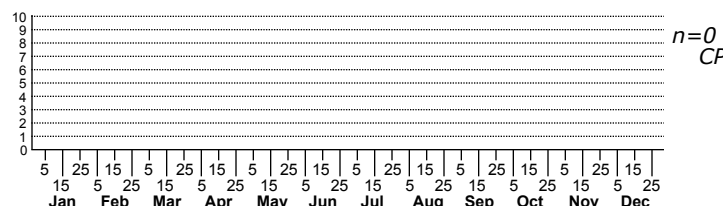
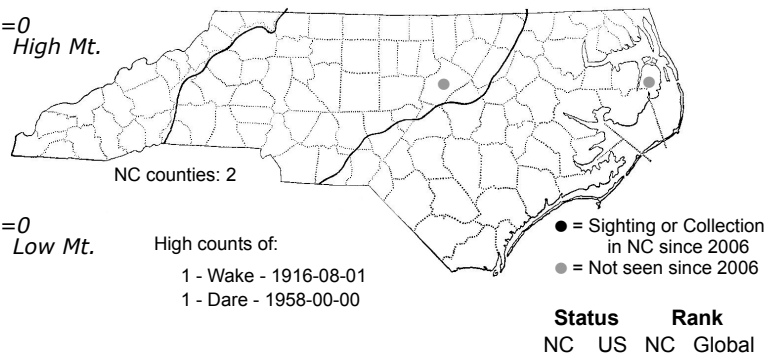
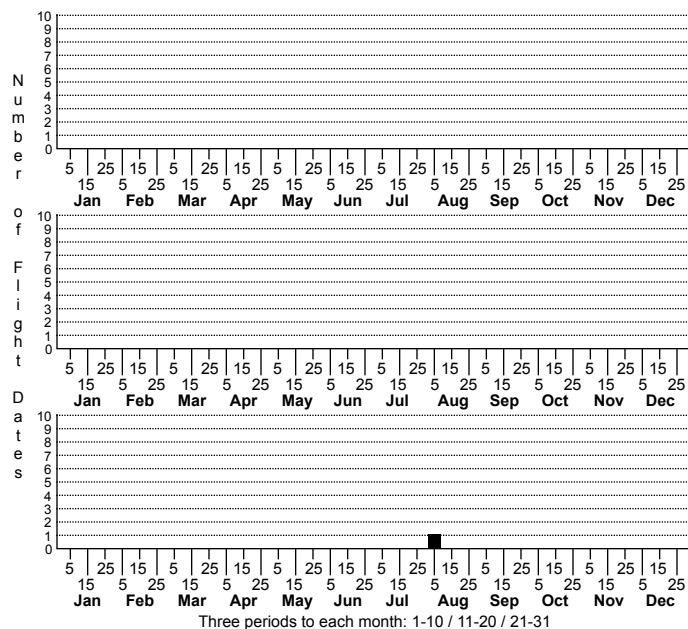


# *Catocala unijuga* Once-married Underwing



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Catocalini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 103 species in this genus that occur in North America (Gall and Hawks, 2010; Kons and Borth, 2015a,b), 67 of which have been recorded in North Carolina. Belongs to Group X of Barnes and MacDunnough (1918), a large group of poplar- and willow-feeding species. Except for marmorata, this group occurs primarily north and west of our area.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Barnes and MacDunnough (1918); Forbes (1954); Sargent (1976)

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

ID COMMENTS: A large, powdery Underwing, with blue-gray forewings and orange- or crimson-and-black banded hindwings. The ground color of the forewings is pale gray, mottled with white and dark gray. The antemedian is dark and waved, the postmedia dark and dentate, and the subterminal regularly dentate and contrastingly filled with white. The reniform is fairly diffuse. No other species in our area is similar in pattern.

DISTRIBUTION: Recorded only in the eastern Piedmont and Outer Banks in North Carolina

FLIGHT COMMENT: Flies from August to October in the North (Sargent, 1976); one of our records comes from August, but no date was included on the label for the other one

HABITAT: One of our records comes from a barrier island, where Cottonwoods do not occur (but where willows are common). The other comes from Wake County, where again Cottonwoods are very scarce.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on *Populus*, especially aspen (Wagner et al., 2011). Forbes (1954) and Sargent (1976) list willows (*Salix*) in addition to poplars. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Collection methods for the North Carolina specimens were not recorded; like other Underwings, it probably comes at least somewhat to lights but more frequently to bait

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [SH]

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 Northern and Midwestern, and with only two old, widely separated -- temporally and spatially -- records from North Carolina, it is likely that our records represent rare strays made during years when there were population outbreaks further north. Nonetheless, suitable habitat may exist here, and it should be looked for in areas, such as the Lower Roanoke floodplain, where Cottonwoods are abundant.