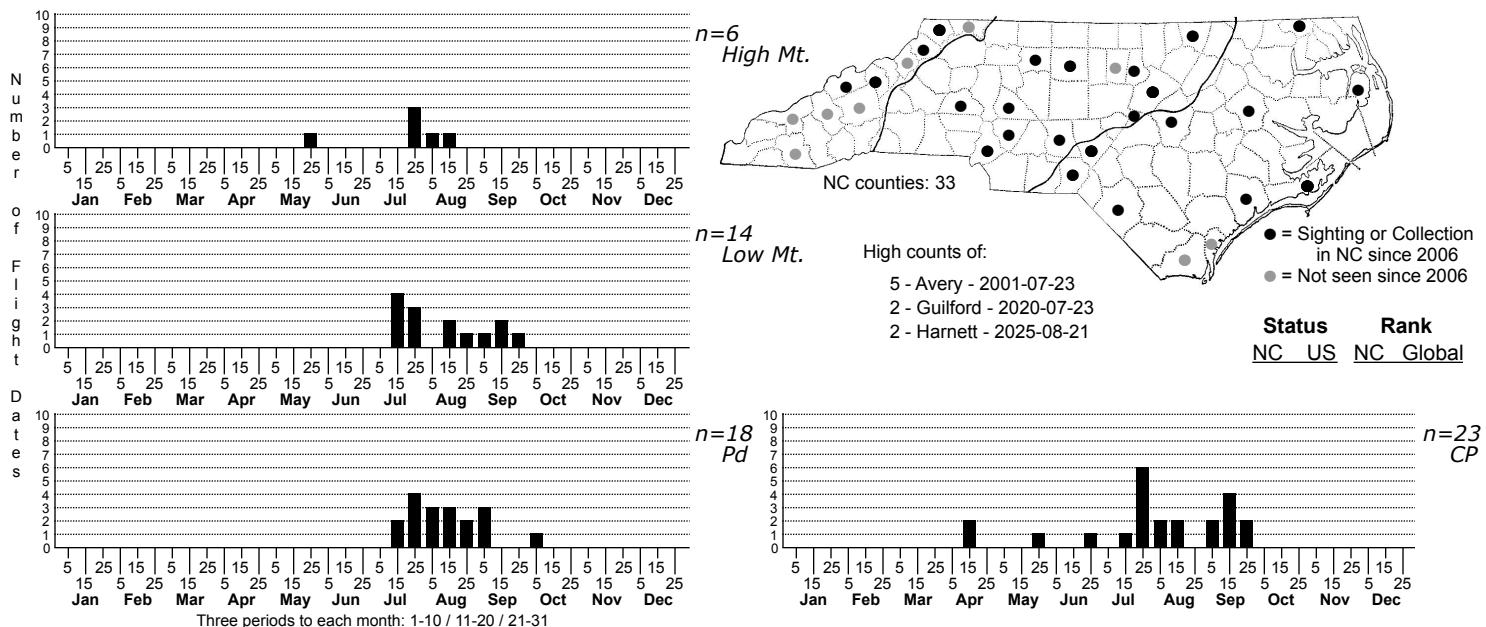


Hyles lineata White-lined Sphinx



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Macroglossinae TRIBE: Macroglossini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Our only truly cosmopolitan genus of some 29 species of which 3 occur in North America and 1 in North Carolina.

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

FIELD GUIDE TO ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION. ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Hedges (1971); Tuttle (2007).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULT S. STAGES: Forbes (1948); Hodges (1971); Tuttle (2007); IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner (2005); Tuttle (2007).

ID COMMENTS: A striking, robust species. Fore-wings are dark brown with a tan diagonal streak and cross-banded with a series of fine white lines. The hindwings have bands of black along the costal and outer margins with a bright pink band in between. In our area, this species is likely to be confused only with the much larger *Eumorpha fasciata*, which has two tan streaks on the forewing and a pink outer edge to the hindwing. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide, from the Barrier Islands to the High Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably 2-3 broods over most of the state.

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from open habitats, especially dune habitats on Barrier Islands and lake and river shorelines and wet meadows inland.

FOOD: Larvae are reportedly polyphagous, feeding on a wide range of plants (including surprisingly small plants for such a large caterpillar). Potential native hosts include Fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), Lamb's-quarters (*Chenopodium album*), willowherb (*Epilobium*), fleabane (*Erigeron*), evening-primrose (*Oenothera*), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), plantain (*Plantago*), purslane (*Portulaca*), cherry (*Prunus*), currant (*Ribes*), rose (*Rosa*), blackberry (*Rubus*), elderberry (*Sambucus*), elm (*Ulmus*), grape (*Vitis*), and cocklebur (*Xanthium*) (Mejia et al., 2020). We have feeding records for evening-primrose (including *Oenothera biennis*), Bitter Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), and purslane; more research is needed to determine what other hosts are used in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Actively visits flowers even during the day but does not come to bait. Appears to come relatively well to 15 watt UV lights and building lights. Larvae are often conspicuous and in the deserts of the west can form tremendous outbreaks.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S5]

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

COMMENTS: Statewide in distribution and occupying a wide range of open habitats, including disturbed areas, this species appears to be secure.