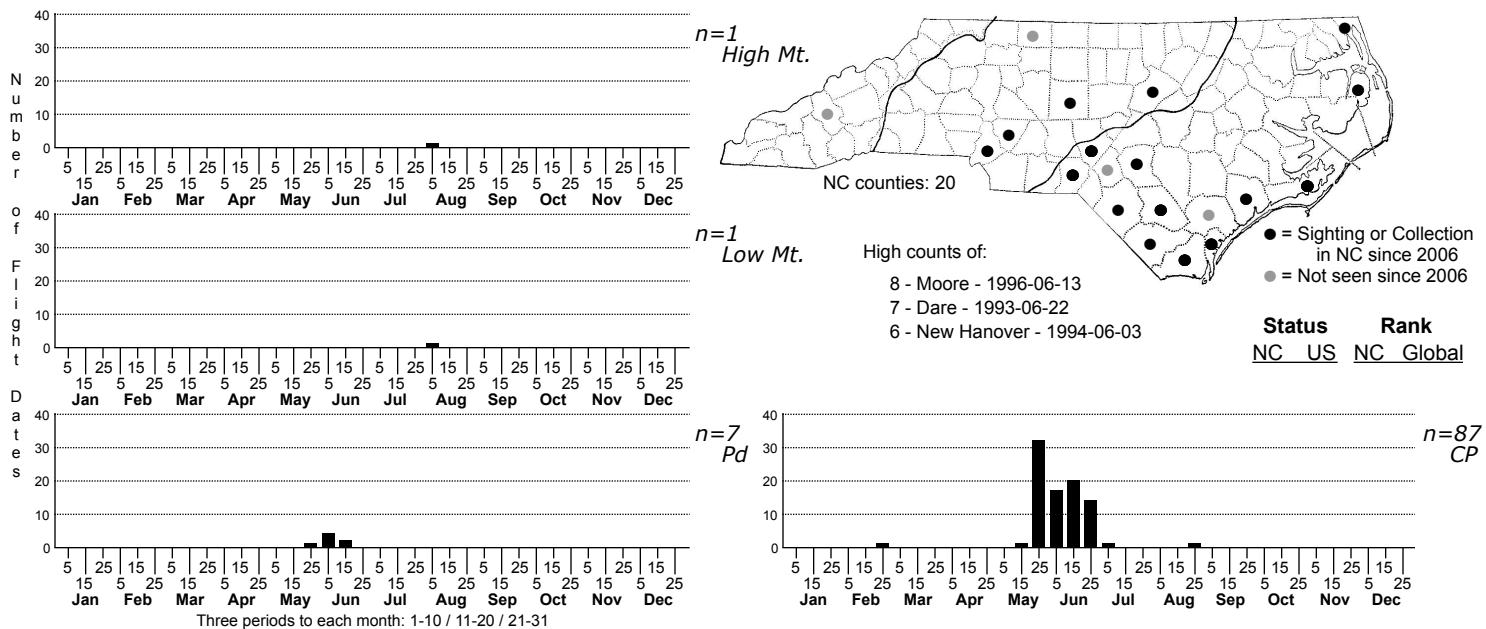


# Catocala similis Similar Underwing



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Catocalini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 103 species in this genus that occur in North America (Gall and Hawks, 2010; Kons and Borth, 2015a,b), 67 of which have been recorded in North Carolina. Barnes and MacDunnough (1918) and Forbes (1954) placed *Catocala similis* in Group XVIII, as its only member.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: The ground color is ash gray (Forbes, 1954). Patches of pale greenish gray are typically present in the basal area, at the reniform, and in an elongated costo-apical spot. The lines are single and black and very distinctive. A basal line is present and the antemedian consists of three outward loops, the middle one particularly broad. The postmedian by itself is highly diagnostic, unlike that of any other of our species of *Catocala*. It has a sharp, highly retracted bend immediately below the costa and then runs a straight course parallel to the costa, then making a sharp, obtuse bend past the reniform spot, forming another cusp at the end of the cell then running fairly straight across the wing until just before the inner margin, where it makes another sharp inset before terminating. A narrow, straight band of dark reddish-brown usually follows the postmedian. The reniform is typically pale and conspicuous with a less conspicuous pale subreniform just below it. Hindwings are yellow banded with black, with the outer band constricted partway to the anal angle.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) state that this species is associated with sandy, dry-oak woodlands with small oaks. Our records come almost entirely from maritime dunes and sand ridges in the Coastal Plain. Only a few records come from the Piedmont and Mountains, with several from dry woodland habitats.

FOOD: Larvae feed on oaks, including Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) and Blackjack Oak (*Q. marilandica*) (Wagner et al., 2011). In North Carolina, J.B. Sullivan reared larvae from Turkey Oak (*Q. laevis*) and Bluejack Oak (*Q. incana*). A larva was also found next to a Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*) in an area without any other likely host plants.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: