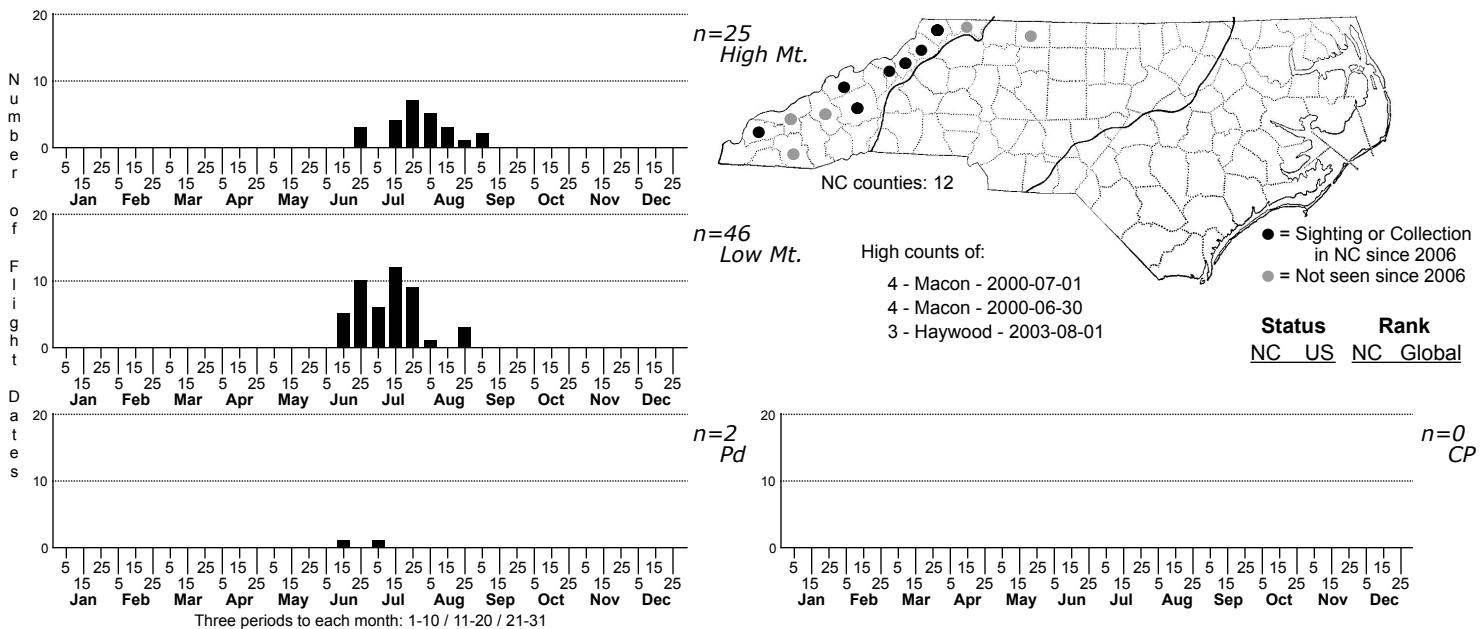


Catocala blandula Charming Underwing



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 McDunnough (1918); Forbes (1954); Sargent (1976)

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

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Underwing, with 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 blue-gray and bordered by a large brown 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 fairly straight and oblique; 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 crataegi*, *mira*, *pretiosa*, and *aestivalia* are all similar. *Blandula* differs from *crataegi* in lacking any green tint in the median area and showing less contrast between the median and basal areas; the subterminal area may also be more extensively shaded with brown (Sargent, 1976). Differs from all of the other species by the antemedian and postmedian either touching in the area along the fold or with only a narrow gap between them (Barnes and McDunnough, 1918).

DISTRIBUTION: Found primarily in the Mountains in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae feed on apple and crabapple (<i>Malus</i> spp.), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>), and probably serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier</i>) (Wagner et al., 2011). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

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: