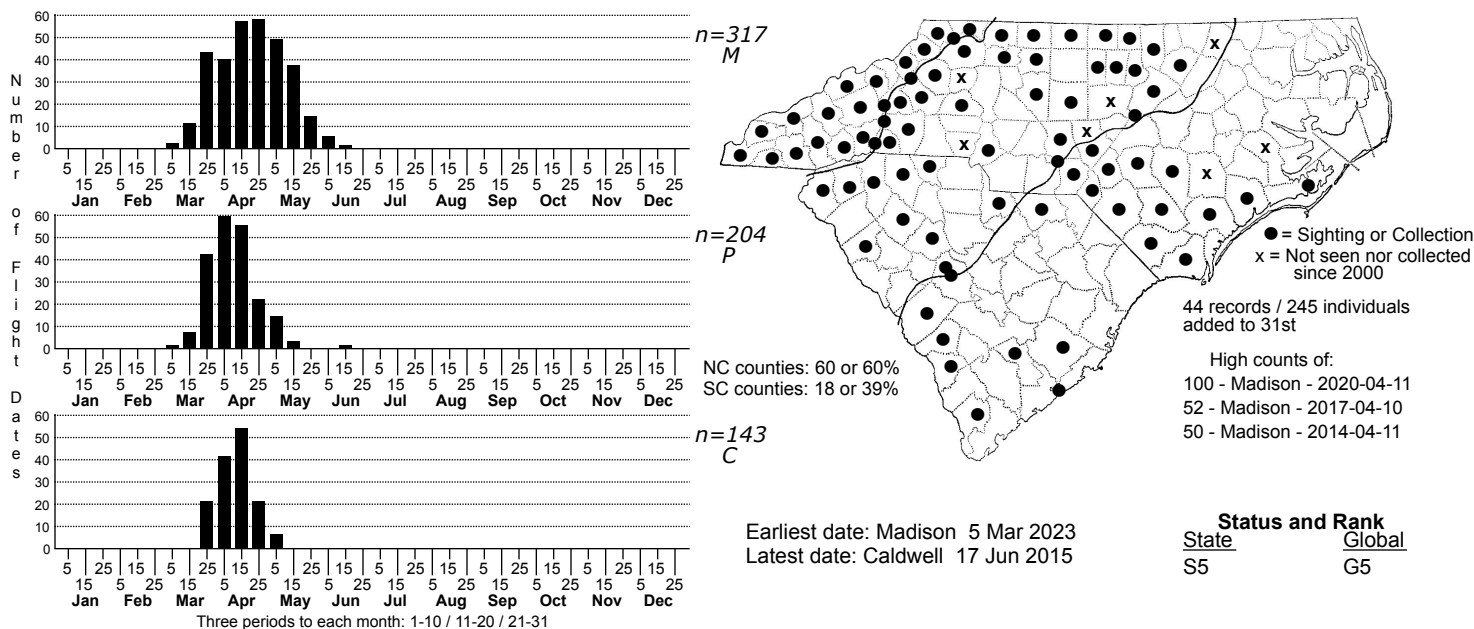


Sleepy Duskywing *Erynnis brizo*



DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the Mountains and Piedmont, plus at least the southern portion of the Coastal Plain. The range in the northern 60% of the Coastal Plain needs study; however, it seems to be absent in most of the northern Coastal Plain. (Reference books shading in the range for the entire state are making an error in judgment.)

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common in the Mountains, and uncommon to fairly common in the Sandhills; but surprisingly is rare to uncommon in the intervening Piedmont. Rare to uncommon in the southern Coastal Plain (outside of the Sandhills), but very rare northward, seemingly absent in the northern Coastal Plain. The species is under-reported because of its brief flight period and possibly because of its similarity to other duskywing species. Despite its favoring dry and often sandy places, it is more numerous in the Mountains than downstate.

FLIGHT PERIOD: A single spring brood; the latter half of March to early or mid-May downstate, and the latter half of March to early June in the Mountains. It flies earlier, by one to three weeks, than does the Dreamy Duskywing, though the flights overlap in much of April and early May.

HABITAT: This duskywing likes dry places. It is found near clearcuts, margins of dry woods, rock outcrops, open mountaintops, and especially along dirt roads, powerline clearings, and trails through such dry scrubby and woody areas. It is never found in or very near wetlands, nor is it usually found in forest interiors. In the Mountains, it occurs in mesic forest openings more so than downstate.

FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS: The foodplants are oaks (*Quercus* spp.), primarily those characteristic of xeric habitats. The adults nectar to some extent but are seen mainly perched on the ground, such as on dirt roads and trails.

COMMENTS: This species often gets lost among the hordes of Juvenal's Duskywings. Usually you must pick through the Juvenal's to find a Sleepy, often 10 to 50 of them before you find one or two. Your chances are better in very dry scrubby places, whereas sorting through the duskywings along roads through bottomlands or edges of damp woods will usually fail to reveal the Sleepies. Very seldom are Sleepies seen without many more Juvenal's being present! In the Mountains, care must be taken, as the more numerous (but smaller) Dreamy Duskywing can often be confused with the Sleepy Duskywing; also, they are frequently seen in the same habitats and at the same time of year (though the Sleepy flight period averages earlier than that of the Dreamy).