Catocala residua Residua 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 groups comprises 10 species, all of which feed on Hickories or Walnuts (Juglandaciae). In addition to residua, other members of this group that occur in North Carolina include habilis, serena, robinsonii, judith, flebilis, angusi, obscura, 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 large, dull gray Underwing with black hindwings. The median and basal areas of the forewings are usually darker than subterminal and marginal areas, with the ground color a dark smoky gray, sometimes with a greenish or purplish sheen (Forbes, 1954). The subterminal line is contrastingly whitish and the marginal area is pale gray. Dark streaks are located subterminally, extending from the longer teeth of the postmedian line to the outer margin; similar dark streaks may also be located in the lower portion of the marginal area. The hindwings are black and usually have a fuscous fringe but which is occasionally mainly white. Catocala obscura is similar in size, color, and markings but is usually more uniformly shaded on the forewings and usually lacks the dark markings in the outer portion of the wing; obscura typically has a white fringe on the hindwings whereas the fringe is usually more fuscous in residua.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably found over most of the Piedmont and Mountains. In the Coastal Plain, it may be restricted to the floodplains of the brownwater rivers and their adjoining slopes

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, flying from late June to early October

HABITAT: Our records all come from stands of hardwoods associated with rich soils, including the floodplains and slopes of brownwater rivers, mesic and dry basic hardwood forests in the Piedmont, and rich cove forests and alluvial forests in the Mountains.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding primarily on Shagbark Hickories (Wagner et al., 2011). Our records indicate that it feeds on both Northern and Southern Shagbark Hickory (<i>Carya ovata</i> and <i>C. carolinae-septentrionalis</i>). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes fairly well to both lights and bait.

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: This species appears to be a strong habitat specialist but occurs fairly regularly over a large portion of the state. It consequently appears to be one of the more secure Shagbark specialists in the state.