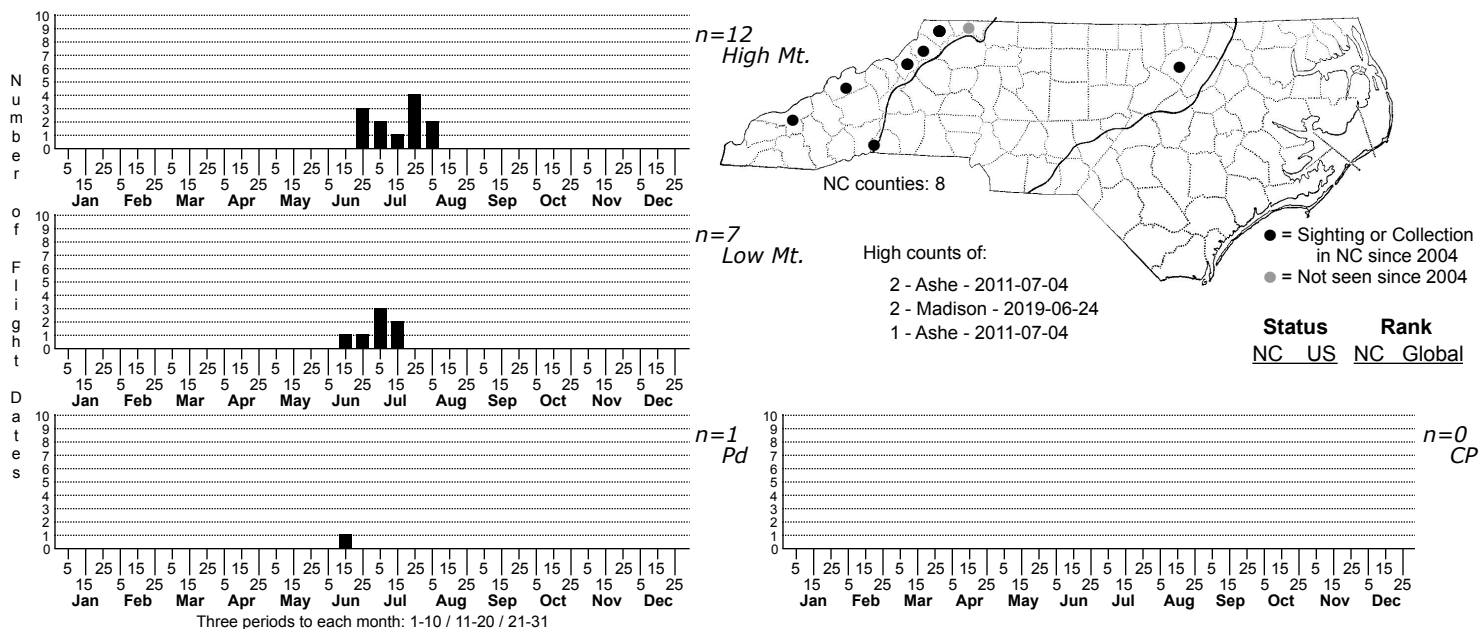


Catocala crataegi Hawthorn Underwing



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 XVII (also adopted by Forbes, 1954), which feed mainly on members of the Rosaceae; 12 other members of this group (as redefined by Kons and Borth, 2015b) also occur in North Carolina.

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:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Underwing, with strongly contrasting pale and dark areas on the forewing and yellow-orange hindwings that have heavy black bands. The median area of the forewing is a light, greenish-gray, bordered by a large black patch covering the basal area and extending in a band along the inner margin (Forbes, 1954; Sargent, 1976). A basal dash is present; the antemedian is excurved; and the postmedian is incurved and fairly even below the cell to the fold. The hindwing is yellow-orange with a heavy, complete, black inner loop. *Catocala aestivalia*, *blandula*, *mira*, and *pretiosa* are all similar, but the light greenish median shade that strongly contrasts with the black basal area and outer margin is characteristic of *crataegi*. The antemedian and postmedian lines of the forewings usually do not touch the way they do in *blandula*, but are not as separated as in *mira* and *pretiosa* (Sargent, 1976). *Blandula* also usually has a rounded spot below the reniform where the white cross band meets the black, but is absent in *crataegi* (J.B. Sullivan, pers. obs). Specimens of *C. aestivalia* mostly lack the dark shade along the inner margin but at least some individuals may not be securely separated from *C. crataegi* (Kons and Borth, 2015b).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae feed on apple and hawthorn (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S3S4

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

COMMENTS: