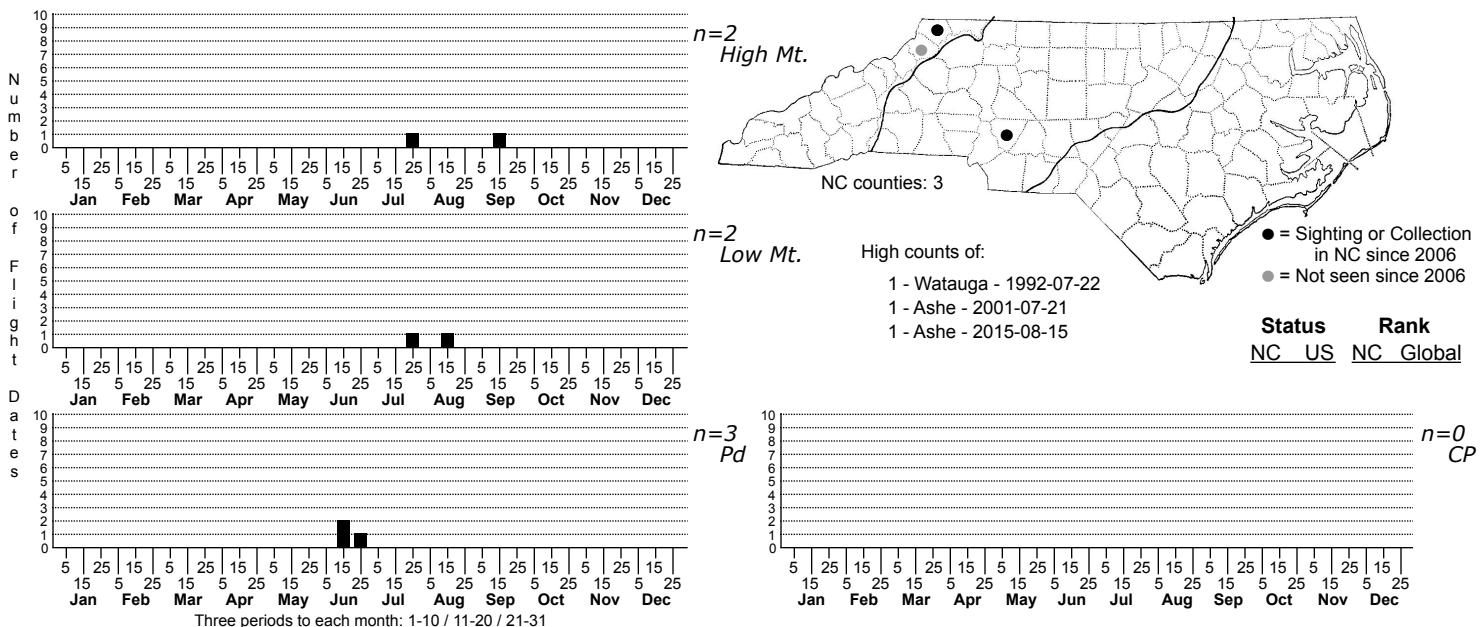


## *Catocala judith* Judith's Underwing



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. Included by Barnes and McDunnough (1918) in their Group V (also adopted by Forbes, 1954). This group comprises 10 species, all of which feed on Hickories or Walnuts (Juglandaceae). In addition to judith, other members of this group that occur in North Carolina include *hobilis*, *serena*, *robinsonii*, *flebilis*, *angusi*, *obscura*, *residua*, and *sappho*.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Wagner et al. 2011)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, pale gray Underwing with black hindwings. The forewings are smooth gray with no strong contrasting shades. The lines are thin, black, and inconspicuous; the teeth at the apex of the postmedian are shorter than in similar species. The hindwings are black with a narrow, fuscous fringe. The hindwing fringe color and small size distinguish this species from *Catocala robinsonii*, which also has a somewhat brighter forewing ground color. *Catocala residua* and *obscura* are also larger and darker gray on the forewings. The undersides of the wings have a pale basal area, which distinguishes it from *Catocala miranda*, which is otherwise similar in size and coloration (Forbes, 1954; Sargent, 1976).

DISTRIBUTION: All of our records come from the northern end of the Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, flying in July and August

HABITAT: Our few records come from Rich Cove Forests and Montane Alluvial Forests.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on hickories, including Shagbark Hickory (<i>Carya ovata</i>) (Wagner et al., 2011). There are also reports from walnut (Crumb, 1956) that need confirmation. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes to some extent to blacklights; like other underwings, it probably also comes well to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species is primarily found in the Ohio and upper Mississippi river valleys and the Northeast. It appears to be peripheral in North Carolina and so far only recorded in the New River drainage. We have very few records for this species and more information is needed on its distribution, habitat preferences, and population trends within the state before we can accurately determine its conservation status.