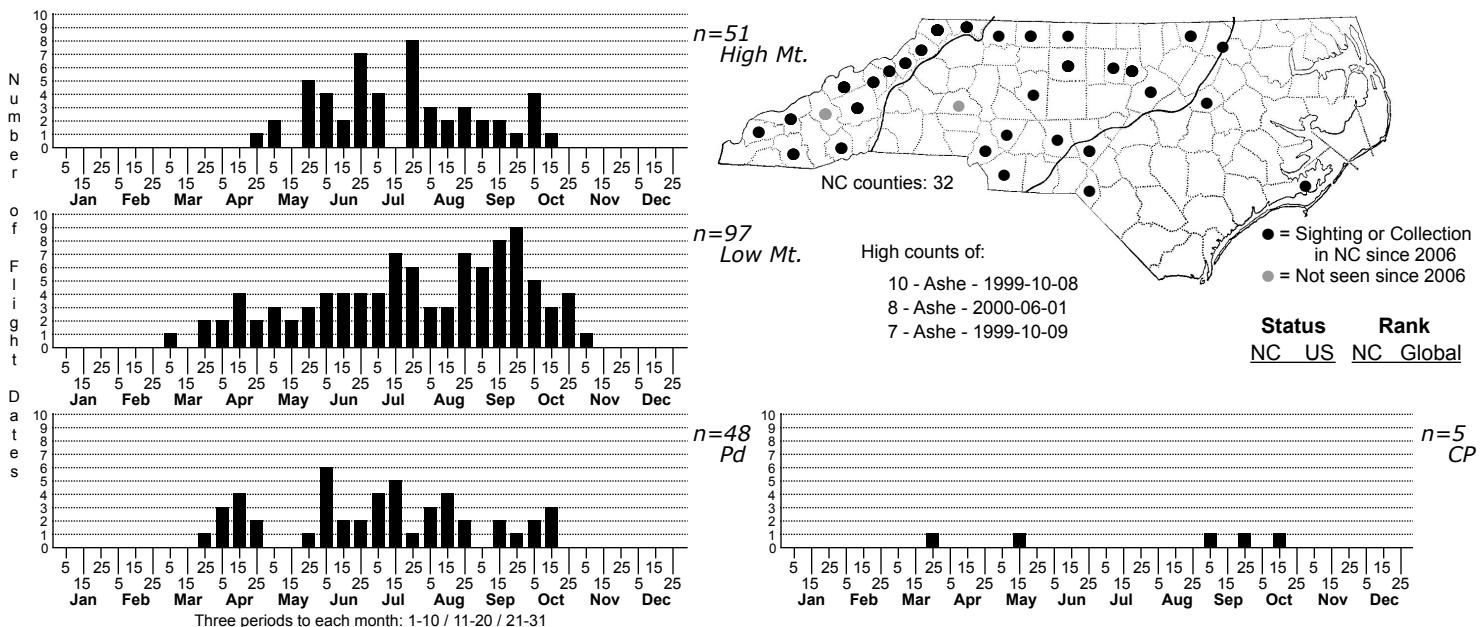


# *Autographa precationis* Common Looper Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Plusiinae TRIBE: Plusiini  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954, as *Plusia precationis*); Lafontaine and Poole (1991)  
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, dark brown Looper, with some areas of the forewing having a bronzy luster. The silvery stigma is the most conspicuous mark, composed of an open loop followed by solid silver spot that may be separate or partially joined to the loop. *Chrysodeixis includens* is similar in size, pattern, and coloration. In *C. includens*, however, the stigma is rounded and U-shaped whereas it is a more pointed V-shape in *A. precationis*. *C. includens* also has two dark wedges that are absent in *A. precationis*, one projecting outward from the basal line and one located in the terminal area (Forbes, 1954). According to Lafontaine and Poole (1991), *preciationis* has rusty-red tints that are missing in *includens*, and the reniform is surrounded by a thin (often obscure) white line that is always absent in *includens*.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list fields, gardens, agricultural fields, waste place, and other open and early successional habitats as used by this species. While we have some records from open habitats in the Piedmont, the majority of our records come from forested sites in the Mountains. Records from summits, however, may represent migrants.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous on herbaceous plants, including some crop species. Wagner (2005) specifically mentions cabbage, lettuce, clover, dandelion, sunflower, Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*), and vervain (*Verbena* spp.). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

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: