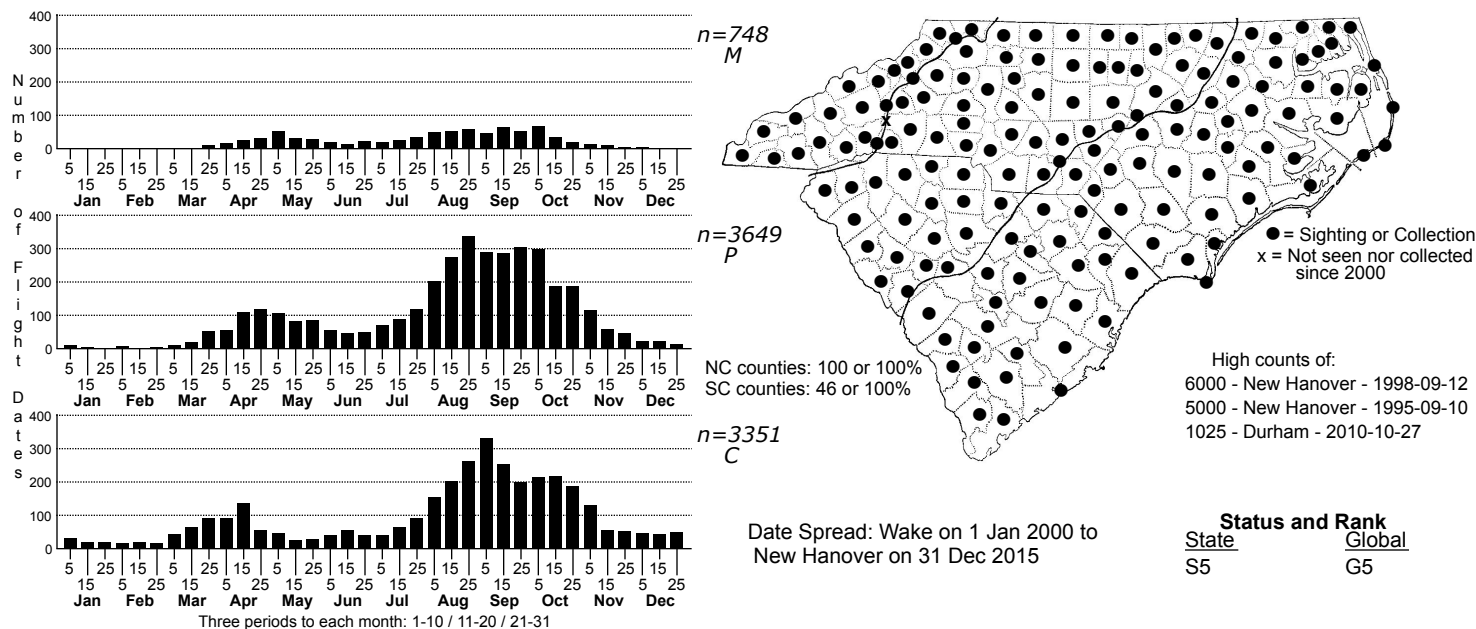


## Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae*



**DISTRIBUTION:** Statewide, occurring in all counties, but primarily a northbound migrant into the state in summer and fall. Small numbers of adults appear in spring from larvae that have successfully overwintered.

**ABUNDANCE:** Except after harsh winters, it is usually very common to abundant in late summer and fall in the Coastal Plain, especially in the lower Coastal Plain. Numbers decrease inland, but generally fairly common to common in the eastern Piedmont, and uncommon to fairly common in the upper Piedmont and Mountains. Numbers are typically highest in September, when over 100 individuals can be seen in a day in some Coastal Plain counties. Mostly uncommon to occasionally fairly common in spring and early summer.

**FLIGHT PERIOD:** One relatively small brood from early March through June. However, one to two additional broods from July to late fall. The bulk of the butterflies are present from mid-July into November, peaking in August and September. Most of these are clearly migrants; there is an obvious northerly or northeasterly movement in August and early September. Lingering individuals can be seen flying on any day in winter if the weather is mild or warm.

**HABITAT:** Widespread in open country; fields, meadows, croplands, savannas, gardens, etc. It is not a species of woodlands, but it is often seen along woodland edges.

**FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS:** All foodplants are in the legume family (Fabaceae); the main species are sennas (*Senna* spp.). The species nectars on a great variety of flowers.

**COMMENTS:** Of the southern species that migrate northward into NC in summer and fall, this is by far the most conspicuous. Dozens can be seen drifting northward in the early fall across fields and roads in the Coastal Plain. This is often the most commonly seen butterfly in the Coastal Plain in August, September, and October.