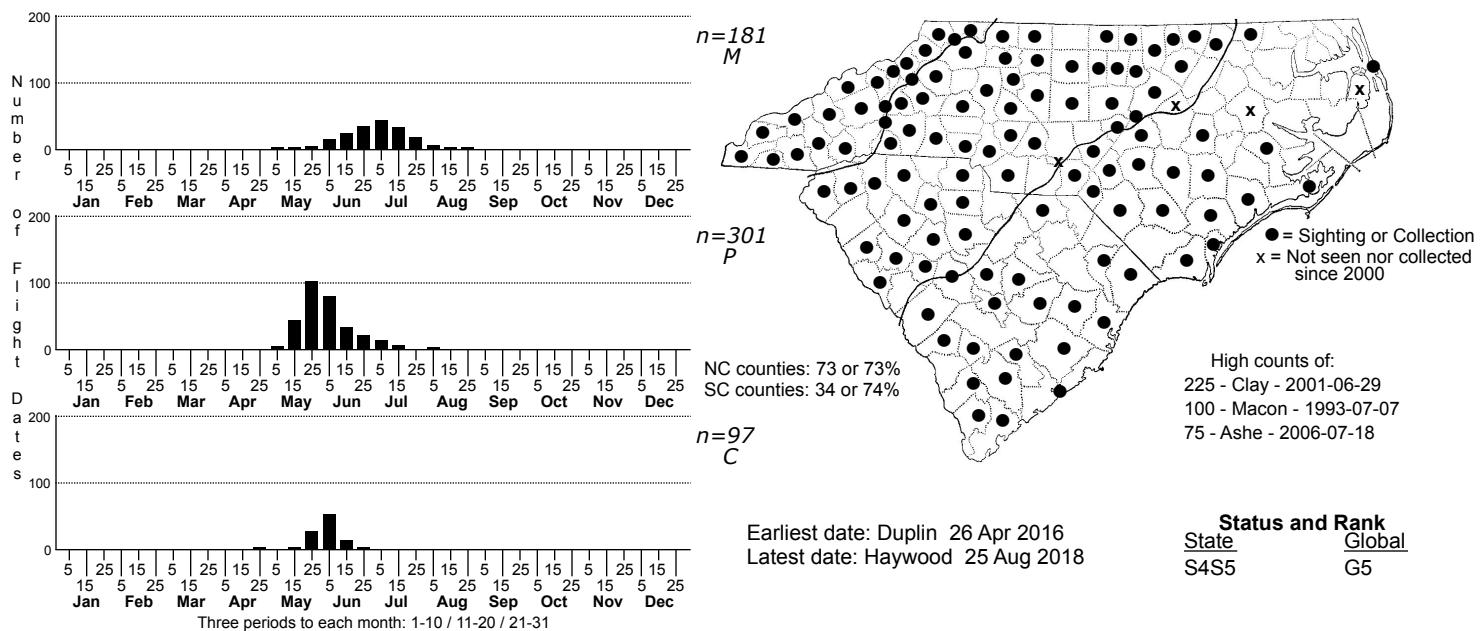


## Banded Hairstreak *Satyrium calanus*



**DISTRIBUTION:** Nearly statewide, but surprisingly very rare to absent in the northern half of the Coastal Plain, where it is clearly "lacking" in most counties. Though there are relatively few observers in this part of the Coastal Plain, this large "hole" is not an artifact of observation; there are hardly any records east of Northampton, Pitt, and Carteret counties.

**ABUNDANCE:** Uncommon to very locally common in the Mountains; uncommon in the Piedmont and southwestern Coastal Plain, but very rare in parts of the lower Coastal Plain, and especially so in the northern part of the province. Usually only one or a few individuals are seen at a time in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, but 100 or more have been reported in a day in the Mountains of the southern Appalachians.

**FLIGHT PERIOD:** A single brood; mid-May to early July, peaking in late May and early June, in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont. In the Mountains, flies from late May to the first half of August, peaking in early July.

**HABITAT:** A wide variety of hardwood forests, but generally in open to medium-growth upland hardwoods. Typically seen nectaring or perched on leaves or twigs of trees along wooded borders or along roads or wide trails in the forest. Seldom seen more than 25 feet from a forest.

**FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS:** Foodplants are generally oaks (*Quercus* spp.) or hickories (*Carya* spp.). The species spends much time perched on leaves and twigs of hardwoods along wooded borders and trails. Adults nectar at milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.), Indian-hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*), and other flowers along wooded borders.

**COMMENTS:** There are many literature reports of observers seeing 100 or more a day, usually in the Mountains and in regions to the north of NC. Though NC is well within the range of the species, it is certainly more common to our north. Why it is so relatively scarce in NC is a mystery, as oaks are the primary foodplants. For example, in 2006 we received only two reports for the entire Piedmont province, and we received just one report for the entire Mountain province in 2013!

Of the state's *Satyrium* species, this is the "easiest" one to encounter on a walk along or within a hardwood forest (at least along a wide track or road). Though it is very tedious to look at hardwood leaves (near eye level) along the forest edges as you are walking (in June and July mainly), at times you can spot a hairstreak perched on a leaf or can spot one darting quickly near a leaf. In many such cases, there will be a few other Banded Hairstreaks nearby, and if so, you are likely to see some "dog-fights" between males!