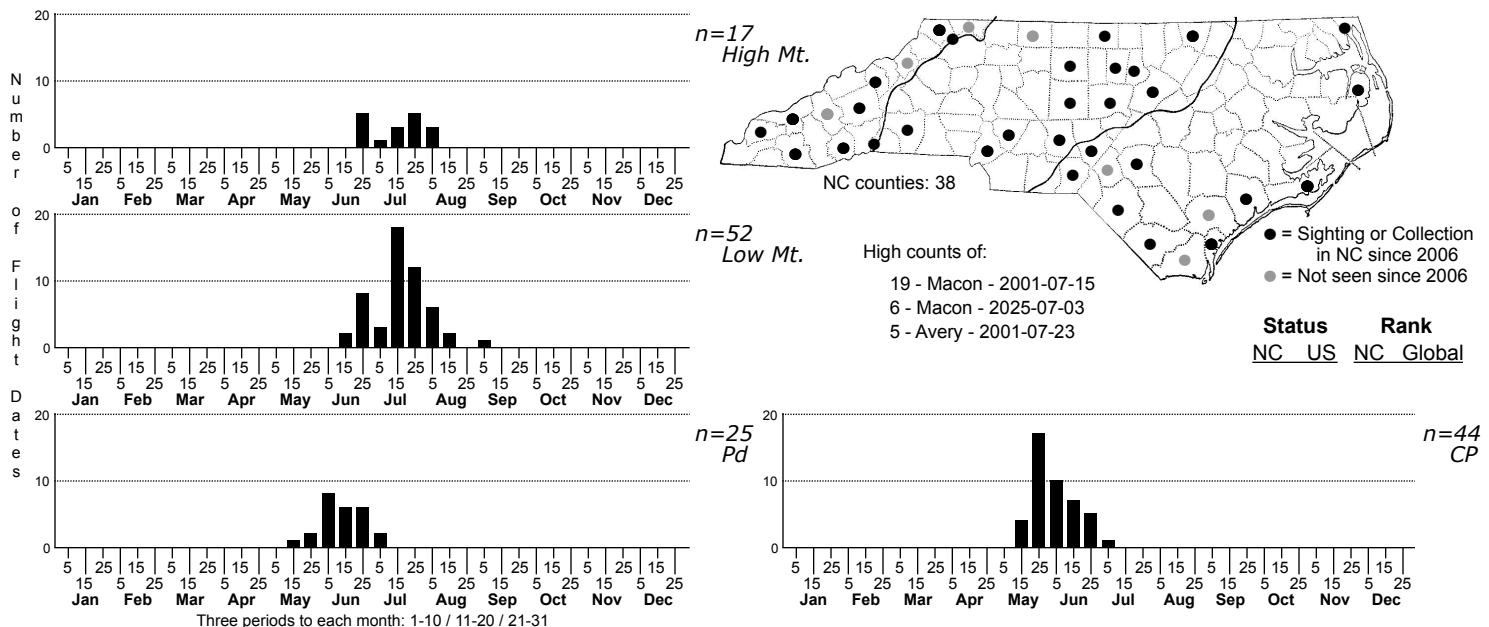


Catocala micronympha Little Nymph Underwing



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.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Sargent (1976)

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

ID COMMENTS: The ground color of the forewings is extremely variable and there are a large number of named forms (see Forbes, 1954; Sargent, 1976). The presence of a curvifacia mark is fairly constant, with a black shade extending from the midpoint of the costa to the dark reniform, and from the reniform slanting obliquely to the outer margin just below the apex. The portion that interrupts the crenulate, waved, white subterminal line is almost always evident, as is a pale apical patch set off by the white subterminal and the black curvifascial line. The remainder of the wing can be nearly unicolorous dark or pale, or can have a contrast between the median area and the base, which is defined by a crenulate, white antemedian line. Hindwings are orange, crossed by a dark median band that terminates in a hook, followed by a more diffuse dark shade that extends up the fold. A dark band also follows the outer margin that ends at the cubital vein, with an isolated black spot at the anal angle. *Catocala minuta* is similar but smaller. It lacks the curvifacia line but has a pale apical patch partly defined by a crenulate white subterminal line, but that line is continuous across the wing rather than interrupted by the black curvifascia. *Catocala amica* is another species that usually has a curvifascia band but the forewing pattern is more consistently pale and the hindwing pattern is completely different.

DISTRIBUTION: Found across the state, from the high mountains to the barrier islands.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae feed on oaks, especially in the White Oak group (Wagner et al., 2011). In North Carolina, J.B. Sullivan reared a larva from Turkey Oak (*Quercus laevis*), and also recorded larvae on Darlington Oak (*Q. hemisphaerica*), Bluejack Oak (*Q. incana*), and Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*).

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: