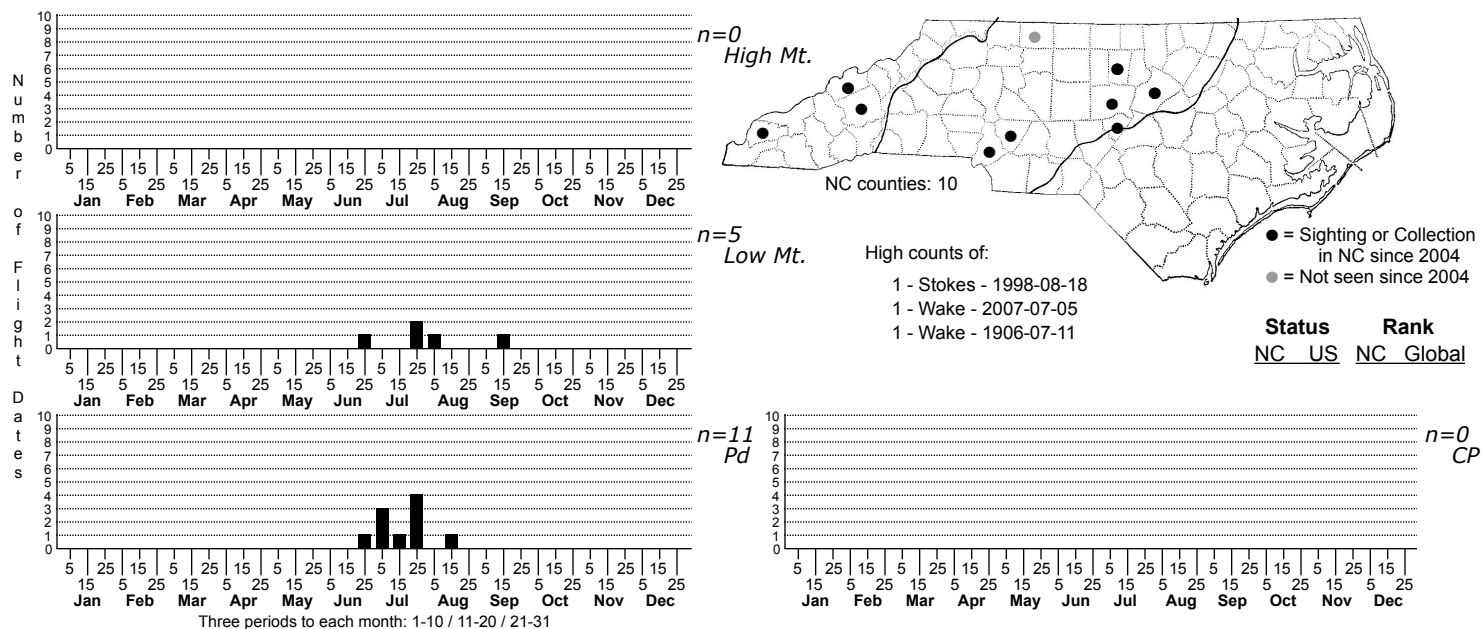


## *Catocala innubens* Betrothed Underwing



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Catocalini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 103 species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010, 2015), 67 of which have been recorded in North Carolina. Innubens was included by Barnes and McDunnough (1918) in their Group I (also adopted by Forbes, 1954), which contains just this one species.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Sargent (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A large, brown Underwing with a pale apical spot and broad orange and black hindwings. The pattern and coloration are variable, with some sexual differences and several named forms. The ground color of the forewings is typically rich reddish brown, overlain with pale gray dusting and often streaked with dark brown or blackish (Sargent, 1976); males are often fairly uniform in color and females more extensively marked with black. A black streak is often found between the pale subreniform spot and the postmedian and in some females, there is also a dark streak from the base of the wing to the subreniform. The lower portion of the pale apical patch is typically bordered by a dark subapical dash but the upper/inner portion is bordered by a white segment of the subterminal line. In form scintillans, the area between the basal area and the postmedian is completely filled with black, leaving most of the subterminal area pale apart from a black subapical dash; a pale patch is also located in the lower half of the basal area. The hindwings are orange with fairly broad black bands. Sargent notes that other *Catocalas* with rich reddish brown forewings and banded hindwings usually have more yellowish rather than orange banding. *Catocala micronympha* has a form - *grisella* -- that is similar to form *scintillans* of *innubens* but is much smaller and the entire base of the forewing is somewhat pale, not just a strip along the inner margin.

DISTRIBUTION: All of our records come from widely scattered locations in the Piedmont and low mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our records come mainly from July and August

HABITAT: The habitats where this species has been collected in North Carolina are undescribed, but probably come from old pastures and homesites where Honey Locust was historically planted

FOOD: Larvae feed on Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) (Forbes, 1954; Sargent, 1976; Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: We have too few records to judge how well it comes to light or to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species is reported to be common in the Midwest, where its host plant, *Gleditsia* is native and widespread. Here in North Carolina, both the moth and its host plant appear to be far more sparsely distributed and possibly not originally native to this region.