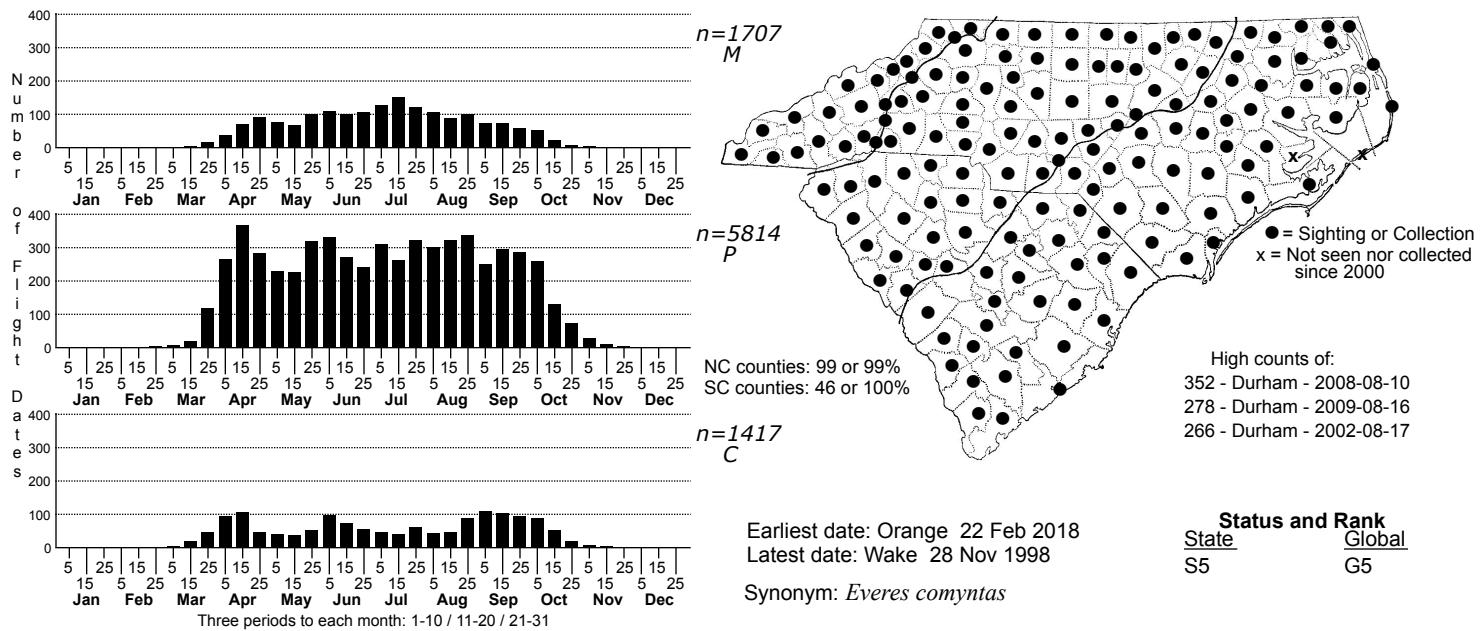


Eastern Tailed-Blue *Cupido comyntas*



DISTRIBUTION: Statewide; certainly occurs in all NC counties.

ABUNDANCE: Very common to abundant in most areas in the Mountains and Piedmont; however, it is mainly just uncommon to fairly common in most of the Coastal Plain, where there are few daily counts in double digits. It can be quite hard to find near the immediate coast. One of the most numerous butterflies in much of NC, particularly from July to October. It is not overly common in April and May.

FLIGHT PERIOD: Probably four or five broods, but the broods essentially overlap within a given province; a continuous flight from late March to late October, sparingly from late February to late November.

HABITAT: A very widespread species; seemingly found nearly anywhere, especially in open country with much herbaceous vegetation; woodland borders, powerline clearings, fields, meadows, savannas, vacant lots, etc. Usually seen flying low to the ground, among or near grasses and forbs.

FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS: Foodplants are herbaceous species of legumes (Fabaceae). It has a very wide variety of nectar flowers, though it often perches on the ground or on leaves. Nectaring occurs manly on low-growing flowers within a foot of the ground.

COMMENTS: This species is usually outnumbered in spring by various azure species, which precede the Eastern Tailed-Blue on the wing. By midsummer, the Eastern Tailed-Blue is often an abundant species, though its very small size and habit of flying close to the ground make it easy to overlook. It is one of the most often seen butterflies in September and October; 25 or more can often be seen in a day.