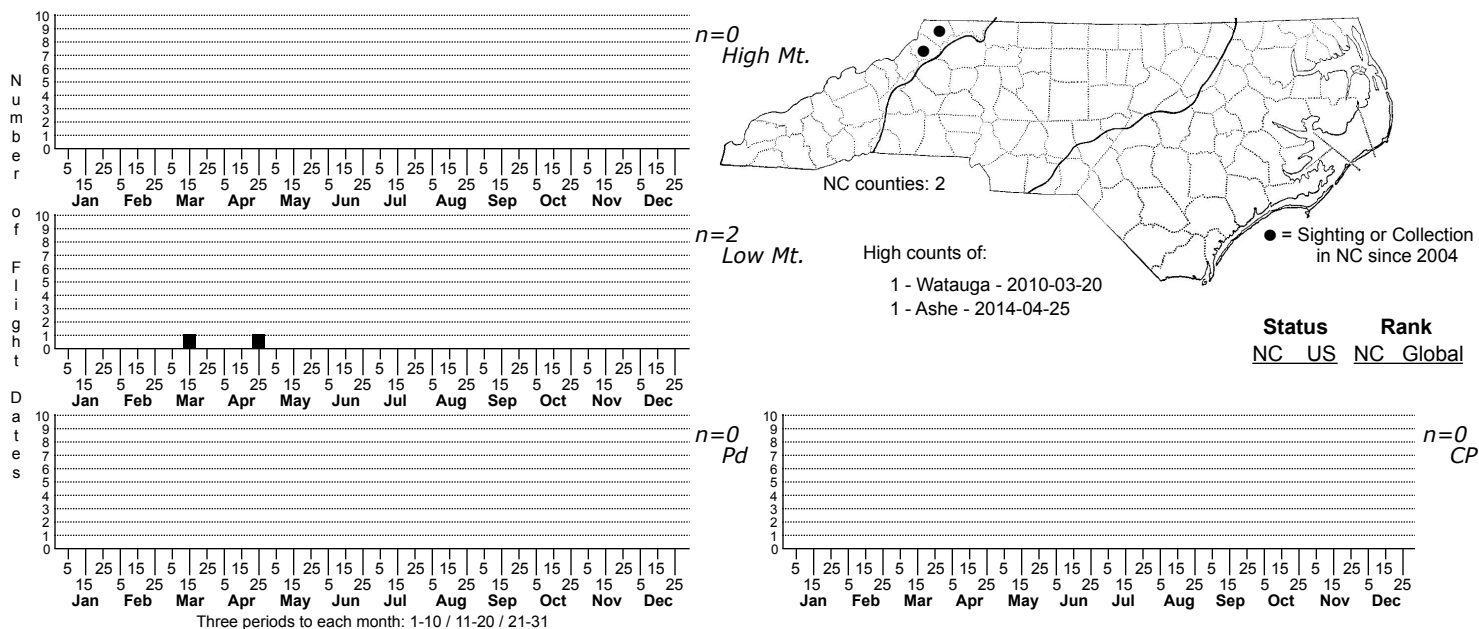


## *Lithophane oriunda* Immigrant Pinion



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of 51 species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010, 2015), 25 of which have been recorded in North Carolina

### FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

#### ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Crumb (1955)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Pinion. The forewings typically have a dark, reddish-brown ground color, with heavy white shading along the costa that often forms a wider patch at the base of the wing (Forbes, 1954). The antemedian and postmedian lines are usually inconspicuous but the subterminal is often present as a white-shaded line. The orbicular and reniform are both sharply defined with a fine black outer ring and strongly contrasting with the ground color: they are either filled with cream-white or contain a white inner ring that contrast with both the outer ring and the dark center of the spot. A black-edged, claviform spot is also usually evident, connecting the antemedian and postmedian lines but usually more conspicuous than either of those lines. Hindwings are light fuscous with darker veins. Differs from other *Lithophane* that have a reddish-brown form by possessing clean-cut spots that are finely ringed with black (Forbes, 1954). *Lithophane joannis* is particularly similar but has a darker black-brown ground color and less contrastingly pale spots (Covell and Metzlar, 1992).

DISTRIBUTION: Our only records come from the northern Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our only records come from the spring, but this species probably follows the same flight behavior as other members of this genus, with adults emerging in the fall, overwintering in that stage, and becoming active again in the spring.

HABITAT: Both of the recorded locations in North Carolina are associated with fairly rich, mesic but successional stands of hardwoods at elevations between 3,000 and 4,000 ft.

FOOD: Larvae were reared by Franclemont on Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) (cited by Forbes, 1954)

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Like other *Lithophanes*, *L. oriunda* appears to come at least to some extent to blacklights but probably is much more likely to be observed at bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 S1?->[S1S3]

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation, however, does not confer any legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: Forbes (1954) considered this species to be rare and local and prior to Lynch's discovery of this species in northwestern North Carolina, it had not apparently been found south of Pennsylvania and West Virginia (Forbes, 1954; NatureServe Explorer, 2016). We still have very few records for this primarily Northern species, although it does not appear to be confined to high elevation forests or other restricted types of habitat. More needs to be learned about its specific host plant and habitat relationships in North Carolina before an accurate assessment can be made of its conservation status.