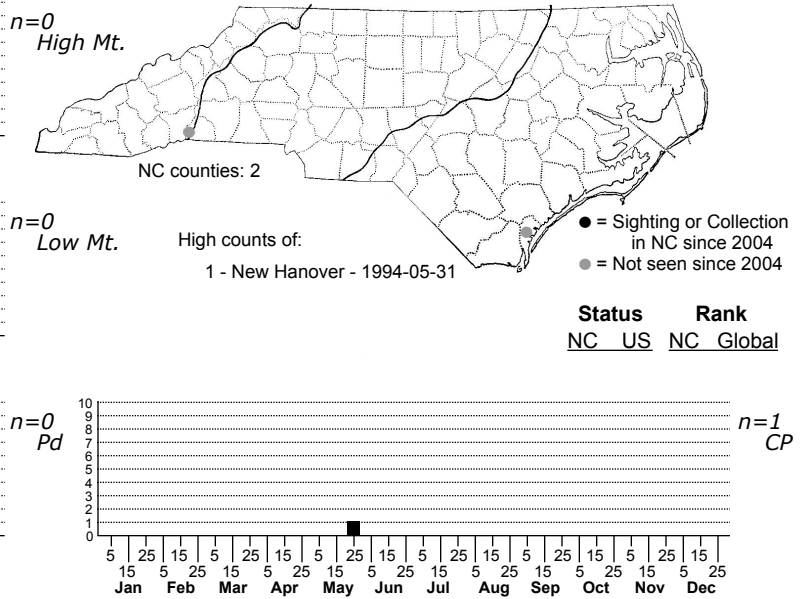


Catocala amestris Three-staff Underwing



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.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The ground color is brownish gray, with the basal and terminal areas usually solidly gray. The antemedian and postmedian lines are double and heavily black, forming a complex pattern of strong loops. The reniform also has a double black line around it but is often obscured by black shading (Sargent, 1976). The hindwing is a fairly deep yellow-orange and crossed by black bands. The inner band is sharply angled and the outer band can be either complete or broken.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our two records come from very different habitats, one from a xeric, coastal fringe sand ridge and the other from the foothills of the Blue Ridge

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on *Amorpha* species; Wagner et al. (2011) list both *Amorpha fruticosa* and *A. canescens*. Locust has also been reported (Sargent, 1976).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [SH]

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

COMMENTS: