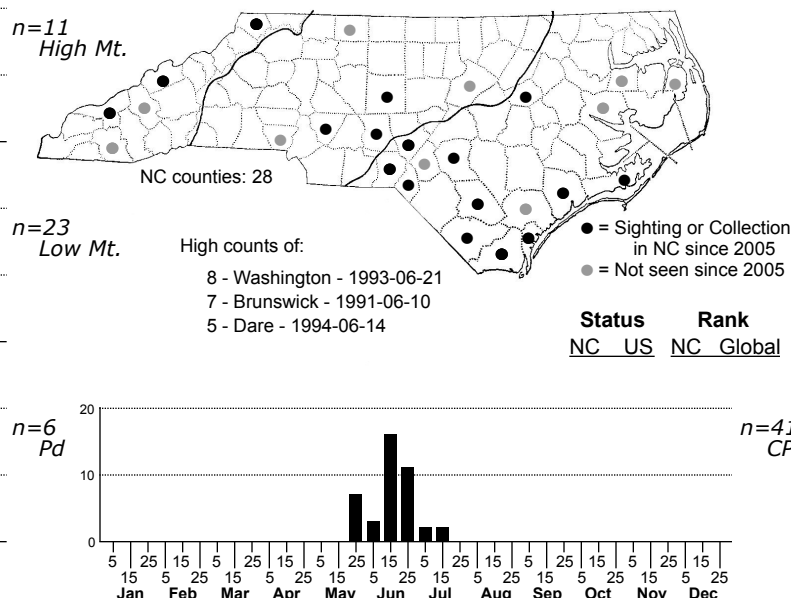
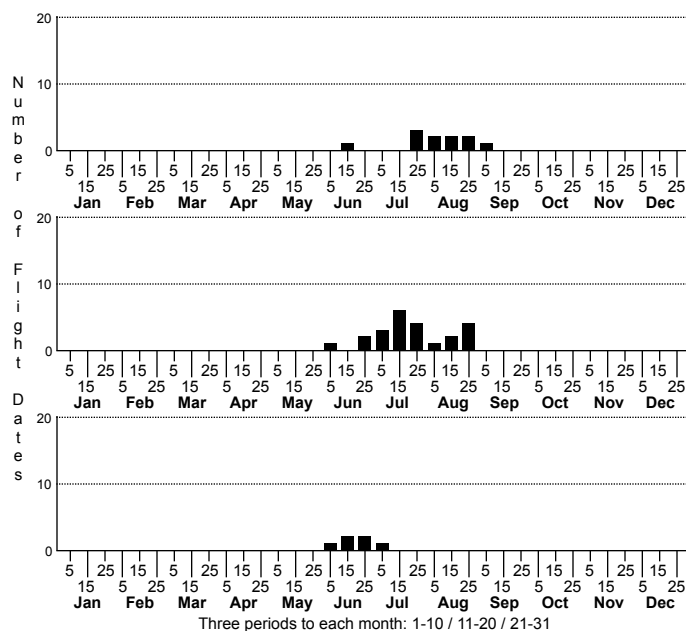


Catocala gracilis Graceful Underwing



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. Barnes and MacDunnough (1918) and Forbes (1954) placed this species in Group XV, which also includes *C. sordida* and *C. andromedae*, all associated with heaths.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The forewings are usually pale gray but with the inner margin often shaded with black. In form *lemmeri*, the thorax -- which is normally gray -- as well as the inner margin of the forewing are almost entirely black (Forbes, 1954; Sargent, 1976). A dark basal dash also exists in both sexes. The antemedian and postmedian lines are also black and fine, but sometimes broken or obsolete. The hindwing is marked with orange and black bands. In *gracilis*, the postmedian black band is strongly recurved and typically end abruptly before the inner margin. *Catocala sordida* is very similar, but lacks the black basal dash and is usually not so darkly shaded with black. Melanic specimens of these two species may be very difficult to distinguish but if a distinct basal dash is present, then *gracilis* is the most likely (Sargent, 1976). The hindwings of the two species are also similar but the postmedian black band continues somewhat diffusely along the inner margin towards the base.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: A number of our records come from dry, rocky habitats in the Mountains and Piedmont monadnocks but others come from low-lying flatwoods, pocosins, and shrubby borders of depression ponds.

FOOD: Larvae are oligophagous, feeding on *Vaccinium* (particularly Highbush Blueberry) and Swamp Fetterbush (*Eubotrys racemosa*) (Wagner et al., 2011). In North Carolina, J.B. Sullivan reared a larva from blueberry.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: