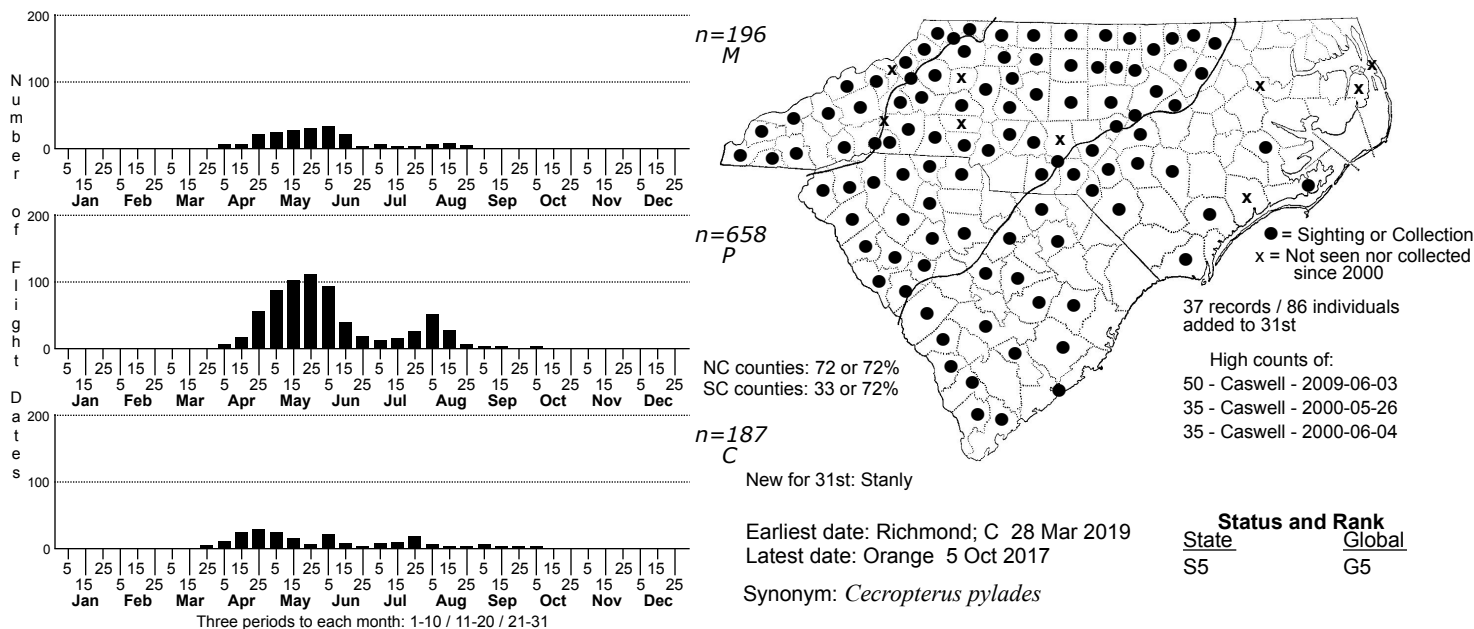


Northern Cloudywing *Thorybes pylades*



DISTRIBUTION: Mainly just the Mountains, Piedmont, Sandhills portion of the Coastal Plain, and the southeastern Coastal Plain. No recent records at all from the central and northern Coastal Plain, despite considerable field work. Certainly, it should be found in most of the NC counties over time, but it simply seems to be absent from a great portion of the Coastal Plain now.

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common in the Piedmont and Sandhills, but uncommon in the Mountains and the southern Coastal Plain (away from the Sandhills). Definitely very rare in most of the Coastal Plain, and possibly absent in a few northeastern Coastal Plain counties.

FLIGHT PERIOD: Two broods, but the second is a partial or weak one. Downstate, the main brood is from mid-April (rarely from late March) to mid- or late June; a smaller brood is from early July to late August, rarely into September. In the Mountains, the two flights fall between mid- or late April and late August, rarely beginning by early April. Most unusual, and coincidental as well, were single photographic reports from the Sandhills region and from the eastern Piedmont of record late individuals on October 5 (2017).

HABITAT: The habitat appears identical to that of the Southern Cloudywing -- dry to mesic sites in partial sun, such as woodland borders, powerline clearings, old fields, glades, pine/scrub oak sandhills, etc. It prefers dry places, as does the Southern.

FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS: Foodplants are similar to those of the Southern Cloudywing, being various herbaceous legumes (Fabaceae). The adults nectar at many flowers.

COMMENTS: Field guides and references show both of these cloudywings with ranges that include nearly all of the Eastern United States. However, a review of the distribution data for NC give noticeable results. The Southern is most common in the eastern half of NC and is not numerous in the western half. The Northern occurs mainly in the Mountains and Piedmont, and it might truly be absent over a sizable portion of the eastern Coastal Plain. The Northern is somewhat less numerous in NC than is the Southern.