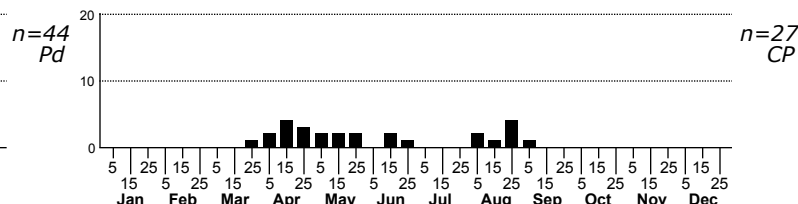
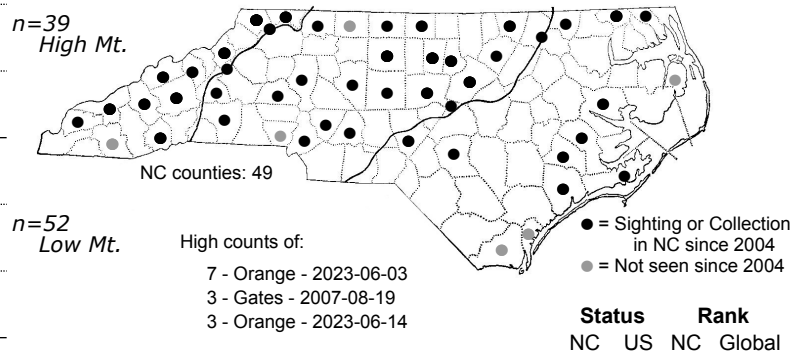
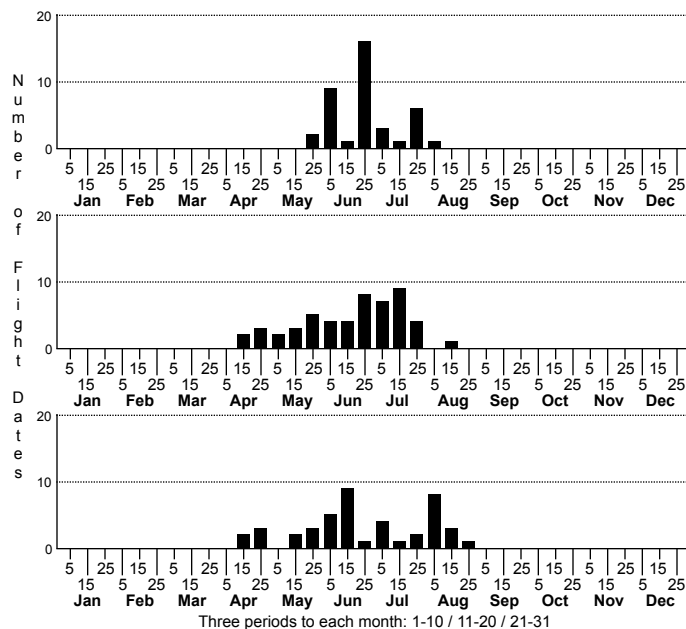


# *Amorpha juglandis* Walnut Sphinx



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Smerinthinae TRIBE: Smerinthini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: A monotypic genus, this species has been associated with the genus *Laothoe* since Hodges misplaced it there in 1971. See Tuttle (2007) for a discussion of this misplacement.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, Bugguide, BAMONA

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Hodges (1971); Tuttle (2007)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner (2005); Tuttle (2007)

ID COMMENTS: Adult pattern variable but largely a medium sized light brown species with scalloped wing margins and a strongly slanting postmedian that converges towards the antemedian at the inner margin. Sexes are similar. Larva are similar to those of *Paonias*: green with white granules and striped with seven oblique pale lines along the sides, the last of which the most prominent and extending up to the base of the caudal horn, which is very short in this species.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide.

FLIGHT COMMENT: A single brood in the mountains and two or three broods in the coastal plain.

HABITAT: Occurs in a wide range of mesic to dry habitats dominated by hardwoods, including Deciduous Maritime Forests on the Outer Banks to Cove Forests and Northern Hardwoods in the Mountains. In between, it occurs in bottomlands, mesic slopes, and dry ridges. Records are essentially absent from peatland and Longleaf Pine communities, habitats where both hickories (except Sand Hickory in sandhills habitats) and walnuts are marginal or missing. Only a very few records come from blackwater bottomlands, which suggests that Hornbeam -- a common species in those habitats -- is not a prominent host plant in North Carolina.

FOOD: Walnut and hickories (Juglandaceae) are the primary hosts, but the species has also been reported to feed on two members of the Betulaceae, Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) and Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), in the northern part of its range (Wagner, 2005). In North Carolina, it has been observed feeding on hickory.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Like other members of this subfamily (Smerinthinae) adults visit lights but not flowers nor bait. Most of our records come from 15 watt UV lights, usually as single individuals but rarely in multiples.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5]

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: Given its wide distribution in the state, use of a variety of forest habitats and common host plants, this species appears to be secure. If anything, this species appears to be more common than it was 30 years ago.