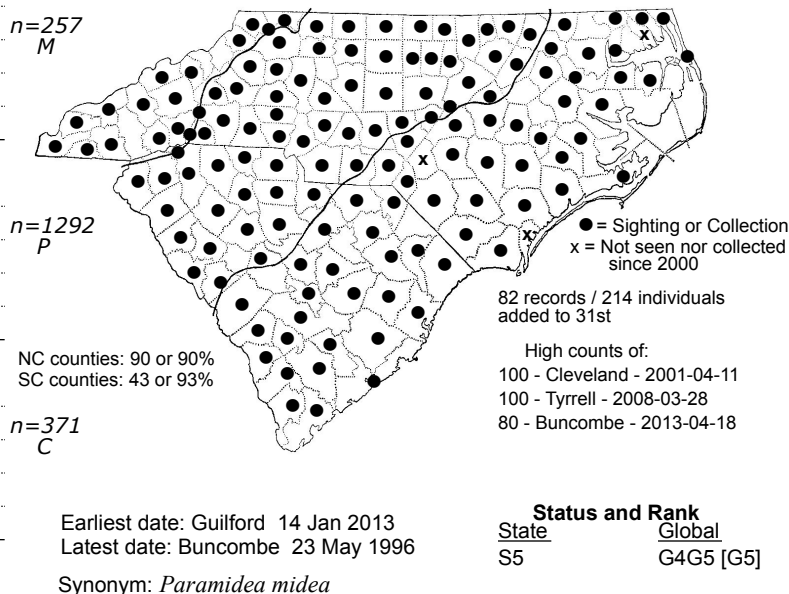
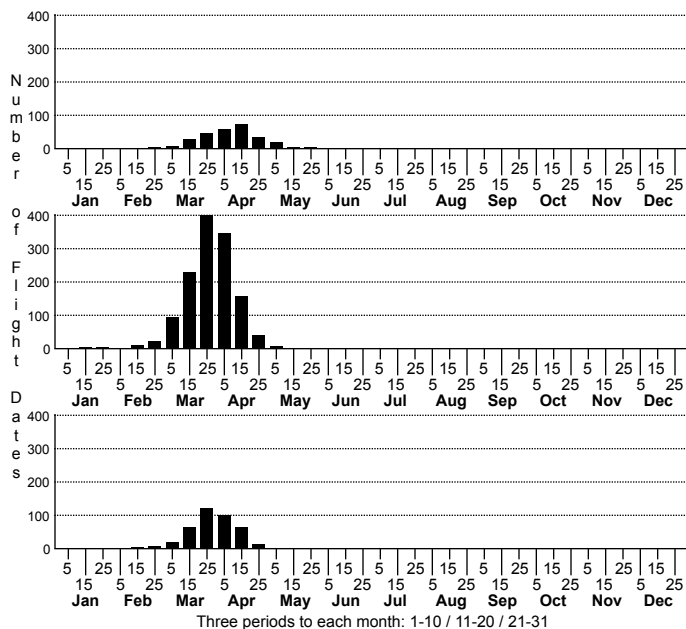


Falcate Orangetip *Anthocharis midea*



DISTRIBUTION: Occurs in all three provinces and is nearly statewide in occurrence. In the Mountains found mostly in the lower elevations, and possibly absent in a few northern Mountain counties (such as Avery and Mitchell). It is spottily distributed near the coast and is possibly absent in a few such counties.

ABUNDANCE: Common, at least locally, in many Piedmont and upper Coastal Plain locales; not common in the Mountains or much of the lower Coastal Plain. Very rare to absent above perhaps 2500 feet elevation.

FLIGHT PERIOD: Single-brooded; early March (rarely mid-February) to late April downstate; mainly from mid- or late March to early May, and rarely into late May, in the Mountains. Peaks in late March and early April in the Piedmont, and in late March in the Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Typically mesic to moist hardwoods or mixed woods, including bottomlands, but it can often be seen along woodland borders and in woodland openings. It is not usually seen in large open fields or urban and suburban habitats.

FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS: As with other species of "whites", mustard family species (Brassicaceae) are the foodplants; toothworts (Cardamine spp.) are probably the primary species in NC. Females are often seen ovipositing on the small, non-native Hairy Bittercress (Cardamine hirsuta). These butterflies often nectar on toothworts, but other spring-blooming flowers are used.

COMMENTS: As with most single-brooded species with narrow flight periods, some gaps in the county distribution maps exist. This is simply a matter of lack of coverage during the (20-30)-day flight period in any given area, as the species is not usually difficult to find in the appropriate habitat. The range, however, is not well known in parts of the Mountains, where it definitely occurs at low elevations (below 2500 feet); perhaps the West Virginia White replaces this species in the middle and high elevations. Oddly, it seems extremely scarce in Swain County, where an abundance of rich hardwood forests below 2500 feet elevation are present in Great Smoky Mountains National Park; a first record came in 2021. Apparently, the species is displaced there by the West Virginia White, even at rather low elevations.

This species is one of the harbingers of spring, often encountered when an observer is looking for spring wildflowers along Piedmont or Coastal Plain slopes and bottomlands.